



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, June 20, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend John Boonzaaijer, The Chapel of the Cross, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father and giver of all good things, we humbly beseech Thee to bless this good land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from confusion, pride, and from every evil way.

Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom, in Thy name, we entrust the authority of government.

Direct and prosper the consultations of this House to advance Thy kingdom for the safety, honor, and welfare of Thy people, establishing peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, that through obedience to Thy laws we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the Earth, for all generations.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail.

All this we ask through the King of glory, our most blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND JOHN PETER BOONZAAIJER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome to Washington our guest pastor in the House today, my friend, my mentor, the Reverend John Peter Boonzaaijer.

Reverend Boonzaaijer and his family are no stranger to adversity. We just celebrated the 70th anniversary of the landing at D-day, and also this fall will be the 70th anniversary of the Dutch famine. Reverend Boonzaaijer's parents lived in the Netherlands at that time and suffered through that event themselves.

Reverend Boonzaaijer was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He moved to Texas in 2002, and he has served the north Texas community in many ways. After serving as a teacher, administrator, and assistant rector of a parish school in Tyler, Texas, Reverend Boonzaaijer began a parish revitalization project in Dallas.

As part of this, he began a new classical school, The Saint Timothy School. He is a reverend of The Chapel of the Cross, a reformed Episcopal church in Dallas, Texas.

Reverend Boonzaaijer teaches upper middle school mathematics and middle school Bible, as well as maintains daily morning and evening prayer with his students, and I understand he prays for the United States Congress daily.

He believes a true parish school has the capacity to endow youth with the wisdom of the ages. Because of his devotion to them, Reverend Boonzaaijer's students are capable, knowledgeable, virtuous, and devout.

In the gallery today, Reverend Boonzaaijer's wife, Christine; his sons, Nathaniel and Detrick; and his daughter, Annalise, have joined us. We welcome them to the House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING GAIL DEGARMO

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank a constituent of mine from Patriot, Ohio—Ms. Gail DeGarmo.

Ms. DeGarmo is an employee of Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative, and she recently traveled to Honduras as a volunteer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation.

While on the island of Roatan, she taught local co-op employees how to install, set up, operate, and maintain their newly-acquired automated metering information system. This will enable them to operate and use the Command Center software, which serves about 13,000 customers.

Ms. DeGarmo's volunteer efforts supported the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas' goal to provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal, and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Ms. DeGarmo's effort will help the alliance's project to improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and, most importantly, improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America.

Thank you, Ms. DeGarmo, for your hard work.

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the recently completed Tourette's Syndrome Awareness

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Month, a time when we educate ourselves and our children about Tourette's syndrome.

At a ceremony earlier this year, I had the privilege of meeting and listening to many of the courageous young people—heroes—telling their own Tourette's syndrome story.

Tourette's is a neurological condition that affects millions of Americans every day, mostly young children. For these kids, the involuntary tics can mean strange looks from classmates, bullying, or total alienation.

The simple fact is that most kids and even most parents don't understand TS or its symptoms. That is what makes awareness and education so important.

It is also a time to celebrate the bravery and perseverance of the local heroes nationwide—the heroes telling their own TS stories. The heroes I met ranged from energetic kindergartners to high school students to young college kids sharing an increasing awareness of TS.

The glowing comments from their teachers, friends, and family described how these young people took the obstacles they faced head-on and make a difference in the lives of their community.

It is an honor to stand and recognize Tourette's Syndrome Awareness Month.

MEDIA IGNORES IRS SCANDAL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the liberal national media continues to downplay the IRS scandal.

Last week, the IRS claimed it lost 2 years of emails of former director Lois Lerner, which likely contained information about the agency's targeting of conservative organizations.

One would think that this would be breaking news, but it took *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* 4 days before they considered the missing emails newsworthy. This may be one reason why consumers are turning to social media for their news.

What a dramatic shift from how these publications covered President Nixon's missing 18 minutes of audio tape. During Watergate, *The Post* and *The Times'* front pages and editorials almost daily criticized the Nixon administration's abuse of power.

The liberal national media hasn't changed between Watergate and now. What has changed is the political party of the administration in power.

REBUILDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our work to rebuild the Department of Veterans Affairs. Last week, the VA released the first-ever nationwide comprehensive audit of the VA health care system, and the findings were eye opening, though not surprising. More than 100,000 veterans have either waited more than 90 days to get an appointment, or they never received an appointment at all.

This week, Congressman BILL CASSIDY and I introduced a bipartisan resolution calling on the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to investigate the evidence disclosed in the course of the internal audit.

If, as the report states, managers at the VA told their subordinates to doctor the books to make wait times appear shorter, then any employees who falsified these Federal records should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The House has already voted to hold the guilty parties responsible and to give VA patients the right to go outside the VA to get the care they need, when they can't get it inside the VA, but these are just the first few steps in a long march to get them the care they have earned.

I urge my colleagues to support our resolution because we owe it to all those who gave us the best years of their lives.

CONGRATULATING ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Cloud Cathedral High School in Minnesota for winning the State class 2A baseball championship earlier this week. This really was a remarkable victory.

After making a dramatic comeback, the Crusaders beat Fairmont 5-4. This victory marks the eighth championship for the team since 1977. With 44 seasons and 711 wins under his belt, Cathedral coach and alumnus Bob Karn has won more high school baseball games than any coach in Minnesota State history. Congratulations, Coach Karn. That is quite a record.

Congratulations, Cathedral High School; and congratulations to all of the assistants, administrators, family members, and friends who made such a tremendous accomplishment possible.

This is what America is really about, and we are with you in spirit today.

CONDEMNING KIDNAPPINGS OF ISRAELI BOYS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it has been nearly a week, and there is still no trace of the three Israeli boys who were kidnapped presumably by Hamas, the terrorist organization.

Our hearts go out to their families, and we hope that they will be found. One of them is an American citizen, Naftali Frenkel. The others, Eyal Yifrach and Gilad Shaar, the whole world is praying for their safe return.

Madam Speaker, this shows the brutality of the terrorists, the brutality of an organization like Hamas which takes three young people—innocent young people—and God only knows what they have done with them.

I think it is important that we keep our vigil. It is important that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers, and it is important that this country continues to lead the fight against the scourge of terrorism around the world.

Let's pray for their safe return.

CELEBRATING WILD AND WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 151st anniversary of West Virginia statehood. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State. From those early years, our State has grown to become a significant contributor to America's economy.

West Virginia is rich in natural resources. It is the largest producer of oil and gas east of the Mississippi. In addition, West Virginia is a national leader in providing statewide access to preschool and is ranked first in the Nation for pay equity between college-educated men and women.

West Virginia is home to nationally recognized centers for research and learning, has produced countless veterans, historical figures, scholars, athletes, and many more for whom we are eternally proud.

Like all West Virginians and as a seventh generation West Virginia native, we take special pride in our wild and wonderful State.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we wish a happy birthday to West Virginia.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, more than 200 girls in Nigeria are still missing. They were brutally kidnapped by the terrorist organization Boko Haram more than 60 days ago. We pray for their return, and we pray for their parents.

We will tweet and tweet and tweet until they are returned. We must put

pressure on the Nigerian Government and President Goodluck Jonathan to bring back our girls. I am asking everyone to join our tweet war.

Every morning, at 9 a.m., please tweet a message of support for the rescue of the girls: #bringbackourgirls. We will join the Bring Back Our Girls organization in Nigeria in a tweet war during their tweet time, which is 2 p.m. Nigerian time.

At 9 a.m., every morning, tweet. Let's show the girls that we love them, and we will do all within our power to make sure that they return safely to their families.

Let us show President Jonathan that the entire international community is watching, and we will keep the pressure there. We will not forget them, and we will not rest until they are returned.

Remember, #bringbackourgirls, 9 a.m.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLORIDA CITY

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Florida City. Over the past century, Florida City has grown from a small stop on the road to become the official gateway to paradise.

I would like to recognize the city commission, including Mayor Otis Wallace, who has served as mayor for over 30 years, managing the redevelopment of the city after Hurricane Andrew in 1992; R.S. Shiver, the longest serving municipal elected official in Florida; Avis Brown; Sharon Butler; and Eugene Berry.

These dedicated public servants are just a few of the many lifelong citizens who have tirelessly worked to improve and grow our community.

As we look forward, I know the next 100 years will be filled with success and growth due to the commitment and service of so many over the last 100 years.

□ 0915

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on further consideration of H.R. 4870, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4870.

Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) kindly take the chair?

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 19, 2014, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 141, line 4.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, as we move towards the finish line and consider the last amendments to our Defense Appropriations bill, large thanks should be extended to the remarkable staff that make up the Defense Subcommittee. I know I join with my ranking member, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and wanted to take time to thank the bipartisan staff of our committee: our clerk, Tom McLemore, whose counterpart is Paul Juola on the minority side. Recognition and thanks go to all of our staff: Tim Prince, Sherry Young, Jennifer Miller, Walter Hearne, Paul Terry, B G Wright, Brook Boyer, Adrienne Ramsay, Megan Rosenbusch, Maureen Holohan, Collin Lee, and Becky Leggiere; from my personal office: Nancy Fox, Steve Wilson, Katie Hazzlett; from Mr. VISCLOSKY's office: Joe DeVot and Jake Whiteside; and all the Appropriations staff and House staff that have made this bill move so smoothly.

I also want to thank all of the Members of the House for their active participation and patience over the last few days. We do not always agree on the substantive issues, but I appreciate the spirit in which all of us debated a variety of issues.

In this regard, I know Mr. VISCLOSKY and I would like to extend our thanks to three members of the Defense Subcommittee who are working on their final bill with us: Mr. OWENS of New York, Mr. KINGSTON of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Their service and contributions have been enormous and

their assistance has been deeply appreciated.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman taking the time and would also join him in thanking all of the staff of the subcommittee as well as the full committee. People ought to appreciate the discerning judgment that they bring to their work, their knowledge, their tireless work ethic, and the fact that they are fun to be around. They also are very selfless as far as providing for the protection of our Nation, to ensure also that it is done in as cost-effective a manner as possible.

I appreciate that the chairman enunciated the names of all of our staff because on this subcommittee it is a very seamless and indistinguishable process. The staff understand they are here to help every member of the subcommittee, the full committee, and of this House, whether we agree or not, to ensure that our legislative process and product is as good as it can be.

The final thing I will note is to thank personally the chairman for his leadership on this issue, for his dedication to public service. My father always told me it took a very strong man to be a gentleman. Mr. Chairman, you are the consummate gentleman, and I thank you for that and for your friendship.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Well, sir, you indeed are a gentleman, too, and it has been a pleasure to work with you. We are blessed with a remarkable staff that has met the needs of every Member of Congress, regardless of political party. We have considered their amendments, and to the extent that we could, we have acted upon them. Thank you so much for your support and all of us. We appreciate the work of our great staff.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be provided to Pakistan.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, my amendment would prevent any funds appropriated by this bill from being provided to the Government of Pakistan.

It is reprehensible that our government is still willing to provide military assistance to a known terrorist-

supporting state like Pakistan. Since 9/11, Pakistan has received over \$28 billion from the United States. This should not continue. It is a farce to believe that our aid, sometimes deceptively labeled as "reimbursements," is buying Pakistan's cooperation in hunting down terrorists.

It was the Pakistani establishment that sheltered Osama bin Laden for years. They continue to jail Dr. Afridi, the man, the heroic man, who helped the CIA locate bin Laden. Why would Pakistan do that if they were on our side?

The abysmal human rights record of the Pakistani Government is shameful. It is even worse because American money contributes to strengthening the security forces which kill and persecute minority groups who are denied their own right of self-determination. This is especially true of the Baloch and Sindhi, two large ethnic minority groups in Pakistan. Our tax dollars equip the Pakistani military, which brutally oppresses the aspirations of both of these people, and both of which have a long history separate from Pakistan.

Pakistan is not an ally, and any assistance we send them only strengthens their ability to act against their own people, against us, and against Afghanistan as we withdraw our military. We cannot buy the friendship of a government whose strategic interests are not aligned with ours. They are allied with terrorists. The Pakistanis, thus, are allied with the terrorist elements and our own ever more dangerous adversary, Communist China. At a time of tight budgets, we should reserve our aid to true friends and allies.

Furthermore, the Appropriations Committee didn't even put an exact dollar figure in this bill for the money that will be going to Pakistan. Instead, they have inserted a placeholder because we have not yet received a formal figure from the administration.

What will happen when we get this formal figure? Well, will we simply serve as a rubber stamp for the administration and insert the number requested into a conference report? Well, I would hope not.

It is our duty as elected Members of the House of Representatives to determine how much and to whom tax dollars will be appropriated. I implore my colleagues to send a message today that we will not send another dime to Pakistan as long as they continue to act belligerently toward the United States and to promote terrorism and repress their own people.

The policy which has us funding Pakistan's military is wrong, and the fact that we can't even debate a precise dollar figure is absurd. It is insane for us to continue to borrow large sums of money from China in order to give to Pakistan, our enemy and a friend of terrorism.

I ask my colleagues to support my amendment and to end this counterproductive use of our limited resources, which has continued for far too long.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, the gentleman is correct in one respect: the House does not have, nor does our bill show, any specific amount for Pakistan, but we anticipate the administration will come forward with a figure which may be similar to last year.

There are good reasons that we have invested in what is called the Coalition Support Fund. It allows the Secretary of Defense to reimburse any key cooperating nation for logistical and military support, including access, specialized training to personnel, and procurement and provision of supplies and equipment provided by that nation in connection with the U.S. military operations in Enduring Freedom. Pakistan is one of those nations.

Receipts for reimbursements are submitted by Pakistan and other cooperating nations and are fully vetted by the Pentagon and follow strict criteria to meet the standard for reimbursement. All payments are made in arrears and follow notification to Congress as to what the money has been spent for.

Specifically regarding Pakistan, the Coalition Support Fund remains a critical tool to enable Pakistan to effectively deal with the future challenges emerging from the U.S. drawdown. There will be challenges, no matter what the troop number, and the President has set a troop number at approximately 9,500.

It would be cost-effective. It is a cost-effective tool for the U.S. to remain engaged in the region. We can't turn our back on Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly because Pakistan is a nuclear-capable nation. We need to keep a functioning relationship with Pakistan. That is essential.

I would be pleased to yield to my ranking, Mr. VISCLOSKY, for any comments that he might make.

This money is essential, and Pakistan has been an ally in getting after some of the worst terrorists in certain parts of Pakistan. They need that assistance, and we should, I think, continue to give it to them.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I would emphasize the chairman's very first point, and the reason there is not a discrete figure within the legislation is we continue to await that request in the overseas contingency operation fund from the administration.

I will simply add a couple of comments to the points the chairman raised. One, if the funds were prohibited, I believe it would also affect our ability to withdraw from Afghanistan since we traversed through Pakistan's ground lines of communications to transport our equipment back home.

I also think the withdrawal of U.S. assistance would likely polarize Pakistan and exacerbate significant pro- and anti-American rifts within their military and their government generally, and in addition to counterterrorism activity, the fact that Pakistan's nuclear weapons capability provides, I believe, an ample reason for the U.S. to continue to be positively engaged.

I would not disagree with the gentleman that this is a very difficult relationship. There are significant problems with Pakistan—all the more reason to continue to be engaged.

I also rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, and I appreciate the chairman yielding.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Chair, when I first came to Congress, I was perhaps Pakistan's best friend in Congress. At that time, of course, we were in the middle of the cold war and the Pakistanis were on our side and India was on the side of the Russians.

Today, the cold war is over and Pakistan has become the friend of our enemies, whether they are radical terrorists or whether it is Communist China. For us now to be borrowing money from China in order to give to Pakistan—because we are still going into debt \$500 billion a year. We need to make sure. We have to borrow that money, much of which comes from China, then pass that on to Pakistan, who is basically supporting our enemies.

They still have Dr. Afridi, the man who helped us finger Osama bin Laden, a hero who risked his life for us to bring justice to the man who slaughtered 3,000 Americans. For us to continue to give that government who holds Dr. Afridi in a dungeon, as we speak, is immoral and is stupid and is counterproductive. We should cut military assistance to Pakistan.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

□ 0930

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, we need to keep a relationship with Pakistan. There are some issues that have divided us.

When Mr. VISCLOSKY and I were in Pakistan earlier this year, we made it

quite evident that we were concerned about some of the things that occurred, including the holding of that doctor whose assistance helped us kill one of those who killed so many of us.

But we need to recognize that holding Pakistan close to us as an ally gives our troops some extra protection, and we need to have that access to Pakistan to make sure that our deployed troops and others there get the assistance they need.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to destroy Department of Defense equipment or ammunition in Afghanistan without such equipment or ammunition first being offered to independent states of the former Soviet Union and major non-NATO allies that are willing to pay for transportation of such equipment or ammunition to such states or allies.

(b) For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "independent state of the former Soviet Union" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801); and

(2) the term "major non-NATO ally" has the meaning given the term in section 644(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(q)).

Mr. STOCKMAN (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, we are pulling out of Afghanistan. We are chopping up billions and billions of dollars of equipment into little tiny

pieces. At the same time, our government is purchasing military equipment for our allies.

This is a terrible waste of money. Our allies have expressed they want to come pick up the equipment. They are paying for it. We don't have to do anything. We don't have to chop it up. We can allow our allies to have it. This is a shameful waste of taxpayers' money. It is in the billions of dollars. I personally think this is a huge waste of money.

I would ask that the Congress would consider this as reasonable. At the same time we are cutting up billions of dollars to military equipment, we turn around in this appropriation and buy the same equipment for our allies.

I would ask that this would be considered and that the point of order that is being proposed, I ask also jurisdiction on why the point of order is in order.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I insist on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair will rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the Department of Defense.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the procurement of weapon systems that contain rare earth materials, metals, magnets, parts, or components that are produced in Cuba, North Korea, the People's Republic of China, or Venezuela.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, currently, right now we have a situation in which some of the countries which we deal with militarily are restricting the rare earth metals—and particularly China. They are asking that we build our sensitive equipment in their country in order to acquire these rare earths.

I would object to that kind of thinking and that kind of ability for our non-friends, in terms of military assistance, to actually have it and develop our own rare earths here in the United States. It is a major mistake, I think, to pursue a policy in which we allow our non-friends to have control over our top secret and also over our rare earths.

I ask a ruling of the Chair for adjudication on that too, and I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

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The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his point of order.

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The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of the country of origin of certain parts or components.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any activity that would grant de jure or de facto support of territorial, maritime, or airspace claims made by the People's Republic of China on the international waters or territories of other sovereign nations in the South China, East China, and Yellow Seas.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order against the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, with the ever-expanding territorial claims by China and our allies in the areas of Philippines, Japan, and South Korea, I think this amendment would not violate the rules. All it says is that we shouldn't spend money helping Chinese to expand a territorial claim. I think it is reasonable. I also think that it is something we should do. We need to express more concern.

The current leadership in the White House has not really done much in terms of foreign policy. This would be an example to the rest of the world that Congress can speak up and stand up for our allies in the region, particularly those countries surrounding Japan right now where they are having great difficulty with the ever-expanding and, I would suggest, imperialistic attitude of some in the country of mainland China.

This amendment I do not believe violates the rules. I ask the ruling of the Chair to also adjudicate why this is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I insist on my point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, it violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination by a relevant agency of the effects of its activities.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into any

contract after the date of the enactment of this Act for the procurement or production of any non-petroleum based fuel for use as the same purpose or as a drop-in substitute for petroleum.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer a cost-saving amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for the fiscal year 2015.

This is a straightforward amendment that will help bring defense spending priorities in line with the fiscal realities that the United States currently faces.

Specifically, this amendment would prohibit the Department of Defense from wasting precious taxpayer dollars on the purchase of more expensive fuels made out of biofuels that are not cost competitive.

When our country is more than \$17 trillion in debt, and every year the Federal Government continues to spend nearly \$1 trillion more than it actually has, it is incumbent upon this Congress to get this reckless spending under control and to carefully scrutinize every dollar that is spent.

The Department of Defense has been purchasing biofuels to substitute traditional petroleum-based fuels to run its ships, aircraft, and other vehicles.

The problem is that currently, these fuels are more expensive than traditional fuels.

Until a time when biofuels are cost competitive without any Federal subsidy, no Federal entity should be utilizing this fuel source.

Let me be clear: I support a true all-of-the-above energy strategy which includes renewable energy sources like wind and solar, as well as traditional resources like natural gas and clean coal.

I have nothing against biofuels that do not need significant Federal subsidies to exist in the open market.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies continue to waste precious taxpayer dollars to prop up this industry.

Last year, the Defense Logistics Agency wanted to buy almost 15,000 gallons of biofuel. This year, the Defense Logistics Agency is seeking up to 37 million gallons of biofuel.

Biofuels without Federal subsidies are nearly 15 times more expensive than conventional jet fuel.

The biggest problem with this year's solicitation of nearly 37 million gallons is there is a \$27.2 million Federal subsidy to make the biofuel blends "cost

competitive with their conventionally-derived counterparts."

The purchase of biofuels which are not cost competitive has been so wasteful that a popular news site recently listed the practice on its list of "Five Insanely Wasteful Projects the Pentagon is Spending Your Money On."

I will read a brief excerpt from the article:

In a nod toward sustainability, the U.S. Navy has been attempting to create a "green fleet" by adopting alternative biofuels.

The catch is that the cleaner fuel costs \$26 per gallon, which is much more expensive than the \$2.50 the Navy pays for each gallon of petroleum.

Despite reports that there isn't a clear long-term cost benefit of adopting biofuel, the Department of Defense has spent millions on private companies that are developing alternative fuels.

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And green projects aren't confined to a single branch of the military; last year, the Air Force paid for 11,000 gallons of biofuel at a rate 10 times higher than the price of regular jet fuel.

Using the military as a vehicle to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on unproven green experiments is clearly a wasteful use of taxpayer money that must be stopped. We all must understand that the number one priority of the United States military—and, indeed, the Federal Government at large—is to defend the Nation from security threats.

I would also like to bring up Admiral Mike Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He stated in July of 2010 that:

The biggest threat that we have to our national security is our debt.

Therefore, it is essential that we scrutinize every dollar we appropriate to ensure we are spending our limited resources prudently and judiciously. This amendment will help accomplish this goal.

Madam Chairman, this amendment was carried last year by our newly elected majority whip, STEVE SCALISE; and it was adopted by this body by unanimous consent.

As the Defense Logistics Agency is now proposing to purchase almost 2,500 times more fuel than last year, it only makes sense this agreement is agreed to yet again.

Think about it. Last year, they wanted 15,000 gallons. This year, they want 37 million gallons of Federally subsidized fuel sources, just to meet an unnecessary mandate. This defies common sense, and we should not be wasting millions of dollars of taxpayer money in this manner.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, this is perhaps the fourth or fifth debate we have had on biofuels and their limitation relative to the Department of Defense, but I do feel compelled to continue to remind my colleagues that we do have an energy problem in the United States.

I would, I guess, start at the dueling admirals' statements. The gentleman quoted Admiral Mullen from 2010. I would suggest that Admiral Locklear, who is commander of the Pacific Command, stated this year that the most destabilizing problem that we face in the Pacific Basin is climate change and the impact it has on the people and the national security in that part of the world.

I continue to emphasize that we need to keep our options open for the Department of Defense and, I would suggest, for this great Nation.

Indiana, the State in which I live—and have lived all of my life—is a coal State. More steel is produced in the district I represent than any State in the United States. I am very proud of that.

You need carbon to make steel. What we need is a matrix—not only carbon-based fuels, but other types of fuels, including renewables: wind, tidal, solar, hydro, and biofuels.

I would also reference Senator Lugar, who I continue to have a profound respect for. Senator Lugar suggested that energy is a problem economically in the United States. Senator Lugar suggested that it is an environmental problem in the United States.

He said, fundamentally, energy is, most importantly, a national security problem, which is why we ought not to limit the options for the Department of Defense to expand the use of biofuels.

For those reasons, I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I think in my statement it is all about balance. When we are talking about 37,000 times more biofuels at this time, I think that is out of whack.

I think the gentleman also has to understand that some of the pollutants that actually are created by some of these biofuels may actually be even worse than what we see with carbons.

The emerging technology shows that the pollutants actually created by burning these may be more insolvent than what we see in petroleum.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, this is common sense. Balance is everything. We have a balance of problems with spending. We have acknowledged that we want to see a proper balance in all the utilizations of energy.

This country can be energy independent. What it means is not picking winners and losers, but actually using a conservative type of balance.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 1034 of title 10, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Chair, this is an amendment that is actually quite simple. I will only take a moment to explain it.

It simply requires that the use of funds in this legislation not be utilized in contradiction to existing U.S. law. Let me specifically point out the problem that I am trying to make sure is very clear.

As Members of Congress, we are elected to represent our constituents. That includes our constituents that serve in the Armed Forces, so I have been very concerned about reports and experience within my own office that some in the military have reacted unfavorably when servicemembers reach out for assistance from their Member of Congress, and as I said, we have experienced this in my own office.

I know that this is not Department of Defense policy, and I know and am certain that this behavior is being exercised by a very small minority of staff people, but it is entirely unacceptable.

I know for me, if somebody in government—any department—has a problem with me and the communications I have with my own constituents over issues they are having navigating the bureaucracy of government, if anybody has a problem with that, they can talk to me directly. My office is listed. They can call me.

I just want to make sure that this amendment makes it clear that no money can be spent in violation of 10 USC 1034. This is the statute that specifically makes it illegal to retaliate against members of the military for speaking to their Members of Congress.

I want to just reiterate this is based on real experiences that I am having in

my office. I have talked to other Members. There have been similar experiences. I don't think it is pervasive, but I want to make the message clear that members of the military and any other constituent has an opportunity to reach out to Members of our Congress. It is important for our constitutional role, our oversight role.

I think this amendment, while perhaps redundant, would speak to that directly.

I hope the House would consider it.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman yielding and rise in strong support of his amendment. The committee has a tradition of protecting whistleblowers. In fact, we have accepted, during consideration of the bill, an amendment to do so 2 days ago.

I think most Members probably have encountered an individual who has come into their office and said: I would like to provide you with information that, hopefully, would make our government more efficient and better, but I don't want to get into trouble.

That is who you have in mind. I appreciate that very much and rise in support of it.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me associate myself with the ranking member's comments. Whether somebody comes through our office or if we visit a military installation in the Middle East and somebody comes up with an issue that affects them personally—or their families—they have a right, and we have always put these protections in our bill.

So I commend you. I think it is very much in order.

Mr. KILDEE. Reclaiming my time, I thank the chairman and the ranking member. I know when to quit when I am ahead.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise for two reasons. First of all, I want to express my agreement with Mr. MORAN and with members of the committee—perhaps on both sides of the aisle—with respect to our continuing Guantanamo policy.

Guantanamo Bay continues to weaken, in my view, America's standing at a time when we need every tool necessary to protect America's interests around the world, which include promoting democracy and the rule of law.

Our courts, in my view, are more than capable of trying and convicting even the most hardened terrorists—and have shown themselves fully able to do so.

Civilian courts have convicted 533 individuals on terrorism charges, compared to eight convictions in military commissions; yet on the floor of this House, we continue to deal with this issue as if, somehow, it is keeping Americans safer. At the same time, it undermines American values.

That is not a good policy. Hundreds of terrorists are being held securely in maximum security prisons here in the U.S. I won't list them, but I will include them in the RECORD at a later time.

Keeping these detainees at Guantanamo makes no financial sense. One of my Republican colleagues mentioned a cost of \$500,000 per year, per detainee. At a time when we want to be efficient and effective in our use of resources, that seems not to be either.

I now want to speak to a broader issue that concerns me that we have not dealt with in this bill and we did not deal with in the authorization bill.

We need—as a Congress, as a country, as a people—to have the courage to come to grips with rationally passing a defense appropriation bill consistent with the advice of our military leadership and consistent with our willingness to pay the price for what we buy.

I have been in this body 33 years and have always supported funding our military at necessary levels to maintain our security and our freedom, and I will continue to do so.

I have worked with the ranking member for almost all those years. He hasn't been here quite as many years, but almost all those years.

I congratulate the chairman. I am proud of the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, my friend, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I had the opportunity of serving with him for a number of years on the committee. He is a responsible, patriotic, good Member of this House, and will chair this subcommittee in a very responsible fashion. I congratulate him for that.

I have great respect for my dear friend, the ranking member, for his intellect and for his focus and hard work on behalf of making sure our country is strong.

Madam Chair, the ladies and gentlemen of this House and Mr. and Mrs. America should know that we cannot and will not be able to continue to maintain the security of this country if we continue to pass bills with the pretense that we can pay a lot of attention to acquisition and not nearly as

much attention to manforce and training and equipping, unless we want to jettison the sequester.

We have to stop pretending that national security, education, infrastructure, or health care can somehow be magically created and maintained without having a physically sustainable overall policy or that we can pretend, both in this appropriation bill and in the authorization bill, that we can simply fund that which the Department of Defense says we don't need and is no longer relevant; but yes, it has consequences for every one of us, including me, if we cut those programs.

So I would urge us, as we pass this bill—and I will vote for this bill—to do so in a context of committing ourselves to having the courage and the wisdom in the years to come to propose and to pass rational security bills.

Madam Chair, I rise for two reasons. First of all to express my agreement with Mr. MORAN and with members of the Committee, perhaps on both sides of the aisle, with respect to our continuing Guantanamo policy.

Guantanamo Bay continues to weaken, in my view, America's standing at a time when we need every tool necessary to protect America's interests around the world, which include promoting democracy and the rule of law. Our courts, in my view, are more than capable of trying and convicting even the most hardened terrorists and have shown themselves fully able to do so.

Civilian courts have convicted 533 individuals on terrorism charges, compared to eight convictions in military commissions. Yet on the Floor of this House we continue to deal with this issue as if somehow it is keeping Americans safer. At the same time, it undermines American values. That is not a good policy. Hundreds of terrorists are being held securely in maximum security prisons here in the U.S. I won't list them, but I'll include them in the RECORD. They include: Faizal Shazhad, the Times Square bomber; Richard Reid, the shoe bomber; and Zacharias Moussaoui, the convicted September 11 conspirator.

Keeping these detainees at Guantanamo makes no financial sense. My Republican colleagues mentioned the cost of over \$2 million per year per detainee. At a time when we want to be efficient, effective in our use of resources, that seems not to be either.

I now want to speak to a broader issue that concerns me that we have not dealt with in this bill and we did not deal with in the authorization bill. We need as a Congress, as a country, as a people, to have the courage to come to grips with rationally passing a defense appropriations bill consistent with the advice of our military leadership and consistent with our willingness to pay the price for what we buy. I have been in this body thirty-three years and have always supported funding our military at necessary levels to maintain our security and our freedom. And I will continue to do so. And I worked with the Ranking Member for almost all those years. He hadn't been here quite as many years, but almost all those years.

I congratulate the Chairman. I'm proud of the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations

Subcommittee, my friend, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I had the opportunity to serve with him for a number of years on the Committee. He is a responsible, patriotic, good member of this House and will chair this Subcommittee in a very responsible fashion. I congratulate him for that. And my dear friend, the Ranking Member, for whom I have great respect, for his intellect and for his focus and hard work on behalf of making sure our country is strong.

But Ladies and Gentlemen of this House, Mr. and Mrs. America, Mr. Speaker, should know that we cannot and will not be able to continue to maintain the security of this country if we continue to pass bills with the pretense that we could pay a lot of attention to acquisition and not nearly as much attention to man-force and training and equipping unless we want to jettison this sequester. We have to stop pretending that national security or education or infrastructure or health care can somehow be magically created and maintained without having a fiscally sustainable overall policy. Or that we can pretend on a basis both in this appropriations bill and in the authorization bill that we can simply fund that which the Department of Defense says we don't need, is no longer relevant, but, yes, it has consequences, for every one of us, including me, if we cut those programs.

So I would urge us, as we pass this bill—and I'll vote for this bill—but, as we do so, we do so in a context of committing ourselves to having the courage and the wisdom in the years to come to propose and to pass rational security bills.

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Mr. VISCLOSKEY. I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I especially lend my agreement to his comments relative to the situation at Guantanamo Bay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have amendment No. 153 at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to the following entities or in contravention of title 18 U.S.C. section 2339-B:

- (1) The Government of Iran.
- (2) The Government of Syria.
- (3) The Palestinian Authority.
- (4) Hamas.
- (5) The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise to offer a commonsense amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act which will further hold accountable foreign terrorist organizations in addition to those foreign governments that support their efforts.

I will be brief as the cases made against these entities and governments are well-documented.

Iran is possibly the largest known state sponsor of terrorism in the world, and the Obama administration is throwing out the baby with the bathwater in its negotiations with Iran on its nuclear aspirations. Syria has been listed as a state sponsor of terrorism since the State Department list was created in 1979. The ongoing atrocities on the ground in Syria should be more than enough to prohibit foreign assistance to this nation.

Before moving forward, let me say that I recognize that these two nations are already ineligible for most forms of foreign assistance already, but we have seen the Obama administration's track record in terms of following the letter of the law. It enforces only the laws it agrees with.

Now, speaking to the prohibition of assistance to the Palestinian Authority, on June 2, the Palestinian Authority announced a new unity government, which was supported by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

To quote recent reports:

The merger also appears to skirt, barely, U.S. prohibitions on aid to a Palestinian Government that has "undue" Hamas presence or influence.

The Obama administration has worked behind the scenes to suggest terms for the new coalition government that would not trigger the U.S. ban, reasoning that the money helps preserve American leverage.

Republican Senators Mark Kirk and Marco Rubio have called for a suspension and review of U.S. aid, saying the Palestinian announcement shows that Israel "does not have a viable partner for peace."

The unity government is an "end run" around U.S. restrictions, they said.

I agree with those statements.

With so much blood on its hands, this newly founded coalition of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas is not worthy of U.S. assistance. Just to be clear as day, I have included the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—again, already listed as a foreign terrorist organization—to this list, in addition to all organizations currently designated by the Secretary of State.

I understand the law, and I understand that the U.S. already has laws to prevent the transfer of assistance to these foreign terrorist organizations. It is just that I am not convinced that the President, his Attorney General, or any other member of his Cabinet Secretaries understands the laws of this Nation the way that I do or will follow those laws as U.S. citizens must. This is just one more attempt to double down on the letter of the law.

I can only hope that the President sees the dangerous ways in which he has jeopardized our Republic's system of checks and balances and that he submits to the rule of law as do all Americans. It is long past time that this Congress checks this President and balances the powers of our national government.

I urge the passage of this amendment, which will hold accountable

those governments which are most hostile to the United States, Israel, and their allies.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, the gentleman has enumerated a number of terrorist organizations in countries, and I don't think there is a Member of Congress who would suggest that they are up to any good at any moment in time, but the amendment attempts to treat these countries and these organizations with a one-size-fits-all approach. Our Nation's involvement with each one of these entities is reflective of each country's reality and state of affairs, our Nation's interests, national security concerns or lack thereof. I would just provide one example.

If this amendment were to pass, the Department of Defense could provide that the options for any actions in Syria relative to the removal of chemicals and materials of mass destruction would be inhibited, because these monies are provided through the cooperative threat reduction account, which works to ensure the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons' stockpile, and by necessity, we end up having to work with that government to do this very good work.

For that reason, the practical nature of this begs it, and I am opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I want to make it clear that we are not giving any funds and assistance to the Governments of Iran and Syria. When and if the chemical weapons leave Syria, there may be a third party that we are assisting in terms of getting those chemical weapons out of the region, which I think is a good idea. We are not supporting the Assad regime, I can assure you, and we are certainly not supporting what has been happening in Iran over the last decade.

I do support the continuation of the United States' participation in the Middle East peace efforts. I think we need some progress, and I think this amendment would send the wrong signal to our commitment to that process and would undermine that which we are trying to bring—lasting peace to the area. I think it would be ill-advised, but I can assure you that we are not sending any money to Syria and Iran, so I oppose the amendment.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the chairman's remarks.

Madam Chair, again, I would emphasize my opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I want to remind the gentleman as to the "one size." Really, one size? Terrorism is one size. There is a right and a wrong, and it all starts with big money. There has to be consequences for actions. Therefore, I ask for the adoption of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, let me be clear that I do not support giving any funding to terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). However, I voted against Mr. GOSAR's amendment because it would have prevented funding for the Palestinian Authority, which is a vital source of humanitarian aid and aid to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This money also goes toward providing security within the Palestinian territory, which remains in the best interest of our national security.

The amendment also would have barred the use of funds for the ongoing dismantling of chemical weapons in Syria. This effort remains a top priority for American national security and it would have been irresponsible to vote in favor of an amendment that would jeopardize this mission.

While on its surface this amendment may have appeared to implement policy goals I support, I ultimately opposed it because I believe its consequences would have negatively impacted American national security interests.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FRANKS OF ARIZONA

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer or divest the Electronic Proving Grounds at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Chair, my amendment would not allow funds to be used to transfer or divest the mission at the Electronic Proving Grounds, or EPG, at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

EPG is the U.S. Army's primary Command, Control, Communications,

Computers, Cyber and Intelligence—or C5I—Developmental Tester. EPG plans, conducts, and analyzes the results of technical tests for C5I systems, signal intelligence, and electronic combat and electronic warfare equipment. EPG has an available area of operation that includes more than 9,000 square miles of public and private lands in and around Fort Huachuca, and its unique interference-free electromagnetic environment makes it the prime location for electronic testing.

Madam Chair, EPG, the Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, is a national strategic asset. It can accomplish, in a real open-air environment, what others can only simulate in a closed laboratory environment. EPG gives our C5I systems a place to be tested and simulated in real-world environments, leaving our warfighters with the best tested and the most advanced functioning systems available. Further, this amendment saves money in this fiscally constrained environment as the Department would have to spend millions of dollars to transfer such a mission. There is no reason, therefore, that we should even consider moving such an asset into a closed laboratory.

Madam Chair, I believe this is a commonsense amendment and that it preserves the strategic asset, and it is, ultimately, in the best interests of the national security of the United States of America.

I thank the committee for its time and support of this amendment, and I thank the chairman especially for his indulgence.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. At the outset of my remarks, Madam Chair, I would not in any way dispute the value or the good work done at the proving grounds in Arizona or the good work of the military and civilian personnel who are there. I would concur in the gentleman's remarks. That is true, though, of the military and civilian employees throughout the Department of Defense, both in our country and around the world.

I would remind our colleagues that, despite the fact of including the overseas contingency account, this bill contains \$569.6 billion, which is an astronomical amount of money. It is a finite amount of money despite, as I have also said repeatedly over the last 3 days, infinite amounts of demand.

I do think the gentleman's amendment is contrary to what we are doing as far as conceptually in the bill in that we are trying to stay out of some of these decisions that the Department must make. In the committee, we had

discussions about whether or not KC-10s should be moved or retired. We declined to become involved as far as the movement of one airlift wing from a State to another State. Also, I couldn't dispute the gentleman's assertion that we would save money if we didn't spend it on transferring, but I might parenthetically ask the question: perhaps we will save more in the long run in that the Department of Defense may not be wrong in its assertion.

For those reasons, I would respectfully oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, let me join with the ranking member. Reluctantly, I do oppose it.

I agree that Fort Huachuca is a national asset, and we want to commend you for, obviously, reacting to, perhaps, news that might be on the wire service that there is oftentimes. Sometimes, actually, if there are people who are of the impression that they might be doing something, this is a pretty good way of bringing it to a halt. Traditionally, we oppose these, and, furthermore, there are no funds in the budget for anybody to accomplish this.

For that reason, I am opposing it, but we salute your bringing this to our attention, and I think a message has probably been sent by your strong advocacy.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I appreciate the comments of both the ranking member and the chairman.

I suppose, Madam Chair, it is important for me just to point out that the underlying predicate of this amendment is the need, in my mind, to protect this country against the potential use of the electromagnetic pulse as an offensive weapon against this country, and this facility in Fort Huachuca is one of our best ways to ascertain the dangers that are involved and to try to find ways to protect this country against that danger.

It is very possible, Madam Chair, that the electromagnetic pulse has become one of the more significant short-term national security threats to this Nation. Enemies across the world are now starting to develop this capability, and I think it is very important for us to make sure that we understand it and that we have the kinds of facilities that can test our vulnerability to the electromagnetic pulse in real-world situations; and even though there are a few others, the Fort Huachuca facility is one of the few that can do that. I believe, in terms of the long-term costs, a major electromagnetic pulse attack on this country could prove astronomi-

cally expensive. For that reason, I would encourage a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1015

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 10002. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Defense Logistics Agency to implement the Small Business Administration interim final rule titled "Small Business Size Standards; Adoption of 2012 North American Industry Classification System" (published August 20, 2012, in the Federal Register) with respect to the procurement of footwear.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 628, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer an amendment that will ensure a fair and open bidding process to supply our men and women on the front lines one of the most indispensable pieces of equipment that they use every day: their boots, their footwear.

My amendment would prohibit the use of funds by the Defense Logistics Agency to implement the 2012 Small Business Administration's interim rule in regards to footwear, preventing the Defense Logistics Agency from bidding the contract as a small business set-aside.

When the SBA released this new rule back in 2012, there was significant concern that they did not go through the normal rulemaking and public comment processes, and, therefore, more specifically, did not perform due diligence on how the changes would actually affect the footwear industry and the military supply base, which the SBA has even acknowledged.

This rule dramatically changed the competitive landscape amongst companies supplying those Berry-compliant footwear to the U.S. military.

There are very few footwear manufacturers actually located in the

United States, and even fewer that manufacturer Berry-compliant footwear for our troops. Any reduction in this industrial base calls for immediate action to rectify the unintended consequences resulting from the SBA's changes to the small business size standards categories governing domestic footwear manufacturing for the U.S. military.

Congress has addressed the rule's impacts on defense procurement in the House report to the fiscal year '14 National Defense Authorization, which expressed concern that the SBA did not follow the normal rulemaking and public comment procedures and has not subsequently addressed the issue with footwear manufacturers.

It then called on the Defense Logistics Agency to use its discretion to maintain the manufacturer base.

This amendment would essentially codify the report language, ensuring that all businesses capable of supplying high-quality footwear to the Defense Department still can.

This amendment promotes competition, and it promotes fairness and consistency in the defense procurement process. And most importantly, it ensures that our men and women in uniform have access, regardless of who makes it, to the best equipment available.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, despite the fact that I do not object to his amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I appreciate the recognition, and I appreciate the gentleman's emphasis on competition.

I also appreciate the fact that he is concerned about the industrial base and manufacturing in the United States of America. We have seen a collapse in manufacturing employment.

I would just point out for my colleagues, though, that the emphasis relative to the standards the gentleman is concerned about is to try to build that small business base.

I remain disappointed in the Department of Defense because, while they talk about building small businesses, improving that manufacturing base, I don't see many discernible results. In my own district, I had a firm that does very sophisticated technology work, a very small firm. They had to spend more than \$1 million cash to go through the evaluation process so they could start to bid on military contracts.

There are not many small businesses with less than 20 employees that have \$1 million in cash to go through an approval process so they can start doing business with the Department of Defense, so I share his concerns.

But I also just want to make note that we have to draw the Department's attention to small business manufacturing development in the United States.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Madam Chair, I would agree with that, those sentiments of my colleague. We do need to make sure that we are maintaining a manufacturing base of not just large, not just medium size, but small companies as well.

I think, in this particular situation though, what we are trying to do is codify report language that identified a problem. The problem is that there is not a manufacturer that is going to be adequately able to supply that vital need of boots to our men and women in uniform, and that is why I put forward this amendment, and I urge passage of it as well.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) having assumed the chair, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1120

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON H.R. 4923, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. SIMPSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-486) on the bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 628 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, 4870.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) kindly take the chair.

□ 1121

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING in the chair.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 141, line 4.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 32 by Ms. LEE of California.

An amendment by Mr. ROHRABACHER of California.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 153, noes 260, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 332]

AYES—153

Amash	Grijalva	Napolitano
Bass	Hahn	Negrete McLeod
Beatty	Hanabusa	Nolan
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	O'Rourke
Benishkek	Heck (WA)	Pallone
Bentivolio	Higgins	Pascarell
Blumenauer	Himes	Pastor (AZ)
Bonamici	Hinojosa	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Holt	Perlmutter
Braley (IA)	Honda	Peters (MI)
Broun (GA)	Horsford	Petri
Burgess	Huelskamp	Pingree (ME)
Capps	Huffman	Pocan
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Posey
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Quigley
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Rahall
Castor (FL)	Jones	Rigell
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Rohrabacher
Chu	Keating	Roybal-Allard
Ciциlline	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Clark (MA)	Kildee	T.
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Sanchez, Loretta
Clay	Kuster	Sanford
Cleaver	Labrador	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Schrader
Courtney	Levin	Scott (VA)
Crowley	Lewis	Scott, David
Cummings	Loebback	Sensenbrenner
DeFazio	Lofgren	Serrano
DeGette	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Sires
DelBene	(NM)	Slaughter
Deutch	Maffei	Stockman
Dingell	Maloney,	Swalwell (CA)
Doggett	Dolyn	Takano
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Duncan (TN)	Massie	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	Matsui	Tierney
Ellison	McClintock	Titus
Engel	McCollum	Tonko
Eshoo	McDermott	Tsongas
Esty	McGovern	Van Hollen
Farr	McNerney	Veasey
Fattah	Meeks	Velázquez
Frankel (FL)	Meng	Waters
Garamendi	Michaud	Waxman
Garcia	Miller, George	Welch
Gibson	Moore	Wilson (FL)
Grayson	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Green, Al	Nadler	Yoho

NOES—260

Aderholt	Bucshon	Costa
Amodei	Bustos	Cotton
Bachmann	Butterfield	Cramer
Bachus	Byrne	Crawford
Barber	Calvert	Crenshaw
Barletta	Camp	Cuellar
Barr	Campbell	Culberson
Barrow (GA)	Cantor	Daines
Barton	Capito	Davis (CA)
Bera (CA)	Carson (IN)	Davis, Rodney
Bilirakis	Carter	Delaney
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Denham
Bishop (NY)	Cassidy	Dent
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	DeSantis
Black	Chaffetz	DesJarlais
Blackburn	Coble	Diaz-Balart
Boustany	Coffman	Duckworth
Brady (TX)	Cole	Duffy
Bridenstine	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Collins (NY)	Ellmers
Brooks (IN)	Conaway	Enyart
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Farenthold
Brownley (CA)	Cook	Fincher
Buchanan	Cooper	Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen
Fleming	Latham	Roskam
Flores	Latta	Ross
Forbes	Lipinski	Rothfus
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Royce
Foster	Long	Ruiz
Fox	Lowey	Runyan
Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Ruppersberger
Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (WI)
Gabbard	Lummis	Salmon
Gallego	Lynch	Scalise
Gardner	Marchant	Schneider
Garrett	Marino	Schock
Gerlach	Matheson	Schwartz
Gibbs	McAllister	Schweikert
Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (CA)	Scott, Austin
Gohmert	McCarthy (NY)	Sessions
Goodlatte	McCaul	Sewell (AL)
Gosar	McHenry	Sherman
Gowdy	McIntyre	Shimkus
Granger	McKeon	Shuster
Graves (GA)	McKinley	Simpson
Graves (MO)	McMorris	Sinema
Green, Gene	Rodgers	Smith (MO)
Griffin (AR)	Meadows	Smith (NE)
Griffith (VA)	Meehan	Smith (NJ)
Grimm	Messer	Smith (TX)
Guthrie	Mica	Smith (WA)
Hall	Miller (FL)	Southerland
Hanna	Miller (MI)	Stewart
Harper	Miller, Gary	Stivers
Harris	Moran	Stutzman
Hartzler	Mullin	Terry
Hastings (WA)	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Heck (NV)	Neal	Thornberry
Hensarling	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Herrera Beutler	Nugent	Turner
Holding	Nunes	Upton
Hoyer	Olson	Valadao
Hudson	Owens	Vargas
Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo	Vela
Hultgren	Paulsen	Visclosky
Hunter	Pearce	Wagner
Hurt	Perry	Walberg
Israel	Peters (CA)	Walden
Issa	Peterson	Walorski
Jenkins	Pittenger	Wasserman
Johnson (OH)	Pitts	Schultz
Johnson, E. B.	Poe (TX)	Weber (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Pompeo	Webster (FL)
Jolly	Price (GA)	Wenstrup
Jordan	Price (NC)	Westmoreland
Joyce	Reed	Whitfield
Kelly (PA)	Reichert	Williams
Kennedy	Renacci	Wilson (SC)
Kind	Ribble	Wittman
King (IA)	Rice (SC)	Wolf
King (NY)	Roby	Womack
Kingston	Roe (TN)	Woodall
Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (AL)	Yoder
Kline	Rogers (KY)	Young (AK)
LaMalfa	Rogers (MI)	Young (IN)
LaMalfa	Rokita	
Lamborn	Rooney	
Lance		

NOT VOTING—18

Davis, Danny	Mulvaney	Rush
Fudge	Noem	Ryan (OH)
Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Speier
Kirkpatrick	Payne	Tipton
Lankford	Polis	Walz
Lujan Grisham	Rangel	
(NM)	Richmond	

□ 1147

Messrs. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, KELLY of Pennsylvania, GARDNER, WALBERG, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CONNOLLY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. BENTIVOLIO changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) on which further proceedings

were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 92, noes 320, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 333]

AYES—92

Amash	Gosar	Neugebauer
Benishkek	Graves (MO)	Nolan
Bentivolio	Green, Gene	Pallone
Bilirakis	Hahn	Petri
Black	Hall	Pingree (ME)
Blumenauer	Herrera Beutler	Poe (TX)
Braley (IA)	Hudson	Posey
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Bucshon	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Burgess	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Clay	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Cohen	Jones	Salmon
Collins (GA)	Jordan	Sanford
Culberson	Joyce	Schrader
Daines	Keating	Schweikert
Davis, Rodney	King (IA)	Sensenbrenner
DeFazio	Labrador	Smith (MO)
Denham	LaMalfa	Southerland
DesJarlais	LoBiondo	Stutzman
Doggett	Luetkemeyer	Thompson (CA)
Duffy	Lummis	Tiberi
Duncan (SC)	Lynch	Upton
Duncan (TN)	Maffei	Weber (TX)
Farenthold	Marchant	Welch
Fincher	Massie	Westmoreland
Fleischmann	McAllister	Woodall
Fox	McClintock	Yoder
Garrett	Michaud	Yoho
Gibson	Mullin	Young (AK)
Gohmert	Napolitano	

NOES—320

Aderholt	Cartwright	Duckworth
Amodei	Cassidy	Edwards
Bachmann	Castor (FL)	Ellison
Bachus	Castro (TX)	Ellmers
Barber	Chabot	Engel
Barletta	Chaffetz	Enyart
Barr	Chu	Eshoo
Barrow (GA)	Ciциlline	Esty
Barton	Clark (MA)	Farr
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Fattah
Beatty	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick
Becerra	Clyburn	Fleming
Bera (CA)	Coffman	Flores
Bishop (GA)	Cole	Forbes
Bishop (NY)	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Foster
Blackburn	Connolly	Frankel (FL)
Bonamici	Conyers	Franks (AZ)
Boustany	Cook	Frelinghuysen
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Gabbard
Brady (TX)	Costa	Gallego
Bridenstine	Cotton	Garamendi
Brooks (IN)	Courtney	Garcia
Brown (FL)	Cramer	Gardner
Brownley (CA)	Crawford	Gerlach
Buchanan	Crenshaw	Gibbs
Bustos	Crowley	Gingrey (GA)
Butterfield	Cuellar	Goodlatte
Byrne	Cummings	Gowdy
Calvert	Davis (CA)	Granger
Camp	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Campbell	Delaney	Grayson
Cantor	DeLauro	Green, Al
Capito	DelBene	Griffin (AR)
Capps	Dent	Griffith (VA)
Capuano	DeSantis	Grijalva
Cárdenas	Deutch	Grimm
Carney	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Carson (IN)	Dingell	Hanabusa
Carter	Doyle	Hanna

Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lucas
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCa ul
McCollum
McDermott

McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)

NOT VOTING—19

Coble
Davis, Danny
Fudge
Gutiérrez
Kirkpatrick
Lankford

Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Mulvaney
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel

□ 1153

Mr. WELCH changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

Mrs. BACHMANN changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR)

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stewart
Amash
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Cramer
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—19

Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Mulvaney
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel

□ 1153

on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 205, noes 208, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 334]

AYES—205

Aderholt
Goodlatte
Pearce
Perry
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Barber
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Gosar
Clarke (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Graves (MO)
Green, Al

NOES—208

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano

NOT VOTING—18

Coble
Davis, Danny
Fudge
Gutiérrez
Kirkpatrick
Lankford

Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Mulvaney
Noem
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel

□ 1158

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were

postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 280, noes 133, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 335]

AYES—280

Aderholt Fattah Lowey
Amash Fincher Lucas
Amodei Fitzpatrick Luetkemeyer
Bachmann Fleischmann Lujan, Ben Ray
Bachus Fleming (NM)
Barber Flores Lummis
Barletta Forbes Maffei
Barr Foxx Maloney,
Barrow (GA) Franks (AZ) Carolyn
Barton Gallego Maloney, Sean
Beatty Garamendi Marchant
Benishkek Garcia Marino
Bentivolio Gardner Massie
Bera (CA) Garrett Matheson
Bilirakis Gerlach McAllister
Bishop (GA) Gibbs McCarthy (CA)
Bishop (UT) Gibson McClintock
Black Gingrey (GA) McHenry
Blackburn Gohmert McIntyre
Brady (TX) Goodlatte McKeon
Braley (IA) Gosar McKinley
Bridenstine Gowdy McMorris
Brooks (AL) Graves (GA) Rodgers
Brooks (IN) Graves (MO) McNeerney
Broun (GA) Grayson Meadows
Brownley (CA) Green, Gene Meng
Buchanan Griffin (AR) Messer
Bucshon Griffith (VA) Mica
Burgess Guthrie Michaud
Bustos Hahn Miller (FL)
Byrne Hall Miller (MI)
Calvert Hanna Miller, Gary
Camp Harper Mullin
Campbell Harris Murphy (FL)
Cantor Hartzler Murphy (PA)
Capito Hastings (FL) Napolitano
Cassidy Hastings (WA) Negrete McLeod
Chabot Heck (NV) Neugebauer
Chaffetz Hensarling Nolan
Cicilline Herrera Beutler Nugent
Coffman Holding Olson
Cohen Hudson Owens
Cole Huelskamp Palazzo
Collins (GA) Huizenga (MI) Pallone
Collins (NY) Hultgren Paulsen
Conaway Hunter Pearce
Connolly Hurt Pelosi
Cook Israel Perlmutter
Cooper Issa Perry
Costa Jenkins Peters (CA)
Cotton Johnson (OH) Peters (MI)
Cramer Johnson, Sam Petri
Crawford Jones Pingree (ME)
Crowley Jordan Pittenger
Cuellar Joyce Pitts
Culberson Kelly (PA) Poe (TX)
Daines Kilmer Pompeo
Davis (CA) King (IA) Posey
Davis, Rodney King (NY) Price (GA)
DeFazio Kingston Rahall
DelBene Kinzinger (IL) Reed
Denham Kline Reichert
Dent Kuster Renacci
DeSantis Labrador Ribble
DesJarlais LaMalfa Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart Lamborn Rigell
Duffy Lance Roby
Duncan (SC) Latta Roe (TN)
Duncan (TN) Lipinski Rogers (AL)
Ellmers LoBiondo Rogers (KY)
Engel Leosack Rohrabacher
Esty Lofgren Rokita
Farenthold Long Rooney

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter

Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Vela

Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 248, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 336]

AYES—163

Aderholt Gowdy Pitts
Amodei Grijalva Poe (TX)
Bachmann Grimm Pompeo
Bachus Guthrie Posey
Barber Hall Price (GA)
Barletta Harper Reed
Barton Harris Ribble
Benishkek Hartzler Rice (SC)
Bentivolio Hensarling Rigell
Bilirakis Holding Roe (TN)
Bishop (UT) Holt Rogers (AL)
Black Hudson Rohrabacher
Blackburn Huelskamp Rooney
Boustany Huizenga (MI) Ross
Brady (TX) Hultgren Royce
Braley (IA) Hunter Ruiz
Bridenstine Jenkins Runyan
Brooks (AL) Johnson (GA) Ruppberger
Broun (GA) Johnson (OH) Ryan (WI)
Buchanan Johnson, Sam Salmon
Burgess Jordan Scalise
Bustos Kelly (PA) Schock
Byrne King (IA) Schweikert
Camp Kingston Scott, Austin
Cantor Kline Sensenbrenner
Carter Labrador Sessions
Chabot LaMalfa Shimkus
Chaffetz Lamborn Latta
Clarke (NY) Latta Lipinski
Coffman Smith (MO)
Collins (GA) Loeb sack Smith (NJ)
Collins (NY) Lofgren Smith (TX)
Conaway Maffei Smith (WA)
Cook Marchant Southerland
Cramer Marino Stutzman
Daines Massie Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney Matheson Thornberry
DeSantis McCarthy (CA) Tiberi
DesJarlais McCaul Turner
Diaz-Balart McHenry Upton
Duffy McIntyre Walberg
Duncan (SC) McKeon Walden
Duncan (TN) Messer Weber (TX)
Engel Mica Webster (FL)
Farenthold Miller (FL) Wenstrup
Fleming Miller (MI) Westmoreland
Flores Mullin Williams
Forbes Neugebauer Wilson (SC)
Foxx Nolan Wittman
Franks (AZ) Nugent Wolf
Gabbard Rush Woodall
Garamendi Olson Yoder
Gingrey (GA) Pastor (AZ) Yoho
Gohmert Perlmutter Young (AK)
Goodlatte Peterson

NOES—248

Amash Campbell Cole
Barr Capito Connolly
Barrow (GA) Capps Conyers
Bass Capuano Cooper
Beatty Cárdenas Costa
Becerra Carney Cotton
Bera (CA) Carson (IN) Courtney
Bishop (GA) Cartwright Crawford
Bishop (NY) Cassidy Crenshaw
Blumenauer Castor (FL) Crowley
Bonamici Castro (TX) Cuellar
Brady (PA) Chu Culberson
Brooks (IN) Cicilline Cummings
Brown (FL) Clark (MA) Davis (CA)
Brownley (CA) Clay DeFazio
Bucshon Cleaver DeGette
Butterfield Clyburn Delaney
Calvert Cohen DeLauro

NOES—133

Bass Gabbard Moran
Becerra Granger Nadler
Bishop (NY) Green, Al Neal
Blumenauer Grijalva Nunes
Bonamici Grimm O'Rourke
Boustany Hanabusa Pascrell
Brady (PA) Heck (WA) Pastor (AZ)
Brown (FL) Higgins Payne
Butterfield Himes Peterson
Capps Hinojosa Pocan
Capuano Holt Price (NC)
Cárdenas Honda Quigley
Carney Horsford Rogers (MI)
Carson (IN) Hoyer Roybal-Allard
Carter Huffman Ruppberger
Cartwright Jackson Lee Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL) Jeffries T.
Castro (TX) Johnson (GA) Sarbanes
Chu Johnson, E. B. Schakowsky
Clark (MA) Jolly Scott (VA)
Clarke (NY) Kaptur Scott, David
Clay Keating Serrano
Cleaver Kelly (IL) Sewell (AL)
Clyburn Kennedy Sherman
Conyers Kildee Sires
Courtney Kind Slaughter
Crenshaw Langevin Smith (WA)
Cummings Larsen (WA) Takano
DeGette Larson (CT) Thompson (CA)
Delaney Latham Thompson (MS)
DeLauro Lee (CA) Thornberry
Levin Lewis Tierney
Dingell Lowenthal Titus
Doggett Lynch Tonko
Doyle Matsui Tsongas
Duckworth McCarthy (NY) Van Hollen
Edwards McCaul Veasey
Ellison McCaul Velázquez
Ehnyart McColm Visclosky
Eshoo McDermott Wasserman
Farr McGovern Schultz
Fortenberry Meehan Waters
Foster Meeks Waxman
Frankel (FL) Miller, George
Frelinghuysen Moore Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Coble Lujan Grisham
Davis, Danny (NM)
Fudge Mulvaney
Gutiérrez Noem
Kirkpatrick Nunnelee
Lankford Polis
Rangel

□ 1203

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FRANKS OF ARIZONA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

DelBene	Kilmer	Pocan
Denham	Kind	Price (NC)
Dent	King (NY)	Quigley
Deutch	Kinzinger (IL)	Rahall
Dingell	Kuster	Reichert
Doggett	Lance	Renacci
Doyle	Langevin	Roby
Duckworth	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)
Edwards	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)
Ellison	Latham	Rokita
Ellmers	Lee (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Enyart	Levin	Roskam
Eshoo	Lewis	Rothfus
Esty	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard
Farr	Long	Sánchez, Linda
Fattah	Lowenthal	T.
Fincher	Lowey	Sanchez, Loretta
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Sanford
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Sarbanes
Fortenberry	Luján, Ben Ray	Schakowsky
Foster	(NM)	Schiff
Frankel (FL)	Lummis	Schneider
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Schrader
Gallego	Maloney,	Schwartz
Garcia	Carolyn	Scott (VA)
Gardner	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Garrett	Matsui	Serrano
Gerlach	McAllister	Sewell (AL)
Gibbs	McCarthy (NY)	Shea-Porter
Gibson	McClintock	Sherman
Granger	McCollum	Shuster
Graves (GA)	McDermott	Simpson
Graves (MO)	McGovern	Sires
Grayson	McKinley	Slaughter
Green, Al	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Green, Gene	Rodgers	Stewart
Griffin (AR)	McNerney	Stivers
Griffith (VA)	Meadows	Swalwell (CA)
Hahn	Meehan	Takano
Hanabusa	Meeks	Terry
Hanna	Meng	Thompson (CA)
Hastings (FL)	Michaud	Thompson (MS)
Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary	Tierney
Heck (NV)	Miller, George	Titus
Heck (WA)	Moore	Tonko
Herrera Beutler	Moran	Tsongas
Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Valadao
Himes	Murphy (PA)	Van Hollen
Hinojosa	Nadler	Vargas
Honda	Napolitano	Veasey
Horsford	Neal	Vela
Hoyer	Negrete McLeod	Velázquez
Huffman	O'Rourke	Visclosky
Hurt	Owens	Wagner
Israel	Palazzo	Walorski
Issa	Pallone	Wasserman
Jackson Lee	Pascrell	Schultz
Jeffries	Paulsen	Waters
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Waxman
Jolly	Pearce	Welch
Jones	Pelosi	Whitfield
Joyce	Perry	Wilson (FL)
Kaptur	Peters (CA)	Womack
Keating	Peters (MI)	Yarmuth
Kelly (IL)	Petri	Young (IN)
Kennedy	Pingree (ME)	
Kildee	Pittenger	

NOT VOTING—20

Coble	Lujan Grisham	Richmond
Davis, Danny	(NM)	Rush
Fudge	Mulvaney	Ryan (OH)
Gosar	Noem	Speier
Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Stockman
Kirkpatrick	Polis	Tipton
Lankford	Rangel	Walz

□ 1207

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015".

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments and with the recommendation that the

amendments be agreed to, and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4870) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed her to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 628, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. BUSTOS. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Bustos moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4870 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 9, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 31, line 18, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 33, line 11, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 33, line 17, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 33, line 19, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Mrs. BUSTOS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill. It will not delay or kill the bill or send it

back to committee. If adopted, the bill will proceed immediately to final passage, as amended.

My amendment would increase funding levels by \$5 million each for the following critical programs: electronic health records to help ease the shamefully long VA backlog; military sexual assault prevention and response to keep our servicemen and -women safe from harm; and, thirdly, research into posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury to care for our veterans' mental well-being. These added investments honor the sacred commitment our Nation has made to our brave men and women in uniform.

For too long, we have failed to systematically implement electronic health records to coordinate our veterans' care. By keeping electronic records, critical care can be coordinated between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This will help reduce the claims backlog and allow our Nation's heroes to receive care in a more timely fashion. In recent weeks, we have all heard from veterans back home on the need for us to work together to deliver more timely care. This amendment is an opportunity to reduce this backlog and make good on the promise we have made to our heroes.

Additionally, more than 70 members of the U.S. military encounter unwanted sexual contact, sexual assault, or are raped each day. That is every day. This is absolutely shocking and sickening. It is evident that we must do far more to protect the men and women who are serving to protect our Nation. My amendment would do just that by providing badly needed funding to keep our men and women in uniform safer from sexual assault.

Finally, many young women and men have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan with posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. There have been more than 400,000 of these cases documented by the military since the year 2000, which is another shocking number I am sharing with you today. My amendment would expand our ability to care for these veterans and provide for their mental health. This amendment would not add to the national deficit. Every single cent allocated in this bill is fully offset by a designated funding source.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. We owe our Nation's heroes nothing short of the very best. We must make sure to keep our promises to them as they fight for our safety and our freedom and when they return home.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1215

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, with strong leadership from Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, our bill already funds the administration's request for electronic health records. This includes \$124 million for interoperability efforts for the two current systems of both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Efforts are already underway to allow clinicians and users now to have operable records.

In regard to sexual assaults, our recommendation provides approximately \$275 million, an increase of \$50 million over fiscal year 2014, which fully funds the President's request for sexual assault prevention.

Mr. Speaker, with regards to traumatic brain injury funding, this bill, our bill, also includes over \$400 million in research and development funds for traumatic brain injury and psychological health, and over \$600 million in operation and maintenance funding to care for our wounded servicemembers, not to mention the amendments we have already accepted on the floor over the last couple of days.

These are important programs. They are supported by Republicans and Democrats, and I may say, they are adequately supported in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for a "no" vote on the motion to recommit and a big "yes" vote on the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 220, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 337]

AYES—190

Barber	Brown (FL)	Chu
Barrow (GA)	Brownley (CA)	Cicilline
Bass	Bustos	Clark (MA)
Beatty	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)
Becerra	Capps	Clay
Bera (CA)	Capuano	Cleaver
Bishop (GA)	Cardenas	Clyburn
Bishop (NY)	Carney	Cohen
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Connolly
Bonomici	Cartwright	Conyers
Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)	Cooper
Braley (IA)	Castro (TX)	Costa

Courtney	Keating	Peters (CA)
Crowley	Kelly (IL)	Peters (MI)
Cuellar	Kennedy	Peterson
Cummings	Kildee	Pingree (ME)
Davis (CA)	Kilmer	Pocan
Davis, Danny	Kind	Posey
DeFazio	Kuster	Price (NC)
DeGette	Langevin	Quigley
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	Rahall
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard
DelBene	Lee (CA)	Ruiz
Deutch	Levin	Ruppersberger
Dingell	Lewis	Sánchez, Linda T.
Doggett	Lipinski	Sánchez, Loretta
Doyle	Loeb sack	Sarbanes
Duckworth	Lofgren	Schakowsky
Edwards	Lowenthal	Schiff
Ellison	Lowe	Schneider
Engel	Luján, Ben Ray	Schrader
Enyart	(NM)	Schwartz
Eshoo	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Esty	Maffei	Scott, David
Farr	Maloney,	Serrano
Fattah	Carolyn	Sewell (AL)
Foster	Maloney, Sean	Shea-Porter
Frankel (FL)	Matheson	Sherman
Gabbard	Matsui	Sirens
Gallego	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter
Garamendi	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Garcia	McDermott	Swalwell (CA)
Grayson	McGovern	Takano
Green, Al	McIntyre	Thompson (CA)
Green, Gene	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Grijalva	Meeks	Tierney
Hahn	Meng	Titus
Hanabusa	Michaud	Tonko
Hastings (FL)	Miller, George	Tsongas
Heck (WA)	Moore	Van Hollen
Higgins	Moran	Vargas
Himes	Murphy (FL)	Veasey
Hinojosa	Nadler	Vela
Holt	Napolitano	Velázquez
Honda	Neal	Visclosky
Horsford	Negrete McLeod	Wasserman
Hoyer	Nolan	Schultz
Huffman	O'Rourke	Waters
Israel	Owens	Waxman
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Welch
Jeffries	Pascrell	Wilson (FL)
Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	Yarmuth
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	
Jones	Pelosi	
Kaptur	Perlmutter	

NOES—220

Aderholt	Cramer	Hall
Amash	Crawford	Hanna
Amodei	Crenshaw	Harper
Bachmann	Culberson	Harris
Bachus	Daines	Hartzler
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Hastings (WA)
Barr	Denham	Heck (NV)
Barton	Dent	Hensarling
Benishek	DeSantis	Herrera Beutler
Bentivolio	DesJarlais	Holding
Bilirakis	Duffy	Hudson
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp
Black	Duncan (TN)	Huizenga (MI)
Blackburn	Ellmers	Hultgren
Boustany	Farenthold	Hunter
Brady (TX)	Fincher	Hurt
Bridenstine	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Brooks (AL)	Fleischmann	Jenkins
Brooks (IN)	Fleming	Johnson (OH)
Broun (GA)	Flores	Johnson, Sam
Buchanan	Forbes	Jolly
Bucshon	Fortenberry	Jordan
Burgess	Fox	Joyce
Byrne	Franks (AZ)	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Frelinghuysen	King (IA)
Camp	Gardner	King (NY)
Campbell	Garrett	Kingston
Cantor	Gerlach	Kinzinger (IL)
Capito	Gibbs	Kline
Carter	Gingrey (GA)	Labrador
Cassidy	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Chaffetz	Lance	Lowe
Clay	Latham	Latta
Coffman	Granger	LoBiondo
Cole	Graves (GA)	Long
Collins (GA)	Graves (MO)	Lucas
Collins (NY)	Griffith (AR)	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Griffith (VA)	Lummis
Cook	Grimm	
Cotton	Guthrie	

Marchant	Reed	Smith (NJ)
Marino	Reichert	Smith (TX)
Massie	Renacci	Southerland
McAllister	Ribble	Stewart
McCaul	Rice (SC)	Stivers
McClintock	Rigell	Stockman
McHenry	Roby	Stutzman
McKeon	Roe (TN)	Terry
McKinley	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)
McMorris	Rogers (KY)	Thornberry
Rodgers	Rogers (MI)	Tiberi
Meadows	Rohrabacher	Turner
Meehan	Rokita	Upton
Messer	Rooney	Valadao
Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Wagner
Miller (FL)	Roskam	Walberg
Miller (MI)	Ross	Walden
Miller, Gary	Rothfus	Walorski
Mullin	Royce	Weber (TX)
Murphy (PA)	Runyan	Webster (FL)
Neugebauer	Ryan (WI)	Wenstrup
Nugent	Salmon	Westmoreland
Nunes	Sanford	Whitfield
Olson	Scalise	Williams
Palazzo	Schock	Wilson (SC)
Paulsen	Schweikert	Wittman
Pearce	Scott, Austin	Wolf
Perry	Sensenbrenner	Womack
Petri	Sessions	Woodall
Pittenger	Shimkus	Yoder
Pitts	Shuster	Yoho
Poe (TX)	Simpson	Young (AK)
Pompeo	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)
Price (GA)	Smith (NE)	

NOT VOTING—21

Coble	Lujan Grisham	Richmond
Diaz-Balart	(NM)	Rush
Fudge	McCarthy (CA)	Ryan (OH)
Gibson	Mulvaney	Speier
Gosar	Noem	Tipton
Gutiérrez	Nunnelee	Walz
Kirkpatrick	Polis	
Lankford	Rangel	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1224

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 337 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 337 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 340, nays 73, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 338]

YEAS—340

Aderholt	Barton	Bishop (UT)
Amodei	Beatty	Black
Bachmann	Benishek	Blackburn
Bachus	Bentivolio	Boustany
Barber	Bera (CA)	Brady (PA)
Barletta	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Barr	Bishop (GA)	Braley (IA)
Barrow (GA)	Bishop (NY)	Bridenstine

Brooks (AL) Green, Al
 Brooks (IN) Green, Gene
 Broun (GA) Griffin (AR)
 Brown (FL) Griffith (VA)
 Brownley (CA) Grimm
 Buchanan Guthrie
 Buechson Hall
 Burgess Hanabusa
 Bustos Hanna
 Butterfield Harper
 Byrne Harris
 Calvert Hartzler
 Camp Hastings (WA)
 Campbell Heck (NV)
 Cantor Heck (WA)
 Capito Hensarling
 Cardenas Herrera Beutler
 Carney Higgins
 Carter Himes
 Cartwright Holding
 Cassidy Horsford
 Castor (FL) Hoyer
 Castro (TX) Hudson
 Chabot Huelskamp
 Chaffetz Huizenga (MI)
 Clay Hultgren
 Cleaver Hunter
 Clyburn Hurt
 Coffman Israel
 Cohen Issa
 Cole Jackson Lee
 Collins (GA) Jenkins
 Collins (NY) Johnson (OH)
 Conaway Johnson, E. B.
 Connolly Johnson, Sam
 Cook Jolly
 Cooper Jordan
 Costa Joyce
 Cotton Kaptur
 Courtney Kelly (IL)
 Cramer Kelly (PA)
 Crawford Kilmer
 Crenshaw Kind
 Cuellar King (IA)
 Culberson King (NY)
 Cummings Kingston
 Daines Kinzinger (IL)
 Davis (CA) Kline
 Davis, Rodney Kuster
 Delaney LaMalfa
 DeLauro Lamborn
 DelBene Lance
 Denham Langevin
 Dent Larsen (WA)
 DeSantis Larson (CT)
 DesJarlais Latham
 Deutch Latta
 Diaz-Balart Levin
 Dingell Lipinski
 Doggett LoBiondo
 Duckworth Loebach
 Duffy Lofgren
 Duncan (SC) Long
 Ellmers Lowenthal
 Engel Lowey
 Enyart Lucas
 Esty Luetkemeyer
 Farenthold Luján, Ben Ray
 Fincher (NM)
 Fitzpatrick Lummis
 Fleischmann Lynch
 Fleming Maffei
 Flores Maloney,
 Forbes Carolyn
 Fortenberry Maloney, Sean
 Foster Marchant
 Foxx Marino
 Frankel (FL) Massie
 Franks (AZ) Matheson
 Frelinghuysen McAllister
 Gabbard McCarthy (CA)
 Gallego McCarthy (NY)
 Garamendi McCaul
 Garcia McClintock
 Gardner McCollum
 Garrett McHenry
 Gerlach McIntyre
 Gibbs McKeon
 Gibson McKinley
 Gingrey (GA) McMorris
 Gohmert Rodgers
 Goodlatte McNerney
 Gowdy Meadows
 Granger Meehan
 Graves (GA) Messer
 Graves (MO) Mica

Michael
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Moran
 Mullin
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Negrete McLeod
 Neugebauer
 Nolan
 Nugent
 Nunes
 O'Rourke
 Olson
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Pascarell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ruppersberger
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sanford
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schwartz
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Slaughter
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi

Titus
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Amash
 Bass
 Becerra
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Capps
 Capuano
 Carson (IN)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Conyers
 Crowley
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Doyle
 Duncan (TN)
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Eshoo
 Farr
 Fattah
 Grayson

Walden
 Walorski
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Grijalva
 Hahn
 Hastings (FL)
 Hinojosa
 Holt
 Honda
 Huffman
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Jones
 Keating
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Labrador
 Lee (CA)
 Lewis
 Matsui
 McDermott
 McGovern
 Meeks
 Meng
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Nadler
 Napolitano

Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)
 Neal
 Pallone
 Payne
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Rohrabacher
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Schakowsky
 Schrader
 Serrano
 Sires
 Smith (WA)
 Stockman
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Tierney
 Tonko
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Waxman
 Welch
 Yarmuth

NAYS—73

NOT VOTING—18

Coble
 Fudge
 Gosar
 Gutierrez
 Kirkpatrick
 Lankford

Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Mulvaney
 Noem
 Nunnelee
 Polis
 Rangel

Richmond
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Speier
 Tipton
 Walz

□ 1231

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 809

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 809.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 809

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor from H.R. 809.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 20, 2014 at 10:42 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1603.

That the Senate agreed to request by the House to return papers to the House H.R. 4412.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4412, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to engross the bill, H.R. 4412, in the form I have placed at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4412

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Fiscal year 2014.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

Sec. 201. Space exploration policy.

Sec. 202. Stepping stone approach to exploration.

Sec. 203. Space Launch System.

Sec. 204. Orion crew capsule.

Sec. 205. Space radiation.

Sec. 206. Planetary protection for human exploration missions.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

Sec. 211. International Space Station.

Sec. 212. Barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the ISS's National Laboratory by commercial companies.

Sec. 213. Utilization of International Space Station for science missions.

Sec. 214. International Space Station cargo resupply services lessons learned.

Sec. 215. Commercial crew program.

Sec. 216. Space communications.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

Sec. 301. Science portfolio.

Sec. 302. Radioisotope power systems.

Sec. 303. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose.

Sec. 304. University class science missions.
 Sec. 305. Assessment of science mission extensions.

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

Sec. 311. Decadal cadence.
 Sec. 312. Extrasolar planet exploration strategy.
 Sec. 313. James Webb Space Telescope.
 Sec. 314. National Reconnaissance Office telescope donation.
 Sec. 315. Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope.
 Sec. 316. Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science

Sec. 321. Decadal cadence.
 Sec. 322. Near-Earth objects.
 Sec. 323. Near-Earth objects public-private partnerships.
 Sec. 324. Research on near-earth object tsunami effects.
 Sec. 325. Astrobiology strategy.
 Sec. 326. Astrobiology public-private partnerships.
 Sec. 327. Assessment of Mars architecture.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics

Sec. 331. Decadal cadence.
 Sec. 332. Review of space weather.

Subtitle E—Earth Science

Sec. 341. Goal.
 Sec. 342. Decadal cadence.
 Sec. 343. Venture class missions.
 Sec. 344. Assessment.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS

Sec. 401. Sense of Congress.
 Sec. 402. Aeronautics research goals.
 Sec. 403. Unmanned aerial systems research and development.
 Sec. 404. Research program on composite materials used in aeronautics.
 Sec. 405. Hypersonic research.
 Sec. 406. Supersonic research.
 Sec. 407. Research on NextGen airspace management concepts and tools.
 Sec. 408. Rotorcraft research.
 Sec. 409. Transformative aeronautics research.
 Sec. 410. Study of United States leadership in aeronautics research.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 501. Sense of Congress.
 Sec. 502. Space Technology Program.
 Sec. 503. Utilization of the International Space Station for technology demonstrations.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

Sec. 601. Education.
 Sec. 602. Independent review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
 Sec. 603. Sense of Congress.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Asteroid Retrieval Mission.
 Sec. 702. Termination liability sense of Congress.
 Sec. 703. Baseline and cost controls.
 Sec. 704. Project and program reserves.
 Sec. 705. Independent reviews.
 Sec. 706. Commercial technology transfer program.
 Sec. 707. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council.
 Sec. 708. Cost estimation.
 Sec. 709. Avoiding organizational conflicts of interest in major Administration acquisition programs.
 Sec. 710. Facilities and infrastructure.
 Sec. 711. Detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

Sec. 712. Space Act Agreements.
 Sec. 713. Human spaceflight accident investigations.
 Sec. 714. Fulllest commercial use of space.
 Sec. 715. Orbital debris.
 Sec. 716. Review of orbital debris removal concepts.
 Sec. 717. Use of operational commercial sub-orbital vehicles for research, development, and education.
 Sec. 718. Fundamental space life and physical sciences research.
 Sec. 719. Restoring commitment to engineering research.
 Sec. 720. Liquid rocket engine development program.
 Sec. 721. Remote satellite servicing demonstrations.
 Sec. 722. Information technology governance.
 Sec. 723. Strengthening Administration security.
 Sec. 724. Prohibition on use of funds for contractors that have committed fraud or other crimes.
 Sec. 725. Protection of Apollo landing sites.
 Sec. 726. Astronaut occupational healthcare.
 Sec. 727. Sense of Congress on access to observational data sets.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term “Orion crew capsule” means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(4) SPACE ACT AGREEMENT.—The term “Space Act Agreement” means an agreement created under the authority to enter into “other transactions” under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code.

(5) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term “Space Launch System” means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. FISCAL YEAR 2014.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 \$17,646,500,000 as follows:

(1) For Space Exploration, \$4,113,200,000, of which—

(A) \$1,918,200,000 shall be for the Space Launch System, of which \$318,200,000 shall be for Exploration Ground Systems;

(B) \$1,197,000,000 shall be for the Orion crew capsule;

(C) \$302,000,000 shall be for Exploration Research and Development; and

(D) \$696,000,000 shall be for Commercial Crew Development activities.

(2) For Space Operations, \$3,778,000,000, of which \$2,984,100,000 shall be for the International Space Station Program.

(3) For Science, \$5,151,200,000, of which—

(A) \$1,826,000,000 shall be for Earth Science;

(B) \$1,345,000,000 shall be for Planetary Science, with up to \$30,000,000 for the Astrobiology Institute;

(C) \$668,000,000 shall be for Astrophysics;

(D) \$658,200,000 shall be for the James Webb Space Telescope; and

(E) \$654,000,000 shall be for Heliophysics.

(4) For Aeronautics, \$566,000,000.

(5) For Space Technology, \$576,000,000.

(6) For Education, \$116,600,000.

(7) For Cross-Agency Support, \$2,793,000,000.

(8) For Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, \$515,000,000.

(9) For Inspector General, \$37,500,000.

TITLE II—HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

Subtitle A—Exploration

SEC. 201. SPACE EXPLORATION POLICY.

(a) POLICY.—Human exploration deeper into the solar system shall be a core mission of the Administration. It is the policy of the United States that the goal of the Administration's exploration program shall be to successfully conduct a crewed mission to the surface of Mars to begin human exploration of that planet. The use of the surface of the Moon, cis-lunar space, near-Earth asteroids, Lagrangian points, and Martian moons may be pursued provided they are properly incorporated into the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) VISION FOR SPACE EXPLORATION.—Section 20302 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ORION CREW CAPSULE.—The term ‘Orion crew capsule’ means the multipurpose crew vehicle described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

“(2) SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.—The term ‘Space Launch System’ means the follow-on Government-owned civil launch system developed, managed, and operated by the Administration to serve as a key component to expand human presence beyond low-Earth orbit, as described in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322).”.

(c) KEY OBJECTIVES.—Section 202(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18312(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to accelerate the development of capabilities to enable a human exploration mission to the surface of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the Human Exploration Roadmap under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.”.

(d) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—Section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18311(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) USE OF NON-UNITED STATES HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—NASA may not obtain non-United States human space flight capabilities unless no domestic commercial or public-private partnership provider that the Administrator has determined to meet safety and affordability requirements established by NASA for the transport of its astronauts is available to provide such capabilities.

“(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘domestic commercial provider’ means a person providing space transportation services or other space-related activities, the majority control of which is held by persons other than a Federal, State, local, or foreign government, foreign company, or foreign national.”.

(e) REPEAL OF SPACE SHUTTLE CAPABILITY ASSURANCE.—Section 203 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18313) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b);

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

and

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

SEC. 202. STEPPING STONE APPROACH TO EXPLORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70504. Stepping stone approach to exploration

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize the cost effectiveness of the long-term space exploration and utilization activities of the United States, the Administrator shall direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, or its successor division, to develop a Human Exploration Roadmap to define the specific capabilities and technologies necessary to extend human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions required to demonstrate such capabilities and technologies.

“(b) INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION.—The President should invite the United States partners in the International Space Station program and other nations, as appropriate, to participate in an international initiative under the leadership of the United States to achieve the goal of successfully conducting a crewed mission to the surface of Mars.

“(c) ROADMAP REQUIREMENTS.—In developing the Human Exploration Roadmap, the Administrator shall—

“(1) include the specific set of capabilities and technologies that contribute to extending human presence to the surface of Mars and the sets and sequences of missions necessary to demonstrate the proficiency of these capabilities and technologies with an emphasis on using or not using the International Space Station, lunar landings, cislunar space, trans-lunar space, Lagrangian points, and the natural satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos, as testbeds, as necessary, and shall include the most appropriate process for developing such capabilities and technologies;

“(2) include information on the phasing of planned intermediate destinations, Mars mission risk areas and potential risk mitigation approaches, technology requirements and phasing of required technology development activities, the management strategy to be followed, related International Space Station activities, and planned international collaborative activities, potential commercial contributions, and other activities relevant to the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014;

“(3) describe those technologies already under development across the Federal Government or by nongovernment entities which meet or exceed the needs described in paragraph (1);

“(4) provide a specific process for the evolution of the capabilities of the fully inte-

grated Orion crew capsule with the Space Launch System and how these systems demonstrate the capabilities and technologies described in paragraph (1);

“(5) provide a description of the capabilities and technologies that need to be demonstrated or research data that could be gained through the utilization of the International Space Station and the status of the development of such capabilities and technologies;

“(6) describe a framework for international cooperation in the development of all technologies and capabilities required in this section, as well as an assessment of the risks posed by relying on international partners for capabilities and technologies on the critical path of development;

“(7) describe a process for utilizing nongovernmental entities for future human exploration beyond lunar landings and cislunar space and specify what, if any, synergy could be gained from—

“(A) partnerships using Space Act Agreements (as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014); or

“(B) other acquisition instruments;

“(8) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an addendum from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council, and an addendum from the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, each with a statement of review of the Human Exploration Roadmap that shall include—

“(A) subjects of agreement;

“(B) areas of concern; and

“(C) recommendations; and

“(9) include in the Human Exploration Roadmap an examination of the benefits of utilizing current Administration launch facilities for trans-lunar missions.

“(d) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall update such Human Exploration Roadmap as needed but no less frequently than every 2 years and include it in the budget for that fiscal year transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, and describe—

“(1) the achievements and goals reached in the process of developing such capabilities and technologies during the 2-year period prior to the submission of the update to Congress; and

“(2) the expected goals and achievements in the following 2-year period.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘Orion crew capsule’ and ‘Space Launch System’ have the meanings given such terms in section 20302.”.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a copy of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall transmit a copy of each updated Human Exploration Roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 7 days after such Human Exploration Roadmap is updated.

SEC. 203. SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Space Launch System is the most practical approach to reaching the Moon, Mars, and beyond, and Congress reaffirms the policy and minimum capability requirements for the Space Launch System con-

tained in section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322);

(2) the primary goal for the design of the fully integrated Space Launch System, including an upper stage needed to go beyond low-Earth orbit, is to safely carry a total payload to enable human space exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond over the course of the next century as required in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)); and

(3) In order to promote safety and reduce programmatic risk, the Administrator shall budget for and undertake a robust ground test and uncrewed and crewed flight test and demonstration program for the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule and shall budget for an operational flight rate sufficient to maintain safety and operational readiness.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President’s annual budget requests for the Space Launch System and Orion crew capsule development, test, and operational phases should strive to accurately reflect the resource requirements of each of those phases, consistent with the policy established in section 201(a) of this Act.

(c) IN GENERAL.—Given the critical importance of a heavy-lift launch vehicle and crewed spacecraft to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201(a) of this Act, as well as the accomplishment of intermediate exploration milestones and the provision of a backup capability to transfer crew and cargo to the International Space Station, the Administrator shall make the expeditious development, test, and achievement of operational readiness of the Space Launch System and the Orion crew capsule the highest priority of the exploration program.

(d) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Administration’s acquisition of ground systems in support of the Space Launch System. The report shall assess the extent to which ground systems acquired in support of the Space Launch System are focused on the direct support of the Space Launch System and shall identify any ground support projects or activities that the Administration is undertaking that do not solely or primarily support the Space Launch System.

(e) UTILIZATION REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prepare a report that addresses the effort and budget required to enable and utilize a cargo variant of the 130-ton Space Launch System configuration described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)). This report shall also include consideration of the technical requirements of the scientific and national security communities related to such Space Launch System and shall directly assess the utility and estimated cost savings obtained by using such Space Launch System for national security and space science missions. The Administrator shall transmit such report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) **NAMING COMPETITION.**—Beginning not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and concluding not later than 1 year after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall conduct a well-publicized competition among students in elementary and secondary schools to name the elements of the Administration's exploration program, including—

(1) a name for the deep space human exploration program as a whole, which includes the Space Launch System, the Orion crew capsule, and future missions; and

(2) a name for the Space Launch System.

(g) **ADVANCED BOOSTER COMPETITION.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator of the Administration shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the estimated total development cost of an advanced booster for the Space Launch System;

(B) details any reductions or increases to the development cost of the Space Launch System which may result from conducting a competition for an advanced booster; and

(C) outlines any potential schedule delay to the Space Launch System 2017 Exploration Mission-1 launch as a result of increased costs associated with conducting a competition for an advanced booster.

(2) **COMPETITION.**—If the Associate Administrator reports reductions pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), and no adverse schedule impact pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), then the Administration shall conduct a full and open competition for an advanced booster for the Space Launch System to meet the requirements described in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18322(c)), to begin as soon as practicable after the development of the upper stage has been initiated.

SEC. 204. ORION CREW CAPSULE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Orion crew capsule shall meet the practical needs and the minimum capability requirements described in section 303 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18323).

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) detailing those components and systems of the Orion crew capsule that ensure it is in compliance with section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b));

(2) detailing the expected date that the Orion crew capsule will be available to transport crew and cargo to the International Space Station; and

(3) certifying that the requirements of section 303(b)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18323(b)(3)) will be met by the Administration.

SEC. 205. SPACE RADIATION.

(a) **STRATEGY AND PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall develop a space radiation mitigation and management strategy and implementation plan to enable the achievement of the goal established in section 201 that includes key research and monitoring requirements, mile-

stones, a timetable, and an estimate of facility and budgetary requirements.

(2) **COORDINATION.**—The strategy shall include a mechanism for coordinating Administration research, technology, facilities, engineering, operations, and other functions required to support the strategy and plan.

(3) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategy and plan to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) **SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall assess the national capabilities for carrying out critical ground-based research on space radiation biology and shall identify any issues that could affect the ability to carry out that research.

SEC. 206. PLANETARY PROTECTION FOR HUMAN EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to explore the planetary protection ramifications of potential future missions by astronauts such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The study shall—

(1) collate and summarize what has been done to date with respect to planetary protection measures to be applied to potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(2) identify and document planetary protection concerns associated with potential human missions such as to the lunar polar regions, near-Earth asteroids, the moons of Mars, and the surface of Mars;

(3) develop a methodology, if possible, for defining and classifying the degree of concern associated with each likely destination;

(4) assess likely methodologies for addressing planetary protection concerns; and

(5) identify areas for future research to reduce current uncertainties.

(c) **COMPLETION DATE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle B—Space Operations

SEC. 211. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The International Space Station is an ideal testbed for future exploration systems development, including long-duration space travel.

(2) The use of the private market to provide cargo and crew transportation services is currently the most expeditious process to restore domestic access to the International Space Station and low-Earth orbit.

(3) Government access to low-Earth orbit is paramount to the continued success of the International Space Station and National Laboratory.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The following is the policy of the United States:

(1) The United States International Space Station program shall have two primary objectives: supporting achievement of the goal established in section 201 of this Act and pursuing a research program that advances knowledge and provides benefits to the Na-

tion. It shall continue to be the policy of the United States to, in consultation with its international partners in the International Space Station program, support full and complete utilization of the International Space Station.

(2) The International Space Station shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit and shall be considered in the development of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(3) The Administrator shall, in consultation with the International Space Station partners—

(A) take all necessary measures to support the operation and full utilization of the International Space Station; and

(B) seek to minimize, to the extent practicable, the operating costs of the International Space Station.

(4) Reliance on foreign carriers for crew transfer is unacceptable, and the Nation's human space flight program must acquire the capability to launch United States astronauts on United States rockets from United States soil as soon as is safe and practically possible, whether on Government-owned and operated space transportation systems or privately owned systems that have been certified for flight by the appropriate Federal agencies.

(c) **REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**—Congress reaffirms—

(1) its commitment to the development of a commercially developed launch and delivery system to the International Space Station for crew missions as expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-155), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-422), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-267);

(2) that the Administration shall make use of United States commercially provided International Space Station crew transfer and crew rescue services to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) that the Orion crew capsule shall provide an alternative means of delivery of crew and cargo to the International Space Station, in the event other vehicles, whether commercial vehicles or partner-supplied vehicles, are unable to perform that function; and

(4) the policy stated in section 501(b) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18351(b)) that the Administration shall pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize International Space Station logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to International Space Station systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the International Space Station.

(d) **ASSURED ACCESS TO LOW-EARTH ORBIT.**—Section 70501(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **POLICY STATEMENT.**—It is the policy of the United States to maintain an uninterrupted capability for human space flight and operations in low-Earth orbit, and beyond, as an essential instrument of national security and the capability to ensure continued United States participation and leadership in the exploration and utilization of space.”

(e) **REPEALS.**—

(1) **USE OF SPACE SHUTTLE OR ALTERNATIVES.**—Chapter 701 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(2) **SHUTTLE PRICING POLICY FOR COMMERCIAL AND FOREIGN USERS.**—Chapter 703 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such chapter in the table of chapters for such title, are repealed.

(3) **SHUTTLE PRIVATIZATION.**—Section 50133 of title 51, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the table of sections for chapter 501 of such title, are repealed.

(f) **EXTENSION CRITERIA REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the feasibility of extending the operation of the International Space Station that includes—

(1) criteria for defining the International Space Station as a research success;

(2) any necessary contributions to enabling execution of the Human Exploration Roadmap developed under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) cost estimates for operating the International Space Station to achieve the criteria required under paragraph (1);

(4) cost estimates for extending operations to 2024 and 2030;

(5) an assessment of how the defined criteria under paragraph (1) respond to the National Academies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space; and

(6) an identification of the actions and cost estimate needed to deorbit the International Space Station once a decision is made to deorbit the laboratory.

(g) **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, academia, other Federal agencies, the International Space Station National Laboratory Advisory Committee, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategic plan for conducting competitive, peer-reviewed research in physical and life sciences and related technologies on the International Space Station through at least 2020.

(2) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—The strategic plan shall—

(A) be consistent with the priorities and recommendations established by the National Academies in its Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space;

(B) provide a research timeline and identify resource requirements for its implementation, including the facilities and instrumentation necessary for the conduct of such research; and

(C) identify—

(i) criteria for the proposed research, including—

(I) a justification for the research to be carried out in the space microgravity environment;

(II) the use of model systems;

(III) the testing of flight hardware to understand and ensure its functioning in the microgravity environment;

(IV) the use of controls to help distinguish among the direct and indirect effects of microgravity, among other effects of the flight or space environment;

(V) approaches for facilitating data collection, analysis, and interpretation;

(VI) procedures to ensure repetition of experiments, as needed;

(VII) support for timely presentation of the peer-reviewed results of the research;

(VIII) defined metrics for the success of each study; and

(IX) how these activities enable the Human Exploration Roadmap described in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(ii) instrumentation required to support the measurements and analysis of the research to be carried out under the strategic plan;

(iii) the capabilities needed to support direct, real-time communications between astronauts working on research experiments onboard the International Space Station and the principal investigator on the ground;

(iv) a process for involving the external user community in research planning, including planning for relevant flight hardware and instrumentation, and for utilization of the International Space Station, free flyers, or other research platforms;

(v) the acquisition strategy the Administration plans to use to acquire any new support capabilities which are not operational on the International Space Station as of the date of enactment of this Act, and the criteria the Administration will apply if less than full and open competition is selected; and

(vi) defined metrics for success of the research plan.

(3) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the progress of the organization chosen for the management of the International Space Station National Laboratory as directed in section 504 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18354).

(B) **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—The report shall assess the management, organization, and performance of such organization and shall include a review of the status of each of the 7 required activities listed in section 504(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 18354(c)).

SEC. 212. BARRIERS IMPEDING ENHANCED UTILIZATION OF THE ISS'S NATIONAL LABORATORY BY COMMERCIAL COMPANIES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory requires a full understanding of the barriers impeding such utilization and actions needed to be taken to remove or mitigate them to the maximum extent practicable; and

(2) doing so will allow the Administration to encourage commercial companies to invest in microgravity research using National Laboratory research facilities.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for an assessment to—

(1) identify barriers impeding enhanced utilization of the International Space Station's National Laboratory;

(2) recommend ways to encourage commercial companies to make greater use of the International Space Station's National Laboratory, including corporate investment in microgravity research; and

(3) identify any legislative changes that may be required.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment described in subsection (b).

SEC. 213. UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR SCIENCE MISSIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit wherever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

SEC. 214. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION CARGO RESUPPLY SERVICES LESSONS LEARNED.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that—

(1) identifies the lessons learned to date from the Commercial Resupply Services contract;

(2) indicates whether changes are needed to the manner in which the Administration procures and manages similar services upon the expiration of the existing Commercial Resupply Services contract; and

(3) identifies any lessons learned from the Commercial Resupply Services contract that should be applied to the procurement and management of commercially provided crew transfer services to and from the International Space Station.

SEC. 215. COMMERCIAL CREW PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that once developed and certified to meet the Administration's safety and reliability requirements, United States commercially provided crew transportation systems offer the potential of serving as the primary means of transporting American astronauts and international partner astronauts to and from the International Space Station and serving as International Space Station emergency crew rescue vehicles. At the same time, the budgetary assumptions used by the Administration in its planning for the Commercial Crew Program have consistently assumed significantly higher funding levels than have been authorized and appropriated by Congress. It is the sense of Congress that credibility in the Administration's budgetary estimates for the Commercial Crew Program can be enhanced by an independently developed cost estimate. Such credibility in budgetary estimates is an important factor in understanding program risk.

(b) **OBJECTIVE.**—The objective of the Administration's Commercial Crew Program shall be to assist the development of at least one crew transportation system to carry Administration astronauts safely, reliably, and affordably to and from the International Space Station and to serve as an emergency crew rescue vehicle as soon as practicable within the funding levels authorized. The Administration shall not use any considerations beyond this objective in the overall acquisition strategy.

(c) **SAFETY.**—Consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, the Administration shall—

(1) ensure that, in its evaluation and selection of contracts for the development of

commercial crew transportation capabilities, safety is the highest priority; and

(2) seek to ensure that minimization of the probability of loss of crew shall be an important selection criterion of the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract.

(d) **COST MINIMIZATION.**—The Administrator shall strive through the competitive selection process to minimize the life cycle cost to the Administration through the planned period of commercially provided crew transportation services.

(e) **TRANSPARENCY.**—Transparency is the cornerstone of ensuring a safe and reliable commercial crew transportation service to the International Space Station. The Administrator shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure that every commercial crew transportation services provider has provided evidence-based support for their costs and schedule.

(f) **INDEPENDENT COST AND SCHEDULE ESTIMATE.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the Federal Acquisition Regulation-based contract for the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability Contract is awarded, the Administrator shall arrange for the initiation of an Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for—

(A) all activities associated with the development, test, demonstration, and certification of commercial crew transportation systems;

(B) transportation and rescue services required by the Administration for International Space Station operations through calendar year 2020 or later if Administration requirements so dictate; and

(C) the estimated date of operational readiness for the program each assumption listed in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) **ASSUMPTIONS.**—The Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate shall provide an estimate for each of the following scenarios:

(A) An appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(B) An appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(C) An appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years.

(D) The funding level assumptions over the next 3 fiscal years that are included as part of commercial crew transportation capability contract awards.

(3) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 180 days after initiation of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall transmit the results of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(g) **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate under subsection (f), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing 4 distinct implementation strategies based on such Independent Cost and Schedule Estimate for the final stages of the commercial crew program.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—These options shall include—

(A) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$600,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(B) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$700,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years;

(C) a strategy that assumes an appropriation of \$800,000,000 over the next 3 fiscal years; and

(D) a strategy that has yet to be considered previously in any budget submission but that the Administration believes could ensure the flight readiness date of 2017 for at least one provider.

(3) **INCLUSIONS.**—Each strategy shall include the contracting instruments the Administration will employ to acquire the services in each phase of development or acquisition and the number of commercial providers the Administration will include in the program.

SEC. 216. SPACE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, for updating the Administration's space communications and navigation architecture for low-Earth orbital and deep space operations so that it is capable of meeting the Administration's communications needs over the next 20 years. The plan shall include lifecycle cost estimates, milestones, estimated performance capabilities, and 5-year funding profiles. The plan shall also include an estimate of the amounts of any reimbursements the Administration is likely to receive from other Federal agencies during the expected life of the upgrades described in the plan. At a minimum, the plan shall include a description of the following:

(1) Steps to sustain the existing space communications and navigation network and infrastructure and priorities for how resources will be applied and cost estimates for the maintenance of existing space communications network capabilities.

(2) Upgrades needed to support space communications and navigation network and infrastructure requirements, including cost estimates and schedules and an assessment of the impact on missions if resources are not secured at the level needed.

(3) Projected space communications and navigation network requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of human space exploration missions.

(4) Projected Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System requirements for the next 20 years, including those in support of other relevant Federal agencies, and cost and schedule estimates to maintain and upgrade the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System to meet projected requirements.

(5) Steps the Administration is taking to meet future space communications requirements after all Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System third-generation communications satellites are operational.

(6) Steps the Administration is taking to mitigate threats to electromagnetic spectrum use.

(b) **SCHEDULE.**—The Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under this section to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

Subtitle A—General

SEC. 301. SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) **BALANCED AND ADEQUATELY FUNDED ACTIVITIES.**—Section 803 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 2832) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 803. OVERALL SCIENCE PORTFOLIO—SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

“Congress reaffirms its sense, expressed in the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-

istration Authorization Act of 2010, that a balanced and adequately funded set of activities, consisting of research and analysis grants programs, technology development, small, medium, and large space missions, and suborbital research activities, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery.”.

(b) **DECADAL SURVEYS.**—In proposing the funding of programs and activities for the Administration for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall to the greatest extent practicable follow guidance provided in the current decadal surveys from the National Academies' Space Studies Board.

SEC. 302. RADIOISOTOPE POWER SYSTEMS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that conducting deep space exploration requires radioisotope power systems, and establishing continuity in the production of the material needed to power these systems is paramount to the success of these future deep space missions. It is further the sense of Congress that Federal agencies supporting the Administration through the production of such material should do so in a cost effective manner so as not to impose excessive reimbursement requirements on the Administration.

(b) **ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS AND RISKS.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall conduct an analysis of—

(1) the requirements of the Administration for radioisotope power system material that is needed to carry out planned, high priority robotic missions in the solar system and other surface exploration activities beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(2) the risks to missions of the Administration in meeting those requirements, or any additional requirements, due to a lack of adequate radioisotope power system material.

(c) **CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.**—The analysis conducted under subsection (b) shall—

(1) detail the Administration's current projected mission requirements and associated timeframes for radioisotope power system material;

(2) explain the assumptions used to determine the Administration's requirements for the material, including—

(A) the planned use of advanced thermal conversion technology such as advanced thermocouples and Stirling generators and converters; and

(B) the risks and implications of, and contingencies for, any delays or unanticipated technical challenges affecting or related to the Administration's mission plans for the anticipated use of advanced thermal conversion technology;

(3) assess the risk to the Administration's programs of any potential delays in achieving the schedule and milestones for planned domestic production of radioisotope power system material;

(4) outline a process for meeting any additional Administration requirements for the material;

(5) estimate the incremental costs required to increase the amount of material produced each year, if such an increase is needed to support additional Administration requirements for the material;

(6) detail how the Administration and other Federal agencies will manage, operate, and fund production facilities and the design and development of all radioisotope power systems used by the Administration and other Federal agencies as necessary;

(7) specify the steps the Administration will take, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to preserve the infrastructure and workforce necessary for production of radioisotope power systems and ensure that its reimbursements to the Department of Energy associated with such preservation are equitable and justified; and

(8) detail how the Administration has implemented or rejected the recommendations from the National Research Council's 2009 report titled "Radioisotope Power Systems: An Imperative for Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Space Exploration".

(d) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the analysis to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE.

Section 20102(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(10) The direction of the unique competence of the Administration to the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. In carrying out this objective, the Administration may use any practicable ground-based, airborne, or space-based technical means and spectra of electromagnetic radiation."

SEC. 304. UNIVERSITY CLASS SCIENCE MISSIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that principal investigator-led small orbital science missions, including CubeSat class, University Explorer (UNEX) class, Small Explorer (SMEX) class, and Venture class, offer valuable opportunities to advance science at low cost, train the next generation of scientists and engineers, and enable participants in the program to acquire skills in systems engineering and systems integration that are critical to maintaining the Nation's leadership in space and to enhancing the United States innovation and competitiveness abroad.

(b) **REVIEW OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR-LED SMALL ORBITAL SCIENCE MISSIONS.**—The Administrator shall conduct a review of the science missions described in subsection (a). The review shall include—

(1) the status, capability, and availability of existing small orbital science mission programs and the extent to which each program enables the participation of university scientists and students;

(2) the opportunities such mission programs provide for scientific research;

(3) the opportunities such mission programs provide for training and education, including scientific and engineering workforce development, including for the Administration's scientific and engineering workforce; and

(4) the extent to which commercial applications such as hosted payloads, free flyers, and data buys could provide measurable benefits for such mission programs, while preserving the principle of independent peer review as the basis for mission selection.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the review required under subsection (b) and on recommendations to enhance principal investigator-led small orbital science missions conducted by

the Administration in accordance with the results of the review required by subsection (b).

SEC. 305. ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE MISSION EXTENSIONS.

Section 30504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 30504. Assessment of science mission extensions

"(a) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Administrator shall carry out biennial reviews within each of the Science divisions to assess the cost and benefits of extending the date of the termination of data collection for those missions that exceed their planned missions' lifetime. The assessment shall take into consideration how extending missions impacts the start of future missions.

"(b) **CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF INSTRUMENTS ON MISSIONS.**—When deciding whether to extend a mission that has an operational component, the Administrator shall consult with any affected Federal agency and shall take into account the potential benefits of instruments on missions that are beyond their planned mission lifetime.

"(c) **REPORT.**—The Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, at the same time as the submission to Congress of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year, a report detailing any assessment required by subsection (a) that was carried out during the previous year."

Subtitle B—Astrophysics

SEC. 311. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small astrophysics missions.

SEC. 312. EXTRASOLAR PLANET EXPLORATION STRATEGY.

(a) **STRATEGY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for the study and exploration of extrasolar planets, including the use of the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, the James Webb Space Telescope, a potential Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, or any other telescope, spacecraft, or instrument as appropriate. Such strategy shall—

(1) outline key scientific questions;

(2) identify the most promising research in the field;

(3) indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the key extrasolar planet research goals;

(4) identify opportunities for coordination with international partners, commercial partners, and other not-for-profit partners; and

(5) make recommendations on the above as appropriate.

(b) **USE OF STRATEGY.**—The Administrator shall use the strategy to—

(1) inform roadmaps, strategic plans, and other activities of the Administration as they relate to extrasolar planet research and exploration; and

(2) provide a foundation for future activities and initiatives.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 313. JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved, and advance the search for the origins of the universe;

(2) the James Webb Space Telescope will enable American scientists to maintain their leadership in astrophysics and other disciplines;

(3) the James Webb Space Telescope program is making steady progress towards a launch in 2018;

(4) the on-time and on-budget delivery of the James Webb Space Telescope is a high congressional priority; and

(5) maintaining this progress will require the Administrator to ensure that integrated testing is appropriately timed and sufficiently comprehensive to enable potential issues to be identified and addressed early enough to be handled within the James Webb Space Telescope's development schedule prior to launch.

SEC. 314. NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE TELESCOPE DONATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate outlining the cost of the Administration's potential plan for developing the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope as described in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, including an alternative plan for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope 2.4, which includes the donated 2.4-meter aperture National Reconnaissance Office telescope. Due to the budget constraints on the Administration's science programs, this report shall include—

(1) an assessment of cost efficient approaches to develop the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope;

(2) a comparison to the development of mission concepts that exclude the utilization of the donated asset;

(3) an assessment of how the Administration's existing science missions will be affected by the utilization of the donated asset described in this section; and

(4) a description of the cost associated with storing and maintaining the donated asset.

SEC. 315. WIDE-FIELD INFRARED SURVEY TELESCOPE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, to the extent practicable, should make progress on the technologies and capabilities needed to position the Administration to meet the objectives of the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission, as outlined in the 2010 National Academies' astronomy and astrophysics decadal survey, in a way that maximizes the scientific productivity of meeting those objectives for the resources invested. It is further the sense of Congress that the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission has the potential to enable scientific discoveries that will transform our understanding of the universe.

(b) **CONTINUITY OF DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the concept definition and pre-formulation activities of a Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope mission continue while the James Webb Space Telescope is being completed.

SEC. 316. STRATOSPHERIC OBSERVATORY FOR INFRARED ASTRONOMY.

The Administrator shall not use any funding appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2014 for the shutdown of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy or for the preparation therefor.

Subtitle C—Planetary Science**SEC. 321. DECADAL CADENCE.**

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the greatest extent practicable that the Administration carries out a balanced set of planetary science programs in accordance with the priorities established in the most recent decadal survey for planetary science. Such programs shall include, at a minimum—

(1) a Discovery-class mission at least once every 24 months;

(2) a New Frontiers-class mission at least once every 60 months; and

(3) at least one Flagship-class mission per decadal survey period, including a Europa mission with a goal of launching by 2021.

SEC. 322. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Near-Earth objects pose a serious and credible threat to humankind, as many scientists believe that a major asteroid or comet was responsible for the mass extinction of the majority of the Earth's species, including the dinosaurs, approximately 65,000,000 years ago.

(2) Similar objects have struck the Earth or passed through the Earth's atmosphere several times in the Earth's history and pose a similar threat in the future.

(3) Several such near-Earth objects have only been discovered within days of the objects' closest approach to Earth, and recent discoveries of such large objects indicate that many large near-Earth objects remain to be discovered.

(4) The efforts undertaken by the Administration for detecting and characterizing the hazards of near-Earth objects should continue to seek to fully determine the threat posed by such objects to cause widespread destruction and loss of life.

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "near-Earth object" means an asteroid or comet with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3 Astronomical Units from the Sun.

(c) NEAR-EARTH OBJECT SURVEY.—The Administrator shall continue to detect, track, catalogue, and characterize the physical characteristics of near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter in order to assess the threat of such near-Earth objects to the Earth, pursuant to the George E. Brown, Jr. Near-Earth Object Survey Act (42 U.S.C. 16691). It shall be the goal of the Survey program to achieve 90 percent completion of its near-Earth object catalogue (based on statistically predicted populations of near-Earth objects) by 2020.

(d) WARNING AND MITIGATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS.—Congress reaffirms the policy set forth in section 20102(g) of title 51, United States Code (relating to detecting, tracking, cataloguing, and characterizing asteroids and comets).

(e) PROGRAM REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, an initial report that provides—

(1) recommendations for carrying out the Survey program and an associated proposed budget;

(2) analysis of possible options that the Administration could employ to divert an object on a likely collision course with Earth; and

(3) a description of the status of efforts to coordinate and cooperate with other countries to discover hazardous asteroids and comets, plan a mitigation strategy, and implement that strategy in the event of the discovery of an object on a likely collision course with Earth.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Subsequent to the initial report the Administrator shall annually transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that provides—

(1) a summary of all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act, including the progress toward achieving 90 percent completion of the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) a summary of expenditures for all activities carried out pursuant to subsection (c) since the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) STUDY.—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall carry out a technical and scientific assessment of the capabilities and resources to—

(1) accelerate the survey described in subsection (c); and

(2) expand the Administration's Near-Earth Object Program to include the detection, tracking, cataloguing, and characterization of potentially hazardous near-Earth objects less than 140 meters in diameter.

(h) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment carried out under subsection (g) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 323. NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to leverage the capabilities of the private sector and philanthropic organizations to the maximum extent practicable in carrying out the Near-Earth Object Survey program in order to meet the goal of the Survey program.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to detect, track, catalogue, and categorize near-Earth objects.

SEC. 324. RESEARCH ON NEAR-EARTH OBJECT TSUNAMI EFFECTS.

(a) REPORT ON POTENTIAL TSUNAMI EFFECTS FROM NEAR-EARTH OBJECT IMPACT.—The Administrator, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other relevant agencies, shall prepare a report identifying and describing existing research activities and further research objectives that would increase our understanding of the nature of the effects of potential tsunamis that could occur if a near-Earth object were to impact an ocean of Earth.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the report required and prepared under subsection (a) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 325. ASTROBIOLOGY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to develop a science strategy for astrobiology that would outline key scientific questions, identify the most promising research in the field, and indicate the extent to which the mission priorities in existing decadal surveys address the search for life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe. The strategy shall include recommendations for coordination with international partners.

(b) USE OF STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall use the strategy developed under subsection (a) in planning and funding research and other activities and initiatives in the field of astrobiology.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report to the Administrator, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, containing the strategy developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 326. ASTROBIOLOGY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing how the Administration can expand collaborative partnerships to study life's origin, evolution, distribution, and future in the Universe.

SEC. 327. ASSESSMENT OF MARS ARCHITECTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to assess—

(1) the Administration's revised post-2016 Mars exploration architecture and its responsiveness to the strategies, priorities, and guidelines put forward by the National Academies' planetary science decadal surveys and other relevant National Academies Mars-related reports;

(2) the long-term goals of the Administration's Mars Exploration Program and such program's ability to optimize the science return, given the current fiscal posture of the program;

(3) the Mars architecture's relationship to Mars-related activities to be undertaken by agencies and organizations outside of the United States; and

(4) the extent to which the Mars architecture represents a reasonably balanced mission portfolio.

(b) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the results of the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle D—Heliophysics**SEC. 331. DECADAL CADENCE.**

In carrying out section 301(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small heliophysics missions.

SEC. 332. REVIEW OF SPACE WEATHER.

(a) **REVIEW.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with the Administrator, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies to provide a comprehensive study that reviews current and planned ground-based and space-based space weather monitoring requirements and capabilities, identifies gaps, and identifies options for a robust and resilient capability. The study shall inform the process of identifying national needs for future space weather monitoring, forecasts, and mitigation. The National Academies shall give consideration to international and private sector efforts and collaboration that could potentially contribute to national space weather needs. The study shall also review the current state of research capabilities in observing, modeling, and prediction and provide recommendations to ensure future advancement of predictive capability.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall transmit a report containing the results of the study provided under subsection (a) to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

Subtitle E—Earth Science**SEC. 341. GOAL.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Administration is being asked to undertake important Earth science activities in an environment of increasingly constrained fiscal resources, and that any transfer of additional responsibilities to the Administration, such as climate instrument development and measurements that are currently part of the portfolio of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should be accompanied by the provision of additional resources to allow the Administration to carry out the increased responsibilities without adversely impacting its implementation of its existing Earth science programs and priorities.

(b) **GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall continue to carry out a balanced Earth science program that includes Earth science research, Earth systematic missions, competitive Venture class missions, other missions and data analysis, mission operations, technology development, and applied sciences, consistent with the recommendations and priorities established in the National Academies' Earth Science Decadal Survey.

(c) **COLLABORATION.**—The Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, non-government entities, and international partners, as appropriate, in carrying out the Administration's Earth science program. The Administration shall continue to develop first-of-a-kind instruments that, once proved, can be transitioned to other agencies for operations.

(d) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—Whenever responsibilities for the development of sensors or for measurements are transferred to the Administration from another agency, the Administration shall seek, to the extent possible, to be reimbursed for the assumption of such responsibilities.

SEC. 342. DECADAL CADENCE.

In carrying out section 341(b), the Administrator shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable a steady cadence of large, medium, and small Earth science missions.

SEC. 343. VENTURE CLASS MISSIONS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration's Venture class missions provide opportunities for innovation in the Earth science program, offer low-cost approaches for high-quality competitive science investigations, enable frequent flight opportunities to engage the Earth science and applications community, and serve as a training ground for students and young scientists. It is further the sense of Congress that the Administration should seek to increase the number of Venture class projects to the extent practicable as part of a balanced Earth science program.

SEC. 344. ASSESSMENT.

The Administrator shall carry out a scientific assessment of the Administration's Earth science global datasets for the purpose of identifying those datasets that are useful for understanding regional changes and variability, and for informing applied science research. The Administrator shall complete and transmit the assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—AERONAUTICS**SEC. 401. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a robust aeronautics research portfolio will help maintain the United States status as a leader in aviation, enhance the competitiveness of the United States in the world economy and improve the quality of life of all citizens;

(2) aeronautics research is essential to the Administration's mission, continues to be an important core element of the Administration's mission and should be supported;

(3) the Administrator should coordinate and consult with relevant Federal agencies and the private sector to minimize duplication and leverage resources; and

(4) carrying aeronautics research to a level of maturity that allows the Administration's research results to be transitioned to the users, whether private or public sector, is critical to their eventual adoption.

SEC. 402. AERONAUTICS RESEARCH GOALS.

The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration maintains a strong aeronautics research portfolio ranging from fundamental research through integrated systems research with specific research goals, including the following:

(1) **ENHANCE AIRSPACE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall address research needs of the Next Generation Air Transportation System and identify critical gaps in technology which must be bridged to enable the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System so that safety and productivity improvements can be achieved as soon as possible.

(2) **IMPROVE AIR VEHICLE PERFORMANCE.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall conduct research to improve aircraft performance and minimize environmental impacts. The Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall consider and pursue concepts to reduce noise, emissions, and fuel consumption while maintaining high safety standards, and shall conduct research

related to the impact of alternative fuels on the safety, reliability and maintainability of current and new air vehicles.

(3) **STRENGTHEN AVIATION SAFETY.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall proactively address safety challenges associated with current and new air vehicles and with operations in the Nation's current and future air transportation system.

(4) **DEMONSTRATE CONCEPTS AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL.**—The Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate shall mature the most promising technologies to the point at which they can be demonstrated in a relevant environment and shall integrate individual components and technologies as appropriate to ensure that they perform in an integrated manner as well as they do when operated individually.

SEC. 403. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies, shall carry out research and technological development to facilitate the safe integration of unmanned aerial systems into the National Airspace System, including—

- (1) positioning and navigation systems;
- (2) sense and avoid capabilities;
- (3) secure data and communication links;
- (4) flight recovery systems; and
- (5) human systems integration.

(b) **ROADMAP.**—The Administrator shall update a roadmap for unmanned aerial systems research and development and transmit this roadmap to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) **COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE ACTIVITIES.**—Section 31504 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting "Operational flight data derived from these cooperative agreements shall be made available, in appropriate and usable formats, to the Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration for the development of regulatory standards." after "in remote areas."

SEC. 404. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS USED IN AERONAUTICS.

(a) **PURPOSE OF RESEARCH.**—The Administrator shall continue the Administration's cooperative research program with industry to identify and demonstrate more effective and safe ways of developing, manufacturing, and maintaining composite materials for use in airframes, subsystems, and propulsion components.

(b) **EXPOSURE OF RESEARCH TO NEXT GENERATION OF ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS.**—To the extent practicable, the Administration's cooperative research program with industry on composite materials shall provide timely access to that research to the next generation of engineers and technicians at universities, community colleges, and vocational schools, thereby helping to develop a workforce ready to take on the development, manufacture, and maintenance of components reliant on advanced composite materials.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Administrator, in overseeing the Administration's work on composite materials, shall consult with relevant Federal agencies and partners in industry to accelerate safe development and certification processes for new composite materials and design methods while maintaining rigorous inspection of new composite materials.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate detailing the Administration's work on new composite materials and the coordination efforts among Federal agencies and industry partners.

SEC. 405. HYPERSONIC RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a research and development roadmap for hypersonic aircraft research with the objective of exploring hypersonic science and technology using air-breathing propulsion concepts, through a mix of theoretical work, basic and applied research, and development of flight research demonstration vehicles. The roadmap shall prescribe appropriate agency contributions, coordination efforts, and technology milestones.

SEC. 406. SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) the ability to fly commercial aircraft over land at supersonic speeds without adverse impacts on the environment or on local communities could open new global markets and enable new transportation capabilities; and

(2) continuing the Administration's research program is necessary to assess the impact in a relevant environment of commercial supersonic flight operations and provide the basis for establishing appropriate sonic boom standards for such flight operations.

(b) **ROADMAP FOR SUPERSONIC RESEARCH.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap that allows for flexible funding profiles for supersonic aeronautics research and development with the objective of developing and demonstrating, in a relevant environment, airframe and propulsion technologies to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight in an efficient and economical manner. The roadmap shall include—

(1) the baseline research as embodied by the Administration's existing research on supersonic flight;

(2) a list of specific technological, environmental, and other challenges that must be overcome to minimize the environmental impact, including noise, of supersonic overland flight;

(3) a research plan to address such challenges, as well as a project timeline for accomplishing relevant research goals;

(4) a plan for coordination with stakeholders, including relevant government agencies and industry; and

(5) a plan for how the Administration will ensure that sonic boom research is coordinated as appropriate with relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 407. RESEARCH ON NEXTGEN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS AND TOOLS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies, review at least annually the alignment and

timing of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, and shall make any necessary adjustments by reprioritizing or retargeting the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen initiative.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Administrator shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate annually regarding the progress of the Administration's research and development activities in support of the NextGen airspace management modernization initiative, including details of technologies transferred to relevant Federal agencies for eventual operation implementation, consultation with other Federal agencies, and any adjustments made to research activities.

SEC. 408. ROTORCRAFT RESEARCH.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with other Federal agencies, shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a roadmap for research relating to rotorcraft and other runway-independent air vehicles, with the objective of developing and demonstrating improved safety, noise, and environmental impact in a relevant environment. The roadmap shall include specific goals for the research, a timeline for implementation, metrics for success, and guidelines for collaboration and coordination with industry and other Federal agencies.

SEC. 409. TRANSFORMATIVE AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator, in looking strategically into the future and ensuring that the Administration's Center personnel are at the leading edge of aeronautics research, should encourage investigations into the early-stage advancement of new processes, novel concepts, and innovative technologies that have the potential to meet national aeronautics needs. The Administrator shall continue to ensure that awards for the investigation of these concepts and technologies are open for competition among Administration civil servants at its Centers, separate from other awards open only to non-Administration sources.

SEC. 410. STUDY OF UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN AERONAUTICS RESEARCH.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for a study to benchmark the position of the United States in civil aeronautics research compared to the rest of the world. The study shall—

(1) seek to define metrics by which relative leadership in civil aeronautics research can be determined;

(2) ascertain how the United States compares to other countries in the field of civil aeronautics research and any relevant trends; and

(3) provide recommendations on what can be done to regain or retain global leadership, including—

(A) identifying research areas where United States expertise has been or is at risk of being overtaken;

(B) defining appropriate roles for the Administration;

(C) identifying public-private partnerships that could be formed; and

(D) estimating the impact on the Administration's budget should such recommendations be implemented.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the results of the study to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

TITLE V—SPACE TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 501. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that space technology is critical to—

(1) enabling a new class of Administration missions beyond low-Earth orbit;

(2) developing technologies and capabilities that will make the Administration's missions more affordable and more reliable; and

(3) improving technological capabilities and promoting innovation for the Administration and the Nation.

SEC. 502. SPACE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Section 70507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 70507. Space Technology Program authorized

“(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Administrator shall establish a Space Technology Program to pursue the research and development of advanced space technologies that have the potential of delivering innovative solutions and to support human exploration of the solar system or advanced space science. The program established by the Administrator shall take into consideration the recommendations of the National Academies' review of the Administration's Space Technology roadmaps and priorities, as well as applicable enabling aspects of the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504. In conducting the space technology program established under this section, the Administrator shall—

“(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use a competitive process to select projects to be supported as part of the program;

“(2) make use of small satellites and the Administration's suborbital and ground-based platforms, to the extent practicable and appropriate, to demonstrate space technology concepts and developments; and

“(3) undertake partnerships with other Federal agencies, universities, private industry, and other spacefaring nations, as appropriate.

“(b) **SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator shall organize and manage the Administration's Small Business Innovation Research program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program within the Space Technology Program.

“(c) **NONDUPLICATION CERTIFICATION.**—The Administrator shall include in the budget for each fiscal year, as transmitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, a certification that no project, program, or mission undertaken by the Space Technology Program is duplicative of any other project, program, or mission conducted by another office or directorate of the Administration.”.

(b) **COLLABORATION, COORDINATION, AND ALIGNMENT.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the Administration's projects, programs, and activities in support of technology research and development of advanced space technologies are fully coordinated and aligned and that results from such work are shared and leveraged within the

Administration. Projects, programs, and activities being conducted by the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in support of research and development of advanced space technologies and systems focusing on human space exploration should continue in that Directorate. The Administrator shall ensure that organizational responsibility for research and development activities in support of human space exploration not initiated as of the date of enactment of this Act is established on the basis of a sound rationale. The Administrator shall provide the rationale in the report specified in subsection (d).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report comparing the Administration's space technology investments with the high-priority technology areas identified by the National Academies in the National Research Council's report on the Administration's Space Technology Roadmaps. The Administrator shall identify how the Administration will address any gaps between the agency's investments and the recommended technology areas, including a projection of funding requirements.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Administrator shall include in the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year the rationale for assigning organizational responsibility for, in the year prior to the budget fiscal year, each initiated project, program, and mission focused on research and development of advanced technologies for human space exploration.

(e) **TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.**—The item relating to section 70507 in the table of sections for chapter 705 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“70507. Space Technology Program authorized.”.

SEC. 503. UTILIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION FOR TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATIONS.

The Administrator shall utilize the International Space Station and commercial services for space technology demonstration missions in low-Earth orbit whenever it is practical and cost effective to do so.

TITLE VI—EDUCATION

SEC. 601. EDUCATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration's missions are an inspiration for Americans and in particular for the next generation, and that this inspiration has a powerful effect in stimulating interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (in this section referred to as “STEM”) education and careers;

(2) the Administration's Office of Education and mission directorates have been effective in delivering Administration educational content because of the strong engagement of Administration scientists and engineers in the Administration's education and outreach activities; and

(3) the Administration should be a central partner in contributing to the goals of the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administration shall continue its education and outreach efforts to—

(1) increase student interest and participation in STEM education;

(2) improve public literacy in STEM;

(3) employ proven strategies for improving student learning and teaching;

(4) provide curriculum support materials; and

(5) create and support opportunities for professional development for STEM teachers.

(c) **ORGANIZATION.**—In order to ensure the inspiration and engagement of children and the general public, the Administration shall continue its STEM education and outreach activities within the Science, Aeronautics Research, Space Operations, and Exploration Mission Directorates.

(d) **CONTINUATION OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS.**—The Administrator shall continue to carry out education and outreach programs and activities through the Office of Education and the Administration mission directorates and shall continue to engage, to the maximum extent practicable, Administration and Administration-supported researchers and engineers in carrying out those programs and activities.

(e) **CONTINUATION OF SPACE GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall continue to operate the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program through a national network consisting of a State-based consortium in each State that provides flexibility to the States, with the objective of providing hands-on research, training, and education programs, with measurable outcomes, to enhance America's STEM education and workforce.

(f) **REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.**—Congress reaffirms its commitment to informal science education at science centers and planetariums as set forth in section 616 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005 (51 U.S.C. 40907).

SEC. 602. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, which was established in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 2486 et seq.), has been an important program by which the Federal Government has partnered with State and local governments, universities, private industry, and other organizations to enhance the understanding and use of space and aeronautics activities and their benefits through education, fostering of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary space research and training, and supporting Federal funding for graduate fellowships in space-related fields, among other purposes.

(b) **REVIEW.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies for—

(1) a review of the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program, including its structure and capabilities for supporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training consistent with the National Science and Technology Council's Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan; and

(2) recommendations on measures, if needed, to enhance the Program's effectiveness and mechanisms by which any increases in funding appropriated by Congress can be applied.

(c) **NATIONAL SPACE GRANT COLLEGE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **PURPOSES.**—Section 40301 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (5);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) support outreach to primary and secondary schools to help support STEM engagement and learning at the K-12 level and to encourage K-12 students to pursue post-secondary degrees in fields related to space.”.

(2) **REGIONAL CONSORTIUM.**—Section 40306 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) **INCLUSION OF 2-YEAR INSTITUTIONS.**—A space grant regional consortium designated in paragraph (1)(B) may include one or more 2-year institutions of higher education.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(D)” and inserting “paragraphs (3)(C) and (4)(D)”.

SEC. 603. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator should make the continuation of the Administration's Minority University Research and Education Program a priority in order to further STEM education for under-represented students.

TITLE VII—POLICY PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. ASTEROID RETRIEVAL MISSION.

(a) **ASTEROID RETRIEVAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the proposed Asteroid Retrieval Mission. Such report shall include—

(1) a detailed budget profile, including cost estimates for the development of all necessary technologies and spacecraft required for the mission;

(2) a detailed technical plan that includes milestones and a specific schedule;

(3) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future human missions to Mars which could not be gained by lunar missions;

(4) a description of the technologies and capabilities anticipated to be gained from the proposed mission that will enable future planetary defense missions, against impact threats from near-Earth objects equal to or greater than 140 meters in diameter, which could not be gained by robotic missions; and

(5) a complete assessment by the Small Bodies Assessment Group and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of how the proposed mission is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(b) **MARS FLYBY REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, an independent, private systems engineering and technical assistance organization contracted by the Human Exploration Operations Mission Directorate shall transmit to the Administrator, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report analyzing the proposal for a Mars Flyby human spaceflight mission to be launched in 2021. Such report shall include—

(1) a technical development, test, fielding, and operations plan using the Space Launch

System and other systems to successfully mount a Mars Flyby mission by 2021;

(2) a description of the benefits in scientific knowledge and technologies demonstrated by a Mars Flyby mission to be launched in 2021 suitable for future Mars missions; and

(3) an annual budget profile, including cost estimates, for the development test, fielding, and operations plan to carry out a Mars Flyby mission through 2021 and comparison of that budget profile to the 5-year budget profile contained in the President's Budget request for fiscal year 2015.

(c) **ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after transmittal of the report specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Advisory Council of whether the proposal for a Mars Flyby Mission to be launched in 2021 is in the strategic interests of the United States in space exploration.

(d) **CREWED MISSION.**—The report transmitted under subsection (b) may consider a crewed mission with the Space Launch System in cis-lunar space prior to the Mars Flyby mission in 2021.

SEC. 702. TERMINATION LIABILITY SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that:

(1) The International Space Station, the Space Launch System, and the Orion crew capsule will enable the Nation to continue operations in low-Earth orbit and to send its astronauts to deep space. The James Webb Space Telescope will revolutionize our understanding of star and planet formation and how galaxies evolved and advance the search for the origins of our universe. As a result of their unique capabilities and their critical contribution to the future of space exploration, these systems have been designated by Congress and the Administration as priority investments.

(2) In addition, contractors are currently holding program funding, estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, to cover the potential termination liability should the Government choose to terminate a program for convenience. As a result, hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are unavailable for meaningful work on these programs.

(3) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Administration procures most of its goods and services through contracts, and it terminates very few of them. In fiscal year 2010, the Administration terminated 28 of 16,343 active contracts and orders—a termination rate of about 0.17 percent.

(4) The Administration should vigorously pursue a policy on termination liability that maximizes the utilization of its appropriated funds to make maximum progress in meeting established technical goals and schedule milestones on these high-priority programs.

SEC. 703. BASELINE AND COST CONTROLS.

Section 30104 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Procedural Requirements 7120.5c, dated March 22, 2005” and inserting “Procedural Requirements 7120.5E, dated August 14, 2012”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “beginning 18 months after the date the Administrator transmits a report under subsection (e)(1)(A)” and inserting “beginning 18 months after the Administrator makes such determination”.

SEC. 704. PROJECT AND PROGRAM RESERVES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the judicious use of program and project reserves provides the Administrator's project and program managers with the flexibility needed to manage projects and programs to ensure that the impacts of contingencies can be mitigated.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's criteria for establishing the amount of reserves held at the project and program levels;

(2) how such criteria relate to the agency's policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level; and

(3) the Administration's criteria for waiving the policy of budgeting at a 70-percent confidence level and alternative strategies and mechanisms aimed at controlling program and project costs when a waiver is granted.

SEC. 705. INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—

(1) the Administration's procedures for conducting independent reviews of projects and programs at lifecycle milestones and how the Administration ensures the independence of the individuals who conduct those reviews prior to their assignment;

(2) the internal and external entities independent of project and program management that conduct reviews of projects and programs at life cycle milestones; and

(3) how the Administration ensures the independence of such entities and their members.

SEC. 706. COMMERCIAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

Section 50116(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, while protecting national security” after “research community”.

SEC. 707. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration to assess the effectiveness of the NASA Advisory Council and to make recommendations to Congress for any change to—

(1) the functions of the Council;

(2) the appointment of members to the Council;

(3) qualifications for members of the Council;

(4) duration of terms of office for members of the Council;

(5) frequency of meetings of the Council;

(6) the structure of leadership and Committees of the Council; and

(7) levels of professional staffing for the Council.

In carrying out the assessment, the Academy shall also assess the impacts of broadening the Council's role to advising Congress, and any other issues that the Academy determines could potentially impact the effectiveness of the Council. The Academy shall consider the past activities of the NASA Advisory Council, as well as the activities of other analogous federal advisory bodies in

conducting its assessment. The results of the assessment, including any recommendations, shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.**—Section 20113(g) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and Congress” after “advice to the Administration”.

(c) **SUNSET.**—Subsection (b) shall expire on September 30, 2014.

SEC. 708. COST ESTIMATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that realistic cost estimating is critically important to the ultimate success of major space development projects. The Administration has devoted significant efforts over the past five years to improving its cost estimating capabilities, but it is important that the Administration continue its efforts to develop and implement guidance in establishing realistic cost estimates.

(b) **GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA.**—The Administrator shall provide to programs and projects and in a manner consistent with the Administration's Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements—

(1) guidance on when an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment should be used; and

(2) the criteria to be used to make such a determination.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report—

(1) describing efforts to enhance internal cost estimation and assessment expertise;

(2) describing the mechanisms the Administration is using and will continue to use to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated to cost estimation;

(3) listing the steps the Administration is undertaking to advance consistent implementation of the joint cost and schedule process;

(4) identifying criteria used by programs and projects in determining when to conduct an Independent Cost Estimate and Independent Cost Assessment; and

(5) listing—

(A) the costs of each individual Independent Cost Estimate or Independent Cost Assessment activity conducted in fiscal year 2011, fiscal year 2012, and fiscal year 2013;

(B) the purpose of the activity;

(C) identification of the primary Administration unit or outside body that conducted the activity; and

(D) key findings and recommendations.

(d) **UPDATED REPORT.**—Subsequent to submission of the report under subsection (c), for each subsequent year, the Administrator shall provide an update of listed elements in conjunction with subsequent congressional budget justifications.

SEC. 709. AVOIDING ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN MAJOR ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) **REVISED REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to provide uniform guidance and recommend revised requirements for organizational conflicts of interest by contractors in major acquisition programs in order to address elements identified in subsection (b).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The revised regulations required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) address organizational conflicts of interest that could potentially arise as a result of—

(A) lead system integrator contracts on major acquisition programs and contracts that follow lead system integrator contracts on such programs, particularly contracts for production;

(B) the ownership of business units performing systems engineering and technical assistance functions, professional services, or management support services in relation to major acquisition programs by contractors who simultaneously own business units competing to perform as either the prime contractor or the supplier of a major subsystem or component for such programs;

(C) the award of major subsystem contracts by a prime contractor for a major acquisition program to business units or other affiliates of the same parent corporate entity, and particularly the award of subcontracts for software integration or the development of a proprietary software system architecture; or

(D) the performance by, or assistance of, contractors in technical evaluations on major acquisition programs;

(2) ensure that the Administration receives advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters with respect to major acquisition programs from objective sources independent of the prime contractor;

(3) require that a contract for the performance of systems engineering and technical assistance functions for a major acquisition program contains a provision prohibiting the contractor or any affiliate of the contractor from participating as a prime contractor or a major subcontractor in the development of a system under the program; and

(4) establish such limited exceptions to the requirement in paragraphs (2) and (3) as may be necessary to ensure that the Administration has continued access to advice on systems architecture and systems engineering matters from highly-qualified contractors with domain experience and expertise, while ensuring that such advice comes from sources that are objective and unbiased.

SEC. 710. FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration must reverse the deteriorating condition of its facilities and infrastructure, as this condition is hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of research performed by both the Administration and industry participants making use of Administration facilities, thus reducing the competitiveness of the United States aerospace industry;

(2) the Administration has a role in providing laboratory capabilities to industry participants that are economically viable as commercial entities and thus are not available elsewhere;

(3) to ensure continued access to reliable and efficient world-class facilities by researchers, the Administration should seek to establish strategic partnerships with other Federal agencies, academic institutions, and industry, as appropriate; and

(4) decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities must be made in the context of meeting future Administration and other Federal agencies' laboratory needs, including those required to meet the activities supporting the Human Exploration Roadmap required by section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States that the Administration maintain reliable and efficient facilities and that decisions on whether to dispose of, maintain, or modernize existing facilities be made in the context of meeting future Administration needs.

(c) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan that has the goal of positioning the Administration to have the facilities, laboratories, tools, and approaches necessary to address future Administration requirements. Such plan shall identify—

(1) future Administration research and development and testing needs;

(2) a strategy for identifying facilities that are candidates for disposal, that is consistent with the national strategic direction set forth in—

(A) the National Space Policy;

(B) the National Aeronautics Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Infrastructure Plan;

(C) National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Acts; and

(D) the Human Exploration Roadmap specified in section 70504 of title 51, United States Code;

(3) a strategy for the maintenance, repair, upgrading, and modernization of the Administration's laboratories, facilities, and equipment;

(4) criteria for prioritizing deferred maintenance tasks and also for upgrading or modernizing laboratories, facilities, and equipment and implementing processes, plans, and policies for guiding the Administration's Centers on whether to maintain, repair, upgrade, or modernize a facility and for determining the type of instrument to be used;

(5) an assessment of modifications needed to maximize usage of facilities that offer unique and highly specialized benefits to the aerospace industry and the American public; and

(6) implementation steps, including a timeline, milestones, and an estimate of resources required for carrying out the plan.

(d) **POLICY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish and make publicly available a policy that guides the Administration's use of existing authorities to out-grant, lease, excess to the General Services Administration, sell, decommission, demolish, or otherwise transfer property, facilities, or infrastructure. This policy shall establish criteria for the use of authorities, best practices, standardized procedures, and guidelines for how to appropriately manage property, infrastructure, and facilities.

(e) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan developed under subsection (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL FUND.**—The Administrator shall establish a capital fund for the modernization of facilities and laboratories. The Administrator shall ensure to the maximum extent practicable that all financial savings achieved by closing outdated or surplus facilities at an Administration Center shall be made available to that Center for the purpose of modernizing the Center's facilities and laboratories and for upgrading the infrastructure at the Center.

(g) **REPORT ON CAPITAL FUND.**—Expenditures and other activities of the fund established under subsection (f) shall require review and approval by the Administrator and

the status, including the amounts held in the capital fund, shall be reported to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate in conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year.

SEC. 711. DETECTION AND AVOIDANCE OF COUNTERFEIT ELECTRONIC PARTS.

(a) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall revise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation to address the detection and avoidance of counterfeit electronic parts.

(2) **CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) Administration contractors who supply electronic parts or products that include electronic parts are responsible for detecting and avoiding the use or inclusion of counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts in such products and for any rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts; and

(B) the cost of counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts and the cost of rework or corrective action that may be required to remedy the use or inclusion of such parts are not allowable costs under Administration contracts, unless—

(i) the covered contractor has an operational system to detect and avoid counterfeit parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts that has been reviewed and approved by the Administration or the Department of Defense;

(ii) the covered contractor provides timely notice to the Administration pursuant to paragraph (4); or

(iii) the counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts were provided to the contractor as Government property in accordance with part 45 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(3) **SUPPLIERS OF ELECTRONIC PARTS.**—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) require that the Administration and Administration contractors and subcontractors at all tiers—

(i) obtain electronic parts that are in production or currently available in stock from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers, or from suppliers who obtain such parts exclusively from the original manufacturers of the parts or their authorized dealers; and

(ii) obtain electronic parts that are not in production or currently available in stock from suppliers that meet qualification requirements established pursuant to subparagraph (C);

(B) establish documented requirements consistent with published industry standards or Government contract requirements for—

(i) notification of the Administration; and

(ii) inspection, testing, and authentication of electronic parts that the Administration or an Administration contractor or subcontractor obtains from any source other than a source described in subparagraph (A);

(C) establish qualification requirements, consistent with the requirements of section 2319 of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to which the Administration may identify suppliers that have appropriate policies and procedures in place to detect and avoid counterfeit electronic parts and suspect counterfeit electronic parts; and

(D) authorize Administration contractors and subcontractors to identify and use additional suppliers beyond those identified pursuant to subparagraph (C) provided that—

(i) the standards and processes for identifying such suppliers comply with established industry standards;

(ii) the contractor or subcontractor assumes responsibility for the authenticity of parts provided by such suppliers as provided in paragraph (2); and

(iii) the selection of such suppliers is subject to review and audit by appropriate Administration officials.

(4) **TIMELY NOTIFICATION.**—The revised regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that any Administration contractor or subcontractor who becomes aware, or has reason to suspect, that any end item, component, part, or material contained in supplies purchased by the Administration, or purchased by a contractor or subcontractor for delivery to, or on behalf of, the Administration, contains counterfeit electronic parts or suspect counterfeit electronic parts, shall provide notification to the applicable Administration contracting officer within 30 calendar days.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the revised regulations specified in subsection (a) have been implemented, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report updating the Administration's actions to prevent counterfeit electronic parts from entering the supply chain as described in its October 2011 report pursuant to section 1206(d) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18444(d)).

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “electronic part” means a discrete electronic component, including a microcircuit, transistor, capacitor, resistor, or diode that is intended for use in a safety or mission critical application.

SEC. 712. SPACE ACT AGREEMENTS.

(a) **COST SHARING.**—To the extent that the Administrator determines practicable, the funds provided by the Government under a funded Space Act Agreement shall not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to the Space Act Agreement.

(b) **NEED.**—A funded Space Act Agreement may be used only when the use of a standard contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is not feasible or appropriate, as determined by the Associate Administrator for Procurement.

(c) **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.**—The Administrator shall make available for public notice and comment each proposed Space Act Agreement at least 30 days before entering into such agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information.

(d) **TRANSPARENCY.**—The Administrator shall publicly disclose on the Administration's website and make available in a searchable format each Space Act Agreement, with appropriate redactions for proprietary, sensitive, or classified information, not later than 60 days after such agreement is signed.

(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the use of Space Act

Agreement authority by the Administration during the previous fiscal year.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include for each Space Act Agreement in effect at the time of the report—

(A) an indication of whether the agreement is a reimbursable, nonreimbursable, or unfunded Space Act Agreement;

(B) a description of—

(i) the subject and terms;

(ii) the parties;

(iii) the responsible—

(I) mission directorate;

(II) center; or

(III) headquarters element;

(iv) the value;

(v) the extent of the cost sharing among Federal Government and non-Federal sources;

(vi) the time period or schedule; and

(vii) all milestones; and

(C) an indication of whether the agreement was renewed during the previous fiscal year.

(3) **ANTICIPATED AGREEMENTS.**—The report shall also include a list of all anticipated reimbursable, nonreimbursable, and unfunded Space Act Agreements for the upcoming fiscal year.

(4) **CUMULATIVE PROGRAM BENEFITS.**—The report shall also include, with respect to the Space Act Agreements covered by the report, a summary of—

(A) the technology areas in which research projects were conducted under such agreements;

(B) the extent to which the use of the Space Act Agreements—

(i) has contributed to a broadening of the technology and industrial base available for meeting Administration needs; and

(ii) has fostered within the technology and industrial base new relationships and practices that support the United States; and

(C) the total amount of value received by the Federal Government during the fiscal year pursuant to such Space Act Agreements.

SEC. 713. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 70702(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) any other orbital or suborbital space vehicle carrying humans—

“(A) that is owned by the Federal Government; or

“(B) that is being used pursuant to a contract or Space Act Agreement, as defined in section 2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014, with the Federal Government for carrying a researcher or payload funded by the Federal Government; or”.

SEC. 714. FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to “seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space,” as described in section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the Administration's efforts to comply with the policy;

(2) an explanation of criteria used to define compliance;

(3) a description of programs, policies, and activities the Administration is using, and will continue to use, to ensure compliance;

(4) an explanation of how the Administration could expand on the efforts to comply; and

(5) a summary of all current and planned activities pursuant to this policy.

(c) **BARRIERS TO FULLEST COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on current and continuing efforts by the Administration to reduce impediments, bureaucracy, redundancy, and burdens to ensure the fullest commercial use of space as required by section 20102(c) of title 51, United States Code.

SEC. 715. ORBITAL DEBRIS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that orbital debris poses serious risks to the operational space capabilities of the United States and that an international commitment and integrated strategic plan are needed to mitigate the growth of orbital debris wherever possible. Congress finds the delay in the Office of Science and Technology Policy's submission of a report on the status of international coordination and development of mitigation strategies to be inconsistent with such risks.

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **COORDINATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of efforts to coordinate with countries within the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee to mitigate the effects and growth of orbital debris as required by section 1202(b)(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(1)).

(2) **MITIGATION STRATEGY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall provide the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate with a report on the status of the orbital debris mitigation strategy required under section 1202(b)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18441(b)(2)).

SEC. 716. REVIEW OF ORBITAL DEBRIS REMOVAL CONCEPTS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of orbital debris in low-Earth orbit poses risks for human activities and robotic spacecraft and that this debris may increase due to collisions between existing debris objects. Understanding options to address and remove orbital debris is important for ensuring safe and effective spacecraft operations in low-Earth orbit.

(b) **REVIEW.**—The Administrator, in collaboration with other relevant Federal agencies, shall solicit and review concepts and technological options for removing orbital debris from low-Earth orbit. The solicitation and review shall also address the requirements for and feasibility of developing and implementing each of the options.

(c) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall provide a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate on the solicitation and review required under subsection (b).

SEC. 717. USE OF OPERATIONAL COMMERCIAL SUBORBITAL VEHICLES FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND EDUCATION.

(a) **POLICY.**—The Administrator shall develop a policy on the use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities.

(b) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall prepare a plan on the Administration's use of operational commercial reusable suborbital flight vehicles for carrying out scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities. The plan shall—

(1) describe the purposes for which the Administration intends to use such vehicles;

(2) describe the processes required to support such use, including the criteria used to determine which scientific and engineering investigations and educational activities are selected for a suborbital flight;

(3) describe Administration, space flight operator, and supporting contractor responsibilities for developing standard payload interfaces and conducting payload safety analyses, payload integration and processing, payload operations, and safety assurance for Administration-sponsored space flight participants, among other functions required to fly Administration-sponsored payloads and space flight participants on operational commercial suborbital vehicles;

(4) identify Administration-provided hardware, software, or services that may be provided to commercial reusable suborbital space flight operators on a cost-reimbursable basis, through agreements or contracts entered into under section 20113(e) of title 51, United States Code; and

(5) describe the United States Government and space flight operator responsibilities for liability and indemnification with respect to commercial suborbital vehicle flights that involve Administration-sponsored payloads or activities, Administration-supported space flight participants, or other Administration-related contributions.

(c) **ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND RISKS.**—The Administrator shall assess and characterize the potential capabilities and performance of commercial reusable suborbital vehicles for addressing scientific research, including research requiring access to low-gravity and microgravity environments, for carrying out technology demonstrations related to science, exploration, or space operations requirements, and for providing opportunities for educating and training space scientists and engineers, once those vehicles become operational. The assessment shall also characterize the risks of using potential commercial reusable suborbital flights to Administration-sponsored researchers and scientific investigations and flight hardware.

(d) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan and assessment described in subsections (b) and (c) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(e) **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**—In conjunction with the Administration's annual budget request justification for each fiscal year, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate

describing progress in carrying out the Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research Program, including the number and type of suborbital missions planned in each fiscal year.

(f) **INDEMNIFICATION AND LIABILITY.**—The Administrator shall not proceed with a request for proposals, award any contract, commit any United States Government funds, or enter into any other agreement for the provision of a commercial reusable suborbital vehicle launch service for an Administration-sponsored spaceflight participant until transmittal of the plan and assessment specified in subsections (b) and (c), the liability issues associated with the use of such systems by the United States Government have been addressed, and the liability and indemnification provisions that are planned to be included in such contracts or agreements have been provided to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 718. FUNDAMENTAL SPACE LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that fundamental, discovery-based space life and physical sciences research is critical for enabling space exploration, protecting humans in space, and providing societal benefits, and that the space environment facilitates the advancement of understanding of the life sciences and physical sciences. Space life and physical science research contributes to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics research, and provides careers and training opportunities in academia, Federal laboratories, and commercial industry. Congress encourages the Administrator to augment discovery-based fundamental research and to establish requirements reflecting the importance of such research in keeping with the priorities established in the National Academies' decadal survey entitled "Recapturing a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical Sciences Research for a New Era".

(b) **BUDGET REQUEST.**—The Administrator shall include as part of the Administration's annual budget request for each fiscal year a budget line for fundamental space life and physical sciences research, devoted to competitive, peer-reviewed grants, that is separate from the International Space Station Operations account.

(c) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Administrator, in consultation with academia, other Federal agencies, and other potential stakeholders, shall develop a strategic plan for carrying out competitive, peer-reviewed fundamental space life science and physical sciences and related technology research, among other activities, consistent with the priorities in the National Academies' decadal survey described in subsection (a).

(2) **TRANSMITTAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 719. RESTORING COMMITMENT TO ENGINEERING RESEARCH.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that engineering excellence has long been a hallmark of the Administration's ability to make significant advances in aeronautics and space exploration. However, as has been noted in recent National Academies reports, increasingly constrained funding

and competing priorities have led to an erosion of the Administration's commitment to basic engineering research. This research provides the basis for the technology development that enables the Administration's many challenging missions to succeed. If current trends continue, the Administration's ability to attract and maintain the best and brightest engineering workforce at its Centers as well as its ability to remain on the cutting edge of aeronautical and space technology will continue to erode and will threaten the Administration's ability to be a world leader in aeronautics research and development and space exploration.

(b) **PLAN.**—The Administrator shall develop a plan for restoring a meaningful basic engineering research program at the Administration's Centers, including, as appropriate, collaborations with industry, universities, and other relevant organizations. The plan shall identify the organizational approach to be followed, an initial set of basic research priorities, and a proposed budget.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit the plan specified in subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 720. LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of Defense to ensure that any next generation liquid rocket engine made in the United States for national security space launch objectives can contribute, to the extent practicable, to the space programs and missions carried out by the Administration.

SEC. 721. REMOTE SATELLITE SERVICING DEMONSTRATIONS.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Administration plays a key role in demonstrating the feasibility of using robotic technologies for a spacecraft that could autonomously access, inspect, repair, and refuel satellites;

(2) demonstrating this feasibility would both assist the Administration in its future missions and provide other Federal agencies and private sector entities with enhanced confidence in the feasibility to robotically refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain their satellites in both near and distant orbits; and

(3) the capability to refuel, inspect, repair, and maintain satellites robotically could add years of functional life to satellites.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit a report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate describing the Administration's—

(1) activities, tools, and techniques associated with the ultimate goal of autonomously servicing satellites using robotic spacecraft;

(2) efforts to coordinate its technology development and demonstrations with other Federal agencies and private sector entities that conduct programs, projects, or activities on on-orbit satellite inspection and servicing capabilities;

(3) efforts to leverage the work of these Federal agencies and private sector entities into the Administration's plans;

(4) accomplishments to date in demonstrating various servicing technologies;

(5) major technical and operational challenges encountered and mitigation measures taken; and

(6) demonstrations needed to increase confidence in the use of the technologies for operational missions, and the timeframe for these demonstrations.

SEC. 722. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOVERNANCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that information security is central to the Administration's ability to protect information and information systems vital to its mission.

(b) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of the Administration's Information Technology Governance. The study shall include an assessment of—

(1) the resources available for overseeing Administration-wide information technology operations, investments, and security measures and the Chief Information Officer's visibility into and access to those resources;

(2) the effectiveness of the Administration's decentralized information technology structure, decisionmaking processes and authorities and its ability to enforce information security; and

(3) the impact of providing the Chief Information Officer approval authority over information technology investments that exceed a defined monetary threshold and any potential impacts of the Chief Information Officer having such authority on the Administration's missions, flights programs and projects, research activities, and Center operations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit a report detailing the results of the study conducted under subsection (b) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 723. STRENGTHENING ADMINISTRATION SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Following the public disclosure of security and export control violations at its research centers, the Administration contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration to conduct an independent assessment of how the Administration carried out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(2) The assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration concluded that "NASA networks are compromised", that the Administration lacked a standardized and systematic approach to export compliance, and that individuals within the Administration were not held accountable when making serious, preventable errors in carrying out Foreign National Access Management practices and other security matters.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on how it plans to address each of the recommendations made in the security assessment by the National Academy of Public Administration and the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office and the Administration's Office of the Inspector General regarding security and safeguarding export control information.

(c) REVIEW.—Within one year of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate its assessment of how the Administration has complied with the recommendations described in subsection (b).

SEC. 724. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CONTRACTORS THAT HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD OR OTHER CRIMES.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2014 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Administration may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for—

(A) commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract;

(B) violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or

(C) commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property;

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

SEC. 725. PROTECTION OF APOLLO LANDING SITES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in consultation with all relevant agencies of the Federal Government and other appropriate entities and individuals, shall carry out a review and assessment of the issues involved in protecting and preserving historically important Apollo Program lunar landing sites and Apollo program artifacts residing on the lunar surface, including those pertaining to Apollo 11 and Apollo 17. The review and assessment shall, at a minimum, include determination of what risks to the protection and preservation of those sites and artifacts exist or may exist in the future, what measures are required to ensure such protection and preservation, the extent to which additional domestic legislation or international treaties or agreements will be required, and specific recommendations for protecting and preserving those lunar landing sites and artifacts.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the results of the assessment required under subsection (a).

SEC. 726. ASTRONAUT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHCARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Academies' Institute of Medicine report "Health Standards for Long Duration and Exploration Spaceflight: Ethics Principles, Responsibilities, and Decision Framework" found that the Administration has ethical responsibilities

for and should adopt policies and processes related to health standards for long duration and exploration spaceflights that recognize those ethical responsibilities. In particular, the report recommended that the Administration "provide preventative long-term health screening and surveillance of astronauts and lifetime health care to protect their health, support ongoing evaluation of health standards, improve mission safety, and reduce risks for current and future astronauts".

(b) RESPONSE.—The Administration shall prepare a response to the National Academies report recommendation described in subsection (a). The response shall include the estimated budgetary resources required for the implementation of those recommendations, and any options that might be considered as part of the response.

(c) TRANSMITTAL.—The response required under subsection (b) shall be transmitted to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ACCESS TO OBSERVATIONAL DATA SETS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administration should prioritize the development of tools and interfaces that make publicly available observational data sets more easy to access, analyze, manipulate, and understand for students, teachers, and the American public at large, with a particular focus on K-12 and undergraduate STEM education settings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, before I inquire of the majority leader about the schedule for the week to come, I want to say, at the outset, I have now and have had great respect for the majority leader.

The majority leader is a person of significant intellect. He cares about this institution. He cares about our country and works hard on behalf of the principles which he believes in and which his party believes in, and I have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with him. We obviously, as people have seen from the colloquies from time to time, have not always agreed on what we ought to be doing.

The gentleman from the State of Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) served in his House of Delegates, in his general assembly,

for 8 years. He served there with distinction and then was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000, succeeding a good friend of mine, the former mayor of Richmond, Tom Bliley, who Mr. CANTOR chaired his campaign for at least three cycles—obviously successfully.

He has served in the House of Representatives since 2001 and was selected early on as the chief deputy whip and then became the whip; and then after one Congress serving as whip, his party took the majority, and he was elected as the majority leader.

It has been my experience during that period of time that he has worked hard, has been attentive to his Members, and attentive, also, to the interests of our country.

Again, because we do not agree with one another on how to get to a destination, it does not diminish in any way the commitment of either side to the welfare and best interests of their country and the people that we serve.

So I wanted to say at the outset that I have enjoyed working with Mr. CANTOR, and at times—not always—we have worked very productively and in tandem with one another for the interests of our country.

I want to say to the Members of the House of Representatives that I expect Mr. CANTOR to continue to be, over the next 5 months, an influential and effective Member of the Congress of the United States.

I want to say to my Members, to his Members, and, Mr. Speaker, to those who might be listening, that I intend to continue to work over the next 5 or 6 months with Mr. CANTOR on things that he and I can agree on because I believe that he will remain an influential and effective Member of the Republican Conference and a person dedicated to the best interests of this country.

I want to also say to his wife, Diana, it is tough being a spouse. I lost my spouse, Judy, 17 years ago; and the gentleman from Virginia is blessed by having an extraordinarily wonderful wife, not only extraordinary in terms of her partnership with Mr. CANTOR, but also extraordinary in terms of her own talents and intellect and successes that she has had in business and in life.

They have three wonderful children who follow in their parents' success: Evan, a recent graduate of the University of Virginia, he could have gone to the University of Maryland, but he chose Virginia—such is life; Jenna, who is a senior at the University of Michigan; and Michael, a second-year student at the University of Virginia.

I know that their father will be continually successful, as he has been thus far in life, and will continue to contribute to his country in whatever capacity he might serve.

I congratulate him on his service in this House. I thank him for the oppor-

tunity to work with him as a partner from time to time and as a respectful opponent from time to time, always realizing that there are 435 of us elected around this country by our people.

They elect us because they have some faith and trust that we will represent their views and the best interests of their communities, our States, and our country. So I thank him for his service.

I am now pleased to yield to the gentleman from Virginia, the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, before I talk about today's schedule, I just want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for his very kind and generous remarks.

I, too, have enjoyed the ability to get to know the gentleman from Maryland. STENY HOYER, the Democratic whip, is a tenacious advocate for his cause. I know that these colloquies have, at times, become heated and long, much to the dismay of some who would like to make their word known on the floor.

I do want to say that it has been a privilege. I respect the gentleman from Maryland as a friend and as a colleague who has been elected over the years by his constituents to be here to advocate on their behalf and for the good of the country.

As the gentleman from Maryland said, Mr. HOYER and I do not always agree, but I think we do share a love of this country. I think there are plenty of things, frankly, that we have found the ability to work towards in the fashion that I believe is the best way forward for this institution, which is to look for ways to set aside differences to find areas that we have in common, so that we can produce results for the American people.

Again, the Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER, my friend from Maryland, has been a very engaged individual on the issues, and it has been my and my team's honor to get to work with STENY and his team on some of the issues that come before this House that have to be addressed, and I thank him for that.

I look forward to a continuing relationship here, as I intend to stay as the majority leader until the end of July and then for the rest of my term as a Member. Again, I want to thank him for the courtesies, and I look forward to continuing to nurture the relationship.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman mentioned his staff. I am not going to mention them by name because I would leave out somebody, perhaps, but I will say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. CANTOR's staff and my staff—no matter what the differences might have been—have been able to work together in a collegial, effective, and productive manner on behalf of this House, I think.

I want to thank the members of Mr. CANTOR's staff for that. They have al-

ways been receptive to our discussions. We haven't always agreed, as no one would expect, but they have always been cordial and effective and have worked closely with my staff, and we appreciate that, and I appreciate that.

I will now yield to the majority leader for the schedule.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by the close of business today.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act, sponsored by Chairman FRANK LUCAS of the Committee on Agriculture.

Members are advised that debate on the bill and the eight amendments made in order by the rule will occur Monday night after the 6:30 p.m. vote series. However, votes on amendments and passage will occur on Tuesday afternoon.

For the remainder of the week, the House will consider three bills to lower the price of gas and lessen the middle class squeeze caused by higher energy prices. These three bills are: H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, authored by Representative CORY GARDNER; H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, sponsored by Chairman FRED UPTON; and H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, authored by Chairman DOC HASTINGS.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is the last colloquy that I think I will be having with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), which is why I spent the time to recognize him, because the American public, I am sure, thinks that we are all at one another's throats all the time, and that is very discouraging and very depressing for them.

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Frankly, it is a problem for us here in the House because we don't like that atmosphere, either.

But I wanted him to know that there is respect on each side, I think, for the other in many—in most instances. I hope that is the case. But I do have respect and appreciation to Mr. CANTOR for his service.

But because it is the last colloquy, not for the purposes of necessarily debate or discussion, but simply I want to articulate some of those things that

I know we need to address and I hope we address in the coming weeks before the August break. We clearly need to fund the highway trust fund with a sustainable funding source. Running out of money—I think every Member of the House does not want that to happen, does not want to have Governors around this country shutting down the letting of contracts for needed infrastructure improvement.

We need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. We still believe very strongly that we need to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which we think will be a positive for our economy and the morally right thing to do. We are still very concerned, Mr. Speaker, with unemployment insurance and the minimum wage. The Senate has passed an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that we would like and hope would be considered on this floor. The terrorism risk insurance will expire in the not-too-distant future. We think both for our economy and for the private sector's growth we need to pass that. And, of course, we want to complete the appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year.

Lastly, let me say, Mr. Speaker, we will celebrate next week the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And we will celebrate this summer with that which is being called Freedom Summer to celebrate that move towards a freer and more just nation. We are very hopeful that we can pass in the not-too-distant-future the Voting Rights Amendment Act, which will deal with ensuring that all people in our country not only have the right to vote but have access to voting and are facilitated in casting their vote.

Again, we don't need to debate those issues, but I did want to set them forth, Mr. Speaker, because this is our last colloquy before our July Fourth break.

Again, I want to close, unless the gentleman wants to say something, with thanks to Mr. CANTOR for his service and for his working together when we saw that as possible, and when we disagreed to disagree as coworkers on behalf of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, June 23, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING ALLEGHENY WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT NEEDS (WINS) COALITION

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs WINS Coalition. This is a group of local, State, and Federal Government agencies, and local leaders of various nonprofit organizations, that promotes ecological health of watersheds and habitats in and around the Allegheny National Forest.

Last month, Allegheny WINS was recognized by the U.S. Forest Service with the Rise to the Future Award for their work in the ANF. The Rise to the Future Award was created by the Forest Service to help enhance fisheries and watersheds on national forests. The award acknowledges collaborative work in areas such as soils management and aquatic restoration.

The Allegheny WINS Coalition was recognized for amassing \$4.8 million in external funding to the ANF and providing more than 5,000 volunteer days toward ANF projects. Overall, the coalition reached over 10,000 students through more than 50 environmental education and outreach events.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Allegheny WINS for their creative work to help keep our forests vibrant and healthy. This group of local partners is a model for our national forest system, and they should be praised for their leadership.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE MEANS SAFER COMMUNITIES

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as U.S. oil production continues to grow, the increased burden of moving these resources is falling upon our Nation's railways. In 2013, American railroads shipped more than 400,000 carloads of crude oil by rail, compared to under 10,000 just 6 years ago.

Increasing the amount of oil being transported has left communities like those I represent in danger of potential accidents. Increased domestic energy production remains a critical part of a strategy to decrease energy costs and reduce our dependency on foreign oil. We must not, however, wait for another accident to take preventative measures.

We need the infrastructure and protections to safely transport these resources across our country. Recent steps to ensure the safety of crude oil transportation through our communities are an improvement, but more can be done. Building the Keystone

pipeline will help to safely move resources.

Our Nation is blessed with vast energy potential. We can safely and responsibly take advantage of these resources, and I look forward to working with all involved to making transportation safer for communities in our district and across our Nation.

CONGRATULATING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MARK A. MATHIS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Mathis on his retirement after 30 years of service to our Nation in the U.S. Army.

Command Sergeant Major Mathis was born in Alton in 1963 and grew up in the small town of Dorchester in Macoupin County in central Illinois. He entered the Army in September of 1984 and is currently serving as the command sergeant major for the 902nd Military Intelligence Group in Fort Meade, Maryland.

He has had a multitude of assignments throughout his 30-year military career, including his deployment to Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Command Sergeant Major Mathis' awards and badges include the Bronze Star Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and many others.

Mr. Speaker, Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Mathis represents the best our country has to offer. His experience and leadership will be greatly missed.

Command Sergeant Major Mathis, thank you for your service to our country, and congratulations on your well-earned retirement.

RETAIN THE U-2 AIRCRAFT PLATFORM

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the good work of the Defense Appropriations Committee in retaining the U-2 aircraft platform, which is based in northern California's Beale Air Force Base, where 1,000 personnel from Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Sierra, Sutter, and other nearby counties work to ensure that our troops have the most timely and accurate intelligence possible.

As the commander of U.S. forces in Korea recently testified, the U-2 provides intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance—ISR—capabilities that

do not currently exist in any other platform.

The committee recognized that, while the Global Hawk and unmanned aircraft, in general, bring a number of new and future capabilities to the fight and to the ISR mission, the Global Hawk serves as a complement to the U-2, not as a rival.

While I understand the fiscal constraints that the Air Force is under, I am pleased to see that the Appropriations bill directs the Secretary of the Air Force to present a plan to the committee before taking any action to retire the U-2 fleet.

The capabilities gap that would occur in ISR mission should the U-2 be graveyarded would be both immediate and be felt for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, we need to retain this aircraft for our security.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF LITTLE RIVER ACADEMY POLICE CHIEF LEE DIXON

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, last night, tragedy struck a small town in central Texas. Little River Academy is a very small town outside of the largest town of Temple in Bell County, Texas.

The chief of police, Lee Dixon, was killed in the line of duty while responding to a routine disturbance. There is an investigation ongoing, and I am confident, as a former judge and having personal knowledge of the judiciary of that county and the makeup of the juries, that justice will be served in this case.

I ask this House to keep the family of Chief Lee Dixon in their thoughts and prayers as they go through this time in a very small, but important town, in Bell County, Texas.

THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUDSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a big burden of responsibility being the designee of the majority leader because there are issues on which this Congress can lead.

I am not talking about issues about which this Congress can fight. I am talking about issues on which this Congress can lead, things that we can do together in order to make a difference in the lives of folks back home, and for me, one of those is energy security.

I travel from one corner of the State of Georgia to another. I go through lib-

eral districts and conservative districts. I ask: Who is it that wants to keep sending money to people who hate us and want to kill us?

There aren't many hands that go up in the room.

I ask: Who is it who wants to see economic prosperity traded away because energy prices are crushing job creation?

Absolutely no hands go up.

I am perfectly willing, as soon as we get to energy security, Mr. Speaker, as soon as we get to a place where we are energy secure in this country, I am willing to talk about what the mix of that energy is. All folks want to.

I am trying to do my part. I drive an electric car. I have been persuaded in those ways, and those Federal tax credits don't hurt, either, but we need job creation. We are energy rich in this country, and we need to be able to use that energy in order to make a difference in people's lives.

That brings us, Mr. Speaker, to the Keystone pipeline—the Keystone XL pipeline. I am sure it is the same in your district, Mr. Speaker, as it is in mine. I can't go anywhere in my district where folks don't know about the Keystone XL pipeline.

There are dozens upon dozens upon dozens of pipelines running between America and Canada—not one, not two, not three, not four—dozens upon dozens upon dozens upon dozens. But I promise you, if we took a poll out on the steps of the U.S. Capitol this morning, Americans could not name a single pipeline that runs north and south except for Keystone XL. Why? Because we have been arguing about it for years—not days, not weeks, not months—but years.

You can't see my slides, Mr. Speaker. This one is sunshine and rainbows. It is a lot like what our life is like here on Capitol Hill. Every day it is butterflies and clover. It is absolutely beautiful. And it says this—it says: "Should America prevent Canada's oil resources from being used?" Because the way the Keystone XL pipeline conversation happens, it is framed as if we don't build the pipeline, that means those resources don't get used.

But that is just nonsense. That is a story of sunshine and rainbows. That is a fairytale of butterflies and clover, because if we don't do it and bring those resources to America, those resources are going to go elsewhere.

Now, I know what you are thinking, Mr. Speaker. You are thinking, for Pete's sakes, WOODALL, you have only been in this House for 3 years, you are not an energy expert. How do you know?

Well, I don't have to make this stuff up, Mr. Speaker. Take your pick. Who is the media outlet that you believe? Is it Bloomberg? Because Bloomberg says: "Obama's Keystone Denial Prompts Canada to Look to China for Sales." It

is not a choice of, should Canada develop those resources or not? It is a choice of when Canada develops those resources, should it be used to benefit America and the American economy, or should it be shipped overseas?

Don't trust Bloomberg, Mr. Speaker? That is okay. We have got The Week here: "Did Obama Push Canada Into China's Arms By Rejecting the Keystone Pipeline?"

Well, maybe you think these are all American sources and so they are all biased, Mr. Speaker. That is okay. I have got the BBC here. The BBC says: "Oil Spurs Canada's PM, Stephen Harper, to Visit China." National Journal: "Ambassador Rejection of Keystone Would Definitely Strain U.S.-Canada Relations." The Ledger says: "Canada: Harper Looks to Asian Countries to Sell Natural Resources Bounty."

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The question that we have about the Keystone pipeline, Mr. Speaker, is not should Canada's resources be developed; the question is when Canada's resources are developed, who should benefit? Should we benefit here in America, or will those benefits flow overseas?

Well, let's find out what the American media has to say about that. Now, I am just starting with the American media because you know as well as I do that the American media is not the end all be all of common sense in this country, but occasionally they hit it right on the mark. The Washington Post, no bastion of conservatism—it is not a shill for the Republican Party; it is not out to promote some sort of a conservative agenda—The Washington Post says:

Keystone XL's continued delay is absurd.

I am not cherry picking here. This was just April of this year. They have been saying it for years. They are still saying it now:

Keystone XL's continued delay is absurd.

What about President Obama's hometown newspaper? The Chicago Tribune is not silent on this. The Chicago Tribune, also in April of this year—and why April of this year? Because that is the most recent opportunity the President had to make a difference in the lives of Americans, and he continued denial and delay. The Chicago Tribune says:

The delay is bad for Americans who would like to have a job.

"Bad for Americans who would like to have a job." How many times have we come to this Chamber, packed every seat in this Chamber to talk about the importance of the economy and job creation? It is not once. It is not twice. It is daily, Mr. Speaker, that folks on both sides of the aisle say it is jobs, jobs, jobs. The President's hometown paper says his continued delay is bad for Americans who would like to have jobs.

When I think about folks who really could use some of those jobs, I think about Detroit, Mr. Speaker. Detroit has had a hard time. The people of Detroit are incredibly resilient. They are not quitters. They are not going to give up, but they have had a tough time. The Detroit News says:

Once again, politics trump Keystone XL. With environmental risks put aside, political motives delay shovel-ready project that could create thousands of jobs.

Those are not my words. Those are the words of the Detroit News. "Politics trump . . . With environmental risks put aside"—solved, mitigated, dismissed—"political motives delay shovel-ready project that could create thousands of jobs." Mr. Speaker, delay, denial, its motivation may be political, but its impact is more personal.

Let me go on, Mr. Speaker, to what the President's own team has to say. And by "own team," I mean the folks across the aisle in the United States Senate—not just folks on the other side of the Capitol, but folks on the other side of the political party, because energy security is not a partisan issue. It shouldn't be. Energy security and job creation, not a partisan issue. Bringing Canada's natural resources to the place with the toughest environmental controls on the planet, not a political issue, just good common sense.

I go to my Senate colleagues and my Senate Democratic colleagues now, Mr. Speaker. The Senator from North Dakota:

It is absolutely ridiculous that this well over 5-year-long process is continuing for an undetermined amount of time.

Again, I didn't have to dig back into the history books for these quotes, Mr. Speaker. This comes from April of this year, the last time the President had an opportunity to move America forward with energy security, move America forward with job creation, and provide certainty to our friends to the north, Canada, as they try to utilize their natural resources. The Democratic Senator from North Dakota said "absolutely ridiculous."

Senator MARY LANDRIEU, the Senator from Louisiana, also a Democrat:

This decision is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I don't mean to trot out all of the Senators and all the Democrats, except that I happen to be a House Member and I happen to be a Republican. And so I could understand if someone were to point the finger of blame and say: The only reason you share these positions, Congressman WOODALL, is because you are a conservative Republican, and this is not good for America; this is just conservative Republican mantra.

We all know that is nonsense. It is not conservative. It is not liberal. It is not Democrat. It is not Republican. It is American. It is economic. It is about security.

I will go one more, Mr. Speaker. Senator MARK BEGICH from Alaska:

I am, frankly, appalled at the continued foot-dragging by this administration on the Keystone project.

North Dakota, which would be a competitor—North Dakota has lots of economic resources there, lots of choices they can make, "absolutely ridiculous." Democrat from Louisiana, "unnecessary and unacceptable." Democrat from Alaska, "appalled at the continued foot-dragging."

So why can't we move forward? I don't know what the agenda is at the White House that has caused the 5-year delay that the North Dakota Senator calls ridiculous. I don't know what it is at the White House that has caused the delay that folks call appalling and unacceptable, but we have an opportunity to come together and do this.

We focus so often in this town on issues that divide us. This is an issue that unites us, and it unites us not just across party lines, not just across Chambers back and forth, but also across the divide of politics.

I have labor unions here on the board, Mr. Speaker, because sometimes folks say, and I hear it back home from time to time, they say: ROB, it is probably some of those special interest groups. It is those special interest groups that are preventing the President from doing what he wants to do. You know, those special interest groups have so much power in Washington, DC. They are always changing things.

Terry O'Sullivan, union president, said, "This is once again politics at its worst," condemning the decision not to move forward on the Keystone XL pipeline. Again, not from 5 years ago, not 4 years ago, not 3 years ago, just this year, Mr. Speaker, folks continue to be frustrated.

Sean McGarvey, union president:

Firstly, it is unbelievable to me why this project is allowed to linger while our Nation's economy struggles to get back on track.

Mr. Speaker, there is no choice that says prohibit Canada from developing their resources. There is no choice that prevents Canada from developing their resources. The question is, once developed, who benefits? If you don't believe that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to go look at the Energy Information Agency's Web site, eia.gov. They track all of the energy use in this country, energy production and energy costs, and what you see is as the war on coal has continued at the White House, is that coal consumption in America is on a steady downward slope. You declare war on coal, you use your phone and your pen to prohibit folks from using coal, making it economically unsustainable to use coal, you can absolutely collapse coal consumption in America. We are the Saudi Arabia of coal. We have more coal than any other

nation on the planet. The White House absolutely can commit itself to unilaterally disarming America when it comes to energy security, declaring a war on coal.

But if you go to the EIA Web site, the Obama administration Web site, Energy Information Agency, what you will see is, while those regulations have absolutely collapsed U.S. consumption of coal, U.S. exports of coal are going right through the roof. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to look far to find out that India and China are building new coal-fired power plants at the rate of four per week—four per week.

Now, I want you to find the absolute greenest person in your district, Mr. Speaker. I want you to find that person who bleeds green, biggest environmentalist you can find, Mr. Speaker, and I want you to ask him, when it comes to burning coal, when it comes to burning oil, when it comes to using America's fossil fuels, the world's fossil fuels, who is going to burn it cleaner, America, China, or India? Because if the discussion we are having, Mr. Speaker, is how do we protect the planet that we all share, how do we nurture the environment for which we are concerned, the answer is to make sure those resources are utilized here.

If you want to export something, export clean-burning natural gas. It will be tougher for folks to screw that up around the globe. The environment is a global environment, and if you care about doing things in the safest possible way, shipping coal to China or India for consumption is not the right answer.

Billions of dollars are invested in pollution controls on power plants across this country, Mr. Speaker. We will burn it cleaner and better than anyone else on the planet, and yet the regulatory environment is driving that consumption overseas. It is bad for the environment, not good for the environment.

The Keystone XL pipeline, Mr. Speaker, "politics at its worst," say the labor unions. "Unbelievable," say the labor unions. "Absolutely ridiculous," says a Democratic Senator. "Unacceptable," says a Democratic Senator. "Appalled," says a Democratic Senator, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what you find in your district. My district wants us to stop figuring out who to blame for it and start figuring out how to fix it. My district wants us to focus on those things that we can do together that will make a difference in people's lives back home. My constituents believe it really is jobs, jobs, jobs, not as a political tag line but as a mission statement for how to make America's economy great once again.

The Keystone XL pipeline is supported by the left and by the right, by the House and by the Senate, by the media and by the interest groups. The

only place it cannot find support is in the west wing of the United States White House.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the President will listen to the American people; I believe that the President does want to make this country strong; and I believe, if constituents in each one of our districts across this country apply their collective pressure to the White House, that it will respond. I have to believe that because that is the only way America works. It is the only way America works.

Commentator after commentator after commentator says the Keystone XL delay is politics at its worse. Commentator after commentator after commentator says delay is costing American families much-needed jobs.

We can do better for the American people, Mr. Speaker. We must do better for the American people. Working together, I think we can convince the White House of that message, but that process begins right here.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TIPTON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the birth of his granddaughter.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1603. An act to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 23, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6059. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research — Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers [Docket ID: ED-2014-OSERS-0013] [CFDA Number:

84.133B-4.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6060. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-027, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6061. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-047, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6062. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-056, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6063. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-007, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6064. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-024, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6065. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-042, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6066. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-046, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6067. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-028, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6068. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-013, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6069. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-045, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6070. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Gray Triggerfish [Docket No.: 120815345-3525-02] (RIN: 0648-XD271) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6071. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2014 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for Gray Triggerfish in the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: 121004518-3398-01] (RIN:

0648-XD033) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6072. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; 2014 Sector Operations Plans and Contracts and Allocation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Entitlements [Docket No.: 131115971-4345-02] (RIN: 0648-XC995) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6073. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Framework Adjustment 51 [Docket No.: 140406011-4338-02] (RIN: 0648-BD88) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6074. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Ballonbau Worner GmbH Balloons; [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0041; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-053-AD; Amendment 39-17824; AD 2014-07-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6075. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0616; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-353-AD; Amendment 39-17833; AD 2014-08-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6076. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1160; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-148-AD; Amendment 39-17698; AD 2013-25-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6077. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alpha Aviation Concept Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0130; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-005-AD; Amendment 39-17847; AD 2014-09-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6078. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GROB-WERKE Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0092; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-002-AD; Amendment 39-17846; AD 2014-09-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6079. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PIAGGIO AERO INDUSTRIES S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0967; Directorate Identifier 2013-

CE-042-AD; Amendment 39-17839; AD 2014-09-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6080. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0686; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-006-AD; Amendment 39-17843; AD 2014-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6081. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0869; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-063-AD; Amendment 39-17845; AD 2014-09-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6082. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0602; Directorate Identifier 2012-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-17484; AD 2014-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6083. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Additional Extension of the Payment Adjustment for Low-Volume Hospitals and the Medicare-dependent Hospital (MDH) Program Under the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) for Acute Care Hospitals for Fiscal Year 2014 [CMS-1599-N] (RIN: 0938-ZB17) received June 13, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 524. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to disapprove a permit after it has been issued by the Secretary of the Army under section 404 of such Act (Rept. 113-485). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SIMPSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4923. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-486). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CONAWAY: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Don Young (Rept. 113-487). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 4922. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize veterans who are entitled to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to use such entitlement to participate in a career transition internship program for veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona):

H.R. 4924. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida:

H.R. 4925. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Revolving Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 4926. A bill to designate the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway" and the "James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway" in the State of Minnesota; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 4927. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue NW., in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia (for himself and Mr. BENISHEK):

H.R. 4928. A bill to prohibit certain closures of Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs of the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 4929. A bill to establish a grant program for career education in computer science; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BARTON (for himself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4930. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 4931. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for equity investments by angel investors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4932. A bill to establish a fund consisting of donations from private industry to provide financial support for unemployed individuals to obtain information technology certifications; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MICA, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. YODER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ENYART, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. MAFFEI):

H.R. 4933. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the 7-year recovery period for motorsports entertainment complexes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. TIERNY):

H. Con. Res. 102. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of June 21 as National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day to promote children's health and gun safety; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

H. Res. 633. A resolution expressing the sense of the House with respect to accountability for mismanagement at the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. REICHERT):

H. Res. 634. A resolution expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to the victims of the devastating landslide on March 22, 2014, extending the thanks of those who took quick action to provide aid and comfort to the victims of the landslide, commending the resiliency of the affected communities for their strength, and committing to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of the affected communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 635. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) must

allow taxpayers the same lame excuses for missing documentation that the IRS itself is currently proffering; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

220. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 105 asking the President, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Congress to give Idaho the flexibility to have control over the foods authorized for purchase with the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Programs (SNAP) benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture.

221. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 103 recommending that the Idaho Delegation to Congress work with representatives of other seafood and fish-producing states to acquire sufficient funding for effectual and maintained domestic marketing of American seafood; to the Committee on Agriculture.

222. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 106 urging the President and the Secretary of State to use every opportunity and resource at their disposal to end the unjust imprisonment of Saeed Abedini; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

223. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Alabama, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 100 urging the Congress to propose and submit to the states for ratification a federal balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

224. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Memorial No. 104 concurring that Congress shall maintain a record of the Article V application of the states in a form that is open and accessible to the people of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 4922.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 4923.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

. . . " Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 4924.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among several states and with the Indian Tribes; Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (the Treaty Clause) which gives the President the Power to make Treaties; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause) which gives Congress the Power to make all Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

The Supreme Court, in *Winters v. United States* (1901), reasoned that an Indian Tribe's water rights are established when the reservation is created, regardless of whether the Tribe actually uses the water on that reservation at that time. The Act settles water right claims of the Hualapai Tribe and is thus constitutionally permissible.

By Mr. WEBSTER of Florida:

H.R. 4925.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority granted Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 7 of the United States Constitution establish the basis for Congress providing transportation infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4926.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4927.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 4928.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 4929.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. BARTON:

H.R. 4930.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4931.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4932.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4933.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 36: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 182: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 437: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 485: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 487: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 717: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 956: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COLE, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1136: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1249: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1278: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1563: Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 1750: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1767: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1812: Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 1830: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 1893: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2453: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2502: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2504: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3040: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3303: Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 3481: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3489: Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 3518: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3579: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3580: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 3725: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 3747: Mr. BARR and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3992: Ms. TITUS and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4040: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 4060: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 4233: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4316: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 4320: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 4347: Mr. SIRES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4361: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 4385: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4411: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HURT, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. VELA, and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 4450: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4460: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SCHOCK, and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4472: Mr. ISRAEL and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.

H.R. 4504: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4510: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4511: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 4578: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. ESTY, and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4612: Mr. DAINES.
 H.R. 4623: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 4631: Mr. WALZ.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 4704: Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 4792: Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 4797: Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 4811: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 4816: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4829: Mr. HOLDING.
 H.R. 4838: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 4882: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. LONG.
 H.R. 4895: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4897: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 4904: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 4907: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 4909: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H. Con. Res. 16: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H. Res. 480: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H. Res. 489: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 525: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. MENG, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 538: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 587: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 607: Mr. LONG.
 H. Res. 619: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H. Res. 621: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. POMPEO, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H. Res. 622: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H. Res. 630: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H. Res. 631: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MCALLISTER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. BASS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

H.R. 4899, the Lower Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 4899 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 809: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. DEFazio.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ROBERT V. ANTLE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert V. Antle on the occasion of his recognition by the Grower-Shipper Association with the E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement. Bob is a remarkable American whose vision, innovation, and hard work has helped to shape the Salinas Valley and build one of the largest and most innovative family-owned produce companies in the world.

Bob was born in Salinas, California, in 1935. In 1949, while still in high school, Bob joined his father, Bud Antle, in the family's lettuce harvest operation. During that time he started to learn the produce business from the ground up. After graduating from Watsonville High School, Bob attended Stanford University. While at Stanford, Bob married Sue Merrill Crawford. Bob and Sue have been blessed with four children, Rick, Karen, Kathy, and Mike and further blessed with 17 wonderful grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

After graduating from Stanford in 1957, Bob joined his family's business and took charge of its carrot operation known as "Antle Carrots." He excelled in all aspects of the business and even built a field pack carrot machine. Bob then moved into Sales and Marketing eventually becoming the General Sales Manager. In 1966, Bob relocated to the East Coast to develop the House of Bud, a fruit and vegetable wholesaler. Under Bob's leadership, the House of Bud opened facilities in New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Belgium.

In 1972, Bud Antle unexpectedly passed away at age 58. Bob, following his father's leadership and example, then became the CEO of all Antle activities. After six years of further developing and growing these businesses, Bob merged the Bud Antle companies with Castle & Cooke, now Dole Food Company, and joined their senior management team. Over the course of his produce career, Bob is credited with implementing several major produce industry initiatives, such as wrapping fresh vegetables in the field, developing distribution centers for the introduction of wrapped lettuce and other source packaged fruits and vegetables, and producing crops from transplants.

During the late 1940s, Bob met the Tanimura family who operated one of the produce farming operations that his father Bud worked with. Bob and the Tanimuras maintained and strengthened that relationship over the years. Finally in 1982, Bob and the Tanimura brothers combined over 50 years of mutual friendship, respect, and experience to create Tanimura & Antle. The new company combined the Antles' packing, shipping, and marketing expertise with the Tanimuras' grow-

ing expertise. That combination has helped T&A grow into one of the world's premier fresh produce companies. And it forms the basis of T&A's continued success.

While Bob is a towering figure in the fresh produce community, his leadership extends well beyond the industry. Bob is Co-Chairman of the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute, past president of the President's Council at California State University Monterey Bay, and Founding President of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. Bob also actively supports the University of Arizona. In March 2005, he was appointed to the California State Senate Commission: Agricultural Worker Housing and Health.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in commending Bob Antle for helping Americans eat better food and the people of the Central Coast live better lives.

CONGRATULATING DR. RICHARD SHAIK ON HIS RETIREMENT AS MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Richard Shaik, Mott Community College's longest serving president, as he prepares to retire after 14 years of leadership and service. Mott Community College is a multi-campus institution serving Flint and Genesee County, Michigan.

He possesses a unique blend of business, community, economic development and educational experience having served as a former college campus president, multi-campus vice president, instruction dean, college business/industry director, shopping center general manager, industrial sales representative, production line supervisor, full-time high school vocational teacher, and an adjunct instructor at Michigan State University, Ferris State University, and Lansing Community College.

He received his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Michigan State University, but affirms that he is most proud of the Associate of Arts degree he earned at Jackson Junior College.

In 2010, Dr. Shaik received the Marie Y. Martin Chief Executive Office of the Year Award from the Association of Community College Trustees, a national organization of governing boards representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the USA and beyond. Moreover, under his leadership, Mott Community College was also the recipient of the 2011 Aspen Institute's College of Excellence Award

designating MCC as one of the ten best community colleges in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Richard Shaik for his exemplary leadership in Genesee County and congratulate him on his retirement.

HONORING JAXON RILEY HARVEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jaxon Riley Harvey. Jaxon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 309, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jaxon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jaxon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jaxon has led his troop as Patrol Leader. Jaxon has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jaxon organized and led the pouring of a concrete pad for a picnic shelter at his church that another Eagle Scout was building.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jaxon Riley Harvey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING DELTA AIR LINES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMERCIAL SERVICE

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize Delta Air Lines as they celebrate the 85th anniversary of commercial service and the grand reopening of the Delta Flight Museum at its world headquarters:

Delta began its first service from Atlanta on June 12, 1930, just one year after its first passenger flight on June 17th, 1929.

Delta, Atlanta's hometown airline, operates service to more than 200 destinations in the world.

Delta is the world's largest hub at the world's busiest airport, employing more than 30,000 employees in Georgia,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Delta is the largest private employer in both the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia, a historic cornerstone of economic development and job creation,

Delta has set the standard in Georgia for community contribution as a company with a rich history of employees putting countless hours of volunteerism back into community and local organizations,

It is with great pride that I congratulate Delta on 85 years of service to Georgia and others worldwide.

HONORING SHALARIA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Ms. Shalaria Jackson.

Ms. Jackson is a senior at Humphreys County High School. Throughout her years in school, she has been a part of many leadership organizations, such as: TATU, SADD, Sister of Sophistication, and Senior Select.

Upon graduation, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Biochemistry to one day become a Medical Examiner.

Being a part of senior select gave her the opportunity to experience the work force; never did she think that she would have such a great effect on her coworker's lives. She has learned the basics of becoming and working as a Chancery Clerk assistant at the Humphreys County Court House.

She also learned the patience it takes to work well with others in a work setting environment. What she learned at work, she applied it to school and vice versa. She helped with the paperwork, greeted the patients and staff with such great hospitality, operated the telephones and also helped other coworkers when her tasks were completed.

It was not an easy job for her to juggle school and work, but she kept the faith and pushed forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Shalaria Jackson for her dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 368 OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boy Scout Troop 368 of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey for a recent act of heroism. During a hike through Harriman State Park, in New York State, these young men came across a woman who had injured her leg.

The Scouts realized this woman was in immediate need of assistance and through quick

thinking, resourcefulness and training, successfully splinted her leg and attempted to relieve her of immediate pain.

The Scouts also realized that she would be unable to navigate the mountain on her own and constructed a make-shift stretcher of two sturdy sticks and a tarp. Upon its completion, they used the stretcher to deliver the woman safely to her family waiting at the foot of the mountain.

In accordance with the Boy Scout Oath, these young men meet their duty to other people: to help people in need and to lend a helping hand to make life easier for someone else.

It was not until after they performed their duties that they were informed the woman they assisted was NBC News journalist Ann Curry. Ms. Curry has proudly thanked these Scouts in the media and brought them many deserving accolades.

These young men proved themselves as Scouts and as citizens of high character and responsibility. I congratulate the Scouts of Boy Scout Troop 368 on a job well done.

HONORING NANINE MEIKLEJOHN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago Nanine Meiklejohn started her work on behalf of working men and women at the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Following in the footsteps of her father, Kenneth Meiklejohn, who worked for the AFL-CIO, Nanine has fought to build and sustain a path to the middle class for working families.

Today, I am pleased to rise to recognize her talents and her positive impact on public policy. Nanine worked to make government programs better and to support the men and women who help make those programs work. She developed an expertise in many areas, but she is particularly known for her deep knowledge of workforce issues, including job training programs, employment services, and the unemployment insurance (UI) system. As someone who continues to work to ensure an adequate UI system for workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, I can tell you that Nanine was a key voice in our nation's efforts to help workers hurt by the worst recession since the Great Depression. Her keen understanding of workforce programs, her firm commitment to social justice, and her determined defense of those who do the everyday work of making government work represent a very powerful combination.

Now after four decades at AFSCME, Nanine is retiring. We will miss her tenacious advocacy, and we thank her for a career dedicated to strengthening efforts to help Americans succeed. We are a better nation because of the work of Nanine and so many others who fight for economic opportunity for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MILDRED BUTTS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this mighty woman of God, Mrs. Mildred Butts, who gave of herself to brighten the lives of others; and

Whereas, her dedication to her family and community was unwavering, she was a model citizen with a heart of gold, providing nurturing love and support to her husband, children, grandchildren and other family members; and

Whereas, this remarkable, positive woman with the beautiful smile gave of herself, her time and her talent; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, she led by example from behind the scenes, her beloved Butts family always knew that her hands and her words spoke meaning into everyone she encountered; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a wife, a mother, a friend, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Mrs. Mildred Butts for her friendship and service to the citizens in Georgia; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby attest to the 113th Congress that Mrs. Mildred Butts of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor."

Mrs. Mildred Butts, U.S. Citizen of Distinction, in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of June, 2014.

HONORING THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Jackson, which was founded in 1821, at the site of a trading post situated on a "high handsome bluff" on the west bank of the Pearl River.

Jackson's history tells that the trading post was operated by a French-Canadian trader named Louis LeFleur, and the town originally was called LeFleur's Bluff.

The Mississippi state legislature wanted the seat of government moved out of the Natchez area and into a more central location. It commissioned three men to locate an ideal place for a town that could become the state capital.

After surveying areas north and east of Jackson, Thomas Hinds, James Patton, and William Lattimore proceeded southwest along the Pearl River until they came to LeFleur's Bluff in Hinds County. Their report to the General Assembly was that this location had

"beautiful and healthful surroundings, good water, abundant timber, navigable waters, and nearness to the Natchez Trace."

A legislative act dated November 28, 1821 authorized the location to be the permanent seat of government for the state and that it would be named Jackson—in honor of Major General Andrew Jackson who would later become the seventh president of the United States.

The building of a new state house had top priority, and a \$3,500 contract was awarded to build Mississippi's first capitol: a two-story brick structure that was 40 feet by 30 feet. Shortly after the adoption of the Constitution of 1832, which ensured Jackson would be the permanent capital, the Mississippi legislature authorized the construction of a new and much larger house of government.

This magnificent example of Greek Revival architecture remained the seat of state government until 1903. It lay dormant for several years, and then served as state offices until the late 1950s and as the state historical museum until 2005. Surviving extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Old Capitol was lovingly restored and opened to the public as a state house museum in 2009.

A third capitol building, referred to as the "New Capitol," was completed in 1903. This magnificent structure, patterned after the National Capitol, is a major tourist attraction today, as well as the focus of Mississippi state government activities.

Two other buildings are worthy of note in Mississippi history. The Governor's Mansion, authorized in 1839 and completed in 1842, is the second oldest residence of its type in the nation; it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Jackson's City Hall, built in 1846 for less than \$8,000, is still the working seat of municipal government after more than 140 years. The massively-columned, three-story building and the gardens that surround it are two of the most photographed locations in the city.

Jackson's growth in the 1800s was slow and sometimes painful. During the Civil War, the town was ravaged and burned three times by Union troops under the command of General William Tecumseh Sherman. Surprisingly, the City Hall was spared the torch. It was rumored that Sherman bypassed the building because it housed a Masonic Lodge and that the Union leader was a Mason. More likely, its use as a hospital was the reason the building was not burned.

Although less than 8,000 people lived in the Jackson area at the turn of the century, its population began accelerating rapidly after 1900, and it is now one of the dynamic growth areas of the Sunbelt. In 1990, the population of the Metropolitan area rose to 395,396. It is a major distribution center with a prime location equal distance between Memphis and New Orleans, north-south, and between Dallas and Atlanta, east-west.

As a major distribution center, efficient transportation facilities are a must. Eight major air carriers—American Eagle, Continental, Delta, Northwest Airlines, US Airways Express, and Southwest Airlines—provide service in the Jackson International Airport and Hawkins Field. Amtrak provides daily passenger service to Chicago and New Orleans.

The Illinois Central Gulf Railroad and scores of major truck lines provide freight service to all parts of the nation.

A new, state-of-the-art convention center, the Jackson Convention Complex, opened in January 2009, in downtown Jackson, the beating heart of this vibrant, modern city. JCC offers conferencing technology, a 380-seat theatre, and more than 110,000 square feet of prime meeting and exhibit space. The complex is near Jackson's arts district, hotels, entertainment and restaurants.

Jackson boasts two regional shopping malls, numerous multi-store centers, and a wide array of antiques, gift stands and craft shops.

Eleven hospitals, including the nationally renowned University of Mississippi Medical Center, provide diagnoses and treatments for thousands of patients in the region.

Every major church denomination is represented in the city, and there are more than 400 houses of worship scattered throughout the 105 square miles of community. An excellent public school system is an integral part of the area, and one university and six colleges and junior colleges are located within 15 miles of Jackson's center.

Residents of the City with Soul are extremely proud of their Southern hospitality and lifestyle. Community support is strong for a symphony orchestra, an opera, ballet companies, professional theater groups, and a beautiful new art museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF LEADERSHIP FRISCO CLASS 17

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 17th graduating class of Leadership Frisco. This graduating class, comprised of 20 individuals, is a shining example of the civic responsibility that makes Frisco a great place to live, work, and raise a family. It's no wonder Frisco is the second-fastest growing city in the U.S.

Sponsored by the Frisco Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Frisco seeks out highly motivated, well-informed individuals who want to expand their leadership skills, deepen their civic duty, and increase their involvement in volunteer opportunities. Over the past nine months, these leaders have learned about Frisco's history, shared their time and talents through community service, and engaged with leaders from city government, the school district and other agencies.

Each year, the class selects a service project to give back to the community. This class worked on rebuilding a roof for the Boys and Girls Club of Collin County. In effect, these leaders are contributing and helping provide a safe place for tomorrow's leaders to learn, grow, and reach their fullest potential. For many kids in Collin County, the Boys and Girls Club is the only place for them to partici-

pate in developmental programs in an affordable, safe and nurturing environment.

Having strong and committed leaders is one of the fundamental building blocks of a safe and prosperous community. As President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in." This statement rings true for communities as well and that's what the members of Leadership Frisco strives to do each and every day. I thank each graduate for their hard work, dedication, and promise of a brighter future for Frisco. You must be proud of your accomplishments, I sure am.

Once again, Congratulations and keep up the good work. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the best on your future endeavors.

The names of the 2014 Leadership Frisco Advisory Council graduating class follows:

Debbie Ames, Goldin Peiser & Peiser, LLP; Mike Barber, BKM Sowan Horan, LLP; Brandon Burden, Farmers Insurance; Chad Cunningham, C4 Roofing, Inc.; Robert Dawson, ProImpetus LLC; Oscar Gonzalez, First National Bank Southwest; Myrna Martinez, Frisco Family Services; Christine Messner, "Yooz"; Erin Minett, Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C.; Suzanne Mitchell, Keller Williams Frisco Stars; Randy Nichols, Prospera Financial Services.

Bridget Payne, Wingspan Portfolio Advisors, LLC; Jake Poulsen, TXU Energy; Diana Sage, Collin College; Rachel Sam, Strasburger & Price LLP; Darcy Schroer, Frisco Economic Development Corporation; Julie Simon, Broadlinkone; Angela Syitak, Whitley Penn LLP; Adam Wisler, ACO Practice Solutions, LLC; Ryan Langston, Strasburger & Price LLP.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER IDENTITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Taxpayer Identity Protection Act of 2014.

This bill will help cut down on tax fraud from identity theft, a serious problem that costs the government billions of dollars annually. My bill would truncate Social Security Numbers on Forms W-2, and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that implementing it would have a negligible revenue effect.

At the moment, W-2 forms contain a person's full Social Security Number, making it easy for someone to steal an identity. This bill would give the IRS the authority to shorten Social Security Numbers on W-2 forms, making it tougher for a person's identity to be stolen if their W-2 ends up in the wrong hands.

The Treasury Department wrote in the Greenbook that "the risk of identity theft from Form W-2 is high because employers are required to file a Form W-2 for each employee who receives wages." It added that, "providing the IRS authority to require or permit truncated SSNs on Forms W-2 would reduce the risk of identity theft and improper payments resulting from false or fraudulent returns."

In 2010, a Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) report estimated that "\$21 billion in potentially fraudulent refunds" would be issued over the next five years as a result of identity theft. The report noted that this estimate is likely conservative.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the second vote series on June 18, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Democrat Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3230—Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014.

HONORING VICKSBURG ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women

who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has served the Warren County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

The idea of an alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was realized in February 1976 when Maggie Walker and Gloria Hebron discussed the possibility of becoming active in a nearby alumnae chapter. While developing a list of potential members to accompany them, they asked themselves, "Why join another Chapter when there are at least 15 to 20 inactive members in our city?" With this in mind, they contacted National Headquarters, requested an application for a charter, and sent out a call for inactive Deltas to come forward to serve our city and local communities.

The Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was chartered by 14 of the 18 Deltas who came forth when on Saturday evening, November 6, 1976, then Southern Regional Director and future 19th National President Yvonne Kennedy installed them into the Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter. This event took place at the Holiday Inn, on Clay Street, in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

The Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter boasts 83 members for the 2013–2014 sororal year. All

are registered voters and hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter members actively participate in Vicksburg and surrounding communities through annual blood drives; walk-a-thons; HIV/AIDS awareness programs; Habitat for Humanity; refurbished and maintain The Delta Room at Mountain of Faith Ministries Women's Shelter; youth educational scholarships, mentoring, and ACT workshops; financial management workshops; cultural awareness programs, including Jabberwock; educational forums; and meet the candidates political awareness forums.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Vicksburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, from March 5, 2014 to June 10, 2014, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll	Vote	Roll	Vote	Roll	Vote	Roll	Vote	Roll	Vote
93	Nay	103	Aye	113	Nay	281	Nay	291	Nay
94	Nay	104	Aye	114	Aye	282	Nay	292	Nay
95	Aye	105	Aye	191	Aye	283	Nay	293	Aye
96	Aye	106	Nay	192	Aye	284	Nay	294	Nay
97	Nay	107	Nay	193	Aye	285	Nay	295	Nay
98	Aye	108	Aye	276	Nay	286	Nay	296	Aye
99	Nay	109	Nay	277	Aye	287	Aye	297	Nay
100	Nay	110	Aye	278	Nay	288	Nay		
101	Nay	111	Aye	279	Nay	289	Nay		
102	Aye	112	Aye	280	Nay	290	Nay		

TONY GWYNN: A MAN OF UNRIVALED SKILL AND EXEMPLARY CHARACTER

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my fellow members of the San Diego Delegation including Representative DAVIS, Representative ISSA, Representative HUNTER, and Representative VARGAS, rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mr. Tony Gwynn, a celebrated batting champion in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame and beloved San Diego Padre. For over 30 years, Tony's enthusiasm for baseball and life itself was a source of goodwill for our national pastime and for all San Diegans. He will be sorely missed by the many people he inspired to play the game and by the many lives he touched on and off the baseball diamond.

Tony Gwynn was a baseball legend. The 15-time All-Star led the Padres to two World Series appearances. In his career, he accumulated 3,141 hits over 20 seasons, earning a career batting average of .338, the highest since Ted Williams. He also received a record-

tying eight National League batting titles in addition to winning five Gold Glove Awards in recognition of his defensive skills. Gwynn was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2007, his first year of eligibility.

Gwynn's dedication to the sport was only matched by his remarkable character and his love for San Diego, earning him the nickname, "Mr. Padre." While Gwynn had the option to play elsewhere, he loyally spent his entire career in San Diego. Following his time as a player, he remained in San Diego to dedicate the remainder of his life to coaching at his alma mater, San Diego State University. A role model to many, Gwynn focused more on brightening the lives of others than on pursuing fame and fortune for himself. He is remembered for his kindness and generosity as well as for his infectious laugh.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the life of Tony Gwynn, an outstanding athlete and exemplary citizen, friend, and family man. His love of the game, tireless dedication, genial attitude, and uplifting presence will be missed.

HONORING REVEREND DR. CURTIS L. LESTER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Lester has celebrated forty (40) years in pastoral leadership this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Lester under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Greater Bethany Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Lester is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our community and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Lester as he celebrates forty years in pastoral leadership; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 8, 2014 as Reverend Dr. Curtis L. Lester Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 8th day of June, 2014.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,585,699,982,065.80. We've added \$6,958,822,933,152.72 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING CITY OF CANTON,
MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Canton, Mississippi.

Madison County, the 23rd county in Mississippi, was named for the fourth President, James Madison, and was created in 1828 out of Yazoo and Hinds Counties. It incorporates lands between the Pearl and Big Black Rivers where General Andrew Jackson met with the Choctaw Chieftain, Pushmataha. That meeting resulted in the 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand.

This area attracted large numbers of settlers from Virginia and the Carolinas who came to farm the lush, rolling hills, and fertile soil.

In 1833, the Madison County Board of Police (a governing body similar to today's supervisors) appointed surveyor John B. Peyton to select a geographical center for a new county seat and to lay it out in blocks. In 1834, 40 acres of land belonging to Killis and Margaret Walton were deeded to the county for \$100. The land was divided into square parcels with the plot nearest the center reserved for the public square.

In 1836, the town was legally incorporated and boasted a population of 400. The first recorded ordinance made it a misdemeanor to gallop horse, mare, or mule on any street or alley.

By 1838, Canton boasted two banks, two hotels, ten dry goods stores, a drug store, three groceries, a bakery, a tin shop, three tailor shops, and two watchmakers. The public buildings were a courthouse, jail, church, and a female academy. The town enjoyed notoriety for having as visitors the celebrated origi-

nal Siamese twins, Chang and Eng, who ordered two custom suits from Perlinsky's Tailor Shop.

There are two stories concerning the naming of Canton, and both attribute the name to Chinese origin. One states that Canton, Mississippi is the exact opposite side of the world as Canton, China, and was thus named. The other story states that the daughter of a Chinese family died in the area and the sympathetic community named the town for the family. There is really no more proof for one over the other, it's just which one you wish to believe.

The very center and glory of our town is the beautiful Greek Revival Courthouse. Members of the local Masonic Order laid the cornerstone to the Courthouse in July 1855. The Board of Police paid \$26,428 for it, as well as \$65 per month to a commissioner to supervise proper construction—a magnificent sum at that time. The brick used were salvaged from the old Courthouse that had been condemned in 1840 because of the deterioration of the mortar. The new Courthouse was the scene of a huge Fourth of July celebration in 1857, but was not legally accepted until 1858. The beautiful iron fence was added later at a cost of \$5,250. The large dome (twenty feet in diameter and thirty feet high) has twice been threatened with removal for security reasons. The first time was during original construction in 1856, and the second time was during remodeling in 1925. Both times the women of the town were successful in protecting it by insisting that "beauty prevail over reason."

The Courthouse has also served as a gathering place to welcome the railroad, send soldiers off to war, as a Court of Justice and the Seat of county offices, a polling place, an early library, a theater, and a hospital during the yellow fever epidemic.

The happenings within the Courthouse walls have reflected the humorous, chivalrous, hard-headed, hospitable personalities who have given the South its distinctive character. During reconstruction, there was so much ballot box stuffing and tensions that when Election Day threatened to become bloody, a group of officials dispersed a gathering crowd by climbing into the dome and shooting down rocks with slingshots.

The legal chambers within the Courthouse have witnessed many fiery trials, several of which resulted in duels between lawyers. When dueling had been outlawed in the state, Judge Calhoun and Judge Bowers, respecting the law, traveled together to Vicksburg and crossed the river into Louisiana to settle a court quarrel with pistols. Neither man was injured; it was simply a matter of honor.

In 1994–1995 a new Courthouse was built one block north of the Square and the beautiful old Courthouse underwent a \$2,000,000 renovation. The 1855 cornerstone was opened and re-laid by the Masonic Order. The first floor is currently home to the Madison County Economic Development Authority, and the old courtroom, on the second floor, is currently not in use.

In 1982, the Canton Courthouse Square District was officially entered into the National Register of Historic Places and declared one of three best examples in the State of Mississippi.

The Courthouse Square, still the focus of exciting activities, is the scene twice yearly of the nationally famous Canton Flea Market Arts & Crafts Show. The Market attracts up to 100,000 visitors annually from across the United States and beyond.

It is estimated that over \$20,000,000 in public and private funding has been invested in the Canton Square District, including the new and old Courthouses.

In recent years, the beauty, uniqueness, and preservation efforts of our Courthouse Square and Historic District, with its beautiful homes, have attracted the attention of Hollywood. In addition to the five major films, many advertising agencies have chosen Canton as the location for commercial and corporate shoots, and PBS again chose the town for a segment of a six hour blues documentary on blues great Skip James to air in 2003.

With the site of the Nissan Automotive Plant located one mile south of the city, proposed plans for the Mississippi Film Complex, and the continued efforts toward preservation by the community, Canton's future is well-assured.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Canton, Mississippi.

HONORING MR. RICHARD JOSEPH
DOMINGUEZ

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Richard Joseph Dominguez on the celebration of his 90th birthday on June 27, 2014. Richard has served his country and community faithfully as a veteran and lifelong resident of Los Angeles County, and I am proud to honor him today.

Richard Joseph Dominguez was born on June 27th, 1924 in Los Angeles, CA. The third son of Mexican immigrants, Jose and Panchita, he was raised in Boyle Heights attending Talpa Elementary School and Roosevelt High School. Richard's youth was centered around a family of eight boys, faith, and community. Growing up, he was active in sports, the church, and spent some time as an extra in motion pictures.

A World War II and Korean War veteran, Richard enlisted into the United States Army in 1943 following his two older brothers, Eugene and Joe into the service. Richard served in the field artillery, armored infantry, the 11th Airborne Division, and in June 1945 he was shipped out to the Philippines. Richard continued to serve in the U.S. Army until returning to the United States, receiving an honorable discharge in 1948.

After relocating to Whittier, California, Richard joined the Los Angeles Police Department and worked in various divisions; Juvenile, Community Relations and the Hollenbeck Division. While with the Department, Richard was one of the founding members of LA LEY, the LAPD Latin American Law Enforcement Association, an organization that dedicates itself to enhancing the effectiveness of all LAPD employees and improving the Department's relationship with the community.

Following his years with the LAPD, Richard continued to remain an active public servant and worked for the L.A. City Attorney's office as a hearings officer, culminating over 35 years of public service.

Richard's involvement in public service reaches far beyond the confines of the LAPD. He has continuously demonstrated his dedication to his community with his involvement in many local organizations including; La Purisima Social Club, Saint Mary's of the Assumption Church and School, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Meals on Wheels, Whittier Senior Center, Saint Paul High School, and docent at Pio Pico State Historical Park.

Today, Richard still lives in the same Whittier home where he and his family settled in 1953. Richard was married to his wife Norma for fifty-one years before she passed away in 2000. They raised eight children through hard work, instilling values of faith, family, and tradition that they continue to exemplify to this day.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Joseph Dominguez is a man who has selflessly given his time and efforts to the Los Angeles Community. Richard exemplifies the true meaning of service to one's country and service to others, and for that his community is grateful. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Richard a very happy 90th birthday.

CONGRATULATING MR. ANDREW N. SCHULTZ ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. NUNES, to congratulate Andrew N. Schultz on his retirement after 38 years of dedicated service to the children and parents of Tulare County, California.

Mr. Schultz grew up as the son of a farmer and historian in the Zion Lutheran Colony located near Terra Bella, California. He attended Zion Lutheran School, Porterville High School, Porterville College and California State University at Chico. He also obtained a Master of Education from California State University, Bakersfield.

Mr. Schultz started his career as a teacher at Rockford School District. He later became the Superintendent and Principal of Ducor School District in Southern Tulare County. For the last 13 years, Mr. Schultz has served as the Superintendent and Principal of Rockford School District, near Porterville, California. His tenure at Rockford School District makes Mr. Schultz one of the longest serving Superintendents in the history of Tulare County.

Over the course of his career Mr. Schultz enabled thousands of students to obtain a quality education. His leadership allowed students and teachers to thrive and his district has been bestowed numerous honors and awards. In 2010, the Rockford School District received the California Distinguished School Award for its substantial gains in narrowing the achievement gap.

In addition to serving as Superintendent and Principal, Mr. Schultz has also been active in the Small Schools Superintendent Association.

The children of Tulare County have been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated servant such as Mr. Schultz to aid in their education. He has set very high standards for himself, his staff, and his students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join Mr. NUNES and me in commending Andrew Schultz for his 38 years of dedicated public service in Tulare County and congratulating him on his recent retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICK AND TRACY BROWN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Nick Brown and Mrs. Tracy Brown for their immeasurable contributions to the community and congratulate them on their recognition by Count Basie Theatre at its summer gala, "A Little Help From Our Friends," on June 20, 2014. Nick and Tracy's philanthropy and professional accomplishments should be celebrated.

Both Nick and Tracy are active members of their community. Tracy currently serves as Secretary on the Board of Trustees of the Monmouth Medical Center Foundation as well as a member of the Prevention First Board of Trustees. She has served as co-chair for numerous galas for various organizations, including the Count Basie Theatre. Recently, Tracy and Nick co-chaired the 2014 Monmouth Medical Center Crystal Ball, which benefited the hospital's programs and services.

In addition to his professional work as GFI Group Managing Director and Head of Financial Product Brokerage for the Americas, Nick also dedicates much time to charitable activities. He has been a board member of the Center to Prevent Youth Violence, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and HELP USA, and currently serves on the Count Basie Theatre Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in recognition of Nick and Tracy for their tireless efforts and dedication to philanthropy. It is with great pleasure that I am able to join with Count Basie Theatre in honoring their exceptional work for the community.

HONORING REVEREND HORACE L. BUCKLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Pastor Horace Buckley a native Jacksonian.

Reverend Buckley is a graduate of Lanier High School and Mississippi Valley State University, where he received the Bachelor of Science Degree. He received the Master of Education Degree in Counseling from

Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. Reverend Buckley received the Doctorate of Divinity Degree (Honoris, Causa) from Natchez College and the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, May 2003 and June 2003 respectively.

He is a former classroom teacher, having both interned and taught at Coleman High School in Greenville, Mississippi. In the Jackson Public Schools, he has worked as a high school counselor, a volunteer track coach and a middle school assistant principal. He is a recipient of the Jackson Association of Educators' "Friend of Education" Award and numerous other citations and awards.

He is a Hall of Fame Inductee in track and field, both at his Alma Mater and in the Southwestern Athletic Conference. He served for 16 years in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

Reverend Buckley is a man of God who holds to his convictions and walks by faith and not by sight. He received the call to serve as pastor of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in 1969 and has transformed a two Sunday a month worship service to full-time worship services. His dedicated and extraordinary leadership resulted in the retirement of mortgage in 1973 and 1991.

In 1980, the church held its Centennial Celebration Service. On April 18, 1993 the church broke ground on its \$1.2 million Family Life Center which houses an array of ministries and serves the community where the church is located and where as a boy Horace Buckley spent his formative years growing up.

Reverend Buckley is married to the former Myra Beamon. They are the proud parents of four adult children: Dr. Horace A. Buckley, Carol LeJune Buckley, Dr. Cedric Buckley and Reverend Reginald M. Buckley and currently are grandparents to eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Horace L. Buckley for his dedication to serving others.

HONORING REGINALD AND MARY LIZZIE WHIPPLE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Reginald and Mary Lizzie Whipple are celebrating sixty years (60) in marriage today in Bibb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 13, 1954 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Mr. Reginald Whipple, Sr., and Mrs. Mary Lizzie Whipple; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman are beacons of light to those in need; they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the many friends from across the state of Georgia; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Whipple are distinguished citizens of our state, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their

family, but with our community their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Reginald and Mrs. Mary Lizzie Whipple as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary, sixty (60) years in marital bliss; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 13, 2014 as Mr. Reginald and Mrs. Mary Lizzie Whipple Day in the 4th Congressional District. Proclaimed, this 13th day of June, 2014.

IN APPRECIATION OF DAVID
SHAOULIAN AND HIS YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with House Judiciary Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, JR. of Michigan and Representative ZOE LOFGREN of California, would like to thank David Shahouljian for more than seven years of service to the House of Representatives. Throughout this time, David has served as a dedicated counsel to the Judiciary Committee under three Chairmen, including myself, JOHN CONYERS, JR., and LAMAR SMITH of Texas. For the last three years, he has served as the Minority Chief Counsel to the Judiciary's Committee's Immigration Subcommittee.

A native of Miami, Florida, David initially pursued a career in the film industry after graduating summa cum laude from Florida State University. David eventually returned to school to earn a Master's Degree in creative writing from the University of Southern California before obtaining his law degree from the Yale Law School.

It was in law school that David developed a passion for immigration law. Through his work in the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization, David spent hundreds of hours representing clients at the Asylum Office all the way up to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. After graduation, he worked for two years as a Chesterfield Smith Public Interest Fellow at the law firm of Holland & Knight LLP. Just two months into his fellowship, David looked out the window of his Miami apartment and saw dozens of Haitian refugees scrambling onto the Rickenbacker Causeway after their boat ran aground. David ultimately represented a number of these asylum seekers and worked to secure pro bono counsel for many more. As the child of refugee parents from Iran and Cuba, David is a tireless advocate for those who have fled persecution and torture in search of freedom and liberty.

After three additional years at the law firm, David joined the Judiciary Committee in March 2007 and took on an ever-expanding portfolio of issues. Over time, his ability to master questions of law, policy, politics, and House procedure earned him the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle. Throughout his tenure, David played a critical role in bipartisan negotiations over legislative topics large and small. He was the lead staff Democratic negotiator for the Judiciary Committee

on the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which made major reforms to immigration law regarding the victims of trafficking and unaccompanied children, and the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, which established a program to provide health care to those injured during recovery and cleanup efforts at the September 11 terrorist-attack sites and by reopening the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund to provide compensation for such injured persons.

David's affable demeanor and quick mind have frequently been on display and have earned him many friends on both sides of the aisle and in both chambers of Congress. David's absence will be felt for years to come on matters pertaining to immigration law and policy, but we know that he will continue to work in this area as Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud David's tireless, principled and loyal public service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people and wish his every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 149TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNETEENTH AND THE
21ST ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF
JUNETEENTH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 149th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 21st annual celebration in Memphis, Tennessee. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced in the town square that all slaves were free. Although this came nearly three years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, the newly freed men and women rejoiced in the streets with jubilant celebrations, and thus, the Juneteenth holiday was born.

This year, the Memphis Juneteenth celebration was very different from past celebrations. First, the Board of Directors changed the name of the celebration from the "Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival" to the "Juneteenth Urban Music Festival." Second, the celebration took place in the Robert R. Church Park on Beale Street in Downtown Memphis instead of the historic Douglass Neighborhood, where the celebration has taken place for the past twenty years.

The importance of this change in location to the Robert R. Church Park is especially significant to the celebration of this important day in history. Robert R. Church was born in Memphis on October 26, 1885 and soon became a prominent civil rights leader in the City of Memphis and in the State of Tennessee. In 1916, he founded the Lincoln League, which helped African Americans in the Memphis area by organizing voter registration drives and paying poll taxes for those who could not afford it. Through the Lincoln League alone, he enabled thousands of African Americans in

the Memphis area to exercise their right to vote in local, state and national elections. However, his work did not stop there. In 1917, he chartered the first Tennessee chapter of the NAACP in Memphis. Two years later, his dedication to the organization and its mission was recognized when he was elected to serve on the national board.

Robert R. Church continues to be a prominent and revered political figure in Memphis because of his work to make the processes of government inclusive to all members of society, regardless of race or social class. As such, the Juneteenth celebration this year focused on the same mission: expanding the Juneteenth celebration so that thousands more people may take place in this joyous celebration. This year, the celebration included a variety of musical performances varying from gospel performers to neo soul artists. In addition to these performances, the celebration offered a poetry slam and a showcase featuring majorettes, drummers, cheerleaders, and steppers. By appealing to all members of the community and relocating to a larger space, the Juneteenth celebration provided the people of Memphis with a celebration that was consistent with the mission of Robert R. Church: a mission of inclusiveness that we should all strive for as we continue to serve the people of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time to commemorate the end of slavery in America and to recognize the many contributions of African-American citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in observing our nation's 149th anniversary of Juneteenth and the 21st annual celebration in Memphis.

HONORING TOWN OF JONESTOWN,
MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Jonestown, Mississippi.

The Town of Jonestown, Mississippi elected its first black Mayor, James A. Shanks, in June 1973. During these times, the struggle for freedom was very high, especially in the South. Mayor Shanks took advantage of available opportunities from federal, state and local resources. He partnered with organizations like the National Conference of Black Mayors and Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors.

Additionally, Aaron E. Henry and other civil rights activists provided valuable assistance to Jonestown. Mayor Shanks and the Board of Aldermen, enhanced the community through housing, water and sewer projects, recreational facilities, and to improve the lives of the citizens. Mayor Shanks served a total of 12 non-consecutive years as mayor.

In June 1980 Jimmy Wilkins was elected Mayor and continued moving Jonestown forward through excellent programs made by his predecessor. A modern fire station, a new fire truck and water and sewer projects were completed, upgraded housing complexes and new single family housing during Mayor Wilkins'

tenure. Mayor Wilkins served eight non-consecutive years (1981–1985 and 1993–1997).

In 1989, Bobbie Walker became the first female elected Mayor of Jonestown. In addition to ongoing projects, Mayor Walker increased community development by utilizing college volunteers, working with Habitat for Humanity and the Sisters of the Holy Name, whose members reside in Jonestown. They provide a cadre of services to citizens through education, medical contact, and recreation.

In June 1997, Joe W. Phillips was elected Mayor of Jonestown. He emphasized a sense of community and urged the people of Jonestown to be proud of their community. Mayor Phillips continued to enhance the Town of Jonestown during his two non-consecutive terms in office.

Patrick Leon Campbell was the youngest black Mayor elected to office in Jonestown and the State of Mississippi at age 28 in 2001.

He was instrumental in numerous revitalization projects via grants such as the Mississippi Historic Preservation Grant, Small Town Limited Municipality Grant, Planning Grant, Water & Sewer Grant, Public Safety Grant, Home Grant, and others. Mayor Campbell initiated the Jonestown High School scholarship fund, and reinstated the Annual Jonestown Day Celebration which brings many former citizens and tourists to town. In June of 2013 Mayor Campbell was re-elected Mayor of Jonestown and with eagerness sought out numerous economic development opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Town for their dedication to their community and change.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. I am proud to say that the 2014 USA Games are being held throughout the state of New Jersey this week.

I especially want to honor the Special Olympics New Jersey Staff and Board of Directors, the athletes who demonstrate a true commitment to sport, the families that support them, and the volunteers and sponsors. They are all extraordinary citizens of this great state who demonstrate true "Genuine Jersey Pride" in the spirit of inclusive sports play.

Team New Jersey is made up of 269 athletes and 73 coaches, representing every county in our state, the largest delegation from New Jersey in the history of the Games.

The Special Olympics was established by President John F. Kennedy's sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, and is the world's largest organization dedicated to developing and enhancing the talents and abilities of children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Her support for people with intellectual disabilities was the driving force behind the Special Olympics program. Through her leadership, a backyard summer day camp transformed into a global movement.

She believed that given the chance all people can accomplish great feats. I wholeheartedly agree. Her relentless effort and advocacy manifested into entire networks of foundations and research dedicated to improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

The creation of the International Special Olympics Games in 1968 enabled a thousand participants and their families to compete in track and field and swimming events. Since those first games, the Special Olympics have grown to over 170 countries and include over 4 million child and adult athletes. The United States now hosts its own quadrennial Special Olympics Games and includes participants from all 52 U.S. programs.

New Jersey was among the first states to enlist in the Special Olympics program over 40 years ago. We now have over 21,000 athletes and 20,000 volunteers. It is fitting then for New Jersey to be the host of the 2014 Games, called the Games of Welcome and Acceptance. The Games will undoubtedly highlight our State's delightful spirit and innate sense of community. Participants will compete in 16 Olympic-styled events that include Unified play, where people with and without intellectual disabilities get to perform together and create friendships.

The enormous impact of the Special Olympics extends far beyond athletic competition. The athletes will gain a sense of pride and belonging that will carry over into their everyday lives. Once again, congratulations to all of the athletes who are participating in the 2014 Special Olympics USA National Games and to all those who help make the Games possible.

H. AMDT. 748 TO H.R. 4460

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the medical marijuana provision that came before the House of Representatives for a vote on May 30, 2014—H. AMDT. 748 to H.R. 4460—an amendment to prohibit the use of funds to prevent certain States from implementing their own State laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

Had I voted on May 30, 2014, I would have voted in favor of H. AMDT 748 to H.R. 4460, which was offered by Rep DANA ROHRBACHER (R-CA) to the FY 2015 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CSJ) Appropriations bill. The amendment was agreed to by recorded vote: 219–189.

Specifically, the bill is a bipartisan appropriations measure that looks to prohibit the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) from spending funds to arrest state-licensed medical marijuana patients and providers. Many of my colleagues and their constituencies agree that patients who are allowed to purchase and consume medical marijuana in their respective states should not be punished by the federal government.

I believe that we must modernize our federal laws to reflect the updated approaches to

medical marijuana use, and allow states to determine the parameters, practices, and effects of legalization. Mr. Speaker, 22 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medical use. In my home state of Florida, the majority of voters support the legalization of marijuana for medical use, and I stand behind them.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legalization of marijuana for medical use, and remain committed to protecting citizens nationwide that are the subject to detainment for use despite their medical needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLORIA NEGRETE McLEOD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, from July 24, 2013 to October 14, 2013, I was unavoidably absent from the House and missed roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll	Vote
411	Aye
412	Aye
515	Nay
516	Aye
547	Nay
548	Nay
549	Aye

HONORING TOWN OF BOLTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historically rich, rural town of Bolton, Mississippi.

The beginnings of the Town of Bolton stemmed around one of history's most sought after resource and highly demanded man-made commodity: the modern railroad system. Prior to its incorporation in 1871, the area now known as Bolton was a deer path with most of its land dedicated to plantation owners. One of the plantation owners, Colonel Thomas Jefferson Bolton, was a well-known railroad builder and settled in the area prior to the Civil War. After posing a compromise with another prominent plantation owner in the area, a deal was reached and the Clinton/Vicksburg railroad companies constructed a railroad depot on Colonel Bolton's land; henceforth, naming the area and the station depot Bolton.

Within a few decades of establishing the railroad depot, the Civil War began and Bolton became involved in one of the Union forces most critical battle. In 1863, during General Grant's march to Vicksburg, Champion's Hill (a small community on the outskirts of Bolton) was the scene of a decisive battle between the Union and Confederate forces. The defeat of Confederate troops paved the way for the resultant siege and fall of Vicksburg. Eight years after the defeat, the Town of Bolton was incorporated and had reached a population of just under 800.

The Town of Bolton has withstood many changes, both good and bad. In 1878, many residents succumbed to a yellow fever epidemic. Economically, however, the town was booming with businesses that lined the main thoroughfare between Vicksburg and Jackson. Farming was the main occupation for many in the town as much of the area had acres upon acres and rich farmland. In 1903, they constructed an artesian well, measuring 1,638 feet in depth. This well subsequently provided the townspeople with approximately two million gallons of water at the lowest price possible for the time period. In 1908, the town built and equipped a modern light plant. Two cotton gins processed numerous bales of cotton, aiding in the economic stability of the town.

With the construction of the interstate highway system, much of the continuous traffic seen passing through Bolton quickly diminished, much to the delight of the residents of Bolton. Once the new bypass highway was constructed, business plummeted to include only the local residents and the occasional traveler. A shift in demographics also began, growing minority than in previous decades past. Today, the town's population is approximately 567, with mostly 75% of the residents being African American. There are currently symbols from the town's early beginnings still existing, such as the Gaddis and McLaurin Feed and Seed Store, the Lummus cotton gin, and original artesian well, all of which are monumental landmarks that have stood through the multiple changes and are a testament of the resolve of the citizens of Bolton. In addition to old landmarks, new ones have also emerged, such as the town's City Hall, multiple institutions of worship, a veterinarian, library, medical clinic, and a number of small businesses, primarily owned and operated by African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Bolton as a resilient, historically rich rural town that has remained committed to maintaining its close-knit community ties within and outside its city limits by staying true to its roots in agriculture and local owned businesses.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD RAMSEY,
SR. AND HATTIE JOHNSON

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, in November, 1901, the union of Edward Ramsey, Sr., and Hattie Johnson made the Johnson-Ramsey family definite and their union has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the seeds of family was planted in the 1800s with Wiley Johnson and his wife Saphronia Cobb-Johnson, parents of Hattie Johnson Ramsey, it would only be a matter of time before the first family reunion would be held in the rural area of the Huguley woods near Shawmut, Alabama in 1934; Otis Johnson, Wiley Johnson, Charlie Johnson and

Carrie Booker led the charge of planning the first reunion and throughout the years, this family has produced many well respected citizens that have and continues to honor the patriarchs and matriarchs of the family which are pillars of strength across this great nation; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Johnson-Ramsey family, including Ms. Wandra Seymore-Outlaw one of our most beloved citizens in our District who resides in Ellenwood, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Johnson-Ramsey family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's 80th family reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Johnson-Ramsey family in our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim June 20, 2014 as Johnson-Ramsey Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 20th day of June, 2014.

JUNETEENTH 2014

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau.

Today, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise. It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become.

This year, I introduced H. Res. 632 to Honor Juneteenth Independence Day. In introducing this Resolution, I acknowledge State Representative Al Edwards of Texas and all Houstonians who honor Juneteenth as well or all who celebrate this freedom day.

Last year, I introduced H. Res. 268—a Resolution observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day. As we celebrate the anniversary of Juneteenth, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in reflecting upon its significance.

Today, I will be reintroducing the Resolution to commemorate this year's celebration of Juneteenth.

Because it was only after that day in 1865 when General Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, on the heels of the most devastating conflict in our country's history, in the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against

brother, neighbor against neighbor and threatened to tear the fabric of our union apart forever that America truly became the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Not until 1979 when my friend State Representative Al Edwards introduced the bill did Juneteenth become a Texas state holiday. It was first celebrated as such in 1980.

Civil rights pioneer Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom is never free," and African American labor leader A. Phillip Randolph often said "Freedom is never given. It is won."

We should all recognize the power and the ironic truth of those statements and we should pause to remember the enormous price paid by all Americans in our country's quest to realize its promise.

Juneteenth honors the end of the 400 years of suffering African Americans endured under slavery and celebrates the legacy of perseverance that has become the hallmark of the African American community and its struggle for equality.

Throughout the 1980's and 90's Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country.

Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations—all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African American history and culture.

Juneteenth today, celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to this fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing. The future of Juneteenth looks bright as the number of cities and states come on board and form local committees and organizations to coordinate the activities.

HONORING THE CITY OF
LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the historically rich city of Lexington, Mississippi.

Lexington is a city in Holmes County, Mississippi. The population was 2,025 as of the 2000 census. It was named in honor of Lexington, Massachusetts. Like much of the state, Holmes County suffered during and after the Civil War.

The City of Lexington is served by the Holmes County School District. It is also served by a private school called Central Holmes Christian School (formerly Central Holmes Academy).

The City of Lexington also has some rich African-American History. It is the root for the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) (formerly

called the Church of God when it got its Lexington beginning) by founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

The City of Lexington can also boast as having the first black-elected school superintendent in the State of Mississippi—Elder William Dean, who is now pastor of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ here in Lexington. The church is situated next to the beautiful campus of Saints College (now closed to students) but is used for multiple purposes, especially its church-like edifice commonly known as “Holy Hill.”

Saints College was founded by an African-American, Dr. Arenia Mallory as Saints Industrial and Literary School.

The historically black school was renamed and is currently called Saints Academy. Dr. Mallory served as president of the school from 1926 until her death in 1983. It is run under the Church of God in Christ. Dr. Mallory was an active member of the COGIC church and participated in the Women's Department and was the leader in the national church. She also served as the Vice President of the National Council of Negro Women from 1953–1957.

Lexington is also the home of the Dr. Arenia C. Mallory Community Health Center, Inc. (Mallory CHC) founded by Dr. Martha Davis (now deceased). Its mission is to provide high quality, customer oriented and cost effective healthcare services in a safe and accessible environment to all persons of Holmes, Carroll, Madison, Leflore counties and surrounding communities. Its motto is “Enter a Patient, Leave a Friend.” (See more about the clinic at <http://www.mallorychc.org/>)

The City of Lexington is also the home of the Community Students Learning Center (CSLC) founded by longtime African-American natives Leslie and Beulah Greer: “Our Mission for the Community Students Learning Center is to promote community and educational change, by providing state-of-the-art leadership development and personal improvement opportunities for youth, adults, and seniors.” Its motto is “In Relentless Pursuit of Education and Knowledge. (See more about CSLC at: <http://www.communitystudentlearning.org/>)

The City of Lexington was at the heart of the Civil Rights Movement in Holmes County, Mississippi. Brave men and women, black and white, protested, challenged and worked hard to bring about racial harmony. While some success in that regard was made, the city and County both still could currently use more racial reconciliation, according to some of the residents.

In addition to numerous historical firsts, today, the City of Lexington also boasts first ever Black Mayor of Lexington, Mississippi—the Honorable Mayor Clint Cobbins, who is currently leading his community toward progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Lexington as a resilient, historically rich rural town that has maintained its community ties inside and outside its city limits by staying true to its roots in agriculture and local owned businesses.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND ANNUAL GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE “ABOVE AND BEYOND” AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding group of first responders and public safety officers who have been honored with the Second Annual Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce “Above and Beyond” Award.

These awards honor Fairfax County Firefighters, EMTs, Police Officers and Sheriff's Deputies who give back to the Greater Springfield area by providing service to the community outside their normal duties. In addition to the immeasurable contributions made every day in the line of duty, these men and women have distinguished themselves through their extraordinary efforts in the community, which largely go unseen. They willingly volunteer their personal time, energies, and support to activities for the betterment of our children, our neighborhoods, and our quality of life.

It is my honor to enter the names of the following individuals into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Master Deputy Sheriff Rodney Harrison has served the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office for 26 years. Through his church, MDS Harrison makes an annual trip to Africa for the purpose of ministering and donating educational materials and clothing. In addition, twice a year the Sheriff's Office provides security for a portion of the will of President George Washington between Mount Vernon and the Circuit Court. MDS Harrison willingly participates and uses this opportunity to educate others on the history of the will and how to safely transport this important historic document.

Officer Long Dinh, Jr., endured traumatic head injuries when responding to a call on duty in 2013. However, these injuries did not deter him from continuing to serve his community. He has applied his language abilities to the Habitat for Humanity Restore program by creating tutorials and helping to train volunteers. His tremendous contributions to the program have been recognized by the Director of the James Lee Senior Center. In March of 2014 Officer Dinh returned to the police force.

Auxiliary Police Officer Thomas Oliver has volunteered his services since 1999. In addition to his regular duties, APO Oliver participated in over 70 community events for vehicle or crime prevention displays in 2013. He has assisted in “Operation Hands-On,” which is a new process developed to obtain information on cases previously closed. He helped follow up on these cases and has educated members of our community on how to keep themselves secure.

Officer Paul F. Stracke has just completed his second year with the police force. He began his service at age 18 when he attended the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire Academy and obtained an Emergency Medical Technician certification. Apart from his police duties, he continues to work 60 hours every quarter at Fire Station #14 to maintain his firefighter status. Officer Stracke was nominated in 2013 for a lifesaving award and received the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year Award in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating and thanking each of the brave men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community. They are part of the bravest and the finest who collectively ensure that Fairfax County remains one of the nation's safest communities in which to live, work, and raise a family. Moreover, the volunteer service exhibited by these honorees is one of the hallmarks of what has made Fairfax the thriving community it is today, and because of their efforts, that tradition will carry on for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the holiday of Juneteenth, or as it is also known Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day. Juneteenth commemorates a huge step toward the emancipation of African American slaves in Texas from the morally abhorrent institution of American slavery.

On June 19, 1865, after the Union's victory in the Civil War, Major General Gordon Granger arrived with Union troops on the island of Galveston, Texas. The celebration of Juneteenth recognizes that day, when Major General Granger publicly read “General Order No. 3,” ostensibly freeing Texas slaves. Granger said, “The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer.” The order ostensibly freed 250,000 slaves in the former Confederate state of Texas, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

“General Order No. 3” was another marker on our nation's long road toward the full realization of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all our fellow citizens. We are still traveling down that road but because of the extraordinary courage and compassion of some of our greatest citizens, we have come further than many ever imagined.

We traveled further down that road when in 1979, my friend, Texas State Representative Al Edwards introduced the bill that officially made Juneteenth a state holiday in Texas. In 1996, the House of Representatives and the Senate officially recognized June 19th as “Juneteenth Independence Day.” As of today, 43 states observe Juneteenth.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Juneteenth remains the oldest known celebration of slavery's emasculation in the U.S. On this Juneteenth, I encourage all my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the historical significance of this holiday, which celebrates a huge step toward the extension of the American Dream to African Americans and encourages multicultural respect for all.

RECOGNIZING ACTION IN COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS ADVOCACY SERVICE ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the staff and volunteers for Action in Community Through Service Sexual Assault Victims Advocacy Service (ACTS SAVAS) as they celebrate 30 years of assistance and advocacy on behalf of survivors of sexual assault in Prince William County, Virginia.

There are more than 235,000 sexual assaults every year in the United States. That is one assault every two minutes. Forty-four percent of survivors are under the age of eighteen, and eighty percent of survivors are under the age of thirty. Sixty percent of sexual assaults are not reported and ninety-seven percent of attackers will never spend a day in jail. These are staggering statistics, and they illustrate the challenges faced by ACTS SAVAS. There are few safe havens for these survivors. ACTS SAVAS provides survivors with a safe, secure place to go and receive counseling from experts who can assist with the healing and recovery process.

SAVAS was first established in 1983, and in 2012, it joined Action in Community Through Service. ACTS SAVAS is the only center of its kind serving the Greater Prince William community. The staff and volunteers are dedicated to empowering survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones with the resources necessary to heal and move forward, while working towards ending all forms of sexual assault and combating human trafficking. ACTS SAVAS has provided assistance to more than 15,000 individuals in the areas of crisis intervention, a 24-hour hotline, court companions for victims, adolescent and adult support groups, and community education and outreach.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the staff and volunteers of ACTS SAVAS for their many contributions during 30 years of service to the Greater Prince William community. ACTS SAVAS engages an issue that threatens to undermine safety and trust in our community. For providing survivors of sexual assault with the resources they need to recover, ACTS SAVAS is certainly a vital service and is deserving of our highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO THE TAIWAN FELLOWSHIP

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Taiwan Fellowship, a highly prestigious scholarship which allows American experts and scholars to conduct advanced research at universities or academic institutions in Taiwan. Established and funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the fellow-

ships provide for tuition, financial assistance and a monthly stipend.

In the past 4 years, 346 scholars from 57 countries around the world have been awarded Fellowships. Recipients include professors, doctoral candidates, and post-doctoral researchers interested in Taiwan, cross-strait relations, mainland China, the Asia-Pacific region and Chinese studies. The fellowship terms are as short as three months and can be as long as a year. In terms of resources devoted to awardees, the Fellowship is on par with the Fulbright Program and the Rhodes scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, this scholarship serves as an important conduit for educational and cultural exchange between the United States and Taiwan. This is the 35th Anniversary of enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the measure that crafted the modern, successful and beneficial US-Taiwan partnership. It's important that we continue to build our alliance on a mutual commitment to the rule of law, free and fair elections, and free enterprise. It is in that spirit that the Taiwan government offers the Taiwan Fellowship to students: so that our friendship and mutual understanding will continue into future generations.

COMMENDING THE EFFORTS OF "DO MORE 24—ONE DAY. OUR COMMUNITY"

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the tremendous efforts of "Do More 24—One Day. Our Community." Today, June 19th, thousands of residents from across the National Capital Region will help make a positive, lasting contribution to those in our community in need of assistance through the region's largest philanthropic giving day: Do More 24.

For 24 hours only, residents will go to domore24.org and choose an organization or cause closest to their hearts to support. They will be able to contribute to one or more of the 550 participating nonprofits serving our neighbors in Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and suburban Maryland by providing food, shelter, education, and access to medical care, affordable housing, and other essential services.

Launched by United Way of the National Capital Area last year, the Do More 24 campaign helps nonprofits raise money during the difficult summer months, when many nonprofits see a drop off in donations that creates gaps in their budgets. Last year, 11,000 donors contributed \$1.3 million during the Do More 24 blitz. Their generosity allowed our regional nonprofits to serve more people, expand their programs, and buy necessary equipment.

For example, Martha's Table, which has been providing food to families for 35 years, plans to use this year's Do More 24 donations to expand its "Summer Food Fund" to provide breakfast and lunch for children who would normally receive those meals through school.

Hunger doesn't take a summer break, and neither will Martha's Table.

Joseph's House, another nonprofit, provides nursing and support services to homeless men and women struggling with AIDS and cancer. Its mission is to "nurture the living and accompany the dying." Thanks to last year's donations, Joseph's House was able to purchase a desperately needed new van and cover food costs that had exceeded its budget.

Mr. Speaker, Do More 24 encourages us to imagine a community where every man, woman, and child is healthy, fed, educated, and employed. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the United Way of the National Capital Area for this initiative and in thanking the thousands of residents who participate. I encourage us all to consider how we can "Do More" for our local community on June 19th.

AZERBAIJAN'S REPUBLIC DAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its commemoration of Republic Day, a remembrance of an extremely important event in Azerbaijani history. When the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917, it brought chaos to the region. On May 28, 1918, the Muslim National Council adopted a Declaration of Independence, and established an independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the southern and south-eastern Caucasus.

Along with the establishment of this Democratic Republic, Azerbaijan adopted several laws, the most famous among these was the establishment of the right to vote for women, a full year before it was adopted in the United States. Azerbaijanis also received the rights to assembly, speech, and religion.

This new and leading democracy flourished until it was crushed by a military attack of the Soviet Union in April 1920, and all government institutions of Azerbaijan were abolished. Sadly, it took another 71 years of Russian repression until Azerbaijan could, once again, establish an independent Democracy.

Today, we remember the courage and foresight of this independent Democratic Republic and we wish them well for the future.

RECOGNIZING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE RECRUIT CLASS 2014-01

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the most recent graduates of the Prince William County Public Safety Academy. As they join the ranks of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, these men and women are entering a proud profession with a rich history.

Securing a position as a first responder begins with a competitive application process. Recruits must then complete a rigorous and comprehensive 23 week training program before graduating as a Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Technician I.

A Technician I is trained in emergency medical services, fire prevention and countless other public safety measures. The certifications required to reach the status of a Technician I cannot be accomplished without dedication and hard work. The graduates have completed the requisite coursework for certification in CPR, Infection Control, CISM, EMT-B, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EVOC 2, EVOC 3, Flashover Simulation, RIT, Mayday, Hazmat Awareness/Operations, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, LPG with Simulation, Rural Water Supply, BLS Protocols, Rope Rescue Awareness, Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Seat Installation. Each graduate has completed more than 600 hours of training and education.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Recruit Class 2014-01:

Joel Bernardo, Ryan Beuttenmuller, Peter Francisco, Brendan Galvan, Andrew Mullinax, Daryl Palumbo, Lauren Pinkston, Rachel Reardon, Craig Walton, Jordan Wiley, and Travis Zimmerman.

There are many reasons that firefighters and first responders are known as America's Heroes. These brave men and women regularly put the lives and well-being of those they serve ahead of their own. I am confident that this newest group of graduates will serve the citizens of Prince William County with distinction and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I want to thank them for making this commitment to public service in our community, and, in the tradition of their new firefighting family, I say, Stay Safe.

CONGRATULATING FORT LAUDERDALE AS AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fort Lauderdale for being one of only 10 communities nationwide selected as an All-America City.

Established in 1949 by the National Civic League, the All-America City Award recognizes cities and towns across the country for exemplary community-based problem solving and civic engagement efforts that involve public, private, and non-profit entities.

I would like to congratulate Mayor Seiler and his staff, Fort Lauderdale's residents, and all its community and business leaders on this accomplishment.

Together, you're helping make Fort Lauderdale an outstanding place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY AND HONOREES OF THE VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Virginia Chapter of the Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) on the occasion of its 5th Anniversary and to recognize this year's honorees.

GOPIO was founded at the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin in New York in 1989. The initial purpose of GOPIO was fighting human rights violations of people of Indian origin. While we have seen improvements over the years, human rights violations continue to be a major issue for people of Indian origin living outside India. In 2001, GOPIO was accredited by the U.N. as an NGO to participate in the World Conference Against Racism. GOPIO has now expanded its mission to pool financial and professional resources for the benefit of people of Indian origin and the communities in which they live. Today GOPIO has 28 chapters in 18 countries.

The Virginia Chapter of GOPIO is led by its founding President, Jay Singh Bandari. The chapter has a mission of serving the entire community and has collected food for the less fortunate, held free medical clinics, and provided financial assistance and scholarships.

The Chapter also honors people of Indian origin who have excelled in the fields of education, business, industry, community service and other endeavors. I am pleased to enter the names of this year's honorees into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Dr. Partha Pillai—Community Service
Korok Ray—Education and Economic Research
Aziz Haniffa—Journalism
Dr. CM Prasad & Dr. Surya Dhalcar—Medicine
Lt. Colonel Ravi Chaudhary—Politics
Natwar Gandhi—Finance

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Virginia Chapter of GOPIO on its 5th Anniversary and in thanking this year's honorees for their service to our community.

HONORING WEST FORSYTH BASEBALL

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Forsyth baseball team, which recently won the North Carolina state 4A baseball championship. West Forsyth defeated Richmond in a best of three series. This was the Titan's first baseball state championship, and the school's first championship in any boys' sport.

West Forsyth's victory was under the leadership of first year head coach Brad Bullard, a West Forsyth graduate and member of the Titan's 2001 second place team, which was the last team to reach the state championship. This year, the Titans amassed a 29 and 6 record and won the West Regional Championship to earn their place in the final series.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young athletes and the coaches who led them on their winning campaign and wish the team continuing success in future seasons.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERNDON ROTARY CLUB

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Rotary Club of Herndon on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary and to recognize its significant contributions to the community. The Club's celebration for this event will be held in the historic Dranesville Tavern, where it received its charter in 1939.

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris. The name "Rotary" is derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices. The Rotary Club concept thrived in its early years, and, by 1921, there were chapters on six continents. In 1922, the name "Rotary International" was adopted. The objective of Rotary International is to encourage and foster community service. International understanding, goodwill and peace are fostered through the shared commitment to service of Rotarians from 166 countries.

For the past 75 years, the Rotary Club of Herndon has served as an integral part of the local community. The Club has initiated such programs as the Herndon Rotary Citizen of the Year Award, the Senior-Senior Prom, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as well as provided funding and volunteers to advocate for the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic.

The Club provides remarkable volunteerism opportunities through its support of community programs including the annual Herndon Festival, Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help (FISH), Herndon Relay for Life, and clean-up activities at local streams and trails. In addition, the Club sponsors scholarships for Herndon High School students and has provided free computers for Herndon Middle School students. In 2013, thanks to \$15,000 raised by the Club, The Herndon High School Band was able to travel to Hawaii to perform in front of the USS Missouri and participate in a parade commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On an international level, the Rotary Club of Herndon contributes to the Polio Plus campaign to eradicate polio worldwide, donates "Shelters in Place" for disaster relief efforts, and provides grants for water system development projects in third world countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rotary Club of Herndon on its 75th Anniversary and in thanking its

members for their tremendous service to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF RALPH PRESTON BOLT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Ralph Preston Bolt, a constituent of mine from Anniston, Alabama. Mr. Bolt will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 4th.

Mr. Bolt was born on July 4, 1924, in Randolph County, Alabama. He graduated from Randolph County High School and after World War II, graduated from Auburn University in 1950. By the end of World War II, Mr. Bolt was a Staff Sergeant with the 94th Infantry Division. He was in the 302nd Battalion, Company K. With his division, he landed on Utah Beach 94 days after D-Day and ended up in Germany in 1945. His division spent just under a year in France and Germany.

In 1947, Mr. Bolt married Betty Wright and had two sons, Ralph Preston, Jr. and James Andrew. He also has four grandchildren. Weathers Preston Bolt, Edward Morrisette Bolt, Sarah Sage Bolt and Anne Jacobs Bolt.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolt reside in Anniston where he has been very involved in the community. Over the years, he has served on the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and served as past Chairman of both the Chamber and YMCA Board. He was president of the Anniston Jaycees and is still a member of the Kiwanis Club of Anniston. He served on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Anniston and was recipient of the Silver Beaver award from the Choccolocco Council of the Boy Scouts of America following many years of service. He has also served on numerous boards and committees for the First United Methodist Church of Anniston where he is still an active member.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. Bolt for his brave service to our country and join me in wishing him a very happy 90th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC OF GREATER PRINCE WILLIAM/INSIGHT, INC.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Arc of Greater Prince William/Insight, Inc., based in Woodbridge, Virginia.

The Arc is an affiliate of The Arc of the United States and The Arc of Virginia and is a tireless advocate for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc provides sup-

port services to residents of the community that help to realize the organization's broader mission.

The local chapter of the Arc of the Greater Prince William County was founded in 1964, and has since seen vast growth within the community. At their start, the local chapter served 26 children in a school setting. Today, they serve over 1,700 children and adults from the Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park communities. Over 10 major programs are provided, including family support, residential and child care services, and advocacy.

The assistance provided by The Arc in raising a child with disabilities begins early in life with their child care services. Children ages 6 weeks to 21 years can seek therapeutic and educational activities at the Muriel Humphrey Center in Dale City, Virginia. At the Robert Day Child Care Center in Manassas children enjoy recreational activities that encourage healthy socialization and friendship. Recognizing the added stress and time commitments that accompany raising a child with disabilities, The Arc offers "Parents Night Out" and respite care programs. Prince William families are not alone and have a dedicated and capable partner in The Arc of Greater Prince William.

The Arc extends its support beyond high school education with a number of programs designed to give adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities a well-rounded life experience. In the vocational services program individuals are taught ground maintenance, lawn care and janitorial skills.

Young adults are encouraged to continue to develop their social skills through bowling leagues and various recreational activities. The Arc has numerous group homes which allow adults to enjoy an independent and less structured living environment. These programs afford individuals the opportunity to grow and develop their skills and social networks.

This year, The Arc of Greater Prince William celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The organization has built a remarkable infrastructure of programs and facilities, including a new 13,800 square foot expansion. The residents of Prince William are served well by the diverse and comprehensive selection of assistance programs offered by The Arc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating The Arc of the Greater Prince William County on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary and in thanking their compassionate members and staff for their commitment to providing opportunities for disabled individuals. I would like to express my personal gratitude for their work and my admiration for the mission they seek to accomplish.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL WILLIAM "KYLE" CARPENTER ON THE OCCASION OF RECEIVING THE MEDAL OF HONOR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable military

service of retired Marine Corporal William "Kyle" Carpenter, and former Defense Fellow with the House Veterans Affairs Committee, as earlier today he became the latest and youngest recipient of our Nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor.

Born in Flowood, Mississippi on October 17, 1989, Corporal Carpenter enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February 2009. Upon completion of Recruit Training at Parris Island, South Carolina, then Private First Class Carpenter was assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines as a Squad Automatic Weapon gunner. In July 2010, Corporal Carpenter deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Later that year, his life would change forever in an instant.

On November 21, 2010, Lance Corporal Carpenter and Lance Corporal Nicholas Eufrazio were providing overwatch on the rooftop of a makeshift operation center in Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, when his unit took small arms fire from enemy forces. A live grenade landed next to both men and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lance Corporal Carpenter leaped onto the grenade to save the life of his brother-in-arms. His subsequent injuries were so extensive that the medical team of a nearby facility labeled him "Expired on Arrival".

Thanks to the remarkable efforts of his medical team, Corporal Carpenter stabilized. In the following two and a half years, Corporal Carpenter would undergo more than forty surgeries to fix a skull fracture, punctured lung, thirty fractures to his right arm, a fractured jaw, ruptured ear drums, and subsequently lost his right eye. All the while, the Marine Corps and Department of the Navy had been conducting an investigation into the incident and found that Corporal Carpenter's actions proved worthy of the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity.

I do not believe Corporal Carpenter's actions that day occurred in a vacuum; selflessness and heroism of that magnitude do not simply happen overnight, and it serves as a testament to the moral character he had developed every single day leading up to that fateful event. The true grit, determination, and never-give-up attitude he has demonstrated through his extensive rehabilitation these past few years since serve us all as an example of the best this Nation has to offer. While the duration of his official military service was cut short, the example he left will motivate and inspire not just those within our military ranks, but our entire Nation for generations to come.

I wish Kyle all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his selfless service and sacrifice. Semper Paratus, Corporal Carpenter.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the City of

Niagara. Founded in 1914, this community is located at the northern part of my district and has been referred to as a "City of Scenic Beauty". The name itself means "thundering waters". Smalley Falls and Piers Gorge are two highly visited places near the city. The beautiful Menominee River serves as a border between this city in my district and the State of Michigan. This part of the 8th District is a wonderful destination for travelers looking to get outdoors.

This community also takes great pride in some residents that have represented the City of Niagara well through their professional accomplishments. Anna DeForge, an alumnus of the Niagara High School basketball program, became the first resident to not only play for the WNBA but also played on the 2004 WNBA All Star Team.

Retired Major General Michael J. McCarthy, another Niagara native, served his country with distinction in the United States Air Force and completed his service to our country by working at the Pentagon. Major General McCarthy has been recognized with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Vietnam Service Medal as well as Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and Kuwait Liberation Medal, just to name a few.

The City of Niagara is planning to commemorate their centennial from June 25–29th with a giant carnival, live music, children's activities and a grand parade that will include the University of Wisconsin Marching Band. Again, I congratulate the City of Niagara for achieving this milestone, and wish the city and its residents all the best in the next 100 years!

CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNI- VERSARY OF AEROJET ROCKETDYNE

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate an important milestone for one of Sacramento County's most important economic drivers, Aerojet Rocketdyne.

It was one year ago that the formerly separate companies officially launched their future together as Aerojet Rocketdyne, a company that jointly represents 130 years of space launch and rocket propulsion.

Aerojet Rocketdyne is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader providing propulsion and energetics to the space, missile defense, strategic, tactical missile and armaments areas. They also play a key role in our nation's space program.

They employ more than 5,300 people nationwide, and more than 3000 of those employees are in my home state of California. They represent the best our nation has to offer in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and contribute to our community and to keeping our nation a leader in aerospace and propulsion.

Over this inaugural year, among Aerojet Rocketdyne's many accomplishments was successfully contributing to 11 rocket launches; and they have already contributed

to the successful launch of 4 of the 17 rocket launches planned for 2014. They have powered every human mission to space since the Gemini and Mercury missions that preceded the Apollo Moon missions.

Aerojet Rocketdyne will also power the next generation Space Launch System, which will launch humans into space farther than we have ever gone before, and they are working with commercial partners to provide affordable and innovative solutions to launching crew and cargo to the International Space Station.

So, again, I want to recognize Aerojet Rocketdyne and the men and women who have worked to invigorate our economy and make our country a leader in propulsion and space exploration. Thank you, Aerojet Rocketdyne, for 130 years of success. I wish you many more!

TRIBUTE TO QUINTON JENKINS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Quinton Jenkins for being named a state winner of the Library of Congress's Letters about Literature program.

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing program that is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The program asks students to write to the past or present author of a book that affected their life. More than 50,000 young readers from across the country submitted letters last year to compete for the state-level awards for 2014.

A panel of judges that can include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers, and state officials chose Quinton's letter as a state winner. Quinton wrote a letter to author Michael Buckley explaining how Buckley's book, *Gifted Hands*, affected his life. Quinton's letter to Buckley earned him recognition in his community as well as here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Quinton's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating his achievement and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING KAREN WALANKA'S OUTSTANDING CAREER AND SERVICE WITH MORIAH CON- GREGATION

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special woman on the occasion of her retirement. Karen Walanka is stepping down as the Executive Director of Moriah

Congregation in Deerfield, a synagogue in the Illinois district I represent, and of which I am also a proud member.

Karen is completing this chapter of her life, leaving a legacy of accomplishments too long to mention in full, having touched the lives of countless people.

From her parents, Karen learned a deep love for her heritage and community, and she developed a great passion for "Tikkun Olam", for making her immediate world, and the entire world, a better place.

As the Executive Director of Moriah, Karen has been responsible for many achievements and had a tremendous impact in our community. In her first week in the position, she began the Shabbat Bulletin to better engage the community and keep the congregation informed. She later started the Moriah All-Judaic Art and Jewelry Fair that is a celebrated community event. And Karen created the widely anticipated weekly Moriah Shabbat lunch, or "kiddush."

But perhaps Karen's most lasting legacy will be the establishment of the Moriah Congregation Endowment Fund, which will ensure the long-term financial future of the congregation as well as support its continued expansion and deeper engagement with the community. This contribution will truly define her legacy for years to come, leaving the Moriah Community vibrant and strong.

Karen is a Moriah Congregation institution, a true leader and visionary, a dear friend and a beloved member of our community. Her constant presence and leadership will be missed, but her professional legacy will leave a permanent mark, and her friendships will continue to flourish. I want to personally thank Karen for everything she has done for me, my family and our community, and wish her the absolute best in her future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 350TH AN- NIVERSARY OF MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Middletown Township, New Jersey as it celebrates its 350th Anniversary this year. It is my honor to join the residents in celebration of this significant milestone.

Middletown village is a National Register of Historic Places historic district. One of the oldest settlements in New Jersey, Middletown was established by English settlers from western Long Island and New England by the Monmouth Patent. It was settled on land acquired from local Native Americans and was one of three villages settled at the time, including Portland Point, which was unsuccessful, and Shrewsbury.

In 1693, Middletown was one of the three municipalities organized into Monmouth County. Still one of the largest townships in New Jersey, Middletown has seen its borders change several times over the years, including the 1848 formation of Raritan Township, the 1887 secession of Atlantic Highlands and the

1900 secession of Highlands. The local neighborhoods of Port Monmouth, East Keansburg, Belford, Leonardo, Locust, New Monmouth, Navesink, and Lincroft have their own history and create Middletown's unique identity and character.

In 1913 a high school built in the Leonardo section of Middletown was the first rural high school in the area. Also in 1913, Middletown's first library, the private Navesink Library, opened. The Middletown Public Library opened seven years later.

The First Town Book in Middletown, dated 1667, marks the first formal records of the township. The New Jersey State Legislature approved a special charter in 1971 establishing the township's current form of government. In its 350th year, Middletown Township is governed by Mayor Stephanie Murray, Deputy Mayor Kevin Settembrino, and Committee-men Anthony Fiore, Stephen Massell and Gerard Scharfenberger.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in marking the 350th Anniversary of Middletown Township and celebrating its rich history.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
PROVIDENCE BOYS GOLF TEAM

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Providence Academy Boys Golf Team for winning the 2014 Class AA High School State Championship earlier this month.

The state title was the first in Providence Academy's history. The Lions golfers all played well—finishing 10 strokes ahead of the second place team. All of the Lions played with enormous commitment and passion throughout the season, culminating with their performance at the State Tournament where they ran away with the competition.

Golf is a game that requires focus, skill, and mental toughness. Despite the pressure of jumping out to an early lead, the Providence team maintained their concentration and finished strong. Their performance is even more outstanding when you factor in how difficult it is for high school student-athletes to balance their dedication to their sport and their efforts in the classroom. These student-athletes should all be very proud.

Congratulations again to the Providence Boys Golf Team, Coach Seiffert, and all of the parents, teachers, and fans who have supported these athletes along the way.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIE BALL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellie Ball for being named a state winner of the Library of Congress's Letters about Literature program.

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing program that is sponsored by the Library of Congress. The program asks students to write to the past or present author of a book that affected their life. More than 50,000 young readers from across the country submitted letters last year to compete for the state-level awards for 2014.

A panel of judges that can include published authors, editors, publishers, librarians, teachers, and state officials chose Ellie's letter as a state winner. Ellie wrote a letter to author J.R.R. Tolkien explaining how his renowned work, *The Lord of the Rings*, affected her life. Ellie's letter to Tolkien earned her recognition in her community as well as here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young woman demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and sharing them with the world. Ellie's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her and her family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating her achievement and will wish her continued success in her future education and career.

HONORING THE HISPANIC AMERICAN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE INC. AND THE FATHER GARY GRAF CENTER FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO ASSISTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CITIZENSHIP

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor two community organizations in the northern Illinois district I represent. Both groups assist with one of the most basic and most important functions of our democracy—the naturalization and integration of new citizens.

The Hispanic American Education and Community Service Inc. (HACES) and the Father Gary Graf Center—both based in Waukegan—offer educational and support services to help new citizens, recent immigrants and their families fully integrate in their communities, become naturalized citizens and engage with our democracy.

These extraordinary organizations and the dedicated people who make them special provide some of the most valuable and helpful services to immigrant families.

HACES and the Fr. Gary Graf Center work together to deliver a broad spectrum of vital services to immigrant families and to ensure that our communities are engaged, thriving and inclusive.

Witnessing a group of immigrants take the oath as citizens for the United States is an experience unlike any other. The first time I witnessed such a ceremony, I was deeply moved and inspired. In that unique moment, it is important to remember all of the work and all of the support that makes that possible.

Today, I rise to recognize two great organizations that help enable the dreams of millions around the world.

RECOGNIZING MAESTRO PHILLIP GABRIEL GARCIA

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maestro Phillip Gabriel Garcia, founder of the El Paso Youth Symphony Orchestra (EPYSO).

As the conductor and head of operations for this organization, Maestro Garcia provides a valuable service to the children of El Paso and its citizens. Through the development of "The Band Against Bullying Tour", the EPYSO built a bridge between music and social justice awareness. EPYSO helped raise consciousness of the negative effects that bullying has on the victims and the community's quality of life with their performances throughout El Paso. By using music as a means to educate the community, Maestro Garcia demonstrates his creative and passionate work ethic to improve his community.

With over 200 concerts performed, EPYSO gives kids the opportunity to see how music can positively reinforce their self-esteem through personal achievements as musicians and performances to their community. While performing at the Child Crisis Center, the Battered Women Shelter, Ft. Bliss, and La Fe Community Health Center, kids experience the joy that their music brings to the public. More so, EPYSO champions community service, raising money to feed the homeless at the Feeding the Nations Homeless benefit concert and serving food to the homeless for Thanksgiving. EPYSO continues to impact its participants and the rest of the public by remaining viable and relevant to their community.

EPYSO and Maestro Phillip Garcia will continue to profoundly impact the El Paso community by continuing to connect their artistic endeavors with service. I am proud that this organization and Maestro Garcia are using music to contribute to the El Paso community, and I hope their message continues inspire our young citizens' enthusiasm for serving their community.

HONORING HITZEMAN FUNERAL HOME'S 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 110th Anniversary of the Hitzeman Funeral Home, which will be celebrated on June 21, 2014. The Hitzeman Funeral Home was created to serve the residents of Chicago and Western suburbs during difficult times. Todd Hitzeman, a fourth-generation funeral director, now owns the business and continues the practice of his ancestors to meet patrons' needs.

Founded in 1904, the Hitzeman Funeral Home's mission is to serve patrons with compassion and respect. Fifth generation businesses are a rarity today, but the longevity

and success of this institution prove that the care the Hitzemans provide is well-appreciated.

One of the major accomplishments of Hitzeman Funeral Home was being recognized by the Illinois State Historical Society as an Illinois Centennial Business. The Hitzeman Funeral Home was also featured in Crain's Chicago Business family business focus for their 100th anniversary. After the centennial, Hitzeman Funeral Home continued to progress by renovating the existing building and expanding with a new wing and additional parking.

Members of the Hitzeman family also serve as active contributors to the community of Brookfield with involvement in churches, schools, and numerous charities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great service that the Hitzeman Funeral Home has provided for 110 years. May their selfless dedication to their community serve as example to us all.

HONORING LIGHTHOUSE FIELD

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lighthouse Field now celebrating 100 years of service to the community, set in motion when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company deeded over 15 acres of land to the Lighthouse on June 13, 1914.

The history of Lighthouse Field dates back to June 13, 1910, when Charles Hamilton completed the first round trip airplane flight between two major cities, landing at Lighthouse Field and signaling the beginning of the commercial viability of airplane travel. At one time Lighthouse Field hosted the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. In 1938, half of the United States Olympic Soccer Team was from Philadelphia with most of those players learning the sport at Lighthouse Field. By 1940 the Lighthouse Boys Club soccer program was the largest single soccer organization in the world and the most famous goal in American soccer history was scored by Walter Bahr, a product of the Lighthouse Boys Club, while playing on the 1950 World Cup team. In 1952, in anticipation of the Manchester United Soccer Club playing an exhibition game at Lighthouse Field, which over 3,000 people attended, Manchester United paid for the installation of concrete bleachers that are still used at Lighthouse Field. Also in the 1940's the Philadelphia Phillies occasionally practiced at Lighthouse Field. In 1984 the Army National Guard began using Lighthouse Field to host training exercises. In 2012 the Lighthouse partnered with Teens 4 Good to open an Urban Farm Program at Lighthouse Field. The Boy Scouts of America have also used Lighthouse Field to host a weekend camping exhibition for 500 scouts complete with camp fires and bow and arrow exhibitions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Lighthouse Field for a century of serving as a safe haven for our city's children and for

standing as a beacon of excellence and innovation for the evolving needs of our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DAN R. TANNER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Dan R. Tanner.

From a very young age Dan knew that he was different, years later coming to the realization that he was gay—a significant challenge for him, as he lived in a very conservative part of the United States. Dan was influenced by his experiences as a child to become a teacher, a position where he had a platform to be a positive role model for his students by impacting their educational success and sense of self-worth. But he later left teaching because of the fear of losing his job if the school district administration, parents, or community found out he was gay. The ability to teach children and spark their academic interest is something that Dan misses to this day.

As Dan became more comfortable in his own skin and less fearful of the fallout from bridging his personal and professional lives, he realized he wanted to be involved in his community and have a positive impact on it. In April 1993 on C-SPAN, Dan watched the brave LGBT community members and supporters who convened on our nation's capital to demand the rights and respect entitled to all Americans. He saw the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) equality logo for the first time and wondered if the HRC would help him find his voice and make a difference in the lives of others.

After moving to Orlando in 1998, Dan became fully engaged in a new LGBT community and continued his search for a volunteer organization where he could learn, make a positive impact, and develop his leadership skills. The opportunity to build an HRC community in central Florida came in 2004, when Dan was given the responsibility of acquiring pledges from HRC supporters and overseeing the local organization and volunteer structure.

Dan believes that who he is today, and what he has accomplished, is due to the many LGBT leaders who came before him. Soon he knows the country will see federal laws change again through protection for LGBT employees and full recognition of marriage equality in all 50 states.

Dan's years of experience in the LGBT community and his volunteer leadership with HRC have enabled him to be his best. Today, Dan is able to be the man he dreamt of being as a young boy in Oklahoma—a great father to Finn, a loving husband to Steven, and a positive contributor to the world. He feels an unrepayable debt and great thanks to those that took the challenge before him and gave him the voice that he has today.

I am happy to honor Dan R. Tanner, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the LGBT community in Central Florida.

COLONEL PAUL G. HUMPHREYS

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stone Harbor, NJ resident Colonel Paul G. Humphreys of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) who will retire from the United States Army on July 1, 2014, after twenty-eight years of distinguished service. Colonel Humphreys significantly contributed to the global fight against IEDs during his final tour of duty as JIEDDO's Chief of Staff. His efforts improved the safety and security of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines as they operate in areas plagued by IEDs.

Colonel Humphreys is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Class of 1986. During his 26-year career as an infantry officer, he has commanded from the platoon to battalion level and served in numerous staff assignments from brigade to Joint headquarters. He completed five combat tours to include Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm, Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom I and III and most recently Operation New Dawn.

Colonel Humphreys has earned numerous awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal, among others.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Colonel Humphreys' military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Tammy, and his children, Devon, Brandon, Aubrie and Rhianna—whose love and support has aided and strengthened Colonel Humphreys as he has served our great Nation. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING TUCKER JAMESON'S ESSAY AT THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND STAND DOWN VETERANS EVENT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following essay which was delivered by Mr. Tucker Jameson at the Southern Maryland Veterans Stand Down event on May 16, 2014. Tucker is a freshman at St. Mary's Ryken High School and is a member of the Stars and Stripes club. He lives in Mechanicsville, MD. He wrote:

Stand down. In military terminology, this term is used when commanders wish to halt operational progress. It could be due to mission completion, safety, or the elimination of a threat. In some situations, a stand down is an opportunity to ensure that the unit is in the most complete, efficient, and advantageous position that it can be before it proceeds with its mission. Sometimes the momentum of our operational tempo and our desire to complete the mission blinds us to

one of the oldest of tactical blunders—haste. We take this opportunity today to stop and remember the tradition that we hope to carry on, and that tradition lives in our veterans.

A cornerstone of our development at St. Mary's Ryken high school is our service to others. As a part of the Stars, Stripes, and Service club I have had the opportunity and the honor to focus my service on veterans. From assisting with the Veteran's Day parade, visiting Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home, and raising money for the Wounded Warrior Benefit, we have been able to put our words into action in showing our brave servicemen and women how much we care. Recently, we coordinated an item drive for homeless veterans in the D.C. area through Pathways to Housing. The response from our community was incredible and it fills me with pride to hear that our first donations went to a post 9/11 veteran who, along with her 3 children, are no longer living in their car and can look forward to a bright future. Although we are making progress, we still have a long way to go.

Our efforts exemplify how important it is, not only to ensure veterans are appreciated, but that they know they are loved and needed. As our armed forces fight the enemy overseas, we must fight against the intangible enemy of disconnection and emotional disengagement, against unemployment and homelessness. This Veteran's Stand Down is a time to stop and remember that it is our duty and obligation to live the principles our servicemen and women sacrificed so much to preserve.

Nobody who fights for America overseas ought to have to fight just as hard to find a job, to keep a roof over their head, or to access quality health care once he or she returns home. I was pleased Tucker was able to participate in the event and remind us all of the moral obligation we have to ensure our veterans have the support and resources they need to transition to civilian life after serving our nation so courageously. I thank him and all who participated from throughout Southern Maryland for coming together for the Stand Down event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYZATA TROJANS GIRLS GOLF STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wayzata Girls Golf Team on their 2014 High School State Championship.

The Trojans put on an incredible display at Bunker Hills Golf Course as they broke the Minnesota state record by 22 strokes and finished 19 strokes ahead of the second place team. Head Coach Mike Schumacher had reason to be impressed with his team's outstanding performance throughout the tournament.

It was the Trojan's dedication and hard work that made the team so difficult to beat. After the first round of the State Tournament, most of the athletes spent an additional two hours putting and chipping to perfect their game for the following day. It is this level of devotion that set the team up for their success.

Individually, senior co-captain Sarah Burnham won the silver medal, placing just one stroke behind the first place score. Two Trojan athletes, Jenna Nelson and Madalyn Mrosak, had their best rounds of the season.

Achieving the State Championship Title is an impressive accomplishment, but even more admirable is the Trojan's ability to excel on both the golf course while maintaining a commitment to schoolwork and time with their family. The Wayzata golf team's parents, teachers, and fellow Wayzata students should be extremely proud of their golf team and their performance this season.

Once again, congratulations to the Wayzata Girls Golf on their 2014 State Championship Title.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 20, 2014 AS AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to support the designation of June 20, 2014 as American Eagle Day and celebrate the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States. On June 20, 1782, the eagle was designated as the national emblem of the U.S. by the Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress.

The bald eagle is the central image of the Great Seal of the United States and is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government.

The bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the spirit of freedom and the democracy of the United States. Since the founding of the Nation, the image, meaning and symbolism of the eagle have played a significant role in art, music, history, commerce, literature, architecture and culture of the United States. The bald eagle's habitat only exists in North America.

I hope my colleagues will join in celebrating June 20, 2014 as American Eagle Day, which marks the recovery and restoration of the bald eagle.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN "SUE-BEE" LAGINESS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Susan Laginess. Known as "Sue-Bee", Susan Laginess was born to Mel and Charlotte Laginess in the small suburb of River Rouge, Michigan, located on the southwest side of Detroit. As the youngest of seven children, and an aunt and great-aunt to over 35 nieces and nephews, Sue-Bee never had shortage of love or close family values.

After high school, Sue-Bee entered the hospitality industry in a Detroit area hotel and restaurant. Soon after, she joined her newly retired parents in the Brevard County area on Florida's east coast. Ten years on the beachside managing restaurants and nightclubs led Sue-Bee to the areas of event planning, hosting and emcee work. Sue-Bee became passionate about being involved in community events and decided to leave beachside living for a big city. After the death of her father in 1991, Sue-Bee moved to Orlando, a city that is still close to her mother.

Sue-Bee began working in theme park restaurants, and soon discovered the charm, culture and especially welcoming LGBT community in Thornton Park and downtown Orlando. After four years as a manager of Hue Restaurant, in 2004, Sue-Bee joined Palm Properties of Central Florida and began a career in real estate. A year later, she became part of the team at Olde Town Brokers.

Sue-Bee co-founded Phish Phest events in 2001 to help fill the void of lesbian nightlife in Orlando. In its early years, Phish Phest held large bi-annual events for the LGBT community. Now they host monthly happy hour parties that rotate to different venues and special events during Gay Days and the Pride Parade. In 2003, Phish Phest held a fundraiser for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), one of the first "unity" events. Since then, Sue-Bee served several years on the HRC's steering committee and is a current Federal Club member.

Sue-Bee is also a member of the Metropolitan Business Association and was a sponsorship director for the organization's largest event, Come Out With Pride. She also served as the emcee for the event's signature Pride Parade alongside Mayor Dyer.

Sue-Bee has been on the sales team for the Hope and Help Center's Headdress Ball and has hosted numerous fundraisers for the organization. She has recently produced events for the Zebra Coalition, helping to raise much needed support for Orlando's LGBT youth.

Sue-Bee has been the emcee and on the committee for the annual Scooters 4 Hooters event since 2008. Her involvement has been instrumental in raising thousands of dollars in sponsorships and donations. Fundraising for Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation and riding her own scooter through Orlando's neighborhood is one of her favorite pastimes.

Sue-Bee currently resides in Thornton Park, sells real estate, is on the board for The Thornton Park District, and recently became event manager at the Veranda and Neighborhood Rogue.

I am happy to honor Sue-Bee, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the LGBT and Central Florida communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN INGRAM THORNTON

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today it is with profound grief that I rise to commemorate

the life of Carolyn Ingram Thornton, a great leader, public servant and phenomenal woman who will be greatly missed in her home community of Durham, North Carolina.

Carolyn Thornton reserved her place in history as the first African American woman to serve on the Durham City Council in 1978. She also was the first African American female probation officer in the State of North Carolina. In 1968, Mrs. Thornton was appointed as the Chief Psychiatric Social Worker at the Cooperative School for Pregnant Girls. In addition to these accomplishments, she served as the director of Social Work and Mental Health at historic Lincoln Community Health Center for 31 years.

During the course of her tenure, the citizens of Durham had the unique opportunity to watch Mrs. Thornton successfully embark on building a brighter future for women, children, and mentally disabled citizens in her community.

As a native of Durham County and due to her honorable contributions to Durham, Mrs. Thornton will now and forever be a daughter of Durham. As a member and former President of the Durham Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Mrs. Thornton regularly supported community volunteering and fundraising initiatives. She also served as President of the Durham Chapter of the Links, Inc.

Mrs. Thornton was born in Durham to Charles J. and Bernice H. Ingram. After graduating from Hillside High School with honors, Mrs. Thornton earned Bachelors' degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1957. Mrs. Thornton also earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To cherish her memory, Mrs. Thornton is survived by two sisters, Audrey Ingram Johnson and Dr. E. Lavonia Ingram Allison; one sister-in-law, Carolyn Thornton Walker, and three children, Susan Kane, Gail Monjé Thornton, and Rick Thornton.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Ingram Thornton was a loving mother, sister, friend and public servant and her passing will surely be felt by all of those whose lives she touched. She will forever be missed but never forgotten in the city of Durham and her by friends and family across the State and Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDINA
HORNETS BOYS GOLF STATE
CHAMPIONS

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edina Boys Golf Team for becoming the 2014 State Champions this season. It is the school's first boy's golf title in nearly 30 years.

Despite a tough field, Head Coach Phil Finanger and the Hornets team were able to come out on top at this month's Class AAA Tournament. Edina finished with a four stroke lead the first day, a small cushion that pro-

vided very little comfort. However, the Hornets stayed focused and claimed the 2014 title by a razor thin margin.

The Hornets were led by Sam Foust who finished tied for third in the tournament. Kobi Boe and Bobby Terwilliger played great as well and finished in the top ten. Ben Olson also posted a strong score to contribute to the overall team effort for Edina.

With only one senior, Captain Tyler Nanne, Edina looks to be a tough team to beat for years to come.

Golf is a sport that requires skill, focus, and mental toughness. It takes years of dedication to master the game and compete at a high level. The ability of these young men to excel at the sport while completing their schoolwork, spending time with family, and having a social life should be commended.

Again, congratulations to Edina Boys Golf, Coach Finanger, and all of the parents, teachers, and fellow classmates that supported this team on their way to the 2014 state title.

RECOGNIZING THE LEMONT HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM'S
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemont High School Baseball Team, which recently won its first IHSA Class 3A Baseball State Championship. This is the first state championship for a boys' team in any sport at Lemont High School.

On June 14, 2014, the team garnered a 2-1 victory over Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin at Silver Cross Field in Joliet to win the championship. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication this team put into their performance and would like to congratulate them on this tremendous team achievement.

The team, under the guidance of head coach Brian Storako, had a great season leading up to the IHSA State Finals. They accomplished a school single-season record for wins and captured a sixth straight South Suburban Conference-Blue Division title.

Prior to this season, the most postseason success the Indians had seen was an IHSA Regional title. They not only won the program's first state championship, but also collected their first-ever IHSA Sectional and Super-Sectional crowns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this impressive accomplishment by the Lemont High School Baseball Team and to congratulate them on their state championship.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ASBURY PARK-
WALL ELKS LODGE NO. 128

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Asbury Park-Wall Elks Lodge

No. 128 on its 125th anniversary. As its officers and members gather to celebrate this milestone, I would like to join with them in honoring its history as one of the oldest Elks lodges in the United States.

The Asbury Park-Wall Elks Lodge was originated as the Asbury Park Lodge of Elks number 128 on June 28, 1889. It is one of the five first lodges in New Jersey, among Newark, Patterson, Hoboken and Trenton. The lodge was housed in the Mikado Building on Cookman Avenue in Asbury Park and consisted of 42 members in its first year.

In its early years, the Asbury Park Lodge was led by several Exalted Rulers. Its first was John K. Parker, followed by John F. Hawkins, Samuel A. Patterson, and Harry J. Rockafeller. In 1893, Exalted Ruler William K. Devereux, who was also District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler for New Jersey at the time, presided over the lodge when it surrendered its charter due to decreasing membership among the limited population.

Fourteen years later, interest in the lodge rebounded and it was reorganized on January 11, 1907 with a new dispensation. At the time, it was numbered 1047, but was later given the original number 128 again. Today, the Asbury Park-Wall Lodge No. 128 is one of 35 lodges in New Jersey and is part of the Southern District. Exalted Ruler Mary Ann Smith currently leads a membership of over 200.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Asbury Park-Wall Elks Lodge on its 125th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF STRATTON POLLITZER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Stratton Pollitzer. Stratton is the co-founder and Deputy Director of Equality Florida. A Phi Beta Kappa Political Science graduate of Emory University, Stratton has spearheaded numerous community-based campaigns that respond to political attacks and build support for anti-discrimination ordinances, safe schools policies, and domestic partnership laws at the local and state level. He also oversees all Equality Florida fundraising programs and has raised over \$15 million for LGBT organizations and political campaigns.

Since founding Equality Florida in 1997, Stratton and Executive Director, Nadine Smith, have helped it grow into one of the largest LGBT equality organizations in the country. Today, Equality Florida has over 185,000 members, over a thousand volunteers, and a staff of 22. Equality Florida fights at the state level to end discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The organization has helped overturn the state ban on gay and lesbian adoption, implemented a state-wide anti-bullying law that has led to specific bans on LGBT bullying, and passed over 130 local policies addressing LGBT discrimination and providing domestic partnership benefits.

As a key spokesperson on LGBT issues, Stratton is a regular contributor to major television, print, and radio outlets throughout the state. He has had opinion columns published in the Miami Herald, Broward Sun-Sentinel, Saint Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Daytona Beach News Journal, and Orlando Sentinel.

From 2004–2006, Stratton served on the board of directors and as Vice-Chair of the Equality Federation, a national network of statewide LGBT advocacy groups. In 2011, he was presented with the Harvey Milk Foundation's Honors Medal. Stratton lives in Miami with his husband of 20 years, Christopher

Boykin and is the father of 17 year old twins, Ben and Sarah.

I am happy to honor Stratton Pollitzer, during LGBT Pride Month, for his activism on behalf of the LGBT community in Central Florida and nationwide.

SENATE—Monday, June 23, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIMOTHY M. KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who spreads the light-
ning against the dark clouds, Your Name is holy. Your blessings continue to sustain this Nation and all who labor for liberty. May our Senators never take for granted their privilege to serve both You and country. Give them such gratitude that their actions will reinforce their thanksgiving. Lord, provide them with wisdom to become Your hands, feet, and voice in these challenging times.

Lord, be with those who support our lawmakers, particularly the family members who routinely sacrifice for America's good. May these often unsung heroes and heroines know that You are aware of their faithfulness and will reward their efforts.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIMOTHY M. KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session and proceed to a series of four cloture votes on three U.S. district court judges from Florida and one from Vermont.

60-VOTE THRESHOLD

We tried all last week—I am sorry to say unsuccessfully—to consider three very important appropriations bills. These bills are very significant because they provide this great government of ours with the resources it needs to serve the American people.

I think we have had enough sequestrations and government shutdowns, and I hope my Republican colleagues aren't headed in that direction again.

Given the importance of the appropriations legislation and the need to keep our government operating, I had hoped we could have a cooperative amendment process and participation from all Senators.

Our vote last Tuesday on the motion to proceed was promising, as 95 Senators voted to move forward on these three important bills. However, it is a shame we had to file cloture. If we had not had to file cloture, which resulted in 95 Senators voting to move forward on very important bills, we could have saved 3 days' worth of downtime and doing nothing. But that has happened for many years now with Republicans blocking, obstructing, and misdirecting basically everything we do here.

On the bill we had before the Senate last week, unfortunately, the Republican leader stalled the Senate's progress on these appropriations bills with his recent conversion to the idea of insisting on simple majority votes. He now insists on majority votes or nothing.

Over the past 5 years, virtually everything we have done here in the Senate has been subject to a 60-vote threshold. Why? Because the Republican leader has insisted on that.

Almost 50 times since President Obama took office, the Republican leader has employed the 60-vote threshold in order to block legislation—and good legislation. Bills pertaining to the treatment of 9/11 responders, funding our military, disclosure of campaign contributions, and small business jobs bills all received majority votes but were blocked at one time or another by the new McConnell rule. Under the McConnell rule, everything that comes before the Senate has to have 60 votes.

He has called himself "the proud guardian of gridlock." He has even gone to great lengths in defending the use of the 60-vote threshold.

Allow me to share, as I did last week—and I will do it again because I think it is worth repeating—a few of the Republican leader's past statements on the importance of 60 votes.

The Republican leader said: "Now, look, we know that on controversial matters in the Senate, it has for quite some time required 60 votes."

Another direct quote by the Republican leader:

[R]equiring 60 votes, particularly on matters of this enormous importance, is not at all unusual. It is the way the Senate operates.

The Republican leader also said:

Matters of this level of controversy always require 60 votes. So I would ask my friend, the majority leader, if he would modify his consent request to set the threshold for this vote at 60?

On July 30 the Republican leader said again—I am running through the months here:

For him to suggest that a matter of this magnitude, in a body that requires 60 votes for almost everything, is going to be done with 51 votes makes no sense at all.

Again he said:

So it is not at all unusual that the President's proposal of this consequence . . . would have to achieve 60 votes. That is the way virtually all business is done in the Senate . . .

The Republican leader holds himself as the person who has established this rule—the so-called McConnell rule—and is boasting about it. He has insisted on the 60-vote threshold time and time again over the past 5 years. So it is without logic, and it would deviate from the norm, that he, the Republican leader, has made. So I guess that is where we are. We are now operating under a 60-vote threshold and that is the norm that he, the Republican leader, has established around here.

The Republican leader's newfound support of the 51-vote threshold is timely, given his proposal to curb EPA

regulatory powers because of an issue he thinks exists, even though there has been no rule promulgated by the White House. He is looking way off into the future. We have had months and months of people offering their opinions and suggestions as to how, if at all, this proposed rule could be changed, but he wants to do something about it even though there is nothing to change right now.

It is patently unfair to give the Republican leader a simple majority vote on his amendment when there have been so many other pieces of legislation he has blocked with the 60-vote threshold. However, we Democrats are willing to meet the Republican leader and his caucus halfway.

Here is the suggestion. We will agree to a simple majority vote on the Republican leader's EPA amendment in exchange for a 51-vote threshold on bills that are important to American families, such as an increase in the Federal minimum wage. A vast majority of the American people—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—want the minimum wage raised.

How about a vote on equal pay for working women? The vast majority of American people want their wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters to have the same paycheck when they do the same work as a man.

How about legislation permitting student borrowers to refinance their student loans? They blocked us on that legislation with the 60-vote threshold.

How about energy efficiency legislation? They blocked that many times.

How about a simple majority vote on the disclosure of campaign contributions? How about a simple majority vote on updating voting right protections that the Supreme Court did away with? How about a simple majority vote for background checks on gun purchases? Eight-five to 90 percent of the American people support that, and over half the NRA members support that.

What I am saying is, OK, if the Republican leader wants to vote on the EPA amendment with a simple majority vote, fine, we will take that. But let's have a simple majority vote on these other issues we feel are extremely important to help the middle class.

In exchange for a simple majority vote on legislation—I repeat, legislation that is so timely—such as, minimum wage, student loans, equal pay for men and women, energy efficiency legislation, and background checks for gun purchases, we could have a simple majority vote on the EPA amendment.

It is only fair that bills blocked by the McConnell rule be granted the same treatment as the Republican leader's own legislation. To do otherwise would be unjust to the many Senators who introduced legislation that is important to American families.

I hope we can come to a quick agreement on this offer and move to an open

amendment process on appropriations bills, which should make Republicans happy. They said they wanted amendments; they can have amendments.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON GARABRANT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise this evening to honor the life and service of U.S. Marine Corps LCpl Brandon Garabrant. Brandon was a native of Greenfield, NH, who, sadly, was killed in action on Friday in Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was serving his first tour overseas after completing basic training at Camp Lejeune last year.

In the days since we learned that Brandon made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, we have been touched by the selfless devotion with which he lived his life and which defined him as a citizen and a marine.

His dedication to our country was so focused that he completed his basic training at Camp Lejeune just 1 day before he graduated from ConVal Regional High School. Brandon also served throughout his high school years as a volunteer firefighter with the Temple Volunteer Fire Department.

Although he was just 19 years old when he deployed to Afghanistan, Brandon faced the enormous task of defending our Nation with unshakable conviction.

Brandon's thoughts on the eve of his April deployment most aptly demonstrate his devotion to his country, to his community, and to his fellow marines. Brandon wrote:

Fighting for our country, our brothers to the left and right, our friends and families back home. So that you can have the right

for freedom and to live the American dream without fear of anything. Here comes a long journey into the unknown.

It is certainly a very long journey for Brandon.

Brandon is survived by his mother Jessie, his father John, and his younger siblings Jacob and Mykala.

It is my hope that during this extremely difficult time Brandon's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his sacrifice in defense of our country so the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Brandon epitomized the best New Hampshire tradition of service, and his example will not soon be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave young American, Brandon Garabrant.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUST GAP

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I just returned a couple of hours ago to Washington from Indiana, and over the last several months, as I have been visiting and talking to Hoosiers, I have continued to hear concerns about—and I am concerned, frankly—this widening trust deficit between the American people—at least the people I represent, and I think I can say pretty much across this country—and Washington. The American people lack confidence in Washington, confidence that they are getting the straight story, the hard truth. Not a lot of good things over the past several months have come out of either this body or a number of Washington agencies.

This trust gap is ever widening as we have kind of careened from scandal to scandal, incident to incident, broken promises made by top officials, false statements being made, the latest of which is now this resurrection again of the IRS scandal.

Let me say this: It has been said that no agency in Washington is less forgiving than the Internal Revenue Service. No agency in Washington has more power over the American people than the Internal Revenue Service. If there is an agency that needs to be apolitical and to not engage in anything that could even be deemed political, it is the IRS, given the power they have to destroy your reputation, destroy your finances, and destroy your business.

The way they work is they determine you are in violation, in a sense reversing what is sacrosanct in America; that is, you are innocent until proven guilty, but under the IRS, you are guilty until proven innocent. You have to hire lawyers and accountants and sit down with them to prove you are not violating their rules. That is upside down.

One of the founding principles which sets the United States apart from other nations and makes us exceptional is the First Amendment to the Constitution. Under the First Amendment, Americans are constitutionally guaranteed the right to organize around the issues and values they believe in and the right to disagree with their government. We look around the world and see that is not the case in very many places. But in America, that cherished right to take a position opposite our government—to protest, to organize, and to seek changes as a result of that organization—this liberty is part of what energizes and fuels the very spirit of America and everything we stand for.

So when a so-called independent agency of the Federal Government attacks average American citizens for expressing their beliefs, a fundamental trust is broken and it is very hard to repair. Again, no agency has perhaps more intimidating power over American citizens than the Internal Revenue Service.

We owe it to the American taxpayers to reveal the truth—the full truth—of what has happened at the IRS and repair the damage of this agency's reckless actions in regard to those who have organized for political purposes, to protest, to assert their First Amendment rights, to follow the law and exercise those First Amendment rights, without having an agency of the government targeting them and intruding on what they are trying to do.

It is clear now that in 2010 the IRS targeted conservative groups—including one in my home State—for extra scrutiny based on political leanings. The agency displayed a stunning abuse of power and complete disregard of our Constitution in taking this action.

Lois Lerner, the former Director of the IRS's Exempt Organizations Unit and the official at the center of this ongoing congressional investigation, refuses to testify before Congress on the advice of her attorney. Yes, she has the right to plead the Fifth Amendment to not answer questions, but we are getting stonewalled by the IRS in getting to the bottom of this and determining what kind of abuse has taken place against the American people. We are trying to reach the truth, but we are being denied that opportunity to reach the truth because those who know the truth refuse to testify under subpoena from the Congress.

Last Friday my House colleagues heard testimony from IRS Commis-

sioner John Koskinen about missing emails from Lerner and six of her IRS subordinates.

Now, isn't this a coincidence? We know the IRS has been targeting groups, attacking their First Amendment rights, and the House oversight committee is seeking to find out whether this happened. The IRS is denying it, but Lois Lerner refuses to testify.

IRS Commissioner Koskinen comes in and says this is not true. OK. Let's prove it.

The IRS asks taxpayers to prove they didn't violate their rights under the IRS rules, but when we ask the IRS: Can you prove whether what you are saying is the truth, that you were not targeting these organizations, they claim they lost the evidence. They say the server crashed and all the emails we could trace back to determine the truth of this are lost. They are all gone.

The American people know that you can get into hard drives and find out everything ever put in there. Isn't it strange that only the IRS determined that, well, this whole thing crashed, so let's get rid of the hard drives.

Now, thousands of emails that could have led to a trace and allowed us to find the truth, disappeared. What a coincidence.

Do we think the American people buy this story? It would be laughable if it wasn't so serious. To claim that 2 years' worth of emails were completely, inadvertently lost is laughable on its face.

So no emails, no backups, a crashed server, assertions made long after Members of Congress requested the information demonstrates at best a troubling lack of transparency and potentially criminal negligence. After all, the IRS is required to archive these emails by law.

But let's put this in perspective. The very organization that expects busy, hard-working Americans to maintain meticulous financial records and complete extensive, confusing tax forms each year can't find 2 years' worth of emails sent by its own employees. Even though we live in a day and age where virtually nothing ever disappears from the Internet, the IRS wants us to believe these emails are lost for good—and maybe they are if they took all the steps they have taken.

So to echo the comments of my colleague chairman PAUL RYAN: The IRS owes every American taxpayer an apology.

But an apology is not enough. We need answers and we need to find the truth. When this scandal first surfaced, the President promised Americans that he would "work hand-in-hand with Congress to get this thing fixed." That is a quote, "I will work hand in hand with Congress to get this thing fixed."

So how are they fixing it? They are sending the employees who were en-

gaged and involved in this, and they basically either take the Fifth Amendment, saying they will not answer the questions, or they say: Gee. We lost all this stuff. I am sorry. Each of our six hard drives collapsed, and therefore we can't retrieve any kind of evidence that would prove where they are.

I am not a big fan of special prosecutors. I think giving them that power has not always proven to be the best way to get to the bottom of something, but in certain cases where there is such clear evidence that the truth is being withheld and evidence that could lead us to a conclusion is potentially being destroyed—I think that is the only way we are going to get to the bottom of this.

We need to start restoring the trust of the American people in their government agencies and in their government. Until we get to the bottom of this, this widening trust gap is going to continue.

Appointing an independent investigator would allow us access to Federal computer records to determine whether copies of these missing emails can be found on the government IT network. Perhaps they have scrubbed them in a way that it will not happen, but at least it would allow us an independent assessment of what is going on.

We can work to restore trust, but doing so will require answers and honesty from the Internal Revenue Service, which we are not getting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MICHAEL COLBURN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, next month Col. Michael Colburn, who is the director of the U.S. Marine Band, will retire after nearly 30 years with this history-rich and venerated organization.

We like the Marine Band, of course. My son is a Marine. But it is especially nice because Colonel Colburn is a native Vermonter, and his appreciation for the band, known worldwide as "The President's Own," began decades ago when the then-12-year-old euphonium-playing St. Albans native met a principal in the band while at summer band camp in Vermont.

In 1987, Colonel Colburn joined "The President's Own" as a euphonium player and ultimately became the band's director, a post he has held for the last decade. His tenure has taken him around the world and back again. He has played for Presidents and foreign dignitaries, at state dinners and inaugurations and regular performances that thousands have witnessed in Washington at the Marine Barracks during the weekly parades.

I have represented the Green Mountain State of Vermont in this Chamber

longer than anyone in the history of our State. So you can imagine my enthusiasm when I see a Vermonter here in Washington and all the more so when I have the opportunity of capturing an image such as this, of Colonel Colburn conducting "The President's Own" during the January 2013 inauguration of President Obama. I was standing up on the stand when the President was being inaugurated and took that picture of Colonel Colburn. Of course, the whole world was watching the Colonel and watching the President.

I join with the proud citizens of Vermont and the people of a grateful nation in thanking Colonel Colburn for his service and his many, many memorable performances conducting "The President's Own," following in the footsteps of John Philip Sousa and making his own giant footsteps for others to follow. I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter of his career as the director of bands at the University of Indianapolis.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an interview with Colonel Colburn published in the Marine Corps Times in February.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Marine Corps Times, Feb. 2, 2014]
 'PRESIDENT'S OWN' LEADER LOOKS BACK ON
 TIME WITH ELITE MARINE BAND
 (By Gina Harkins)

When Col. Michael Colburn was a 12-year-old euphonium player at a summer band camp in Vermont, he was in awe of one of the instructors there, Lucas Spiros, a principal in the United States Marine Band.

Colburn said the Marine, a fellow euphonium player, left a lasting impression.

"It was really the first time I thought, 'Hey, I could do that for a living,'" Colburn said. "From that moment on, I pursued my musical studies more diligently."

When Colburn himself joined "The President's Own" as a euphonium player in 1987, he had no idea his career path would lead to becoming director of the prestigious band. Now 27 years later, he's just months shy of his final performance with the band. He'll retire from the Marine Corps in July, and take over as the next director of bands at Butler University in Indianapolis.

Colburn said he wants young musicians to know that if they work hard and use their creativity, they can still pursue a career doing what they love. After all, his perseverance led him through seven presidential inaugurations, to the former Soviet Union and to the stage of the "Late Show with David Letterman."

Q. Tell us what has surprised you during your time with "The President's Own."

A. In my early days as a conductor [while a member of the band], I had an interesting experience at the White House. I was leading our orchestra and was tapped on the elbow. I turned around and it was President Bill Clinton. He was very interested in the piece of music we were playing and had many questions that I tried to answer while I was conducting the orchestra. I realized that even though we were providing background music for a social event, you never know who's lis-

tening very carefully—it could be your commander in chief.

Q. What's one of the most rewarding things you've done with the band as a Marine?

A. Back when I was a player in the band, we toured the former Soviet Union for three weeks. That was really a memorable experience because it was in the 1990s, when the Soviet Union was really starting to come apart at the seams. To spend three weeks traveling the country and getting to know the people who lived behind the Iron Curtain—who we really didn't know on a personal level at all—to hear their stories and learn how much we had in common is something I'll never forget.

Q. After all these years with the band, is there any one song that you tend to feel strongly about when you guys play it?

A. People often ask whether I'm sick of playing "The Stars and Stripes Forever." But even after these thousands of performances, we never get tired of it. And there's one reason for that, and it's the audience's response to it, especially if they don't know it's coming. The "oohs and aaahs" and the cheering make you feel like you're playing it for the first time.

Q. Most troops do their job without much interaction with the public. What's it like to carry out your job on a stage?

A. We really do understand that so much of our military indeed works behind the scenes. They don't have the privilege of being on a stage and receiving applause. It's especially during our tour concerts when we play the "Armed Forces Medley," which includes all the service songs, that we remember all the men and women serving in uniform who are in difficult and trying circumstances where no one is offering applause. In those moments, we feel we are representing all those troops when performing for the American public.

Q. As you move into academia, what are some of the things you're going to miss the most about the Marine Corps?

A. A lot of people assume my favorite part of the job is making music at the White House or meeting politicians and celebrities. That is thrilling, and I've loved it. But really the best part has to do with the quality of the people I've had the chance to work with in "The President's Own." They're some of the finest people I've met. I'm really excited about the opportunity to make music with students, and I hope I can bring the very high standards that I have hopefully developed during my Marine Corps career.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the judges that fill the two Federal district court seats in my home State have an extraordinary impact on the lives of Vermonters. So when I learned that one of my dearest friends, Judge William Sessions, was to take senior status after 18 years of distinguished service on the Vermont district court, I took seriously my responsibility to act swiftly to identify a candidate to recommend to President Obama for nomination. I worked with Senator SANDERS, Representative WELCH, and the Vermont Bar Association to convene a nonpartisan merit commission to find highly qualified candidates.

So I again thank the nine members of the nonpartisan Vermont Judicial Se-

lection Commission, under the leadership of Peter Van Oot, for the time, effort, and insight they invested in the screening process. We are fortunate in our small State of Vermont to have so many highly qualified lawyers in the field of applicants willing to serve in such a demanding post. There were a number of highly qualified people. After being vetted and recommended to me by the commission, I recommended Justice Geoffrey Crawford to President Obama. I told the President I was not surprised that after the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary finished its vetting, they gave him their highest rating of unanimously well qualified.

Justice Crawford has significant criminal and civil experience. He was a Vermont trial court judge for 11 years and recently became an Associate Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. He formerly was a partner in a Burlington law firm. Justice Crawford earned his B.A., cum laude, from Yale University and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School. Following law school he served as a law clerk to Judge Albert Coffrin of the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont.

I did not know Justice Crawford personally before this process, but when I did meet him I was struck by his brilliance, compassion, and humility. Justice Crawford earned a stellar reputation in Vermont's legal community, and also from those who had appeared before him, as a careful jurist who understands the effects that legal rulings have on people's lives. I have no doubt that once confirmed he will bring that same understanding and impartiality to the Federal bench.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Justice Crawford's nomination unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate. Justice Crawford, like the three other nominees we will vote on today, has been nominated to fill an emergency vacancy. He is a qualified uncontroversial nominee with the full support of his home state Senators. He and the three other nominees deserve to be confirmed without delay.

I thank the majority leader for bringing these nominations up for a vote and urge Senators to vote to defeat these filibusters and get these nominees working for the American people in courthouses around the Nation. Justice Geoffrey Crawford will serve Vermont well as a Federal district judge, and I look forward to his confirmation.

Madam President, I don't see anyone else at the moment, so I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON GARABRANT

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of LCpl Brandon Garabrant, a proud marine from Greenfield, NH, who was tragically killed in action in Afghanistan last week.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was an extraordinary young man who cared deeply about his country. Before he even graduated from ConVal Regional High School last year, he had already graduated from marine boot camp at Parris Island. Brandon was eager to serve and he followed in the footsteps of his great-grandfather and his grandfather in joining the military to serve our country.

Long before he joined the Marines, Brandon had already earned a reputation as someone who was passionate about serving others. Volunteering with the Temple Volunteer Fire Department starting at age 17, he became a full-time member of that fire department when he turned 18. The fire chief at Temple, George Clark, was quoted as saying Brandon "was all about helping people," adding that "no matter what needed doing, he was always the first guy there." Chief Clark said even when Brandon was home on leave he would get in touch and he would ask how could he help, a true reflection on Brandon's commitment to serving others as reflected in his service to our country.

Lance Corporal Garabrant was proud to be a marine and enjoyed the important work he was doing. He was a big-hearted young man with a bright future ahead of him, and he represented the very best of New Hampshire and the very best of our great Nation.

Brandon was taken from us far too soon. As we mourn his tragic loss, we commit ourselves to forever honor and cherish his memory and to carry on the proud legacy of service he leaves behind. Brandon was a true American hero for the sacrifice he made for our country, for our freedom. At this very sad time we also support and comfort his family who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

In the difficult days and weeks ahead, my thoughts and prayers will remain with his mother Jessie, his father John, as well as his brother Jacob and his sister Mykala. May God forever bless LCpl Brandon Garabrant. May we honor his selfless sacrifice for our country. If it weren't for people such as Brandon, we would not enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country. If it were not for marines such as Lance Corporal Garabrant, who stepped up to

serve his country and volunteered on behalf of our great Nation, we would not have the free speech rights we enjoy or any of the other rights we enjoy.

My thoughts and prayers will remain with his family. My thoughts and prayers will remain with all of his fellow soldiers who have lost a friend, and my thoughts and prayers will remain with all of those in the Greenfield community, with the fire station, with Chief Clark, and all of those who have lost a great American hero.

Thank you, Madam President.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Byron nomination.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Menendez, Barbara A. Mikulski, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—30

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Sessions
Coats	Inhofe	Shelby
Corker	Isakson	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—17

Begich	Cruz	Kirk
Coburn	Heller	Markley
Cochran	Johannes	Murkowski
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	

Pryor Schatz Toomey
Roberts Scott Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 30. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF PAUL G. BYRON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DIS- TRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Mendoza nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield it back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHN-

SON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coats	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markley	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 31. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CARLOS EDUARDO MENDOZA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DIS- TRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk reported the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Bloom nomination.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Beth Bloom of Florida to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Boxer
Bennet	Booker	Brown

Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Cardin	Kaine	Rockefeller
Carper	King	Rubio
Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Collins	Landrieu	Schumer
Coons	Leahy	Shaheen
Donnelly	Levin	Stabenow
Durbin	Manchin	Tester
Feinstein	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Franken	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Gillibrand	Merkley	Walsh
Hagan	Mikulski	Warner
Harkin	Murphy	Warren
Heinrich	Murray	Whitehouse
Heitkamp	Nelson	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	

NAYS—31

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Sessions
Chambliss	Inhofe	Shelby
Coats	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the ayes are 53, the nays are 31. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF BETH BLOOM TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Crawford nomination.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Jack Reed, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—32

Alexander	Fischer	McConnell
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—16

Begich	Johanns	Schatz
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cochran	Markey	Toomey
Cornyn	Murkowski	Vitter
Cruz	Pryor	
Heller	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 32. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT VERMONT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, and during that time Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS VAN ROEKEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the career of Dennis Van Roekel, whose term is ending as president of one of the Nation's largest labor unions, the National Education Association. Mr. Van Roekel is also a member of the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission, which studies how students are affected by inequitable school finance systems. His leadership knows no borders, as he has also served as vice president of Education International for North America and the Caribbean to pursue means to raise student achievement and provide adequate funding in a way that could serve as a model worldwide.

Mr. Van Roekel has long been an honorable and fervent supporter of the rights of teachers and public education. Before becoming president of the NEA, he served two terms as NEA vice president and secretary-treasurer, and he has held key positions in all levels of the association, including Arizona Education Association president and Paradise Valley Education Association president. He established the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching to examine the teaching profession on a national scale. As a recognized

leader on education issues, he has testified before Congress, served on leading boards, such as the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Executive Committee and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Executive Board.

His excellence is unmistakable and has been recognized at numerous forums and national summits sponsored by the Coalition for Community Schools, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Council of Chief State School Officers, and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He has been a leader in discussing education issues with leading publications and networks, including C-SPAN, MSNBC, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Education Week, and TIME.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Senate, I commend Dennis Van Roekel on a lifetime of public service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING JOHN KEY MCKINLEY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life and legacy of my friend John Key McKinley, a Tuscaloosa native, who passed away on June 12. John was a dedicated philanthropist and skilled businessman who will be forever remembered as a dear friend to the State of Alabama and to the University of Alabama.

Born in Tuscaloosa in 1920, John graduated from Tuscaloosa High School. He went to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in organic chemistry from the University of Alabama. He was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and the Scabbard and Blade Society at the University and was a member of the Capstone Engineering Society. While in college, John was also a cadet in the ROTC and rose to the rank of cadet colonel and brigade commander. However, John's contributions go on well beyond his days as a student—he was a generous benefactor and steadfast supporter of the university throughout his life.

After graduating from Alabama in 1941, John began his career at Texaco. He left Texaco in August 1941 to join the Army and serve in Newfoundland and Europe during World War II. In August 1944 shortly after D-day, John landed on Utah Beach and took part in battles across France, Belgium, and Germany—including the Battle of the Bulge as the Allied troops moved through Western Europe and onto Berlin. As a result of his unwavering bravery during the battle for the Roer River, he received the prestigious Bronze Star. He also rose to the rank of major during his service in the Army.

Following the war, John returned to Texaco, where he held numerous posi-

tions within the company. He excelled in research and development—holding over a dozen patents from petroleum additives and grease components—and also continued his education. In 1962, he graduated from Harvard University's Advanced Management Program. Less than 10 years later, John was named the company's president, and in 1980 he became Texaco's president, chief executive, and chairman until his retirement in 1986.

In addition to his work at Texaco, John served on the board of directors for several companies, including Texaco, Inc., Federated Department Stores, Burlington Industries, Martin Marietta Corporation, Merck & Co., Inc., Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, and Apollo Computer, Inc. He also served on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Opera, the Peregrine Fund, the Americas Society, Business Council for Effective Literacy, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. John also took an active role in many civic and professional organizations, such as the Brookings Council, the Business Council—Washington DC, and President's Commission on Executive Exchange.

John's contributions did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the George Washington Honor Medal by the Freedom Foundation, the Gold Medal by the National Institute of Social Sciences, the American Eagle Award by the Invest-In-America National Council, and the Wallace Award by the American-Scottish Foundation. He was inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 1982 and was installed in the Alabama Academy of Honor in 1983. Additionally, the Belgian Government presented John with the *Commandeur de L'Ordre de la Couronne* in 1984, which is the highest decoration given to a corporate leader in recognition of significant contributions to Belgium's economic sector.

I had the honor of knowing John and his wife Helen, who preceded him in death, as well as their two sons, John Jr. and Mark. I offer my deepest condolences to them and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn this great loss.

RECOGNIZING LINDA LANGSTON

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize an exceptional local leader in Iowa who has used her experience and expertise to help communities across America to become more resilient. Back home, we know Linda Langston as an effective and tireless county supervisor in Linn County. Over the past year, however, I have enjoyed partnering with Supervisor Langston in her role as president of the National Association of Counties.

In this capacity, Supervisor Langston served as the principal

spokesperson for our Nation's 3,069 counties and their nearly 40,000 elected officials. This is an important and demanding leadership post. Think about it: County governments employ almost 3.3 million people and invest nearly \$500 billion each year in our local communities, especially in the areas of transportation and infrastructure, justice and public safety, and health and human services.

As national president, Supervisor Langston has focused a tremendous amount of energy and attention this year on community, economic, and social resiliency, with a special focus on natural disaster preparedness and recovery. In addition, she has provided a local, midwestern perspective on national advisory committees with the National Academy of Sciences and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She has also convened numerous national and regional forums with public, private, and nonprofit leaders to address the urgent issue of natural disaster preparedness and recovery.

Every day, it seems, we encounter news reports of extraordinary natural disasters, everything from droughts, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires, to hurricanes, ice storms and extreme temperatures. Thanks to Supervisor Langston's thoughtful and expert leadership at the National Association of Counties, we can be confident that America's counties are better prepared for the natural disasters that inevitably lie ahead.

IOWA CONCESSION STUDY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize an innovative effort aimed at improving youth nutrition that took place at Muscatine High School in Iowa. Communities across the country are focusing on ways to build health and wellness into everyday life—in schools, workplaces, or elsewhere in the community—and this is one excellent example of just such an initiative.

In a collaboration between the University of Iowa and the parent-led Muscatine booster club—"Muskie Boosters"—researchers and booster club members added new healthy items such as apples, carrots, granola bars, and grilled chicken to the concession stand's menu during high school athletic events. They didn't stop there—they also modified the ingredients in other items to make them healthier. For example, they eliminated the use of trans fats in the nachos. These menu changes had one main goal: give the Muscatine High School community access to fresh and healthy food, where previously only junk food could be found.

And here is the really great news: The University of Iowa researchers who participated in this experiment found that selling healthier products had almost no impact on concession revenues

and actually resulted in a slight increase in sales per football game with the introduction of healthier items and ingredient changes. Sales of some new items increased with each game, and—no surprise—parents were more satisfied with the healthier foods than they were with the less healthy food options.

The results of this study are further evidence that offering healthy food can be good for both our Nation's physical and our Nation's fiscal health. In fact, these results show us that selling healthier foods can actually increase profits and customer satisfaction. The study also provides an exemplary model of how academic institutions can work collaboratively with local communities to improve nutrition and health.

Given the alarming rates of childhood obesity, it is more important than ever that we continue to find creative and innovative solutions to confront the obesity epidemic. I commend the Muskie Boosters, the University of Iowa researchers, and other study authors who worked together to find innovative yet simple ways to improve the quality of food being offered to our kids in the Muscatine community. I hope we can expand the great work they have done to other communities in Iowa and all across the Nation.

HIRAM, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Hiram, ME. Known today as a gateway to the rugged and beautiful Western Maine Mountains, Hiram was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Hiram's incorporation on June 14, 1814, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the banks of the Saco River were the hunting grounds of the Sokokis Tribe, and the legendary Pequawket Trail was their route between the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains. The reverence the Sokokis had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Hiram today.

The very name of the town, dating to the first European settlement in the 1780s, speaks of this reverence. Like the realm of the biblical King Hiram I of Tyre, the community was established among the trees that were its first source of prosperity. With the fast-moving Saco River and its tributaries providing power, sawmills became an important industry, soon followed by blacksmiths, leather manufacturing, and other endeavors vital to Maine's development. As a junction of two of Maine's early railroads, Hiram became the gateway to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The wealth produced by the land was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

The history of Hiram is directly connected to the very birth of our Nation. One of the town's first settlers was General Peleg Wadsworth, whose company of Minutemen answered the call of freedom at Lexington and Concord. After a life of remarkable service to our young country, in the military and in public office, General Wadsworth settled in Hiram in 1807, established a farm, and led the incorporation of the township. It is fascinating to consider the influence the beautiful surroundings had upon his grandson, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who spent many summers in Hiram as a boy.

A quality that runs through Hiram's history is courage. Some 100 young men from the town fought to save our Nation in the Civil War, and 39 gave their lives in that noble cause. It is humbling to know that Pleasant Ridge Cemetery is the final resting place for patriots from four generations of the Lyons family who served with valor and distinction.

Today, Hiram is a charming town of involved citizens. The historic Soldiers Memorial Library, built nearly a century ago in honor of those who defended our country, is avidly supported and remains a center of community activity. The saw and scythe depicted on the new bicentennial seal are reminders of Hiram's past and indicators of the hard work and enthusiasm the townspeople have put into this year's landmark birthday celebration.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years; it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Hiram has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MARION COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades rep-

resenting Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Marion County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Marion County worth over \$5 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$95 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is working with Central College to provide \$1.8 million for the Center for Math, Science, and Technology to expand its curriculum, increase technology training in teacher education, and provide distance learning for teachers in the field.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Central Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Marion County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Marion County, I have fought to resurrect the Des Moines River Greenbelt account which helped the Marion County Cordova Center on the Rock to build an environmental learning center, amphitheater, trails, and other outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as a 4-mile trail connecting the city of Pella with Cordova area. While there is more to do in the future, I am pleased that construction of the first phase of the project was complete in August 2013 at a cost of \$3,100,000.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15

years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Marion County has received \$319,444 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Marion County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$249,844.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster; it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Marion County has received over \$5 billion to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Marion County has received more than \$2.2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Marion County's fire departments have received over \$1.7 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Marion County has recognized this important issue by securing \$264,000 for worksite wellness programs.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Marion County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Marion County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WINNESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA

● **Mr. HARKIN.** Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and

residents of Winneshiek County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Winneshiek County worth over \$2.7 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$15.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include working with community leaders to secure more than \$22 million in federal funding for the Northeast Community College in recent years. The federal funding was directed towards various programs and renovations, including dairy research, farm safety, and renewable energy education.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Winneshiek County has received \$274,120 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Winneshiek County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$35,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Winneshiek County has received more than \$2.2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Winneshiek County's fire departments have received over \$743,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment, \$65,500 in Byrne Justice Assistance grants, and more than \$692,000 in other programs through the Department of Justice to keep the community safe and drug free.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Winneshiek County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$113,000 to promote wellness, nutrition, and mental health in the community.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Winneshiek County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and spe-

cifically Winneshiek County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Winneshiek County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13219 OF JUNE 26, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13219 of June 26, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The threat constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing imple-

mentation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, related to Kosovo, has not been resolved. In addition, E.O. 13219 was amended by E.O. 13304 of May 28, 2003, to take additional steps with respect to acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia.

Because the acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in these Executive Orders are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2014.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA, AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON JUNE 20, 2014—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in E.O. 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in E.O. 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national

emergency with respect to North Korea.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4412. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6199. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2014-41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6200. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 1603 Sequestration and Its Effect on the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and the Production Tax Credit (PTC)" (Notice 2014-39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2244. A bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2512. A bill to establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the recon-

struction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2513. A bill to establish a demonstration project for competency-based education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 481. A resolution designating the month of June 2014 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1837

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions.

S. 1893

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1945, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2117

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2117, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2126

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to launch a national strategy to support regenerative medicine through the establishment of a Regenerative Medicine Coordinating Council, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.

2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, *supra*.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2304

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2304, a bill to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2349

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2349, a bill to establish a grant program to enable States to promote participation in dual enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2359

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2359, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B.

Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2448

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2448, a bill to protect servicemembers in higher education, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 412

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 412, a resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2512. A bill to establish an emergency transportation safety fund for the reconstruction of bridges along the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act, cosponsored by my friend and colleague from Kentucky, Senator PAUL. This bill seeks to authorize additional funding for our Nation's critical transportation infrastructure through spending offsets provided by the repeal of the antiquated Davis-Bacon Act. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that over 10 years, repealing the Davis-Bacon Act would save the Federal Government some \$13 billion.

Kentucky is home to a number of critical interstate bridges that are in need of replacement, including the Brent Spence Bridge in Northern Kentucky, the I-65 bridge in Louisville, and an I-69 bridge in Henderson. This bill seeks to create a fund to help advance these very types of interstate bridge projects without raising taxes, adding to the deficit, or by authorizing tolling. Federal funding saved through the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act could be much better spent building a number of interstate bridges that are sorely needed in Kentucky and communities across America. I call on my Senate colleagues to support this measure to invest in our Nation's critical transportation infrastructure, on which American commerce depends.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2512

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Davis-Bacon Act requires that workers on all federally funded or federally assisted construction projects be paid what is commonly referred to as a prevailing wage, as calculated by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

(2) According to the Congressional Budget Office, if the Davis-Bacon Act were repealed, the Federal Government could save an estimated \$12,700,000,000 in discretionary outlays from 2015 through 2023.

(3) These savings could be redirected to the reconstruction of closed and functionally obsolete bridges along the Interstate Highway System, which would improve highway safety and interstate commerce.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING

SEC. 101. REPEAL OF DAVIS-BACON ACT OF 1931 WAGE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (40 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.), is repealed.

(b) REFERENCE.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law to a wage requirement under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, shall be null and void.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the "Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund".

(b) TRANSFERS TO EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall regularly transfer amounts equal to the savings achieved through the repeal of the wage requirements under subsection (a) from the capital budgets of each affected Federal agency to the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund.

(2) EMERGENCY RELIEF EXPENDITURES.—Section 125(c) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY FUND.—Amounts deposited into the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund established under section 102(a) of the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund Act are authorized to be obligated to carry out, in priority order, the projects on the current list compiled by the Secretary under section 201(b)(1) of such Act that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in subsection (a)."

TITLE II—EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE SAFETY PRIORITY LIST

SEC. 201. EMERGENCY INTERSTATE BRIDGE PRIORITIES.

(a) LIST.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with a representative sample of State and local government transportation officials, shall compile a prioritized list of emergency interstate bridge projects, which will guide the allocation of funding to the States from the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund established under section 102.

(b) CRITERIA.—In compiling the list under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation, in addition to any other criteria established by the Secretary, shall rank the

emergency interstate bridge projects in descending order, beginning with projects that—

(1) are part of the Federal interstate highway system;

(2) involve a bridge that is closed or deemed functionally obsolete by the Federal Highway Administration for safety reasons;

(3) have a significant impact on interstate commerce;

(4) would affect a significant volume of traffic; and

(5) have the greatest overall value to the surrounding community.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(1) a prioritized list of emergency interstate bridge projects to be funded through the Emergency Interstate Bridge Safety Fund; and

(2) a description of the criteria used to establish the list referred to in paragraph (1).

(d) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—Not less frequently than 4 times per year, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) update the report submitted pursuant to subsection (c);

(2) send a copy of the report to Congress; and

(3) make a copy of the report available to the public through the Department of Transportation's website.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 481—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2014 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 481

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the people of the United States, and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,600,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States have sustained a historically high operational tempo since September 11, 2001, with many members of the Armed Forces deploying overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”);

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for PTSD and other mental health disorders;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since October 2001, more than 310,000 of the approximately 1,000,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who have received health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs have been diagnosed with PTSD;

(2) in fiscal year 2013, more than 530,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans who sought care at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities received treatment for PTSD; and

(3) of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who are receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 570,000 have received a diagnosis for at least 1 mental health disorder;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to military sexual trauma can lead to PTSD;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs—as well as the larger medical community, both private and public—have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of PTSD can help diminish the stigma attached to this mental health disorder, and additional efforts are needed to find further ways—including an examination of how PTSD is discussed in the United States—to reduce this stigma; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2014, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense—as well as the entire medical community—to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15

p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled “Economic Development: Encouraging Investment in Indian Country.”

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 481.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) designating the month of June 2014 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to consider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be five rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order following the 10-minute remarks from the Senator from Arizona Mr. FLAKE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a matter of importance not just to Arizonans but to the people affected across the country by the Environmental Protection Agency's continuing overreach. Namely, I want to talk about air quality standards that are quite simply unattainable and those that penalize States where Mother Nature—not smokestacks, not factories, not evil industrialists, just Mother Nature—causes these events that affect air quality.

Let me say from the outset we all love and deserve to have clean air, and when I am discussing these particular concerns I want to be clear that I am not in favor of pollution, dirty air or asthma. Instead what I am in favor of is a little more common sense from the EPA.

It won't come as any surprise to most people that Arizona is a desert State. We have lots of cactus. We have scorpions. I was stung twice last year. In Arizona, just as in most deserts around the world, we have dust storms. These dust storms are not caused by eroding topsoil or overfarming or man. These are naturally occurring events just like tornadoes or blizzards in other parts of the country. When you live in a naturally dusty State, the dust storms sweep across the desert and across State lines. They can obviously cause local and regional air quality issues. The same goes for living in a forest-fire-prone State, which Arizona also is.

States simply cannot be expected to control these issues. Yet despite adopting an "exceptional events rule" and issuing murky guidance, the EPA still forces States to squander resources on these spikes in air pollutants that are outside anybody's control, with no actual improvement to air quality.

The EPA's reviews to prove that spikes in air quality are the result of naturally occurring events are arbitrary, cumbersome, and they are costly. Let me give you an example.

In 2011 and 2012, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, and the Maricopa Association of Governments were forced to spend \$675,000 and 790 staff hours to prove to EPA's satisfaction something that anyone with two eyes could readily see: Dust storms trip the EPA's air quality sensors—not pollution, dust storms.

The current regulations are entirely up to the EPA's discretion and they are final and they are not appealable. But in some cases such as those in Arizona,

they are a violation of common sense as well.

That is why I am introducing the CLEER Act. The CLEER Act will, among other things, require the EPA's decisions on those events to be based on a preponderance of evidence and to accord deference to States' own findings when such an event happens. It will also require the EPA to renew a State's exceptional event documentation within 90 days instead of dragging this process out, and to decide which States with exceptional events will be evaluated.

I am also introducing two other bills: the ORDEAL Act and the Agency PAYGO for Greenhouse Gases Act.

Much credit goes to the EPA for successfully reducing air pollution in the past few decades. This has led to benefits for everyone. But one of the most common pollutants—ozone, dealt with by the ORDEAL Act—has presented a nearly endless supply of redtape for States and municipalities for literally decades. When the EPA reduced its permitted ozone standards in 2008, counties across the country that were in "nonattainment" status were forced to enact expensive and complicated compliance plans.

With scant scientific health bases, the EPA wants to further lower ozone emissions standards. But there are already 221 counties in 27 States that are noncompliant with the present standards. How will lowering these standards even further help these States, communities, and counties comply? Is this EPA's version of double-secret probation?

By some estimates this lowering of ozone standards from 75 parts per billion to 60 parts per billion will cost a whopping \$1 trillion per year from 2020 to 2030. The EPA's own estimate said the proposed standard will cost \$25 billion per year at 70 ppb to \$90 billion per year at 60 ppb. It will cost as many as 7.3 million jobs.

The rationale for further reduction in ozone standards is the potential health benefits. The EPA consistently fails to meet its 5-year intervals for ozone, which results in lawsuits, bad policy, and poor analysis when the agency is forced by the courts to produce a new standard. My bill, the ORDEAL Act, would provide the EPA more flexibility by doubling the statutory review interval to 10 years. It would also push off any decision on EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standards until 2018, putting that standard on a more realistic 10-year cycle. This will give businesses more certainty. It will give them a more certain regulatory environment, not a possible change every 5 years. If you can imagine how to plan on a 5-year cycle for standards that are rarely met and have to be adjusted again. It will also give State air qual-

ity agencies the time they need to implement their own plans.

Finally, this administration has set its sights on reducing carbon emissions with the most recent attempt being draconian regulations on existing powerplants, despite inevitable job losses and spikes in energy costs.

The Agency PAYGO Act I am introducing would simply give the EPA a taste of its own medicine by requiring the agency to offset the cost of any greenhouse gas rules to an equivalent reduction in agency spending.

If the agency proceeds without offsetting these costs from its own budget, the final greenhouse gas rule must be approved by Congress. This bill specifically forbids the EPA from denying costs to Federal agencies by passing costs on to the Federal agency's ratepayers. If capital costs are imposed by the greenhouse gas rule, the EPA must offset those costs or get Congress's approval.

Specifically this bill will not let underlying agencies—including power generating agencies such as the Western Power Authority—pass along these costs to consumers.

The modern EPA has a history of implementing increasingly costly and stringent standards for negligible or even questionable benefit. All three of these bills, the CLEER Act, the ORDEAL Act, and the Agency PAYGO Act, provide more certainty than presently exist to States and businesses that have to deal with the EPA and will hold the agency accountable for its decision-making process.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these commonsense measures.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

There upon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

CAROLYN WATTS COLVIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, RESIGNED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. WILLIAM E. GORTNEY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 23, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 23, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day with grace and confidence.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they return from constituent visits over the past weekend.

May these decisive days through which we are living be an opportunity for them to rise to the challenges of governing well and addressing the needs of our Nation. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens, nor You.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PREMIUMS ARE HURTING FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's broken promises continue to hurt American families. According to the administration's own report, an estimated 11 million small business employees are facing higher premiums because of the government health care takeover, which destroys jobs.

After being forced to purchase insurance in the ObamaCare exchange, Stepheni from Aiken writes:

"This required purchase of ObamaCare insurance cost my husband and I over \$900 per month and we get nothing for it. It's less expense for us to remain uninsured, so we have let our ObamaCare premium lapse. We surely hope that something will and can be done to prevent folks like us from being penalized for not keeping our insurance. We don't have over \$900 extra a month just to throw away."

The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable for families and should be repealed and replaced to provide relief for millions of Americans like Stepheni. Women are most knowledgeable about the failure of ObamaCare.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

VA CLAIMS BENEFITS BACKLOG

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the President looks for a new VA Secretary, it is imperative that we not let the veterans health care scandal distract from the ongoing efforts to resolve the VA benefits claims backlog.

The VA has undertaken important reforms to streamline the process, such as electronic records and working to ensure that initial claims include all necessary information. These steps are helping to address the backlog; but as the scandal in the health care side of the VA continues to unfold and demand the attention of policymakers, we must remain focused on effective implementation of these and other benefits determination process reforms.

Mr. Speaker, we are dutybound to do everything we can to ensure our veterans have timely access to the benefits they have earned. I am committed to ensuring timely access to these benefits, and we must ensure the incoming VA Secretary is committed as well.

EPA SHOULD MAKE DATA PUBLIC

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the EPA's regulatory process is flawed. The data EPA uses to justify its costly air regulations are hidden from the public. The Agency uses this secret science to make exaggerated claims about the alleged benefits of burdensome new regulations. Every major air quality regulation proposed by this administration has been based on non-transparent data and unverifiable claims.

Americans impacted by EPA regulations have a right to determine for themselves if the EPA's actions are based on sound science or a partisan agenda. That is why, tomorrow, the Science Committee will consider the Secret Science Reform Act. It requires that the EPA make its regulatory data publicly available.

If the EPA has nothing to hide, why not make the information public? The American people who foot the bill for these regulations deserve to see the data, and good policy requires it.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-123)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13219 of June 26, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The threat constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, related to Kosovo, has not been resolved. In addition, E.O. 13219 was amended by E.O. 13304 of May 28, 2003, to take additional steps with respect to acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia.

Because the acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in these Executive Orders are hostile to U.S. interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 23, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RELIABLE HOME HEATING ACT

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2086) to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2086

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reliable Home Heating Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF TEMPORARILY EXEMPTING MOTOR CARRIERS PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF FROM CERTAIN SAFETY REGULATIONS.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this Act, the term "residential heating fuel" includes—

- (1) heating oil;
- (2) natural gas; and
- (3) propane.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—If the Governor of a State declares a state of emergency caused by a shortage of residential heating fuel and, at the conclusion of the initial 30-day emergency period (or a second 30-day emergency period authorized under this subsection), the Governor determines that the emergency shortage has not ended, any extension of such state of emergency by the Governor, up to 2 additional 30-day periods, shall be recognized by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as a period during which parts 390 through 399 of chapter III of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply to any motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehicle to provide residential heating fuel in the geographic area so designated as under a state of emergency.

(c) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Transportation shall amend section 390.23(a)(1)(ii) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to conform to the provision set forth in subsection (b).

(d) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to modify the authority granted to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Field Administrator under section 390.23(a) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to offer temporary exemptions from parts 390 through 399 of such title.

SEC. 3. ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, using data compiled from the Administration's Weekly Petroleum Status Reports, shall notify the Governor of each State in a Petroleum Administration for Defense District if the inventory of residential heating fuel within such district has been below the most recent 5-year average for more than 3 consecutive weeks.

SEC. 4. REVIEW.

Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study of, and transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, a report on the impacts of safety from the extensions issued by Governors according to this Act. In conducting the study, the Secretary shall review, at a minimum—

- (1) the safety implications of extending exemptions; and
- (2) a review of the exemption process to ensure clarity and efficiency during emergencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 2086, the Reliable Home Heating Act, which helps States better prepare and respond to regional supply disruptions or shortages of propane and other home heating fuels.

The winter of 2013 and 2014 included extreme weather events that led to increased demand for propane, which is used for heating in approximately 12 million U.S. homes, and for other home heating fuels. The extreme weather conditions threatened the lives and livelihood of those with homes, farms, and businesses that depend on heat from propane and other home heating fuels.

S. 2086 gives the Governor of a State the authority to extend regulatory exemptions during a state of emergency for two additional 30-day periods, for a

total of 90 days, without action from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The bill requires the Energy Information Administration to provide early warnings to Governors if the inventory of residential heating fuel falls below the most recent 5-year average for more than 3 consecutive weeks. The bill also requires the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the safety impacts of extending the regulatory exemptions.

On March 21, 2014, the President signed H.R. 4076, the HHEATT Act of 2014 introduced by Chairman BILL SHUSTER. It provided immediate relief to States impacted by the extreme weather from some Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations until May 31 of this year.

S. 2086 provides States the tools needed to address shortages of propane and other home heating fuels during future extreme weather events. The bipartisan bill was introduced by Senator THUNE and Senator KLOBUCHAR and is supported by the National Propane Gas Association, the New England Fuel Institute, the Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association, the Nebraska Petroleum Marketers Association, and the Petroleum Marketers Association of America.

I urge all my colleagues to support S. 2086, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as described by my good friend and colleague, the chairman of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, S. 2086 automatically suspends Federal Motor Carrier Safety rules for up to 90 days after a Governor of an affected State declares a state of emergency due to a shortage of residential heating fuel.

Mr. Speaker, it is true that last winter there were parts of the United States which experienced extraordinarily cold temperatures and extreme winter weather. I hate to predict this, but until we do something about climate change, we are going to see these vast contrasts of the kind we have never experienced before. At that time, of course, if people are experiencing unusually cold weather, there is going to be a demand for propane and other home heating fuels.

I also, of course, fully support maximum flexibility to ensure timely delivery of fuel to heat homes across the country, and certainly in a time of crisis. In fact, the House acted swiftly in March during that crisis to pass Chairman SHUSTER's HHEATT Act, H.R. 4076, but of course today most of the country is in the middle of a heat wave.

Most of the States have their eyes looking elsewhere. They are watching the Congress to see when we will shore up the highway trust fund. They are

running out of money. Already they have slowed up their investments. And of course, in a matter of just a few weeks, we will be running on empty on the highway trust fund.

But I was not asked to come to the floor today to ensure that construction projects around the country employing hundreds of thousands of Americans will continue to be reimbursed so that workers can stay on the job and communities can upgrade their infrastructure. I was asked to come to the floor today to pass an exemption for home heating fuel, even though it is close to 90 degrees outside in much of the country.

Last winter, during the actual time of emergency, FMCSA acted promptly to issue exemptions to allow truck drivers delivering home heating fuels to drive for additional hours to get supplies to customers as quickly as possible. Then they acted promptly to extend the exemptions after the initial 30-day period.

Therefore, I must say I do not see any evidence of why this legislation is needed or warranted. Further, by automatically waiving motor carrier rules for up to 90 days, the legislation removes any safety consideration from the exemption decision.

Mr. Speaker, our surface transportation system has pressing needs, as I speak, that require congressional action in the immediate term—yesterday, perhaps. Instead, we keep coming to the floor to chip away at truck safety rules?

I will not oppose the legislation under consideration, but I do believe calling up this legislation today is unnecessary and unproductive while we are staring at a deadline—and I must say, I think it is more aptly called an emergency every day—for replenishing the highway trust fund.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), my well-respected colleague and the voice of northern Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to engage in a debate on global warming, especially after the winter we had in Wisconsin last winter. The bottom line is last winter it was incredibly cold in Wisconsin, and we saw home heating fuel prices for some of my constituents go up by four times, and that was if they were able to get home heating fuels.

I don't think this is the end of it because there has been a war on energy, and that war on energy makes it more difficult for my constituents to access energy. I think we have to leave those debates aside right now and look at, in the current structure, can we have

some reform that actually helps people across the country when these crises amount.

What this does is doesn't make us look to the Department of Transportation—which, by the way, last winter they were quick to act. We don't have to look for Congress to have some quick legislation to minimize the trucking hours of service so we can get fuel into places like northern Wisconsin.

What we are going to do is we are going to empower Governors. Let Governors notice when there is a crisis and let them move quickly so we can have one piece of the burden alleviated—the hours of service requirement—so our trucks can go to the places where we have home heating fuel and bring it to northern Wisconsin, we can bring in more supply.

This was such a crisis, we have people in Wisconsin who have a hard time paying their energy bills when we have normal prices. But when prices go up by four times, or when it is 40 below and they can't get home heating fuel, this is a crisis. Any day we have to wait for the Department of Transportation or for Congress to act is a day that we have prices continuing to go up or we don't have access to our consumers, to our constituents, to our people.

So I think this is a commonsense approach that leaves the global warming debate aside, the war on energy aside, and looks to our Governors, gives them authority to make decisions in this one small piece, to allow the hours of service waived in these emergencies so we can get fuel to places where they have a shortage.

I think this makes sense. There will be plenty of time to debate the greater energy issues that we have in the country, and I think that is a debate that we have to have, but that is not the place here. The debate on global warming, we can have that, too, especially after the winter we had in Wisconsin last winter.

This makes sense. Let's empower Governors. Let's make sure we protect those Americans who live in the northern region of the country that rely on home heating fuel to heat their homes. Let's make sure we are going to allow them access, by way of their Governor, and the Governor's quick action.

So I appreciate the House bringing up this action from Senator THUNE, and I would urge its adoption.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I don't know about global warming, but virtually every scientist with any expertise agrees that climate change is occurring, not just in the colder parts of the country, but all over the world. The only debate now is whether it is too late and whether we can manage it, not whether it is occurring.

If the gentleman thinks it was cold in Wisconsin last winter, let us keep

delaying doing anything on climate change and let's see if he will be in a position to do anything for his constituents.

I remind the Speaker that every time there has been a need, the Department of Transportation has not only acted, it has acted promptly. That is what an administrative agency is for. That is why we have administrative agencies. You can't keep running to the floor where you need two Houses in order to deal with a crisis.

Nevertheless, we do not oppose this legislation, but we do think it is our duty to remind the House that there is an emergency pending and that, if we go home certainly for August recess without attending to it, the bottom will fall out of the highway trust fund.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: I write concerning S. 2086, the "Reliable Home Heating Act," which passed the Senate on May 21, 2014. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is being done with the understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction, and the Committee will not be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of S. 2086 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding S. 2086, the Reliable Home Heating Act, which passed the Senate on May 21, 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by forgoing action on this legislation, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction and will not be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I will include our letters on S. 2086 in the Congressional Record during

consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2086.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STREAMLINING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4092) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4092

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

Section 392 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6371a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—Notwithstanding section 391(6), for the purposes of this subsection, the term 'school' means—

"(A) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

"(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a));

"(C) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

"(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

"(E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

"(F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall establish a clearinghouse to disseminate information regarding available Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

"(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

"(A) consult with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a list of Federal programs and financing mechanisms that are, or may be, used for the purposes described in paragraph (2); and

"(B) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a collaborative education and outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs and financing mechanisms described in subparagraph (A), which may include the development and maintenance of a single online resource that includes contact information for relevant technical assistance in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy that States, local education agencies, and schools may use to effectively access and use such Federal programs and financing mechanisms."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

□ 1615

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4092 directs the Secretary of Energy to develop a clearinghouse to publish information on Federal programs and financing tools that may be used to initiate, development, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

In doing so, H.R. 4092 directs the Secretary to coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies on a collaborative effort to streamline communications and promote available programs and financing mechanisms.

Schools spend approximately \$6 billion each year on energy costs, making it the next largest expenditure after personnel costs. Well-designed energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements can stabilize or reduce these operating costs.

In fact, the most efficient schools use three times less energy than the least efficient schools. H.R. 4092 makes it easier for schools to access information on Federal programs and financing tools for pursuing such energy improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I encourage my colleagues to support Congressman CARTWRIGHT's bill establishing a clearinghouse which will assist schools in identifying existing Federal programs available to help schools

initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects.

I congratulate Congressman CARTWRIGHT. This is a very thoughtful bill. It has broad stakeholder support. It makes a lot of common sense because there are these programs out there that are available to assist our schools, but sometimes connecting the dots is the challenge. This clearinghouse will help solve that.

This bill received unanimous bipartisan support in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

It is my pleasure now, Mr. Speaker, to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding.

I would like to thank Congressman WELCH from Vermont for his leadership on this bill as well. It is no secret that Congressman WELCH is one of the great champions in the House on the issue of energy efficiency, and it has been my pleasure to work with him on this.

I would also like to thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN for their support in guiding this bill through committee. This legislation is a great example of what we can do when we work together in a bipartisan fashion.

I would like to thank the majority and minority staffers. It is to their credit that they worked to craft an amended version of this bill that everybody could agree on. It was great to see this bill pass unanimously out of the committee.

K-12 school districts spend billions on their energy bills every year, approximately \$6 billion a year, according to Energy Star, second only to personnel costs, exceeding the costs of textbooks and exceeding the costs of supplies.

Energy expenses are one of the few costs that can be reduced while, at the same time, improving classroom instruction. In fact, high-performance schools can lower a school district's operating costs by up to 30 percent.

There are numerous Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient. However, these programs are spread across the Federal Government, making it challenging, time consuming, and costly for schools to identify and take full advantage of these programs. I have heard it said that you practically need a degree in library science to research and find all of these programs.

First introduced in the Senate as S. 1084 by Senators MARK UDALL and SUSAN COLLINS, the bipartisan Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act aims to provide a coordinating structure for schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

This legislation doesn't spend an additional dime and keeps decision-making authority with the States, with the school boards, and with the local officials.

The bill establishes a clearinghouse through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which will disseminate information on Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to develop energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding and for his assistance in this matter.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will inquire if the gentleman from Maryland is prepared to close, as I am.

Mr. SARBANES. I am prepared to close.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Congressman CARTWRIGHT's bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank our colleagues across the aisle, and I urge the approval of this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4092, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 316) to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *COMMISSION.*—The term "Commission" means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) *LICENSE.*—The term "license" means—
(A) the license for Commission project number 10822;

(B) the license for Commission project number 10823; or

(C) both.

(3) *TOWN.*—The term "Town" means the town of Canton, Connecticut.

SEC. 3. REINSTATEMENT, EXTENSION, AND TRANSFER OF EXPIRED LICENSES.

Notwithstanding the termination of the license, the Commission may, at the request of the Town, in accordance with section 4(a), and after reasonable notice—

(1) *reinstate the license;*

(2) *extend for 2 years after the date on which the license is reinstated the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project subject to the license;* and

(3) *subject to section 4, transfer the license to the Town.*

SEC. 4. CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.

(a) *APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.*—The Town may request the reinstatement, extension, and transfer of the license by filing an application for approval of the transfer.

(b) *CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.*—The application for approval of the transfer shall set forth in appropriate detail the qualifications of the Town to hold the license and to operate the property under license, which qualifications shall be the same as those required of applicants for the license.

(c) *COMMISSION APPROVAL.*—The Commission may approve the transfer on a showing that the transfer is in the public interest.

(d) *TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF LICENSES.*—The Town shall be subject to—

(1) *all the conditions of the license and all the provisions and conditions of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 791a et seq.), as though the Town were the original licensee; and*

(2) *any additional terms and conditions the Commission determines to be necessary, including conditions for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife and related habitat under sections 10(j) and 18 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 803(j), 811).*

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

The Commission shall supplement the environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) prepared in connection with the issuance of the original license to examine all new circumstances and information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the reinstatement of the license or the impact of the license.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 316 would provide the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, with limited authority to reinstate two terminated hydroelectric licenses and transfer them to a new

owner, the town of Canton, Connecticut.

The licenses are associated with the upper and lower Collinsville dams on the Farmington River in Connecticut. Both projects are under 1 megawatt each.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Collinsville hydropower legislation introduced by Congresswoman ESTY of Connecticut.

The bill would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reinstate licenses for two hydroelectric projects on the Farmington River and to transfer these licenses, as was indicated, to the town of Canton, Connecticut.

This noncontroversial, but very, very important legislation has passed the House by voice vote in three consecutive Congresses and has now passed the Senate with a few nonsubstantive changes. It is high time to get this bill to the President's desk, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY), the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend and colleague from Maryland, Congressman SARBANES, as well as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), for their roles in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud sponsor of the Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act.

This bill provides, as has been noted, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, commonly known as FERC, the authority to reinstate, extend, and transfer the licenses of two dams in my district to the town of Canton in order to redevelop hydropower at these two facilities that have been dormant since 1966.

The upper and lower Collinsville dams on the Farmington River were first built in the 18th and 19th centuries to power an ax manufacturer. Although this business closed in the 1960s, the dams have remained and are a lasting symbol of the manufacturing history of the Farmington Valley.

Today's legislation provides Canton the opportunity to create local clean energy and to stimulate local economic development along the scenic Farmington River.

As provided in the Senate's amendment to H.R. 316, Canton would need to file an application for approval with FERC that describes the town's qualifications to hold these licenses and to operate the dams.

It would require the town to be subject to the same conditions as in the original licenses, as well as any additional terms that FERC may deem necessary after reviewing the application.

I am aware that there are legitimate environmental concerns about the im-

pact on the river and the surrounding ecosystem's health. These concerns are reflected in part with the addition of fish ladders to the hydrodams in the ensuing years since the closing of the facility.

To address those concerns, FERC would need to update the environmental impact statement provided for in the original licenses before they could be reinstated, extended, and transferred to the town.

If the Commission, under the authority provided in this bill, approves the application to reinstate these permits, the upper and lower Collinsville dams would provide nearly 2 megawatts of power. That is enough to power more than 1,500 homes.

It is important for me to acknowledge that the passage of this bill today is only possible because of the work and support of many others who have labored over this for many years.

First, I want to thank Senator CHRIS MURPHY—my colleague, friend, and neighbor—who championed this issue for several sessions here in the House, and our senior Senator, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, for their leadership and sponsorship of the Senate amendment, which is before us today.

My thanks also go out to Chairman WHITFIELD, as well as Chairman UPTON and Ranking Members WAXMAN and RUSH and their staffs, for their bipartisan support to advance this legislation.

I also want to thank First Selectman Richard Barlow for all he has done over many years to spearhead this effort at home.

Finally, as I mentioned, 1½ years ago, when this bill first came to the floor, I want to honor two gentleman, Art Fournier and Mark Quattro, environmental and community leaders who sadly are no longer with us, but who championed this effort for many years. We could not be here today without their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, roughly 5,000 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives this Congress. Of those 5,000 pieces of legislation, this bill, H.R. 316, represents just the 167th bill which hopefully will pass both the House and the Senate.

I am honored and humbled to be able to work with colleagues across the aisle in this Congress to advance clean energy legislation that empowers local communities to harness local resources to produce renewable electricity and, at the same time, supports and advances local economic development.

There is much more that we can and should do to advance energy production and to protect our environment, but today is an excellent start.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 316.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will just say this is a good

bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to congratulate Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. This is an important bill. I salute her persistence.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 316.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

THERMAL INSULATION EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4801) to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4801

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPORT ON ENERGY AND WATER SAVINGS POTENTIAL FROM THERMAL INSULATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies and relevant stakeholders, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use systems for potable hot and chilled water in Federal buildings, and the return on investment of installing such insulation.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(1) an analysis based on the cost of municipal or regional water for delivered water and the avoided cost of new water; and

(2) a summary of energy and water savings, including short term and long term (20 years) projections of such savings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the Speaker for the time today to discuss H.R. 4801, the Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act.

□ 1630

Today, millions of gallons of water and energy are wasted due to heating losses that could be prevented through the increased use of thermal insulation. The purpose of this legislation is to help identify opportunities in which we can maximize energy and water efficiency through the minimization of waste in our Federal facilities.

With the Federal Government being the single-largest consumer of energy in the country, the potential savings from the increased use of thermal insulation has the potential to be very significant in the amount of resources, both natural and financial, that can be saved.

For example, we have seen what the benefits of mechanical insulation maintenance in commercial buildings can be, with savings potentially topping \$4.8 billion annually. That is enough energy savings to light nearly 4 million homes per year.

Up to this point, there have only been small-scale studies conducted to show the benefits such insulation can have on water and energy resources that are otherwise being wasted. The potential increase in energy efficiency is tremendous, as has been shown through the use of mechanical insulation, but this has not yet been demonstrated on a large scale.

That is why I introduced H.R. 4801 with Congressman MCNERNEY. This legislation takes a step in the right direction in demonstrating the benefits of thermal insulation not only to the private sector, but to show the Federal Government how it can increase energy efficiency and cost savings by applying these techniques in our Federal facilities. The bill does this by simply having the Department of Energy compile a study on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and hot and cold water systems in Federal buildings.

I believe the addition of thermal insulation to the proper systems in our Federal facilities is both a relatively simple yet cost-effective way to reduce heat gains and losses that result in money simply going up in thin air. Estimates also show that thermal insulation saves up to 500 times more energy over its lifespan than its cost, which translates into fairly generous returns

on energy efficiency. Simply put, thermal insulation saves energy, water, and money.

Once again, I urge passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill sponsored by Mr. KINZINGER and Mr. MCNERNEY.

The bill is straightforward. It simply tasks the Department of Energy with preparing a report on the impacts of using thermal insulation in Federal buildings.

Insulating ducts and pipes can prevent a significant amount of energy from being wasted. That saves taxpayers money and it reduces pollution. This bill would ensure that the Department of Energy quantifies those potential savings so that the Federal Government can make commonsense energy efficiency investments.

The bill has broad stakeholder support and was reported by voice vote in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Again, I congratulate my colleagues for their collaboration on this bill, and I urge my colleagues in the full House to support it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, once again, I want to thank Congressman MCNERNEY for working with me diligently on this. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4801.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PRAYER ACT OF 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1044) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-day, June 6, 1944.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1044

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. PLACEMENT OF PLAQUE OR INSCRIPTION AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

The Secretary of the Interior—

(1) shall install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day;

(2) shall design, procure, prepare, and install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) may not use Federal funds to prepare or install the plaque or inscription referred to in paragraph (1), but may accept and expend private contributions for this purpose.

SEC. 3. COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.

Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall apply to the design and placement of the plaque within the area of the World War II Memorial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1044 authorizes the Department of the Interior to place a plaque in the area of the World War II Memorial with the inscription of the words President Franklin Roosevelt prayed on the morning of D-day. This is especially appropriate because, only days ago, we commemorated the 70th anniversary of D-day and the tremendous sacrifice of American and Allied forces on that day.

I would like to note that there has been some controversy in recent years over the omission of the words "so help us God" from the inscription of Roosevelt's address to Congress following Pearl Harbor. This legislation will go in the direction of easing those concerns with the addition of the D-day prayer.

The inscription will be modest in size to complement the existing World War II Memorial and will be paid for through private fundraising efforts.

Our colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) should be commended for authorizing and moving the House companion measure of this bill in the last two Congresses. This is a Senate bill. Nevertheless, the gentleman from Ohio has his fingerprints all over this, and I commend him for that.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As Chairman HASTINGS has said, S. 1044 directs the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque or an inscription in the area of the World War II Memorial with the 500-word prayer that President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed to the Nation shortly after the D-day invasion began.

This bill authorizes the use of private contributions for the completion of this work and prohibits the use of Federal funds.

I have several concerns with this legislation, including the fact that the addition of the prayer could take away from the original intent of the existing memorial, which is to honor the brave members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II, including my father, who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

However, I would like to thank the sponsors of the bill for their willingness to work with the administration to allow for flexibility in determining the design and location of the plaque and inscription.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), the author of the companion House bill of this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of S. 1044, the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, legislation that was introduced by Senator ROB PORTMAN and that recently passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

I introduced companion legislation both in this session of Congress and the 112th session. In fact, the House passed my legislation on January 24, 2012, by a vote of 386–26, but, unfortunately, the Senate failed to act in 2012.

However, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of D-day this year, the Senate came around and passed this legislation. Once we pass this bill today, it will go on to the President's desk, and I hope he wastes no time in signing it into law.

This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to install at the World War II Memorial a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin Roosevelt prayed with the Nation on the morning of the D-day invasion. This prayer, which has been entitled "Let Our Hearts Be Stout," gave solace, comfort, and strength to our Nation and our brave warriors as we fought against tyranny and oppression.

The memorial was built to honor the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II, as well as the more than 400,000 who died during the war.

Prior to introducing the legislation in 2011, I spoke to many World War II

veterans in Ohio and asked them if they thought putting this prayer on the memorial would be appropriate. The answer was a resounding "yes."

It seems to me that if the remaining veterans of World War II are supportive of the prayer being added, we as a Nation should honor that request.

You don't have to take my word for it, though, because 2 years ago, Poppy Fowler, a constituent of mine, testified before the House Natural Resources Committee in favor of this legislation. Poppy is now 90 years young, and served 3 years, 10 days, 1 hour, and 10 minutes in the United States Navy during World War II. He flew 35 missions in Air Group 15 on an SB2C Helldiver as both a rear gunner and photographer.

I had the pleasure of escorting Poppy on an Honor Flight trip to visit the World War II Memorial, and he and I became friends. Here is a brief excerpt of Poppy's testimony at that hearing:

I feel, with no doubt, that it would be appropriate that this prayer be inscribed in some manner at the World War II Memorial. Those reading this prayer will be able to recall the sacrifices made by our military, also those on the home front.

This prayer came at a perilous time, yet it was answered in victory at a dear cost of lives.

Today, this prayer can pertain to any military action. Under present circumstances, it is also appropriate.

I don't think anyone in this body could be more succinct and articulate than Mr. Fowler.

Like Poppy, I also have no doubt that the prayer should be included among the tributes to the Greatest Generation memorialized on the National Mall.

It is vitally important that the President signs this legislation as quickly as possible because time is of the essence. As some may know, there is estimated to be just over 1.5 million World War II veterans still living. Furthermore, it is estimated that roughly 600 World War II vets are dying every day.

In other words, each week that goes by that this legislation does not become law, approximately 4,000 more World War II vets will have passed away without seeing this prayer added to their memorial.

I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP for their hard work and efforts to get to where we are today. They have been champions of this legislation over the past 3 years, and we wouldn't be here without their help.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation and to take this opportunity to honor the Greatest Generation by adding this prayer to the World War II Memorial.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this legislation. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. In the last two Congresses, both bodies have acted on this. It is now our time to pass this legislation and get it to the President's desk.

With that, I urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1044.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REVOCATION OF MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA CHARTER

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4002) to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4002

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REVOCATION OF CHARTER OF INCORPORATION.

The request of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to surrender the charter of incorporation issued to that tribe and ratified by its members on June 1, 1940, pursuant to the Act of June 26, 1936 (25 U.S.C. 501 et seq.; commonly known as the "Oklahoma Welfare Act"), is hereby accepted and that charter of incorporation is hereby revoked.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4002, which is sponsored by our colleague from Oklahoma

(Mr. MULLIN), is a one-line bill to grant a request submitted by the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to revoke its charter of incorporation, which was issued in 1940 under a 1936 act of Congress.

□ 1645

The charter of incorporation is a New Deal era legal instrument through which a tribe may administer its business activities. However, the tribe has never used its corporate charter because it imposes undesirable restrictions on its activities. It instead manages its business activities pursuant to the authority of the tribal constitution.

Only Congress may revoke a charter of incorporation duly issued to and ratified by a tribe. In accordance with the express wishes of the tribe's leadership, our colleague who represents the tribe in the House sponsored H.R. 4002. The Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing on this bill on March 27, 2014. The Department of the Interior testified that it had no objection to the bill, and we see no reason for any Member to object to it either.

I commend my colleague from Oklahoma for performing this important constituent service, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, H.R. 4002 simply revokes a corporate charter issued to it by the Federal Government.

Under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act and the Indian Reorganization Act, many tribes were issued corporate charters in the 1930s and 1940s that were aimed at enabling them to better manage their own affairs and pursue business relationships with private entities. For some tribes, these corporate charters have proven unnecessary and end up hindering their business opportunities as they inevitably come up in negotiations with private entities and are looked upon with suspicion.

The charter must be revoked by an act of Congress, and Mr. MULLIN, on behalf of his constituent, is simply complying with the tribe's request through this bill. Similar bills have passed over the years without event. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in support of this noncontroversial bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the author of this legislation.

Mr. MULLIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that aims to help out one of my local tribes, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. I was approached by Chief

Lankford, and at his request, I crafted this bill to remove an inoperable financial charter of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma's. The bill is needed because these charters can only be revoked through an act of Congress.

The tribe has said that this outdated charter often hinders business and economic development. It imposes restrictions on the operation of business activities that are unrealistic in today's business environment. My bill removes the charter and those unneeded barriers for business for this tribe. I ask all of my colleagues to support this.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4002.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NASHUA RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 412) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 412

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION FOR STUDY.

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"() NASHUA RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.—
(A) The approximately 19-mile segment of the mainstem of the Nashua River from the confluence of the North and South Nashua Rivers in Lancaster, Massachusetts, north to the Massachusetts/New Hampshire State line, except the approximately 4.8-mile segment of the mainstem of the Nashua River from the Route 119 bridge in Groton, Massachusetts, downstream to its confluence with the Nissitissit River in Pepperell, Massachusetts.

"(B) The 10-mile segment of the Squannacook River from its headwaters at Ash Swamp downstream to its confluence with the Nashua River in Shirley/Ayer, Massachusetts.

"(C) The 3.5-mile segment of the Nissitissit River from the Massachusetts/New Hampshire State line downstream to its confluence with the Nashua River in Pepperell, Massachusetts."

SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT.

Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"() STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete the study of the Nashua River in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, as described in subsection (a)(), and submit a report describing the results of that study to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate."

SEC. 4. REPORT REQUIREMENTS.

The report required under section 3 of this Act shall—

(1) include a discussion of the effect of the designation of the area to be studied under this Act under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on—

(A) existing commercial and recreational activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational shooting, motor boat use, or bridge construction;

(B) the authorization, construction, operation, maintenance, or improvement of energy production and transmission infrastructure; and

(C) the authority of State and local governments to manage those activities encompassed in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) identify—

(A) all authorities that will authorize or require the Secretary of the Interior to influence local land use decisions (such as zoning) or place restrictions on non-Federal land if the area studied under this Act is designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act;

(B) all authorities that the Secretary of the Interior may use to condemn property if the area studied under this Act is designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; and

(C) all private property located in the area to be studied under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 412 authorizes the National Park Service to study 32.5 miles of river in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The legislation requires that, in the course of the study, the National Park Service consider the effect of designation on recreational uses, such as hunting and fishing, but also consider impacts to energy production and transmission. I would like to note that this legislation exempts a 4.8-mile segment that is currently the subject of a FERC

licensing proceeding to avoid the inherent conflict between hydroelectric facilities and the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. H.R. 412 requires the study take steps to inform the public of the consequences a future designation may bring. The study will identify all authorities that could be utilized to take property through eminent domain and those authorities that compel the Park Service to involve itself in local zoning.

Property owners must not be left in the dark as to the result of this Federal designation on their properties. For the study process to be authentically derived from the community, the facts and limitations on property rights must be revealed in the process.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 412, the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Act.

First, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS for bringing this legislation to the floor. As we all know, Chairman HASTINGS will be retiring at the end of this year, so I want to especially thank him for his service on the Natural Resources Committee, and I wish him all the best.

I also want to thank Ranking Member DEFazio, Subcommittee Chairman BISHOP, and Subcommittee Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support of this legislation.

The history and development of the towns and cities in the Third District of Massachusetts have been defined by the many rivers that course through these unique communities. From the mighty Merrimack River that supported the birth of the industrial revolution in Lowell to the Concord River where a famous shot was heard around the world, our rivers continue to play an important role in connecting our communities, but time and development have not always been kind to these rivers.

Beginning in the 1700s and continuing to just a few decades ago, paper, shoe, and textile factories were constructed along the Nashua River and many other rivers in the area. The strong currents of the rivers powered the factories and made their success possible; but at the same time, the factories were releasing industrial waste right back into the rivers, polluting the very source of their success. By the mid-1960s, the Nashua River was one of the most polluted rivers in the Nation. In fact, the river would change color almost daily because of the inks and dyes released into the river by the paper factories; but in 1965, one Third District resident, Marion Stoddart, realized that something had to be done. Ms. Stoddart formed the Nashua River Clean-up Committee to work toward cleaning up the river and protecting the land along its banks.

Thanks to her work and to the continued work of the Nashua River Watershed Association, the Nashua River has come a long way since the 1960s. Pollution from the mills has been cleaned up; new sewage treatment plants now keep sewage out of the river; and more than 8,000 acres of land and 85 miles of greenway along the riverbanks have been permanently conserved. I can't praise Marion enough and all of the dedicated residents, volunteers, and association staff who have spent countless hours working to make sure that the Nashua River can once again be an asset and resource to the communities through which it passes.

There is still much work to be done, and that is why I partnered with the Nashua River Watershed Association to introduce H.R. 412, a bill that will initiate a 3-year study to determine whether, roughly, 28 miles of the Nashua River and its tributaries can be designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers. This study will allow the National Park Service, the Watershed Association, and local governments and stakeholders to work together in forming a plan to protect the Nashua River.

Every town through which the Nashua River passes, in addition to several local environmental organizations, supports the adoption of this legislation. Additionally, my office just received the results of a reconnaissance survey conducted by the National Park Service. The Park Service found:

The elements for a successful Wild and Scenic River Study process for the Nashua River and its tributaries in Massachusetts are in place.

In 1999, 29 miles of the nearby Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord Rivers were designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers. Since then, we have seen how this designation can help protect not only the quality of the rivers but the quality of the recreational activities they support. It is my hope that the Wild and Scenic designation can be expanded to the Nashua River so that we can see the same successes there. The study that H.R. 412 will initiate is essential to starting this process.

In closing, I would like to again thank Chairman HASTINGS and Chairman BISHOP for bringing this bill to the floor.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts for her kind words on this. I know that she has been working on this legislation for the past at least two Congresses, and she knows that some of us on our side of the aisle have some concerns with that; but in working with her, we have legislation that we can support, and I urge the adoption of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 412, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 20, 2014, at 2:37 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing the emergency with North Korea first declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-124)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1522(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in E.O. 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in E.O. 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of

North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to North Korea.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 20, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTINGER) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 1044, by the yeas and nays; and the Senate amendment to H.R. 316, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PRAYER ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1044) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-day, June 6, 1944, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 370, nays 12, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 339]

YEAS—370

Aderholt	Edwards	LaMalfa
Amash	Ellmers	Lamborn
Amodei	Engel	Lance
Bachmann	Enyart	Langvin
Bachus	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Barber	Esty	Larson (CT)
Barletta	Farenthold	Latham
Barr	Farr	Latta
Barrow (GA)	Fattah	Levin
Barton	Fincher	Lewis
Bass	Fleischmann	LoBiondo
Beatty	Fleming	Loebuck
Becerra	Flores	Lofgren
Benish	Foster	Long
Bentivoglio	Fox	Lowenthal
Bera (CA)	Frankel (FL)	Lowey
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Lucas
Bishop (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (NY)	Fudge	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bishop (UT)	Gabbard	(NM)
Black	Gallego	Lummis
Blackburn	Garamendi	Lynch
Blumenauer	Garcia	Maffei
Boustany	Gardner	Maloney
Brady (PA)	Garrett	Carolyn
Brady (TX)	Gerlach	Maloney, Sean
Braley (IA)	Gibbs	Marchant
Bridenstine	Gibson	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Gingrey (GA)	Matheson
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Matsui
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)
Brownley (CA)	Gosar	McCarthy (NY)
Buchanan	Gowdy	McCaul
Bucshon	Granger	McClintock
Bustos	Graves (MO)	McCullum
Butterfield	Grayson	McDermott
Byrne	Green, Al	McGovern
Calvert	Green, Gene	McHenry
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McIntyre
Capito	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Capps	Grijalva	McMorris
Capuano	Grimm	Rodgers
Cárdenas	Guthrie	McNerney
Carney	Hahn	Meadows
Carson (IN)	Harris	Meng
Cartwright	Hartzler	Messer
Castor (FL)	Hastings (FL)	Mica
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Michaud
Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)
Ciçilline	Heck (WA)	Miller (MI)
Clarke (NY)	Hensarling	Moore
Clay	Herrera Beutler	Moran
Cleaver	Higgins	Mullin
Clyburn	Himes	Mulvaney
Coble	Hinojosa	Murphy (FL)
Coffman	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Cole	Holt	Napolitano
Collins (GA)	Horsford	Neal
Collins (NY)	Hoyer	Negrete McLeod
Conaway	Hudson	Neugebauer
Connolly	Huelskamp	Noem
Conyers	Huffman	Nolan
Cook	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent
Cooper	Hultgren	Nunes
Costa	Hunter	Olson
Cotton	Hurt	Owens
Courtney	Israel	Palazzo
Cramer	Issa	Pallone
Crenshaw	Jackson Lee	Pascarell
Crowley	Jeffries	Paulsen
Cuellar	Jenkins	Payne
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
Cummings	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Daines	Johnson, Sam	Perlmutter
Davis (CA)	Jolly	Perry
Davis, Danny	Jones	Peters (CA)
Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Peterson
DeFazio	Joyce	Petri
DeGette	Kaptur	Pingree (ME)
Delaney	Keating	Pittenger
DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Pitts
DelBene	Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)
Denham	Kennedy	Posey
Dent	Kildee	Price (GA)
DeSantis	Kilmer	Price (NC)
DesJarlais	Kind	Quigley
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Rahall
Dingell	King (NY)	Reed
Doggett	Kinzing (IL)	Reichert
Doyle	Kirkpatrick	Renacci
Duffy	Kline	Ribble
Duncan (SC)	Kuster	Rice (SC)
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Richmond

Rigell	Sessions	Upton
Roe (TN)	Sewell (AL)	Valadao
Rogers (AL)	Sherman	Van Hollen
Rogers (KY)	Shinkus	Vargas
Rogers (MI)	Shuster	Veasey
Rokita	Simpson	Vela
Rooney	Sinema	Visclosky
Ros-Lehtinen	Sires	Wagner
Ross	Slaughter	Walberg
Rothfus	Smith (MO)	Walden
Roybal-Allard	Smith (NE)	Walorski
Royce	Smith (NJ)	Walz
Ruiz	Smith (TX)	Wasserman
Ruppersberger	Southerland	Schultz
Ryan (WI)	Speler	Waters
Salmon	Stewart	Weber (TX)
Sánchez, Linda	Stivers	Webster (FL)
T.	Stockman	Welch
Sanchez, Loretta	Stutzman	Wenstrup
Sanford	Swalwell (CA)	Westmoreland
Sarbanes	Takano	Whitfield
Scalise	Terry	Wilson (FL)
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Wittman
Schneider	Thompson (PA)	Wolf
Schock	Thornberry	Womack
Schrader	Tiberi	Woodall
Schwartz	Tierney	Yarmuth
Schweikert	Tipton	Yoder
Scott, Austin	Titus	Yoho
Scott, David	Tonko	Young (AK)
Sensenbrenner	Turner	Young (IN)

NAYS—12

Bonamici	Ellison	O'Rourke
Chu	Honda	Pocan
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Scott (VA)
Duckworth	Nadler	Tsongas

NOT VOTING—49

Brown (FL)	Hanna	Peters (MI)
Burgess	Harper	Polis
Campbell	Kingston	Pompeo
Cantor	Lankford	Rangel
Carter	Lee (CA)	Roby
Cassidy	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Castro (TX)	Lujan Grisham	Roskam
Cohen	(NM)	Runyan
Crawford	Marino	Rush
Deutch	McAllister	Ryan (OH)
Fitzpatrick	McKeon	Serrano
Forbes	Meehan	Shea-Porter
Fortenberry	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Graves (GA)	Miller, Gary	Velázquez
Gutiérrez	Miller, George	Waxman
Hall	Nunnelee	Williams
Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)	

□ 1857

Ms. BONAMICI, Messrs. HONDA, O'ROURKE, and Ms. CHU changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. FLEMING, FRANKS of Arizona, HUFFMAN, HOLDING, and AL GREEN of Texas changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 339, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

SECOND ANNUAL CAPITAL SOCCER CLASSIC

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that the entire Nation is cheering on Team USA in the

World Cup right now, and we are happy that they are going to continue to do well; but, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the body's attention to another hard-fought game, which was the second annual Capital Soccer Classic. In a very close game, the Democrats edged out the Republicans by a score of 7-6, and we will have the plaque.

Mr. Speaker, I have to confess that both teams benefited from having some professional players on both sides, but the Democrats had a ringer in the name of ERIC SWALWELL, who was a great player and who was the high scorer in the game; and also, as goalie, he stopped a lot of goals.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the people who participated in the Soccer Caucus, cochair DAVID REICHERT—Congressman REICHERT and TODD YOUNG. We also want to thank the captain of the Democratic team, MIKE MCINTYRE; and ERIK PAULSEN played very well.

Finally, I want to acknowledge GEORGE MILLER, who is a cochair of the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to thank the U.S. Soccer Foundation for all their support for soccer, for all the good work they do to promote soccer among the youth in our country.

Now, it gives me great pleasure to yield to the cochair of the Soccer Caucus, former Division I player at the Naval Academy, TODD YOUNG.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman and his team. Congratulations to the Democrats.

The Republican side fought hard. We had a late surge, and we came up short by one goal, but this was for a greater cause than ourselves, promoting the sport of soccer among the youth of America; and I, too, would add: Go USA.

COLLINSVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 316) to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 3, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 340]

YEAS—379

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Joyce
Amodei	Dingell	Kaptur
Bachmann	Doggett	Keating
Bachus	Doyle	Kelly (IL)
Barber	Duckworth	Kelly (PA)
Barletta	Duffy	Kennedy
Barr	Duncan (TN)	Kildee
Barrow (GA)	Edwards	Kilmer
Barton	Ellison	Kind
Beatty	Ellmers	King (IA)
Becerra	Engel	King (NY)
Benishek	Enyart	Kinzinger (IL)
Bentivolio	Eshoo	Kirkpatrick
Bera (CA)	Esty	Kline
Bilirakis	Farenthold	Kuster
Bishop (GA)	Farr	Labrador
Bishop (NY)	Fattah	LaMalfa
Bishop (UT)	Fincher	Lamborn
Black	Fleischmann	Lance
Blackburn	Fleming	Langevin
Blumenauer	Flores	Larsen (WA)
Bonamici	Foster	Larson (CT)
Boustany	Fox	Latham
Brady (PA)	Frankel (FL)	Latta
Brady (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Levin
Bralley (IA)	Frelinghuysen	Lewis
Bridenstine	Fudge	LoBiondo
Brooks (AL)	Gabbard	Loeb
Brooks (IN)	Gallagher	Lofgren
Brown (GA)	Garamendi	Long
Brownley (CA)	Garcia	Lowenthal
Buchanan	Gardner	Lowe
Bucshon	Garrett	Lucas
Bustos	Gerlach	Luetkemeyer
Butterfield	Gibbs	Lujan Grisham
Byrne	Gibson	(NM)
Calvert	Gingrey (GA)	Lujan, Ben Ray
Camp	Gohmert	(NM)
Capito	Goodlatte	Lummis
Capps	Gosar	Lynch
Capuano	Gowdy	Maffei
Carney	Granger	Maloney,
Carson (IN)	Graves (MO)	Carolyn
Cartwright	Grayson	Maloney, Sean
Castor (FL)	Green, Al	Marchant
Castro (TX)	Green, Gene	Massie
Chabot	Griffin (AR)	Matheson
Chaffetz	Griffith (VA)	Matsui
Chu	Grijalva	McCarthy (CA)
Ciavarella	Grimm	McCarthy (NY)
Clark (MA)	Guthrie	McCauley
Clarke (NY)	Hahn	McClintock
Clay	Harris	McCollum
Cleaver	Hartzler	McDermott
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Coble	Hastings (WA)	McHenry
Coffman	Heck (NV)	McIntyre
Cole	Heck (WA)	McKinley
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	McMorris
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers
Conaway	Higgins	McNerney
Connolly	Himes	Meadows
Conyers	Hinojosa	Meng
Cook	Holding	Messer
Cooper	Holt	Mica
Costa	Honda	Michaud
Cotton	Horsford	Miller (FL)
Courtney	Hoyer	Miller (MI)
Cramer	Hudson	Moore
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Moran
Crowley	Huffman	Mullin
Cullear	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (FL)
Culberson	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Cummings	Hunter	Nadler
Daines	Hurt	Napolitano
Davis (CA)	Israel	Neal
Davis, Danny	Issa	Negrete McLeod
Davis, Rodney	Jackson Lee	Neugebauer
DeFazio	Jeffries	Noem
DeGette	Jenkins	Nolan
Delaney	Johnson (GA)	Nugent
DeLauro	Johnson (OH)	Nunes
DelBene	Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Olson
Dent	Jolly	Owens
DeSantis	Jones	Palazzo
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pallone

Pascarella	Sánchez, Linda	Thornberry
Paulsen	T.	Tiberi
Payne	Sanchez, Loretta	Tierney
Pearce	Sanford	Tipton
Pelosi	Sarbanes	Titus
Perlmutter	Scalise	Tonko
Perry	Schakowsky	Tsongas
Peters (CA)	Schiff	Turner
Peterson	Schneider	Upton
Petri	Schock	Valadao
Pingree (ME)	Schrader	Van Hollen
Pittenger	Schwartz	Vargas
Pitts	Schweikert	Veasey
Pocan	Scott (VA)	Vela
Poe (TX)	Scott, Austin	Visclosky
Posey	Scott, David	Wagner
Price (GA)	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Price (NC)	Sessions	Walden
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Walorski
Rahall	Sherman	Walz
Reed	Shimkus	Wasserman
Reichert	Shuster	Schultz
Renacci	Simpson	Waters
Ribble	Sinema	Weber (TX)
Rice (SC)	Sires	Weber (FL)
Richmond	Slaughter	Welch
Rigell	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup
Roe (TN)	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (FL)
Rogers (MI)	Southerland	Wilson (SC)
Rokita	Speier	Wittman
Rooney	Stewart	Wolf
Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	Womack
Ross	Stockman	Woodall
Rothfus	Stutzman	Yarmuth
Roybal-Allard	Swalwell (CA)	Yoder
Royce	Takano	Yoho
Ruiz	Terry	Young (AK)
Ruppersberger	Thompson (CA)	Young (IN)
Ryan (WI)	Thompson (MS)	
Salmon	Thompson (PA)	

NAYS—3

Amash Duncan (SC) Mulvaney

NOT VOTING—49

Bass	Hanabusa	Polis
Brown (FL)	Hanna	Pompeo
Burgess	Harper	Rangel
Campbell	Kingston	Roby
Cantor	Lankford	Rohrabacher
Cárdenas	Lee (CA)	Roskam
Carter	Lipinski	Runyan
Cassidy	Marino	Rush
Cohen	McAllister	Ryan (OH)
Crawford	McKeon	Serrano
Deutch	Meehan	Shea-Porter
Fitzpatrick	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Forbes	Miller, Gary	Velázquez
Fortenberry	Miller, George	Waxman
Graves (GA)	Nunnelee	Williams
Gutiérrez	Pastor (AZ)	
Hall	Peters (MI)	

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3301, NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-492) on the resolution (H. Res. 636) providing for

consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4413.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 4413, CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the enrollment of the bill, H.R. 4413, the Clerk is authorized to correct the table of contents, section numbers, punctuation, citations, cross references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House in amending this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 629 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4413.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1911

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and ac-

countability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act.

This is a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission that I introduced along with my colleagues, Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON and chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, MIKE CONAWAY and DAVID SCOTT.

This bill is years in the making, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for all of the hard work that they have put in to get us to this point.

Throughout this process, the committee, as well as the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, held numerous hearings, heard from a variety of stakeholders with a wide variety of perspectives.

We heard from end users representing farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, energy firms, and utilities. We heard testimony from every CFTC Commissioner and even foreign regulators. We also heard from exchanges, futures customers, and numerous other market participants.

Ultimately, we developed legislation to reauthorize and reform the CFTC in a way that would not only improve operations at the agency, but also protect customers from another market failure, as we saw with MF Global or PFGBEST.

Our efforts will also increase certainty in the marketplace and provide a more balanced approach to regulations impacting job creators.

I am proud to say this overwhelmingly bipartisan bill passed unanimously out of the Agriculture Committee by a voice vote.

First of all, H.R. 4413 will better protect farmers and ranchers who use the futures markets to manage their risk by cementing several new and existing protections into law.

These protections are designed to restore confidence in the marketplace following the failure of MF Global and PFGBEST, where customers, who thought their money was safely segregated, suffered severe financial loss due to the illegal use of their funds.

Such protections include requiring firms to calculate and report customer account balances electronically to regulators, requiring firms who become undercapitalized to immediately notify regulators, and imposing strict reporting and permission requirements before the movement of a customer's funds from one account to another.

Now, as for the reforms of the Commission, H.R. 4413 reauthorizes the appropriations to the agency through 2018. Furthermore, the bill strives to enhance the efficiency of the Commission operations and ensure all Commissioners' voices are heard in the regular order of a well-reasoned rulemaking process.

For example, H.R. 4413 closely follows an executive order issued by President Obama to improve the quality of cost-benefit analysis performed by the Commission prior to promulgating rules; requires division directors to serve at the pleasure of the entire Commission, rather than solely at the whim of the chairman; and clarifies the judicial review process of agency rules.

□ 1915

The Commission reform title also calls for the development of a much-needed strategic technology plan to enhance market surveillance and the interpretation of collected data.

Importantly, H.R. 4413 also provides much-needed relief to end users. Those are the market participants who account for only 10 percent of the swaps market and had nothing to do with the 2008 financial crisis, yet represent 94 percent of U.S. job creators, including farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, energy firms, and utilities.

Due to the consideration of the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress clearly intended to exempt end users from some of the most costly new regulations. However, the CFTC has narrowly interpreted the law, resulting in burdensome and often arbitrary compliance requirements which have negatively impacted end users by making it more difficult and costly to manage the risks associated with their businesses.

To address these concerns, H.R. 4413 includes provisions which relieve business owners from arbitrary and costly record-keeping requirements, allow businesses to continue successful fuel-hedging strategies, and prevent the physical delivery of commodities from being unnecessarily regulated as swaps.

H.R. 4413 provides help to America's job creators by including five carefully crafted measures designed to enhance market certainty, which have previously passed the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee and the United States House of Representatives, with overwhelming bipartisan support, three of which received over 400 votes in favor.

In closing, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act is a wide-ranging, bipartisan CFTC reauthorization

bill that provides a blueprint for the newly elected Chairman and Commissioners to use in making numerous improvements at the Commission, better protects futures customers, and reduces burdens on America's job creators. I urge each of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act. As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 4413, and I agree that your decision should not prejudice the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will also include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during floor debate.

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2014.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS, I am writing with respect to H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End User Relief Act," which the Committee on Agriculture ordered reported favorably on April 9, 2014. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 4413 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to forego consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4413 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4413, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 4413.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

The bill before us today is bipartisan, reasonable legislation to reauthorize the CFTC. I believe this bill strikes the necessary balance to actually become law.

The Dodd-Frank Act tasked the CFTC with implementing a variety of new regulations to better protect the derivative market participants, and while the Commission has made great progress, recent cases have demonstrated there is more work that needs to be done.

H.R. 4413 better protects farmers and ranchers who use the futures markets by cementing into law several new regulatory provisions that arose out of the MF Global bankruptcy and the fraud that occurred at Peregrine Financial. The bill requires electronic confirmation of customer fund account balances held at depository institutions and prohibits firms from moving customer funds from one account to another without regulators' knowledge. The bill also examines two issues that have recently gained notoriety: high-frequency trading and funding for the CFTC.

Michael Lewis' book "Flash Boys" has made high-frequency trading a hot topic. But what many people don't realize is that high-frequency trading in securities markets is very different from high-frequency trading in futures and other derivatives markets. This is why the bill directs the CFTC to thoroughly examine this practice and report back to Congress their findings. And once we have a better understanding of high-frequency trading in the markets regulated by the CFTC, we can then determine if further legislative action is necessary.

The bill also directs GAO to examine CFTC's funding needs. There has been a lot of debate in the House about the agency's funding level and how the fund should be used. And I am not sure anybody really knows. So having an independent third party, like the GAO, look at this question will better inform the debate going forward.

As the chairman said, H.R. 4413 also provides some much-needed clarity to end users, agriculture and energy producers, and others who actually use the derivatives market to hedge against risk and did not cause the financial collapse. Congress never intended for these end users to be regulated in the same manner as financial entities, and H.R. 4413 makes that clear. The bill also incorporates legislation already passed by the House, with strong bipartisan support, including end user margin exemptions, indemnification requirements, and relief for municipal utilities.

I know Members have raised concerns about two particular provisions in this bill, the cost-benefit section and the cross-border section. The cost-benefit language mirrors President Obama's Executive Order 13563, which imposed

cost-benefit assessment standards on all government departments. I didn't hear any complaints about increased workload when the executive order was issued. But there are some complaints about what is in this bill.

I guess because the executive order exempted cost-benefit standards from legal challenges, some have suggested that the financial industry will use this bill's new standards to challenge CFTC rulemaking. But, frankly, I think the financial industry will continue to sue the CFTC regardless of whether we change the cost-benefit standards or not. It is the industry's nature to fight regulation. We will also be considering some amendments to address these concerns, and I look forward to this debate tonight.

Finally, I have heard some fears that this bill gives some foreign interests an automatic exemption from U.S. swap rules. So let's be clear. The CFTC has adopted these cross-border provisions. The SEC has not. And what it says in this bill is, if they don't agree, then the current regulations stay in place. So the CFTC's cross-border guidance is going to continue to be effective and remain in place, and whatever cross-border rule the SEC finalizes next week will also be effective. And what it says in this bill is that if they can ever reconcile those two things, then there could be some changes in how the cross-border rule is administered.

But given the history of these two agencies, the chances of them actually coming together on this are probably slim to none. We have been waiting 14 years for joint rules regarding portfolio margining for products under their respective jurisdictions. So their record of cooperation is not good. And as I said, right now, the CFTC has rules. They say that if somebody is doing business in the U.S., they are going to have to come under U.S. law, and that is the way it is going to stay.

So, Mr. Chairman, this bill is not perfect. But if we waited for perfection, we would be waiting forever, and we wouldn't be able to vote for anything. This bill deserves our support so we can move the process along to the Senate and hopefully see a bill signed into law before the CFTC reauthorization expires in September.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4413, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), the chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, regrettably, our Nation is still faced with the weakest, slowest, nonrecovery recovery since the Great Depression. Tens of millions of our fellow countrymen remain unemployed and underemployed. And if

you speak to practically any business—large, small, medium—they will tell you that the sheer weight in volume and complexity of regulation—especially Federal regulation—is perhaps the primary reason that they can't expand their business and that they can't create more jobs for those who need them.

As one small businessman in my district put it: "The complexity of all the different rules and regulations that the government imposes is just incomprehensible confusion."

Mr. Chairman, that is not the way we create jobs in America. Yet Washington continues to drown our small businesses and our job creators in so many regulations and red tape. We have got to change that.

The legislation before us, H.R. 4413, contains a number of measures that originated in the Financial Services Committee and have already passed the House with bipartisan support. For example, section 395 of the bill was originally introduced as H.R. 1256, bipartisan legislation sponsored by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. CARNEY of Delaware. It will simplify and rationalize the regulation of derivatives activity that occurs across U.S. and foreign markets today.

American companies obviously use derivatives to manage risk and to provide products and services to consumers at competitive prices, yet today they face the troubling prospect of having to comply with conflicting cross-border requirements from two Washington regulators, the CFTC and the SEC.

On the one hand, the Securities and Exchange Commission has issued a proposed rule that recognizes equivalent derivatives requirements in foreign countries as valid substitutes for U.S. regulation. On the other hand, the CFTC staff outside the formal rule-making process has issued guidance that treats countries with well-established regulatory systems, including Canada, the U.K., Germany, and Japan, as rogue nations. The CFTC decided all on its own to inappropriately extend U.S. derivatives rules into foreign markets. It is no wonder that the CFTC's irresponsible guidance has been challenged in Federal court and routinely criticized by a number of our U.S. and European regulators.

This unapproved guidance will harm U.S. markets. It will harm consumers. It will harm job-seekers. It will harm our economy. It will result in higher costs on everything, from a John Deere tractor for a farmer in east Texas who wants to buy one to a cold six-pack for a worker in a mesquite factory who wants to finally rest after the day's end. It will even impact the price of an airline ticket for a grandmother in Garland as she tries to afford a trip to go visit the grandkids.

Mr. Chairman, farmers, workers, grandmothers, and, indeed, all Ameri-

cans are already paying more for food, for gas, and for everything. Let's not let the CFTC add to their burden. The bill before us today, H.R. 4413, would help solve this case of government overreach by requiring U.S. regulators to issue one—clear rule to govern cross-border derivatives activities.

Let's bring some common sense back. Let's protect our consumers. Let's get America back to work. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4413.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to our H.R. 4413 legislation that would reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. This measure addresses an important goal for this Congress: reauthorization of the CFTC, our regulator whose mission it is to ensure fair rules of the road for the majority of derivatives traded by U.S. firms.

I know that Representative PETERSON and Representative SCOTT, the ranking members of the committee and subcommittee respectively, have worked in good faith to improve this legislation and that they care deeply about making the CFTC work for farmers, manufacturers, and other businesses that use futures and derivatives. I thank them for their efforts.

However, I am concerned about provisions in the bill unrelated to the reauthorization of the Commission that I believe would undermine the CFTC's authority and hamstring its ability to regulate a complex and important marketplace. Mr. Chairman, this legislation imposes heavy administrative burdens that will prevent, delay, or weaken CFTC's efforts to implement important reforms called for by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

H.R. 4413 would also make it much more difficult for the CFTC and the SEC to regulate derivatives transactions involving foreign operations of U.S. banks. It does so by establishing hard-to-overturn exemptions that allow their operations to substitute Dodd-Frank rules in favor of more lenient foreign rules in foreign markets, despite the fact that the risks may come back to the United States.

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These types of derivatives transactions contributed to the massive taxpayer bailout of AIG in 2008, created enormous losses to JPMorgan in the London Whale episode in 2012, and brought down the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management in the 1990s. This bill makes the job of the CFTC and the SEC to police derivatives operations of large U.S. banks and their foreign affiliates much more difficult.

In addition, under the guise of cost-benefit analysis, the bill imposes heavy administrative hurdles and new litigation risk on the CFTC, significantly impairing the Commission's ability to do its job of regulating our derivatives markets.

Like other agencies, the CFTC already considers the costs and benefits pursuant to numerous existing laws, and unlike any other regulator, the CFTC goes even further, considering the protection of market participants and the public, the effect on futures markets, price discovery, sound risk management practices, and other public interest matters.

Even the courts have weighed in, finding that the CFTC has fulfilled its duty to consider the cost and benefits.

H.R. 4413 not only burdens an agency already facing limited funding with additional administrative burdens, but it also opens up new avenues for special interests to endlessly challenge the CFTC in court.

Former CFTC Chairman Gensler noted that, if this provision in H.R. 4413 is enacted, "It may well be hard to get any rule out of the building."

Together, these changes undermine the CFTC's ability to guard against some of the most complex and risky activities in our financial system, and it is all just part of a multifaceted Republican effort to undercut laws and regulations that protect consumers, investors, and the economy.

It also comes just a week after House Republicans proposed an appropriations measure that dangerously underfunds the CFTC at 22 percent below the President's request, a level which will lead to either agencywide closures or employee layoffs.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to undercut and underfund Wall Street's top derivatives cop with the authority to ensure compliance with the law. This bill is widely opposed by the Obama administration, the AFL/CIO, broad coalition groups like Americans for Financial Reform and the Consumer Federation of America, as well as derivatives end users like the Petroleum Marketers Association of America.

So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation. I insert in the RECORD the opposition, including the White House opposition to this legislation.

PUBLIC CITIZEN,
June 16, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Public Citizen opposes H.R. 4413, "The Customer Protection and End User Relief Act." Several provisions will severely undermine financial reform. These include:

Adding unworkable cost-benefit analysis requirements that will only empower industry interests to bring litigation that will delay or negate important rules and do nothing to improve Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) regulations.

Prohibiting the CFTC from supervising US swap operations overseas, which will invite

riskier activity and raise the potential for more bailouts;

Eliminating the ability of the CFTC to require certain safety rules for swaps.

NEW COST-BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS DON'T PASS THE COST-BENEFIT TEST

Wall Street has exploited the courts to delay, dilute and even overturn needed reform laws intended to return the financial industry to safer practices. Instead of making the CFTC more effective and efficient by bolstering their authority and improving their standing vis a vis the courts, H.R. 4413 actually makes the CFTC even more vulnerable to Wall Street lawsuits. The net effect will be weaker rules that will take the CFTC longer to finalize and will be more prone to reversal in court. In sum, this legislation will significantly damage, not improve, the CFTC's ability to adopt strong financial reforms that protect consumers and the public.

H.R. 4413 patently ignores the fact that the CFTC takes their cost-benefit requirements very seriously. In September 2010, the CFTC's General Counsel and Acting Chief Economist directed staff to produce cost-benefit analyses in proposed rulemakings and conceptual cost-benefit analyses in adopting releases. This is above and beyond existing CFTC requirements. In a follow-up memo, rule-making teams were directed to "incorporate the principles of Executive Order 13563" when writing rules. This order applied cost-benefit analysis requirements for departments overseen by the President. In May 2012, the CFTC, in an unprecedented move, entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) where OIRA provides "technical assistance" to CFTC staff during implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, "particularly with respect" to cost-benefit analysis.

Thus, the litany of additional cost-benefit analyses imposed by H.R. 4413 in no way improves the existing and extensive cost-benefit analysis practices at the CFTC. Rather the direct effect will be to convert the cost-benefit analyses the CFTC already conducts as a matter of best practice into numerous new legal grounds for Wall Street to challenge CFTC rules in court. Thus, the beneficiaries of these changes will be big Wall Street banks and their high-priced lawyers while the public pays the price of a far slower CFTC that must jump through even more hoops before putting common-sense Wall Street reforms in place.

EVADING US SUPERVISION

Some of the most dangerous financial practices by US firms leading to the financial crisis of 2008 were conducted overseas. AIG sold a form of bond insurance called credit default swaps from its London office, out of view of American supervisors. When AIG could not pay massive claims from bond defaults, taxpayers bailed out AIG's clients with \$160 billion. More recently, JP Morgan's "Whale" transactions used US deposits for speculative derivatives trading in London, leading to a loss of more than \$6 billion.

Section 359 nullifies the CFTC's rubric for overseeing American firms with foreign-based swaps business. Instead, it permits US firms to establish foreign-incorporated affiliates that would escape US supervision altogether. Already, certain US firms have begun to exploit a loophole in the CFTC's current rules to escape US supervision. This involves removing the guarantee of the US parent for the foreign-originated swap.

Permitting foreign supervision is misguided because foreign supervisors won't

have the same motivation as US supervisors to enforce prudential rules since a failure would fall on US taxpayers. In fact, foreign governments would be incentivized to relax oversight so as to attract more traders and the associated income tax revenue they would generate. The financial sector provides more than 11 percent of total tax revenue for the United Kingdom. Not only does this legislation increase the chance for another US taxpayer bailout, it would sacrifice US tax revenue by incentivizing American firms to relocate their derivatives business abroad.

SAFETY MARGINS PROHIBITED

Unregulated swaps were at the heart of the financial crash, as derivatives dealers who failed to back up their swaps with adequate collateral spread financial contagion. This legislation removes some of the tools that the CFTC could use to promote safety. For example, H.R. 4413 prohibits the CFTC from requiring that end-users post margin collateral. The CFTC has declared that it would not require such margin, but it is important for the agency to retain this power if the market becomes unsafe in the future.

This is just one example of the flaws of this bill. There are many other sections that limit the ability of the CFTC to accomplish its mission of protecting investors and the public from misconduct in the \$700 trillion swaps market. We believe Congress should be exploring ways to strengthen the agency, such as with self-funding and a larger budget, rather than working to undermine it.

We urge the House to reject H.R. 4413.

For more information, please contact Public Citizen's Congress Watch Advocates: Amit Narang, Regulatory Policy Advocate at anarang@citizen.org; or Bartlett Naylor, Financial Policy Advocate, at bnaylor@citizen.org.

Sincerely,

AMIT NARANG.
BARTLETT NAYLOR.

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA,
June 17, 2014.

Re Oppose H.R. 4413.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We are writing on behalf of the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) to ask you to oppose "The Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act" (H.R. 4413), which the House is expected to vote on this month. This legislation would hamstring the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) from effectively overseeing and regulating commodities and derivatives markets, leaving consumers exposed to fraud, manipulation, abusive practices and putting the safety and stability of the U.S. financial system at risk. This bill includes harmful provisions that are strikingly similar to other bills that have been brought to the House floor, which were clearly aimed at undermining the Dodd-Frank Act, and which the Obama Administration opposed. Please stand firm against these continuing attacks on financial reform by voting no on H.R. 4413.

First, this bill would impose an assortment of new, onerous cost-benefit analysis requirements on the CFTC which are likely to delay and obstruct agency action. Under the Commodity Exchange Act, the CFTC already has a statutory mandate to evaluate the costs and benefits of its actions in light of numerous considerations, including the protection of market participants and the public, efficiency, competitiveness, financial integrity, price discovery, and sound risk management practices. This bill would add six new considerations that the CFTC would have to evalu-

ate, and require that a new Office of the Chief Economist provide qualitative and quantitative analysis to justify the agency's actions. Included in the new economic analysis regime is a requirement to evaluate the costs of complying with the proposed regulation, provide a methodology for quantifying the costs, assess available alternatives to direct regulation, and, determine whether, in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, those alternatives maximize the net benefits, which likely will mean adopting an approach that best benefits industry. Essentially, the CFTC will be required to undertake an in-depth, burdensome economic analysis for each regulation it proposes and compare its proposal to every conceivable alternative. Such a framework likely will create insurmountable barriers that cripple the agency from putting forth rule proposals and finalizing them in a timely manner so as to effectively protect market participants and the overall economy.

The new cost-benefit analysis requirements also are likely to result in increasing opportunities to thwart CFTC regulations through legal challenges. The practical effect of the new heightened requirements will be that any time an industry participant objects to new rules, it will have several new bases for a lawsuit, and it will seek to defeat those rules by claiming that the agency did not undertake a proper economic analysis by considering, and then disposing of, all the possible theoretical alternatives. It is reasonable to believe that armed with such strong ammunition, industry-supported lawsuits seeking to dismantle any new regulations will be successful, a problem made worse by the agency's lack of funding to effectively defend against such suits.

The provisions in this bill that would apply to the CFTC reflect the same approach that the House took last year against the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in H.R. 1062, the "SEC Regulatory Accountability Act," for which the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP). That bill also imposed numerous unnecessary cost-benefit analysis requirements to rulemakings by the SEC, in addition to the cost-benefit requirements that the SEC already has to undertake. Similar to H.R. 4413, H.R. 1062 required the SEC to separately analyze the costs and benefits of the entire set of "available regulatory alternatives" and make a determination whether a regulation imposed the "least burden possible" among all possible regulatory options. We urge you to oppose this renewed attempt to impose onerous, unnecessary cost-benefit analysis bills aimed at undermining financial regulators' ability to implement the Dodd-Frank Act.

This legislation also subverts the CFTC's authority to regulate foreign derivatives activities that have a direct and significant effect on U.S. commerce. As our nation has learned painfully and repeatedly from the collapses of Long Term Capital Management, AIG, and Lehman Bros., and from the recent JPMorgan London Whale trading debacle, even when derivatives contracts are booked through a foreign subsidiary of a U.S. financial institution, the risks of those derivatives often flow back to the U.S., threatening the U.S. economy and potentially putting U.S. taxpayers on the hook for any resulting losses. That is why Dodd-Frank gave the CFTC broad authority to regulate overseas derivatives when they put our national economic interests in peril. Pursuant to that cross-border framework, the CFTC allows a foreign host country's regulations to substitute for U.S. regulations only after the

CFTC has made a finding that the foreign host country's regulations are comparable to U.S. rules. However, this bill would create a presumption that a foreign host country's regulations should apply unless the CFTC determines that those regulations are not "broadly equivalent" to U.S. regulations, and in each instance, requires the CFTC to submit a written report to Congress articulating the basis for the agency's determination. Switching the presumption will subjugate the CFTC's authority, with the default position allowing a foreign country's rules to apply, and then requiring the CFTC to prove why they should not apply. Combining the reversed presumption, required Congressional report, and overwhelming cost-benefit analysis requirements, the CFTC will be forced to overcome daunting and possibly insurmountable hurdles if this legislation is adopted. As a result of this legislation, the agency's ability to protect the U.S. economy from the dangers resulting from foreign derivatives transactions will be impaired.

The cross-border provisions in this bill are almost identical to the provisions of a bill that the House voted on last year, H.R. 1256, "Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act," for which the White House issued another SAP. We urge you to oppose this renewed attempt on the CFTC's ability to regulate cross-border derivatives.

Derivatives markets affect the U.S. economy in profound ways, and the risks that derivatives pose to the U.S. economy are well-known. The Dodd-Frank Act brought meaningful reforms to increase transparency and accountability in the derivatives markets and provided the CFTC the necessary authority to properly oversee and regulate the market. However, this legislation would put those reforms at risk and hamper the CFTC's ability to adequately protect consumers, market participants, and the U.S. economy. We cannot afford to suffer the grave consequences of another derivatives-laced financial crisis, but this legislation makes it more likely that we will. Accordingly, we urge you to oppose H.R. 4413.

Sincerely,

MICAH HAUPTMAN,
Financial Services Counsel.
BARBARA ROPER,
Director of Investor Protection.

BETTER MARKETS,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2014.

HOUSE CFTC REAUTHORIZATION BILL PROTECTS WALL STREET BANKS BY HANDCUFFING THE CFTC DERIVATIVES COPS ON THE WALL STREET BEAT AND DISMANTLING FINANCIAL REFORM

MEASURE DEFIES PUBLIC OPINION AND FAILS TO LEARN A LESSON FROM ERIC CANTOR'S LOSS

Dennis Kelleher, President and CEO of Better Markets, an independent nonprofit organization that promotes the public interest in the financial markets, made the following statement about the upcoming vote on H.R. 4413, the CFTC Reauthorization bill in the House of Representatives:

"Wall Street's political allies in the House of Representatives have filled the CFTC Reauthorization bill with Wall Street's wish list of deregulation provisions that put Americans at risk of another devastating financial crash. Reckless, high risk derivatives gambling by Wall Street's biggest banks was at the core of causing the 2008 financial crash, which is going to cost the U.S. more than \$13 trillion. The CFTC are the derivatives cops on the Wall Street beat trying to prevent Wall Street from doing that

again. This bill will handcuff those cops, kill essential derivatives reforms, roll back protections vital to every American, and make future financial crises and bailouts more likely."

"For example, the bill will prohibit the CFTC from stopping Wall Street firms shifting their U.S. derivatives business overseas to avoid essential financial reform rules. As a result, when Wall Street's future overseas derivatives deals blow up, like AIG did in 2008, it will send the bill back to the American taxpayer. The Reauthorization bill will also impose numerous crippling burdens on the CFTC. While innocently named 'cost-benefit analysis,' these onerous, time-consuming provisions are really 'industry cost-only analysis,' which will require the CFTC to overweight industry's inflated cost claims and to discount the costs to the public of another derivatives-fueled financial crash and economic catastrophe. This legislation also has numerous other indefensible provisions that will prevent CFTC staff from doing their job to protect the American people from Wall Street's excesses."

"Elected officials who support these provisions are ignoring the American people who do not want their representatives protecting Wall Street at their expense. Recently defeated Majority Leader Eric Cantor just learned that lesson the hard way. This was confirmed by a new national poll showing voters' disgust with Wall Street and its Washington enablers. Indeed, 89% of voters view government efforts to reign in Wall Street as 'poor' or 'only fair' and many think that's because Wall Street and Washington are in cahoots. The pro-Wall Street, anti-Main Street provisions in this Reauthorization bill are why voters believe this. Elected officials must stop protecting Wall Street banks and bankers' bonuses and get back to protecting the voters who elected them."

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 4413—CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER
RELIEF ACT

(REP. LUCAS, R-OKLAHOMA, JUNE 19, 2014)

The Administration is firmly committed to strengthening the Nation's financial system through the implementation of key reforms to safeguard derivatives markets and ensure a stronger and fairer financial system for investors and consumers. The full benefit to the Nation's citizens and the economy cannot be realized unless the entities charged with establishing and enforcing the rules of the road have the resources to do so.

The Administration strongly opposes the passage of H.R. 4413 because it undermines the efficient functioning of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) by imposing a number of organizational and procedural changes and offers no solution to address the persistent inadequacy of the agency's funding. The CFTC is one of only two Federal financial regulators funded through annual discretionary appropriations, and the funding the Congress has provided for it over the past four years has failed to keep pace with the increasing complexity of the Nation's financial markets. The enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act resulted in significant expansion of the CFTC's responsibilities. The proposed changes would hinder the CFTC's progress in successfully implementing these critical responsibilities and would unnecessarily disrupt the effective management and operation of the agency, without providing the more robust and reliable funding that the agency needs.

THE PETROLEUM MARKETERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
June 19, 2014.

Re The Customer Protection and End User Relief Act of 2014 (H.R. 4413).

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
The Capitol Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Tomorrow, the House will consider the "Customer Protection and End User Relief Act" (H.R. 4413), also known as the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Reauthorization Act. The bill would reauthorize the CFTC for five years and modify certain reforms included in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Some of these changes would jeopardize rules designed to increase market transparency and stability and to prevent fraud, manipulation and excessive speculation in the commodity markets. Please vote "no" on H.R. 4413 unless amendments are passed to remove harmful provisions.

The Petroleum Marketers Association of America (PMAA) is a national federation of 48 state and regional trade associations representing over 8,000 independent petroleum marketers. These companies own 60,000 convenience store/gasoline stations and supply motor fuels such as gasoline and diesel fuel to an additional 40,000 stores. The New England Fuel Institute (NEFI) is the nation's largest independent home heating oil trade association, representing more than 1,000 home heating oil, kerosene and propane dealers and related services companies. Together, NEFI and PMAA members provide nearly all the gasoline, diesel fuel and heating oil sold in the U.S.

For decades, PMAA and NEFI members have used derivatives (i.e., futures, options and swaps) to protect their businesses and consumers from risk associated with the price of gasoline, diesel fuel, home heating oil and propane. They rely on these markets to communicate prices for these commodities that are reflective of supply and demand. For this reason, we have been supportive of the vigorous implementation and enforcement of derivative reforms included in Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act. This law expands the authority of the CFTC to conduct oversight of previously unregulated over-the-counter and off-shore markets and strengthens rules designed to increase market transparency and prevent fraud, manipulation and excessive speculation.

We are pleased that H.R. 4413 includes reforms to address the MF Global crisis (Sections 102-106). Several of our members were affected by the collapse of the commodity brokerage firm in October of 2011 and we commend the Congress for acting on this issue. We also are pleased with the inclusion of studies on the impact of high frequency trading or HFT (Section 107) and the adequacy of CFTC resources (Section 213). We support the DeFazio Amendment (#16) to expand the HFT study to include the effect of such trading on market volatility.

Unfortunately, several provisions in this bill would jeopardize progress on vital new commodity trading rules. This includes Section 203, which would double the number of hurdles the CFTC must jump when considering the costs and benefits of any rule, regulation or order. This would stymie the rule-making process and make it easier for opponents of reform to challenge these rules in court. We also oppose Section 212, which would shift responsibility for judicial review of CFTC rules and regulations from the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia to

the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals has a history of ruling in favor of large banks and other financial institutions. Therefore, we support respective amendments to remove these provisions from the bill and preserve existing law, Moore (#2) and Jackson Lee (#13).

Again, while we support consumer and end-user protections included in H.R. 4413, we cannot support this legislation unless Congress strikes provisions that would compromise progress on key reforms designed to protect market participants and the American public from fraud, manipulation and the reckless financial speculation that has straddled businesses and consumers with volatile energy prices and unhinged the market from real-world market fundamentals.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAN GILLIGAN,
President, PMAA.
MICHAEL C. TRUNZO,
President & CEO,
NEFI.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman HUDSON, who has crafted a key component of this major reform bill.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4413, which includes language from my bill, H.R. 3814, the Risk Management Certainty Act.

This bill would require CFTC Commissioners to partake in a formal rule-making process before placing undue burdens on job creators. Without this critical piece of legislation, a misguided CFTC rule will automatically lump costly new regulations on public utilities, energy companies, and other end users that played no part in the financial crisis.

As the regulations currently stand, if a company does more than \$8 billion worth of swap business per year, it must register with the CFTC as a swap dealer. Despite rules requiring a study to determine if the threshold is appropriately set, the CFTC is set to arbitrarily lower that level to \$3 billion without a vote.

In today's world, where the cost of living continues to rise for millions of American families, we cannot afford for our Nation's job creators and energy providers to bear the brunt of yet another regulatory burden without a full and fair debate and a vote. This bill solves that problem and gives the public the ability to weigh in before a decision is made.

I remain committed to protecting consumers and reducing regulatory burdens on our job creators, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the ranking member of the relevant subcommittee.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, we have before us perhaps the most important piece of legislation

to add fluidity to a very complex, complicated financial arena in which we are in; and that is in the area of derivatives, swaps dealing, and dealing on the international stage as the world's number one economy—very complex, very complicated.

History has shown that the United States is a leader in the world, particularly in economic affairs. We are here today to deal with reauthorization of the CFTC at a time when we have just come out of a very serious economic downturn.

Now, I agree with my distinguished ranking member. We have worked very closely on this, and quite honestly, there is nobody in Congress that has the knowledge of financial services as does our ranking member. The ranking member and I have worked diligently to try to bring a serious bit of compromise to this area. She raises a good point.

Let me take a couple of her concerns, so I can share with you how we have addressed those. The first one is the cross border. The claim that we are opening up and doing business with foreign governments and foreign jurisdictions that have no regulations there and we acquire risk—here is what we are doing, and I want to make sure we are clear.

I serve on the Agriculture Committee as the ranking member on the Derivatives Subcommittee, and I serve on the Financial Services Committee. The very cross border that we are talking about has been debated, has been argued, and has been passed by this House in the form of H.R. 1256.

Now, here is what needs to be understood: we have minimized totally any risk of importation of damage to our economy with the exemption of the top nine—not all the foreign governments and not the foreign jurisdictions—we are exempting the top nine largest swap dealers who deal in derivatives of foreign jurisdictions, and it will be the CFTC, in conjunction and jointly through joint rulemaking with the SEC.

As Chairman Peterson pointed out, they are at loggerheads now. The first order of business is to get them to agree on a rule, and 270 days after that, that rule would go into effect, and immediately, the top five of those foreign jurisdictions that have rules and regulations that are equitable to ours—which, again, will be determined jointly by the SEC and the CFTC—will go into effect.

One year after that, the remaining four will go into effect, so what we have here is a check and balance right there. They will determine that criteria. We put something else in there, as well, to address Ms. WATERS' very legitimate concern.

We said that: look, once the CFTC has done this jointly with the SEC, then what we will do is any one of

those foreign jurisdictions who do not measure up to having the equal amount of robust regime on their regulations, they will disavow them, and within 30 days, they must send to the Congress of the United States—specifically to the House Financial Services Committee, the Senate Banking Committee, the House Agriculture Committee, and the Senate Agriculture Committee—the reason why. Stop right there. That back door is closed tight. There will be no seepage.

If these nine foreign countries that we work with—and, Mr. Chairman, you must realize that, historically, we are the leader, we have to show the way here, and we are not going to put in practice any way where there is any leakage that will come back to us that will be damaging to our system, it will be in the hands of where it needs to be, the regulators.

They will determine if their rules and regulations meet ours, and if they don't, they will let Congress know, and then they will not be allowed.

The other point, Mr. Chairman, is we have end users. This bill isn't just about banking. This bill is about farmers. This bill is about people who make things. We are the world's leading economy.

We don't do business just in the United States; we do them all around the world. If we don't put this in—this cross border in—we will be putting our business community on the international stage in a very disadvantaged competitive position. So I submit to my friend, Ms. WATERS, that we have certainly dealt with that.

Now, the cost-benefit analysis—first of all, Ms. WATERS should take credit for this because she really, on H.R. 1062, which was a mandate that we do, we changed that, thanks to you, and this is clearly an adjustment.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PETERSON. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. We had a bill, H.R. 1062. Ms. WATERS was absolutely right because that bill mandated the benefit and the cost, and it was beneficial, in a way, to certain industries. I voted against that bill with Ms. WATERS.

I took Ms. WATERS' suggestion, and we went back, and we said that we can't mandate this. So what did we do with this bill? We simply said: let's consider how we can protect the market. Let's consider, let's assess how we can do that and not mandate it.

Again, as Mr. PETERSON has pointed out, we modeled this directly after what President Obama's executive order mandated, that you take a risk management assessment before you make the decisions.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), an outstanding Member who also has worked

a key portion of this bill, and his legislation reflects it.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I also rise today in support of H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act.

This legislation clarifies congressional intent concerning end users under the Dodd-Frank law by providing a clear exemption for nonfinancial end users who qualify for the clearing exception under title 7 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Across the country, consumers and businesses alike are confronted with financial risks associated with their day-to-day operations. To manage these risks, they use over-the-counter derivatives to provide price certainty. Consumers, in turn, benefit from these risk management practices through greater stability in the day-to-day prices of the goods that we purchase.

By passing this legislation, Congress provides an exemption from clearing and margin requirements and, therefore, reduces the costs for businesses and individuals who are not financial institutions.

With this exemption, less than 10 percent of the capital involved in the derivatives market is relieved of burdensome regulations. This balance protects the consumer while providing a pro-growth environment for businesses, and we passed very similar legislation in the 112th Congress 370-24.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4413, so that we can provide businesses and individuals the tools necessary to manage day-to-day operational risk, while providing much-needed certainty to the American people.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

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Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I will include for the RECORD a document from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, and I rise in strong opposition to this bill. To cater to special interests, it deliberately weakens the essential regulatory and oversight functions of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and it fails to address the CFTC's biggest challenge—its flawed funding mechanism.

Simply put, this bill is a recipe for another disaster on Wall Street, like the one that caused the Great Recession. Americans want to see more accountability from big banks and oil speculators and fewer reckless transactions, market failures, and bailouts. That is what the CFTC's job is, to rein in gambling with risky derivatives on Wall Street and prevent undue speculation on oil.

Unfortunately, this bill goes in the wrong direction. It includes provisions

that will make it harder for the CFTC to regulate derivatives transactions between the United States and foreign banks. It goes out of its way to impose new hurdles and litigation risks to prevent the Commission from doing its job. It fails to address the CFTC's flawed funding mechanism, hamstringing its ability to create fair and transparent derivatives and futures markets.

The CFTC is the only financial regulator that is completely dependent upon the general fund to provide for its operations. Every other financial regulator—SEC, FDIC, FHFA, the list goes on—collects user fees.

Fixing this structural flaw has been proposed by every President since Ronald Reagan. It is all the more important since Congress greatly expanded the CFTC's responsibilities 4 years ago in response to the bad behavior that precipitated a devastating financial crisis.

According to Acting Chairman Wetjen:

The unfortunate reality is that, at current funding levels, the Commission is unable to adequately fulfill the mission given to it by Congress.

I submitted an amendment that would have addressed this flaw, yet the House majority refused to allow it to be heard.

We should not undermine the CFTC's ability to oversee risky market behaviors, protect consumers, and enforce the law. I urge a "no" vote.

INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE
AND TRADE POLICY,
June 16, 2014.

REPRESENTATIVE,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, I write on behalf of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Minneapolis, MN to urge you to vote against H.R. 4413, "Customer Protection and End User Relief Act." A vote for H.R. 4413 annuls or amends major portions of Title VII of the Dodd Frank Act Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (DFA) and per Title IV's retro-active application to July 2010, makes regulations and guidance issued under the DFA authorities vulnerable to legal challenge by the regulated entities.

Furthermore, if enacted, H.R. 4413 would impede DFA Title VI implementation by, among other measures:

1) preventing the cross-border application of DFA authorized rules unless the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities Exchange Commission jointly determine that foreign jurisdiction rules are not "broadly equivalent" to DFA rules (Section 359);

2) micro-managing the CFTC Division Directors, Chief Economist and staff (Sections 204, 205 and 206);

3) micro-managing and possibly impeding CFTC enforcement activities (Section 209);

4) imposing cost-benefit analysis of each CFTC rule prior to implementation, and as required of no other independent agency, under terms that would paralyze CFTC rule-making that did not conform to industry demands (Section 203); and

5) by requiring that CFTC voluntary guidance to industry be subject to the same Administrative Procedures Act (APA) requirements as for legally binding rulemakings (Section 212).

IATP began to work on commodity derivatives issues in June 2008, when grain elevators stopped forward contracting with farmers and rural banks stopped loaning to elevators, due to extreme price volatility and price levels in commodity derivatives markets, which resulted from excessive speculation by financial institution. IATP has participated in the Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition (CMOC) since 2009, and the Derivatives Task Force of Americans for Financial Reform (AFR) since 2010. IATP has contributed to and signed on to numerous CMOC and AFR letters in support of Title VII of the DFA. IATP has submitted several comments on CFTC rulemaking, and on consultation papers of the International Organization of Securities Commissions, the Financial Stability Board, the European Securities and Markets Authority, and the European Commission's Directorate General for Internal Markets.

H.R. 4413 offers terrible trade-offs that no member of Congress should be forced to vote for. As H.R. 4413 is constructed, you can only vote for the widely agreed customer protections in Title 1, if, e.g. you also vote to require the CFTC Commissioners to vote on the length of a subpoena, the renewal of the subpoena and whether the Division of Enforcement has a "legitimate purpose" for each investigation it undertakes (Section 209). Title 1 could and should be proposed as a separate bill, for which you should be able to get sponsors from Republicans, as well as Democrats.

IATP also requests that you propose and vote for deletion or amendment of certain sections of the bill, because its passage is very likely. It is crucial that there be recorded votes on all amendments to or deletions of H.R. 4413. Here are IATP's top five priorities for deletions, since amendments may not be possible, given the short amount of time before the amendment deadline of Tuesday at 3 p.m. ET.

1. Section 359: This section (paragraph a) first requires the CFTC to issue rules jointly with the Securities Exchange Commission on the cross-border application of DFA rules. The CFTC has authority over about 96.5% of the gross notional value of the U.S. derivatives market, whereas the SEC has authority over 3.5% of this market. The SEC has authority over just one asset class of derivatives, equity-based derivatives. The House would give equal rulemaking authority with the CFTC to an agency that has historic competence and legal authority for only a small sliver of the derivatives market. This section further seeks to impede the CFTC's ability to apply DFA authorized rules to foreign affiliate swaps of U.S. swaps dealers that have a "direct and significant" impact on the U.S. economy (Sect. 722, DFA). It does so first by requiring that the CFTC's international memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with foreign market regulators comply with APA requirements for binding rulemaking (paragraph c). MoUs are not binding rules, but diplomatic agreements whose implementation and enforcement does not depend entirely on U.S. law or regulations. Here, again, H.R. 4413 seeks to micro-manage the CFTC's work, this time in negotiations with foreign governments.

Most perniciously, Section 359 grants a blanket exemption from compliance with DFA authorized derivatives rules for "Countries or Administrative Regions Having Nine

Largest Markets,” [sic] unless the CFTC and SEC “jointly determine that the regulatory requirements” of these countries and regions are not “broadly equivalent” to U.S. regulatory requirements (paragraph d). Given the aforementioned huge disparity in the “market share” of the CFTC’s and SEC’s authority over the swaps market, this co-determination requirement is grotesque. Furthermore, taking into account the markets in the 28 member states of the European Union, plus the next eight largest market jurisdictions, Section 359 exempts more than 90 percent of the foreign swaps market from compliance with the cross-border application of the DFA. The seven largest U.S. bank holding companies have 4939 foreign subsidiaries and thousands of more affiliates. Trading losses by these subsidiaries and affiliates resulted in default cascades by their U.S. parent companies, saved from bankruptcy only by at least \$19 trillion in emergency loans from the Federal Reserve Bank, plus \$10 trillion to foreign central banks to bail out their banks with U.S. affiliates from 2007–2010. The regulatory regimes of the foreign jurisdictions to which the Fed loaned at ultra-low interest rates had been judged to be “broadly equivalent” during the Bush Administration.

2. Section 203: Cost Benefit Analysis. The CFTC, unlike other independent regulatory agencies, is required to do a cost-benefit analysis prior to each regulation it issues. This section does not operate consistently with Executive Order 13563, as House supporters claim, since 13563 applies only to non-independent agencies. Paragraph H requires the CFTC to tabulate the costs of compliance by “all regulated entities,” in effect requiring the CFTC to accept as fact the compliance costs claimed by the regulated entities. These claimed compliance costs often have been shown to be wildly overstated. Paragraph J requires that the CFTC demonstrate prior to implementation that each of the agency’s regulatory approaches “maximize net benefits.” These two paragraphs alone should ensure that DFA authorized rules are not implemented unless they satisfy the cost-benefit demands of the regulated entities. Ex-ante cost-benefit analyses traditionally are done on the basis of econometric modeling, and not by the peculiar dependence on regulated entity claims featured in this section.

3. Section 209: Subpoena duration and renewal. This section authorizes the Commissioners to determine the length of a subpoena that the Division of Enforcement shall use to compel testimony and production of documents relative to an investigation. It will require the Commission to vote on whether the Division of Enforcement has a “legitimate purpose” for requesting the subpoena, what the duration of the subpoena will be and whether to renew the subpoena. Well-funded subjects of an investigation will be advised by their lawyers to delay complying with any subpoena in the event that a majority of Commissioners decides to override the Division of Enforcement and not renew a subpoena. It is one thing to disagree with an investigation. It is quite another for the House to vote for a section that would impede enforcement of the law.

4. Section 204: Division Directors. This section requires that each Division Director report to and be reviewed (“serve at the pleasure of”) by each Commissioner. In the event that the Commissioners disagree about any activity of a Division, the Division Director could be taking contradictory instructions from the Commissioners. Disagreements

among Commissioners must be resolved among the Commissioners and not transmitted to Division Directors in the form of contradictory orders. This section offers a high degree of opportunity for one Commissioner to paralyze the work of the Commission. At best, the section ensures delay of DFA implementation through Commission micro-management of Division Directors and the staff (see also our Comments on Section 205 and 206).

5. Section 353: While the title of this section indicates that it would give “relief” from record-keeping to farmers and grain elevator participants in the derivatives market, the application in the exemption from record-keeping could and almost certainly will be applied to much larger participants in the derivatives markets. By requiring only a written record of the final agreement of swaps for participants in unregistered designated contract markets or swaps execution facilities, this section precludes the CFTC from seeking interim documentation of swaps transactions, including cell phone records if needed. This section makes constructing audit trails in investigations more difficult and otherwise limits enforcement activities.

Other sections that IATP believes you should consider for deletion from HR 4413 include:

Section 205: The Office of the Chief Economist. This section requires that the Chief Economist report to and be reviewed by each Commissioner. Our concerns are the same as those of Section 204.

Section 206: This proposal to require a seven day advance notice to review each and every staff letter and to allow the Commission to delay, review and revise staff letters, puts the Commission in charge of micro-managing the staff. Many of the staff no action letters that are the subject of the complaint in the House agricultural committee report on HR 4413 are the result of the need to reply to industry questions and complaints, and to postpone compliance by foreign affiliates of U.S. swaps dealers, as foreign jurisdiction rulemaking is delayed by industry opposition. A staff whose budget, personnel and computer infrastructure has been severely constrained by the House has operated as efficiently and effectively as their meager resources allow. This section is not an attempt to improve CFTC transparency and openness but another tactic to micro-manage the staff.

Section 211: Requires that CFTC voluntary guidance to industry be subject to the same Administrative Procedures Act (APA) requirements as legally binding rulemakings. This section represents the plaintiff’s position in a court case involving the CFTC’s guidance on the cross border application of DFA rules and would pre-empt the result of that case. If the House wishes to require that APA procedures for issuing guidance are the same as for rulemaking, it should amend the APA, rather than single out one agency for this peculiar pre-emption of a court ruling and unique application of the APA to one agency.

Section 212: This section allows plaintiffs to file a lawsuit in the District of Columbia or “in the circuit where the party resides or has the principal place of business” (paragraph a). If the CFTC were a self-financed regulatory agency or had a budget corresponding to its greatly expanded duties under the DFA, the extra costs of litigating outside the District of Columbia might not be a financial burden for agency. Given the House’s budgetary expression of hostility to

the CFTC, this section represents another tactic to increase the burden on the agency to defend the DFA in court.

Section 362: One of the advantages of trading Over the Counter is the delay in reporting, relative to the near real time reporting required of exchanges for futures and options contracts. OTC traders take advantage of price, volatility and other information provided by the public and regulated markets while providing no information of their own, a huge competitive advantage. This section would allow traders of uncleared and “illiquid swaps” to delay reporting up to 30 days after a trade’s execution, an eternity in financial markets, to protect the identity of individual traders. Because swaps can be structured to be illiquid, this section does not consider that the exemption from reporting in near real time could be part of a regulatory evasion strategy. If the industry wishes to petition the CFTC for a reporting exemption on illiquid swaps, let it do so. Legislators should not be involved in designing reporting exemptions.

Section 355: The asset class indiscriminate de minimis of \$8 billion of swaps dealing before a swaps dealer is required to register with the CFTC and be subject to CFTC rules may be lowered only with a vote of the Commission. It is dangerous to remove the CFTC’s regulatory discretion in determining the justification for a de minimis. Whereas \$8 billion of interest swaps is a low de minimis relative to the more than \$150 trillion annual gross notional value of interest rate swaps, an \$8 billion de minimis is a very, very high de minimis for commodity swaps. Again, here is another section where the House is acting to micro-manage the CFTC’s rulemaking discretion and authority.

In sum, notwithstanding Title I on customer protections and some sections of Title II and III, HR 4413 is a bill that reauthorizes the CFTC, only to impede it from carrying out its statutory duties. IATP urges you to vote against this bill and to vote to delete the aforementioned sections. I would be pleased to work with your staff on any amendments or deletions that you may wish to offer. Thank you for your consideration of our views on HR 4413.

Respectfully,

STEVE SUPPAN, PH.D.,
Senior Policy Analyst.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), who not only has a key component of this bill, but in his role as chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management carried the lion’s share of the subcommittee hearing work and the day-to-day efforts that came to be known as H.R. 4413.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by thanking the chairman of the committee, FRANK LUCAS, and our ranking member, COLLIN PETERSON, for the bipartisan tone that they have set on all of the work that we do in the Agriculture Committee. Under their leadership, we work together to examine the issues under our jurisdiction, and we work together to develop legislative solution to the problems we discover. Their leadership is reflected in the bill we have before us today.

Over the past 2 years, the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee has heard from

two Commissioners, the exchanges and SROs, market participants, end users, and foreign regulators on a broad cross section of issues facing the CFTC. The testimony and questions that we heard formed the foundation of what has become the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act.

True to its name, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act makes important progress in protecting Main Street. We strengthen safeguards against another MF Global or PFGBest and significantly reduce damage a failed FCM can inflict on its customers.

We also protect end users from being roped into registration, reporting, or regulatory requirements that are inappropriate for the level of risk they can impose on financial markets. It is clear that end users did not cause the financial crisis. They do not pose a systemic risk to the financial markets, and they should not be treated like financial entities.

As we drafted this reauthorization, we also examined the internal organization and processes of the Commission. Over the past 5 years, it has become clear that Dodd-Frank has fundamentally changed the role of the CFTC. The law has moved the Commission from a conferring, principles-based regulator to a more adversarial, rules-based regulator. As the Commission changes, so must the rules that Congress sets for its operation.

Today's legislation addresses these changes by making the CFTC more responsive and accountable to each Commissioner, and by ensuring that each Commissioner, not just the Chairman, is given a greater voice on Commission and staff activities. It also creates and defines the Office of Chief Economist to provide every Commissioner with objective economic data and analysis.

Finally, one of the most important changes this bill makes is to require a meaningful quantification of the costs and benefits of a rule when it is first proposed. This analysis, done by the chief economist, will strengthen the rulemaking process and will result in better regulations and safer markets. This small mandate on the economists at the CFTC will ensure that regulatory burdens are justified in the real world, not just in the pages of the Federal Register. Rules that reflect the impact of a proper cost-benefit analysis will be better accepted by those being regulated and may result in less acrimony during the rules-making process.

As I close, I would also like to thank my ranking member, DAVID SCOTT. Over the past year and a half, we have examined these CFTC issues together and collaborated on legislation and hearings. I am pleased with the fruits of our labor, and I couldn't ask for a better partner on our subcommittee.

The Customer Protection and End User Relief Act is a commonsense, bi-

partisan reform package. In it we protect customers and end users from overreach and make meaningful changes to the operation of the commission. I urge my colleagues to support passage of the bill.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in so many ways in this body.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4413. This bill would impose unnecessary burdens on the CFTC and would restrict our financial regulators' ability to regulate cross-border derivatives.

Dodd-Frank brought the previously unregulated derivatives market out of the shadows and created a robust regulatory regime for derivatives. One of the core principles of this regulatory regime was that if the United States is ultimately bearing the risk on a derivative, then you have to comply with the Dodd-Frank rules.

One of the reasons that the U.S. markets are so strong is because investors have confidence in our markets and in our market participants. I am concerned that this bill, particularly in the cross-border area, could undermine that confidence.

For foreign derivatives entered into by a U.S. bank, the bank can only avoid complying with Dodd-Frank rules if they are already complying with regulations that are at least equivalent or stronger than Dodd-Frank rules. This bill, unfortunately, establishes a presumption that the derivatives rules in London and the EU are equivalent to Dodd-Frank, even though we know that is not true. The truth is London and the EU are well behind the United States on financial reform, and it may take many years for them to become equivalent to our rules. This is in my view a very real concern and presents an undue risk to the United States financial system and to our investors and to our taxpayers. This is why I cannot support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD two letters, one from Americans for Financial Reform and one from the Center For Progressive Reform.

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, on behalf of Americans for Financial Reform, we are writing to express our opposition to HR 4413, "The Customer Protection and End User Relief Act". This legislation would have a severe negative impact on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and its ability to police commodities and derivatives markets crucial to our economy. The new restrictions it places on CFTC rulemaking would require additional years of bureaucratic and legal red tape prior to agency action, even in areas where Congress has clearly directed the CFTC to act and where action is badly needed to protect the public interest.

This legislation also includes no provisions that address the CFTC's most fundamental problem—the lack of resources to accomplish its mission. Due to both the agency's new responsibilities under the Dodd-Frank Act for hundreds of trillions of dollars in previously unregulated derivatives markets, and the growth of the commodities markets the agency has traditionally regulated, the size of CFTC-regulated markets has increased roughly 15-fold over the last decade. But funding for the agency lags enormously behind. As CFTC commissioner Mark Wetjen recently stated, "The unfortunate reality is that, at current funding levels, the agency is unable to adequately fulfill the mission given to it by Congress: to prevent disruptions to market integrity, to protect customer assets, monitor and reduce the build-up of systemic risk, and ensure to the greatest degree possible that derivatives markets are free of fraud and manipulation". The agency authorization process could and should be an opportunity to supplement appropriations with some form of agency self-funding. Self-funding mechanisms are used by all other financial regulatory agencies and have been endorsed by the Obama Administration.

Instead of addressing the pressing problem of funding, HR 4413 would instead load down the CFTC with additional mandates that would drain resources and act as a roadblock to necessary oversight and enforcement. HR 4413 would more than double the number of cost benefit analyses the agency must perform prior to taking any action. Since any of these analyses could serve as grounds for a lawsuit, this measure would greatly expand Wall Street's ability to dispute any agency action in court, tilting the regulatory playing field still further in their favor. The legislation would also create an initial presumption that CFTC rules did not apply to so-called 'cross-border' transactions, which include a vast number of transactions involving foreign subsidiaries of U.S. banks. The agency would have to perform a 'determination' (jointly with the Securities and Exchange Commission) each time it wanted to regulate such transactions. HR 4413 also includes additional internal process requirements for the CFTC that would also act as barriers to action. These additional requirements would affect everything from the supervision of key employees to the ability to respond to public requests for information.

In combination, these changes would greatly reduce the CFTC's capacity to effectively police Wall Street. HR 4413 also includes many additional changes. Some of them, such as amendments to indemnification requirements for swaps data repositories, are reasonable. Other changes—including (but not limited to) provisions that expand the definition of 'commercial end user' to include financial entities (Sections 321 and 352), exemptions for entities with billions of dollars in swaps business from 'swap dealer' oversight (Section 355), provisions that would permit marketing of complex institutional commodity pools to retail investors (Section 357), and provisions that weaken limits on commodity market speculation (Section 358)—raise serious questions of their own.

But even before considering these issues, the major new restrictions on the agency created by the cost-benefit and cross-border provisions of this bill mean that supporting needed derivatives regulation requires opposing this legislation.

PROVISIONS RELATED TO COST BENEFIT
ANALYSIS AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

The CFTC already has a statutory requirement to consider the costs and benefits of its actions, and to evaluate these costs and benefits as applied to a long list of considerations, including market efficiency, price discovery, and protection of the public. Section 203 of HR 4413 would massively expand this requirement. The section would more than double than number of different factors the CFTC must evaluate in any rulemaking, order, or guidance, and change the standard of evaluation from consideration of costs and benefits to a more extensive and burdensome 'reasoned determination' of costs and benefits. The section also includes a particularly sweeping mandate that would require the agency to determine whether an action 'maximizes net benefits' compared to all possible regulatory alternatives. This requirement alone, which seems to require comparison of any actual regulation to a potentially vast number of theoretical alternatives, could be read to require dozens of additional agency analyses.

Some of this cost-benefit language does replicate cost-benefit instructions from the Office of Management and Budget that already applies to agencies within the executive branch, although not to independent financial regulatory agencies like the CFTC. In addition to this extension of reach, a crucial difference is that since HR 4413 would add this language in statute, each and every additional instruction regarding cost-benefit analysis could become grounds for a Wall Street lawsuit against a CFTC rule. The extensive new cost-benefit requirements in Section 203 amount to a roadmap for industry interests to tie up regulations in endless litigation, delays, and red tape. With critical rulemakings to implement new requirements like position limits to control commodity price manipulation still incomplete almost four years after they became law, the addition of new barriers to action would be dramatic movement in the wrong direction.

Heightening the effect of the new cost-benefit provisions are new internal process requirements in Section 204 of the legislation. Section 204 would apparently change the CFTC's internal structure so that the entire five-member Commission directly supervised the activities of all key division directors. These key employees would 'serve at the pleasure' of the entire Commission, 'report directly' to the entire Commission, and perform duties as prescribed by the entire Commission. Currently, as in other Federal agencies supervised by a multi-member Commission, the Chair of the CFTC supervises the employees of the Commission. Giving direct control of all employee activities to an entire five-member Commission is a recipe for endless delay and bureaucratic red tape. Currently, individual Commissioners are able to hire their own personal staff and express their views on Commission activities through the voting process. Should this legislation pass, any individual Commissioner, even if their views were in the minority, could interfere directly with the activities of Commission staff in implementing the law.

PROVISIONS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL
DERIVATIVES MARKETS

Section 359 of the bill contains sweeping new restrictions on the ability of the CFTC to properly oversee derivatives transactions conducted through foreign subsidiaries of U.S. banks, even when such transactions have a direct and significant connection to the U.S. economy. We need only look at the example of J.P. Morgan's 'London Whale'

transactions, or the London derivatives transactions of AIG Financial Products which resulted in the largest bailout in U.S. history, to see that derivatives transactions conducted through nominally overseas entities can have a profound impact on the U.S. economy. Over half of Wall Street derivatives transactions are currently booked in nominally foreign subsidiaries, and it is very likely that more could easily be transacted in this way if there was an incentive to do so to avoid regulation.

Section 359 of the bill, mirroring the 'Swaps Jurisdiction Certainty Act', controversial legislation which recently passed the House on a 301 to 124 vote, would create a presumption that U.S. rules would not govern transactions booked in major foreign jurisdictions. The legislation would force U.S. regulators to accept foreign rules for derivatives transactions booked by U.S. banks in any of the nine largest global financial markets. The CFTC could overturn this presumption that foreign rules would apply, but only through a complex procedure involving a joint determination with the Securities and Exchange Commission that foreign rules were not 'broadly equivalent' to U.S. rules, supported by an official report to Congress. Furthermore, any rules governing these cross-border derivatives would have to be identical between the SEC and the CFTC, despite the fact that these agencies regulate very different parts of the derivatives markets and have differing jurisdictional authority under the Dodd-Frank Act.

The drastic new limitations placed on CFTC jurisdiction over cross-border derivatives would have a profound impact on the ability of U.S. regulators to properly oversee derivatives transactions. It would effectively overturn a key provision in Section 722 of the Dodd Frank Act that gives the CFTC jurisdiction over all swaps transactions that have a 'direct and significant' effect on the U.S. economy. This provision of Dodd-Frank was put in place precisely to ensure that the trillions of dollars in swaps booked in offshore subsidiaries would be properly regulated and would not endanger the U.S. economy.

As mentioned above, this legislation also includes numerous other provisions targeted at various areas of CFTC regulation. Some of these provisions would take positive steps, while others could roll back financial protection in troubling ways. But even before considering these and other provisions positive or negative, the major new burdens the cost-benefit and international derivatives provisions of this bill place on the basic ability of the CFTC to do its job create overwhelming reasons to reject this legislation as currently written.

We urge you to vote against HR 4413 and preserve the CFTC's capacity to properly regulate crucial futures and derivatives markets. Thank you for your consideration. For more information please contact AFR's Policy Director, Marcus Stanley.

Sincerely,

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM.

CENTER FOR PROGRESSIVE REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, We, the undersigned, are Member Scholars with the Center for Progressive Reform (CPR), a research and education organization working to protect health, safety, and the environment. Collectively, we have several decades of experience in studying, writing about, and teaching administrative law in law schools across the United States. Based on this experience, we

are submitting these comments with regard to Amendment 17 for H.R. 4413, the Consumer Protection and End-User Relief Act. This Amendment would change the standard of judicial review that courts would conduct for the cost-benefit analyses that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) would have to undertake for their rules under the bill from the "arbitrary and capricious" standard to the "abuse of discretion" standard.

This amendment appears to be based on a misunderstanding that the "abuse of discretion" standard is more lenient than the "arbitrary and capricious" standard. For all practical purposes, though, the two standards of review are identical in how they have been applied by reviewing courts. The real problem with this aspect of H.R. 4413 is that it permits judicial review of the CFTC's cost-benefit analyses at all. In reality, judicial review of these analyses is highly unusual and would therefore invite unnecessary unpredictability into the rulemaking process, which is probably why the authors of the judicial review provision in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, 2 U.S.C. 1571, chose to preclude judicial review of the cost-benefit analysis itself and instead required that it be made part of the entire rulemaking record considered by the court in any judicial review of a rule.

We thank you for taking these views under consideration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM FUNK,
Robert E. Jones Professor of Advocacy
and Ethics, Lewis &
Clark Law School.

RICHARD MURPHY,
AT&T Professor of Law, Texas Tech
University.

THOMAS O. MCGARITY,
Joe R. and Teresa
Lozano Long, Endowed Chair in Administrative Law,
University of Texas
School of Law.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PARTNERS OF AMERICANS
FOR FINANCIAL REFORM

All the organizations support the overall principles of AFR and are working for an accountable, fair and secure financial system. Not all of these organizations work on all of the issues covered by the coalition or have signed on to every statement.

AARP, A New Way Forward, AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Alliance For Justice, American Income Life Insurance, American Sustainable Business Council, Americans for Democratic Action, Inc., Americans United for Change, Campaign for America's Future, Campaign Money.

Center for Digital Democracy, Center for Economic and Policy Research, Center for Economic Progress, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Responsible Lending, Center for Justice and Democracy, Center of Concern.

Center for Effective Government, Change to Win, Clean Yield Asset Management, Coastal Enterprises Inc., Color of Change, Common Cause, Communications Workers of America, Community Development Transportation Lending Services, Consumer Action, Consumer Association Council.

Consumers for Auto Safety and Reliability, Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Watchdog, Consumers Union, Corporation for Enterprise Development, CREDO Mobile, CTW Investment Group, Demos, Economic

Policy Institute, Essential Action, Green America.

Greenlining Institute, Good Business International, HNMA Funding Company, Home Actions, Housing Counseling Services, Home Defender's League, Information Press, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Institute for Global Communications, Institute for Policy Studies: Global Economy Project, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Institute of Women's Policy Research, Krull & Company.

Laborers' International Union of North America, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Main Street Alliance, Move On, NAACP, NASCAT, National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Association of Neighborhoods, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients), National Consumers League, National Council of La Raza.

National Council of Women's Organizations, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, National Housing Resource Center, National Housing Trust, National Housing Trust Community Development Fund, National NeighborWorks Association, National Nurses United, National People's Action, National Urban League, Next Step, OpenTheGovernment.org.

Opportunity Finance Network, Partners for the Common Good, PICO National Network, Progress Now Action, Progressive States Network, Poverty and Race Research Action Council, Public Citizen, Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law, SEIU, State Voices, Taxpayer's for Common Sense.

The Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development, The Fuel Savers Club, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Seminal, TICAS, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, UNITE HERE, United Food and Commercial Workers, United States Student Association.

USAction, Veris Wealth Partners, Western States Center, We the People Now, Woodstock Institute, World Privacy Forum, UNET, Union Plus, Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community.

LIST OF STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERS

Alaska PIRG, Arizona PIRG, Arizona Advocacy Network, Arizonans For Responsible Lending, Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development NY, Audubon Partnership for Economic Development LDC, New York NY, BAC Funding Consortium Inc., Miami FL, Beech Capital Venture Corporation, Philadelphia PA, California PIRG, California Reinvestment Coalition, Century Housing Corporation, Culver City CA, CHANGER NY.

Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (NY), Chicago Community Loan Fund, Chicago IL, Chicago Community Ventures, Chicago IL, Chicago Consumer Coalition, Citizen Potawatomi CDC, Shawnee OK, Colorado PIRG, Coalition on Homeless Housing in Ohio, Community Capital Fund, Bridgeport CT, Community Capital of Maryland, Baltimore MD, Community Development Financial Institution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells AZ, Community Redevelopment Loan and Investment Fund, Atlanta GA, Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina.

Community Resource Group, Fayetteville A, Connecticut PIRG, Consumer Assistance Council, Cooper Square Committee (NYC), Cooperative Fund of New England, Wilmington NC, Corporacion de Desarrollo Economico de Ceiba, Ceiba PR, Delta Foundation, Inc., Greenville MS, Economic Op-

portunity Fund (EOF), Philadelphia PA, Empire Justice Center NY, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), Cleveland OH, Enterprises, Inc., Berea KY, Fair Housing Contact Service OH, Federation of Appalachian Housing.

Fitness and Praise Youth Development, Inc., Baton Rouge LA, Florida Consumer Action Network, Florida PIRG, Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, Ft. Collins CO, Georgia PIRG, Grow Iowa Foundation, Greenfield IA, Homewise, Inc., Santa Fe NM, Idaho Nevada CDFI, Pocatello ID, Idaho Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, Illinois PIRG, Impact Capital, Seattle WA, Indiana PIRG, Iowa PIRG.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, JobStart Chautauqua, Inc., Mayville NY, La Casa Federal Credit Union, Newark NJ, Low Income Investment Fund, San Francisco CA, Long Island Housing Services NY, MaineStream Finance, Bangor ME, Maryland PIRG, Massachusetts Consumers Coalition, MASSPIRG, Massachusetts Fair Housing Center, Michigan PIRG, Midland Community Development Corporation, Midland TX.

Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Detroit Lakes MN, Mile High Community Loan Fund, Denver CO, Missouri PIRG, Mortgage Recovery Service Center of L.A., Montana Community Development Corporation, Missoula MT, Montana PIRG, New Economy Project, New Hampshire PIRG, New Jersey Community Capital, Trenton NJ, New Jersey Citizen Action, New Jersey PIRG, New Mexico PIRG, New York PIRG.

New York City Aids Housing Network, New Yorkers for Responsible Lending, NOAH Community Development Fund, Inc., Boston MA, Nonprofit Finance Fund, New York NY, Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Minneapolis MN, North Carolina PIRG, Northside Community Development Fund, Pittsburgh PA, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Columbus OH, Ohio PIRG, OligarchyUSA, Oregon State PIRG, Our Oregon.

PennPIRG, Piedmont Housing Alliance, Charlottesville VA, Michigan PIRG, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, CO, Rhode Island PIRG, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento CA, Rural Organizing Project OR, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority, Seattle Economic Development Fund, Community Capital Development, TexPIRG, The Fair Housing Council of Central New York.

The Loan Fund, Albuquerque NM, Third Reconstruction Institute NC, Vermont PIRG, Village Capital Corporation, Cleveland OH, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council, Virginia Poverty Law Center, War on Poverty—Florida, WashPIRG, Westchester Residential Opportunities Inc., Wigamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc., Lac du Flambeau WI, WISPIRG.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Blu, Bowden-Gill Environmental, Community MedPAC, Diversified Environmental Planning, Hayden & Craig, PLLC, Mid City Animal Hospital, Phoenix AZ, UNET.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) whose good work as a freestanding bill passed unanimously in this body.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. LUCAS, for his help and support, as well as the big picture bill, H.R. 4413, which is a necessary and reasonable ap-

proach to the modest reforms that are needed to the overall legislation.

This measure includes badly needed reforms and policy changes that are necessary for the CFTC to run more efficiently, stabilize the commodities industry, and ensure continued growth in our agricultural sector.

The U.S. needs regulatory relief for end users and certainty for our markets. That is why I am pleased to report that my legislation, H.R. 1038, which the chairman mentioned, which passed the House on June 12, 2013, with unanimous support, is included in this bill.

H.R. 1038, the Public Power Risk Management Act, is a targeted reform that protects over 47 million Americans from unnecessary electricity and natural gas rate increases. These 47 million Americans are ratepayers of over 2,000 publicly owned utilities who use swaps and energy futures to manage their risks and stabilize costs.

Unfortunately, the Dodd-Frank Act, which was intended to make reforms to our Nation's financial industry, has inadvertently restricted public utilities' access to natural gas, electricity, and other energy futures.

For example, in my own district, the city of Redding's municipal utility believes that limitations to hedging options in the future will increase the costs to their customers. This unintended consequence of Dodd-Frank is negatively impacting utilities in many congressional districts across the U.S. The impact of this limitation means fewer sources of energy for publicly owned utilities, which translates into higher costs for millions of American ratepayers.

H.R. 4413 will bring relief to commodity end users, utility ratepayers, and the greater agriculture community, a vital asset to our Nation. Let's keep this country and our ag community growing and doing business by passing this commonsense piece of legislation.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clarify one point made by the gentlelady from New York, and I just pointed out to her, she was clear in her statement, and I am reading from the actual bill here where it says that:

Or other foreign jurisdiction as jointly determined by the Commission, shall be exempt from the United States swaps requirements in accordance with the schedule unless the Commission jointly determines that the regulatory requirements of the country or administrative region or other foreign jurisdiction are not broadly equivalent to the United States.

I just wanted to clear that up.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), who has a major component in this overall legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4413, and I would like to thank my colleagues, especially Chairman LUCAS, for his leadership on this very important issue; Ranking Member PETERSON for his leadership; and also the subcommittee chairman, Mr. CONAWAY.

I am supportive of this bill because it provides relief to consumers, especially to our farmers and manufacturers. This bill also includes language that I developed that addresses regulations that could directly increase prices for consumers back home in Illinois and throughout this great country.

In crafting rules to implement Dodd-Frank, the CFTC imposed a real-time reporting requirement on all swaps markets. This has had a negative and unintended consequence on end users. This real-time reporting requirement has made it easier for market participants in certain sparsely traded markets to be exposed. And when these participants are exposed, it allows for others to take advantage of their positions and increase their costs of doing business for future trades.

These rarely traded swaps are used by only a handful of companies with excellent credit ratings to provide long-term protection against price fluctuations for commodities such as oil and jet fuel. The CFTC has long recognized the danger of disclosing counterparty identities in thinly traded markets. This bipartisan, common-sense language is needed to help reinforce that long-standing policy.

As a member of the Agriculture Committee, I am pleased that we are reauthorizing this bill because it will provide relief to end users like farmers and manufacturers, and keep costs low for anyone wanting to travel by air, and all consumers. I support this legislation.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to come down and rise in opposition to this bill, and I wanted to get on the RECORD because I predict that there will come a time when there will be another financial crisis, and people will look back and they will say: Where were you when the CFTC reauthorization came up?

Six years ago, our economy and the lives of millions of Americans was thrown into a tailspin by a devastating financial crisis, spurred in large part by reckless behavior on Wall Street and a lack of transparency of and oversight over the global financial systems' derivatives market.

So we acted. Congress acted. We took steps. We passed Dodd-Frank. We strengthen the rules of the road. We brought derivatives markets out of the

shadows, allowing regulators to better assess and reduce systemic risk, all working towards the goal of decreasing the chances of another financial crisis.

The problem is the opponents of reform did not give up. Over the past several years, the fight for meaningful financial reform has in large part now migrated to the regulatory agencies overseeing the implementation of Dodd-Frank, and now we return to the legislative arena with H.R. 4413, which represents in my view a dangerous attack on the authority and efficacy of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

□ 2000

It erects an assortment of redundant hoops for regulators to jump through, empowers courts to unilaterally undercut the CFTC oversight, and dramatically reduces CFTC's ability to regulate overseas derivatives.

The forces opposing strong oversight of our financial markets have the luxury of existing in a political system that too often gives voices to the wealthy at the expense of the rest of America.

The only way we would pass this legislation is if we were suffering from collective amnesia, if we had completely forgotten what happened in 2008 and 2009 and were sleepwalking through our oversight responsibilities. We need to wake up and protect the American people from another financial crisis. I urge opposition to the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, might I inquire how much time remains for both sides?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) has 11 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I would note to my colleague, I have no additional speakers and would reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, we have no other speakers on our side either.

In closing, I want to thank the chairman, Mr. LUCAS, and Congressman CONAWAY and Congressman SCOTT for their work on this bill, along with Members on both sides of the aisle for their work and their support.

I also want to thank the Agriculture Committee staff, especially Clark Ogilvie, who did all our work on Dodd-Frank and did the work on this bill. He has been working on these issues for a long time and I think is seen as one of the most knowledgeable—if not the most knowledgeable—staffers around. I want everybody to give him a round of applause and also announce that tomorrow he is leaving to become the chief of staff at the CFTC, so it is pretty good timing. We would like to thank Mr. Ogilvie for his work.

With that, I urge support of H.R. 4413 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself what time I might consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind all of my colleagues that once again the House Agriculture Committee, in the tradition of the House Agriculture Committee, has worked very diligently to address issues that are of great impact on rural America and on our national economy. In that tradition of bipartisanship—call it nonpartisanship if you want—Mr. PETERSON and I, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SCOTT have worked in full committee and subcommittee together to craft what is a reasonable, logical set of proposals to address some real issues out there.

Any of you who have observed this process know that the committee is not timid in trying to do the right thing; and we have a track record of however long it takes, however hard it is, to do the right thing.

Now, some will say this piece of legislation may or may not have an impact on the decisionmaking process in some other body. I would just note to you, we have identified, through all of the hearings and all the testimony and all the input from within government and without government, that there are some things that need to be done. With this piece of legislation, we will encourage progress on those issues.

I urge all of my colleagues, vote for H.R. 4413. Move the process along; help us get ultimately to a product that will address these problems. This is a rather substantial impact on the national economy. If we don't do the things that we are proposing in the Agriculture Committee that we do, harm will be done, job creation will be impacted, every consumer and every working person will feel the effects negatively. So pass the bill. Pass the bill.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I support reauthorizing the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, CFTC, and believe a properly resourced CFTC has a critical role to play in promoting fair and transparent markets that effectively serve end users and consumers without putting taxpayers or our financial system at risk. Unfortunately, H.R. 4413 departs from this vital objective in several important ways.

First, Title II of H.R. 4413 imposes onerous new administrative burdens on the CFTC whose practical effect will be to delay the Commission's ongoing Dodd-Frank rulemaking and encourage costly litigation. We need more certainty—not less certainty—when it comes to regulating our derivatives markets, and H.R. 4413 would take us in precisely the opposite direction.

Second, Title III of H.R. 4413 would make it much more difficult for the CFTC to regulate cross-border derivatives transactions that pose a risk to the U.S. economy. The legislation creates this vulnerability by substituting foreign derivatives rules for U.S. law unless the CFTC and the Securities and Exchange Commission,

SEC, jointly determine that a foreign country's regulatory regime is not broadly equivalent to our own. While I support international efforts to harmonize effective rules of the road for derivatives transactions, I do not support presuming an equivalency in this area that does not currently exist. Six years after unregulated derivatives transactions contributed to the sharpest downturn in our economy since the Great Depression, we simply cannot afford to outsource the protection of our financial system to foreign regulators.

Third, neither this legislation—nor the FY 2015 House Agriculture-FDA Appropriations bill, which proposes to slash the CFTC's budget by 22 percent below the President's request—does anything to provide the CFTC with the resources it needs to police fraud and excessive speculation in our derivatives markets on behalf of end users and consumers.

For these reasons, I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 4413.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

COALITION FOR DERIVATIVES
END-USERS,
June 17, 2014.

Re End-User Support for Adding Derivatives End-User Bills to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Reauthorization Bill.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
*Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,
*Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: The Coalition for Derivatives End-Users is writing to thank you and the other members of the Committee on Agriculture for incorporating language into H.R. 4413 that would protect derivatives end-users from harmful and unnecessary margin and clearing requirements. H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act, reauthorizes the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") and was approved in your Committee by voice vote on April 9, 2014. The Coalition strongly supports your bill and hopes that it will pass the House on a bipartisan basis.

Your bill incorporates H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, which would ensure that non-financial derivatives end-users are not subject to unnecessary margin requirements. This bill passed the House of Representatives last year 411-12. Your bill also incorporates key provisions of H.R. 677, the Inter-Affiliate Swap Clarification Act, which was reported favorably out of both the House Financial Services and House Agriculture Committees last year. These provisions would exempt certain swaps with centralized treasury units ("CTUs") of non-financial end-users from clearing requirements.

A recent Coalition survey of chief financial officers and corporate treasurers, released on March 26, 2014, underscores the urgent need for the end-user provisions contained in your reauthorization bill. The survey found that 86 percent of respondents indicated that fully collateralizing over-the-counter derivatives would adversely impact business investment, acquisitions, research & development and job creation.

Nearly half of our survey respondents use CTUs to execute OTC derivatives. The CFTC has issued no-action relief so that some end-

users that employ CTUs may avail themselves of the clearing exception. However, our survey found that, of those respondents that utilize a CTU structure, 69 percent do not qualify for the CFTC's no-action relief or are unsure about whether they could rely on the relief.

We thank you for your efforts to address the concerns of derivatives end-users. Throughout the legislative process, the Coalition has supported efforts to increase transparency in the derivatives markets and enhance financial stability for the U.S. economy through thoughtful new regulation while avoiding needless costs. Your bill would help end-users to focus their efforts and capital less on needless regulation and more on innovation, growth and job creation.

Sincerely,

AGRICULTURAL RETAILERS
ASSOCIATION.
BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE.
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES
INTERNATIONAL.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CORPORATE TREASURERS.
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MANUFACTURERS.
U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
June 19, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act," a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and make a number of important reforms designed to promote smart regulation, enhance accountability at the CFTC, and protect Main Street businesses from onerous and unintended derivatives regulation.

The Chamber is particularly supportive of provisions in H.R. 4413 that would help preserve the ability of commercial end users to manage their financial risks by using derivatives. Congress clearly intended to shield non-financial companies from certain regulatory requirements contained in the Dodd-Frank Act—a mandate that unfortunately has not been carried out fully by regulatory agencies—and last year the House voted 411-12 to pass legislation to exempt end users from margin requirements. H.R. 4413 includes that critical exemption and a number of other fixes that would ensure non-financial companies would be protected from burdensome and unnecessary regulations, consistent with Congress's clear intent almost four years ago.

The Chamber also supports provisions in this bill intended to promote transparency and accountability in the CFTC's rule-making process, including a requirement to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for new rules, and the creation of an Office of the Chief Economist to support such analysis. Cost-benefit analysis has been a fundamental tool of effective government for more than three decades, and these requirements would help protect Main Street businesses, investors, and consumers from some of the unintended consequences of regulation.

Additionally, H.R. 4413 contains a number of sensible provisions that would promote principles of good governance, including providing market participants with more certainty regarding "no action" letters issued by the CFTC staff, and a requirement that the CFTC develop internal risk control mechanisms in order to protect sensitive market data. These are common sense measures that would help make the CFTC a more effective and accountable regulator, and the Chamber appreciates their inclusion in this bill.

The Chamber strongly urges you to vote in favor of H.R. 4413 and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
*Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*
Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,
*Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, MINORITY LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN LUCAS, AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of the more than 200 member CEOs who lead major American companies operating in every sector of the U.S. economy, I wish to convey Business Roundtable's strong endorsement of H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act, as reported by the House Committee on Agriculture, which would reauthorize the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

In particular, Business Roundtable strongly supports important provisions included in H.R. 4413 that will reform derivatives regulation to focus more effectively on addressing potential systemic economic risk.

H.R. 4413 incorporates H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, which would ensure that non-financial derivatives end-users, who pose no systemic risk to the U.S. economy, are not subject to unnecessary margin requirements. This bill passed the House of Representatives last year by a strong bipartisan vote of 411-12 and is needed more than ever due to the uncertainty associated with differing margin proposals from the financial regulators.

H.R. 4413 also incorporates key provisions of H.R. 677, the Inter-Affiliate Swap Clarification Act, which was reported favorably out of both the House Financial Services and House Agriculture Committees last year. The language in H.R. 4413 would ensure that end-users are not subject to clearing requirements applicable to banks simply because they trade through efficient, cost-effective centralized treasury units (CTUs).

A recent survey conducted by the Coalition for Derivatives End-Users of chief financial officers and corporate treasurers underscores the urgent need for the end-user provisions in H.R. 4413. Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that fully collateralizing over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives would adversely impact business investment, acquisitions, research and development, and job creation, and more than nine in ten end-users indicated that a margin requirement would cause them to alter their hedging strategy.

Nearly half of the survey respondents use CTUs to execute OTC derivatives. The CFTC has issued no-action relief so that some end-users that employ CTUs may avail themselves of the clearing exception. However, the survey found that of those respondents that utilize a CTU structure, 69 percent do not qualify for the CFTC's no-action relief or are unsure about whether they could rely on the relief. Thus, a legislative solution is essential.

Business Roundtable supports efforts to increase transparency in the derivatives markets and enhance financial stability for the U.S. economy through thoughtful new regulation while avoiding needless costs. We appreciate you moving this legislation forward and urge the House of Representatives to pass this vital, bipartisan legislation to ensure that derivatives regulation addresses real economic risks without adversely affecting non-financial end-users who utilize derivatives to reduce risk.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER M. CUTLER,
Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer,
Eaton; Chair, Corporate
Governance
Committee, Business
Roundtable.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2014.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA), I am writing in support of House passage of H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act. The legislation includes important relief for public power utilities and other end-users seeking to use swaps to hedge commercial-operations risks. APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of more than 2,000 not-for-profit, locally-owned electric utilities in the United States. These public power utilities are in every state in the nation (except Hawaii) and provide power to more than 47 million Americans.

In particular, the legislation incorporates the provisions of H.R. 1038, the Public Power Risk Management Act (PPRMA). As you know, PPRMA was approved on a 423-0 vote in the House on June 12, 2013, and has since been introduced on a bipartisan basis in the Senate. The legislation is needed to address Commodity Futures Trading Commission rules which resulted in public power utilities losing—on average—half the available counterparties to swaps needed to hedge their commercial operations risks. The legislation will allow public power utilities to hedge commercial-operations risks on an even playing field with other end users in the power and natural gas utility sector. This means continued reliable power at affordable—and predictable—prices to customers.

H.R. 4413 would take other important steps to improve protections for consumers and commercial end users. By addressing issues related to margin requirements for non-financial end-users, the definition of “bona fide hedging,” swap reporting in illiquid markets, and forward contracts with volumetric optionality, the bill improves the CEA to better reflect the needs of end users.

Finally, we praise the clarity provided as to the intent of the legislation in the accom-

panying committee report and the changes made to the bill in response to legitimate concerns raised by other stakeholder groups. We understand that concerns remain and hope that you will continue to work toward consensus. We stand ready to assist if we can.

Thank for your continued efforts.

Sincerely,

SUSAN N. KELLY,
President & CEO.

AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: The American Gas Association appreciates the opportunity to support the Committee in its efforts to review the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) and reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). AGA supports H.R. 4267, a bill to amend the CEA to provide relief for end-users that use physical contracts with volumetric optionality, as providing necessary regulatory clarity to energy end-users. In particular, AGA believes H.R. 4267 will protect natural gas utilities' ability to mitigate commercial risk and restore the contractual innovation and liquidity in physical natural gas markets that gas utilities rely on to deliver affordable, reliable natural gas to America's energy consumers.

The American Gas Association (AGA), founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 71 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 94 percent—over 68 million customers—receive their gas from AGA members. AGA is an advocate for natural gas utility companies and their customers and provides a broad range of programs and services for member natural gas pipelines, marketers, gatherers, international natural gas companies and industry associates. Today, natural gas meets more than one-fourth of the United States energy needs.

AGA members are regulated energy utilities that have an obligation to serve their customers. They must stand ready to meet their customers' needs at all times, under just and reasonable rates, under terms and conditions set by state regulatory authorities. To meet these physical delivery obligations, AGA members use non-financial, physical commodity contracts with volumetric optionality to secure reliable gas supplies at the lowest reasonable cost to customers, while managing commercial and operational conditions that may cause unexpected constraints on their delivery systems. AGA members require regulatory certainty to incorporate compliance into their contractual planning, including certainty as to the rules implementing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act).

In implementing the Dodd-Frank Act, the CFTC has defined “swap” and “commodity option” broadly, such that significant physical natural gas contracts that contain flexible delivery terms or “optionality” are being viewed as subject to CFTC regulation as “swaps.” AGA and other gas industry participants have asked the CFTC to clarify that physical natural gas contracts con-

taining delivery flexibility do not constitute “swaps,” however, these requests remain pending.

The resulting regulatory uncertainty is creating tremendous confusion and disagreement in the natural gas industry and disrupting contracting practices, reducing liquidity in the physical natural gas commodity markets, and drying up the innovative contracting practices which have supported affordable prices for American natural gas consumers. AGA members are seeing a decrease in the kinds of offerings commercial counterparties are willing to make because counterparties are concerned that their offerings will be less competitive and desirable if they contain provisions for “optional” delivery that might trigger compliance with CFTC requirements. AGA members are also experiencing a decrease in the number of commercial counterparties willing to enter into flexible gas supply arrangements.

Given these trends, AGA is very concerned that the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act is having the unintended consequence of reducing physical commodity market liquidity with fewer opportunities to take advantage of the flexible and reliable services that are available under physical contracts with volumetric optionality. In turn, these market constraints can lead to increased natural gas procurement costs, particularly in periods of unexpected customer demand, severe weather or unexpected operational constraints. As gas utilities are regulated entities that pass through commodity costs in customer rates, increased gas costs borne by utilities will also lead to higher natural gas prices paid by American energy consumers.

AGA therefore supports H.R. 4267, to clarify that CEA Section 1(a)(47)(B)(ii) excludes from the definition of “swap” normal commercial merchandizing transactions used to buy and sell energy for ultimate delivery to end-users, including transactions that contain stand-alone or embedded options, so long as the transaction is intended to be physically settled. By passing this legislation, Congress can resolve significant natural gas market confusion and restore regulatory certainty as to the treatment of ordinary physical merchandizing transactions.

AGA believes that Congress did not intend the Dodd-Frank Act to constrain the physical commodity markets, create business-changing impacts on regulated natural gas utilities, or ultimately increase the costs of reliable service for natural gas consumers. As such, AGA supports the passage of H.R. 4267 to clarify Congressional intent, and to require that the CFTC redirect its resources to comprehensive regulation of financial entities, oversight of financial commodity markets, and protection of end-users' ability to hedge and mitigate commercial risk in these markets. H.R. 4267 provides natural gas utilities the regulatory confidence they need to continue procuring natural gas supplies at lowest reasonable costs for the benefit of American energy consumers.

Sincerely,

DAVE MCCURDY.

JUNE 18, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)—the nation's largest industrial trade association—supports provisions in the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act (H.R. 4413), to clarify that non-financial companies, like manufacturers, that use derivatives to manage business risk, will not be subject to onerous and harmful margin and clearing requirements.

Manufacturers use derivatives to manage and mitigate against fluctuations in commodity prices and currency and interest rates. The NAM worked to include provisions in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203) to protect manufacturers' use of over-the-counter derivatives. We continue to work to ensure that, as Dodd-Frank is implemented, end-users do not face undue burdens. Imposing unnecessary regulation on end-users would limit their ability to use these important risk management tools, increasing costs and negatively impacting business investment, U.S. competitiveness and job growth.

Provisions included in H.R. 4413 would ensure that regulators do not impose margin requirements on non-financial end-users and that end-users trading through a centralized treasury unit ("CTU") are covered by the end-user clearing exemption. These two issues also are addressed in legislation (H.R. 634 and H.R. 677) approved by the House Agriculture and Financial Services Committees with bipartisan support. Based on a survey by the Coalition for Derivatives End-Users, absent clarification on margin requirements, manufacturers and other end-users that use derivatives to manage risk may be forced to sideline a median of \$125 million away from business investment, R&D and job creation. Similarly, without the clarification on CTUs, non-financial end-users may be swept into costly clearing requirements meant for financial entities, simply because they use a CTU to manage internal and external trading to mitigate risk within a corporate entity—an industry "best practice".

The CFTC reauthorization also includes an NAM-supported provision from H.R. 3814 that requires the CFTC to take an affirmative action before lowering the swap dealer de minimis threshold. Without this provision, the de minimis level of swap dealing automatically drops from the \$8 billion to \$3 billion in a few years.

Almost four years after the enactment of Dodd-Frank, implementation of the Act is well underway and deadlines for compliance with various regulations are looming. End-users remain extremely concerned about final regulations on margin, the lack of clarity on the CTU issue, and the automatic drop in the de minimis threshold for swap dealing. Thank you in advance for supporting provisions in H.R. 4413 to ensure that derivatives regulation is focused on needed areas and not on imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens on manufacturers.

Sincerely,

DOROTHY COLEMAN,
Vice President—Tax and
Domestic Economic Policy.

APRIL 8, 2014.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER COLLIN PETERSON: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) supports H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act, legislation to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to be considered by the House Committee on Agriculture on April 9, 2014.

NRECA is the national service organization for more than nine hundred rural electric utilities and public power districts that provide electric energy to approximately

forty-two million consumers in forty-seven states or twelve percent of the nation's population. Kilowatt-hour sales by rural electric cooperatives account for approximately eleven percent of all electric energy sold in the United States. Cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis and all the costs of the cooperative are directly borne by their consumer-members.

Importantly, H.R. 4413 includes language that protects the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a non-profit cooperative lender owned by the rural electric cooperatives, from the potentially significant costs of margin requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010.

The CFTC reauthorization legislation also amends the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) in a very narrow but important way: to clarify Congressional intent that CFTC shall not regulate as "swaps," contracts relating to nonfinancial commodities, where the parties intend physical settlement of their contract obligations. These nonfinancial, physical commodity contracts with optionality are necessary for electric cooperatives to secure adequate power supplies and hedge their fuel risks.

On behalf of rural electric cooperatives across the country, NRECA would like to thank the leaders of the House Agriculture Committee for seeking to clarify in statute that not-for-profit cooperatives do not pose risk to our financial system, and need not be regulated in the same way as a Wall Street bank.

We would like to urge all members of the House Committee on Agriculture to vote in support of H.R. 4413.

Sincerely,

JO ANN EMERSON,
CEO, NRECA.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

SIFMA,
June 19, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: SIFMA and its member firms strongly support H.R. 4413, the Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act, bipartisan legislation that seeks to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to better protect futures customers, provide market certainty for end-users, and make basic reforms to improve the functioning of the CFTC.

One provision in this bill seeks to create harmonization of cross-border swaps regulation by requiring the CFTC and SEC to jointly promulgate rules in full compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act and within 270 days. This is necessary as the two agencies share jurisdiction over the swaps markets and currently have inconsistent approaches to the extraterritorial application of rules under Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 1256, Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act, which passed the House by vote of 301-124.

Another provision in the bill would prevent costly margin requirements from being imposed on non-financial end-users for their derivatives activity used to hedge commercial risks. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 634, Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, which passed the House by vote of 411-12.

SIFMA strongly urges you to vote for H.R. 4413. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

ANDY BLOCKER,
EVP, Public Policy and Advocacy, SIFMA.

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2014.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Chairman, House Agriculture Committee,
Washington, DC.

Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,
Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of EEI's member companies, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act. The legislation provides additional certainty and clarifies congressional intent on a number of issues of significant importance to EEI members.

EEI is the association of all the U.S. investor-owned utilities, international affiliates and industry associates worldwide. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, directly employ more than a half-million workers, and operate in all 50 states. With more than \$85 billion in annual capital expenditures, the electric utility industry is responsible for providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity that powers the economy and enhances the lives of all Americans.

EEI members are non-financial entities that primarily participate in the physical commodity market and rely on swaps and futures contracts mainly to hedge and mitigate their commercial risk. The goal of our member companies is to provide their customers with reliable electric service at affordable and stable rates, which has a direct and significant impact on literally every area of the U.S. economy. Since wholesale electricity and natural gas historically have been two of the most volatile commodity groups, our member companies place a strong emphasis on managing the price volatility inherent in these wholesale commodity markets to the benefit of their customers. The derivatives market has proven to be an extremely effective tool in insulating our customers from this risk and price volatility. In sum, our members are the quintessential commercial end-users of swaps.

As such, regulations that make effective risk management options more costly for end-users of swaps will likely result in higher and more volatile energy prices for retail, commercial, and industrial customers. H.R. 4413 goes a long way in providing much needed regulatory relief and an even greater clarity to the compliance landscape facing EEI and the entire end-user community going forward.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

THOMAS R. KUHN.

JUNE 17, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned organizations represent a very broad cross-section of U.S. production agriculture and agribusiness. We urge you to cast an affirmative vote on H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act," when it moves to the floor for consideration.

This legislation, unanimously approved on a bipartisan basis by the Committee on Agriculture, provides important protections for futures customers:

Enhanced reporting, transparency and accountability in futures markets. These much-needed improvements will help prevent another MF Global.

The ability for customers to “claw back” assets from a parent firm in the event of a shortfall of customer funds in FCM insolvencies—something that wasn’t possible with MF Global.

A clear roadmap for meaningful cost-benefit analysis to be performed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission before proposing major rules.

A solution to the very troubling “residual interest” rule approved last fall by CFTC that would force customers to pre-margin hedge accounts, thereby putting perhaps twice as much customer money at risk, dramatically increasing hedging costs, and likely driving farmers, ranchers and small hedgers out of the futures market.

Relief from technologically infeasible recordkeeping requirements in the cash commodity markets.

Thank you in advance for your support of this bill that is so important to U.S. farmers, ranchers, hedgers and futures customers.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Agribusiness Council of Indiana, Amcot, American Cotton Shippers Association, American Feed Industry Association, American Soybean Association, Commodity Markets Council, Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, Indiana Grain and Feed Association, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Bean Shippers, Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, Montana Grain Elevators Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grain and Feed Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, North American Export Grain Association, North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, Ohio Agribusiness Association, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association, South Dakota Association of Cooperatives, South Dakota Grain & Feed Association, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, United Egg Producers, USA Rice Federation.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-47. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4413

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Enhanced protections for futures customers.

Sec. 103. Electronic confirmation of customer funds.

Sec. 104. Notice and certifications providing additional customer protections.

Sec. 105. Futures commission merchant compliance.

Sec. 106. Certainty for futures customers and market participants.

Sec. 107. Study on high-frequency trading.

TITLE II—COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION REFORMS

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Extension of operations.

Sec. 203. Consideration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders.

Sec. 204. Division directors.

Sec. 205. Office of the Chief Economist.

Sec. 206. Procedures governing actions taken without a commission vote.

Sec. 207. Strategic technology plan.

Sec. 208. Internal risk controls.

Sec. 209. Subpoena duration and renewal.

Sec. 210. Implementation plan for Commission rulemakings.

Sec. 211. Applicability of notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act to guidance voted on by the Commission.

Sec. 212. Judicial review of Commission rules.

Sec. 213. GAO study on adequacy of CFTC resources.

Sec. 214. Disclosure of required data of other registered entities.

TITLE III—END-USER RELIEF

Sec. 301. Short title.

Subtitle A—End-User Exemption From Margin Requirements

Sec. 311. End-user margin requirements.

Sec. 312. Implementation.

Subtitle B—Inter-Affiliate Swaps

Sec. 321. Treatment of affiliate transactions.

Subtitle C—Indemnification Requirements Related to Swap Data Repositories

Sec. 331. Indemnification requirements.

Subtitle D—Relief for Municipal Utilities

Sec. 341. Transactions with utility special entities.

Sec. 342. Utility special entity defined.

Sec. 343. Utility operations-related swap.

Subtitle E—End-User Regulatory Relief

Sec. 351. End-users not treated as financial entities.

Sec. 352. Reporting of illiquid swaps so as to not disadvantage certain non-financial end-users.

Sec. 353. Relief for grain elevator operators, farmers, agricultural counterparties, and commercial market participants.

Sec. 354. Relief for end-users who use physical contracts with volumetric optionality.

Sec. 355. Commission vote required before automatic change of swap dealer de minimis level.

Sec. 356. Capital requirements for non-bank swap dealers.

Sec. 357. Harmonization with the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act.

Sec. 358. Bona fide hedge defined to protect end-user risk management needs.

Sec. 359. Cross-border regulation of derivatives transactions.

Sec. 360. Report on foreign boards of trade.

Subtitle F—Effective Date

Sec. 371. Effective date.

TITLE I—CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Futures Customer Protection Act”.

SEC. 102. ENHANCED PROTECTIONS FOR FUTURES CUSTOMERS.

Section 17 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 21) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) A registered futures association shall—

“(1) require each member of the association that is a futures commission merchant to maintain written policies and procedures regarding the maintenance of—

“(A) the residual interest of the member, as described in section 1.23 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, in any customer segregated funds account of the member, as identified in section 1.20 of such title, and in any foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds account of the member, as identified in section 30.7 of such title; and

“(B) the residual interest of the member, as described in section 22.2(e)(4) of such title, in any cleared swaps customer collateral account of the member, as identified in section 22.2 of such title; and

“(2) establish rules to govern the withdrawal, transfer or disbursement by any member of the association, that is a futures commission merchant, of the member’s residual interest in customer segregated funds as provided in such section 1.20, in foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds, identified as provided in such section 30.7, and from a cleared swaps customer collateral, identified as provided in such section 22.2.”

SEC. 103. ELECTRONIC CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMER FUNDS.

Section 17 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 21), as amended by section 102 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(t) A registered futures association shall require any member of the association that is a futures commission merchant to—

“(1) use an electronic system or systems to report financial and operational information to the association, including information related to customer segregated funds, foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds accounts, and cleared swaps customer collateral, in accordance with such terms, conditions, documentation standards, and regular time intervals as are established by the association;

“(2) instruct each depository, including any bank, trust company, derivatives clearing organization, or futures commission merchant, holding customer segregated funds under section 1.20 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds under section 30.7 of such title, or cleared swap customer funds under section 22.2 of such title, to report balances in the futures commission merchant’s section 1.20 customer segregated funds, section 30.7 foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds, and section 22.2 cleared swap customer funds, to the registered futures association or another party designated by the registered futures association, in the form, manner, and interval prescribed by the registered futures association; and

“(3) hold section 1.20 customer segregated funds, section 30.7 foreign futures and foreign options customer secured amount funds and section 22.2 cleared swaps customer funds in a depository that reports the balances in these accounts of the futures commission merchant held at the depository to the registered futures association or another party designated by the registered futures association in the form, manner,

and interval prescribed by the registered futures association.”.

SEC. 104. NOTICE AND CERTIFICATIONS PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER PROTECTIONS.

Section 17 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 21), as amended by sections 102 and 103 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(u) A futures commission merchant that has adjusted net capital in an amount less than the amount required by regulations established by the Commission or a self-regulatory organization of which the futures commission merchant is a member shall immediately notify the Commission and the self-regulatory organization of this occurrence.

“(v) A futures commission merchant that does not hold a sufficient amount of funds in segregated accounts for futures customers under section 1.20 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, in foreign futures and foreign options secured amount accounts for foreign futures and foreign options secured amount customers under section 30.7 of such title, or in segregated accounts for cleared swap customers under section 22.2 of such title, as required by regulations established by the Commission or a self-regulatory organization of which the futures commission merchant is a member, shall immediately notify the Commission and the self-regulatory organization of this occurrence.

“(w) Within such time period established by the Commission after the end of each fiscal year, a futures commission merchant shall file with the Commission a report from the chief compliance officer of the futures commission merchant containing an assessment of the internal compliance programs of the futures commission merchant.”.

SEC. 105. FUTURES COMMISSION MERCHANT COMPLIANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4d(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6d(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(2) by inserting “(1)” before “It shall be unlawful”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) Any rules or regulations requiring a futures commission merchant to maintain a residual interest in accounts held for the benefit of customers in amounts at least sufficient to exceed the sum of all uncollected margin deficits of such customers shall provide that a futures commission merchant shall meet its residual interest requirement as of the end of each business day calculated as of the close of business on the previous business day.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4d(h) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6d(h)) is amended by striking “Notwithstanding subsection (a)(2)” and inserting “Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1)(B)”.

SEC. 106. CERTAINTY FOR FUTURES CUSTOMERS AND MARKET PARTICIPANTS.

Section 20(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 24(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (4);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) that cash, securities, or other property of the estate of a commodity broker, including the trading or operating accounts of the commodity broker and commodities held in inventory by the commodity broker, shall be included in customer property, subject to any otherwise unavoidable security interest, or otherwise unavoidable contractual offset or netting rights of creditors (including rights set forth in a rule or bylaw of a

derivatives clearing organization or a clearing agency) in respect of such property, but only to the extent that the property that is otherwise customer property is insufficient to satisfy the net equity claims of public customers (as such term may be defined by the Commission by rule or regulation) of the commodity broker.”.

SEC. 107. STUDY ON HIGH-FREQUENCY TRADING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report examining the effect of the practice commonly referred to as high-frequency trading on markets under its jurisdiction.

(b) SPECIFIC AREAS EXAMINED IN REPORT.—In preparing the report submitted under subsection (a), the Commission shall particularly examine each of the following areas:

(1) The technology, personnel, or other resources the Commission may require for purposes of monitoring the effect of high-frequency trading.

(2) The role such trading plays in providing market liquidity.

(3) Whether the technology creates discrepancies in the marketplace between market participants.

(4) Whether the existing authority of the Commission with respect to such trading is sufficient to meet the Commission’s mission to—

(A) protect market participants and the public from fraud, manipulation, abusive practices, and systemic risk related to derivatives; and

(B) foster transparent, open, competitive, and financially sound markets.

TITLE II—COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION REFORMS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Commodity Futures Trading Commission Reform Act”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF OPERATIONS.

Section 12(d) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 16(d)) is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2018”.

SEC. 203. CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ITS REGULATIONS AND ORDERS.

Section 15(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 19(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before promulgating a regulation under this Act or issuing an order (except as provided in paragraph (3)), the Commission, through the Office of the Chief Economist, shall assess and publish in the regulation or order the costs and benefits, both qualitative and quantitative, of the proposed regulation or order, and the proposed regulation or order shall state its statutory justification.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a reasoned determination of the costs and the benefits, the Commission shall evaluate—

“(A) considerations of protection of market participants and the public;

“(B) considerations of the efficiency, competitiveness, and financial integrity of futures and swaps markets;

“(C) considerations of the impact on market liquidity in the futures and swaps markets;

“(D) considerations of price discovery;

“(E) considerations of sound risk management practices;

“(F) available alternatives to direct regulation;

“(G) the degree and nature of the risks posed by various activities within the scope of its jurisdiction;

“(H) the costs of complying with the proposed regulation or order by all regulated entities, in-

cluding a methodology for quantifying the costs (recognizing that some costs are difficult to quantify);

“(I) whether the proposed regulation or order is inconsistent, incompatible, or duplicative of other Federal regulations or orders;

“(J) whether, in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, those approaches maximize net benefits (including potential economic and other benefits, distributive impacts, and equity); and

“(K) other public interest considerations.”.

SEC. 204. DIVISION DIRECTORS.

Section 2(a)(6)(C) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(6)(C)) is amended by inserting “, and the heads of the units shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission, report directly to the Commission, and perform such functions and duties as the Commission may prescribe” before the period.

SEC. 205. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(17) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Commission the Office of the Chief Economist.

“(B) HEAD.—The Office of the Chief Economist shall be headed by the Chief Economist, who shall be appointed by the Commission and serve at the pleasure of the Commission.

“(C) FUNCTIONS.—The Chief Economist shall report directly to the Commission and perform such functions and duties as the Commission may prescribe.

“(D) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—The Commission shall appoint such other economists as may be necessary to assist the Chief Economist in performing such economic analysis, regulatory cost-benefit analysis, or research as the Commission may direct.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2(a)(6)(A) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “(4) and (5)” and inserting “(4), (5), and (17)”.

SEC. 206. PROCEDURES GOVERNING ACTIONS TAKEN WITHOUT A COMMISSION VOTE.

Section 2(a)(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(12)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(12) The” and inserting the following:

“(12) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the other provisions of this paragraph, the”; and

(2) by adding after and below the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) NOTICE TO COMMISSION.—The Commission shall develop and publish internal procedures governing the issuance by any division or office of the Commission of any response to a formal, written request or petition from any member of the public for an exemptive, a no-action, or an interpretive letter and such procedures shall provide that the Commission be provided with the final version of the matter to be issued with sufficient notice to thoroughly review the matter prior to its issuance.”.

SEC. 207. STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN.

Section 2(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)), as amended by section 204(a) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(18) STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Every 5 years, the Commission shall develop and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a detailed plan focused on the acquisition and use of technology by the Commission.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The plan shall—

“(i) include for each related division or office a detailed technology strategy focused on market surveillance and risk detection, market data

collection, aggregation, interpretation, standardization, harmonization, normalization, validation, streamlining or other data analytic processes, and internal management and protection of data collected by the Commission, including a detailed accounting of how the funds provided for technology will be used and the priorities that will apply in the use of the funds; and

“(ii) set forth annual goals to be accomplished and annual budgets needed to accomplish the goals.”.

SEC. 208. INTERNAL RISK CONTROLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a)(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(12)), as amended by section 206 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) INTERNAL RISK CONTROLS.—The Commission, in consultation with the Chief Economist, shall develop comprehensive internal risk control mechanisms to safeguard and govern the storage of all market data by the Commission, all market data sharing agreements of the Commission, and all academic research performed at the Commission using market data.”.

(b) REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—

(1) CONTENT.—The Commission shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate 2 reports on the progress made in implementing the internal risk controls provided for in section 2(a)(12)(C) of the Commodity Exchange Act.

(2) TIMING.—The Commission shall submit the 1st report required by paragraph (1) within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and the 2nd such report within 120 days after such date of enactment.

SEC. 209. SUBPOENA DURATION AND RENEWAL.

Section 6(c)(5) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 9(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(5) SUBPOENA.—For” and inserting the following:

“(5) SUBPOENA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For”; and

(2) by adding after and below the end the following:

“(B) CONTENT OF ORDER.—An order of the Commission authorizing the issuance of a subpoena in an investigation shall state in good faith—

“(i) the legitimate purpose of the investigation; and

“(ii) the information sought by any subpoena order that will be reasonably relevant to that purpose.

“(C) DURATION AND RENEWAL.—An order issued under this paragraph shall not be for an indefinite duration and may be renewed only by Commission action.”.

SEC. 210. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR COMMISSION RULEMAKINGS.

Section 2(a)(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(12)), as amended by sections 206 and 208(a) of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR COMMISSION RULES.—The Commission shall direct its staff to develop and publish in any proposed rule a plan for—

“(i) when and for how long the proposed rule will be subject to public comment; and

“(ii) by when compliance with the final rule will be required.”.

SEC. 211. APPLICABILITY OF NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT TO GUIDANCE VOTED ON BY THE COMMISSION.

Section 2(a)(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(12)), as amended by sections 206, 208(a), and 210 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) APPLICABILITY OF NOTICE AND COMMENT RULES TO GUIDANCE VOTED ON BY THE COMMISSION.—The notice and comment requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, shall also apply with respect to any guidance issued by the Commission.”.

SECTION.—The notice and comment requirements of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, shall also apply with respect to any guidance issued by the Commission.”.

SEC. 212. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF COMMISSION RULES.

The Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 24. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF COMMISSION RULES.

“(a) A person adversely affected by a rule of the Commission promulgated under this Act may obtain review of the rule in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit where the party resides or has the principal place of business, by filing in the court, within 60 days after publication in the Federal Register of the entry of the rule, a written petition requesting that the rule be set aside.

“(b) A copy of the petition shall be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the court to an officer designated by the Commission for that purpose. Thereupon the Commission shall file in the court the record on which the rule complained of is entered, as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code, and the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

“(c) On the filing of the petition, the court has jurisdiction, which becomes exclusive on the filing of the record, to affirm and enforce or to set aside the rule.

“(d) The court shall affirm and enforce the rule unless the Commission’s action in promulgating the rule is found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law; contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity; in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right; or without observance of procedure required by law.”.

SEC. 213. GAO STUDY ON ADEQUACY OF CFTC RESOURCES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the resources of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission that—

(1) assesses whether the resources of the Commission are sufficient to enable the Commission to effectively carry out the duties of the Commission; and

(2) examines the prior expenditures of the Commission on hardware, software, and analytical processes designed to protect customers in the areas of—

(A) market surveillance and risk detection; and

(B) market data collection, aggregation, interpretation, standardization, harmonization, normalization, validation, and streamlining or other data analytic processes.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that contains the results of the study.

SEC. 214. DISCLOSURE OF REQUIRED DATA OF OTHER REGISTERED ENTITIES.

Section 8 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 12) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) DISCLOSURE OF REQUIRED DATA OF OTHER REGISTERED ENTITIES.—

“(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the Commission may not be compelled to disclose any proprietary information provided to the Commission, except that nothing in this subsection—

“(A) authorizes the Commission to withhold information from Congress, upon an agreement of confidentiality; or

“(B) prevents the Commission from—

“(i) complying with a request for information from any other Federal department or agency, any State or political subdivision thereof, or any foreign government or any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof requesting the report or information for purposes within the scope of its jurisdiction, upon an agreement of confidentiality to protect the information in a manner consistent with this paragraph and subsection (e); or

“(ii) a disclosure made pursuant to a court order in connection with an administrative or judicial proceeding brought under this Act, in any receivership proceeding involving a receiver appointed in a judicial proceeding brought under this Act, or in any bankruptcy proceeding in which the Commission has intervened or in which the Commission has the right to appear and be heard under title 11 of the United States Code.

“(2) Any proprietary information of a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator ascertained by the Commission in connection with Form CPO-PQR, Form CTA-PR, and any successor forms thereto, shall be subject to the same limitations on public disclosure, as any facts ascertained during an investigation, as provided by subsection (a); provided, however, that the Commission shall not be precluded from publishing aggregate information compiled from such forms, to the extent such aggregate information does not identify any individual person or firm, or such person’s proprietary information.

“(3) For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this subsection, and the information contemplated herein, shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section 552.

“(4) For purposes of the definition of proprietary information in paragraph (5), the records and reports of any client account or commodity pool to which a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator registered under this title provides services that are filed with the Commission on Form CPO-PQR, CTA-PR, and any successor forms thereto, shall be deemed to be the records and reports of the commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator, respectively.

“(5) For purposes of this section, proprietary information of a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator includes sensitive, non-public information regarding—

“(A) the commodity trading advisor, commodity pool operator or the trading strategies of the commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator;

“(B) analytical or research methodologies of a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator;

“(C) trading data of a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator; and

“(D) computer hardware or software containing intellectual property of a commodity trading advisor or commodity pool operator.”.

TITLE III—END-USER RELIEF

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “End-User Relief and Market Certainty Act”.

Subtitle A—End-User Exemption From Margin Requirements

SEC. 311. END-USER MARGIN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 4s(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERPARTIES.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), including the initial and variation margin requirements imposed by rules adopted pursuant to paragraphs

(2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), shall not apply to a swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 2(h)(7)(A), or an exemption issued under section 4(c)(1) from the requirements of section 2(h)(1)(A) for cooperative entities as defined in such exemption, or satisfies the criteria in section 2(h)(7)(D).''.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AMENDMENT.—Section 15F(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-10(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO COUNTERPARTIES.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii) shall not apply to a security-based swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 3C(g)(1) or satisfies the criteria in section 3C(g)(4).”.

SEC. 312. IMPLEMENTATION.

The amendment made to the Commodity Exchange Act by this subtitle shall be implemented—

(1) without regard to—
(A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) through the promulgation of an interim final rule, pursuant to which public comment will be sought before a final rule is issued; and

(3) such that paragraph (1) shall apply solely to changes to rules and regulations, or proposed rules and regulations, that are limited to and directly a consequence of the amendment.

Subtitle B—Inter-Affiliate Swaps

SEC. 321. TREATMENT OF AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT AMENDMENT.—Section 2(h)(7)(D)(i) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(h)(7)(D)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An affiliate of a person that qualifies for an exception under subparagraph (A) (including affiliate entities predominantly engaged in providing financing for the purchase of the merchandise or manufactured goods of the person) may qualify for the exception only if the affiliate enters into the swap to hedge or mitigate the commercial risk of the person or other affiliate of the person that is not a financial entity, provided that if the transfer of commercial risk is addressed by entering into a swap with a swap dealer or major swap participant, an appropriate credit support measure or other mechanism is utilized.”.

(2) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 AMENDMENT.—Section 3C(g)(4)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c-3(g)(4)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An affiliate of a person that qualifies for an exception under paragraph (1) (including affiliate entities predominantly engaged in providing financing for the purchase of the merchandise or manufactured goods of the person) may qualify for the exception only if the affiliate enters into the security-based swap to hedge or mitigate the commercial risk of the person or other affiliate of the person that is not a financial entity, provided that if the transfer of commercial risk is addressed by entering into a security-based swap with a security-based swap dealer or major security-based swap participant, an appropriate credit support measure or other mechanism is utilized.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CREDIT SUPPORT MEASURE REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 371 of this Act, the requirements in section 2(h)(7)(D)(i) of the Commodity Exchange Act and section 3C(g)(4)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended by subsection (a), requiring that a credit support measure or other mechanism be utilized if the transfer of commercial risk referred to in such sections is

addressed by entering into a swap with a swap dealer or major swap participant or a security-based swap with a security-based swap dealer or major security-based swap participant, as appropriate, shall not apply with respect to swaps or security-based swaps, as appropriate, entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Indemnification Requirements Related to Swap Data Repositories

SEC. 331. INDEMNIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DERIVATIVES CLEARING ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 5b(k)(5) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a-1(k)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.—Before the Commission may share information with any entity described in paragraph (4), the Commission shall receive a written agreement from each entity stating that the entity shall abide by the confidentiality requirements described in section 8 relating to the information on swap transactions that is provided.”.

(b) SWAP DATA REPOSITORIES.—Section 21(d) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 24a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.—Before the swap data repository may share information with any entity described in subsection (c)(7), the swap data repository shall receive a written agreement from each entity stating that the entity shall abide by the confidentiality requirements described in section 8 relating to the information on swap transactions that is provided.”.

(c) SECURITY-BASED SWAP DATA REPOSITORIES.—Section 13(n)(5)(H) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(n)(5)(H)) is amended to read as follows:

“(H) CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.—Before the security-based swap data repository may share information with any entity described in subparagraph (G), the security-based swap data repository shall receive a written agreement from each entity stating that the entity shall abide by the confidentiality requirements described in section 24 relating to the information on security-based swap transactions that is provided.”.

Subtitle D—Relief for Municipal Utilities

SEC. 341. TRANSACTIONS WITH UTILITY SPECIAL ENTITIES.

Section 1a(49) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(49)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS WITH A UTILITY SPECIAL ENTITY.—

“(i) Transactions in utility operations-related swaps shall be reported pursuant to section 4r.

“(ii) In making a determination to exempt pursuant to subparagraph (D), the Commission shall treat a utility operations-related swap entered into with a utility special entity, as defined in section 4s(h)(2)(D), as if it were entered into with an entity that is not a special entity, as defined in section 4s(h)(2)(C).”.

SEC. 342. UTILITY SPECIAL ENTITY DEFINED.

Section 4s(h)(2) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(h)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) UTILITY SPECIAL ENTITY.—For purposes of this Act, the term ‘utility special entity’ means a special entity, or any instrumentality, department, or corporation of or established by a State or political subdivision of a State, that—

“(i) owns or operates an electric or natural gas facility or an electric or natural gas operation;

“(ii) supplies natural gas and or electric energy to another utility special entity;

“(iii) has public service obligations under Federal, State, or local law or regulation to deliver electric energy or natural gas service to customers; or

“(iv) is a Federal power marketing agency, as defined in section 3 of the Federal Power Act.”.

SEC. 343. UTILITY OPERATIONS-RELATED SWAP.

(a) SWAP FURTHER DEFINED.—Section 1a(47)(A)(iii) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(A)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subclause (XXI);

(2) by adding “and” at the end of subclause (XXII); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(XXIII) a utility operations-related swap;”.

(b) UTILITY OPERATIONS-RELATED SWAP DEFINED.—Section 1a of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(52) UTILITY OPERATIONS-RELATED SWAP.—The term ‘utility operations-related swap’ means a swap that—

“(A) is entered into to hedge or mitigate a commercial risk;

“(B) is not a contract, agreement, or transaction based on, derived on, or referencing—

“(i) an interest rate, credit, equity, or currency asset class; or

“(ii) a metal, agricultural commodity, or crude oil or gasoline commodity of any grade, except as used as fuel for electric energy generation; and

“(C) is associated with—

“(i) the generation, production, purchase, or sale of natural gas or electric energy, the supply of natural gas or electric energy to a utility, or the delivery of natural gas or electric energy service to utility customers;

“(ii) all fuel supply for the facilities or operations of a utility;

“(iii) compliance with an electric system reliability obligation;

“(iv) compliance with an energy, energy efficiency, conservation, or renewable energy or environmental statute, regulation, or government order applicable to a utility; or

“(v) any other electric energy or natural gas swap to which a utility is a party.”.

Subtitle E—End-User Regulatory Relief

SEC. 351. END-USERS NOT TREATED AS FINANCIAL ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(h)(7)(C)(iii) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(h)(7)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(iii) LIMITATION.—Such definition shall not include an entity—

“(I) whose primary business is providing financing, and who uses derivatives for the purpose of hedging underlying commercial risks related to interest rate and foreign currency exposures, 90 percent or more of which arise from financing that facilitates the purchase or lease of products, 90 percent or more of which are manufactured by the parent company or another subsidiary of the parent company; or

“(II) who is not supervised by a prudential regulator, and is not described in any of subclauses (I) through (VII) of clause (i), and—

“(aa) is a commercial market participant and is considered a financial entity under clause (i)(VIII) because the entity predominantly engages in physical delivery contracts; or

“(bb) enters into swaps, contracts for future delivery, and other derivatives on behalf of, or to hedge or mitigate the commercial risk of, whether directly or in the aggregate, affiliates that are not so supervised or described.”.

(b) COMMERCIAL MARKET PARTICIPANT DEFINED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1a of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1a), as amended by section 343(b) of this Act, is amended by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (52) as paragraphs (9) through (53), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) COMMERCIAL MARKET PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘commercial market participant’ means any producer, processor, merchant, or commercial

user of an exempt or agricultural commodity, or the products or byproducts of such a commodity.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 1a of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1a) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (18) (as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “(18)(A)” and inserting “(19)(A)”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)(vii) of paragraph (19) (as so redesignated by paragraph (1) of this subsection), in the matter following subclause (III), by striking “(17)(A)” and inserting “(18)(A)”.

(B) Section 4(c)(1)(A)(i)(I) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 6(c)(1)(A)(i)(I)) is amended by striking “(7), paragraph (18)(A)(vii)(III), paragraphs (23), (24), (31), (32), (38), (39), (41), (42), (46), (47), (48), and (49)” and inserting “(8), paragraph (19)(A)(vii)(III), paragraphs (24), (25), (32), (33), (39), (40), (42), (43), (47), (48), (49), and (50)”.

(C) Section 4q(a)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 60-1(a)(1)) is amended by striking “1a(9)” and inserting “1a(10)”.

(D) Section 4s(f)(1)(D) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(f)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “1a(47)(A)(v)” and inserting “1a(48)(A)(v)”.

(E) Section 4s(h)(5)(A)(i) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(h)(5)(A)(i)) is amended by striking “1a(18)” and inserting “1a(19)”.

(F) Section 4t(b)(1)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 6t(b)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “1a(47)(A)(v)” and inserting “1a(48)(A)(v)”.

(G) Section 5(d)(23) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 7(d)(23)) is amended by striking “1a(47)(A)(v)” and inserting “1a(48)(A)(v)”.

(H) Section 5(e)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 7(e)(1)) is amended by striking “1a(9)” and inserting “1a(10)”.

(I) Section 5b(k)(3)(A) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 7a-1(k)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “1a(47)(A)(v)” and inserting “1a(48)(A)(v)”.

(J) Section 5c(c)(4)(B) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 7a-2(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “1a(10)” and inserting “1a(11)”.

(K) Section 5h(f)(10)(A)(iii) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 7b-3(f)(10)(A)(iii)) is amended by striking “1a(47)(A)(v)” and inserting “1a(48)(A)(v)”.

(L) Section 21(f)(4)(C) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 24a(f)(4)(C)) is amended by striking “1a(48)” and inserting “1a(49)”.

SEC. 352. REPORTING OF ILLIQUID SWAPS SO AS TO NOT DISADVANTAGE CERTAIN NON-FINANCIAL END-USERS.

Section 2(a)(13) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)(13)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “The Commission” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the Commission”; and

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (G) as subparagraphs (E) through (H), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR SWAP TRANSACTIONS IN ILLIQUID MARKETS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C):

“(i) The Commission shall provide by rule for the public reporting of swap transactions, including price and volume data, in illiquid markets that are not cleared and entered into by a non-financial entity that is hedging or mitigating commercial risk in accordance with subsection (h)(7)(A).

“(ii) The Commission shall ensure that the swap transaction information referred to in clause (i) of this subparagraph is available to the public no sooner than 30 days after the swap transaction has been executed or at such later date as the Commission determines appropriate to protect the identity of participants and positions in illiquid markets and to prevent the elimination or reduction of market liquidity.

“(iii) In this subparagraph, the term ‘illiquid markets’ means any market in which the volume

and frequency of trading in swaps is at such a level as to allow identification of individual market participants.”.

SEC. 353. RELIEF FOR GRAIN ELEVATOR OPERATORS, FARMERS, AGRICULTURAL COUNTERPARTIES, AND COMMERCIAL MARKET PARTICIPANTS.

The Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 4t the following:

“SEC. 4u. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO NON-REGISTERED MEMBERS OF CERTAIN REGISTERED ENTITIES.

“Except as provided in section 4(a)(3), a member of a designated contract market or a swap execution facility that is not registered with the Commission and not required to be registered with the Commission in any capacity shall satisfy the recordkeeping requirements of this Act and any recordkeeping rule, order, or regulation under this Act by maintaining a written record of each transaction in a contract for future delivery, option on a future, swap, swaption, trade option, or related cash or forward transaction. The written record shall be sufficient if it includes the final agreement between the parties and the material economic terms of the transaction and is identifiable and searchable by transaction.”.

SEC. 354. RELIEF FOR END-USERS WHO USE PHYSICAL CONTRACTS WITH VOLUMETRIC OPTIONALITY.

Section 1a(47)(B)(ii) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(47)(B)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) any purchase or sale of a nonfinancial commodity or security for deferred shipment or delivery, so long as the transaction is intended to be physically settled, including any stand-alone or embedded option—

“(I) for which exercise results in a physical delivery obligation; and

“(II) that cannot be severed or marketed separately from the overall transaction for the purpose of financial settlement; and

“(III) for which both parties are commercial market participants;”.

SEC. 355. COMMISSION VOTE REQUIRED BEFORE AUTOMATIC CHANGE OF SWAP DEALER DE MINIMIS LEVEL.

Section 1a(49)(D) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(49)(D)) is amended—

(1) by striking all that precedes “shall exempt” and inserting the following:

“(D) DE MINIMIS EXCEPTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission”; and

(2) by adding after and below the end the following new clause:

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—The de minimis quantity of swap dealing as described in clause (i) that is currently set at a quantity of \$8,000,000,000 shall only be amended or reduced through a new affirmative action of the Commission undertaken by rule or regulation.”.

SEC. 356. CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-BANK SWAP DEALERS.

(a) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT.—Section 4s(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6s(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “shall” and inserting the following: “and the Securities and Exchange Commission, in consultation with the prudential regulators, shall jointly”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(D)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “shall, to the maximum extent practicable,” and inserting “shall”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) FINANCIAL MODELS.—To the extent that swap dealers and major swap participants that are banks are permitted to use financial models approved by the prudential regulators or the Securities and Exchange Commission to calculate minimum capital requirements and minimum ini-

tial and variation margin requirements, including the use of non-cash collateral, the Commission shall, in consultation with the prudential regulators and the Securities and Exchange Commission, permit the use of comparable financial models by swap dealers and major swap participants that are not banks.”.

(b) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 15F(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-10(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “shall” and inserting the following: “and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, in consultation with the prudential regulators, shall jointly”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(D)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “shall, to the maximum extent practicable,” and inserting “shall”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) FINANCIAL MODELS.—To the extent that security-based swap dealers and major security-based swap participants that are banks are permitted to use financial models approved by the prudential regulators or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to calculate minimum capital requirements and minimum initial and variation margin requirements, including the use of non-cash collateral, the Commission shall, in consultation with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, permit the use of comparable financial models by security-based swap dealers and major security-based swap participants that are not banks.”.

SEC. 357. HARMONIZATION WITH THE JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT.

Within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall—

(1) revise section 4.7(b) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), to read as follows:

“(b) Relief available to commodity pool operators. Upon filing the notice required by paragraph (d) of this section, and subject to compliance with the conditions specified in paragraph (d) of this section, any registered commodity pool operator who sells participations in a pool solely to qualified eligible persons in an offering which qualifies for exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act pursuant to section 4(2) of that Act or pursuant to Regulation S, 17 CFR 230.901 et seq., and any bank registered as a commodity pool operator in connection with a pool that is a collective trust fund whose securities are exempt from registration under the Securities Act pursuant to section 3(a)(2) of that Act and are sold solely to qualified eligible persons, may claim any or all of the following relief with respect to such pool;”;

(2) revise section 4.13(a)(3)(i) of such title to read as follows:

“(i) Interests in the pool are exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, and such interests are offered and sold pursuant to section 4 of the Securities Act of 1933 and the regulations thereunder;”.

SEC. 358. BONA FIDE HEDGE DEFINED TO PROTECT END-USER RISK MANAGEMENT NEEDS.

Section 4a(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “may” and inserting “shall”; and

(B) by striking “future for which” and inserting “future, to be determined by the Commission, for which either an appropriate swap is available or”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(2)” and all that follows through “position as” and inserting

“paragraphs (2) and (5) of subsection (a) for swaps, contracts of sale for future delivery, or options on the contracts or commodities, a bona fide hedging transaction or position is”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “of risks” and inserting “or management of current or anticipated risks”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Commission may further define, by rule or regulation, what constitutes a bona fide hedging transaction, provided that the rule or regulation is consistent with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).”.

SEC. 359. CROSS-BORDER REGULATION OF DERIVATIVES TRANSACTIONS.

(a) JOINT RULEMAKING REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall jointly issue rules setting forth the application of United States swaps requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act relating to cross-border swaps and security-based swaps transactions involving U.S. persons or non-U.S. persons.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—The rules required under paragraph (1) shall be identical, notwithstanding any difference in the authorities granted the Commissions in section 30(c) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78dd(c)) and section 2(i) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(i)), respectively, except to the extent necessary to accommodate differences in other underlying statutory requirements under such Acts, and the rules thereunder.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Commissions shall jointly issue rules that address—

(1) the nature of the connections to the United States that require a non-U.S. person to register as a swap dealer, major swap participant, security-based swap dealer, or major security-based swap participant under each Commission’s respective Acts and the regulations issued under such Acts;

(2) which of the United States swaps requirements shall apply to the swap and security-based swap activities of non-U.S. persons, U.S. persons, and their branches, agencies, subsidiaries, and affiliates outside of the United States and the extent to which such requirements shall apply; and

(3) the circumstances under which a non-U.S. person in compliance with the regulatory requirements of a foreign jurisdiction shall be exempt from United States swaps requirements.

(c) RULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH APA REQUIRED.—No guidance, memorandum of understanding, or any such other agreement may satisfy the requirement to issue a joint rule from the Commissions in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) GENERAL APPLICATION TO COUNTRIES OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS HAVING NINE LARGEST MARKETS.—

(1) GENERAL APPLICATION.—In issuing rules under this section, the Commissions shall provide that a non-U.S. person in compliance with the swaps regulatory requirements of a country or administrative region that has one of the nine largest combined swap and security-based swap markets by notional amount in the calendar year preceding issuance of such rules, or other foreign jurisdiction as jointly determined by the Commissions, shall be exempt from United States swaps requirements in accordance with the schedule set forth in paragraph (2), unless the Commissions jointly determine that the regulatory requirements of such country or administrative region or other foreign jurisdiction are not broadly equivalent to United States swaps requirements.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE SCHEDULE.—The exemption described in paragraph (1) and set forth

under the rules required by this section shall apply to persons or transactions relating to or involving—

(A) countries or administrative regions described in such paragraph, or any other foreign jurisdiction as jointly determined by the Commissions, accounting for the five largest combined swap and security-based swap markets by notional amount in the calendar year preceding issuance of such rules, on the date on which final rules are issued under this section; and

(B) the remaining countries or administrative regions described in such paragraph, and any other foreign jurisdiction as jointly determined by the Commissions, 1 year after the date on which such rules are issued.

(3) CRITERIA.—In such rules, the Commissions shall jointly establish criteria for determining that one or more categories of regulatory requirements of a country or administrative region described in paragraph (1) or other foreign jurisdiction is not broadly equivalent to United States swaps requirements and shall jointly determine the appropriate application of certain United States swap requirements to persons or transactions relating to or involving such country or administrative region or other foreign jurisdiction. Such criteria shall include the scope and objectives of the regulatory requirements of a country or administrative region described in paragraph (1) or other foreign jurisdiction as well as the effectiveness of the supervisory compliance program administered, and the enforcement authority exercised, by such country or administrative region or other foreign jurisdiction, and such other factors as the Commissions, by rule, jointly determine to be necessary or appropriate in the public interest.

(4) REQUIRED ASSESSMENT.—Beginning on the date on which final rules are issued under this section, the Commissions shall begin to jointly assess the regulatory requirements of countries or administrative regions described in paragraph (1), as the Commissions jointly determine appropriate, in accordance with the criteria established pursuant to this subsection, to determine if one or more categories of regulatory requirements of such a country or administrative region or other foreign jurisdiction is not broadly equivalent to United States swaps requirements.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—If the Commissions make the joint determination described in subsection (d)(1) that the regulatory requirements of a country or administrative region described in such subsection or other foreign jurisdiction are not broadly equivalent to United States swaps requirements, the Commissions shall articulate the basis for such a determination in a written report transmitted to the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate within 30 days of the determination. The determination shall not be effective until the transmission of such report.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act and for purposes of the rules issued pursuant to this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “U.S. person”—

(A) means—

(i) any natural person resident in the United States;

(ii) any partnership, corporation, trust, or other legal person organized or incorporated under the laws of the United States or having its principal place of business in the United States;

(iii) any account (whether discretionary or non-discretionary) of a U.S. person; and

(iv) any other person as the Commissions may further jointly define to more effectively carry out the purposes of this Act; and

(B) does not include the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations, their agencies and pension plans, and any other similar international organizations and their agencies and pension plans.

(2) The term “United States swaps requirements” means the provisions relating to swaps and security-based swaps contained in the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a et seq.) and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) that were added by title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) and any rules or regulations prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission pursuant to such provisions.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 36(c) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78mm(c)) is amended by inserting “or except as necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act,” after “to grant exemptions,”.

(2) COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT.—Section 4(c)(1)(A) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6(c)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “or except as necessary to effectuate the purposes of the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act,” after “to grant exemptions,”.

SEC. 360. REPORT ON FOREIGN BOARDS OF TRADE.

Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written report reviewing the standards and rules of foreign boards of trade related to the physical delivery of base metals, including warehousing facilities, as compared to the standards and rules for domestic designated contract markets and related warehouses for base metals.

Subtitle F—Effective Date

SEC. 371. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, the amendments made by this title shall take effect as if enacted on July 21, 2010.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113-476. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-476.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 10, after line 12, insert the following:

(5) Whether such trading increases market volatility, including short term market swings.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, the ranking member mentioned earlier that there is a section in the bill of merit which would require four studies: whether the technology and personnel needed to monitor the effect of high-frequency trading are accurate; the role it plays in providing liquidity; whether it creates discrepancies between market participants—I would recommend people read “Flash Boys” if they want the answer to that question—and whether the CFTC’s existing authority is sufficient with regard to high-frequency trading.

Those all have great merit. We should have the answers, but I have one additional request, which would be to examine whether high-frequency trading increases market volatility. CFTC already did one study. They found that there were 27,000 contracts traded during a 14-second period during the flash crash, but they came to no conclusion regarding how or what role they may have played in the flash crash. I think that we should further investigate this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Although it is my understanding that the substance of the gentleman from Oregon’s amendment would be broadly addressed within the existing language of section 107, I certainly see no problem with ensuring that his concerns are addressed more specifically. Therefore, I will suggest to my colleague from Oregon, let’s accept your amendment.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113–476.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 10, after line 12, insert the following:
SEC. ____ . REPORT ON ENTITIES REGULATED BY THE CFTC.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall submit to

the Committees on Agriculture, Financial Services, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Judiciary of the Senate a report examining the number of entities regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and with respect to those entities, their size, practice models, and assets under management, and those rendered defunct via bankruptcy or obsolescence.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman very much. I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the committee and knowing how hard they have worked. I hope that this discussion today will emphasize a commitment to transparency and a commitment to consumers and a commitment to making the legislation responsive to consumers. So I thank you for the opportunity.

This legislation is to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as well as address concerns from customers from another failure such as the MF Global and Peregrine Financial. It is a product of a multiyear process that included hearings and perspectives from market participants, end users, futures customers, and the CFTC.

The Jackson Lee amendment only seeks to improve this bill. If passed, it would require a study that will provide very basic information about firms regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The amendment simply requires the CFTC to do a report examining the number of entities regulated by them, the entity’s size, practice models, and assets under management.

We must be quick to acknowledge that the dramatic failures of not just MF Global but several other venerated firms, such as Bear Stearns, speak loudly to requiring more information for the consumer.

This amendment would also provide more insight as to how the industry works. My amendment gives 2 years for the agency to complete the first study. That is a very long time. Again, the report provides more information for the very consumers that we are trying to protect. That is more than enough time for the staff of the CFTC to comply with the amendment.

In that span of 2 years, a lot of things can change, but the gist of the amendment is to provide more transparency for the investors, as many on this floor have already spoken of. It is critical that investors know what is going on, particularly small investors who are not privy to the information that many of the larger entities are made aware.

My amendment, again, basic information via an agency study, much of which the Commission already has, and I am merely seeking to have it.

Let me just share just one aspect of this and then conclude. More importantly, in my conclusion, many of the residents of the 18th Congressional District have invested in homes, stocks, and education, to see it all flittered away because someone on Wall Street—France or Houston, even—pushed the wrong button generating a contra-trade when they meant to bid in the other direction. This is not what Americans want to see. This is a regulated entity. Transparency is viable.

Let me show you a letter that was sent from the trustee of MF Global to some poor person who, after 5 years, got their few dollars after this major bankruptcy.

Enclosed with this mailing is a check from the trustee in payment of your allowed customer claim.

They got it 5 years later.

With this check the full net equity value, as established in the Bankruptcy Court, of your segregated property, the amount related to your trading on domestic exchanges or “4(d) Property,” will have been distributed to you. Your former account number at MF Global appears on the check.

Please cash this check as soon as possible.

That is another frightening thing. You better hurry up and get the \$25 or \$40 that came.

To ensure proper and prompt processing.

I will include the letter for the RECORD here.

EPIQ BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS, LLC
 FDR Station, New York, NY, April 28, 2014.
 Re In re MF Global Inc., Case No. (MG) SIPA.

DEAR CLAIMANT: Enclosed with this mailing is a check from James W. Giddens, Trustee for the SIPA liquidation of MF Global Inc., in payment of your allowed customer claim in the SIPA proceeding. With this check the full net equity value, as established in the Bankruptcy Court, of your segregated property (i.e., the amount related to your trading on domestic exchanges or “4d Property”), will have been distributed to you. Your former account number at MF Global Inc. appears on the check.

Please cash this check as promptly as possible. To ensure proper and prompt processing, please be sure to properly endorse the check by signing your name and/or account number in the appropriate location on the reverse side of the check. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of my representatives at 1-888-236-0808 (inside the United States) or 1-503-597-5173 (outside the United States).

Very truly yours,

JAMES W. GIDDENS,
 Trustee for the SIPA
 Liquidation of MF Global Inc.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, and to my colleagues I believe that this is an important asset or aspect of helping to have more information for our consumers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment. It is simple and makes a significant improvement to the bill.

This bipartisan legislation to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), as well as address concerns relating to protecting customers from another failure such as MF Global and Peregrine Financial.

It is the product of a multi-year process that included hearing perspectives from market participants, end-users, futures customers, and the CFTC.

The Jackson Lee amendment only seeks to improve this bill. If passed it would require a study that will provide very basic information about firms regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The amendment simply requires the CFTC to do a report examining the number of entities regulated by them, the entity's size, practice models, and assets under management.

We must be quick to acknowledge the dramatic failures of not just MF Global and Peregrine but several other venerated firms such as Bear Stearns.

This amendment would also provide more insight as to how industry works.

The language of the Jackson Lee amendment gives two years for the agency to complete the first one.

That is more than enough time for the staff at the CFTC to comply with this amendment.

In that span of two years a lot of things could change but the gist of the amendment is to provide more transparency for investors.

It also asks that those firms rendered defunct like MF Global be included in the report.

It is critical that investors know what is going on—particularly smaller investors who are not privy to the information that many of the larger entities are made aware.

The MF Global bankruptcy hurt investors and potential investors. It is critical that firms increase their transparency and disclose information which consumers may use to make informed investment decisions.

The Jackson Lee amendment asks very basic information of these firms via an agency study—much of which the Commission may already keep account of—and I am merely seeking to have it in a report.

Again, the amendment simply requires the CFTC to do a report examining the number of entities regulated by them, the entity's size, practice models, and assets under management. It also asks that those firms rendered defunct like MF Global be included in the report.

And more importantly, many of the residents of the 18th District of Texas have invested in homes, stocks, and education—and to see it all flittered away because someone on Wall Street, France, or Houston even, pushed the wrong button, generating a contra-trade when they meant to bet in the other direction—is not what Americans want to see.

I urge my colleagues to vote for transparency, fairness and openness by supporting the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, in a time of economic uncertainty, tight fiscal budgets, I advise against the use of val-

uable Commission time and resources on a study with some ambiguous terms and no clear practical use.

H.R. 4413 already includes carefully crafted requirements for studies on the pertinent issues of agency funding and on the effects of high-frequency trading. So I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I certainly thank the chairman for his comments.

Right now the Veterans' Affairs Committee is meeting to find out more information on the dastardly knowledge of so many veterans who may have died on a secret list. I would imagine that they would have wanted, some years back, to have investigated, studied, and gotten more information about how veterans are treated in the veterans hospital.

I respectfully disagree with my friend and colleague. I do not think that this is a waste of the energy of this agency and I don't think we have enough information. Anytime I can stand on this floor and err on the side of the customer, the consumer, and stand up here and show a letter that is the ultimate result of a bankruptcy because the consumers didn't have all the information that they needed—and all we are asking is over a 2-year period give us the number of entities, the size, practice models, and the assets under the management—I don't believe that that is too much.

Investigating precise issues is not giving the consumer a portfolio of knowledge. I disagree with my good friend, and I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. DELBENE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-476.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, strike lines 5 through 7 and insert the following:

Section 15(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 19(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

Page 12, line 22, strike the last period and insert “; and”.

Page 12, after line 22, insert the following: (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Notwithstanding section 24(d), a court shall affirm a Commission assessment of costs and benefits under this subsection, unless the court finds the assessment to be an abuse of discretion.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

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Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON, as well as Subcommittee Chairman CONAWAY and Ranking Member SCOTT, for their work on this very important bill.

I would also like to thank Congressmen GIBSON and VARGAS for cosponsoring this amendment. This amendment is the only bipartisan amendment we are considering today. It is straightforward and will provide needed clarity.

This amendment simply states that a court shall affirm the CFTC's assessment of the costs and benefits of a rule. This would have the practical impact of limiting the ability of individuals and firms to challenge the CFTC in court, in an attempt to stop a rule from being implemented based on the cost-benefit analysis.

The amendment also provides for an exception in the case of an abuse of discretion by the Commission. If no such abuse occurs, a court must uphold the CFTC's assessment.

At a time when the CFTC is still implementing a litany of rules, including a number of crucial rules required by the passage of Dodd-Frank, we should not be inhibiting the CFTC's progress and adding to their workload, especially when the agency is already struggling with insufficient resources for the task at hand.

To be clear, the CFTC is already required to consider the costs and benefits of its actions and regulations. It just does not provide a formal analysis of the costs and benefits.

If we are going to mandate that the CFTC provide a formal cost-benefit analysis when developing regulations, which can be time consuming, we should trust their analysis and not let the rules get tied up in costly and time-consuming litigation.

Why go through such a rigorous process, like a cost-benefit analysis, and expend all of the time and energy that goes with it, if the end result can be easily derailed by a lawsuit filed at the eleventh hour.

I firmly believe that this amendment improves this bill to reauthorize a critical Federal regulator, and I urge my

colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment sponsored by the gentleman from Washington and her co-sponsors, the gentlemen from New York and California—all valued Members of the House Agriculture Committee—builds on the enhancements of the cost-benefit analysis required in this bill by preserving the court's ability to review the Commission rules or orders.

I congratulate the sponsors of this amendment. Once again, the House Ag Committee proves that working in a bipartisan manner is possible and productive. This is the type of cooperation I think our friends back home would want to see and demand.

With that, I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chair, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the subcommittee ranking member.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank Ms. DELBENE.

Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. VARGAS are all hardworking members, Democrats and Republicans, on the Ag Committee. I think this shows you how wonderful the legislative process can be. I certainly want to recognize our ranking member who brought this concern in her opening remarks.

This helps to tighten and, I think, make a better bill. What it will do is that it will address the concerns that Ms. WATERS raised, and that would be that improved cost-benefits provision would lead to unnecessary litigation.

What Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. GIBSON have done with their language is it definitely narrows the potential avenues for litigation on the CFTC's cost-benefit analysis, but still allows the consideration of the points of analysis to take place.

I want to commend Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. VARGAS for a very good amendment.

Ms. DELBENE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113-476.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, strike lines 5 through 7 and insert the following:

Section 15(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 19(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

Page 12, line 22, strike the last period and insert “; and”.

Page 12, after line 22, insert the following:

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—This subsection is intended only to improve the internal management of the Commission and any estimate, analysis, statement, description or report prepared under this subsection, and any compliance or noncompliance with the provisions of this subsection, and any determination concerning the applicability of the provisions of this subsection shall not be subject to judicial review. No provision of this subsection shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment to ensure that the Commodities Futures Trading Commission can adequately regulate our financial markets and address some of the very practices that so seriously harmed our economy just a few years ago.

This amendment modestly improves the onerous cost-benefit considerations included in this bill, a provision that would open the Commission up to expensive legal challenges.

It does so by adding in language from the President's executive order on cost-benefit analysis that prohibits judicial review. The bill's sponsors cite this order as the model of good analysis and incorporate many provisions of that order in this legislation.

However, the measure before us today inconsistently omits the order's prohibition on judicial review, thereby subjecting the CFTC's most cost-benefit considerations to increase litigation risk—risk that no other agency complying with the executive order has faced.

My amendment would correct this oversight and prevent special interest groups from using the cost-benefit provision as a club to delay, weaken, or kill financial reform.

My colleagues—Representative DELBENE, Representative GIBSON, and Representative VARGAS—share my concerns and have proposed an amendment that would establish a heightened standard of judicial review.

While I support this amendment, it does not go far enough, in my view, to fix the problem. I believe that judicial review with regard to the heightened cost-benefit provisions in the underlying bill should be prohibited entirely.

Make no mistake, even if the amendment offered previously by my col-

leagues on judicial review—or, for that matter, my amendment—is adopted, the bill would still impose heavy administrative hurdles on the CFTC.

The Commission is already required to consider the costs and benefits when promulgating rules and issuing orders pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Congressional Review Act, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as other agencies do.

Unlike any other financial regulator, the CFTC is also already bound by the Commodity Exchange Act to consider the impact of their rules on the full range of market stakeholders.

The courts have weighed in as well, finding that the CFTC has fulfilled its duty to consider the costs and benefits, as in the rule related to commodity pool operators.

The CFTC will still have to expand resources to comply with this provision that Republicans are unwilling to provide. Instead, the CFTC will have to take funds from examinations and enforcement to pay for redundant economic analysis.

Mr. Chairman, this is a commonsense amendment that will simply prevent our Nation's top directives cop from spending excessive time and resources fighting off superfluous legal challenges and would make the underlying bill consistent with the President's executive order.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I think it is very dangerous to require the regulated community to follow rules or regulations that have not been properly considered.

A cost-benefit analysis is an essential requirement for any rule or order. Only after a regulator considers the costs of imposing a rule and then compares that cost to the anticipated benefits can a rule be properly analyzed.

Far too often, regulators at the CFTC ignore cost or important cost factors, so that their regulatory agenda can be implemented unimpeded.

The ability of the regulated committee to ask a court to review the cost-benefit analysis of a rule or order is an essential deterrent to such a practice.

The threat of litigation forces regulators to make sure they properly consider costs and attest that the regulation achieves the goal set out in the law passed by Congress in the most cost-efficient manner.

Striking the ability of a court to review the cost-benefit analysis of a CFTC regulation would vitiate the carefully negotiated bipartisan compromise just offered by Ms. DELBENE.

It seems odd on the logic that you would support the DelBene amendment, which improves judicial review

and narrows its scope, and then categorically oppose judicial review.

I think her amendment, allowing courts to determine if a cost-benefit analysis of a CFTC-promulgated rule or regulation is an abuse of the Commission's discretion, is a measured approach that will lead to a sound and effective policy.

We have also got an indication from the IG, the inspector general, that throughout the entire Dodd-Frank regulatory process, which the CFTC put in place some 60 rules, that generally speaking—according to the IG, generally speaking, it appears that CFTC employees did not consider quantifying costs when conducting cost-benefit analysis for the definitions as indicated. It took a very cavalier approach to the process.

We think that, based on the testimony we have heard from many of the regulated, the CFTC did a very poor job on the front end of estimating the cost of what all of these rules that they were putting in place with respect to Dodd-Frank would be and, therefore, did not consider them properly, and the benefits were far less than the cost imposed.

With that, I respectfully urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. May I inquire as to how much time I have remaining on this amendment?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to make clear my opposition to anything other than preventing judicial review on cost-benefit analysis.

Again, I am very appreciative to my colleagues who also share my concerns and, again, have proposed an amendment that would establish a heightened standard of judicial review, and I support that amendment.

I do not want anyone to be confused that I believe that that amendment would solve the problem. I still think that, if that amendment is adopted, the bill would still impose heavy administrative hurdles on the CFTC.

This is not about simply reauthorization at any cost with anything in the bill. This is about having a CFTC that really works, that is not burdened with the kind of cost-benefit analysis that we have seen burdening other of our agencies that have tried to do their job, including the SEC.

I would ask my friends who are listening to differentiate between that amendment of my colleagues, who are addressing this concern in their way, and my amendment that would prevent judicial review altogether.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, I, too, agree with the gentlewoman that we all want a very effective CFTC.

Reauthorizing the agency ought to be a part of looking at its operations. Given the work that it did and didn't do during the Dodd-Frank regulatory scheme that put in place 60 new rules, we don't believe that the cost-benefit rules that were in place under section 15(a) were properly used and did not generate the benefits that the impact of a properly vetted cost-benefit analysis would have on each and every rule.

With that, I urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 113-476.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, strike line 1 and all that follows through page 12, line 22, and insert the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is required by law to consider the costs and benefits when promulgating rules and issuing orders, and is held accountable to this requirement by our courts. Current law requires the Commission to conduct economic analyses pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Congressional Review Act, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as other agencies do. Unlike any other financial regulator, the Commission is also bound by the Commodity Exchange Act to consider the protection of market participants and the public; the efficiency, competitiveness, and financial integrity of futures markets; price discovery; sound risk management practices; and other public interest considerations. Notably, the Federal courts hold the Commission accountable and vacate rulemaking that does not meet statutory requirements, as demonstrated by the ruling by a United States district court on the Commission's rule on commodity position limits.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, my amendment is really rather straightforward. It preserves the ability of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to regulate derivatives markets, while

maintaining the reasonable cost-benefit provisions that are already in the law.

Just to give you a little history, Mr. Chair, as we know, unregulated derivatives transactions precipitated the 2008 financial crisis, which this country is still struggling to recover.

Section 203 is not something, as I have heard earlier in this debate, that will just make it more facile for manufacturers or for end users or farmers.

It is a Trojan horse designed to deregulate derivatives markets by providing Wall Street favorable terms and means to sue to overturn laws and regulations, not on substance, not even on congressional intent, but by challenging economic studies in court.

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Regulatory gaps in derivatives regulation will put taxpayers back on the hook for Wall Street excesses.

Mr. Chairman, I will enter into the RECORD an analysis that I did. It was posted in The Huffington Post: "GOP 'Cost-Benefit' Bill Benefits Wall Street and Costs Americans."

[From the Huffpost Politics, May 17, 2013]

GOP 'COST-BENEFIT' BILL BENEFITS WALL STREET AND COSTS AMERICANS

(By Rep. Gwen Moore)

Republicans again have it all wrong on the substance and politics as they bring to the House floor the SEC Regulatory Accountability Act, or the so-called SEC "cost-benefit" bill. Despite the innocuous name of the bill, Americans should not be fooled. The bill seeks to not only undo Dodd-Frank, but all financial market regulation past, present, and future. It is a bad bill for American taxpayers and for free market capitalism.

By requiring an overly stringent and arbitrary accounting of "costs" to industry, the bill makes it impossible to properly regulate markets. It seeks to eviscerate the mission of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to protect investors and would functionally subordinate all government oversight and regulation, including by the elected Congress, to industry interests. The bill functions as a one-way ratchet to make deregulation an irresistible gravity, while making regulation of even the worst industry practices a nearly impossible hurdle.

The circumstances of the financial crisis have utterly discredited the Ayn Rand-inspired deregulatory zeal that the proponents of this bill insist on advancing. It is a model that does not work and that led to economic calamity and pain. Instead, the supporters of this bill are hoping that rhetoric can mask reality.

Securities law already directs the SEC "to consider" the cost-benefit of rulemakings. President Obama also directs the SEC to conduct cost-benefit analysis of rulemakings. I support the cost-benefit analysis mandates already contained in federal securities law and President Obama's executive order. So what does the SEC Regulatory Accountability Act add? As former SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt explains in the New York Times, the bill subjects the SEC to an impossibly subjective review of all regulations. This bill was transparently designed to allow each regulation to be challenged in court by industry, but not by consumer advocates.

The primary mission of the SEC is investor protection. The bill undermines that mission by permitting industry to sue the government in order to overturn regulations. Even when Congress passes laws to protect investors, like Dodd-Frank, the SEC would be constrained in issuing rules under this bill by the mandate to prioritize even tertiary costs to industry over investor protection, or any other priority Congress sets, such as constraints on systemic risks. In other words, it creates a government for industry over the People.

The bill is clearly bad for consumer protection and taxpayers as it ushers in a new world where Wall Street functionally decides the rules, and it is caveat emptor for financial services end-users. However, it is not even good for industry in the broader sense. It would mean that rulemakings would take even longer, as the SEC struggled to meet the impossibly subjective economic cost-benefit standard to stave off the coming court battle over competing economic impact projections. The ink would not be dry on a SEC rule before the race to the courthouse door to challenge the regulations would begin. Presumably, the most powerful industry participants would challenge the rules in the way that achieves their narrow interest, which may be to the detriment of investors or other less-affluent market participants. In this way, the most powerful industry interests would be able to not only use the courts to undo consumer protections, but to also seek competitive advantage over competitors.

In Congress, I hear a lot from the financial industry about “uncertainty.” There would never be certainty in securities markets if this bill were to ever become law. However, my primary concern is not for industry. It is for the People. The bill would eventually degrade consumer protection in financial markets until no investor could have faith in U.S. financial markets. The bill would allow firms and markets to operate unchecked. The industry with the best lawyers would reign, regardless of business model, practices, or any other market consideration. Congress would be powerless to help. This legislation rejects the lessons of the financial crisis and statutorily mandates the mistakes that led to it, with the taxpayers on the hook.

Page 19, beginning on line 15, strike “United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit” and insert “United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States District Court for the district”.

Ms. MOORE. I can tell you that among the requirements of this new section 203 is a mandate for regulators to consider “available alternatives to direct regulation.”

Alternatives to regulation? What are we talking about here?

As a Member of Congress—and all of us who are accountable to voters—we should not be comfortable passing laws only to have regulators not implement them because Wall Street hedge funds or swap dealers object to a cost study issued with the regulation.

The Wolf of Wall Street should not get a veto over regulations because he can produce a self-serving study that a regulation may burden him in some way.

Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, we have already talked at length about the benefits of cost-benefit analysis, and section 203 would bring the discipline necessary to the agency for them to consider the costs and benefits when prescribing a new rule or regulation.

The gentlelady’s remarks would be much more in line if she were strictly asking to strike the section, but she is asking for a sense of Congress. Why would we need a sense of Congress based on her arguments that CFTC doesn’t need this issue at all? I would understand her arguments a lot better if she would have simply asked for a strike.

I am going to oppose the gentlewoman’s amendment because her amendment is a stalking horse, because it would simply replace the bipartisan, well-crafted consideration for the new cost-benefit analysis for the CFTC with a sense of Congress. That, in my view, would gut and negate the value of having the agency actually go through, as they propose a rule, to determine what will be the cost and what will be the benefits.

We are always going to have regulations. God started us off with 10. We are going to have regulations, but they ought to make sense, they ought to regulate the minimum amount needed to regulate, and when the usefulness goes away, they should expire as well.

So as an agency conducts that process, taking into consideration the cost and benefits is an appropriate step as they put together regulations. It doesn’t mean that the cost-benefit analysis will control in every instance, but it does allow for a better sense that those who are being regulated here have their voices heard during the process. And then if the agency has done a proper cost-benefit analysis, those who are regulated will stand a better chance of voluntarily complying with those new rules, we will have less acrimony during the process, and perhaps even less litigation if the agency would use a proper cost-benefit analysis and reflect the impact of that analysis in the rules.

With that, I will oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, those bipartisan groups who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. We, on a bipartisan basis, didn’t regulate these derivatives, and we will, unfortunately, learn our lesson.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much for yielding additional time to me to talk about cost-benefit analysis.

I think the gentlelady has made a real case for what we are dealing with here.

First of all, we know—and I guess we all agree—that prior to the meltdown that we had that caused the recession in this country, we did not have the kind of oversight that we needed on derivatives.

We worked very hard to bring about transparency. We worked very hard to get a handle on the role that derivatives played in this meltdown we had that caused us almost to go into a depression. And here we are trying to implement the reforms, trying very hard to protect the American public and those ends users that have been talked about so much today.

Cost-benefit analysis is just another way that has been injected into this whole attempt to regulate that would place unreasonable burdens on the CFTC and basically prohibit them from doing their job.

In offering this amendment, the gentlelady has made it very clear, and she has added additional support to what we have been talking about today relative to cost-benefit analysis. And so I hope that not only the information we have presented, but the information that she has presented is enough to have people understand what we need to do in order to protect the CFTC’s ability to do its job and to carry out its mission.

Ms. MOORE. Section 203 takes us back to the day before AIG melted down. We are moving backwards in time and not forward with strengthening our economy.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, throughout the debate on this bill—in committee, in subcommittee—we have made the point over and over that this is simply a prospective change to the rules for the Commission. It has absolutely nothing to do with the rules that are already in place. The 60-some odd rules that are in place to protect under Dodd-Frank are unaffected by this change to the CFTC’s rules and cost-benefit analysis.

In the future, if Congress decides on a massive law change, as they did with Dodd-Frank—one side of the House decided that—and the CFTC has to go through this, at that point in time these rules come into effect. But title VII to Dodd-Frank and all the changes that were made at the CFTC are in place.

So this is not going backwards. It is not looking backwards. This is simply a prospective change to the way the

CFTC should operate going forward. They should have been operating under this rule anyway, but they weren't. The rules were antiquated. There were not enough teeth in them. So Chairman Gensler and others took advantage of it.

This will close that loophole and future chairmen will have to abide by a rational cost-benefit analysis program that will improve the regulations.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 113-476.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, beginning on line 15, strike "United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit" and insert "United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States District Court for the district".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, again, I thank the chairman and ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

My amendment is simple. It would preserve existing law where a legal challenge to a CFTC regulation is reviewed first by the district court. And then, following an opinion by a district court judge, an appeal, if any, is taken to the court of appeals.

Let me, first of all, refer my colleagues to the joint report by the Agriculture Committee where specifically it says that the general review provisions of the APA would apply, requiring parties seeking to challenge CFTC rules to file a claim before a U.S. district court.

And it goes on to give those particular details. Then it goes on to indicate that to follow the review provisions of the APA—this going into a dis-

trict court—the CFTC's general counsel indicated that he would not object to a change.

I would make the argument that it is not the general counsel but it is the individual consumer who should have the opportunity in a district court—either in their district or in the District of Columbia—to be able to make a record and to ensure that all of the facts of the issue dealing with the rule are fully vetted. And that will happen if you have the opportunity to go first to the district court.

Preserving existing law where a legal challenge to a CFTC regulation is reviewed first by the district court and then followed by an opinion by a district court judge gives the opportunity for a full briefing—a robust record that can be developed along the legal issue and fact issues, and also it reduces the ability of the industry to undermine important Dodd-Frank derivatives.

In my earlier statement on the floor, I indicated that many of the little guys are in the commodities. Dealing with that, they need the opportunities to have, in essence, the double-check on rules that may impact their business.

With respect to Dodd-Frank and this authorizing legislation, let us not throw the baby out with the bath water.

We all remember the dark days of September and October of 2008. The financial markets needed to be bailed out. I do not want to see that repeated.

So, again, the amendment is simple. It goes back to existing law. I cannot imagine that the general counsel would oppose existing law. The statement says he didn't mind. But, again, didn't mind closing down further opportunities for consumers to have a record made on something that they may be opposing?

So I would ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I wish to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for their work on this bill. We all know that the Agriculture Committee is one of the hardest working—and also has one of the most diverse missions in Congress. I thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain my amendment. It is simple and makes a significant improvement to the bill.

My amendment modifies Section 212 on judicial review that on page 19, lines 15 through 17 strikes "United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit," and replaces with "United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the United States Court for the district."

Doing so would preserve existing law, where a legal challenge to a CFTC regulation is reviewed first by the district court, and then following an opinion by a district court judge, an appeal, if any, is taken in the court of appeals.

This process provides for a more robust development of legal issues and a broader record in any appeal, reducing the ease of in-

dustry to undermine important Dodd-Frank derivatives rulemakings.

With respect to Dodd-Frank and this authorizing legislation, Mr. Chairman, let us not throw out the baby with the bath water. We all remember the dark days of September and October 2008 when the financial markets needed to be bailed out. I do not want to repeat that.

And more importantly, many of the residents of the 18th District of Texas have invested in homes, stocks, and education—and to see it all flittered away because someone on Wall Street, France, or Houston even, pushed the wrong button, generating a contra-trade when they meant to bet in the other direction—is not what Americans want to see.

I urge my colleagues to vote for fairness and judicial economy, and preserve existing law by supporting the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In crafting the Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act, I worked closely with Ranking Member PETERSON to ensure that judicial review of CFTC rules would be on the same footing as a review of security laws from the SEC, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The current disparity between security laws and the Commodity Exchange Act has resulted in confusion in the past, as aggrieved parties were unsure of where to go to seek review of CFTC rules.

Quite simply, I urge my colleagues to vote against what I fear is a regressive amendment.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I appreciate the chairman's commentary about the SEC. I am well aware that the SEC has driven itself to utilizing the Court of Appeals.

I would make the argument that there is a smaller investor that tends to engage in commodities, and, therefore, transparency and the opportunity to create a record is far more important in commodities.

I would also make the point that my amendment is supported by the Commodity Markets Oversight Coalition, which is asking for us to continue with existing law.

They, of course, include Airlines for America, American Baker's Association, California Black Farmers, California Independent Oil Marketers Association, Colorado Petroleum Marketers Association, Florida Petroleum Market Marketers Association, Maine Energy Marketers Association, the National

Association of Oil and Energy Service Professionals, National Family Farm Coalition, among others, which I will include in the RECORD.

National Grange, New Jersey Citizen Action Oil Group, New Mexico Petroleum Marketers Association, North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association, Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire, Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, Public Citizen, Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association, to name just a few, who clearly just ask for a simple request: when there is a need to challenge the rules, allow a full record to be made at the district court level. Commodities is not in the same vain as the SEC.

I would argue that there is need for greater highlight in information, and that the Jackson Lee amendment should be accepted for that kind of transparency and treating small investors fairly and giving them the opportunity to fully pursue their position when it comes to a particular rule.

I would ask my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMODITY MARKETER OVERNIGHT COALITION

Supporting organizations: Airlines for America; American Baker's Association; American Feed Industry Association; American Public Power Association; American Trucking Associations; California Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association; California Independent Oil Marketers Association; California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association; Colorado Petroleum Marketers Association; Connecticut Energy Marketers Association; Consumer Federation of America; Florida Petroleum Marketers Association; Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey; Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America; Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; Louisiana Oil Marketers & Convenience Store Association; Maine Energy Marketers Association; Montana Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association; NAFA Fleet Management Association; National Association of Oil & Energy Service Professionals.

National Association of Shell Marketers; National Family Farm Coalition; National Farmers Union; National Grange; National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association; New England Fuel Institute; New Jersey Citizen Action Oil Group; New Mexico Petroleum Marketers Association; New York Oil Heating Association; North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association; North Dakota Retail Association; Ohio Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association; Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire.

Oil Heat Institute of Long Island; Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island; Organization for Competitive Markets; Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association Kansas; Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Stores of Iowa; Petroleum Marketers Association of America; Public Citizen; Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA; Utah Petroleum Marketers and Retailers Association; Vermont Fuel Dealers Association; West Virginia Oil Marketers and Grocers Association; Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association.

□ 2045

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself whatever time I might consume.

Once again, I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote against what I am concerned is a regressive amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. FINCHER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 113-476.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 24, after line 21, insert the following:
SEC. ____ . GAO STUDY ON COMMISSION LEASES.

(a) The Comptroller General of the United States shall, in consultation with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Inspector General, conduct a study and publish a report regarding achieving efficiencies in leasing and rental costs at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(b) The report shall be published within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act regarding achieving efficiencies in leasing and rental costs of buildings occupied by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and shall include recommendations to the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the congressional committees of jurisdiction regarding the following:

(1) Average occupancy rates and leasing costs of buildings across the Federal Government compared to those currently in effect with respect to buildings and locations occupied by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

(2) Changes to leasing authority that could achieve efficiencies, including the revocation of independent leasing authority and transfer of authority to the Administrator of General Services;

(3) The recommendations and responses contained in the report by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Inspector General, dated June 4, 2014.

(4) Other related recommendations that would achieve efficiencies in leasing and rental costs of buildings currently occupied by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(5) Is the Commodity Futures Trading Commission violating any laws, including the Anti-Deficiency Act, by entering into these leases, particularly those with more than 5-year terms, and if so, how they can avoid violating Federal law in the future.

(c) The Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall report to the congressional committees of jurisdiction

within 60 days after receipt of the report as to whether the Chairman accepts or rejects each of the recommendations of the Comptroller General, and an explanation for each decision.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 4413 simply requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of the efficiencies in leasing and rental costs at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The study would determine if the CFTC is violating any laws, including the Antideficiency Act, by entering into these leases, particularly those with more than 5-year terms and, if so, how it can avoid violating Federal law in the future.

In a recent report from the inspector general of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, we found that the CFTC is currently using just one-third of its Kansas City regional office.

The CFTC is paying approximately \$44,000 per month, meaning that, over the 10-year life of the lease, the CFTC will pay \$5.3 million, with \$3.6 million dedicated to vacant office space.

However, in this letter from the inspector general, we found that this is not limited to just the Kansas City office. In fact, over the life of the CFTC's current leases, more than \$200 million will be spent with approximately \$64 million dedicated to vacant office spaces.

This is simply outrageous, and it is the latest example of government waste of taxpayer money. In fact, the CFTC management, in its May 14 response to the inspector general, agreed that there is excess vacant space.

However, the CFTC argued the lease of so many vacant offices was a justifiable expense because future funding increases are within the "realm of possibility."

Mr. Chairman, Congress has appropriated approximately 66 percent of the CFTC's budget request. Let's just look over the last few years. In fiscal year 2012 and in fiscal year 2013, the CFTC requested \$308 million and received \$205 million. In fiscal year 2014, the CFTC requested \$315 million and received \$215 million.

I agree with the inspector general that the realm of possibility is not the standard taxpayers expect when the government deals with their money.

Mr. Chairman, is it really too much to ask agencies that are spending millions on rent to actually need and use this space?

The inspector general hit the nail on the head when he stated that:

The CFTC and the public are better served by the risk of a temporary shortage of space

than a 100 percent certainty of spending substantial taxpayer dollars on the leases of vacant spaces.

It is just common sense that, if you can't afford it, you don't buy it. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment and ensure that the CFTC stops relying on the realm of possibility as justification for wasting taxpayer dollars on empty office spaces.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON. In opposition, I want to say that I have no opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Chairman, I urge the support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 113-476.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 55, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TREATMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF COMMODITY POOL OPERATOR.—Section 1a(11) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(11)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) The term ‘commodity pool operator’ does not include a person who serves as an investment adviser to an investment company registered pursuant to section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 or a subsidiary of such a company, if the investment company or subsidiary invests, reinvests, owns, holds, or trades in commodity interests limited to only financial commodity interests.

“(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph only, the term ‘financial commodity interest’ means a futures contract, an option on a futures contract, or a swap, involving a commodity that is not an exempt commodity or an agricultural commodity, including any index of financial commodity interests, whether cash settled or involving physical delivery.

“(iii) For purposes of this subparagraph only, the term ‘commodity’ does not include a security issued by a real estate investment trust, business development company, or issuer of asset-backed securities, including any index of such securities.”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE DEFINITION OF COMMODITY TRADING ADVISOR.—Section 1a(12) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(12)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) The term ‘commodity trading advisor’ does not include a person who serves as an investment adviser to an investment company registered pursuant to section 8 of the

Investment Company Act of 1940 or a subsidiary of such a company, if the commodity trading advice relates only to a financial commodity interest, as defined in paragraph (11)(C)(ii) of this section. For purposes of this subparagraph only, the term ‘commodity’ does not include a security issued by a real estate investment trust, business development company, or issuer of asset-backed securities, including any index of such securities.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 629, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act.

This amendment seeks to address duplicative and overburdensome regulatory and registration requirements being faced by pensioners, savers, retirees, endowments, municipalities, and many other investors.

Registered investment companies, RICs, play a critical role in the U.S. financial savings and retirement landscape. Millions of retirees, pensioners, and other savers across the country seek access to RICs to invest their hard-earned money and savings to invest for retirement, college tuition, or a first home.

Currently, all RICs are registered with and are primarily regulated by the SEC and have to comply with an extensive set of rules and requirements, including the oversight of their derivatives holdings.

Back in 2012, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the CFTC, acting on its own initiative and without any direction from Congress, significantly narrowed a longstanding exclusion from the commodity pool operator, CPO, registration for “otherwise regulated entities,” but only for RICs, which are comprehensively regulated by SEC and typically do not resemble traditional commodity pools.

Because all RICs are currently registered with and are regulated by the SEC, the CFTC's rules change needlessly forces fund companies that manage literally thousands of funds, representing literally millions of U.S. pensioners, savers, and retirees to do what? To pay for costly and duplicative registration requirements.

You see, even without registration, the CFTC still has enforcement authority over all commodity contracts. This amendment would not, in any way, change the extent to which all commodity transactions are subject to the transaction level requirements of regulation, such as reporting, such as clearing, such as trading, and even margin. This amendment simply eliminates the duplicative regulatory and registration costs faced by these funds.

Also, by more appropriately tailoring the CFTC's regulatory reach, this

amendment has the added benefit of ensuring that the CFTC has actually even more funds and resources available to do what? To implement Dodd-Frank and enforce the new swaps regulatory regime.

This will help the agency prioritize, even better, their current workload and even reduce the need for a significant increase in the agency's budget during these challenging fiscal times.

Mr. Chairman, at a time when millions of American households are approaching retirement and their investment returns are significantly reduced because of the Federal Reserve's low interest rate policies, it is very important that government public policy minimize the regulatory costs of investment for our retirees, for our pensioners, and for our savers.

We must strike the right balance between ensuring investors have the ability to earn adequate returns on their investments with the appropriate regulatory oversight of our financial markets.

Please help restore this balance and protect investors by voting “yes” for the Garrett amendment to H.R. 4413.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, as one great American said: now, we are going to hear the rest of the story.

This is a situation where industry lost in court, and now, they are coming to Congress to try to accomplish what they couldn't do through the court system, so I rise in opposition.

From President Reagan's time to President Clinton's, the CFTC has—on its own accord—exempted registered investment companies, RICs, from having to register as commodity pool operators or as commodity trade advisers with the CFTC, provided they meet two conditions: one, that the commodity futures activity occurring in the funds they managed was below a set threshold; and, two, that they did not market to retail customers as a commodity pool or investment vehicle for commodity futures or commodity options.

During the first term of the second Bush administration, the CFTC eliminated both the threshold and the retail marketing restriction. These steps allowed investment companies unlimited access to commodity futures markets without any CFTC oversight and were opposed by the National Futures Association, the frontline regulator for the CFTC.

In 2010, the National Futures Association petitioned the CFTC to reconsider the broad exemption for registration given for RICs. From that request and following the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act, giving the Commission new jurisdiction over swaps, the CFTC reconsidered its exemption for RICs and

reinstated the thresholds for trading activity and retail marketing conditions that would trigger registration with the CFTC.

Not surprisingly, the Investment Company Institute, which represents these funds and the Chamber of Commerce, then sued the CFTC. The Federal district court ruled in favor of the CFTC, and the court ruled for the agency in summary judgment.

The funds appealed, and the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the ruling in favor of the CFTC. After the CFTC won its case, the Commission set up a harmonization regime versus SEC rules for the registered trading advisers who were involved in this. If the CFTC and SEC rules conflict, the RIC can defer to the SEC rules.

Despite that accommodation by the Commission, its having lost both the regulation and the litigation, the financial community is here now with this legislation.

The Garrett amendment attempts to accomplish what the financial industry could not achieve in the courts. The amendment would permanently remove the CFTC's jurisdiction over RICs registered with the SEC, regardless of how big they play in the futures or swaps market and regardless of their reach to retail customers.

The amendment's supporters will say that this only applies to investments in futures, options on futures, and swaps in financial commodities, as opposed to agriculture or energy commodities; but I would remind the Members that it was financial swaps, like credit default swaps, that contributed to the financial collapse in 2008. It wasn't energy or agriculture swaps.

The SEC failed in its oversight in 2008. I don't want to have to rely on them to keep an eye on financial instruments, and I don't want to have a repeat of the Bernie Madoff scandal, but, this time, in futures.

The CFTC has gone out of its way to accommodate industry concerns over duplicative oversight through its substituted compliance regime. Given their past bad behavior, I don't think we should rely on one agency to keep an eye on these guys, so I urge you to defeat this amendment.

Mr. GARRETT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PETERSON. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. Your last sentence was that you do not wish to rely on just one entity—presumably the SEC—in the enforcement of these contracts and so on and so forth.

Mr. PETERSON. It is only in certain circumstances.

Mr. GARRETT. Right, but we do nothing in this amendment to take away from the CFTC their enforcement authority. They retain that.

All that has changed is the registration requirement. The CFTC and the

SEC retain both their mutual and harmonious, if you will, enforcement authorities under all of the contracts that are respective to these provisions. That is not taken away.

We just say: Why duplicate the effort as far as registration requirements? I just wanted to clarify that point.

Mr. PETERSON. I think there is more to it than that.

Mr. GARRETT. No.

Mr. PETERSON. They wouldn't go through all of this to try to get the CFTC to do what they wanted, then go through the courts, and then come here with legislation, if this were just some minor registration issue, no.

Mr. GARRETT. Actually, yes, they would.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota controls the time, and his time has expired.

The gentleman from New Jersey has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARRETT. Great. I would like to hear from our chairman.

Before that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. This is a very interesting debate in listening to it, but I think the simple point here, Mr. Chairman, is that, number one, this just deals with the registration. Prior to 2012, the SEC handled all of the RICs.

□ 2100

Now, we have caught up in the middle of this millions and millions of pensioners, retirees, people who are getting into the golden years of their lives.

My hope is that we can pass this amendment. It only deals with registration. The ranking member has brought up some interesting points. That is why we do have the courts to settle those.

I think here, tonight, we need to think of what this simple amendment does is stop duplicative areas within registration and gives a better hand for our retirees today.

Mr. GARRETT. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his support for this legislation and for the amendment.

I yield now the remainder of my time to the chairman of the committee, and congratulate him for his great work on the underlying legislation before us today.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

I would simply note: let's cut to the point here. The CFTC, when finalizing the rules for registered investment companies, deferred almost entirely to the SEC to regulate them, so this amendment is in line with what the CFTC has already done.

I urge my colleagues to support the commonsense amendment. Let's just do what is reflected here, and I thank the gentleman for his input.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4413.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

PROTECTING FARMERS FROM THE EPA

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, on June 20, members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation joined together to protect Pennsylvania farmers by fighting back against another regulatory overreach by the Environmental Protection Agency.

I, along with Senator PAT TOOMEY and U.S. Representatives SCOTT PERRY, LOU BARLETTA, and BILL SHUSTER, filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia, in a case that centers on the proper scope of the EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Over the past decade, regional and State-led conservation efforts have

substantially reduced agriculture's ecological footprint within the watershed. Today, farmers continue to improve land management practices and remain the best stewards of our natural resources, which their livelihoods are dependent upon.

Despite these success stories, the EPA is seeking to seize, for the Federal Government, powers traditionally held by the States and impose an unconscionable economic burden on farmers and taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, the EPA has continued a foolish and impractical pursuit to put forth oppressive mandates that threaten the economic livelihood of our local farms and businesses. It is abuse of power that cannot and will not be tolerated.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FITZPATRICK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6084. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel David S. Nahom and Colonel Stephen C. Williams, United States Air Force, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6085. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Major General Anthony J. Rock, United States Air Force, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6086. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contractor Comment Period, Past Performance Evaluations [FAC 2005-74; FAR Case 2012-028; Item IV; Docket No. 2012-0028, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM40) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6087. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Defense Base Act [FAC 2005-74; FAR Case 2012-016; Item V; Docket No. 2012-0016, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM50) received June 2,

2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6088. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6089. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "HHS Secretary's Efforts to Improve Children's Health Care Quality in Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6090. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6091. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6092. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency blocking property of the government of the Russian Federation relating to the disposition of the highly enriched uranium extracted from nuclear weapons that was declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6093. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6094. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting pursuant to Title II, Section 203, of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act (No FEAR Act), the Department's annual report for FY 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6095. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6096. A letter from the Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the Commission's audited Seventy-Third Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013 pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6097. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, trans-

mitting the Office's report entitled, "The Fiscal Year 2013 Accounting of Drug Control Funds and the Fiscal Year 2013 Performance Summary Report"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6098. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6099. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Utah Regulatory Program [STATS No. UT-049-FOR; Docket ID No.: OSM-2012-0015; S1D1SSS08011000SX066A00067F144S180110; S2D2SSS08011000SX066A00033F14XS501520] received June 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6100. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — North Dakota Regulatory Program [STATS No. ND-053-FOR; Docket ID No.: OSM-2012-0006; S1D1SSS08011000SX066A00067F144S180110; S2D2SSS08011000SX066A00033F14XS501520] received June 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6101. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Commercial Groundfish Fishery Management Measures; Rockfish Conservation Area Boundaries for Vessels Using Bottom Trawl Gear [Docket No.: 130808694-4318-02] (RIN: 06488-BD37) received May 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6102. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0135; Airspace Docket No.: 14-AGL-4] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6103. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0031; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-054-AD; Amendment 39-17838; AD 2014-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6104. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0864; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-108-AD; Amendment 39-17841; AD 2014-09-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6105. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Eagle Grove, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0589; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-9] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6106. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Amery, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0591; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-21] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6107. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kuparuk, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0996; Airspace Docket No. 12-AAL-9] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6108. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Dalhart, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0918; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-21] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6109. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D Airspace; St. Paul, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0954; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-35] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6110. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0023; Directorate Identifier 2013-CE-048-AD; Amendment 39-17837; AD 2014-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6111. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; North Central United States [Docket No.: FAA-2013-1062; Airspace Docket No. 13-ACE-3] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6112. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the 2013 Annual Progress Report on the National Strategy for Transportation Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

6113. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, transmitting Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Council Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4795. A bill to promote new manufacturing in the United States by providing for greater transparency and timeliness in obtaining necessary permits, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-488). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4801. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water (Rept. 113-489). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4631. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-490). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4007. A bill to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program; with an amendment (Rept. 113-491 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 636. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-492). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4007 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. LONG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 4934. A bill to prohibit certain Federal agencies from using or purchasing certain firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 4935. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements to the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. CHU, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 4936. A bill to amend section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Attorney General to appoint counsel for unaccompanied alien children and aliens with serious mental disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. ENYART):

H.R. 4937. A bill to require the implementation of report recommendations by an inspector general regarding wasteful and excessive spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. POMPEO):

H.R. 4938. A bill to establish a temporary limitation on the use of funds to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCKEON (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. WATERS, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 4939. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the "Neil Havens Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4940. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend 15-year straight-line cost recovery and section 179 expensing for qualified leasehold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 4941. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of Promise Zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4942. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at hospitals administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 4943. A bill to improve the training of child protection professionals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and

in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Con. Res. 103. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H. Res. 637. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of the Navy should name an appropriate Navy ship in honor of Marine Corps General Clifton B. Cates of Tiptonville, Tennessee; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. AMASH):

H. Res. 638. A resolution commemorating President Gerald R. Ford and the invaluable impact of his service to the United States in honor of the 40th anniversary of his Presidency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POLIS:

H. Res. 639. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (S. 815) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. YODER):

H. Res. 640. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 4934.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution. The very existence of many federal administrative agencies rests on shaky constitutional grounds and often threatens the principle of Separation of Powers. Congress exercises Constitutional authority over these agencies through its appropriations power under Article 1 Section 9.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 4935.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 4936.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 4937.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 4938.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution creates a government of the people to "provide for the common defence."

Article I, Section 8 permits Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution . . . all other Powers vested by this Constitution."

By Mr. McKEON:

H.R. 4939.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 7 of the Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power To . . . establish Post Offices and post Roads."

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 4940.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 and the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 4941.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 4942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 4943.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 60: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 148: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 182: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 460: Mr. COBLE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 713: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 787: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 798: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 997: Mr. POSEY and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 1015: Mr. COBLE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 1020: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 1250: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 1318: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1518: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1527: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1658: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1771: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 1812: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1975: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2001: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2041: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2084: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2118: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2164: Mr. MICA and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2170: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2317: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2366: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2384: Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 2453: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 2529: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2536: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 2673: Mr. LONG and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 2918: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2994: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 2996: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 3116: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 3382: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3424: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3471: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 3566: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3569: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3571: Mr. GRIMM, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3717: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3854: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3877: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 3969: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3992: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 4012: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 4188: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 4190: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4234: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 4301: Mr. FORBES, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. GOWDY.

H.R. 4306: Mr. DELANEY and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4325: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4347: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4351: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4365: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 4383: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 4385: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 4415: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4536: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4629: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 4630: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4631: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. BASS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 4636: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 4643: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 4651: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 4653: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4682: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 4699: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4703: Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 4735: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4778: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4783: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4786: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 4799: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 4837: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4851: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 4863: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 4869: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 4879: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4897: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4906: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4916: Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. AMODEI,
and Mr. WELCH.
H. Res. 72: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Res. 109: Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 170: Mr. MORAN and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H. Res. 239: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 308: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of
New York.
H. Res. 417: Mr. KILDEE.
H. Res. 588: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 606: Mr. PETERS of California and
Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 621: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIM-
ITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIM-
ITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or
statements on congressional earmarks,
limited tax benefits, or limited tariff
benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Rep-
resentative GARDNER, or a designee, to H.R.

6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Free-
dom Act, does not contain any congressional
earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited
tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule
XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Rep-
resentative PALLONE or a designee to H.R.
3301, the North American Energy Infrastruc-
ture Act, does not contain any congressional
earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited
tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule
XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEFFREY MILLER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jeffrey Miller.

Jeffrey currently serves as the President of the Holocaust Memorial Research and Education Center of Florida. In 2010, he was instrumental in conceiving and implementing the Upstanders Stand Up to Bullying Initiative. This ongoing and highly recognized program has since been implemented in the public middle schools of Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties.

The Upstanders Initiative is a multi-year program which has served thousands of Central Florida students by teaching them to safely recognize bullying behavior, report it to teachers, parents, and counselors, and, most importantly, learn "upstander" rather than "bystander" behavior. Jeffrey has been responsible for raising significant amounts of money for the funding of this program through a partnership with David Yurman, the luxury jewelry retailer, as well as by representing the Center before grant-making agencies. In the schools where this program has been implemented, a significant percentage of students have reported that they have learned to identify bullying behavior and are willing to take steps to prevent it. School officials have reported a significant change in the percentage of students who are willing to be "upstanders."

Jeffrey and his husband, Ted Maines, have served as the Co-Chairs of the Holocaust Center Dinner of Tribute in 2012 and 2013 and as Co-Chairs of the 2013 Inaugural Gala for the Orlando Ballet. These events raise significant amounts of money for the operational expenses of the organizations. Jeffrey has served as an Honorary Host for the United Cerebral Palsy fundraising gala in 2014, is on the Host Committee for the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts Grand Opening in 2014-15, and will once again serve as the Ballet Gala's 2014 Co-Chair. Jeffrey has also served on the Steering Committee of the Equality Florida annual gala and as Chair of the Table Committee for the Hope and Help Headress Ball.

Jeffrey and Ted have hosted fund raisers in their home for the Orlando Ballet and Planned Parenthood, as well as numerous political fund raisers, including the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee Spring fund raiser in 2012. Jeffrey has been consistently named to the 50 Most Powerful list by Orlando Magazine. Together with Ted, has also been recognized as the Number One Power Couple by that publication—the first gay couple to achieve that recognition.

Jeffrey is a member of and contributor to the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club, the Gift of Life Circle for Hope and Help of Central Florida, and the Acquisition Trust of the Orlando Museum of Art. In addition to the Holocaust Center, Jeffrey has served on the Board of the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida and as Treasurer of Temple Israel.

I am happy to honor Jeffrey Miller, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work on behalf of youth and the arts as well as his outstanding civic engagement in the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CHIEF MIKE DAVIS

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Gig Harbor, Washington's Chief of Police, Mike Davis, for his many years of public service to our community.

Chief Davis's career is evidence of his commitment to serving the community. Davis joined the Kitsap County Sheriff's Department nearly 30 years ago on July 1, 1984. During his time in Kitsap County, he served as a corporal, sergeant, undersheriff, and sheriff.

Serving as Gig Harbor's Police Chief since 2004, Davis has been an invaluable resource to our community and has dedicated himself to ensuring the safety of all residents. Under his tenure, Davis has helped the department upgrade and streamline vital technology, has maintained the department's response time of less than four minutes, and has bridged the gap with the community by encouraging the department's customer-service directed model. With his upcoming retirement, he succeeds in being the longest-serving police chief in the city of Gig Harbor's history.

Davis has gone above and beyond to make our community a better place. In his work as a D.A.R.E. officer in the Kitsap County Sheriff's department, he worked to prevent drug abuse among the area's youth. As Police Chief of the Gig Harbor Police Department, Davis established the Jaycox Police Benevolent Fund. In addition to helping Project Safe Harbor and the department's Citizens Offering Police Support program, the Jaycox Fund provides scholarships to high school seniors who strive to work in criminal justice one day.

Davis has dedicated himself to serving his community, and as someone who lives in that community and who is raising two little girls, I'm enormously grateful for that. He will retire on June 30, 2014, after protecting our region for exactly 30 years. Despite his retirement, Davis's work will remain an inspiration in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again applauding Davis for his dedication to serving

the people of Kitsap County and Gig Harbor. He is an extraordinary first responder and a great American. I am honored to recognize his service today in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALIFORNIA CHROME

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California Chrome and his team for their outstanding performance in the 2014 Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes.

California Chrome was the winner of the Kentucky Derby on May 3 and the Preakness on May 17, and had an excellent showing at the Belmont Stakes on June 7, where he tied for fourth place. His family, Perry and Denise Martin reside in Yuba City, which is in my district. I am proud to have them as constituents.

The Martins bought California Chrome's mother for only \$8,000, a bargain by horse racing standards, and the horse's success is a true "rags-to-riches" story. The Martins conducted thorough research in selecting the dam, Love the Chase, which further contributed to California Chrome's success. California Chrome inspired thousands of fans and brought a renewed sense of excitement to the races. His success shows us that no matter our background, we can rise to greatness with a little bit of luck and a lot of hard work.

His family has also made a number of important contributions to California and our entire nation. Perry Martin has worked on electronic failure analysis and environmental quality testing at McClellan business park north of Sacramento for more than a decade. He is the author of a 500-page textbook titled "Electronic Failure Analysis Handbook" and has briefed Congress and the Air Force Chief of Staff regarding avionics and weapons systems.

Congratulations to California Chrome, his jockey Victor Espinoza, trainer Art Sherman, the Martin family, and their co-owner Steve Coburn. California Chrome is a source of pride for California's 3rd Congressional District and I look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes in the future.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF HARWICH
MIDDLE SCHOOL'S STRIDES IN
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL-
ISM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Harwich Middle School's environmental group, Harwich Cares.

The forty members of Harwich Cares have spent the past year educating their peers and the Harwich community about ways to reduce their energy consumption. Their efforts have included a community cleanup, an energy-efficient light bulb sale and giveaway, and visits to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Covanta SEMASS to learn more about renewable energy. Most recently, these kids presented two day-long energy carnivals for students of the Harwich and Chatham Elementary Schools.

This year, Harwich Cares won first place in Massachusetts and second place in the U.S. in the National Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. As such, they attended the National Energy Education Development Project's awards program in Washington, DC this past weekend.

It is truly inspiring to see a group of passionate young people educating their community and working towards a greener future. Finding cleaner sources of energy should be a national priority, and I am proud that such important strides are being made on Cape Cod.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the educators and students of Harwich Middle School on their community education and leadership on environmental issues.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERYL
YOUNG

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary leader in San Mateo County. Sheryl Young, Chief Executive Officer of Community Gatepath, is retiring after 26 years of remarkable service to the special needs community. Sheryl is a leading ambassador for individuals with special needs in San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties and one of the most thoughtful, generous and creative women I know. I feel extremely fortunate to count her as one of my closest friends and a member of the yoga girls. Sheryl first joined the organization as a volunteer, then known as Poplar Center, and quickly discovered she found her life's calling.

In 1988, the nonprofit provided direct services to 370 individuals, had a modest budget of \$1 million and a workforce of only 20 professionals. Since then, Sheryl has overseen remarkable growth at the agency as it now serves more than 9,000 individuals, has a budget of \$12.4 million and employs 175 directors, managers and professionals.

For more than 95 years, Community Gatepath has provided programs, support services, education, and information for the special needs community. Sheryl and her staff are dedicated to making their motto more than just words. These good people have their hearts committed to "Turning Disabilities into Possibilities." Sheryl's significant accomplishments include the launch and completion of a \$5 million capital campaign; the development of Learning Links Preschool—San Mateo County's first inclusive preschool; and the creation and launch of AbilityPath.org—a first-of-its-kind online resource and social network for parents, families, and providers that was voted best online special needs community by users of About.com in 2012. Sheryl was the only invited guest focused on children with special needs at the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention event in 2012 that was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Sheryl was also selected to participate in Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management program.

As proof of Sheryl's standing in our community, "The Sheryl Young Community Impact Award" has been established to pay tribute to persons, businesses and organizations that make an impact in their community by helping people with disabilities.

Sheryl is a graduate of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders. She also earned a Masters of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley, a Master's Degree in Special Education from Ball State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Purdue University.

I first met Sheryl when she worked for the County of San Mateo. A friend of mine gave birth to a child with Down syndrome and was told by her doctors that she would be unable to raise the girl and was urged to turn her over to a residential treatment center. Sheryl advocated on behalf of the infant and found a suitable program at Poplar Center to assist the family. Sheryl was so impressed with the program at Poplar Center that she stayed involved. Shortly thereafter, Sheryl's heart and head convinced her to leave county government and accept an offer to lead Poplar Center.

Little did I know that this first encounter with Sheryl would lead to a lifetime friendship. I find inspiration in her leadership style and her entrepreneurial spirit within the non-profit community. In her retirement, Sheryl is primed to continue her world travels, read and hike more and is delightfully planning her daughter's wedding, with dreams of becoming a grandma. Her co-workers will miss her energy, warmth and ability to think outside the box. They will miss her daily example of unconditional love toward her clients and friends.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Sheryl Young for being a public servant extraordinaire. Sheryl has changed lives for the better, including my own.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JASON LAMBERT

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Jason Lambert. Jason has been a small business owner in downtown Orlando for over ten years and has been involved with local politics and community fundraising since 2004. He has owned bars and restaurants in downtown Orlando, Thornton Park, and Ivanhoe Village, which, for over a decade, has enabled him to host fundraising and special events.

In 2005, Jason was honored to have been one of the founding members of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Orlando Steering Committee. Since that time, he has served on the Board of Governors for over six years. He was also the Federal Club co-chair for over two years, during which time the Orlando Steering Committee was awarded "Federal Club of the Year" by the HRC. He also co-chaired the annual "COOK Orlando" event for three years, one of the signature fundraising events for the local community.

One of his proudest moments with HRC was when he ran the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. as an HRC Athlete for Equality in 2012, just one year after the historic repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In addition to HRC, Jason also contributes to and supports the Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood, Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation, Equality Florida, Come Out with Pride, and the Metropolitan Business Association (MBA).

Most recently, his newest business was recognized as the "2014 Small Business of the Year" by the MBA. He currently serves on the Ivanhoe Village Main Street Board as the Promotions Chair and was recently asked to be on the board of The Barber Fund, a local organization that helps people living with cancer. He lives with his partner Joe and their two dogs Logan and Blue.

I am happy to honor Jason Lambert, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the LGBT and Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING
WORK OF TODD ALLEN AND
KEMAL PASAMEHMETOGLU

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Deputy Laboratory Director Todd Allen and Associate Laboratory Director Kemal Pasamehmetoglu, two of the Idaho National Laboratory's leaders in nuclear energy research and development. On June 17, 2014, The American Nuclear Society's Materials Science and Technology Division honored these two Idaho National Laboratory leaders with achievement awards at the American Nuclear Society meeting in Reno, Nevada. The awards were presented at the

American Nuclear Society Embedded Topical meeting on Nuclear Fuels and Structural Materials.

Kemal Pasamehmetoglu, Idaho National Laboratory's Associate Laboratory Director for Nuclear Science & Technology was honored as the 2013 recipient of its Special Achievement Award. The division's most prestigious award recognizes international leadership in establishing a science-based approach to nuclear fuel development and seminal contributions to the nuclear materials area.

Todd Allen, Idaho National Laboratory's Deputy Laboratory Director for Science & Technology, was honored as the 2012 recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for his leadership and many contributions to nuclear materials area.

Our nation needs to continue investing in research and development to enhance economic prosperity, energy security and US leadership. While researchers like Todd Allen and Kemal Pasamehmetoglu have come to the Idaho National Laboratory to use unique equipment and facilities to push nuclear technology forward, they are also leading teams of talented men and women to accelerate American innovation. It is appropriate that the American Nuclear Society has recognized Drs. Allen and Pasamehmetoglu for their technical contributions, and I would like to offer my own thanks to Todd and Kemal for their great work.

#BRINGBACKOURBOYS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an incident that happened last week in Israel, a situation being referred to internationally as “#BringBackOurBoys.” On June 12, three teenage Israeli students, Gil-Ad Shaer, Eyal Yifrah and Naftali Fraenkel, disappeared from a hitchhiking point a little south of Jerusalem, Israel. While no group has come forward to take responsibility for this action, the Israeli government has pointed fingers at Hamas. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Hamas, a radical Islamist party, first came to power following the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006, defeating the former ruling party, Fatah. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) has arrested over 200 suspects, most of them Hamas members, over the past week. In addition to these arrests, they have expanded their search in hopes to retrieve these abducted boys.

People all over the world have gathered together, to express their concerns for these boys and their families. Many rallies have taken place outside of various World Cup arenas in hopes of bringing media attention to this important issue. A mass rally has been planned for next Tuesday, June 24th, outside of the Israeli Consulate in New York.

This past week, on Wednesday June 18, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and The Israel Forever Foundation co-sponsored a vigil outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. Over 250

members of the community gathered to chant and listen to speakers of many different faiths reiterating the need for these boys to be returned to their families safely. Rabbi Adam Raskin of Congregation Har Shalom in Pottomac, Maryland said “They are our kids. This is a kidnapping from our family,” asking “Can you imagine the anguish and the pain of their parents?” This is an issue that we must continue to put pressure on, in order to return these boys to their families.

As another Sabbath passes, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of these young men. We remain hopeful for the immediate safe return of these students. Mr. Speaker, everyone in this country, regardless of their individual faith, needs to be mindful of the words Presbyterian Minister Roy Howard of St. Marks Church in North Bethesda, Maryland spoke at this week's rally at the Israeli Embassy here in Washington: “We are united with Israel, the Jewish people; they are not my boys, but I stand in solidarity with you.”

HONORING THOMAS AND CHRISTINA MORZELLO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the 50th wedding anniversary of Thomas and Christina Morzello of Valhalla, New York, who were married on June 28, 1964. Tom and Dina were married at St. Anthony's Church in West Harrison, NY. Tom graduated from White Plains High School in 1959 and was drafted into the Army where he spent two years as motor pool driver. Following his honorable discharge, he began a 35 year career as an electrician. After her graduation from White Plains High School in 1963, Dina attended Berkley Secretarial School and gained employment as a Secretary for General Foods. After having four children, she began a 25 year career as a teacher for the White Plains School District. Tom enjoys riding his motorcycle and is an active member of the Westchester Harley Owner Group (HOG). Dina enjoys gardening, scrapbooking and spending time with her grandchildren.

Tom and Dina must be commended for their loyalty and dedication to their family. Tom and Dina have proven, by their example, to be a model for all married couples.

I proudly ask you to join me, along with Tom and Dina's four sons and their wives, six grandchildren, and many friends and family, in congratulating them on this significant occasion and wishing them many more years of happiness together.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN DANIEL RUFFIER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and

Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize John Daniel Ruffier.

John was born May 21, 1971 in Orlando, Florida to Eugene Daniel Ruffier and Joan Dial Ruffier. He is their third child, along with William Eugene (“Bill”) and Margaret Grace. John is a product of Orange County public schools, having attended Lake Silver Elementary, Lee Junior High, and Edgewater High School before going on to Vanderbilt University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of the Arts Degree in English and History in 1992. Ruffier then attended the University of Florida's Fredric G. Levin College of Law. Upon graduation in 1996, John joined Orlando's largest and most prestigious law firm, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A., where he remains a shareholder specializing in commercial real estate, with a focus on assisting clients with the acquisition, financing, and sale of senior housing communities and medical office buildings. John also works with governmental and non-profit institutions in forming partnerships for large-scale redevelopment projects. John has earned the highest rating of “AV” from Martindale-Hubbell for his legal skills.

John has an extensive record of public service with community service organizations in Central Florida and has served on the board of directors for many groups, such as the Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, and the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless. He also served on the City of Orlando Public Art Advisory Board for many years. In 2007, John was appointed by then-governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Real Estate Commission, where he served until 2011. John, along with Jennifer Foster, founded the Central Florida steering committee for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and, after having served on HRC's national board of governors for many years, joined the board of directors for HRC's non-profit foundation in 2011.

I am happy to honor John Daniel Ruffier, during LGBT Pride Month, for his professional and civic contributions to the Central Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday June 17, 2014 I was not present for 2 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 313, I would have voted “yea.”

Had I been present for rollcall No. 314, I would have voted “yea.”

IN HONOR OF DR. GLORIA D.
JONES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding and truly one of a kind woman, Dr. Gloria D. Jones. Sadly, Dr. Jones passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2014. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Disciples of Jesus Ministries in Thomasville, Georgia.

Dr. Gloria D. Jones was born on February 27, 1954 in Columbus, Ohio. As the second of three daughters, Dr. Jones was constantly striving to forge her own identity in her youth. Growing up at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, she was greatly influenced to fight for what was right. Her experiences during this time led her to question authority, and to measure her success only by her own grade. As she watched her father struggle to recover from alcoholism throughout his life, she developed a passion for helping others overcome addictive behavior. Dr. Jones considered this a meaningful experience that influenced her practice as a leading therapist in her field of substance abuse counseling.

Gloria's steadfast determination held true throughout her academic career. She was able to graduate high school in only three years, and attended a local college to pursue a degree in Physical Education. She went on to earn numerous other degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Columbia University, a Master of Arts in Health Care Management from Webster College, and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Capella University.

Dr. Jones served in the U.S. Air Force for four years and held the position of Executive Secretary for Martin Marietta Aerospace Center in Denver, Colorado. In Thomasville, she worked as a Mental Health Intake Specialist with Archbold Memorial Hospital and as a Child and Adolescent Coordinator for Georgia Pines Mental Health Center. She was a certified national addiction counselor and a clinical supervisor for the state of Georgia.

Her crowning achievement, however, was the Heritage Foundation Inc., which she founded in 1989 in Thomasville, Georgia. This organization came about from a community outreach program which she designed and established to teach disenfranchised, primarily African-American youth about their rich cultural heritage. During the course of this work, she discovered the socioeconomic and psychosocial issues rooted in these communities, which led her to create the foundation to help young people overcome these challenges. Through her position as Executive Director, she was able to directly influence change in the community. Her vision and determination has bettered the lives of countless individuals and families as she developed more than ten treatment programs for addictive disorders, child and adolescent mental health services and prevention programs.

Dr. Jones was also very active politically on the local, state, and national levels. She was

instrumental in organizing many voter registration, voter education and voter participation programs, promoting political empowerment in the region. She and her devoted husband, Dr. Leon Jones, were longtime supporters of mine and I count myself very fortunate to have had the benefit of their advice, counsel and hard work.

Dr. Jones was known as a community activist, educator, counselor, wife, mother, grandmother, and author. However, all of these titles could be summed up under the title of "trailblazer." She pioneered and championed for subjugated youths, and cleared a path to a better future for them through her work.

George Washington Carver once said, No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Dr. Jones passed this way and during her life's journey did so much for so many for so long. She leaves behind a great legacy in service to her beloved family and to all those whose lives she touched and nurtured. She will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife Vivian in extending our deepest sympathies to Dr. Jones' loving husband of 36 years, Dr. Leon Jones, nine children, sixteen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and a host of other family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAN BANKS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dan Banks on the occasion of his 80th birthday. No matter what Dan takes on—professional or personal—he always gives it 110 percent. Take for example his third century bike ride he completed in May to celebrate his birthday: 100 miles through Napa County. He also continues his quest to become a Life Master at bridge. Dan's endurance and determination are awe-inspiring.

I've had the great honor and pleasure to call Dan and his wife Cynthia Schuman my treasured friends for more than a dozen years. Their wit, warmth and generosity enrich my life every day.

Dan was born in Sri Lanka and when he was seven years old his family moved to Madras, India, where his father worked for Standard Oil. They returned to Nashville, Tennessee, his mother's home, in 1941 during World War II.

Dan graduated from Sewanee Military Academy, earned his BA in History and English from Yale, became a member of the coveted and secretive Skull & Bones Society, completed his training with the United States Marine Corps, and finally earned his MBA at Stanford University in 1961. He spent two years in the Marine Corps as a First Lieutenant and was stationed in Japan. While going

back and forth to Asia his eyes were opened to San Francisco where he landed his first real job as an assistant buyer for Macy's. He met his first wife Sandra at Macy's and she helped him make it through business school at Stanford.

Dan is a thoughtful and ethical man. He pursued a successful career as an investment banker in San Francisco and hasn't left the city since. Dan fondly remembers raising money for corporate clients through public offerings, private placements, mergers and acquisitions. The act of raising money to fund an expanding business is a key step in creating jobs. Dan understood his role in creating opportunities for all. He points out that investment banking then was not what it became in the 90s. The deals and fees were much smaller, he says. "My favorite client, Nordstrom's, initial public offering was \$21 million, not the hundreds of millions one might expect today. After a long and productive career, he retired in 1993.

The 1980s were a difficult time for Dan and his family. Sandra was diagnosed with breast cancer and died in 1989. He calls that period a bookend to that phase of his life, but it also brought new beginnings.

In 1991, Dan met his wonderful wife Cynthia and they married the following year. Dan has always valued the arts and developed a deep appreciation for opera while he was stationed in Okinawa. He invested a tremendous amount of energy and passion into his role as a Trustee of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco for eight years.

For the last two decades Cynthia and he have focused on their beautiful family of their four children—Pamela Banks Joyce, Tom Banks, Darrell Benatar and Denise Benatar—and eight grandchildren—Colin, Sandra, Michael, Taylor, Isabel, Maya, Trevor and Parker. It is best to cite Dan's own words to illustrate his optimism and outlook on life. "We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth," he says, "surrounded by those who love us and thank our lucky stars for each successive day."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Dan Banks, an extraordinary man. I thank my lucky stars for his wisdom and friendship each successive day.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MALLORY GARNER-WELLS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mallory Garner-Wells.

Mallory has worked at Equality Florida, Florida's statewide LGBT organization for nearly 10 years, where she serves as the organization's full time lobbyist in Tallahassee during legislative session. In 2008, Mallory played an integral role in passing the anti-bully bill in addition to blocking an amendment that would

have prevented gay Floridians from adopting overseas. The following year, she helped to organize the Rally in Tally for LGBT Equality, the first LGBT rally at the Capitol in over 10 years. She has contributed to the passing of over 120 pro-equality local policies throughout the state of Florida.

Mallory has also served on the national Young People 4 Steering Committee, where she received an award for Youth Mobilization. She has been named one of the "Top 25 Leaders under 25" by Watermark magazine and one of The Advocate's "40 Under 40" in May 2012.

Mallory is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, where she received a degree in Political Science. While pursuing her undergraduate degree, she served as both the President of the Florida Collegiate Pride Coalition and as a board member for the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Student Union (GLBSU).

I am happy to honor Mallory Garner-Wells, during LGBT Pride Month, for her contributions to the LGBT community in Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 311, due to a previously scheduled constituent event in my district, I was not able to be present for this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,532,488,016,268.40. We've added \$6,905,610,967,355.40 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 20, 2014, I mistakenly voted "aye" on rollcall vote 334. I meant to vote "no."

I support all forms of energy, including biofuels and agree with the vast majority of Americans who agree that we must diversify our fuel supplies with alternatives to oil. The

list of auto makers embracing biodiesel continues to grow, and currently all major U.S. engine manufacturers support blends of up to 5 percent, while more than three-quarters support 20 percent blends in at least some of their engines. Many engine manufacturers are now actively promoting their positive positions on biodiesel blends (Ford, for example, now uses a B20 logo on heavy-duty diesel trucks.)

A few years ago, Americans were filling up their cars at record prices—60, 80, 100 dollars a tank—and looking to Washington to see what could be done. To see what we could do to replace a crippling oil addiction with the energy technology this challenge demands, and our nation deserves. To relieve the strain on their budgets and their families not ten years from now—but now.

Our government and military need to work toward the goal of including biofuels in their vast array of energy products. I support the military, I support the environment but I do not support this amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAT PADILLA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Pat Padilla. After conversations with a gay colleague some years ago, Pat realized how unaware she was concerning the struggles and inequality faced by the LGBT community and their loved ones. Shortly afterwards, she discovered the local Orlando/Central Florida chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG), which has led her on an extraordinary journey of grassroots advocacy and activism. Working with the LGBT community and allies over the years has, in turn, enriched her life in so many ways.

As a straight ally, she served as president of PFLAG Orlando/Central Florida chapter for 11 years. She also served as a member the Equality Florida Board of Directors for 8 years. Equality Florida is the largest civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Since 2001, she has been a member of Orlando Anti-Discrimination Organization (OADO). OADO has been responsible for passing various LGBT inclusive Human Rights Ordinances (HRO) and Domestic Partnership Registries (DPR) in both Orlando and Orange County, Florida.

In 2009, Pat received the Orlando Metropolitan Business Organization 'Debbie Simmons Community Service Award'. Pat is passionate about increasing awareness and understanding of LGBT individuals, especially youth and "transgender" individuals. This passion led to her involvement with Zebra Coalition and Orlando Youth Alliance. Over time, she has compiled a wealth of information including individuals, organizations, and resources for LGBT persons needing assistance. This infor-

mation has become a vital asset for various organizations.

Pat holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. For the past 15 years, Pat has worked for Symantec Corporation in both sales and support services roles. She leads the global LGBT Employee Resource Group, SymPRIDE. In 2007, she initiated a change to the Symantec diversity policy to include "transgender". Along with SymPRIDE, she is also a member of SWAN (Symantec Women's Action Network) and HOLA (Hispanic Outreach and Leadership Affinity).

Pat lived in Venezuela for 10 years, where she had the gratifying experience of working with Mother Teresa and as a translator for the Missionaries of Charity.

I am happy to honor Pat Padilla, during LGBT Pride Month, for her compassion for and service to the LGBT community in Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE RAPPAHANNOCK LADY RAIDERS STATE CHAMPION SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding feat achieved by the Rappahannock Lady Raiders softball team with their victory in the Division 1A Virginia High School League Championship.

The Lady Raiders earned the 1A State Softball Championship title in an impressive 5–0 game with the William Campbell Lady Generals, winning their first State Championship in the program's history.

During their historical championship season, the Lady Raiders secured an impressive record of 22–3, a testament to the team's commitment to performing at the highest level each and every time they stepped on the field.

I would like to commend head coach Ellen Gaines and all those who are involved with the Lady Raiders for building this successful softball program into a championship winning team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to recognize the school, the coaches, the fans, and most importantly, the players on their successful season and victory in the 1A State Championship game.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNUAL SAN MATEO COUNTY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DAY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 10th annual San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day on this day, Saturday, June 7, 2014.

This event grew out of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated southeast

Louisiana on August 29, 2005. The Nation watched in horror as Americans were waving for help from the roofs of their homes surrounded by water. Hurricane Katrina became the costliest natural disaster and one of the five deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history. I couldn't help but wonder what would happen here in the Bay Area if a major earthquake hit. As all of us know, it's not a question of if, but when.

We convened a small group of leaders on September 11, 2004 to discuss disaster preparedness in our county. From this meeting arose the first countywide disaster preparedness event to educate residents. San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier and Supervisor Don Horsley created such a stir in the community that when event day dawned, about 5,000 individuals attended. They learned directly from first responders giving emergency demonstrations, and that first year there were 40 exhibitor booths and numerous emergency vehicles. Through sponsorships by local businesses and community partners, we were able to hand out 1,000 emergency preparedness backpacks to the first attendees and feed all attendees complimentary lunches. It was a true community event.

Every year since then, the San Mateo County Disaster Preparedness Day has taken place at locations throughout the county, including South San Francisco High School, the USGS campus in Menlo Park and at the Event Center. Tens of thousands have been trained. Many of those who attend are young people and students. Disaster Preparedness Day offers families a teaching moment—a time to reflect upon what will happen to each family member if communication is cut off or mobility restricted. As mothers and fathers instruct their young children in how to be safe but not frightened, and as emergency responders offer teens their first exposure to adult-like duties, such as first aid and CPR, you can almost watch the fabric of the community being woven right before your eyes.

On the 10th anniversary of this important day, we continue our tradition of presenting, during the opening ceremony, flags by the San Mateo County Sheriff Department Honor Guard and a wreath dedicated to the lives that have been lost due to disasters. We also continue to offer a free CPR course for attendees plus explanations of hospital care during an emergency, and instructions on how to store food, currency and water in safe places. Experts on earthquakes, fires and floods explain likely scenarios, and often the local fire departments give detailed, localized explanations to their own residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor the 10th annual Disaster Preparedness Day in San Mateo County. No one wants to experience a disaster, but everyone must be prepared for one. It has been said that practice makes perfect. In San Mateo County, we can never hope to be perfect in our response to disaster, but everyone knows that we practice because we love our families, our community and our neighborhoods, and we are determined to be prepared.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE BARBOUR

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and colleague, Leslie Barbour of the Nuclear Energy Institute, who will be retiring from NEI later this summer. In some circles, Leslie is known as the "First Lady of Nuclear Energy," and her presence and insights will be missed.

When I came to Congress sixteen years ago, I met Leslie Barbour for the first time. In many ways, Leslie is the face of the nuclear energy industry that many Members of Congress and congressional staff see the most. Whether it is in a meeting, at a hearing or a mark-up, Leslie Barbour is there on behalf of the nuclear industry.

Leslie is an extremely effective advocate for the nuclear energy industry, and she has a unique ability to explain complex technological issues in understandable terms. Leslie is an educator and an advocate, and she has created events like the Nuclear Energy Research and Development Summit that bring political leaders, nuclear industry officials and union representatives together to discuss the best strategies and options for moving nuclear energy forward.

As the representative of Idaho's Second Congressional District, I have the honor of representing the Idaho National Laboratory, the nation's lead lab for nuclear energy research and development. The Idaho National Laboratory and the Nuclear Energy Institute work very closely together, and over the years Leslie has organized tours of the lab and brought lab employees to Washington, DC to help educate policymakers on the benefits of nuclear power. Leslie is always looking for new ways to reach new audiences and educate new Members of Congress on the role nuclear energy plays in our nation's energy strategy.

In addition to her professional work, Leslie Barbour is also an active member of her community. For a number of years, Leslie has served on the Board of Directors of the Capitol Hill Group Ministries, a non-denominational organization that addresses the social needs of the men, women and children living near Capitol Hill. In fact, in recognition of her efforts, in 2011 Capitol Hill Group Ministries named Leslie the Volunteer of the Year.

After twenty years with the Nuclear Energy Institute, Leslie is retiring from NEI but she will still be active here in Washington, DC. It has been a joy to work with Leslie, and I wish her and her husband Gary all the best as they take on new challenges and new opportunities.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Holy Trinity

Church of God in Christ in my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts for celebrating their sixtieth anniversary this month. Since its founding in 1954, Holy Trinity has become an important part of the cultural and spiritual identity of the Mason Square area of Springfield.

With its commitment to community outreach, Holy Trinity has become a vital part of the revitalization of the Mason Square area. For decades, Holy Trinity has worked to make Mason Square a better and safer place for everyone. Their parishioners help serve the people that are most in need by donating clothes and working at shelters on a regular basis. They have sponsored many initiatives including Community Olympics and offering different scholarships. Notably, Holy Trinity headed up a project, working with other churches and the city of Springfield, to renovate the gym at Deberry Elementary School for those students to enjoy.

I want to congratulate Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ for reaching this important milestone and I wish them all the best with their future endeavors.

JULIE GEISER CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Geiser of Pueblo, Colorado. After 18 years of service as the Director of the Alamosa Public Health Department, Ms. Geiser is retiring to spend time with her family and friends.

Ms. Geiser has had an exemplary career, leading her department with vision and passion. Under her guidance, the Alamosa Public Health Department has doubled in size, while continuing to maintain a standard of excellence that meets the needs of her community. In 2008 Ms. Geiser provided crucial leadership during a salmonella outbreak, prioritizing public safety by ensuring that the public remained informed. During this tenuous time she worked with local officials to locate and terminate the source of the outbreak and limit its spread. Instances like this demonstrate the important role Ms. Geiser has had in ensuring the health and vitality of her community. Ms. Geiser was recognized by the Nightingale Luminaries in 2014 for demonstrating outstanding leadership, advocacy, and innovation in her community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Geiser's hard work and dedication to serving her community are commendable. I stand with the residents of Alamosa County in thanking Ms. Geiser and congratulating her on a lifetime of service. Although she is retiring from her current post, I am confident she will remain a valuable part of her community, and I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHUMBER-
LAND HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS
STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL
TEAM

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding feat achieved by the Northumberland Indians baseball team with their victory in the Division IA Virginia High School League Championship.

The Indians earned the IA State Baseball Championship title in an impressive 9–3 game with the Honaker High School Tigers, winning the State Championship while handing the Tigers their first and only loss of the season.

I would like to commend head coach Johnny Mothershead and all those who are involved with the Northumberland High School Indians for building this successful baseball program into a championship winning team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to recognize the school, the coaches, the fans, and most importantly, the players on their successful season and victory in the IA State Championship game.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 309: Due to a previously scheduled constituent event in my district, I was not able to be present for this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU-
TIONS OF DAVID BALDREE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize David Baldree. Born in Shelby, North Carolina in 1966 to J.D. and Margaret Baldree, David grew up in a home committed to volunteering and giving back to the community. Even now, David's parents, a retired school teacher and small business owner, continue to volunteer their time assisting the visually impaired, the homeless, and the needy families in their local area. This lifetime commitment to service was lovingly ingrained in David, who spends countless hours giving back to his community.

After attending Mars Hill College on both music and academic scholarships, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Musical Theatre, David pursued an early career as a performer and entertainer. Soon, his focus shifted

to production and he spent the next several years traveling as a company manager for Sesame Street Live! and producing and stage managing in San Antonio, Texas. While in Texas, he worked on Governor Ann Richards' final gubernatorial campaign and was honored to present the San Antonio bid for the 1996 Democratic National Convention to then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

After leaving Texas and moving to South Carolina to start his own entertainment production company, David was recruited by the Walt Disney Company in 1996, where he is currently the Producer for Disney Cruise Line. He holds a Masters of Science degree in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University and lectures on cruise line operations and management at the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Much of David's free time is spent serving on several boards, volunteering his time, and advocating for the rights of others. Serving as the President of the Board of Directors for The Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival, he is committed to expanding the opportunities for artists in the Orlando area. David is a member of the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and serves on the Equality Florida Orlando Steering Committee, both of which allow him to work for advocacy and legislation that guarantee and expand the rights of the LGBTQ population. David is an active member of the Central Florida Softball League, an organization that brings amateur softball competition to the Central Florida LGBTQ community and its allies. He has volunteered for The Hope and Help Center of Central Florida and actively supports the Zebra Coalition, where he not only gives his time, but also serves as a role model for the LGBTQ youth with whom he interacts.

The model of service and community involvement that David's parents created in their home is a difficult standard to uphold, but David continues to prove that he is an incredible asset and a boon to his community.

I am happy to honor David Baldree, during LGBT Pride Month, for his political, civic, and professional contributions to the Central Florida community.

A RESOLUTION TO HONOR MARINE
CORPS GENERAL CLIFTON B.
CATES

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of the Navy should name an appropriate Navy ship in honor of Marine Corps General Clifton B. Cates of Tiptonville, Tennessee.

Clifton Bledsoe Cates was born in Tiptonville, Tennessee on August 31, 1893. After graduating from high school at Missouri Military Academy in 1910 and the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Law degree in 1916, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Marine Corps and began active duty on June 13, 1917.

During World War I, General Cates served with the 6th Marine Regiment, fighting in France. He was the most decorated Marine Corps Officer of World War I, having been awarded the Navy Cross, Army Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Honor, and the Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star and 2 palms.

When General Cates returned to the United States in September 1919, he served in Washington, DC as a White House aide and Aide-de-Camp to the Commandment of the Marine Corps. From 1923 to 1925, Cates served a tour of sea duty as commander of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS *California*, and in 1929, he was deployed to Shanghai, China, where he rejoined the 4th Marines and served for three years. He then returned to the United States for training at the Army Industrial College, and by 1940, he was named the Director of the Marine Officers Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

In 1942, Colonel Cates led the 1st Marine Regiment at Guadalcanal, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit. From there, he took command of the 4th Marine Division in the Marianas operation, the Tinian campaign and the seizure of Iwo Jima. He received several distinguished awards for his service at Iwo Jima, including the Distinguished Service Medal with a gold star. After his tour of duty in the Pacific, Cates returned to the United States to serve as Commandant of the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico until 1944. He then returned to the Pacific until the end of the war as commander of the 4th Marine Division.

On January 1, 1948, Cates was promoted to the rank of General and sworn in as Commandant of the Marine Corps. He served in this position for four years until he retired on June 30, 1954 after 37 years of military service. General Cates passed away on June 4, 1970 at the United States Naval Hospital in Annapolis, Maryland and was buried with full military honors on June 8, 1970 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Because of his heroic and dedicated service to our nation, I fully support the Secretary of the Navy naming an appropriate ship after General Clifton B. Cates. It's an honor to introduce this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2014, during floor consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, I inadvertently voted "nay" on Mr. MORAN's amendment, rollcall vote No. 324, when I intended to vote "yea".

THE PASSING OF DENNIS PITTS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Hall County lost a wonderful citizen and community leader when my friend Dennis Pitts passed in his family's home on May 24 at just the age of 58.

A lifelong Georgian, Dennis was a 1973 graduate of Johnson High School. He worked in real estate for many years before becoming Hall County's first Republican commissioner. He served two terms in that position, starting in 1994. In business, he became president and chief financial officer of Minit Save Food Stores and Pitts Management Co.

Most recently, Dennis served in the office of his close friend, Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle. Dennis was Cagle's North Georgia field representative and chief economic development officer.

In addition to his civic and community involvement, Dennis was an avid outdoorsman who spent time hunting, fishing, running, swimming, and cycling—including a 55-mile ride on his 55th birthday. He was also a member of the First Baptist Church of Gainesville.

Dennis will be remembered as a thoughtful, generous man who took great pride in serving Northeast Georgia. My prayers and thoughts are with Dennis' wife, Jane, as well as his parents and siblings during this difficult time.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ROYAL MARINES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Royal Marines as they celebrate their 350th year of service to the people of Britain.

The Royal Marines were originally formed as "the Duke of York and Albany's maritime regiment of Foot" in 1664 under the reign of King Charles II. Later, in 1755, they became the official marine infantry for the Royal Navy, and acquired their present-day title by King George III in 1802. For centuries, the countless men and women who have served in the Royal Marines have fought valiantly for their country, and they have been present at more battles on land and sea than any other branch of the British Armed Forces. From the Battle of Trafalgar and other Napoleonic-era battles to World War I and World War II, and from Cold War conflicts up to modern-day service in Iraq and Afghanistan, members of the Royal Marines have witnessed the world changing drastically throughout their many centuries of service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Royal Marines upon this important milestone. I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating their 350 years of service to the people of Britain.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GI BILL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Original GI Bill, the first legislation of its kind establishing educational assistance for our nation's veterans. Seventy years ago this week, on June 22, 1944, Congress enacted the Servicemen's Readjustment Act and introduced a new veterans benefits program that continues to this day. The GI Bill has had, and continues to have, an incredible impact—opening doors for servicemembers and their families and benefiting society as a whole.

Our nation has a strong history of ensuring those who fight in defense of our freedom have access to career-enhancing, educational benefits. The GI Bill not only provides veterans with the tools to transition from our military force to our workforce, it is sound and valuable investment that collectively benefits our society.

I have long believed that the post-World War II education benefits created the modern middle class. Because of the GI Bill, millions of veterans who have defended the American Dream are achieving—and sustaining—it.

In 2001, when I became chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, one of my major legislative priorities was to modernize and expand the GI Bill. I wrote and Congress enacted the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act (P.L. 107-103) which at that time provided the largest increase in GI Bill benefits since World War II.

Prior to passage of my legislation, veterans receiving the maximum benefit under the Montgomery GI Bill received \$24,000 toward their degree. The benefit was terribly underutilized as eligible vets were declining to participate because the benefit was too small to make a difference in the cost of college. We had the foresight to adjust this benefit for inflation, ensuring that the value of the benefit would keep pace if the cost of college increased. The maximum benefit is now \$59,328.

The GI Bill can be used for a variety of education and training opportunities—including certificate programs, post-secondary degrees, and work-study programs, including the successful Helmets to Hard Hats apprenticeship program—that can boost both marketability and earning potential for veterans.

And now that we have an all-volunteer military that is smaller and highly trained, it is critical we have good benefits that attract and retain quality young people into our armed services.

We remain in awe of their bravery and are humbled by the selfless sacrifice of our nation's veterans. Accordingly, Congress again beefed up GI Bill benefits in 2008 with passage of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (P.L. 110-252), putting a college degree within reach for men and women who have been called to active duty since September 11, 2001.

Each year more and more veterans benefit from this program and the Post-9/11 GI Bill

combined with the continued funding increases yielded from my law will hopefully give every veteran the ability to take full advantage of all the GI bill has to offer.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ADA SUE HINSHAW

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw, who is retiring as Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), which I am proud to have located in my Congressional district.

Dr. Hinshaw was named Dean by USUHS President Charles Rice in June 2008 and has led the School through a period of enormous change and growth. Her deanship is the capstone of a lifelong commitment to her profession, her colleagues, her patients, and the science and scholarship of nursing and health care. USUHS and her field have been transformed by her energy, wise stewardship, and insightful mentorship.

Dr. Hinshaw has numerous significant accomplishments. She developed a close working relationship with the chiefs of the Nurse Corps of the military services, which was reflected by their decision to include the dean of the GSN as a regular member of the Federal Nursing Service Chiefs. She strengthened the academic rigor of the Advanced Practice Nursing programs and skillfully managed the transition of those programs from the Master's degree to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

Dr. Hinshaw recruited key faculty members to strengthen research programs, developed a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs in patient safety, and oversaw the successful reaccreditation of a number of GSN academic programs. She developed a highly successful model of shared governance, initiated the Behavioral Health advanced practice nursing program, and met the Air Force's need for an accession program for CRNAs. Moreover, Dr. Hinshaw closely collaborated with School of Medicine Dean Arthur Kellermann to develop an innovative inter-professional education program that will ensure that USUHS leads the health professions' integration in academic health care education and research.

Throughout her career, Dr. Hinshaw has conducted nursing research focusing on quality care, patient outcomes, measurement of such outcomes, and building positive work environments for nurses while ensuring patient safety. She has given hundreds of presentations and her findings have been widely published. In addition, she has served on numerous scientific advisory committees and task forces and has been a visiting professor at many schools of nursing.

Dr. Hinshaw has held many leadership positions during her career. She was dean/professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing (1994–2006). She was the first permanent director of the National Center for

Nursing Research and the first director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health (1987–94). President of the American Academy of Nursing from 1991–2001, she is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and on the Institute's Governing Council. She co-chaired a study entitled *Keeping Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment for Nurses* (2004), and served as Scholar-in-Residence at the Institute (2006–07). She also chaired the Institute of Medicine committee that examined the safety of the federal childhood immunization schedule.

The recipient of 13 honorary doctoral degrees, Dr. Hinshaw received a Ph.D. and M.A. in sociology from the University of Arizona, an M.S.N. from Yale University, and a B.S. from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Hinshaw was named a "Living Legend" in a career-capping honor at the American Academy of Nursing's 38th Annual Meeting. She has been a leader in the Academy since her induction as a Fellow in 1978 and served as President in 2001.

As Dr. Hinshaw prepares to embark on the next stage of her life, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her service to the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing. We are grateful to her for her wise counsel, scholarly contribution, and her dedication to the service of our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on June 20, 2014 I inadvertently voted "yea" on rollcall no. 334. I would like to state for the record I intended to vote "no."

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF THOMAS E. MARTIN OF DEFUNIACK SPRINGS, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and dedicated service of DeFuniack Springs, Florida's beloved Mr. Thomas E. Martin, who passed away on June 16, 2014. Thomas Martin was a veteran, successful business owner, committed public servant, and loving family man. The entire Northwest Florida community mourns the loss of a great and compassionate man.

Born on July 27, 1927, to J.D. and Evie Jones Martin, Mr. Martin served our Nation as a member of the U.S. Army during WWII before enjoying a long and successful career as a civil servant. He retired after 30 years as the Plumbing Shop Supervisor at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Mr. Martin was also a successful small business owner, running Martin's Tire Company in his hometown of DeFuniack

Springs. He took great pride in employing his neighbors, and he was also known for traveling through town to search for folks looking to work on the weekends at his small farm to help give them a small paycheck and the satisfaction that comes with a good day's work.

Mr. Martin was also an avid sports fan and a talented athlete in his own right who played professional baseball in the minor leagues before forming the town's first semi-pro baseball team, the DeFuniack Indians, where he was both a player and manager. Thanks to his wife and three daughters, Mr. Martin was also a softball fan, and he formed the town's first girls' and women's softball leagues. His passion for the game coupled with his tireless work supporting local leagues, he was nominated by his daughter, Cindy, for Major League Baseball's "Most Valuable Dad" award, and he was selected as the "Most Valuable Dad" for the Atlanta Braves organization.

In addition to his successful careers and immense leadership in his community, Mr. Martin was also a member of First United Methodist Church of DeFuniack and greatly enjoyed the hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreational activities in and around his hometown. He was known for leading hunting trips for dignitaries and was also a great friend to all manner of animals. He often took in disadvantaged animals to provide for them a good home. To some, Mr. Martin will be remembered as a dedicated public servant and a man full of integrity and kindness. To his family and friends, he will always be remembered as a loving and devoted family man with a heart of gold.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a privilege for me to honor the life and dedicated service of Mr. Thomas E. Martin. My wife Vicki and I extend our prayers and sincere condolences to his wife of over 65 years, Sabra; daughters, Susan, Cindy, and Toma; brother, Frank; grandchildren, Lindsey, Kyle, Tiffany, Matt, Briana, Brent, and Troy; great-grandchildren, Gunnar, Eriyn, Ashton, Loren, River, Caden, Hadley, and Zoey (grandchild-to-be); and the entire Martin family.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 25

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress.

SH-216

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of D. Nathan Sheets, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary, and Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2449, to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, proposed legislation to amend The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the nominations of William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Robert M. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, and any additional nominations cleared for action.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014", an original bill entitled, "National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014", H.R. 1232, to amend titles 40, 41, and 44, United States Code, to eliminate duplication and waste in information technology acquisition and management, S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents, H.R. 4194, to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements, S. 2061, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, S. 231, to reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp, S. 1214, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, S. 2117, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, S. 1347, to provide transparency, accountability, and limitations of Government sponsored conferences, H.R. 1376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as

JUNE 26

the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building", H.R. 1813, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building", S. 2056, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office", S. 2057, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building", and the nomination of Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1945, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, focusing on updating the "Voting Rights Act" in response to *Shelby County v. Holder*.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

To hold hearings to examine NextGen, focusing on a review of progress, challenges, and opportunities for improving aviation safety and efficiency.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine trade enforcement, focusing on using trade rules to level the playing field for United States companies and workers.

SD-215

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine how early and absentee voting can benefit citi-

zens and administrators, focusing on election administration.

SR-301

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the future of United States-China relations.

SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine economic development, focusing on encouraging investment in Indian country.

SD-628

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine brain injuries and diseases of aging.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on United States nuclear deterrence policy.

SVC-217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine young workers and recent graduates in the United States economy.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations, and the District of Columbia

To hold hearings to examine the path to efficiency, focusing on making FEMA more effective for streamlined disaster operations.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2454, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, S. 517, to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and S. J.Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine sexual assault on campus, focusing on working to ensure student safety.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Tourism, Competitiveness, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine the state of the United States travel and tourism industry, focusing on Federal efforts to attract 100 million visitors annually.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

SENATE—Tuesday, June 24, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, Reverend Gloria Chaney-Robinson, Senior Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Scranton, PA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, we pause in these revered halls to give thanks and to offer petition. We acknowledge in this place You have called humankind to exhibit righteousness and justice. You desire harmony, accord, peace, and wholeness. Bless now the representatives who gather in this place of policy and procedure.

We ask, O God, that You would impart the gift of now vision and future sights. We pray for Your gifts of vision, discernment, sensitivity, and perceptiveness. For those assembled present and those to come, grant the posture of patience and of cooperation. To those in debate, discussion, discourse, and duty, allow calm clarity.

Allow truth to reign, justice to reside, and mercy to resonate. Keep ever before us the broken, the disappointed, those in despair, and the destitute. Set ears to hear the cries of the poor, the needs of the sick, and the afflicted. Please allow hearts assembled to do that which is best for all.

In advance, for what You will do, we say thank You. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan Sportsmen's Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. this morning, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 11 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session, and we will have five rollcall votes which will be to confirm three judges from Florida, one from Vermont, and also a very important cloture vote on the Rodríguez nomination, to be the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Department of Homeland Security.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, it is unfortunate that we still have scores and scores of good men and women on the Executive Calendar waiting to be confirmed. The delay by the Republicans is untoward. It has never happened before, and we are working through these as quickly as we can. The judges only take an hour of postcloture time, but the nominations take 8 hours of postcloture time. We can yield back 4 hours, which we do almost every time, but these stalling tactics by the Republicans have added to our doing nothing here in the Senate not by hours or days or weeks but by months. It is so unfortunate. We have never had a situation such as this before.

As everyone knows, we changed the rules as they related to judges, and thank goodness we did that. Justice can move forward in our country without the delay and obstruction that has taken place over the last number of years with Republicans holding up judges. We, through the chairman of the committee, have moved lots of judges. We now have four circuit court judges we have to move toward, and we will do that, even though each one of those takes 30 hours. We are nearly caught up with district court judges, which speaks well for the Judiciary Committee and the Senators who are forwarding names to the President for submission to the committee.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. President, tomorrow we are going to turn to the Workforce Investment Act—a nice, important piece of legislation. It is a picture of what we should be doing here on legislation in general. The Workforce Investment Act is a very complicated piece of legislation. We are not going to spend a lot of time on it, but that should not in any way take away from the importance of this legislation. It is very important legislation. It is an example of how we should be able to get done in the Senate.

I commend Senators MURRAY, HARKIN, and ALEXANDER for working to get this bill to us. They have spent untoward hours and hours of time to get us here. Everyone knows LAMAR ALEXANDER is a peacemaker, and I appreciate his work. I was told a few minutes ago that he came to the floor and said: Why don't we go ahead on the appropriations bills and on amendments that appear to be controversial, and we can have a 60-vote threshold on those? I suggested the same thing yesterday.

We voted here approximately 50 times. I have been forced to have, because of the McConnell rule, 60 votes on anything that is the least bit controversial. Let's move through the appropriations bills. People on my side of the aisle want to do this, and I don't know why the Republicans would prevent us from doing that, but that is where we are now.

VOTING RIGHTS

I will talk to the press about the next issue in more detail at a subsequent time, but I wish to congratulate RAND PAUL, the junior Senator from Kentucky.

About 15 years ago, I offered an amendment on the Senate floor that said if someone has been convicted of a crime or felony and completed their sentence, if they go to jail, and their probation, if they got probation, they should be able to vote, and that is what RAND PAUL said.

RAND PAUL offered legislation that said if it is a nonviolent crime, they should be able to vote when they have completed their time. I went a little farther than that with my legislation, but I appreciate his suggestion. I will have more to say about that later, and I hope I don't get him in trouble with the Republican caucus for congratulating him.

This is something that is long overdue. As a country, we should allow people who have served their time and penance, or however you want to state it, the ability to vote. I have said it before, and I now have said it for a third time. I will have a lot more to say about it later today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak

therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The assistant majority leader.

FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for a number of years I have come to this floor to talk about an issue I wish to bring up again this morning, and the issue is for-profit colleges and universities.

Many people, when they hear me describe this, don't understand which schools I am talking about. It is not the public and private universities that you would think of automatically, such as the University of Illinois and Northwestern University and others. It is the for-profit world of higher education.

The for-profit colleges and universities are led by the Apollo Group, which owns the University of Phoenix, and is the largest; DeVry University, which is based out of Chicago; Kaplan and Corinthian, and many others.

They bring about 10 to 12 percent of all the high school graduates into their for-profit colleges. They receive from the Federal Government 20 percent of all the Federal aid to education because the tuition they charge is very high, and these for-profit colleges have another distinction—their students account for 46 percent of all college student loan defaults. They enroll 10 percent of the students and account for 46 percent of the student loan defaults.

What is going on here? What is going on here is they are charging these students a high tuition for these for-profit schools, and they are not preparing them to go to work or at least not to work at jobs where they can pay off those student loans. As a result students will drop out before they finish or they will finish with a diploma that is worthless. They can't find a job, they can't pay back their student loans, and now they are in the worst of all possible worlds—deep in debt with no education to speak of.

The reason I am raising the point about the for-profit colleges and universities is because there have been several significant developments. Education Management Corporation owns a group of schools called the Art Institutes. I have run into them in the Chicagoland area. Argosy is another one of these for-profit schools, as is ITT Tech, and I mentioned Kaplan and Apollo.

Career Education Corporation has schools such as the American Intercontinental University and the Harrington College of Design. They sound very appealing.

I met one of the students who attended Harrington. Her name is Hannah Moore. She is a young woman from Chicago. She went to community col-

lege for 2 years, and then she transferred into the Harrington College of Design in the suburbs of Chicago to get a degree in design. When it was all over, after she received her degree, she could not find a job—not in that field. It turned out the degree was basically worthless.

When she left Harrington College of Design, she had a college debt of \$125,000. She could not find a job, and she could not make the payments. She had to move back in with her parents because that is all she could do, and because she could not keep up with the payments, her college loan debt grew to \$150,000. Her father came out of retirement to help her pay for it.

Think about it. She did what she thought was a good thing in going to college, went to one of these worthless for-profit schools, and now her life has literally changed forever because of this mountain of debt.

Then there is a group called Corinthian College, which I want to focus on here. Corinthian College is based out of California. The local college's name, you may recognize, is Everest Colleges. We have 6 in Illinois, about 10 in Michigan, a dozen in California, and they are across the United States.

It turned out that last year evidence surfaced that Everest Colleges were falsifying the information they provided to the Federal Government. In some cases it turns out they even paid employers to hire Everest graduates for a short period of time so they could report to the government that their graduates had found jobs, and then after the report was made, the people were let go. They didn't have a job.

Everest was asked to send additional information to the Federal Government about this fraudulent practice, and for 5 months they failed to do it. Then last week the U.S. Department of Education said: Because Everest won't provide us with the data they are supposed to under the law, we are going to suspend new student loan money to them for 21 days. Everest Colleges—or Corinthian, their parent corporation—announced that because of this, they will not have enough money and may not be able to continue their operations. The value of stock in this corporation, Corinthian Corporation, went down to the range of 28 cents last week. Nobody would loan them money.

Right now some 75,000 students across America are enrolled in Everest Colleges with student loans, and there is a very good chance that Everest Colleges—Corinthian as we know it—will not survive.

My obvious question is: What will happen to these students? They have the debt to go to this worthless school that appears to be going out of business.

We are working with the U.S. Department of Education right now. I am concerned about where these students are

going to end up. I contacted the community colleges in my State and said: Reach out to the Everest College students and see if you can rescue these kids.

But when we look at this and put it in perspective, we see this is only one of many for-profit colleges and universities. Most parents and most students don't know this whole brand of higher education is out there. They think it is just like every other college. It is not, and we are not doing a good enough job at the Federal level to regulate these for-profit colleges and universities that are exploiting these students.

Let me tell my colleagues one story that was reported recently that I think is horrible, involving Corinthian Colleges. It is an article written by David Halperin entitled "For-profit College Enrolls, 'Exploits' Student Who Reads at Third-grade Level."

A 37-year-old man with what appeared to be a developmental disability—he was described as shaking, speaking haltingly, reading at an elementary school level—37-years-old—was allowed to enroll in Everest College's criminal justice program.

According to the librarian who worked with him—and subsequently resigned because of the treatment of this man—the man was rarely able to comprehend sentences, was unable to sound out words, and does not have the ability to read documents he was asked to sign. She was worried about his ability to even understand the debt he was signing on for, the student loan debt at one of these Everest Colleges.

It apparently didn't matter to Everest. They were ready to sign him up into college. As long as this man was eligible to take out Federal loans, Everest was going to get paid. The man was just an ATM machine spitting out dollars to Everest Colleges.

Is that outrageous, to think they would lure someone with a disability into signing up?

The list goes on and on, including Ashford University, another one of these for-profit colleges and universities.

The obvious question we have to ask is this: When will our Department of Education and when will this Congress address this travesty? What is existing across the United States with these for-profit colleges and universities is an outrage, and it is exploiting the students and their families.

Sadly, a couple of weeks ago we tried to pass a bill on the floor of the Senate so that students could renegotiate their student loans and bring down the interest rates. Every Democrat voted for it. We needed 5 Republicans out of 45 to join us so that students in States such as New Jersey and Illinois could renegotiate their student loan rates down and make them more affordable. We got three Republicans: Senator COLLINS of Maine, Senator CORKER of

Tennessee, and Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska. We needed two more to start the debate about renegotiating college loans.

I think we have to wake up here. This debt families across America are facing—44 million individuals paying college loans—is an outrage. Part of it was started by these for-profit schools, but another part of it just reflects a debt that is out of control, and we ought to be more sensitive to it.

We are going to call this again. ELIZABETH WARREN brought the bill to the floor. This time we are going to hope that some of our Republican colleagues go home to their States and in town meetings actually speak with families who are paying college student loans. If they will, I think they will understand they should join us in this effort: to give these college students and their families a fighting chance to pay off their loans and to reform this higher education system to stop the outrageous conduct by these for-profit colleges and universities.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE LOGJAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last summer I said it felt as though the White House had hung a “Gone Campaignin’” sign outside the Oval Office. President Obama didn’t seem the least bit interested in passing serious, bipartisan solutions for the middle class. It was all campaigning, all the time.

On the rarest of occasions when he did come to Congress, it was for internal campaign rallies with his party. Well, it has actually only gotten worse.

Since last summer he has barely picked up the phone and his bill-signing pen is literally starting to rust. Here is the reason: This summer the Democratic-controlled Senate seems to have put out a “Gone Campaignin’” sign of its own. That is why the Democratic Senate has become a veritable graveyard of good ideas.

Most people assume the purpose of the Senate is to pass legislation to help the American people, but these days the Democrats who run the Senate seem to think their role is actually to just bury good legislation. They are more interested in pleasing their far left political patrons—patrons who appear to oppose everything that could actually help the American middle class.

Case in point: The Republican-led House of Representatives has already passed hundreds of pieces of legislation this Congress—legislation introduced by Members of both parties, including

dozens of jobs bills, that remain stuck here in the Senate. That means President Obama has not had to sign or veto them, and the Senate majority leader has been all too happy to protect him from choosing between helping the far-left fringe and the vast American middle. In other words, Senate Democrats are on a mission this summer to obstruct solutions for the middle class at every turn and to prevent almost any serious legislating from occurring at all—at all.

Over in the House the minority party has been offered more than 160 votes on their amendments since last July. Here in the Senate the Democratic leadership has blocked all but nine Republican rollcall votes.

And it is not just Republican amendments getting squashed either. The Democrats who run the Senate are so scared of legislating these days they are blocking virtually every amendment on both sides. It has gotten to the point where one House Democrat, a Congresswoman from Texas, has now had twice as many rollcall votes on amendments since last July—15—as the entire Senate Democratic caucus combined. One Member of the House in the minority party has had more votes than all of the Democratic Senators combined over the last year. Between the 55 Senate Democrats, they have had seven amendments in a year.

In other words, the majority leader is treating his one caucus even worse than he is treating us.

Even committee work can no longer escape the Democratic majority’s political obsession. The majority shut down the committee process on important legislation that should have been and would have been bipartisan—bills about patents and appropriations.

This is the kind of stuff that makes Americans so very mad at Washington. I mean, how do we justify stifling the voices of so many Senators and the tens of millions of Americans they were sent here to represent? It is indefensible. It has gotten worse and worse under current Democratic leaders.

Of course, every now and then, when we push hard enough, we are able to force our Democratic friends to allow a few—a few—bipartisan ideas to go through, such as the job training and workforce development bill we expect to pass tomorrow. But, boy, that is the rare exception around here—a very rare exception. Instead, we usually just see the game playing on important issues.

On energy, Democratic leadership blocked every attempt to provide relief to blue collar families who have been bulldozed by the administration’s elitist war on coal jobs. They will not help the millions of Americans who struggle every single day with high utility bills, and they will not allow a serious vote on shovel-ready projects such as the Keystone Pipeline, either.

Senate Democrats have blocked just about every effort to move forward on these issues. In so doing the Democratic leadership actually embarrasses the handful of Democratic Senators who still call for action on energy and Keystone—even veteran Members who chair committees. It just shows what little influence those Members actually have under the current Democratic leadership.

It all lays bare a very simple truth about today’s Democratic Senate: If the far left hates it, it ain’t happening.

That is true with health care too. The middle class is being plummeted by ObamaCare. A recent study showed that an average 27-year-old Kentuckian from Taylor County saw his premiums skyrocket by almost 60 percent this year. Constituents such as he are looking to Washington for leadership and for solutions, but Senate Democrats will not even allow sensible bipartisan health care solutions to come to a vote.

Instead, we just get more politics, such as the legislation we hear may be coming up later this week—a tactic designed by the Democratic campaign committee to make Americans forget—forget—that Democrats voted to raid Medicare—voted to raid Medicare—by \$700 billion to fund new ObamaCare spending. Every Democrat in the Senate, on Christmas Eve, 2009, without exception, voted to take \$700 billion out of Medicare to help fund ObamaCare.

Senate Democrats are actually trying to distract from their votes to raid Medicare by making it even harder to save and strengthen Medicare. But Americans will not forget that the sponsors of the proposal were the very same people who voted to raid Medicare in the first place, through ObamaCare.

And they will not forget what happened last week either when Republicans advanced a series of bills aimed at increasing flexibility in the workplace and boosting upward mobility. We thought Democrats might want to work with us in a bipartisan manner to move these bills forward, but apparently the far left will not let them. Democratic leadership will not even consider legislation I have introduced that would help more moms and dads work from home while caring for young children. My bill aims to bring tax policy in line with what life is really like for working parents, and it would help young families save on child care costs too. But as I said, Senate Democrats have just gone campaigning.

For the Democratic leadership, helping the middle class seems to be far from priority one. But the middle class needs help right now, and the only way to offer working moms and struggling college graduates real solutions is to break through the Senate Democratic logjam.

There are two ways to accomplish that. Either our friends on the other side can get serious about working for the people who elected them or the people who elected them can make the decision for them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday the White House held its Summit on Working Families. On the summit's Web site, the White House notes: "Too many working Americans—both men and women—are living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet and respond to the competing demands of work and family." That, unfortunately, is the truth.

But what the White House does not acknowledge is how much its policies have done to create that situation. Working families have not fared well under the Obama administration. Household income has fallen by \$3,500 on the President's watch. Meanwhile, prices for nearly everything have risen. Food prices have gone up. Tuition costs are soaring. Airline fares are rising. The cost of recreational activities, such as going to the movies, has risen. And energy prices are placing a huge burden on American families.

Gas prices have nearly doubled since the President took office. Low-income families in my State of South Dakota pay an average of 24 percent of their income on energy costs alone. And things are set to get much worse.

This month the President's EPA announced plans to implement a massive energy tax on Americans. Thanks to this tax, energy bills could rise to crippling levels for many families in the next few years. That is not what families need, especially—especially—when they are already paying huge amounts for health care.

ObamaCare was supposed to make things better for American families. The President assured the American people that his health care law would reduce premiums by \$2,500. But since ObamaCare passed, not only have premiums not fallen, they have actually risen—gone up—by \$2,500.

Millions of Americans were forced off the health plans they were promised they could keep and into exchange plans that frequently cost more money and offer less. Too many American families now have exchange plans with massive deductibles—some as high as \$12,000 or more.

What middle-class family can afford to pay \$12,000 a year for medical care—\$12,000 on top of their premiums? That is like having an additional mortgage payment every single month. It is no wonder 54 percent of Americans do not think the President "is able to lead the country and get the job done," according to a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll.

So what can you do if you are a working family living paycheck to paycheck and struggling with the high cost of everything from health care to gasoline? Well, over the past few years the answer has been not much because opportunities are few and far between in the Obama economy. Instead of promoting policies to create jobs, too often the President has proposed policies that kill jobs.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has reported that ObamaCare will cause 2.5 million full-time workers to leave the workforce. Mr. President, 2.6 million Americans earning less than \$30,000 are in danger of having their hours and wages cut thanks to ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek rule. Mr. President, 63 percent of those workers are women.

The President and his party have also pushed hard for a minimum wage hike the Congressional Budget Office said would destroy up to 1 million jobs. Low-income Americans would be hit the hardest by that.

Then there is the President's national energy tax. In addition to raising energy bills for all Americans, the President's energy tax would result in the loss of tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of jobs. The rule would gut the coal industry, putting tens of thousands of workers out of work there.

It is difficult to reconcile the President's ostensible commitment to families with a policy that would put thousands and thousands of parents out of a job.

The Keystone XL Pipeline would allow the President to put thousands of Americans to work. With a stroke of his pen, the President could sign off on this project and the 42,000-plus jobs it would support. Instead, he has ignored American workers and union leaders and chosen to pander to the wishes of his extremist environmental base.

The American people need jobs—steady, good-paying, long-term jobs with opportunities for advancement. Democrats and the President are not giving that to them. Instead of spending time on real job-creation measures, the majority leader has chosen to waste the Senate's time on gimmicky, politically motivated legislation.

If Democrats were serious about providing real relief to American families, they would be working with Republicans on the many bills we have proposed to spur job creation and to support American workers—bills such as

Senator COLLINS' Forty Hours Is Full-Time Act, which would repeal the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule, which is resulting in lower wages and fewer hours for American workers; or Senator FISCHER's workplace advancement amendment, which would further equip women with the tools and knowledge they need to fight discrimination in the workplace; and Senator RUBIO's RAISE Act, which would amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow employers to give merit-based pay increases to individual employees, even if those increases are not part of a collective bargaining agreement; and Senator MCCONNELL's Working Parents Home Office Act, which would fix a flaw in the Tax Code that prevents men and women from claiming a home office deduction if their home office has a baby crib so they can care for their child while they are working.

President Obama has talked about the importance of flextime for parents so they can adjust their work hours for parent-teacher conferences or soccer games. Well, Senator LEE has a bill that would help workers handle the constant challenge of work-life balance by allowing private-sector employers to offer all individuals who work overtime a choice between monetary compensation and comp time. Unfortunately, like so many other Republican bills, the Lee Working Families Flexibility Act is buried in the majority leader's Senate graveyard.

Traditionally thought of as a place where bills go to be debated, the Senate has, instead, become the place where bills go to die. But it is not just bills that go to die here; it is the solutions to improve the lives of millions of Americans. In addition to the many Senate Republican jobs bills that the majority leader has prevented from seeing the light of day, there are dozens—literally dozens—of House-passed jobs bills—several of them bipartisan—that the majority leader refuses to bring up. The Senate historically has been a place where the voices of all Senators—Republican and Democrat, majority and minority—have been heard. But lately, the Senate seems to have become nothing so much as an arm of the Democrats' campaign committee. Democrats have brought up bills designed to win votes, not solve problems.

The Democratic leadership has worked hard to protect its vulnerable Members from ever having to take challenging votes. They do not want Democrats in tough campaigns to have to choose between the American people and the Democratic Party's far-left political base.

One of Congress's most basic duties is to consider appropriations, yet over the past 2 weeks the majority leader has pulled not one but two appropriations bills from committee consideration because he did not want his Members to have to take votes on

ObamaCare or on the President's national energy tax.

That is wrong. We are here to take tough votes. If you do not want to have to take hard votes, do not run for the Senate. There is a lot of stuff that—amendments get offered by our colleagues on the other side that I do not like to vote on either, but that is what we are here for. We are here to debate. We are here to take votes. We are here to offer amendments, to put legislation on the floor.

All of us have different ideas. I may not agree with some of the things that are offered up by my colleagues on the other side, but the fact of the matter is, they have a right, on behalf of the constituents they represent, to bring the issues to the floor that are important to their constituents, and for us to debate them, and for us to vote on them.

In fact, the majority leader has exerted such tight control over the Senate that over the past year he has not only blocked almost all Republican amendments, he has blocked almost all of his party's amendments as well.

Since July of 2013—almost a year ago—the majority leader has allowed votes on just 9 Republican amendments, and just 7 Democratic amendments—out of 1,500 amendments that have been filed on the floor of the Senate.

Think about that. The world's greatest deliberative body—open to amendment, open to debate—1,500 amendments get filed; Republicans get 9 votes. I understand the whole idea, the political motivation of the leader in trying to protect his Members from having to take tough votes. But how are you as a majority Member—how do the Democrats in the Senate go back to their constituents at home and say: It is advantageous for us to be in the majority in Washington, when you have only had votes on seven amendments? Think about that. How do you, with a straight face, go back to your constituents and say: Being in the majority matters in the Senate, when Democrats here are only getting—in the last year—seven amendments voted on? It is outrageous. One a month—about one amendment a month—is what we are voting on here, roughly.

Senators were elected to speak for the people of their State and to make sure their concerns are represented in the Senate. When Senators cannot add their voices to the process, the American people's concerns are not getting heard.

The American people have had a tough time getting their voices heard over the past few years. Over and over, they have made it clear they need good jobs and more economic opportunity. Instead, they have gotten 5½ years of higher costs and low job creation, and the jobs that are being created are not the kinds of jobs that were lost—the

good-paying jobs that provide opportunities for advancement.

Republicans have proposed numerous bills to expand opportunities for American families and workers. It is time for the Senate to vote on these bills. The American people have spent enough time being ignored. It is high time for the Senate to change the way it is conducting its business.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

MINE BAN TREATY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday in Maputo, Mozambique, representatives of many of the 161 countries that have joined the treaty banning the production, stockpiling, export, and use of antipersonnel landmines convened the third review conference in the 15 years since the treaty came into force.

The impact of that treaty, once ridiculed as a naive dream by many in the U.S. defense establishment, has been extraordinary. The vast majority of landmine use and production has stopped. New casualties have dropped significantly. Many countries have cleared the mined areas in their territories.

Of the 35 countries that have not yet joined the treaty, including the United States, almost all abide by its provisions. We can be proud that the United States has been the largest contributor to programs to clear mines and to help mine victims. Those programs have saved countless lives. In fact, the Leahy War Victims Fund was first used in Mozambique.

But I remember during the negotiations on the treaty how officials in the U.S. administration at the time urged, even warned, their counterparts in other countries, including our NATO allies, against signing the treaty. In the end, every member of NATO except the United States joined it.

Some in our government said it was a meaningless gesture that would accomplish nothing. I think they resented that other governments, especially Canada, and nongovernmental organizations from around the world could achieve something outside the U.N. negotiation process, which had utterly failed to address this problem.

Instead, the treaty has already accomplished more than most people expected, thanks to the extraordinary advocacy of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and three-quarters of the world's governments, many of whose people have suffered from the scourge of landmines.

But the problem is far from solved. There are still thousands of deaths and injuries from mines each year, and most are innocent civilians.

Twenty years ago this week, in a speech at the United Nations that inspired people around the world, Presi-

dent Clinton called for a global ban on antipersonnel mines. I was proud of President Clinton for doing that, but his Presidency, his administration, was outmaneuvered by the Pentagon, and it failed to join the treaty. Then, during the 8 years of the last Bush administration, nothing happened. In fact, during those years, the White House reneged on some of the pledges of the Clinton administration.

When President Obama was elected, I thought we would finally see the United States get on the right side of this issue. After all, we fought two long wars without using antipersonnel mines. All our NATO allies and most of our coalition partners have banned them.

But that has not happened.

Now we rightly condemned, and I do condemn, the Taliban for using victim-activated IEDs, which are also banned by the treaty, but we still insist on retaining our right to use antipersonnel mines.

Eighteen years ago, President Clinton charged the Pentagon to develop alternatives to antipersonnel mines. Instead, the Pentagon has fought every attempt to get rid of these indiscriminate weapons, even if they do not use them.

As I have said many times, no one argues that antipersonnel mines have no military utility. Every weapon does. Poison gas has a military utility, but we outlawed it a century ago. Are we incapable of renouncing, as our closest allies have, tiny explosives that are the antithesis of precision-guided weapons, weapons we have rightly not used during two long wars, weapons that kill children and innocent civilians, and weapons that should bring condemnation to anybody using them?

We talk about the importance of avoiding civilian casualties. We all believe in that. We have seen how civilian casualties can turn a local population against us. We do not export antipersonnel landmines. We do not use them. We can drive a robot on Mars by remote control, but we say we cannot solve this problem. It begs credulity.

This is not an abstract issue. This girl is who I am talking about. I have met countless people like her. She is lucky. She survived, even though without hands and legs. Many others like her bleed to death.

I have been to clinics in poor countries where, instead of soccer balls, they make artificial limbs like these. We support them with the Leahy War Victims Fund. I am glad we can help, but I wish there was absolutely no need for that.

I visited a young girl in a hospital after the Bosnia war. Her parents had sent her away so she could be safe. The war ended. The soldiers returned home. She was running down the road calling out to her parents, and she stepped on a mine. Both her legs were blown off. The war was over, but not for her.

We recently sent people to that part of the world after flooding. Why? Because thousands of landmines still in the ground had washed up and moved around. Schoolchildren now face the danger again, because even though they had mapped where the landmines were that was before the floods.

As in the past, the White House hides behind their failure to act by pointing at North Korea. Who is not concerned about North Korea? But are we so dependent on antipersonnel landmines that we cannot develop war plans to defend South Korea without them? I reject that just as former commanders of our forces in South Korea rejected it long ago.

Last week, after a cursory 2-minute debate that inaccurately described the landmines in the Korean DMZ as U.S. mines, which they are not, and that inaccurately asserted, based on erroneous press reports, that the White House is about to join the mine ban treaty, which it is not, the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee adopted by voice vote a prohibition on the use of funds to implement the treaty.

The amendment's sponsor even claimed that the one thing—the only thing—stopping a North Korean invasion is U.S. antipersonnel mines. Balderdash. Did the Pentagon tell them that? Of course not. I wonder how many, if any, Members of that subcommittee have even read the treaty.

One would think, 61 years after the Korean war, that the Pentagon would not still be arguing that the defense of South Korea depends on tiny, indiscriminate explosives that would pose a threat to U.S. forces if we counter-attacked. It makes you wonder.

This country, with the most powerful army, that spends far more money on its armed forces than any country in the world, has to rely on antipersonnel landmines? Oh, come on.

President Obama can still put the United States on a path to join the treaty, but time is running out. It will require some revision of our Korea war plans. That can be done in a manner that protects the security of South Korea and our troops. It needs to be done, because without the participation and support of the United States, the most powerful Nation on Earth, no international treaty can achieve its potential.

I commend the participants at the Maputo review conference. I regret the United States is there only as an observer, as it has been since the Ottawa process began 18 years ago. We sit on the sidelines as though we have no role in this. What a missed opportunity, what a stain on the country that should be the moral leader.

The next review conference is in 2019, the 25th anniversary of President Clinton's speech. What an anniversary it would be if that next review conference

were held in Washington, with the United States attending as a party to the treaty.

I ask unanimous consent that a June 22 article in the Boston Globe and a June 23 article in the New York Times on this subject be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe, June 22, 2014]

FORMERLY A LEADER ON LAND MINE BAN,
OBAMA NOW BALKS

(By Bryan Bender)

WASHINGTON.—In 2005, then-Senator Barack Obama wrote to a constituent that he would use his influence to help advance an international treaty banning land mines, decrying what he called the “horrific injuries and loss of life” among civilians long after wars end.

But in his five-plus years as president, Obama has not asked the US Senate to ratify the pact signed by 161 other nations, showing an unwillingness to take on military officials who assert that the devices, which the Pentagon last used in battle in 1991, are still needed. Instead, his administration has repeatedly delayed a review of the issue initiated early in his first term.

Senator Patrick Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who has spent more than two decades directing federal funding to clear minefields and provide victims with wheelchairs, prosthetics, and job training, is so frustrated at Obama's lack of action that he is complaining bitterly and publicly about it.

“I think of children who have gone to something shiny on the side of the road thinking it was a toy and instead having their legs blown off,” Leahy said in a blunt floor speech in late March, the first in a series he has delivered to focus attention on the issue. “President Obama, you know what you should do.”

Indeed, what is most vexing to many treaty supporters is that the United States has done more than other countries to address the problem, but still hasn't taken up the treaty.

In addition to spending more than \$2 billion over the last two decades to reduce the threat and aid victims, the United States has halted the production and export of so-called “persistent” or “dumb” mines that have no disarming mechanism and can remain a danger for unsuspecting villagers for decades.

“The United States has actually probably lived up to about 90 percent of the requirements of the treaty,” said Lloyd Axworthy, the former foreign minister of Canada who hosted the treaty negotiations, expressing incredulity that the United States has nonetheless long resisted giving up the weapons.

Although it was among the first to call for a treaty banning land mines, the United States is now the only member of the NATO military alliance that has not joined the pact. The only other nation in the Western Hemisphere to refuse is Cuba. When treaty signatories meet on June 23 in Mozambique to discuss ways to accelerate the destruction of mines as well as strengthen the pact, the United States will attend only as an observer.

“It was US leadership that really got the ball rolling,” said Bobby Muller, president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, who was a key organizer of the original movement to ban the weapons. “But the United States is shamefully behind the curve.”

THE KILLING CONTINUES

In late May, a six-year-old girl was killed and five other villagers wounded in Myanmar when they came upon a land mine near the border with Thailand.

The same week the US State Department dispatched a “quick reaction force” to Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina where flooding had dislodged land mines left over from the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Advocates for the ban believe America's continued reluctance to embrace the treaty is slowing momentum to render politically unacceptable a weapon that kills or injures an estimated 10 people every day in the 60-some countries where they remain in the ground. For example, US allies Ukraine and Finland have recently signaled they might withdraw from the treaty out of military necessity.

Three dozen countries still remain outside the treaty, according to a recent report by the Arms Control Association, a nonprofit advocacy group, including the United States, China, Russia, India, and Pakistan. Together they collectively account for an estimated stockpile of 160 million landmines, while experts say there is no reliable way to estimate how many landmines are still littering global battlefields.

AT FIRST, SOME HIGH HOPES

The “Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction” was proposed in 1997, requiring member nations to no longer use land mines, destroy all remaining supplies, and remove those planted on their territory.

The so-called Ottawa Treaty was heralded as the first global arms treaty to emerge from civil society, as opposed to governments. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a coalition of 1,400 nongovernmental organizations from around the world—led by American Jody Williams—was awarded the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for spearheading the effort, which also benefited from high-profile advocates like the late Princess Diana.

The treaty's unique evolution is viewed as a possible reason why the American military brass is still resisting; the thinking goes that commanders fear that giving up land mines could encourage similar efforts by human rights groups to seek to ban other types of controversial weapons, such as drones.

The United States initially was a leading advocate of the pact; then-US President Bill Clinton called the land mine problem “a global tragedy.”

“In all probability, land mines kill more children than soldiers, and they keep killing after wars are over,” Clinton said.

But he opted not to sign the treaty and seek its ratification after US military leaders insisted that they needed time to develop alternatives to mines.

The Bush administration also adhered to that position, while the US Army began developing so-called “smart” mines as a replacement, devices officials say are now ready to be part of the arsenal.

One alternative, called the Spider, is designed to detonate only by command and to self-defuse after a limited period. It is designed and built in part by Textron Systems in Wilmington, Mass. Textron officials did not respond to a request for comment.

When Obama came into office in 2009 there were high hopes that he would seek to join the treaty; he instead ordered up a review that has gone on for five years.

Asked about the assessment, Edward Price, a spokesman for the White House's National

Security Council, said, "We are pressing forward to conclude our review of US land mine policy" but declined to provide details.

"The United States shares the humanitarian concerns of the parties to the Ottawa Convention," Price added, noting that "the United States is the single largest financial supporter of global humanitarian demining efforts."

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Lieutenant Commander Amy Derrickfrost, defended the military's position. She said that in addition to ending the use of so-called "dumb" mines in 2010, the US military also no longer uses plastic mines, which cannot be identified with a metal detector or other mine surveillance technologies.

But the military continues to say that it must have the ability to use anti-personnel land mines.

"I consider them to be an important tool in the arsenal of the armed forces of the United States," General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a congressional hearing in March, especially on the Korean peninsula, where they are intended to help blunt an invasion by the North Korean army.

The Pentagon position has its share of supporters on Capitol Hill, including Representative Randy Forbes, a Virginia Republican, who calls land mines "vitally important to the defense of South Korea." Fearing that Obama will sign the treaty, he has proposed an amendment to a new defense bill that would prohibit the administration from implementing the treaty.

Many observers, however, remain surprised at the extent of opposition at the Pentagon to the treaty.

"Some of the guys that wrote the [Korean] war plans were advocates of the mine ban," said retired Army Lieutenant General G. Robert Gard, who traveled to South Korea in the late 1990s at Leahy's request to make an assessment.

Gard, who is chairman of the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation, a nonprofit think tank, said commanders asserted "we could accomplish the things that land mines were purported to do for us by other means."

A veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, Gard believes that the continued Pentagon resistance is driven by fear that giving in could embolden human rights groups to try to ban other weapons.

He described the argument: "If you give in to those flaky nongovernmental organizations they will try to make us get rid of other weapons we really need."

Meanwhile, the ongoing land mine policy review—the third such assessment since the Clinton years—has treaty advocates such as Williams, the peace prize recipient, deeply frustrated.

She said in an e-mail that she "does not understand why this review has taken place at all and even less do we understand or accept why it has taken five years already and President Obama still seems unable to bring it to a conclusion that can be shared with the American public."

'LIFE FOREVER RUINED'

The gruesome photographs, blown up to nearly life size for maximum effect, line a small, cluttered office of the Senate Appropriations Committee. One depicts a pair of legless men looking up from their wheel chairs, another a woman hobbling along with the help of a stick.

The images were all captured by Leahy, an amateur photographer who has personally chronicled dozens of innocent war victims from Central America to Southeast Asia.

His crusade against land mines began more than two decades ago in a jungle village in Nicaragua, at the height of its civil war.

"There was a little boy, probably 12 years old, one leg, homemade crutch. He'd lost his leg from a landmine," Leahy recalled in an interview in his Senate office, where some of his war victim photos hang at eye level above his desk.

Leahy asked the boy if he was injured by the forces loyal to the Sandinista government or the so-called Contra rebels. "Well, he had no idea. He just knew that his life was forever ruined."

Leahy later used his perch on the panel overseeing the State Department budget to establish a US fund to help the most vulnerable victims of war, which was later named the Leahy Victims Fund. He also provided money for mine clearance groups around the world.

Leahy later proposed legislation prohibiting the United States from exporting land mines. To help convince a skeptical Senate, he persuaded DC Comics to publish a Batman comic edition in which the caped crusader, in his effort to rescue a child, had to walk through a minefield.

The last panel depicted the child reaching for a shiny object and being warned by Batman not to pick it up before there was a "Kaboom."

Leahy provided a copy of the special issue to every senator; his legislation passed by voice vote without opposition. He now remains optimistic that if Obama would sign the land mine treaty and send it to the Senate for ratification it has a good chance of garnering the required two-thirds, or 67 votes, to pass—despite the overall partisan rancor.

"I don't want to sound like I am on a crusade but nothing has gripped me as much since I have been here," Leahy said, tearing up when recalling how he lifted a Vietnamese landmine victim into his wheelchair. ("He grabbed my shirt, he pulled me down, and he kissed me".)

"This is today's poison gas," Leahy said. Failing to join the treaty, he believes, "is a moral failure of our country."

[From the New York Times, June 23, 2014]

TREATY IS MAKING LAND MINES WEAPON OF PAST, GROUP SAYS

(By Rick Gladstone)

Despite the conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, the armed uprising in Ukraine and turmoil in other hot spots in the Middle East and Africa, one of war's most insidious weapons—antipersonnel land mines—have been largely outlawed and drastically reduced, a monitoring group said in a report released Monday.

In the 15 years since a global treaty prohibiting these weapons took effect, the use and production of the mines has nearly stopped, new casualties have plummeted, and more than two dozen countries once contaminated by land mines buried since old wars have removed them, said the report by the group, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

"The Mine Ban Treaty remains an ongoing success in stigmatizing the use of land mines and mitigating the suffering they cause," said Jeff Abramson, the project manager of Landmine Monitor, the group's research unit.

The group, which won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its work, released the report to coincide with the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty, which convened Monday in Maputo, Mozambique, where rep-

resentatives from its 161 signers and other participants will spend five days discussing how to further strengthen enforcement of the agreement.

Antipersonnel mines are hidden explosive devices that are buried in the ground and designed to be detonated when a person steps on or near them, causing indiscriminate death and grievous injury. They can lie dormant for decades, long after a conflict has ended. Many of their victims are children.

The United States, which was among the original countries to call for a treaty banning mines and has done much to help other countries purge them, has not signed the treaty. It is among the 36 countries that have not signed it and is the only NATO member outside the treaty. (Russia and China also have not signed.)

An American delegation is attending the Maputo conference only as observers.

Human rights advocates criticize the United States for what they call a conspicuous lapse that may be dissuading other countries from joining the treaty.

The Obama administration, which says it has been evaluating the treaty's provisions since 2009, has issued conflicting signals about its intentions.

"It's going to be embarrassing for the U.S. to have to explain to the high-level officials at the summit meeting why it has been reviewing its land mine policies for five years without making a decision," said Stephen Goose, the executive director of the arms division at Human Rights Watch and the chairman of the United States Campaign to Ban Landmines, a coalition of groups that has been pressing the United States to join.

American defense officials have resisted a blanket renunciation of land mines. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a congressional hearing in March that he considered such weapons "an important tool" in the American arsenal, citing as an example their use in South Korea to deter an invasion from North Korea.

Others, however, have expressed frustration over what they regard as an inexcusable American refusal to join the treaty. Senator Patrick J. Leahy, a Vermont Democrat and a prominent supporter of the treaty, has pressed the administration in speeches this year to endorse it.

"If land mines were littering this country—in schoolyards, along roads, in cornfields, in our national parks—and hundreds of American children were being crippled" like children in Cambodia, Mr. Leahy said in an April 9 statement, "how long would it take before the White House sent the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification."

Despite its apparent reluctance to join the treaty, the United States has spent more than \$2 billion in the past two decades to help clear mines and aid victims, more than any other country.

The United States also has stopped production and export of so-called dumb mines that cannot be disarmed, and it no longer uses plastic materials that can foil metal detectors used to decontaminate mine-infested areas.

The report by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines said that only five countries—Israel, Libya, Myanmar, Russia and Syria, all nonsigners of the treaty—had used antipersonnel land mines since 2009.

But it also reported that Yemen, which has signed the treaty, disclosed last November that it violated its pledge against land mine use in 2011.

The report said global stockpiles of mines had dropped sharply, with 87 signers of the

treaty having completed their promised destruction of a total of about 47 million mines, since the treaty took effect. Twenty-seven nations contaminated with mines have proclaimed themselves mine-free during that period.

Casualties from leftover mines have also declined by more than half since the treaty took effect, the report said. Yet in the roughly 60 countries where contamination from land mines and other explosive remnants of war remains a problem, an estimated 4,000 people a year are killed or wounded.

The report said nearly half the victims were children. In Afghanistan, it said, children constitute 61 percent of all such casualties since 1999.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business until 11 a.m.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I inform the Senate that the three judges from Florida we are about to vote on have the support of Senator RUBIO and I. It is as a result of a bipartisan process. It is actually a nonpartisan process as to how we select our judges in Florida. Senator RUBIO and I appoint a judicial nominating commission in the three judicial districts in Florida. They then, when there is a vacancy of a judge or U.S. attorney or U.S. marshal, receive the applications, do the interviews, and make—for one vacancy—three recommendations. Senator RUBIO and I then take these three recommendations; the two of us together interview the applicants. The arrangement we have with the White House—and of course we know the President could select whomever he wants, but the White House has graciously agreed, and this has been a longstanding practice with the Federal judge selections from Florida, the White House has agreed they will pick from among the three we send.

Senator RUBIO and I send comments to the White House about the three, even though what we primarily do is tell the White House if we have an objection to any one of the three who come through the judicial nominating commission process.

Therefore, what we do is we take politics out of the selection of judges.

I highly recommend to the Senate Paul Byron and Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, both of the Middle District, and Beth Bloom of the Southern District.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WALSH).

Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAUL G. BYRON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOMINATION OF CARLOS EDUARDO MENDOZA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOMINATION OF BETH BLOOM TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOMINATION OF GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida; Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida; and Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the Byron nomination.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON BYRON NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Paul G. Byron, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNNS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Chambliss	Kirk	Stabenow
Coats	Klobuchar	Tester
Coburn	Landrieu	Thune
Collins	Leahy	Toomey
Coons	Lee	Udall (CO)
Corker	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Manchin	Vitter
Crapo	Markey	Walsh
Cruz	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Fischer	Mikulski	
Flake	Moran	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Johanns	Rockefeller
Heinrich	Pryor	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MENDOZA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Mendoza nomination.

The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, just to remind the Senate, this judge and the next one—as was the previous one—were done by the Judicial Nominating Commission process that Senator RUBIO and I use in order to take any kind of politics out of the selection of judges. It has worked very well for years, and this judge and the next one are part of that process.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Carlos Eduardo Mendoza, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida?

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Risch
Booker	Heller	Roberts
Boozman	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Chambliss	Kirk	Stabenow
Coats	Klobuchar	Tester
Coburn	Landrieu	Thune
Collins	Leahy	Toomey
Coons	Lee	Udall (CO)
Corker	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Manchin	Vitter
Crapo	Markey	Walsh
Cruz	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskey	Warren
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Fischer	Mikulski	
Flake	Moran	

NOT VOTING—6

Cochran	Johannis	Rockefeller
Heinrich	Pryor	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BLOOM NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Bloom nomination.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Beth Bloom, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida?

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 208 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baldwin	Graham	Murphy
Barrasso	Grassley	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson
Bennet	Harkin	Paul
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boozman	Heller	Risch
Boxer	Hirono	Roberts
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Chambliss	King	Shelby
Coats	Kirk	Stabenow
Coburn	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Landrieu	Thune
Coons	Leahy	Toomey
Corker	Lee	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Cruz	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskey	Warren
Enzi	McConnell	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Merkley	Wyden
Flake	Mikulski	

NOT VOTING—5

Cochran	Pryor	Schatz
Johannis	Rockefeller	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CRAWFORD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Crawford nomination.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, is this the Crawford nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LEAHY. Let me say he is strongly supported by both Senators from Vermont, and I might say also by the people of Vermont.

I yield back the remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Geoffrey W. Crawford, of Vermont, to be United States District Judge for the District of Vermont?

Mr. INHOFE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR),

and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rockefeller
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Scott
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coburn	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskey	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Fischer	Mikulski	
Flake	Moran	

NOT VOTING—5

Cochran	King	Schatz
Johannis	Pryor	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, with respect to the confirmed nominations, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Rodriguez nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 210 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Landrieu	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Cochran	Pryor
Johannis	Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 52, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m.; that when the Senate reconvenes, the time until 4:30 p.m. be equally divided and controlled in the usual form; and that at 4:30 p.m. all postclosure time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Rodriguez nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:39 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

NOMINATION OF LEON RODRIGUEZ TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Republican whip.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, there are two things I wish to address here briefly on the floor of the Senate. The first, strangely enough, has to do with an editorial that appeared in the New York Times this weekend.

I remember one of the people who was influential to me when I was coming up through the political system in Bexar County, TX, and in Austin, and now working here in Washington and back home in Texas. One of my mentors said: Don't ever get into a fight with somebody who buys ink by the barrel.

That seemed like pretty sage advice, but maybe it is a little dated these days because so much of what we see in the news is not in written newsprint itself.

The point is, the editorial in the New York Times this weekend I am referring to was talking about criminal justice reform, a topic that in recent months has produced some genuine bipartisan legislation. I am proud to be a cosponsor of one of those reform bills, along with my colleague, the junior Senator from Rhode Island, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE.

Our bill would allow low-risk Federal prisoners to earn credit toward com-

pleting a portion of their sentence outside of prison walls—for example, through home confinement, through halfway houses or community supervision.

Strangely enough, the Times editorial praises our bill as an example “of significant progress toward a legislative solution.”

Unfortunately, it then proceeds to blame Senate Republicans, including me, for stalling progress on the bill and preventing a vote on the sentencing bill introduced by the distinguished majority whip, DICK DURBIN of Illinois.

The strange thing about it is, as every Senator and everybody within the sound of my voice knows, it is Majority Leader REID who determines what legislation comes up on the Senate floor, and this editorial didn't mention him at all. An amazing oversight. The last time I checked, the majority leader was the only person in the Chamber with the power to schedule a vote on any legislation he wants, and he can do so whenever he wants.

So for the record, I wish to correct the error in the New York Times editorial. I strongly support criminal justice reform, including sentencing reform. My concerns about the sentencing reform bill cosponsored by Senator DURBIN and Senator LEE are that I believe the criteria it uses are excessively broad in deciding whose prison terms to shorten. But I think those are the sorts of things that could be worked out through an open amendment process on the Senate floor. And—I am sure we all agree on this—we don't want to prematurely release dangerous, higher level drug traffickers. That is my concern, that the bill is overly broad and would include them. Those kinds of concerns should not be taken lightly—and I am sure they are not—and I look forward to working with my colleagues to address them.

To reiterate, my opinions about the sentencing bill have nothing to do with the majority leader's prerogative to schedule a vote. He could schedule that vote anytime he wants. I would like to think the New York Times editorial board is knowledgeable enough to know that, but apparently they need a reminder.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

In the last week I have come to the floor a number of times to talk about the humanitarian crisis in South Texas. This of course is caused in large part by 52,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly from Central America, who have shown up on America's doorstep, on our border, saying they want to live in the United States. It is estimated those numbers could rise to as many as 60,000 to 90,000 this year alone and maybe double next year unless something is done.

I have to say I am somewhat encouraged because the Obama administration is finally acknowledging—somewhat belatedly, but finally they are acknowledging their policies may have contributed to this crisis in the first place.

This past weekend Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson published what he called an open letter to the parents of children crossing our Southwest border. This letter ran as an op-ed in Spanish language media outlets, and it warned parents of the extraordinary dangers facing Central American migrants who travel through Mexico, including the danger of kidnapping, sexual assault, torture, and murder.

Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson also made clear that the children who have been pouring into South Texas will not be eligible for the Obama administration's so-called deferred action programs. This is what he said:

There is no path to deferred action or citizenship, or one being contemplated by Congress, for a child who crosses our border illegally today.

In other words, Secretary Johnson's op-ed implicitly acknowledged that President Obama's policies have created a perception that children who make it across the border will be allowed to stay. I must say it is a very dangerous perception and one that simply has to be corrected, not only for the sake of U.S. border security and for the rule of law but for the sake of the very children who now constitute the humanitarian crisis on our southwestern border.

In discussing this matter with a number of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis, it has been observed that the drug cartels, which used to just traffic in drugs, now traffic in people. They have changed their business model. Essentially, they control the corridors by which drugs, people, and weapons traverse Mexico and, in this instance, come from Central America.

The fact is there should be a lot of concern on our part that this flood of unaccompanied children will prove to be a distraction from the interdiction of dangerous drugs coming across the same borders. In fact, in the Rio Grande sector of the Border Patrol, in the Rio Grande Valley, as the distinguished chairman of the Homeland Security Committee knows, there has actually been a drop in the number of drug interdictions coming across the southwestern border in part because the Border Patrol and other law enforcement have been diverted to deal with this humanitarian crisis.

I see the chairman on the floor, and it looks as though he has a question on his mind. I yield to him for a question if he has one.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Texas for his thoughtful comments.

When I was Governor, and long before that, and certainly in the Senate, I have liked to focus on underlying causes, not just the symptoms or problems but how do we solve the underlying challenge that is before us.

In this case we focus so much on the border and what we are doing on the border. We have tens of thousands of men and women arrayed there, drones, all kinds of technology to stop people from coming in. It is important for us to defend and secure our borders. The Senator from Texas has been a champion for that, and I would like to think I have as well, also, having been to Guatemala and El Salvador in the last couple of months, and Mexico and Colombia, trying to understand what is the underlying cause here.

As the Senator from Texas knows probably better than most of us, a big part of the underlying cause is the lives the folks are being forced to live in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. As we squeeze that bubble in northern Mexico to try to go after the narco drug lords, we squeeze that bubble and they go somewhere else—they head south. They have made life miserable in those countries for a lot of people.

So as we secure our borders and do all the work there, sending a strong, clear message, as Secretary Johnson has said, to those parents of those in Guatemala and El Salvador, it is also important to figure out how we partner with Colombia and those folks in Mexico and Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, to improve the hellacious lives many are living, with a lack of hope, lack of safety, lack of jobs, lack of opportunity, lack of education. We can do that. We can do that while at the same time securing our borders. We have to do both. And the underlying cause is important.

I have no questions, but I want to thank the Senator for his thoughts this evening, for yielding, and for giving me a chance to join him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee is exactly right to say we can't just look at the border in dealing with this crisis.

My friend HENRY CUELLAR from Laredo, TX, a Member of the House of Representatives, likened this to a football game. He said: You can't only do goal line defense. We need to find ways of deterring people from leaving their homes in the first place and coming to the United States.

I know Vice President BIDEN was in Guatemala this last week and Secretary Johnson was in the Rio Grande Valley, and I know they are looking at all of this. There is no simple, single-

shot answer to it. But the fact is there are a lot of people who want to come to the United States, for obvious reasons.

But I look at it as even though we are a nation of immigrants, we are a nation of legal immigration, one of the most generous in the world. I think we naturalize roughly 800,000 people a year now because they want to become American citizens through the legal system.

But to have this mass of humanity come at such a great flood and in such a short period of time, particularly as unaccompanied minors, threatens to capsize the boat. It creates a lot of hardship in local communities, States, and places around the country we wouldn't expect to be dealing with this, because they are going to have to be taken care of. We are committed to making sure these children are taken care of, but we have to send a message very clearly that if you are a parent contemplating this circumstance, you should not send your children, particularly on the perilous and dangerous journey leading from Central America.

I have mentioned in recent days a book written in 2013 called "The Beast" by a courageous Salvadoran writer named Oscar Martinez. Mr. Martinez, a journalist, traveled I think eight different times with the migrants from Central America and wrote in this book about their experiences and, unfortunately, the unspeakable brutalities these migrants encounter on a daily basis—again, because they are traveling through a smuggling corridor controlled by the cartels, in this instance the Zetas. The Zetas are a spin-off of the Sinaloa cartel. They used to traffic in drugs, but now they realize they can make money off these migrants—and they do, in terrible sorts of ways. Of course they are lawless, and the brutalities they exact on these migrants are shocking.

For example, Mr. Martinez in his book "The Beast" tells a story of one migrant woman who was raped on the dirt-and-straw floor of a cardboard shack before being strangled to death in a Mexican town along the Guatemalan border. This woman's picture was subsequently published in a local newspaper on a half page, with two other pictures of tortured bodies. In the meantime, an epitaph was written on a small cross that read: The young mother and her twins died November 2008.

I realize this is shocking and really horrible, and we prefer not to even think about it. But I think we need to acknowledge—and certainly the parents who send their young children unaccompanied on this long, perilous journey need to understand—what they are vulnerable to.

The dangers of the trans-Mexican migration journey have become far worse over the past decade as powerful drug cartels have effectively taken over the

human trafficking business. As Caitlin Dickson in the *Daily Beast* reported yesterday:

While the journey north was always treacherous and costly, in the hands of the cartels it has become deadlier than ever. The entire border, and the routes leading up to it, are controlled by some combination of Los Zetas, Sinaloa, and Knights of Templar cartels, along with a few smaller groups—making it impossible to cross without their permission.

What they have to pay to exact their permission is a tax or a fee—basically, protection money—to allow them to pass more or less safely through their territory. As I have said many times, there is nothing at all humane about encouraging mothers, daughters, fathers, and sons to put their lives in the hands of such vicious criminals. Yet when the President has talked as he has over the years about dealing humanely with migrants, he acts as if the decision to demonstrate more and more leniency or deferred action when it comes to our enforcement or immigration laws is itself a humanitarian act. Yet perversely what it does is it encourages this sort of illegal immigration and encourages mothers and fathers to subject their children to these tremendous brutalities.

I can only hope the ongoing crisis we are seeing now along the southwestern border will dispel any illusions that somehow by saying, well, we will not enforce our immigration laws as to this class of individuals, we are going to pick and choose or we have deported too many people, so we are going to quit deporting people—these actions and inactions have consequences, and this is the sort of consequence that sort of action produces. I hope it will dissuade the President from announcing yet another unilateral suspension of immigration enforcement later this summer.

There are various stories written and rumors told that the President, if immigration reform doesn't pass this year in Congress, will take action unilaterally through an Executive order. He has encouraged that perception, saying, "I have a pen and I have a phone," and he has issued a number of Executive orders in a number of different areas, but I hope the President doesn't compound the problem by further sending the message that he is going to unilaterally suspend enforcement of our immigration laws because the consequences will be big and they will further jeopardize the health, welfare, and well-being of the people he thinks he is trying to help.

I would ask the President: What is more important, is it political posturing—trying to show to an important constituency that you are sympathetic to their concerns—or are we going to focus primarily on people's lives and their welfare?

Given all that has happened in this humanitarian crisis, how on Earth

could the President possibly justify another unilateral change in immigration enforcement that will likely lead to another surge like we have seen on the border.

It is pretty simple. Unless we send a clear message that our borders are being enforced and that our laws are being upheld, we will continue to face crisis after crisis after crisis. Meanwhile, untold numbers of migrants will continue suffering and dying in Central America and Mexico just trying to get here or get here—showing up on our doorstep—and overwhelm our capacity to deal with them in a responsible way.

I yield the floor, and I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Colleagues, there is an unprecedented crisis unfolding on our border. The crisis threatens the very integrity of our national border, our laws, and our system of justice. It is something I have been talking about for a number of years, but it has reached unusual and dangerous proportions. It is a crisis of this administration's own making and a crisis the administration's policies continue to encourage.

America deserves leaders in the executive branch who will stand up and say clearly: The crisis must end now. The border is closed. Please do not come unlawfully to America. If you do come unlawfully, you will be deported. This is what we expect from our Chief Executive, the chief law enforcement officer in America and, for that matter, the head of Homeland Security, the office in charge of Border Patrol and ICE officers.

But President Obama and Secretary Johnson at the Department of Homeland Security refused—just refused—to plainly make this statement. How can they not? It is their duty. It is the law of the United States, and it is causing people around the world, particularly in Central America, to believe they can come unlawfully to America. It is encouraging this to happen. They are getting wrong messages from the leadership in our country.

So let's review the evidence.

On March 20, 2014, the University of Texas at El Paso did a study that was funded and supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, and it states that "both Border Patrol and ICE officers agreed that the lack of deterrence for crossing the U.S./Mexican border has impacted the rate at which they have apprehended UACs."

UACs are unaccompanied alien children.

Officers assert that "UACs are aware of the relative lack of consequences they will receive when apprehended at the U.S. border."

Get this: Officers are certain the UACs are aware of this.

UTEP [University of Texas El Paso] was informed that smugglers of family members of unaccompanied alien children understand that once a UAC is apprehended for illegal entry into the United States, the individual will be reunited with a U.S.-based family member pending the disposition of the immigration hearing.

There will be some sort of hearing set for them.

This process appears to be exploited by illegal alien smugglers and family members in the United States who wish to reunite with separated children. It was observed by the researchers that the current policy is very similar to the "catch and release" problem that the Department of Homeland Security faced prior to the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

If we catch somebody in the United States unlawfully, they will be given some minimal process and then released on bail and told to return back to court in so many weeks or months. In many cases, they do not show up. They enter the country unlawfully against the laws of the United States. They are apprehended but released—and why would they show up?

Recently Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley questioned 230 illegal immigrants about why they came. These are particularly related to children, and 95 percent said they believed they would be allowed to stay and take advantage of the "new" U.S. "law" that grants a free pass or "permiso" being issued by the U.S. government to adults traveling with minors and unaccompanied children.

So this is what they said 95 percent of the people who came illegally believe. This memo that leaked out of the Department of Homeland Security continued:

The information is apparently common knowledge in Central America and is spread by word of mouth and international and local media. A high percentage of the subjects interviewed stated that their family members in the United States urged them to travel immediately, because the United States government was only issuing immigration 'permisos' until the end of June 2014.

On June 10, 2014, newspapers in Honduras and Guatemala quoted Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson as saying this—this is what he is being quoted as saying in Central America: "Almost all agree that a child who crossed the border illegally with their parents or in search of a father or a better life, was not making an adult choice to break our laws, and should be treated differently than adult violators of the law."

This conveys a message. Isn't it clear that people who are not students of the esoteric aspects of American law would

hear the Secretary of Homeland Security basically saying if you are a young person and you come you will be treated differently? Then they hear they will be given a "permiso" and allowed to stay and be taken care of, that there is no risk or danger in coming to the United States unlawfully.

On June 13, the Washington Post published an article entitled "Influx of minors across Texas border driven by belief they will be allowed to stay in U.S." How hard is it to reverse that belief? We have not done it.

On June 19, Democratic Congressman HENRY CUELLAR of Texas said, "As long as they know they are going to be released and allowed to stay here, they are going to keep coming." Isn't that true?

The New York Times quoted one teenager from Honduras whose mother had sent for him: "If you make it, they take you to a shelter and take care of you and let you have permission to stay."

Records show the administration knew this surge we are seeing at the border, which is unprecedented in our history, was coming, and they knew of it for some time and did nothing to stop it or to send the message: Don't do this. Do not come to America unlawfully. Make your application if you feel you are justified in coming, and it will be processed in regular order. Indeed, the administration sought, rather than to stop this dramatic surge, to accommodate it.

Even before the public became aware of the beginning of the surge of this nature at our border, on January 29 of this year, the Federal Government—get this—posted an advertisement seeking bids from a contractor to handle 65,000 "unaccompanied alien children" crossing the southern border. This was in January.

In 2011 we had approximately 6,000 coming into the country unlawfully. So in January of this year they posted an advertisement to handle 65,000. So this raises serious questions. Why would the administration claim to be surprised by the current influx of unaccompanied minors when they were taking bids in January for a contract to handle the exact situation—almost the exact number—we are seeing? This year it is expected to hit about 90,000 children; whereas, in 2011 it was 6,000. Projections from official sources say we may hit 130,000 next year. How did the administration anticipate the very numbers it seems we have at least to date?

In March of this year the Department of Health & Human Services estimated in its fiscal year 2014 budget proposal that the number of unaccompanied illegal alien children apprehended in 2014 this year would rise to 60,000, which is up 814 percent from the 6,560 who were apprehended in the United States only 3 years ago.

Over the weekend the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security published an "open letter to the parents of children crossing our Southwest border" on a Spanish language wire service. I had demanded of him in the Senate Judiciary Committee that he send a clear message, and he actually refused to do so. I had to ask him about three or more times before he would finally say: It is unlawful to come here, and that is the reason you shouldn't. He said: You shouldn't come because it is dangerous. He said: You shouldn't come. It is not a good idea. But he was not simply saying: Do not come unlawfully.

In newspapers in Central and South America and on Univision's Web site the letter noted, in part, that the Senate comprehensive immigration bill "provides for an earned path to citizenship, but only for certain people who came into this country on or before December 31, 2011."

The Senate bill died in the House and will not become a law, and it was wrong to have done that very thing. That is what the law said, but it wasn't passed. But the very fact that Mr. Johnson is advertising in foreign countries an earned path to citizenship for illegal immigrants undermines his primary responsibility, which is to enforce the law. The most primary responsibility for Mr. Johnson is not to see how many people he can apprehend and actually go through the cost and process of deporting; the primary job is to deter criminal activity to begin with, to send a message and back it up that people cannot come successfully illegally. Don't come. Then you will see a large dropoff instead of this 800-percent increase we see today.

Human beings are rational actors, and if they believe the United States is granting citizenship to illegal aliens who arrived before 2012, it stands to reason that the U.S. Government will move that date back if more illegal aliens arrive in the years to come. Why wouldn't they think they would be given amnesty too? That is what happened in 1986—amnesty was given. There were 3 million people who were given legal status, and the message was heard.

Some say that today, we have over 11 million illegal aliens in the country.

Even a 2009 internal Department of Homeland Security report on approaches for implementing immigration reform recognizes this fundamental fact. This 2009 report said:

Virtually all immigration experts agree that it would be counterproductive to offer an explicit or implied path to permanent resident status (or citizenship) during any legalization program. That would simply encourage the fraud and illegal border crossings that other features of the program seek to discourage. In fact, for that reason and from that perspective, it would be best if the legislation did not even address future permanent resident status or citizenship.

That is from an official government report.

Contrary to the administration's claims that illegal immigrants are acting on mere rumor and misinformation, it is the sad reality of lax enforcement plus the lack of a clear message that is driving the surge. The reality is if you get into the country today, you are not going to be deported. That is true.

A leaked May 30 internal memo written by the top border official, Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello, said:

Currently only 3 percent of apprehensions from countries other than Mexico are being repatriated to their countries of citizenship, which are predominately located in Central America.

I repeat, only 3 percent are being repatriated back home.

According to the former head of Enforcement and Removal Operations for ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, Gary Mead:

It's taking a year or more in some places for people to come up on a hearing and many times, they don't have an attorney, or they've lost an attorney, and they get an extension, and maybe it's two years before they have a hearing. And in the interim period, they enroll in school, or they get a job, or they are reunited with family members, and then they are no longer an enforcement priority.

That is significant. Even if after 2 or 3 years a judge finally orders removal—assuming the individuals show up in court at all—many illegal immigrants simply ignore that order, and having been here for a period of years, no one makes them leave.

As former ICE Director John Sandweg said: "If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero."

Yesterday, Byron York published in the Washington Examiner the findings of Jessica Vaughan, Director of Policy Studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, which shows that the United States deported a total of 802 minors to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in 2011, 677 in 2012, and down to 496 last year. Weighed against the tens of thousands pouring in, it is clear that once again the reality on the ground—not merely rumor, talk, or policy—of the lax enforcement has influenced decisionmaking in Central America.

It is obvious to me. I have been a Federal prosecutor. You have to send the message, and if the message is heard that if you violate a certain law, you will be disciplined, the number of people who violate the law will drop. If you never enforce speeding tickets, people will speed. If you enforce them systematically, people will slow down.

York quotes ex-ICE official Gary Mead:

If you're getting 90,000 a year, or 50,000 a year, or even 25,000 a year, and you only remove 1,200, you're not eliminating the backlog.

How obvious is that?

Additionally, those here illegally have taken advantage of an asylum system that is easily open to abuse and that the administration has sought to widen rather than narrow. This asylum question is very serious. House Judiciary Committee Chairman GOODLATTE recently stated:

Many of the children, teenagers, and adults, arriving at the border are able to game our asylum and immigration laws because the Obama administration has severely weakened them and many thousands have already been released into the interior of the United States. What does President Obama plan to do with those who have already been released from custody?

That is a good question. We have a situation now where illegal immigrants seek out and turn themselves in to the Border Patrol officer. They come across the border and go straight to them and turn themselves in. That is a fact. What happens then? They are taken farther into the United States to be reunited with family members, apply for a job, attend school, have children in U.S. hospitals, and stay in the United States—whether through skipping court hearings, receiving asylum, or simply ignoring orders to leave.

We can all expect that 5 or 10 years from now—and correct me if I am wrong—politicians in this body will probably say these illegal immigrants “came here through no fault of their own” and are entitled to citizenship. Is this a policy of a great nation? It is a policy of a nation that believes and advocates for open borders, but it is not a policy that is compatible with a system of law, duty, and order.

If people apply and wait in line, why should other people be able to come from the outside, break in line, move ahead of them unlawfully, and then ultimately receive the very thing they sought unlawfully? The chaos continues.

Indeed, the President actively continues to incentivize even more illegal immigrants. That is the effect of what he has accomplished here. He reauthorized his DACA program—based on a bill that did not pass the Senate or the House—for 2 years, which is a policy that exempts whole classes of certain individuals, particularly young people, from the immigration laws of the United States. He held a White House ceremony in the White House honoring 10 DACA recipients. DACA recipients are people who enter the country illegally. He also unilaterally authorized an additional 100,000 guest workers, and now the Justice Department is hiring lawyers to represent unaccompanied alien children in immigration court to maximize the number of those who will receive permission to stay in the country.

Claims that DACA—this policy of nonenforcement unilaterally carried out by the President of the United

States not to enforce the law—does not apply to these new arrivals is simply a distraction. DACA is a unilateral action that established the precedent that those who come to America at a certain age will receive special exemptions from the law. That is what it says.

ICE officers report they are often forced to release even high-risk individuals of unknown ages and dates of entry who simply assert DREAM Act privileges.

In the internal Border Patrol memo, Deputy Border Patrol Chief Vitiello stressed the only way to stop the flow is to show potential illegal immigrants that there will be real consequences for their action. He said:

If the U.S. government fails to deliver adequate consequences to deter aliens from attempting to illegally enter the U.S. the result will be an even greater increase in the rate of recidivism and first-time illicit entries.

Our immigration system is unraveling before our very eyes. It is unbelievable. The American people have been denied the protections they are entitled to under our immigration system. Washington is failing the citizens of this country in a most dramatic and open way. Laws are passed by elected representatives of the people. We have passed laws that say you can't come to America without permission, and you need to file your papers and follow the rules. It is unlawful to just walk across the border because you want to come to this country. That is not lawful in this country.

I am calling on all the leaders and officials in this town to take the firm, bold, and decisive steps that are necessary to restore order and restore our borders. It is important for the children who are at risk. Many of them are having a difficult time. They have run out of money and the coyotes and smugglers have taken their money and mistreated them. We have heard a lot of horrible stories.

What is the best way to fix this problem? The best way to fix it is to have the President of the United States and the Secretary of Homeland Security say we are not going to accept you coming unlawfully. Please do not come. Don't do it. Make your application like everybody else. Wait your turn like everybody else. We are not against immigration or young people, but it is unacceptable to have a lawless system—as we have today—that is placing children at risk and overwhelming our enforcement officers.

One TV program today said the Border Patrol officers, instead of doing their duty, are changing diapers. We have gone from 6,000 to maybe 90,000 to 100,000-plus next year. The cost of the budget item last year for these kinds of things was about \$800 million. I think they are now saying they need \$2.28 billion a year just to handle this overflow.

We don't have money to do that. It is not the right thing. It is dangerous for children, it is corrosive of the law.

The President must send a clear message: Do not come. Please follow the law, and if you come anyway, contrary to the law, you will be apprehended, you will be deported, and you will be required to return home.

I thank the Chair, yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I would like to discuss the nomination of Leon Rodriguez to be the Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Mr. Rodriguez was appointed on December 19 and approved by the Judiciary Committee on April 3rd by a vote of 11–7.

I want to explain my opposition.

First and foremost, Mr. Rodriguez lacks adequate immigration experience to lead this agency. I only say that because his nomination comes on the heels of potentially sweeping immigration reform legislation. When we read his responses to my questions, it becomes clear that he has little appreciation for what this job as director entails. He basically says that he has a lot of studying to do. I think, with the situation of immigration in this country—the need for immigration reform—that we need to do better than have a director of the agency who says he has a lot of studying to do.

Second, his previous experience with Casa de Maryland is a concern as well. He was a member of the board of directors there from 2005 to 2007. The mission of Casa de Maryland is to help improve quality of life and fight for equal treatment for low-income Latinos. There is surely nothing wrong with that. That is a very noble cause. But if we peel back their mission statement, we will see that the activities they are involved in are a lot greater than just improving the quality of life for low-income people. They aid people here illegally in finding employment and gaining legal status in this country. They provide legal services to do so, and they fund day labor centers that focus on ensuring undocumented workers can find work on a daily basis. And, of course, that entails the use of taxpayers' money to accomplish that goal.

Their efforts are in direct conflict with the mission of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. That agency has to ensure the integrity of immigration programs and benefits. Casa de Maryland believes that anyone, even those who are here in contravention of our law, should be eligible for

benefits. The organization has pushed for driver's licenses for people here unlawfully. They have worked to undermine REAL ID, a Federal law that needs to be fully implemented by the States. They have organized rallies that promote legal status for people who have broken the law. They have trained undocumented workers to understand their rights and published a cartoon pamphlet advising people not to speak to law enforcement when approached. They go so far as to encourage them not to even provide their names.

Mr. Rodriguez claimed that he had no knowledge of this pamphlet put out by Casa de Maryland. Yet, he was on the board at the time the pamphlet was published and disseminated.

Mr. Rodriguez doesn't disavow their work or their contempt for law enforcement. In fact, he stated in one response that he was "supportive of the use of local tax measures to support the day labor centers" that Casa de Maryland established.

So it is concerning that he could bring this same philosophy to an agency whose mission is to oversee legal immigration in the United States. And we all know that we are a welcoming Nation of immigrants because about a million people come here every year legally, and they are welcomed, and our laws allow that.

Now, a third reason to oppose him is my concern about Mr. Rodriguez's commitment to responding to congressional oversight, and my colleagues know how strongly I feel about Congress's doing its constitutional job of oversight; in other words, to be a check on the executive branch of government, to make sure that the laws are faithfully executed. Despite assurances given during his hearing, Mr. Rodriguez repeatedly failed to provide responsive answers to many of my questions. Mr. Rodriguez was not responsive to the questions I posed even in writing. While he repeatedly stated he would review the programs and policies if confirmed, Mr. Rodriguez claims not to be privy—that is his word—to internal functions or have knowledge of how the agency works. He refused to provide his opinions on very critical matters facing the agency, and I will give my colleagues examples.

In his initial responses he stated the following response not once, not twice, but 17 times: "If confirmed, I will certainly commit to a careful study of this program to determine any additional appropriate steps forward, including any possible changes to address this matter."

We are talking about a person who gives that response, and he is directing an agency of 18,000 people. He is not going to be ready to go to work on day one, and they need somebody who is ready to go to work yesterday.

The second time around asking questions, he responded a bit differently in

each question, but always alluded to the fact that he was "not privy to the internal factors upon which USCIS and its leadership base its decisions."

I wish to give my colleagues one example. I asked about whether drunk drivers or sex offenders should be eligible for legal status and immigration benefits. He responded in both instances saying, "In most cases, individuals who have been found guilty of a serious crime should not receive immigration benefits."

Well, that is a big question mark. What does he mean by "in most cases"? I would read that this way: So when should these individuals be allowed to receive benefits and legal status? That is the question that is unanswered by his response.

By not answering the questions about felons, drunk drivers, or even gang members, he is essentially toeing Casa de Maryland's line that no one should be deported.

He could not offer an opinion of his own or elaborate when such people should get benefits. He said he would be forthcoming with Congress, but his repetitive answers show, No. 1, he is avoiding the questions, and No. 2, he has a lot of studying to do before he takes this job.

A fourth reason: He wasn't forthcoming with his views on what we call around here DACA, the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals program that grants work authorizations and stays of deportation for anyone under the age of 31.

One of the most pressing items on the agency's plate right now is whether we are going to renew the President's DACA directive. In his hearing and twice afterwards in questions for the record, I asked Mr. Rodriguez about his plans with DACA and whether he would expand the program. I couldn't get a straightforward answer from him. I asked if he had any discussions about the program, and he stated that he was only "generally aware" of the renewal process. He clearly knew the agency published a renewal form for public comment, yet he claimed to have little knowledge or opinion on the matter.

What is more, I am told by employees within the agency that he has a person at the table who is reporting to him directly on the agency's decisions. I am told he has a conduit during discussions on the deferred action program. It is not clear how much he is driving the policies, but it concerns me that he claims no knowledge of this matter.

Had Mr. Rodriguez been more forthcoming, we would also know what is in store for the President's directive. Will he simply renew it, or will he expand it, as many believe is the plan? Congress should know this man's views on those very important matters.

In connection to DACA, I asked about information sharing with USCIS and other Federal entities. My col-

leagues know I rely on whistleblowers for a lot of information. Just recently, a whistleblower brought me a case in which the FBI asked for information on a DACA applicant. The FBI agent, in an email, said this:

I am checking to see if there was any information available regarding fugitive "John Smith"? We would love to get him in custody. I was interested in knowing where he submitted his fingerprints and if he left a home address.

Now, that is the Federal Bureau of Investigation doing its work. Here is what the USCIS provided in response to the FBI:

We cannot confirm that a DACA request has been filed without reason to believe that the requestor would represent an enforcement priority. However, according to your email, the agent can see what form was filed. As such, you could also direct him to our website for additional publicly available information regarding immigration forms.

The USCIS's response to the FBI was essentially this: Sorry. We can't help you. We must protect the confidentiality of the applicant. That is not quoting anybody; that is the hypothetical answer I think our immigration agency gave to the FBI.

But this isn't the only case we have like this. I have been informed about the lack of information sharing by the USCIS since DACA began in 2012. I asked Mr. Rodriguez about his commitment to provide law enforcement with information on people who apply for immigration benefits. Now, I didn't ask about the statutory or regulatory hurdles in information sharing, but he refused to answer. I asked about his commitment to making sure people who defraud the government—or who are lawfully denied benefits—are turned over to law enforcement for removal. In one instance, he said it depended on the person's circumstances.

The immigration agency is part of the Department of Homeland Security. Its core mission is, as we would expect, to protect the homeland. Yet, this agency has a culture that I call "getting to yes." In other words, cut a whole bunch of red tape and don't worry about what the law says. Just get people approved to be in this country.

Mr. Rodriguez's nonresponsive answer on this matter of "getting to yes" concerns me, because it is not consistent with the mission of the department. I wanted a firm commitment he would change that culture, and I couldn't get that from him.

Let me also address his connection to Mr. Perez, former head of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, now the Secretary of Labor. Mr. Perez, of course, was involved in the Department's decision to decline the prosecution of the New Black Panther Party voter intimidation case.

During his hearing, Mr. Rodriguez admitted he was aware of emails between political employees and career

prosecutors discussing the decision to decline to prosecute that case. At that time, Mr. Rodriguez was serving as Mr. Perez's chief of staff and personally assisted in preparing Mr. Perez for his testimony before Congress. Yet, after Mr. Perez testified that the political appointees were not involved in the decision when Mr. Rodriguez said that they were involved in that decision, Mr. Rodriguez made no effort to correct the testimony after the fact.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service can be a very powerful agency. They grant benefits to foreign nationals and are implementing the President's weak prosecutorial discretion initiatives. This agency will have a lot of responsibility if an immigration reform bill is passed by Congress. We are talking about 12 to 30 million undocumented people applying for benefits if this legislation is passed. They will carry out an administrative amnesty if a bill is not passed.

Under President Obama, this agency has implemented very controversial policies and practices. Many of the policies this agency has undertaken were included in the July 2010 internal memo I obtained entitled "Administrative Alternatives to Comprehensive Immigration Reform." That sounds a little bit like "I have got a pen and a phone, and if Congress won't, I will." The purpose of the memo was to "promote family unity, foster economic growth, achieve significant process improvements and reduce the threat of removal for certain individuals present in the United States without authorization." The memo highlighted creative ways to achieve "meaningful immigration reform absent legislative action."

Remember when the President said: I have got a pen and a phone, and if Congress won't, I will.

That is a perfect example of it.

While the administration suggested this memo was only an internal deliberative document concocted by some bored bureaucrats, the Department has already undertaken many of these proposals. They will do even more under the new Director's leadership if the President decides to act unilaterally regarding immigration.

Remember the President who said: I have a pen and a phone, and if Congress won't, I will.

The agency's culture of "getting to yes" must change before any legalization program is carried out. The Homeland Security inspector general has reported on this culture. Their own internal watchdog, the IG, admonished the leadership for appearing to pressure line adjudicators to "get to yes." Their report clearly shows that the immigration service has a lot of work to do to get rid of the "get to yes" culture that has pervaded this agency in recent years.

The fact that one-quarter of the immigration service officers felt pres-

sured to approve questionable applications and 90 percent of the respondents felt they did not have sufficient time to complete interviews of those who seek benefits certainly warrants significant changes be made immediately. It does not appear Mr. Rodriguez is inclined to do that.

This culture stems from the leadership suggesting that line adjudicators lean toward approval and focus on eligibility and less on fraud. Unfortunately, I did not get any sense from Mr. Rodriguez that he was committed to changing the culture.

Mr. Rodriguez's appointment to this agency concerns me a great deal. I hope my colleagues, before voting this afternoon, will have that same concern. I question his experience and his managerial judgment to lead an agency of 18,000 Federal employees. Unfortunately, I doubt his sincerity in working with Congress on oversight requests. I wish he had been more forthcoming.

For these reasons and others, I oppose the nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, later this afternoon the Senate will vote on Leon Rodriguez as head of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. While I am unable to support this nomination, this is the prime time to raise some of the issues that are happening on the southwest border. I will summarize some of my remarks.

We have an incredible situation, as we all know, happening on the border today. We have had thousands of kids cross the border. In fact, from October 1 to mid-May, there were 148,017 apprehensions. Of those, a significant number—this is just the Rio Grande Valley in Texas—a significant number of those were unaccompanied minors. In fact, there were so many that we did not have the capacity to deal with them there, and many, to the great chagrin of many in Arizona, were shipped to Arizona to process and then released into the custody of a guardian or someone.

The Border Patrol and others are trying to make the best of a very tragic and unfortunate circumstance. I do not think anybody faults them for the big burden they have. I think they are doing the best they can.

But what the situation really points out is that not only do we have insufficient resources on the border itself to deal with those trying to cross, but once people get here, we have insufficient resources, infrastructure, and policies to actually deal with them in a timely fashion. They are actually released—most of them—and asked to appear at a later date. It is estimated that quite a few do not. In fact, very few will show up at their court date.

What are we to do here? Obviously those of us who have dealt with this

situation for a long time—those of us from border States—have advocated broad legislation to deal with border security, a guest worker plan, mechanisms to deal with those who are here illegally now, employer enforcement—many items. But if we cannot get to that yet—I wish we could, but if we cannot get to that yet, then we need to have better policies for dealing with those who have come across the border and whom we are going to hold. If we are going to grant them asylum—or some of them—then that needs to be done. If not, we cannot just assume that we are going to release them and assume they will come back for their court date or at their appointed time.

So this is a situation with which we have to deal. One thing we need to address immediately is to try to stem the tide of those who are coming. Interviews suggest overwhelmingly—in fact, in one case there were 250 crossers during a 1-week period or a 2-week period into Texas. I believe 95 percent of them indicated that the main motivation for them coming across the border—this is largely unaccompanied minors—was that they would be granted some kind of legal status that would allow them to stay. This is contrary to our law. This is contrary to the President's deferred action program. To qualify for that program, you would have had to have been here for 7 years. You cannot just arrive today or yesterday or tomorrow and qualify for this program. Nor was this contemplated by any legislation that has been passed by either body. The legislation we passed in the Senate does not allow those who come now to stay. You will have had to have been here since, I believe, December of 2011.

But what is happening is cartel members, human smugglers, and others are misinterpreting or willingly telling people they will receive some kind of legal status when they come. Too many people believe that, particularly from the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Some suggest it is just economic conditions or violence in those countries that is driving people northward. That, no doubt, has some truth to it. There are some who come for those reasons. But we have seen a massive spike just in the last couple of months that cannot be explained by economic conditions or violence in those countries. It is because they believe they will be afforded some legal status.

Senator MCCAIN, I, and many others in this body have raised this with the administration and have asked the administration to make it clear that those who come now will not be allowed to stay.

I have a letter that has been—I think this is an advertisement or has been translated into Spanish. It is being circulated in the affected countries from Secretary Jeh Johnson at the Department of Homeland Security. It is a

good letter. It says the right things. I am glad we have taken that step. Vice President JOE BIDEN was in those countries telling those in charge and others that those who come now will not be allowed to stay; they will be deported. That is good. We need to keep that up. But what we really need right now is for President Obama himself to make such a statement. In all deference to the Vice President and the Secretary of Homeland Security, they simply do not carry the weight of the President of the United States making a statement and then following up that statement with a concerted effort in those countries to let people know they should not come north. That would make a tremendous difference. I call upon the President to make such a statement and to follow up that statement with efforts in those countries to make sure people understand this.

First and foremost, we need to stem the tide of those coming. It is estimated that this year there could be as many as 90,000 unaccompanied minors who come across the border. That figure may be higher next year. We have to stem that tide and then quickly figure out how we can deal with those who cross the border and whom we apprehend. We simply do not now have the infrastructure or policies that allow us to deal with them in a rationale, humane way.

I would call upon the President to make such a statement.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

(The remarks of Mr. WALSH pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 483 are printed in today's RECORD under "Resolutions Submitted.")

Mr. WALSH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes in a colloquy with a number of my colleagues.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. BARRASSO. I come to the floor today with the ranking member of the Senate energy committee to discuss the issues of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

I turn to my colleague from Alaska to invite her to share with the Senate some of her observations, considerations, and concerns as we seek approval of an opportunity to create more jobs in America and improve our economy, as well as energy security for our country. I turn to the Senator from

Alaska and ask her concerns, comments, and solutions that she may have regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I appreciate that my friend and colleague from Wyoming is helping to lead this discussion about the Keystone XL Pipeline and really to encourage the Senate to move on it, to do something on this rather than just talk about it.

We are sitting here Tuesday afternoon. We had a series of votes on judges here this morning, and it looks like we are going to have some more this week. But from the view of so many around this country who are worried about jobs, worried about the economy, worried about what is happening with the IRS, with the VA—and not to mention what has happened on the world scene—it looks like we are going to have yet another unproductive week in the Senate.

Since we are here and we have time, I can't think of a better time on a better issue to take up than this Keystone XL Pipeline.

The bill that we are asking to be brought up is Senate bill S. 2280. It was introduced by our colleague from North Dakota, Senator HOEVEN. He introduced it on May 1.

It was placed on the legislative calendar a few days later. It has 55 cosponsors. When we talk about bipartisan issues and initiatives within the Senate, 55 is a very good number. It includes 11 Democrats, including the chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

We are well behind the House of Representatives, though, on this initiative. They passed a Keystone bill over 1 year ago, but we have been working in the energy committee. We had a Keystone bill that was reported out of the energy committee just last week.

We passed an original bill on a bipartisan basis. It has not yet been filed, but it is virtually identical to Senator HOEVEN's bill, which we are discussing today.

But I did vote. I know my colleague from Wyoming and I know the Presiding Officer voted for Senator LANDRIEU's original bill. I did so because I think it is good policy to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. I committed at that hearing, and I certainly commit now, that I am going to do everything I can to help advance this initiative. If and when her bill is placed on the calendar, I intend to support that as well.

But the problem that we have—and it should be no surprise to most—is no matter how many Keystone bills are added to the calendar, it appears that the majority leader is going to ignore them. It doesn't matter how long Keystone has been under review, it doesn't matter how many new jobs will be created, and it doesn't matter that the

delays are political and not substantive.

The fact of the matter is we cannot get to that point where we can take up this important initiative. The majority leader could have offered us a vote on Senator HOEVEN's bill at any point over these past 6 weeks, but he has chosen not to.

It seems very clear to me that he has no intention of moving to it, especially if we just kind of sit back on this and don't push. It may be that is the will of some in this body—that they don't want us to do anything, they don't want us to push forward. But I think that is contrary to the will, to the wish of 56 Members of this Chamber, and it is contrary to our national interests.

It is interesting to note Democrats were not always opposed to importing crude oil from Canada, as they would appear today. Back in 1970 the Nixon administration announced that it would place a quota on Canadian oil imports, and it was none other than Senator Ted Kennedy who led the fight against this decision.

Senator Kennedy said in a Senate hearing in March of 1970:

The reason why Canadian oil has never been restricted in the past is obvious. Canadian oil is as militarily and politically secure as our own and thus there can be no national security justification for limiting its importation.

Those were pretty telling words back then, and I think they still hold true today. It wasn't only Ted Kennedy. There were other Democrats who opposed the Nixon administration's restriction on trade with Canada: Senator Proxmire of Wisconsin and Senator McIntyre of New Hampshire.

I think we have had such an opportunity on this floor to debate the merits of the Keystone XL Pipeline and to debate not only how many good-paying jobs it can bring to us but how it can help this Nation and Canada as we work to promote our North American energy independence.

Our energy partnership with Canada has taken decades to develop. It has had some rocky times, but all good and worthy relationships take a little bit of work to maintain.

So if the Obama administration is unwilling to do the hard work of diplomacy and make this remarkably easy decision—approving a job-creating and a security-enhancing pipeline—then I think it is time for Congress to act. That is why a few of us have gathered here today to move this issue forward, to do more than just talking about it, but to get the Senate to the point where we might actually have an opportunity to vote on it and do some good for this country.

So we are sitting here waiting. We have an opportunity to do it, and I think we should end the delay. I think we should move forward with this bill.

Mr. BARRASSO. I agree, Mr. President. Just think about what happened

last week. Extremists from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, a terrorist group, attacked the largest oil refinery in Iraq. This terrorist group was actually kicked out of Al Qaeda for being too extreme.

It is a striking reminder to all of us—all of us in this Chamber and all of us in this Nation—how important it is for the United States to take swift action to increase energy production here in North America. Energy security is key.

President Obama essentially conceded the point last week during a press conference when he announced he was sending troops back into Iraq. He was asked what Iraq's civil war is in terms of national security interests to the United States, and he gave a couple of reasons:

Obviously issues like energy and global energy markets continue to be important.

Despite the urgency, the President refuses to take steps to reduce the effect that Iraq's oil can have on American national security in the future. The President admits energy is a national security interest but he refuses to do anything about it that is meaningful.

What do the President and the administration think should happen? The President was asked a week or so ago, as a result of a huge spike in oil prices per barrel of oil as a result of what was happening with ISIS in the Middle East: What about all of this?

He said he was concerned, but he said: The gulf should pick up the slack and produce more oil. Not North America, not the United States. The gulf. He was talking about the Persian Gulf should pick up the slack.

Vice President BIDEN put out a plan last week to support energy production—but not in the United States, in the Caribbean.

America shouldn't be asking for more energy from the Caribbean or the Persian Gulf. We should be producing more energy on our own, in our own gulf coast, offshore, on Federal lands, in Alaska.

That is why last week the Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed legislation approving construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. The bill passed the committee. The ranking member said there was bipartisan support. Even Democrats voted for it. That bill would send oil from Canada into States such as North Dakota. The Senator from North Dakota is here on the floor. It will send oil from Canada and North Dakota to refiners in Texas and Louisiana.

Last week Democrats in the committee voted for this bill and talked about how important it is. The Keystone XL Pipeline application has been pending for more than 5 years. The State Department has done five environmental reviews of the project. All five have found the Keystone XL Pipeline will cause no significant environ-

mental impact. We should not delay this project any longer. Democrats should push their party leaders to vote on this bill.

I am disappointed—I know my colleagues are—that Senate Democrats up to this point have chosen to block this important bill. I think it is outrageous the way a small group of Democrats refuse even to consider having a debate on this vital measure—energy security for our country, energy at home.

America needs the jobs. We need the energy. According to the U.S. State Department, this bill would support thousands and thousands of jobs. Energy is a national security issue for the United States, and this bill would help produce energy here in North America—not what the President said, where they will pick up the slack in the Persian Gulf.

The bill is on the calendar right now. The Democratic majority leader can bring it up for a vote, and we are going to ask him to do so today. The Chair of the Energy Committee should call on the majority leader and demand that he act on the bill.

We are here in the Senate and we get elected to the Senate to vote. The Keystone XL Pipeline is important. This bill is important. Democrats who want to vote against it can make their arguments and cast their vote.

So I turn to my friend and colleague, the Senator from North Dakota—a Senator who has been an incredible leader, a former Governor of his State, a Senator who knows the issue well, who knows the value of American energy—U.S. energy, North American energy—the impact on jobs, the impact on the economy, the impact of energy as a geopolitical weapon in what is happening around the world.

I ask my friend and colleague from North Dakota if he thinks there is any reason whatsoever to delay action on this bill or if we should move ahead.

I see the Senator from Oklahoma has also joined us. So there are obviously significant and growing voices coming to the floor to say it is time to vote now, not additional delay, not additional studies, not additional talk. It is time to vote.

I turn to my friend and colleague from North Dakota, the former Governor of North Dakota—I think the longest serving Governor in the history of the State—for his impression of why it is time to vote today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the esteemed Senator from Wyoming not only for being here today to talk about this important issue but for his tremendous leadership on energy issues.

Wyoming produces an incredible amount of energy for this country, and the Senator from Wyoming well knows that you not only have to produce that

energy, you have to get it to market, and you need pipelines to move oil and gas to market. We move some by truck, some by train. But we can't move everything by truck and by train. We have to have pipelines, and that is what this is all about.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is the latest, greatest technology that is the most efficient and the safest way to move this product to market. It will actually result in less greenhouse gas than if we don't build the pipeline, as was determined by the administration's own environmental impact statement produced by the Department of State.

I have some additional comments I wish to make on this important issue, but first I would turn to the esteemed Senator from Oklahoma and ask that he provide some of his comments and insights from a State that produces an incredible amount of energy, and where actually hydraulic fracturing started in this country and has been done safely since I think the 1950s; somebody who understands not only that we have to produce energy so we can get to energy independence, but that we have to have the infrastructure to move that product safely to market.

With that, I turn to the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma and ask his thoughts on this important issue as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I do appreciate that. I might elaborate a little bit.

Oklahoma is not just the place where they first started hydraulic fracturing, it was done in Oklahoma in 1948, and, according to Lisa Jackson, who was the Obama-appointed EPA Director, never has there been a confirmed case of groundwater contamination.

I know we are getting strapped for time here and I regret that. I draw the Presiding Officer's attention to the chart I am holding up here.

It happens that Cushing, OK, is considered to be the crossroads of the pipelines throughout the United States. In Cushing, OK, we had I guess the only trip President Obama has ever made to Oklahoma. He came to Oklahoma. Looking in the background, there are all the tubes up there to dramatically make a statement. And that statement:

I'm directing my administration to cut through the red tape, break through the bureaucratic hurdles, and make this project a priority, to go ahead and get it done.

That is what the President said in Oklahoma. I wasn't there, but that is what he said. That is a direct quote. Then he did everything he could do to destroy the Keystone Pipeline.

He made the statement down there: I'm not going to do anything to create a problem for the southern leg that

goes from Cushing down into Texas. Well, there is a reason for that. The reason is, he couldn't do it. The reason he is stopping up there, because it crosses the country line from Canada into the United States. He has some jurisdiction there. But there is nothing he could do to stop it. So he came down to tell us that he wasn't going to do that.

I have to say to the President: People in Oklahoma aren't that dumb. They know you didn't have that authority or you would have stopped it.

The portion between Canada and Cushing is the part that remains stalled. At this point I think the reason is one guy named Tom Steyer. Let me introduce him.

First, we always hear a lot of things about the Koch brothers and other people who are putting money in or are concerned about it. This actually is a statement made by this very wealthy person. I am sure he is a nice person. Tom Steyer is a multibillionaire. He is very liberal. He is from the State of California. He is a good friend of the junior Senator from California, and he has made the statement that he is going to put up \$100 million to spend in campaigns of people who would do two things: one, try to resurrect the issue of global warming—which is dead. I can remember when global warming would be polled as the No. 1 or No. 2 problem in the country. Right now, according to last week's Gallup poll, it is No. 14 out of 15. So that is a dead issue.

But \$100 million would do two things: first, to resurrect that issue; secondly, to stop the Keystone Pipeline.

A few weeks ago he said explicitly—and these are his words, not mine:

It is true that we expect to be heavily involved in midterm elections. We are looking at a bunch of races. My guess is that we will end up being involved in eight or more races.

We just learned this week that as the President marks his 1-year anniversary of his climate action plan, Tom Steyer is going to meet personally with him. So there is \$100 million at work right there, if that is what it takes for a meeting. And we all know what the cost would be.

This is very important. One thing that has not been refuted, way back in the beginning of the whole global warming thing they talked about the cost is going to be somewhere between \$300 billion and \$400 billion a year. The Wharton Economics Foundation, MIT, Charles Rivers, everyone agreed with that.

The Keystone Pipeline, which Tom Steyer wants to stop, would create 42,000 jobs, and tens of thousands more would be supported in the manufacturing sector. But Keystone is just the tip of the iceberg.

If we look at this chart, No. 3, we can see all of the domestic energy resources being developed around the country right now. We are going

through a shale revolution in America, and the only thing that is getting in the way is the Federal Government.

This is interesting: In the last 6 years, oil production on private and State lands is up 61 percent. On Federal land, however, oil production is down 6 percent. Now how could that be?

This map shows throughout the United States—not all in the western part. Look at New York and Pennsylvania. This is where the development is coming from, all of it on State and private land, an increase in 5 years, 5½ years, of 61 percent. At the same time, on Federal land it is down by 6 percent.

The IFC International, a well-respected consulting firm, released a report last month which said U.S. companies would need to invest \$641 billion of infrastructure over the next 20 years to keep up with the growing oil and gas production.

What does it mean for jobs? According to the analysis, the spending on these new pipelines alone will create 432,000 direct jobs. And that is based on a conservative estimate. That does not assume we develop all of the resources in our country. If that were included, it would be a lot more.

So keeping this from happening would be a great impact for imposing anti-energy, global warming policies. We need to build the Keystone Pipeline and provide regulatory certainty for the entire energy infrastructure sector. Without it, we will never reach energy independence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for the colloquy has expired.

Mr. INHOFE. How much time is remaining on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 33 minutes remaining on the Republican side. But the question of the colloquy time has expired.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent I be given 4 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. What time do we have the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 4:30.

Mrs. BOXER. That is the reason we were very careful with the time. And we gave my good friends—and they are my good friends—a lot of extra time.

I will allow the Senator to proceed for 1 minute. But after that, we need equal time on this. So I give 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator asked for 4 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for 1 minute.

Mr. INHOFE. If I could ask my friend if we could compromise: 2 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Let me think it over. OK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. I appreciate my good friend from California thinking it over.

Anyway, 432,000 direct jobs. And when we stop and think about it, keeping it from happening would have the impact and effect of stopping us from becoming oil independent. We could do that.

The Keystone Pipeline needs to be built. We all know about the jobs. More importantly, there is not a single good reason why it shouldn't happen.

Tom Steyer's goal is to stop the oil in Canada from being developed, but he can't do it. We have seen this just in the last week. The Canadians have conversations going with China to have them accept it if we don't complete our Keystone Pipeline.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2280

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; that there will be up to 4 hours of debate and that the Senate then proceed to vote on passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, I wish to explain how I come to my conclusion at the end by saying a couple of things.

I see that my dear friend—and these are all my friends whom I particularly enjoy working with—I say to my friend from Oklahoma, he said Tom Steyer is from California. This is correct. So is Justice Kennedy, and so is Richard Nixon, who signed the Clean Air Act. Richard Nixon signed the Clean Air Act, and I was a cosponsor of that act. And Republican Herbert Walker Bush signed the Clear Air Act Amendments.

Mr. INHOFE. Would the Senator yield to that point, because I was a cosponsor of that act.

Mrs. BOXER. I will not yield.

The fact is that Republican objections to controlling carbon pollution took that all the way to the Supreme Court.

Another thing on which I need to correct the record is my friend Senator BARRASSO talked about our President as if our President doesn't care about our being energy self-sufficient. The United States is producing more oil at home than it is buying from the rest of the world for the first time in nearly two decades. Let me repeat that. The United States is producing more oil at home than it is buying from the rest of the world for the first time in nearly two decades. And PolitiFact marked that as true and accurate.

I want to say to my friend who has left the floor, Senator MURKOWSKI—another good friend of mine—we offered a vote on Keystone as part of Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN's bill

on energy efficiency, and we said we would treat it the way MITCH MCCONNELL recommends treating controversial amendments. We offered a 60-vote threshold. Now they come to the floor decrying the fact that we didn't offer a vote, but we did.

Here is the point: Whenever America considers building a major infrastructure project, we make sure there is a process in place, and we have done that since 1968. It is a well-established process, and that process was updated by George W. Bush in 2004. So this unanimous consent request that would approve the pipeline would bypass the entire process we have set up in this country for these kinds of major infrastructure projects that has been in place since 1968.

We need to know whether the building of this pipeline is in the national interest, and it is critical that the process not be circumvented because there are major issues on behalf of America's families. Frankly, the request that is before us would cut short the process that protects our families. So rhetorically I ask, why would anyone want to do that? They talk about a lot of jobs. That is in great dispute. The permanent jobs are like 35. So let's be clear. It is about other things. It is about special interests. That is what it is about. There is a lot of money that follows this pipeline.

Now I want to talk about the human health impacts. Tar sands is one of the filthiest kinds of oil on the planet—filthy dirty oil. That is why Senator WHITEHOUSE and I called on the State Department to conduct a comprehensive health impact study—because the pipeline itself is one thing; it is the type of oil that is going through the pipeline, this dirty, filthy tar sands oil.

If you don't believe me, ask our health professionals. A Gallup Poll found 12 years in a row that the most trusted profession is America's nurses. National Nurses United—the Nation's largest professional association of registered nurses, with 185,000 nurses—also called for a health impact study of Keystone because we know if this pipeline is built, immediately we will see a 45-percent increase in the tar sands coming in. Eventually we will see a 300-percent increase in the filthiest, dirtiest of oils coming into our country. We also know this oil has higher levels of dangerous oil pollutants and carcinogens because we documented that in our own country where they burn tar sands oil.

Mr. INHOFE. A parliamentary inquiry, I ask of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. INHOFE. Our point is, I believe the distinguished Senator from California is reserving the right to object. I would ask her does she object.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, may I complete my remarks before I make a decision on the pending request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. A further parliamentary inquiry: Is the time unlimited to finish remarks before objecting or not objecting?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A reservation for the right to object occurs at the suffering of other Senators.

Mrs. BOXER. I didn't understand what the Chair said.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no right to reserve the right to object.

Mrs. BOXER. All right. Then I would ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks—the other side had many minutes—and then object.

And I would also ask the Chair, do we not have time on our side at this point in the debate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does, but there is a unanimous consent request pending.

Mrs. BOXER. OK. Well, just to allay my friend's concern and his excitement about whether or not I will object, I will absolutely object. I do object because we know that misery—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mrs. BOXER. Misery follows the tar sands from extraction, to transportation, to refining, to waste storage. We are going to show you some pictures, folks, in case you don't know what it looks like when you refine this oil. We are going to show you photos from Port Arthur, TX.

This is what it looks like. There is a playground where this filthy, dirty stuff is burned. This is not a good place to be. We had people at a press conference with the nurses from Port Arthur, TX, and they brought us these pictures and said this is what it is like when they burn the tar sands.

Now let's talk about the types of cancers that are linked to these toxic chemicals, including leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Why would anyone want to short-circuit a process? Just because the oil companies want it? We have to think about our people. Tar sands oil from the Keystone Pipeline will flow to our gulf refineries, increasing this toxic air pollution that already plagues communities such as Port Arthur, TX. I ask you to meet with some of those kids, meet with some of their parents, meet with some of those health professionals, and they will tell you the asthma rates that are happening, the respiratory illnesses, the skin irritations, the cancer. All they talk about is the pipeline. What about what flows through it? What about the toxins that get burned into our air?

We know a pipeline does burst. We know a pipeline does burst. We have seen many of those incidents, and we know one did burst with tar sands oil in Kalamazoo, MI. They still haven't cleaned up the river—3 years, they still haven't cleaned it up. And we know

that the pipeline goes through communities and environmentally sensitive areas in six States.

Why would my friends want to bypass a process that is going to look at the potential damage to the health of our citizens, to the safety of our drinking water, and the effect on kids and asthma and cancer?

And let's not forget the tar sands waste, by the way. Here is a picture of that, in case my friends don't know what it looks like. This is called petcoke, petroleum coke. Already, because we have increased tar sands importation, it is lining up around our cities—in Chicago, in Detroit—massive open piles of tar sands, waste products known as petcoke, billowing black clouds containing heavy metals. There was a story that was told to our committee. Children playing baseball have been forced off the field to seek cover from the clouds of black dust that pelt homes and cars.

So you have problems when you extract, you have problems when you transport, you have problems when you refine, and you have problems when you store the waste. Why do my colleagues want to bypass a process that has been put in place since 1968 so we can look at the impact on our people? Petcoke dust is particulate matter. It is among the most harmful of all air pollutants. When inhaled, these particles can increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, cause or aggravate bronchitis and other lung diseases, and reduce the body's ability to fight infections.

Do you know the Federal Government has said that asthma is a national epidemic? I am quoting. It affects 1 of every 12 people or 26 million Americans. I know if I asked people in this Chamber—which I cannot do because it is against the rules of the Senate—to raise their hands if they have asthma or they know someone who has asthma, I guarantee half of the people in the room would raise their hands.

We don't need more asthma. We have a very important system in place to look at the effects of tar sands oil, and I don't think we should be pushing this project forward. Exposing Americans to pollutants linked to cancer and respiratory illness is not in the national interest.

Lastly I want to talk about the climate change impacts. For those people who are listening to the news, they must be surprised to see how many former Republican Environmental Protection Agency officials have come out and said to their colleagues who are here now: Wake up. Climate change is here, it is real, and human activity is adding to it.

The planet is in trouble. Tar sands oil has at least 17 percent more carbon pollution than domestic oil. The State Department concluded even in their flawed study that the annual carbon

pollution from just the daily operation of the pipeline, should it be built, will be the equivalent of adding 300,000 new cars on our roads.

So why do we want to short-circuit a process which has been in place since 1968 and which was then renewed by George W. Bush in 2004 to protect our people from just this kind of a project?

If you walk up to an average American and say "Should we build the Keystone Pipeline?" they will say "Pipeline? A pipeline is a pipeline." But when you explain the kind of oil you are putting through the pipeline, that is a different situation because this is the filthiest, dirtiest oil—more carbon intensive. The oil is linked to all kinds of illness.

I stood next to people from Canada, doctors who were so glad I was raising these issues. Even the newspapers in Alberta have called for a much better study on health impact.

So outside of this Chamber more and more Republicans are coming out in support of doing something serious about climate change.

My friend showed a picture of Tom Steyer. Let me thank him from the bottom of my heart. This is someone who is a very successful businessperson who realized he has to step up to the plate and preserve the planet for his kids and his grandkids. Thank you, Tom Steyer.

Just last week four former Republican EPA Administrators who served under Presidents Nixon, Reagan, George Herbert Walker Bush, and George W. Bush spoke out on the need to address climate change.

I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE, my subcommittee chair on the committee, who called these four incredible—it was an iconic moment, frankly. Let's see if I remember them all. There was Ruckelshaus, who started off with Nixon. There was Christie Todd Whitman, who worked for George W. Bush. There was William Reilly, who worked for George Herbert Walker Bush. Then there was Mr. Thomas, who worked for Ronald Reagan—Ronald Reagan. There they sat, and there they spoke, and there they said very clearly: Wake up, Republicans. This is a serious matter.

Now today a bipartisan group of former Treasury Secretaries released a report showing that the U.S. economy is already feeling the negative financial impacts of climate change. These respected leaders say climate change is real and we must act.

So why would we want to short-circuit a critical review process when approval of the Keystone Pipeline would be a major step in the wrong direction? It is the equivalent of 300,000 cars added back on our roads after we struggled so hard to clean up carbon pollution.

Another concern that remains to be addressed is the Keystone Pipeline's impact on national security. I met

with a former SEAL Team 6 leader, and he was involved in the assessment of the Keystone tar sands pipeline and the risk of that pipeline becoming a high-profile target vulnerable to attack. They concluded it absolutely was a high-profile target, and it would be vulnerable to an attack that could trigger a catastrophic tar sand spill.

As I said, the last tar sand spill 3 years ago in Michigan has still not been cleaned up. This stuff is filthy, dirty oil—the dirtiest. Why on Earth would we want to see an eventual 300-percent increase in the importation? The nurses don't want it and the public health doctors don't want it. They came to the press conference with us. We cannot afford to take a shortcut in the Keystone tar sands pipeline review project when so much is at stake—the health of our communities and the impact on climate change.

Finally, I have a picture that I show a lot these days, and it is a picture of what it looks like when you throw the environment under the bus. This is a picture of a province in China where the people walk out with masks over their faces because everybody says: Who cares? We can just do anything we want. Who cares?

I recently went to China. Over the course of 2 weeks, I never saw the Sun. I did not see the Sun. On one day when we had a little bit of Sun peeking through—I mean barely at all—the people there got so excited. The people who work in our embassy there get hazardous duty pay because it is so dangerous for their families. They can't go out and breathe the air because they can get sick.

We can have economic growth and a clean environment. You know why? We did it in the 1970s when everybody objected to the Clean Air Act. You should have seen the folks come to the Senate floor. You should have heard the Chamber of Commerce railing against the Clean Air Act. You know what happened since then? Tens of millions of jobs have been created. The air is clean. Thousands and millions of lives over time have been saved. Heart attacks, asthma attacks, and cancer have reduced. We can quantify it.

When colleagues come here and try to do something to bypass a procedure to protect human health and the environment, you can count on me standing right here. I am proud to do it.

I can report that California—under the great leadership of our Governor Jerry Brown—is moving to clean energy. We are moving to thousands and millions of new jobs. We have added more jobs over the last couple of reporting periods than any other State. We are balancing our budget. We have a surplus because we are moving to energy efficiency, and that means people are going to work.

I understand that my friend from New Hampshire is interested in making

a few remarks, so at this time I wish to say to my Republican friends that it is with great respect and friendship, truly, that we see the world differently, and that is OK. That is what makes this the greatest country on Earth. We can come here and speak out.

I wish to say to the American people today that this rush to build the pipeline before the process is completed is dangerous to the health of people and to the health of the planet and to the importance of our national security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from California giving me an opportunity to respond.

As those of us on the floor probably remember, several weeks ago we were talking about trying to address the Energy Efficiency and Industrial Competitiveness Act, also known as Shaheen-Portman, an effort that Senator PORTMAN and I had worked on for 3½ years to try and put in place a comprehensive energy efficiency strategy for this country. The bill has no mandates in it and no new spending. It has the support of over 260 groups—everybody from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Association of Manufacturers to the NRDC to several trade unions, companies from Johnson Controls to Honeywell, the American Chemistry Council. It has the support of a broad coalition of people.

According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, if the legislation of Senator PORTMAN and myself were to pass this year, by 2030 it would help create 192,000 jobs, save consumers \$16.2 billion a year, and it would be the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

As part of that discussion, we actually had what we thought was an agreement to have a vote on Shaheen-Portman on a date certain that would have a 60-vote threshold and also have another vote on the Keystone Pipeline on a date certain. All the Senators would know when the vote would take place, and again it would have a 60-vote threshold. Sadly, some of the sponsors of that legislation who worked with us to try and get a bill put forward refused to vote to consider the bill, and it went down. It is unfortunate because we could have had a vote on the Keystone Pipeline at that time. It was an agreement I thought we had all agreed made sense.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2262

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2262, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill; that the motion to commit be withdrawn; that amendment Nos. 3023 and 3025 be withdrawn; that the pending substitute amendment be agreed

to; that there be no other amendments, points of order, or motions in order to the bill other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that there be up to 4 hours of debate on the bill equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended; that the bill be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; that if the bill is passed, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 371, S. 2280, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, but no later than Thursday, July 17, 2014; that there be no amendments, points of order, or motions in order to the bill other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; that there be up to 4 hours of debate on the bill equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill; finally, that the bill be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I do reserve the right to object. I have listened carefully to my very good friend from California, and it affects my decision as to whether to object.

The reason the American people are no longer interested in all the hype and all the world coming to an end on global warming is for four reasons. No. 1, according to the IPCC—let's keep in mind, the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is the science that is behind this opinion. They even admit today that there has been no warming in the last 14 years. This is not just a report from the IPCC but Nature magazine.

Mrs. BOXER. Parliamentary inquiry, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator state the inquiry.

Mrs. BOXER. My understanding is the Senator is using the time of the Senators on this side of the aisle to make a speech before he objects. Am I correct? Is it our time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask that the Senator object, and then Senator SHAHEEN have the rest of the time because we are running out of time.

Mr. INHOFE. I am reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does not have the right to reserve the right to object.

Mr. INHOFE. I recall that a few minutes ago, the distinguished Senator from California reserved the right to

object and gave her reasons. Is that incorrect?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time was under Democratic control at that time.

Mr. INHOFE. Very well. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I wish to say I am disappointed we can't move forward to address the concern on both voting on the Keystone Pipeline as well as the concern Senator PORTMAN and I have to consider the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill.

Shaheen-Portman is legislation that would go very far to address our energy needs. After all, energy efficiency is the first fuel. It is the cheapest, fastest way to deal with this country's energy needs. It has support from those people who believe in fossil fuels and from those people who support alternatives, such as wind and solar. It is something everybody benefits from, and it is something that would move us in a direction that would help address the pollution we are seeing—not just from carbon but from so many other pollutants that are being thrown into the air. It is a reasonable way to address both our concerns as well as the concerns of those people who support the Keystone Pipeline.

Let's have this vote—up or down—with a 60-vote threshold. I believe we have strong bipartisan support for Shaheen-Portman. We saw that in the motion to proceed when it got more than 70 votes here on the floor. We had strong bipartisan cosponsors on the legislation. I think we could have those votes now, everybody would be happy, and let the votes fall where they may.

I am disappointed to hear the objection. I hope we will have an opportunity to reconsider, and I hope we can all agree that there is a benefit to both sides of the aisle in voting on both of these issues in a way that gives the American people some idea of where we stand.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Will the Senator from New Hampshire yield for a question?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Happily.

Ms. HEITKAMP. I am obviously not as schooled in the procedures of the Senate, but I want to better understand what happened here. Obviously the Senator moved to bring forward a bill she and Senator PORTMAN worked tirelessly on, which is critical to jobs in America and to energy efficiency, while also agreeing to allow a number of amendments, which included an amendment this Senator would have loved a vote on, the Keystone Pipeline. Obviously I don't believe the Senator and I share the same opinion, but I

think it is important to have a discussion about it.

With all of the discussion about how we are not moving legislation forward in the Senate, I am curious as to why someone would object to that consideration and moving that bill forward. It seems as though it is a reasonable and appropriate consequence.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I know my colleague from California wishes to answer, but I will say that I share the Senator's disappointment. I think this was a great opportunity for us to address both energy efficiency in the Shaheen-Portman legislation and to also get a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, which is something we discussed several weeks ago when the energy efficiency legislation came to the floor. I thought we had an agreement where we would vote on the bill and then separately vote on Keystone, and they would both have a 60-vote threshold. Sadly, some of those sponsors of the legislation didn't vote for it when the bill was filibustered, and so it did not pass. I am hopeful we can still bring it back. I am happy to bring it back in a way that allows us to have the same 60-vote threshold for a vote on the Keystone Pipeline.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I wish to say through the Chair, I spoke for quite a while on why I feel it is not good governance to come to the floor and ask unanimous consent to move to a bill and to short circuit a process that is in place and has been in place since 1968. The process was renewed by President George W. Bush to make sure when we build an American infrastructure project that it is safe, that it is in our national security interests, that public health is considered, and all the rest.

I have said all along on an amendment of controversy—I am ready to vote on the Keystone Pipeline, and I support Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN's bill. What a great bill. What a win-win. Senator SHAHEEN is willing to take a 60-vote threshold for that, and those of us who worry about the pipeline are willing to vote with a 60-vote threshold. That is the way to go.

The minority leader, the Republican leader Senator MCCONNELL, said it over the years over and over. Whenever there is controversy, if people feel it is controversial, have a 60-vote threshold. He said that I don't know how many times, but I have the quotes. All of a sudden, when it comes to repealing President Obama's Climate Action Plan or Keystone, somehow that doesn't qualify as controversial from his point of view, but the thing about "controversial" is it is in the eye of the beholder. I don't think it is controversial to raise the minimum wage. It hasn't been raised in years, but my friends on the other side don't like it.

They demand 60 votes. So we had a 60-vote threshold.

That is where we are, and that is why we are in this mess.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I applaud the Senate today for voting on the confirmation of Leon Rodriguez to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, USCIS. This is a vital leadership position within the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for administering and processing asylum and refugee applications, immigration benefits, and naturalization and visa petitions, including the EB-5 Regional Center Program.

Mr. Rodriguez's confirmation comes at a critical time. Nearly 1 year after the Senate's historic vote on the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act, House Republicans have failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform, and have maintained a status quo that leaves our immigration system in tatters. We are now seeing the human cost of this inaction, as tens of thousands of young, unaccompanied alien children flood our Southwest border. Many of these children fled their homes to escape unimaginable violence, only to endure a harrowing journey and, once here, yet another humanitarian crisis. House Republicans must act to fix our broken immigration system, as we did in the Senate 1 year ago this week. Until then, our borders will be unmanned, our immigration courts overwhelmed, our economy will lag, and millions of people who have lived and worked in our country for years will be left in limbo.

Although he will face these extraordinary challenges, I am confident that Mr. Rodriguez will ably lead USCIS. He currently serves as the Director for the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He previously served as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Chief of Staff for the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. Prior to joining the administration, Mr. Rodriguez was the county attorney for Montgomery County, Maryland. Before that he was in private practice here in Washington. He has vast leadership and management experience, spanning both public and private practice, and often intersecting with issues of national origin and immigration status, making him extremely qualified to lead USCIS effectively.

Mr. Rodriguez understands the need for both a comprehensive and compassionate response to the humanitarian crisis facing children seeking refuge in our country. With parents who fled an oppressive regime in Cuba, and grandparents who fled anti-Semitism and poverty in Turkey and Poland before that, Mr. Rodriguez understands the

challenges and remarkable potential of immigration, both for the immigrant and for our country. This process begins with the fair, swift adjudication of asylum, refugee, and visa petitions.

Mr. Rodriguez also understands how important the USCIS-administered EB-5 jobs program is to States like Vermont. This important economic program has transformed parts of our State, providing much-needed capital and creating jobs. I have spoken to Mr. Rodriguez about the challenges facing the program, including long application processing delays that have threatened to undermine important projects. He is committed to working with us in Congress to strengthen the program and make it permanent.

He has the strong support of law enforcement, including the Major Cities Chiefs Association, as well as a coalition of 37 Latino organizations from across the country. I too support Mr. Rodriguez. I was proud to advance his nomination through the Senate Judiciary Committee and on the Senate floor. He is uniquely suited to lead this important office, and I look forward to seeing the progress to come at USCIS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security?

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 211 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reid
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Landrieu	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskey	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Risch
Burr	Heller	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Cochran	Pryor
Johanns	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I ask that the Senate now resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 738.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CHERYL ANN KRAUSE TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr.,

Thomas R. Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP DON DIXON WILLIAMS

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I honor and recognize the career of Bishop Don Dixon Williams, a member of the organization Bread for the World and the face of antihunger advocacy for over 25 years. At Bread for the World, Bishop Williams has been the national associate for African-American church engagement and a globally recognized advocate for the poorest among us.

During his tenure at Bread for the World, Bishop Williams traveled across the world confronting the problem of hunger both at home and abroad. Bishop Williams also served as a US delegate to the G8 summit, and he has traveled to Israel and Palestine to help engage Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders in discussions about peace.

In addition to his service for Bread for the World, Bishop Williams has been the consummate churchman. He was consecrated a bishop in 2007 for the United Church of Jesus Christ, and he has served in various capacities with other faith-based organizations throughout his career.

On behalf of the Senate, I commend Bishop Don Dixon Williams on a lifetime of public service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased, although not surprised, with the latest news that Vermont's children rank as the healthiest. Recent data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that Vermont ranks at the top or near the top of the list on a variety of metrics, including a child's access to health care, and percentage of children who exercise regularly. We all know

that healthy habits begin in childhood, and Vermont has worked for years to ensure that all Vermont children have access to healthy beginnings.

Vermont has long been a trailblazer on health care, particularly for children. Recognizing that access to health care for children and pregnant women is critical to a healthy society, Vermont created the Dr. Dynasaur Program in 1989 to help families who could not afford health insurance but could not qualify for Medicaid. The program was such a success, Governor Howard Dean expanded Dr. Dynasaur in 1991 to cover all children and teens. Governor Dean's success with the program and leadership on the issue paved the way for Congress to create the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Vermont has taken other steps as well to ensure all children can grow up healthy. In addition to having one of the lowest rates of uninsured children, Vermont has worked hard to give children access to healthy meals at school. Vermont brings local food into schools and teaches children about healthy eating through the Farm to School Program. And in order to make sure all children have access to school meals, Vermont gives those eligible for reduced-price lunches those meals for free. By working in a coordinated fashion across agencies and with advocacy groups, Vermont reaches out to children in need to help those families receive access to health care, nutrition assistance, and other vital safety net programs.

Unfortunately, there are still some troubling national trends related to children's health of which Vermont is not immune. Larger serving sizes and greater access to junk food combined with sedentary lifestyles have contributed to the steady rise in childhood obesity rates. Additionally, we are seeing a rise in the number of children living in poverty and without consistent access to nutritious food and health care. If we fail to reverse these trends, we are setting our children up for health problems that will last well into adulthood.

We must continue to support the efforts of our States and so many families who are trying to help their children make healthy choices. Instead of working to undermine the efforts we have made to ensure children can eat nutritious meals in school or to repeal the Affordable Care Act, or reducing eligibility in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program or other nutrition programs, we should be working together to ensure all American children have the chance to succeed. Vermont has shown tremendous leadership in this area, and I hope we can all learn from its model.

I ask unanimous consent that the following Washington Post article, "Best state in America: Vermont, for its

healthy kids," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, June 21, 2014]

BEST STATE IN AMERICA: VERMONT, FOR ITS HEALTHY KIDS

A lifetime of good health starts in childhood. Health insurance, access to health care and regular exercise make for fit kids with long life expectancies. And nowhere in America are kids healthier than in Vermont.

Across a range of metrics, the Green Mountain State excels, according to the latest data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fewer than one in four Vermont children are overweight or obese. More than 81 percent have access to medical and dental care. Nearly 99 percent have health insurance. And one-third of all Vermont children report exercising at least 20 minutes a day.

Vermont's relatively small and prosperous population makes it easier than in some other states for officials to reach out to potentially vulnerable children, said Cathy Hess, managing director for coverage and access at the National Academy for State Health Policy. What's more, Vermont has been a pioneer in children's health reform.

The state's Dr. Dynasaur program, created in 1989, covered tens of thousands of low-income children long before the federal Children's Health Insurance Program came into being. Congressional authors modeled the federal program in part on Vermont's plan.

Vermont policymakers have also worked for years to build partnerships between public and private institutions to promote children's health. There's the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, run through the University of Vermont; Children's Integrated Services, run through the state Department for Children and Families, which works to connect low-income families with young children to social services; and the Blueprint for Health, established in 2006 to improve health-care services and control costs.

"They're focusing on the child and the family, and not so much trying to fit the child in different bureaucratic holes," Hess said.

Other states can brag about their successes: Children in West Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee and Oklahoma report getting more exercise than their compatriots in Vermont. Kids in Utah and Colorado are less likely to be obese or overweight. And Hawaii and Massachusetts insure a greater proportion of their children.

States with higher percentages of low-income families tend to fall at the less healthy end of the spectrum, especially if those families are minorities with less access to health care. Nearly 40 percent of children in Louisiana and Mississippi are obese or overweight. Only 56 percent of children in Nevada and 59 percent in Idaho have access to medical and dental care. Just 18 percent of Utah children say they get 20 minutes of daily exercise.

Perhaps those states should study Vermont's model. The Green Mountain State is a lap ahead of the rest of the field.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL ADAM WOLFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have the sad task of paying tribute to

a fellow Iowan who has given his life in service to his country. LCpl Adam Wolff was killed while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was 25 years old. Adam was a native of Eldon, IA, and lived in Cedar Rapids. Eldon is home to the house depicted in Grant Wood's famous painting "American Gothic," which has come to symbolize a certain indomitable American spirit. Certainly there can be no greater representation of the spirit of self-sacrifice that has preserved American liberty through the generations than patriots like Lance Corporal Wolff. We can never repay him for his sacrifice, but we as a country must remember him and all those who have given their lives in defense of freedom. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends who are feeling his loss very deeply, particularly his father Nicholas, his mother Deborah, and his siblings. We cannot begin to comprehend their loss, but they should know that Adam's service and sacrifice have earned the gratitude of an entire nation.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TWO RANDY L. BILLINGS

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army CW2 Randy L. Billings. Randy died December 17, 2013, of injuries he sustained when his helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Randy was born September 1, 1979, in Poteau, OK, and later moved to Heavener, OK. After graduating Heavener High School in 1997, he joined the military and served our country for 16 years.

While attending flight school to Rucker, AL, Randy met his wife Ashley. Bonding through a mutual enjoyment of the outdoors, they were married in 2008.

In September 2009, Randy transferred to the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, and 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, KS.

The couple made a home in Manhattan, KS, but they planned to move south after he retired from the military and start a family.

Ashley and her family are suffering their second loss to war. Ashley Billings' brother died in a 2004 helicopter crash in Iraq. "It's much harder because we've been through this before," she said. However, they were comforted by the knowledge that Randy "loved what he did and was going to do it right."

On December 17, 2013, Randy tragically died of injuries he sustained when his Black Hawk U-60 helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan. Five other soldiers on board were killed alongside of Randy.

His uncle Hurschel Billings said, "He really loved it. Every time he came

back, he couldn't wait to go back." He served two tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. "He died loving what he does. Serving the country."

"He was just one of the nicest people you could possibly be around . . . He was the definition of what a hero is. He served his country well," said Amanda Morrison, Billings' cousin.

A memorial service was held January 4, 2014, at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Inverness, FL, and he was buried at Florida National Cemetery. Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin ordered flags on State property to fly at half-staff from 3-6 January, 2014.

"He's pushed me to be a better person for myself every single day of my life," his wife Ashley said. "That's the kind of person he was."

Chief Warrant Officer Billings' wife Ashley Billings resides in Manhattan, KS; mother Eva Cooper in Poteau, OK; and father Robert Billings in Heavener, OK.

Today we remember Army CW2 Randy L. Billings, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

COMMENDING TOM CARPER

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, on June 4, 2014, I was proud to participate with the National Energy Resource Organization in bestowing its Distinguished Service Award to Senator TOM CARPER.

NERO has, since 1978, recognized in a nonpartisan manner outstanding achievements in the energy field, particularly in the areas of public awareness regarding energy development, supply, and use.

Senator CARPER was recognized for his long career of honorable public service and his leadership. In the Senate, Senator CARPER has served as a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and as one of the wisest supporters of nuclear power. Senator CARPER is the past chair of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee. In that role he led the effort to pass the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act with Senator George Voinovich and conducted vigorous oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It has been my privilege to work with him on this committee as his ranking member.

As we all know, Senator CARPER has been willing to work across the aisle on energy issues, and he is simply one of the best people we have in this body. He lives by the Golden Rule and sets the kind of example on a daily basis that we all admire and should seek to emulate. I wanted to share this good news with my colleagues.

COMMENDING JIM INHOFE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I was proud to participate on June 4,

2014, with the National Energy Resource Organization when it presented its Distinguished Service Award to our colleague, Senator JIM INHOFE.

Since 1978, NERO has recognized in a nonpartisan manner outstanding achievements in the energy field, particularly in the areas of public awareness regarding energy development and use. In addition to working for 30 years in the private sector, JIM is the past mayor of Tulsa, U.S. Congressman, and has represented the State of Oklahoma in the U.S. Senate since 1994.

Senator INHOFE was recognized for his service as the lead Republican on the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee for 10 years, 4 of those years as its chairman. He has been a strong proponent of Oklahoma's energy resources and truly believes in an "all of the above" approach to American energy. Through his work on both of his committees, he has demonstrated that energy independence is not just an economic issue but a national security issue.

Senator INHOFE is well respected in the Senate on energy issues, and he has been in the forefront of every energy and environmental issue in the Senate for the last 20 years.

All of us know of Senator INHOFE's dedication to this Nation, his faith, and to a strong energy production. We also know of his giving spirit and his heart for Africa. We are amazed at all he accomplishes. Every day he gives his total and relentless effort towards making America a better place.

I wanted to share this good news with our colleagues.

FOREIGN DUMPING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I wish to speak about the importance of a level playing field for Minnesotan miners and American steel. My State's iron ore mines and the thousands of Minnesota jobs they support are the backbone of the Iron Range. It started in the days when miners like my grandfather worked in the underground mines with picks and shovels and continues today in open-pit mines with giant electric shovels and haul trucks.

Through the generations, these Minnesotans have earned a reputation for possessing a strong work ethic. They have proven that our miners on the range can compete with anybody in the world on a level playing field. Unfortunately, that fairness is being compromised by foreign trading practices that are putting steelworker jobs in jeopardy.

The U.S. Department of Commerce is currently investigating the trading practices of countries that are dumping steel products in the U.S. market. This flood of foreign oil country tubular—OCTG—goods is causing our Nation's steel industry to lose sales and market to underpriced foreign competitors. An

example is South Korea, which is the world's largest steel industry but has no domestic OCTG market. The result is Korean producers exporting more to the United States, creating a drop in the price of steel.

While the U.S. demand for OCTG products is increasing, American producers are not seeing the benefits. In fact, they are losing sales to foreign competitors, with imports of OCTG doubling since 2008 and increased by 61 percent this year compared to the previous year. This is already having an impact in American facilities with reduced hours and the threat of layoffs for workers.

Dumping of steel products has nationwide economic implications. The OCTG steel produced for the U.S. energy market accounts for approximately 10 percent of domestic steel production. U.S. OCTG producers directly employ nearly 8,000 workers across the country, and every one of those jobs in turn supports another 7 jobs in the supply chain. Here in Minnesota, where the steelmaking process begins, there are more than 10,000 high-quality, steel-related jobs.

That is why I recently joined 58 of my colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the Secretary of Commerce expressing concern at the antidumping investigation of OCTG imports from South Korea. The letter asks the administration to more closely examine these imports for any misrepresentations in origin and nature of the products and to take action against any unfair dumping practices.

We all know our industries need to be competitive—but they also need to be competing on fair terms. It is critical that our trade laws serve as the last line of defense for American companies and workers. I will continue fighting to ensure that we have a level playing field for this Minnesota industry vital to the economic prosperity of our State.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ACA MARKETPLACE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to speak about encouraging news from Pennsylvania. A June 17 article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette details how Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, established through the Affordable Care Act, is working as intended for enrollees. I would like to enter this article into the RECORD as evidence of how the Affordable Care Act is expanding access to health insurance, in Pennsylvania and throughout our Nation. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 17, 2014]

PA. HEALTH MARKETPLACE 'WORKING' FOR ENROLLEES

68% HAD PREMIUMS OF \$100 OR LESS: REPORT
(By Steve Twedt)

Pennsylvanians who selected midrange coverage "silver" plans in the new private health insurance marketplace created as part of the federal Affordable Care Act paid an average monthly premium of \$60 with tax credits, according to a new report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Overall for all four plans—bronze, silver, gold and platinum—68 percent of enrollees had premiums of \$100 or less after factoring in tax credits and 47 percent found plans with premiums of \$50 a month or less, the report said.

"What we're finding is that the marketplace is working for Pennsylvanians," said HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell in a release. "Consumers have more choices, and they're paying less for their premiums."

More than 300,000 Pennsylvanians have signed up for a marketplace health plan since enrollment began Oct. 1. Nationally, the number of enrollees has surpassed 8 million who HHS says have collectively saved nearly \$1.2 billion in premiums from what insurers had originally sought.

The exchanges are an integral part of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, designed to give people, and particularly the uninsured, access to low-cost health insurance.

The tax credits for lower income enrollees are a major factor in plan affordability, as the HHS report said; Pennsylvanians who were eligible for tax credits saw their monthly premiums decrease by 74 percent, from \$330 to \$84.

Information about the tax credits, including eligibility requirements, can be found at the IRS website: www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Questions-and-Answers-on-the-Premium-Tax-Credit.

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I wish to recognize Little League International on its 75th anniversary. Little League International was founded in Williamsport, PA, in 1939 by Carl Stotz as a means for area youth to learn the sport at a time when they were considered too young to play organized baseball. The basic goal of Little League was, and remains, to introduce children to a game that teaches its set of values, including courage, character and loyalty, that will guide them throughout their lives. Congress recognized the valuable role Little League has played in America's communities when it unanimously granted Little League a Federal charter on July 16, 1964. That charter was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson the very next day.

Over the course of its 75 years, Little League Baseball has become the world's largest organized youth sports program, growing from 3 teams in 1939 to nearly 200,000 teams located in all 50 States and more than 80 countries

worldwide. Each year, more than 2.4 million children participate in Little League Baseball in various divisions, including baseball, softball, and a challenger division for physically and developmentally challenged children. Some notable Little League alumni include former U.S. President George W. Bush, two Vice Presidents, numerous U.S. Senators and Representatives, two Nobel Prize laureates, and a Medal of Honor recipient. Also, several professional athletes and Hall of Fame baseball players began their journey in Little League. In keeping with the tradition of our national pastime, thousands of games are played throughout the summer months at various levels of competition. These events bring together children from the international community and foster principles that transcend cultural or regional differences.

Since the very first game was played on June 6, 1939, Little League International has made an invaluable contribution to the lives of millions of children across the globe. I wish Little League International all the best as it continues to grow and fulfill its mission by laying a strong foundation for today's youth.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to the hard work of the students and faculty of the Southeast Island School District, their local community members, and their Superintendent, Lauren Busch.

In response to high food costs, the school district sought funding and community support to build greenhouses for students at each of its four schools: Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, and Barry Stewart. Students and community members found funding, purchased and constructed greenhouses and are now using locally sourced biomass to heat them.

While building a few greenhouses may not sound like much to those in the lower 48, things are different in Alaska. High transportation costs, high energy costs, the lack of access to raw materials, and sometimes severe weather all combine to make for a high cost of living. This makes this district-wide greenhouse project a tremendous achievement.

A central part of my job is to explain how different Alaska is to my colleagues here and to help them understand these high costs our Alaska communities face. These are the central challenges of our State and, in one project, have been smartly and creatively addressed through the Southeast Island School District greenhouse program. In addition, the program also

teaches students many other valuable skills, including entrepreneurship.

I am proud to congratulate these hard-working and resourceful Alaskans and I wish them continued success.●

VAN BUREN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Van Buren County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$13 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the success that the Van Buren County Hospital has had in securing funds for wellness activities and facilities expansions through programs I fought for as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Bonaparte to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Van Buren County has earned \$55,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings.

They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Van Buren County has received \$2,722,823 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Van Buren County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$144,729.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Van Buren County has received more than \$5 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Van Buren County's fire departments have received over \$2,000,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preven-

tive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Van Buren County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$350,000 in grants for community wellness activities.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. However, I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Van Buren County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Van Buren County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Van Buren County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

FLOYD COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities

across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Floyd County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Floyd County worth over \$600,000 and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$9 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is their work to combine several issues I care deeply about by renovating a former Carnegie Library to serve the community as the Charles City Art Center, and by making it accessible to people with disabilities.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Charles City and Hampton to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Floyd County has earned \$72,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and

repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Floyd County has received \$538,648 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Floyd County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$55,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Floyd County has received over \$2.8 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Floyd County has received more than \$4.8 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Floyd County's fire departments have received over \$500,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who

was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Floyd County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Floyd County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Floyd County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator. ●

LAKE CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● **Mr. JOHNSON** of South Dakota. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Lake City, SD. In 1885, Marshall County separated from Day County and became a separate entity. A man named Stout bought the Lake City area land and divided it into lots to be sold to Lake City settlers. When the railroad came through in 1914, residents voted to split from Eden City and create the township of Lake City in Marshall County. This close-knit community will celebrate its centennial July 4-5, 2014.

Part of a resilient community, the residents of Lake City have overcome several large fires. The largest of these broke out in 1949 and quickly spread to the local pool hall and then throughout the town. After this, and every other fire, the people of Lake City came together and rebuilt their town.

On Friday night the celebration will kick off with a street dance. Festivities will continue the following day with a parade, team watermelon-eating contest, a tug-of-war competition, and

many other fun-filled activities. That evening, another street dance will bring the event to a close.

Today, this small town in Marshall County symbolizes what it means to be a South Dakota community. I am proud to honor the successes of Lake City and to offer my congratulations to the residents of the town on this historic milestone.●

EDEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I wish recognize Eden, SD. The town of Eden will be celebrating its centennial on June 27–29, 2014. Eden will host centennial events which include a tractor and car show, school reunion, 5K color run, beard contest, fireworks, and a veteran recognition ceremony.

Located in Marshall County and founded in 1914, Eden was named by its residents based on its beautiful setting. Eden has long been known as a community with deep ties to South Dakota's agriculture economy. Since its beginning 100 years ago, the community of Eden continues to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Eden on its centennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

LAKE CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Lake City, SD. The town of Lake City will be celebrating its centennial on July 4–5, 2014. Lake City will host centennial events which include a community history display, bake-off, line dancing, all-school gathering, various tournaments, and a parade.

Located in Marshall County, Lake City was founded in 1914. Lake City has long been known as the location for the annual Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, as well as being a community with deep ties to South Dakota's agriculture economy. Since its beginning 100 years ago, the community of Lake City continues to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Lake City on its centennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

WIBAUX COUNTY, MONTANA

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I wish to recognize Wibaux County in eastern Montana on the occasion of its 100th birthday. Founded by bold pioneers at the turn of the century, Wibaux is living proof of the strength of the American prairie spirit.

The county was founded in August of 1914 by Pierre Wibaux, a Frenchman who left the family textile business to

try to tame the Wild West. When those like Wibaux first settled in eastern Montana, they brought with them a strong work ethic. That resilience became apparent when Wibaux's W-Bar Ranch grew to cover 70,000 acres in Wibaux County. The lively community attracted Theodore Roosevelt, whose famed ranch was nearby across the North Dakota border.

Since its founding, Wibaux County has undergone many changes. Farmers have experienced agricultural booms, and the local schools are known statewide for academic and athletic excellence. The discovery of oil in the region as well as the recent introduction of hydraulic fracking have transformed the local economy and brought the county into the international spotlight. Through it all, the people who call the county home share the core values of service, honesty, and the willingness to help a neighbor in need.

Perhaps the greatest quality of the county is its kind citizens who are always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor. The residents of Wibaux County still exhibit the same generosity, diligence, and drive that Pierre Wibaux and other pioneers brought to the area 100 years ago.

I congratulate Wibaux County on 100 wonderful years. We look forward to the next century being as exciting as the last.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 316) to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1044. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 412. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4002. An act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Okla-

homa at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4092. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools.

H.R. 4801. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1044. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

H.R. 316. An act to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 412. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4002. An act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 4092. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to establish the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as the lead Federal agency for coordinating Federal, State, and local assistance provided to promote the energy retrofitting of schools; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4801. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to prepare a report on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use for potable hot water; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6201. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing

Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-14-0002; FV14-932-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6202. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of select reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6203. A communication from the Chairman of the Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Appraisal Subcommittee's 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6204. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Addition of Certain Persons to the Unverified List (UWL) and Making a Correction" (RIN0694-AG20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6205. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Short Supply Export Controls: Unprocessed Western Red Cedar, Crude Oil, and Petroleum Products" (RIN0694-AG06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6206. A communication from the Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Waters off the Coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6207. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ninety-Day Waiting Period" ((RIN0938-AR77) (CMS-9952-F2)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6208. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Member, IRS Oversight Board within the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6209. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6210. A communication from the Acting Inspector General of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013

through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6211. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period February 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6212. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6213. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0887); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6214. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-BD55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6215. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Rule To Revise the Recreational Measures and Revise the 2014 Recreational Fishing Season for Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico" (RIN0648-BE18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6216. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XD298) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6217. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures for the 2014 Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries for Pacific Whiting" (RIN0648-BD75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6218. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; ODBA Draggin' on the Waccamaw, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Bucksport, SC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0097)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6219. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Fisheries; California Drift Gillnet Fishery; Sperm Whale Interaction Restrictions" (RIN0648-BD57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6220. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2013-2014 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correction" (RIN0648-BE14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6221. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Limited Commercial and Recreational Fishing Seasons for Red Snapper in Southern Atlantic States" (RIN0648-XD307) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6222. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Allegheny River; Pittsburgh, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0157)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6223. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Monongahela River; Pittsburgh, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0231)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6224. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Morehead City, NC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6225. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Village West Marina 4th of July Fireworks Display, Fourteenmile Slough, Stockton, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6226. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cincinnati Reds Fireworks Displays Ohio River, Mile 470.1-470.4; Cincinnati, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No.

USCG-2014-0080)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6227. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Fireworks Displays Ohio River, Mile 460.9-461.3; Cincinnati, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0238)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6228. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Petaluma River Closure for Highway Widening, Petaluma River, Petaluma, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0311)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6229. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Vallejo 4th of July Fireworks, Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0394)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6230. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Pelican Island Causeway, Galveston Channel, TX" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0063)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6231. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; West Pearl River, Pearl River, LA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0197)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6232. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Terrebonne Bayou, LA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1072)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6233. A communication from the Acting Deputy Chief Counsel (Regulations and Security Standards), Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Passenger Civil Aviation Security Service Fee" (RIN1652-AA68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6234. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Air Pollution From Motor Vehicles: Tier 3 Motor Vehicle

Emission and Fuel Standards" ((RIN2060-AQ86) (FRL No. 9906-86-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-258. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to review and support H.R. 3930, the National Commission on the Structure of the Army Act of 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 69

Whereas, H.R. 3930 was introduced on January 27, 2014, and seeks to establish the National Commission on the Structure of the Army to undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Army; and

Whereas, the focus of this study is to determine two factors, which include the proper force mixture of the active component and reserve component, and how the structure should be modified to best fulfill mission requirements in a manner that is consistent with available resources; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 also directs the commission to give careful consideration in evaluating a structure that meets current and anticipated requirements of combat commands, achieves a cost-efficient balance between the regular and reserve components with particular focus on fully burdened and lifestyle costs of Army personnel, and ensures that the regular and reserve components possess the capacity needed to support homeland defense and disaster assistance missions in the United States; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 further provides for sufficient numbers of regular members of the Army to provide a base of trained personnel from which the personnel of the reserve components could be recruited; maintains a peacetime rotation force to support operational tempo goals of a ratio of one to two for regular members and a ratio of one to five for members of the reserve components; and further maximizes and appropriately balances affordability, efficiency, effectiveness, capability, and readiness; and

Whereas, H.R. 3930 further prohibits the use of any funds made available for the 2015 Fiscal Year for the Army to divest, retire, or transfer any aircraft of Army assigned units of the Army National Guard as of January 15, 2014, or to reduce personnel below the authorized end strength levels of three hundred fifty thousand members of the Army National Guard as of September 30, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to review and support H.R. 3930, which would, if enacted, be known as the National Commission on the Structure of the Army Act of 2014; and be it further

Resolved, That a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-259. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ensure

proper expenditures and the restoration of the Gulf Coast for the benefit of all the citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 50

Whereas, on April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the mobile offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon which resulted in the fire that eventually sank the rig, killing eleven crewmen, and destroying Louisiana's delicate coast and industries that rely on the coast with an estimated 4.1 million barrels of oil released over an eighty-seven day period from the Macondo well five thousand feet below on the ocean bottom; and

Whereas, this incident has had a long-lasting impact on the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl, and other biota, and likewise on the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast; and

Whereas, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act also known as the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321, provides for administrative and civil penalties for parties responsible for unauthorized discharge of pollutants into United States waters as occurred during the Deepwater Horizon disaster; and

Whereas, these fines estimated between \$5.4 billion and \$21.1 billion would ordinarily be deposited into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund pursuant to the Clean Water Act; however, congress passed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE) that requires eighty percent of the fines to be deposited into the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (trust fund) for restoration efforts in the five coastal states damaged by the spill: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas; and

Whereas, the monies from the trust fund will be principally divided into three funding mechanisms, the Direct Component that evenly distributes thirty-five percent to the five affected states; the Comprehensive Plan Component that directs thirty percent to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to implement a comprehensive Gulf Coast wide recovery plan; and the Spill Impact Component that distributes thirty percent to the affected states based upon a formula calculated on the miles of coastline affected by the oil spill, distance from Deepwater Horizon, and the average 2010 population; and

Whereas, unfortunately, Louisiana has recent experience in administering restoration and recovery programs in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Isaac and has learned the value of real-time audit practices in terms of ensuring proper expenditures, providing guidance to program administrators, and assuring transparency of decisions for the public; and

Whereas, auditing after the fact provides little assistance for parish and county governments with minimal resources to recoup large sums in the case of improper expenditures; and

Whereas, the RESTORE Act provides for up to three percent for administrative costs; there remains uncertainty whether those funds are only for the cost of the United States Treasury Department administering the RESTORE Act and whether those funds can be utilized by state and local governments for real-time audits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary for the proper allocation of resources on the federal, state, and local level to fund

real-time audit practices in developing, planning, constructing, and executing projects funded by the RESTORE Act's Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund to ensure proper expenditures and the restoration of the Gulf Coast for the benefit of all the citizens of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-260. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, congress enacted these reduction provisions to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit earned by the spouse even though the spouse paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO often reduces spousal benefits so significantly it makes the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively impacts over thirty thousand Louisianians; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts over thirty thousand Louisianians; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total So-

cial Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the income earned during this post-retirement employment may cause additional reductions to the Social Security benefits to which the individual is entitled; and

Whereas, retired individuals affected by both GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes must rely on government assistance programs to bridge the gap; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by the GPO and WEP is growing daily as the baby boomers attain retirement age and advances in health care increase longevity; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States of America to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2013 (S. 896 and H.R. 1795); and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a worker who has worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, congress enacted these reduction provisions to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to the Social Security Administration, in 2013, at least 614,644 individuals nationally were affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to the Social Security Administration, in 2013, at least 1,549,544 individuals nationally were affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States of America to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the

Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-262. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana expressing sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan and requesting that the President of the United States and the Congress exert all available influence on the government of Azerbaijan to cease the falsification of the historical facts and bring to justice those responsible in Azerbaijan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

Whereas, the Armenian populated area of Nagorno-Karabakh is located between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; and

Whereas, in 1920 the Soviet Union forcibly established control over the areas of Armenia and Azerbaijan; and

Whereas, the Soviet Union created the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within Azerbaijan in 1923 and this region became a source of dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan; and

Whereas, in 1988, the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh peacefully demonstrated against Azerbaijan for the right of self-determination and individual freedom from repression and discrimination; and

Whereas, in February 1988, in the seaside town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan a pogrom targeted the Armenian population when mobs composed of largely ethnic Azerbaijanians formed groups which attacked and killed hundreds of Armenians on the streets, in their apartments in a situation that was allowed to continue by Soviet and Azerbaijan officials for three days before government forces imposed a state of martial law and curfew bringing the crisis to an end; and

Whereas, the crimes committed against Armenians in Sumgait remain unpunished thereby opening the door for similar atrocities against the Armenian people starting in the capital Baku and spreading to other areas of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh; and

Whereas, Azerbaijan seeks to avoid responsibility for the violence and atrocities by falsifying historical events and by portraying the involvement of Soviet troops to Baku to restore order on the seventh day of the Armenian atrocities as a crackdown on the alleged independence movement in Azerbaijan; and

Whereas, it is well known that there was no large scale movement for independence in Azerbaijan due to the fact in a March 1991, referendum that more than 94% of the Azerbaijan constituencies favored preserving the Soviet Union; and

Whereas, Azerbaijan continues to distort events of other atrocities, including the events in the village of Khojaly in which Azerbaijan troops fired on their own population and the deportation of Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sympathy in support of the families of victims of massacres and atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate requests that the President of the United States and the Congress exert all available influence on the government of Azerbaijan to cease the fal-

sification of the historical facts and bring to justice those in Azerbaijan who are responsible for the Armenian massacres in Sumgait, Baku, Kirovabad, Maragha, Nagomo-Karabakh, and of the citizens of Khojaly; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-263. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six missing girls; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 138

Whereas, on April 14, 2014, three hundred twenty-nine girls were kidnapped from their school in Chibok, Nigeria, by dozens of gunmen who stormed the girls dormitories while they were sleeping; and

Whereas, in a region where only four percent of girls complete secondary schooling, the kidnapped girls were the best and the brightest; looking forward to bright futures as global leaders, teachers, or lawyers; and

Whereas, the girls were abducted by a radical Islamic group called Boko Haram, which in English, means "Western education is sinful"; and

Whereas, on January 31, 2012, in testimony before United States Congress, the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, included Boko Haram in his worldwide threat assessment, stating, "There are also fears that Boko Haram, elements of which have engaged al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb, is interested in hitting Western targets, such as the United States Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners"; and

Whereas, the United States has offered a seven million dollar bounty for the group's elusive leader, Abubakar Shekau; and

Whereas, the Department of State designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including women and children; and

Whereas, fifty-three girls were able to escape and have described their experiences as extremely distressing; and

Whereas, concern is growing about the safety of those who are still missing; and

Whereas, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has accepted offers from the United States of military personnel, law enforcement officials, and other experts; and

Whereas Boko Haram's militant leader, Abubakar Shekau, released a video in which he expresses his abhorrence of Western education, saying that the girls should be married instead of being educated and further claims that he will sell the women as he has been commanded by Allah; and

Whereas, Abubakar Shekau referred to the girls as slaves and stated that he plans to kidnap more girls; and

Whereas, United Nations and the United States have both stressed an absolute prohibition against slavery and sexual slavery in international law, making these actions crimes against humanity; and

Whereas, the White House press secretary has said that appropriate action must be

taken to locate and to free these young women before they are trafficked or killed; and

Whereas, Louisiana has taken a most aggressive stand to abolish and condemn slavery among women in Louisiana and worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to raise awareness of human trafficking and sex trafficking to abolish this modern-day slavery and continue to aid Nigeria in the plight of finding the remaining two hundred seventy-six missing girl; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-264. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 122

Whereas, the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act would allow Medicare to reimburse retail community pharmacies for delivery of diabetic testing supplies to Medicare recipients' homes; and

Whereas, seniors would be safe from entering hazardous circumstances, risking debilitating falls, or other comparable inconveniences to obtain diabetic testing supplies because of lack of supply delivery; and

Whereas, the cost of delivery of diabetic testing supplies may be equivalent regardless of whether they are delivered same-day by local pharmacies or through the mail; and

Whereas, the integrity of health care access to seniors in need of diabetic testing supply access would be increased; and

Whereas, in July 2013, the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act of 2013 was introduced as H.R. 2845 by United States Representative Peter Welch of Vermont, and

Whereas, in January 2014, Senator John Thune of South Dakota introduced the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act of 2014 as S. 1935; and

Whereas, the percentage of people diagnosed with diabetes from 1980-2011 for those aged sixty-five to seventy-four years increased one hundred forty percent, and one hundred twenty-five percent for those age seventy-five years and older, and the overall prevalence of diagnosed diabetes has risen sharply among all groups for which data is available; and

Whereas, community pharmacies play a pivotal role in affordable and accessible health care within rural and other underserved communities by providing delivery services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-265. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana

memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 153

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental illness is defined as “health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired function”; and

Whereas, approximately sixty-one million five hundred thousand Americans experience mental illness in a given year; and

Whereas, approximately thirteen million six hundred thousand Americans live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder; and

Whereas, more than eleven million Americans have severe schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression; and

Whereas, one-half of all chronic mental illness begins by the age of fourteen; and

Whereas, fewer than one-third of adults and one-half of children with a diagnosed mental disorder receive mental health services in a given year; and

Whereas, individuals living with mental health challenges and their families soon discover that the illness affects many aspects of their lives and that they need more than medical help; and

Whereas, many loved ones are left feeling hopeless in receiving effective and appropriate treatment for their family members who suffer from mental illness; and

Whereas, there is a need to better allocate current resources to focus on the most effective services and most severe mental illnesses; and

Whereas, it is prudent to promote stronger interagency coordination, increase data collection on treatment outcomes, and raise efforts to drive evidence-based care; and

Whereas, Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania has introduced the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 as H.R. 3717; and

Whereas, the bill will create within the Department of Health and Human Services a new assistant secretary for mental health and substance-abuse disorders who would lead federal mental illness efforts, be responsible for promoting the medically oriented models of care adopted by the National Institute of Mental Health, and oversee the grant process while holding community centers accountable by ensuring they are meeting evidence-based standards; and

Whereas, H.R. 3717 would push states to efficiently allocate funds towards modernizing mental illness state laws and raise support for community mental health centers and hospital psychiatric care; and

Whereas, to address issues regarding the shortage of psychiatric professionals, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 would advance medical tools like telepsychiatry which links primary physicians in underserved areas to psychiatric professionals in order to decrease the average span of time between an initial episode of psychosis for a patient and his preliminary evaluation and treatment procedures; and

Whereas, H.R. 3717 would give physicians legal safe harbor to volunteer at understaffed mental health centers; and

Whereas, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 will adjust the federal privacy law known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, by

allowing mental health professionals and families to share information about loved ones to promote more appropriate and effective treatment procedures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-266. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 or to take such actions as are necessary to require that places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be equipped with seating for persons who are unable to rise from a seated position without assistance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

Whereas, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with the accessibility standards established by federal regulation; and

Whereas, as our population ages and our veterans return home from overseas, there is a growing population who are unable to rise from the seated position without physical hands-on assistance from others, including strangers; and

Whereas, the need to require assistance from others to complete the task of rising from a seated position robs persons of their independence and dignity; and

Whereas, if seating accommodations were to be equipped with raised arms or parts from which a person could push when rising then this would eliminate the need for persons to obtain assistance from others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12181) or to take such actions as are necessary to require that places of public accommodation and commercial facilities be equipped with seating for persons who are unable to rise from a seated position without assistance; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2388. To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-197).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Miranda A. A. Ballentine, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

*Laura Junor, of Virginia, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

*Monica C. Regalbuto, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

*Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

*Debra S. Wada, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Colonel Julian D. Alford and ending with Colonel Joseph F. Shrader, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 12, 2014.

Navy nomination of Capt. Shane G. Gahagan, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Raquel C. Bono, to be Rear Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John F. Thompson, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Matthias W. Winter, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Thomas W. Luscher, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Eric C. Young, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Keith M. Jones, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Janet R. Donovan, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Martha E. G. Herb and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) John F. Weigold, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Althea H. Coetzee and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Valerie K. Huegel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Captain Kevin C. Hayes and ending with Captain Matthew A. Zirkle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Sean S. Buck and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Joseph E. Tofalo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 10, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel Francis M. Beaudette and ending with Colonel Brian E. Winski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. David H. Berger, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General Daniel R. Ammerman and ending with Colonel Donna R. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 21, 2014. (minus 1 nominee: Colonel Leela J. Gray)

Air Force nomination of Col. Warren H. Hurst, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter, Jr., to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. William J. Bender, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General Bradley A. Becker and ending with Brigadier General Cedric T. Wins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Christine R. Berberick and ending with Deedra L. Zabokrtsky, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Air Force nomination of Troy R. Harting, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of William E. Bundy, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of David V. Eastham, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Ralf C. Beilhardt and ending with Richard L. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 10, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Michael P. Abel and ending with D001883, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 10, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Robert L. Boyles and ending with Tyler B. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 4, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Jeremy J. Bearss and ending with Jodi L. Nicklas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Norman W. Ayotte and ending with D005191, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Dawud A. A. Agbere and ending with Robert K. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Denise K. Askew and ending with Bret G. Witt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Doreene R. Aguayo and ending with George J. Zeckler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Colin Campbell and ending with Jay T. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nomination of Joseph M. Acosta, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with John Bellissimo and ending with Randall J. Wroblewski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Daryl S. Borgquist and ending with John Filostrat,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nomination of David R. Storr, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Billy C. Young, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Mark J. Mouriski, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Phillip H. Burnside and ending with Eric M. Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert Dryman and ending with Jeri L. Oneill, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy M. Baker and ending with John E. Sedlock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Chad E. Baker and ending with Chris F. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Scott W. Alexander and ending with James A. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 5, 2014.

Navy nomination of Roger F. Wilbur, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Todd A. Abrahamson and ending with David A. Youtt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy A. Barney and ending with Robert A. Wolf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Douglas S. Belvin and ending with Laura A. Schuessler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jerry L. Alexander, Jr. and ending with Jason L. Webb, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert L. Calhoun, Jr. and ending with Thaddeus O. Walker III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher J. Couch and ending with Nathan D. Schneider, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Gregory S. Ireton and ending with Cynthia V. Morgan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Charles W. Brown and ending with Scott E. Norr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffrey D. Buss and ending with Braulio Paiz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael L. Baker and ending with Robert F. Ogden, which nominations were received by the Sen-

ate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Nonito V. Blas and ending with David S. Warner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Anthony T. Butera and ending with Miriam K. Smyth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Bryan E. Braswell and ending with Tyrone L. Ward, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Reginald T. King and ending with Kevin L. Steck, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Addie Alkhas and ending with Patrick E. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffrey G. Ant and ending with Donna M. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Paul J. Brochu and ending with Gary D. West, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Bradley A. Appleman and ending with Joseph Romero, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffrey W. Bledsoe and ending with Susan A. Union, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Kristin Acquavella and ending with Jerome R. White, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher G. Adams and ending with Nicolas D. I. Yamodis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 20, 2014.

Navy nomination of Thor Martinsen, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Christopher S. Mayfield, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert Arias and ending with Bobby L. Woods, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Adam L. Albarado and ending with Eric D. Wyatt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua J. Burkholder and ending with Jimmy J. Stork, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Adrian Z. Bejar and ending with Deborah B. Yusko, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Charles R. Allen and ending with Ricardo A. Trevino, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Gregory R. Adams and ending with David R. Wilcox, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with David A. Benham and ending with James D. Stockman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffrey A. Brown and ending with Michael D. Wagner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeffery A. Barrett and ending with Cecily E. Walsh, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher D. Addington and ending with Kurt A. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Keith Archibald and ending with Mckinnya J. Williamsrobinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeremiah V. Adams and ending with Charles B. Zuhoski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Katherine E. Boyce and ending with Jon C. Watson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael S. Giles and ending with Marty E. Griffin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert H. Carpenter and ending with Joseph V. Sheldon III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with James F. Croom and ending with Todd L. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy K. Atmajian and ending with Rumei Yuan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Ramesh S. Durvasula and ending with Ben M. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Francis F. Derk and ending with Katherine T. Ormsbee, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Thomas P. Belsky and ending with Jeffrey J. Truitt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

Navy nominations beginning with Julio C. Alborno and ending with Eric L. Peterson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 16, 2014.

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Noah Bryson Mamet, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic.

Nominee: Noah Bryson Mamet.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Argentine Republic.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$2,600, 03/24/2013, Ruiz, Raul; \$1,000, 11/01/2012, Berkley, Shelley; \$500, 11/01/2012, Donnelly, Joe; \$500, 11/01/2012, McCaskill, Claire; \$250, 11/01/2012, Brown, Sherrod; \$250, 11/01/2012, Heitkamp, Heidi; \$1,500, 10/29/2012, Tester, Jon; \$250, 09/14/2012, Carmona, Richard; \$250, 08/24/2012, Cherny, Andrei; \$1,000, 07/30/2012, Voices for Progress PAC; \$30,000, 07/16/2012, DNC (Obama Victory Fund); \$250, 07/05/2012, Duckworth, Tammy; \$250, 06/21/2012, Delaney, John; \$500, 11/10/2011, Berman, Howard; \$500, 06/04/2011, Kaine, Tim; \$5,000, 06/02/2011, Obama, Barack (Obama Victory Fund); \$30,800, 06/02/2011, DNC (Obama Victory Fund); \$1,000, 05/09/2011, Landrieu, Mary; \$500, 05/02/2011, Gillibrand, Kirsten; \$350, 11/01/2010, McAdams, Scott; \$500, 10/31/2010, DCCC; \$500, 10/28/2010, Conway, Jack; \$250, 10/28/2010, Markey, Betsy; \$250, 10/28/2010, McNerney, Jerry; \$250, 10/28/2010, Perriello, Tom; \$250, 10/28/2010, Sestak, Joe; \$250, 10/28/2010, Bennet, Michael; \$250, 10/27/2010, Giannoulas, Alexi; \$250, 10/15/2010, McNerney, Jerry; \$250, 10/15/2010, Conway, Jack; \$250, 10/15/2010, Sestak, Joe; \$250, 10/15/2010, McAdams, Scott; \$250, 09/24/2010, Coons, Chris; \$500, 09/08/2010, Reid, Harry (Reid Victory Fund); \$250, 09/02/2010, Hall, John; \$250, 07/27/2010, Hodes, Paul; \$1,000, 04/29/2010, Bennet, Michael; \$1,000, 04/22/2010, Boxer, Barbara; \$1,000, 04/22/2010, DNC; \$200, 01/13/2010, Coakley, Martha; \$250, 06/29/2009, Bennet, Michael.

2. Spouse: None.

3. Children and Spouses: None.

4. Parents: Mildred Mamet (Mother): \$30/10/08/2012, Obama Victory Fund; \$30, 08/29/2012, Obama for America; \$90, 07/09/2012, Obama for America; \$30, 09/09/2010, Obama for America; \$25, 10/20/2010, Obama for America.

5. Grandparents: None.

6. Brothers and Spouses: None.

7. Sister: Lisa Mamet: \$35, 2012, Obama for America.

*Mark William Lippert, of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

Nominee: Mark William Lippert

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$0.00.
2. Spouse: Robin E. Lippert (Schmidch): \$250.00, 6/13/13, Patrick J. Leahy; \$282.41, 12/18/12, Earl "Ben" Nelson; \$2,059.00, 6/30/11, United Health Grp PAC; \$250.00, 6/30/10; Patrick J. Leahy; \$300.00, 9/30/10, United Health Grp PAC.

3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

4. Parents: James W Lippert, Susan Lippert: \$0.00.

5. Grandparents: N/A—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Amy Lippert: \$0.00; Anne Lippert: \$0.00; Brandon Collier (spouse): \$0.00; Susan Collier (sister): \$0.00.

*James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras.

Nominee: James D. Nealon.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: None.

2. Spouse: Kristin F. Nealon: None.

3. Children and Spouses: Rory P. Nealon—son: None; Katherine G. Nealon—daughter: \$50.00, 2008, Barack Obama; Maureen S. Nealon—daughter: None; Liam J. Nealon—son: None.

4. Parents: James D. Nealon—father: Deceased—2000; Barbara H. Nealon—mother: Deceased—1987.

5. Grandparents: George A. Nealon—grandfather: Deceased—1937; Loretta A. Ahearn—grandmother: Deceased—1973; William A. Holland—grandfather: Deceased—1935; Alice P. DeVaney—grandmother: Deceased—1994.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Robert M. Nealon—brother: \$120.00, yearly, United Airlines Pilot Pac; Jean Marie Nealon—his wife: None; Thomas R. Nealon—brother: None; Doris Nealon—his wife: None; David E. Nealon—brother: None; Elizabeth Nealon—his wife: None; Patrick J. Nealon—brother: \$300.00, yearly, Deloitte Political Action Committee; Susan B. Nealon—his wife: None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Suzanne E. Nealon: None; Richard Rodriguez—her husband: None.

*Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Qatar.

Nominee: Dana Shell Smith.

Post: Qatar.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: \$55, 9-2012, Obama; \$20, 7-2012, Obama.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Children and Spouses: none.

4. Parents: William Shell, \$1000, 4-2012, Romney; Susan Shell, \$100, 4-2012, Obama.

5. Grandparents: none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Jeff Shell: \$500, 10/26/2010, Alexi for Illinois; \$200, 9/24/2010, Allen West for Congress; \$1250, 11/10/2011, Ben Nelson 2012; \$1150, 6/30/2009, Bennet for Colorado; \$2400, 1/23/2010, Bennet for Colorado; \$1250, 2/10/2009, Bennet for Colorado; \$2400, 6/26/2009, Bob Casey for Senate Inc.; \$1000, 6/28/2010, Boucher for Congress Committee; \$1000, 6/17/2010, Boucher for Congress Committee; \$250, 9/4/2010, Buck for Colorado; \$500, 6/30/2010, Carney for Congress; \$250, 3/9/2010, Charlie Melancon Campaign Committee Inc.; \$1000, 10/22/2010, Chris Coons for Delaware; \$500, 1/1/2008, Chris Gregoire for Governor; \$500, 2/21/

2008, Citizens for Altmire; \$2400, 6/30/2009, Citizens for Arlen Specter; \$2400, 6/30/2009, Citizens for Arlen Specter; \$1000, 10/11/2010, Debbie Wasserman Schultz for Congress; \$500, 6/7/2010, Fisher for Ohio; \$1000, 5/5/2009, Friends for Harry Reid; \$1000, 6/30/2010, Friends for Harry Reid; \$1000, 10/13/2010, Friends of Blanche Lincoln; \$1250, 2/10/2009, Friends of Blanche Lincoln; \$1000, 2/6/2008, Friends of Byron Dorgan; \$2000, 3/31/2008, Friends of Max Baucus; \$225, 9/10/2010, Friends of Sharron Angle; \$1000, 3/4/2010, Gillibrand for Senate; \$1000, 1/1/2008, Hagan for US Senate; \$500, 6/10/2009, Hodes for Senate; \$1000, 11/30/2009, Hoffman for Illinois; \$750, 4/24/2008, Jeanne Shaheen for Senate; \$500, 6/30/2010, Kathy Dahlkemper for Congress; \$1500, 3/31/2012, Klobuchar for Minnesota 2012; \$250, 3/23/2011, Klobuchar for Minnesota 2012; \$2000, 5/10/2010, Leahy for U.S. Senator Committee; \$500, 3/5/2008, Levin for Congress; \$2400, 6/11/2010, Levin for Congress; \$1500, 3/29/2012, McCaskill for Missouri 2012; \$250, 3/23/2011, McCaskill for Missouri 2012; \$1250, 1/9/2011, Montanans for Tester; \$2000, 9/14/2008, Obama for America; \$2500, 6/13/2011, Obama for America; \$2500, 6/13/2011, Obama for America; \$2300, 8/31/2008, Obama for America; \$300, 11/3/2008, Obama for America; \$1000, 10/4/2010, Onorato for Governor; \$4000, 4/9/2010, Onorato for Governor; \$2500, 3/15/2012, Patrick Murphy for Attorney General; \$700, 4/2/2008, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$2300, 4/2/2008, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$1000, 9/29/2008, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$600, 10/21/2008, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$2400, 6/29/2009, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$1000, 12/22/2009, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$1400, 2/1/2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$500, 1/1/2008, Rob McCord for State Treasurer; \$900, 6/29/2009, Robin Carnahan for Senate; \$2500, 6/1/2010, Shapiro for Congress; \$1500, 1/1/2008, Shapiro for Congress; \$1000, 2/5/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1000, 6/30/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1000, 10/7/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$750, 4/24/2008, Udall for Us All; \$500, 6/23/2009, Wyden for Senate; \$5000, 5/9/2011, Cable PAC; \$15000, 6/1/2009, COMPAC—USA; \$15000, 9/1/2010, COMPAC—USA; \$15000, 1/25/2011, COMPAC—USA; \$5000, 4/1/2008, COMPAC Federal; \$5000, 6/11/2009, COMPAC Federal; \$5000, 9/28/2010, COMPAC Federal; \$5000, 1/31/2011, COMPAC Federal; \$4600, 6/26/2008, DNC Services Corporation; \$30800, 6/13/2011, DNC Services Corporation; \$5000, 3/31/2012, DSCC; \$3200, 9/29/2009, DSCC; \$500, 3/14/2011, Minnesota & Missouri Victory Fund; \$900, 6/17/2009, Missouri New Hampshire Victory Fund; \$2500, 11/3/2011, Montana-Nebraska Victory Fund; \$2000, 2/19/2008, NCTA; \$2000, 3/20/2008, NCTA; \$2000, 3/11/2009, NCTA; \$2000, 3/3/2010, NCTA; \$5000, 5/13/2011, NCTA; \$2,500.00, 3/20/2013, Friends for Harry Reid; \$1,000.00, 3/20/2013, The Markey Committee; \$2,600.00, 10/2/2013, Mark Udall for Colorado; \$2,600.00, 10/2/2013, Udall for All of Us; \$32,400.00, 12/3/2013, DSCC—Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$5,000.00, 12/12/2013, NCTA—National Cable & Telecommunications Association; \$2,600.00, 3/27/2014, Mark Pryor for US Senate; \$2,600.00, 3/27/2014, Alaskans for Begich. Laura Shell; \$2400, 6/30/2009, Bennet for Colorado; \$2400, 5/26/2010, Bennet for Colorado; \$2400, 7/17/2010, Citizens for Arlen Specter; \$2400, 6/30/2009, Citizens for Arlen Specter; \$2400, 6/30/2009, Citizens for Arlen Specter; \$1000, 1/8/2012, Gillibrand for Senate; \$1000, 9/22/2008, Hagan Senate Committee Inc.; \$2300, 8/31/2008, Obama for America; \$200, 6/13/2011, Obama for America; \$2500, 6/13/2011, Obama for America; \$2300, 9/14/2011, Obama for America; \$1200, 2/1/2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$2400, 2/1/2010, Patrick Murphy for Congress; \$400, 8/25/2010, Sestak for Sen-

ate; \$1000, 2/22/2008, The Bob Roggio for Congress Committee; \$500, 4/21/2008, The Bob Roggio for Congress Committee; \$1000, 9/29/2008, The Bob Roggio for Congress Committee; \$500, 3/25/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$1500, 6/30/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$900, 10/7/2010, Trivedi for Congress; \$5000, 6/26/2008, DNC Services Corporation; \$2700, 9/14/2011, DNC Services Corporation; \$5000, 10/20/2010, Pennsylvania Democratic party; \$250, 9/29/2008, Republican National Committee; \$2,600.00, 10/9/2013, Alison for Kentucky.

7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class Of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Nominee: Robert Stephen Beecroft.

Post: Cairo, Egypt.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Anne Tisdell Beecroft, none.
3. Children and Spouses: Blythe A. Beecroft, none; Robert Warren Beecroft, none; Sterling S. Beecroft, none; Grace A. Beecroft, none.
4. Parents: Robert L. Beecroft (Deceased), none; Emma Lou Beecroft, none.
5. Grandparents: Irl R. Beecroft (Deceased), none; Ruth V. Beecroft (Deceased), none; John E. Warren (Deceased), none; Emma Warren (Deceased), none.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Warren E. Beecroft; \$100, May 2012, Romney; \$100, June 2012, Romney; Frances Beecroft, none; Regan E. Beecroft, none; JoAn Stopa Beecroft, none; Collin J. Beecroft, \$2,500, March 2012, Romney; Melinda K. Beecroft, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Robyn R. Ryskamp, None; Barry Ryskamp, none.

*Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq.

Nominee: Stuart E. Jones.

Post: Iraq.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
3. Children and Spouses: 0.
4. Parents: 0.
5. Grandparents: 0.
6. Brothers and Spouses: 0.
7. Sisters and Spouses: 0.

*Theodore G. Osius III, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Nominee: Theodore George Osius III.

Post: Vietnam.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I

have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$250, 2008, Obama for America; \$450 (with spouse), 2012, Obama for America/Obama Victory Fund; \$185, 2012, Mark Takano campaign; \$200, 2014, Mark Takano campaign.

2. Spouse: Clayton A. Bond—no Federal contributions.

3. Children and Spouses: Theodore Alan Bond-Osius—none.

4. Parents: Nancy Osius Zimmerman; \$305, 2008, DNC, DCCC, and Obama for America; \$515, 2009, Democratic National Committee, DCCC, Al Franken; \$440, 2010, Democratic National Committee, DCCC Kratochvil for Congress; \$305, 2011, Democratic National Committee, DCCC, Obama for America; \$855, 2012, Obama for America, Elizabeth for Massachusetts, DCCC, Ben Cardin for Senate, Senate Democrats, DSCC; \$754, 2013, Al Franken, DCCC, DSCC, Organizing for Action, House Democrats. Frederick Zimmerman—none.

5. Grandparents: deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Margaret E. Osius; \$1000, 2009, Rick Lazio; \$250, 2010, Rick Lazio; \$100, 2011, Mitt Romney; \$1500, 2012, Mitt Romney. Alison K. Osius and Michael Bengel—none. Lucile L. Osius—none.

*Joan A. Polaschik, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Nominee: Joan A. Polaschik.

Post: Algeria.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: none.
3. Children and Spouses: none.
4. Parents: Marion W. Polaschik, none; John Polaschik (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Nellie Wassel (deceased); John Wassel (deceased); Mary Polaschik (deceased); John Polaschik, Sr. (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses: none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Anne M. Barcal, none; Keith B. Barcal, none.

*Karen Kornbluh, of New York, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2016.

*Jonathan Nicholas Stivers, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

*Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2514. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2515. A bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KING, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. TESTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WALSH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. REID, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2516. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2517. A bill to prohibit bonuses to senior-level IRS executives until all Congressional requests for documents, including electronic communications, related to the investigation of IRS targeting of taxpayers are complete; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 2518. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to implement comprehensive reforms and innovative strategies to significantly improve postsecondary outcomes for low-income and first generation college students, including increasing postsecondary enrollment and graduation rates, to reduce the need of postsecondary students for remedial education, to increase alignment of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, and to promote innovation in postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2519. A bill to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2520. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2521. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2522. A bill to designate the James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway and the James L. Oberstar National Scenic Byway in the State of Minnesota; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 2523. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 3rd Avenue, NW, in Chisholm, Minnesota, as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2524. A bill to support access to career and technical education programs of study that provide students with education and training combining rigorous academics with technical curricula focused on specific high-skill, high-wage, high-demand and high-growth occupations and industries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Res. 482. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest Van Ness Street, Northwest International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, should be designated as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. Res. 483. A resolution establishing a point of order against legislation selling Federal land in order to reduce the deficit; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 1049

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

S. 1091

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1307

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 1534

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1534, a bill to provide a framework establishing the rights, liabilities, and responsibilities of participants in closing procedures for certain types of consumer deposit accounts, to protect individual consumer rights, and for other purposes.

S. 1692

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1692, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify the final rule relating to flightcrew member duty and rest requirements for passenger operations of air carriers to apply to all-cargo operations of air carriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an

alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2472

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2472, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Peoples.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2496, a bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2502

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2502, a bill to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to establish a temporary limitation on the use of funds to transfer or release individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

S. RES. 447

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 447, a resolution recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2515. A bill to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have the opportunity to receive care in a home and community-based setting; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being on objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2515

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Integration Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), held that the unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(2) Under *Olmstead*, individuals generally have the right to receive their supports and services in home and community-based settings, rather than in institutional settings, if they so choose.

(3) *Olmstead* envisioned that States would provide appropriate long-term services and supports to individuals with disabilities through home and community-based services and end forced segregation in nursing homes and other institutions.

(4) While there has been progress in rebalancing State spending on individuals with disabilities in institutions as compared to home and community-based settings, more than 75 percent of States continue to spend the majority of their long-term care dollars on nursing homes and other institutional settings, and the number of individuals with disabilities under age 65 in nursing homes increased between 2008 and 2012.

(5) As of June 2013, there were more than 200,000 individuals younger than age 65 in nursing homes—almost 16 percent of the total nursing home population.

(6) Thirty-eight studies published from 2005 to 2012 concluded that providing services in home and community-based settings is less costly than providing care in a nursing home or other institutional setting.

(7) No clear or centralized reporting system exists to compare how effectively States are meeting the *Olmstead* mandate.

SEC. 3. ENSURING MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES MAY ELECT TO RECEIVE CARE IN A HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SETTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (80), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (81), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (81) the following new paragraph:

"(82) in the case of any individual with respect to whom there has been a determination that the individual requires the level of care provided in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally re-

tarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting—

"(A) provide the individual with the choice and opportunity to receive such care in a home and community-based setting, including rehabilitative services, assistance and support in accomplishing activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, and health-related tasks, and assistance in acquiring, maintaining, or enhancing skills necessary to accomplish such activities, tasks, or services;

"(B) ensure that each such individual has an equal opportunity (when compared to the receipt and availability of nursing facility services) to receive care in a home and community-based setting, if the individual so chooses, by ensuring that the provision of such care in a home and community-based setting is widely available on a statewide basis for all such individuals within the State; and

"(C) meet the requirements of section 1904A (relating to the provision of care in a home and community-based setting)."

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNITY CARE OPTIONS.—Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1904 the following new section:

"PROVISIONS RELATED TO HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

"SEC. 1904A. (a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, section 1902(a)(82), and section 1905(a)(4)(A):

"(1) ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.—The term 'activities of daily living' includes, but is not limited to, tasks such as eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, and transferring.

"(2) HEALTH-RELATED TASKS.—The term 'health-related tasks' means specific tasks related to the needs of an individual, including, but not limited to, bowel or bladder care, wound care, use and care of ventilators and feeding tubes, and the administration of medications and injections, which, in the opinion of the individual's physician, can be delegated to be performed by an attendant.

"(3) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SETTING.—The term 'home and community-based setting' means, with respect to an individual who requires a level of care provided in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, a setting that—

"(A) includes a house, apartment, townhouse, condominium, or similar public or private housing where the individual resides that—

"(i) is owned or leased by the individual or a member of the individual's family;

"(ii) ensures the individual's privacy, dignity, respect, and freedom from coercion; and

"(iii) maximizes the individual's autonomy and independence;

"(B) is integrated in, and provides access to, the general community in which the setting is located so that the individual has access to the community and opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, participate in community life, control and utilize personal resources, benefit from community services, and participate in the community in an overall manner that is comparable to that available to individuals who are not individuals with disabilities; and

"(C) has the services and supports that the individual needs in order to live as independently as possible.

“(4) INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.—The term ‘instrumental activities of daily living’ means activities related to living independently in the community and includes, but is not limited to, meal planning and preparation, managing finances, shopping for food, clothing, and other items, performing household chores, communicating by phone or other media, and traveling around and participating in the community.

“(5) PUBLIC ENTITY.—The term ‘public entity’ means a public entity as defined in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 201(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROVIDING SERVICES IN HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS.—With respect to the availability and provision of services under the State plan under this title, or under any waiver of State plan requirements (subject to section 3(d) of the Community Integration Act of 2014), in a home and community-based setting to any individual who requires a level of care provided in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, any public entity that receives payment under the State plan or waiver for providing services to such an individual shall not—

“(1) impose or utilize policies, practices, or procedures, such as unnecessary requirements or arbitrary service or cost caps, that limit the availability of services in home and community-based settings to an individual with a disability (including individuals with the most significant disabilities) who need such services;

“(2) impose or utilize policies, practices, or procedures that limit the availability of services in a home and community-based setting (including assistance and support in accomplishing activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, health-related tasks, and rehabilitative services) based on the specific disability of an otherwise eligible individual;

“(3) impose or utilize policies, practices, or procedures that arbitrarily restrict an individual with a disability from full and meaningful participation in community life;

“(4) impose or utilize policies, practices, or procedures that unnecessarily delay or restrict the provision of services in a home and community-based setting to any individual who requires such services;

“(5) fail to establish and utilize adequate payment structures to maintain a sufficient workforce to provide services in home and community-based settings to any individual who requires such services;

“(6) fail to provide information, on an ongoing basis, to help any individual who receives care in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, understand the individual’s right to choose to receive such care in a home and community-based setting; or

“(7) fail to provide information to help any individual that requires the level of care provided in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, prior to the individual’s placement in such a facility or institution, understand the individual’s right to choose to receive such care in a home and community-based setting.

“(c) PLAN TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HOUSING.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this section, each State shall develop a statewide plan to

increase the availability of affordable and accessible private and public housing stock for individuals with disabilities (including accessible housing for individuals with physical disabilities and those using mobility devices).

“(d) AVAILABILITY OF REMEDIES AND PROCEDURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The remedies and procedures set forth in sections 203 and 505 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 shall be available to any person aggrieved by the failure of—

“(A) a State to comply with this section or section 1902(a)(82); or

“(B) a public entity (including a State) to comply with the requirements of subsection (b).

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to limit any remedy or right of action that otherwise is available to an aggrieved person under this title.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may reduce the Federal matching assistance percentage applicable to the State (as determined under section 1905(b)) if the Secretary determines that the State has violated the requirements of subsection (b).

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to limit any remedy or right of action that is otherwise available to the Secretary.

“(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to fiscal year 2016, and for each fiscal year thereafter, each State shall submit to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services, not later than April 1 of the succeeding fiscal year, a report, in such form and manner as the Secretary shall require, that includes—

“(1) the total number of individuals enrolled in the State plan or under a waiver of the plan during such fiscal year that required the level of care provided in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, disaggregated by the type of facility or setting;

“(2) with respect to the total number described in paragraph (1), the total number of individuals described in that paragraph who received care in a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting, disaggregated by the type of facility or setting; and

“(3) with respect to the total number described in paragraph (2), the total number of individuals described in that paragraph who were transitioned from a nursing facility, intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded, institution for mental disease, or other similarly restrictive or institutional setting to a home and community-based setting, disaggregated by the type of home and community-based setting.”

(c) INCLUSION AS A MANDATORY SERVICE.—Section 1905(a)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “other than” and inserting “including similar services such as rehabilitative services and assistance and support in accomplishing activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, and health-related tasks, that are provided, at the individual’s option, in a home and community-based setting (as defined in section 1904A(a)(3)), but not including”.

(d) APPLICATION TO WAIVERS.—Notwithstanding section 1904A of the Social Security

Act (as added by subsection (b)), such section, and sections 1902(a)(82), and 1905(a)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), as amended by subsections (a) and (c), respectively, shall not apply to any individuals who are eligible for medical assistance for home and community-based services under a waiver under section 1115 or 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315, 1396n) and who are receiving such services, to the extent such sections (as so added or amended) are inconsistent with any such waiver.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan under section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a) which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this section, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such section 1902 solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter beginning after the close of the 1st regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KING, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. TESTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WALSH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. REID, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2516. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I join with several Democratic Senators to reintroduce the DISCLOSE Act, renewing—for the third time—our fight to curtail some of the worst abuses resulting from the Supreme Court’s decision in *Citizens United*. Republicans

mounted filibusters of this commonsense bill when it was first introduced in 2010 and then again when it was reintroduced in 2012. This was the case even though Republicans claim to support disclosure.

Earlier this month, I chaired a hearing on a proposed constitutional amendment to repair the damage done by Citizens United and a series of other flawed Supreme Court decisions that have eviscerated our campaign finance laws. At this hearing, even Floyd Abrams, the noted First Amendment attorney who testified against the proposed amendment argued that he supported greater disclosure. And yet, Republicans have already filibustered this bill twice and are likely to continue filibustering it. I am hoping that Republicans have come to their senses after seeing how Citizens United has allowed unlimited, undisclosed money to pollute our elections.

Since that decision, our elections have been defined by corporations and billionaires spending vast amounts of secret money to influence elections. In the 2012 election cycle, spending from undisclosed sources exceeded \$310 million, a massive increase from the \$69 million from undisclosed sources in the previous presidential election cycle in 2008. And this number will only increase. No one doubts that.

While states like Vermont and Congress continue their heavy lift of passing a constitutional amendment to address the flawed Supreme Court decisions that have gutted our campaign finance laws, the Senate can take more immediate action today. By passing the DISCLOSE Act, we can restore transparency and accountability to campaign finance laws by ensuring that all Americans know who is paying for campaign ads. This is a crucial step toward restoring the ability of Vermonters and all American voters to be able to speak, be heard and to hear competing voices, and not be drowned out by powerful corporate interests.

We know disclosure laws can work because they do work for individual Americans donating directly to political campaigns. When you or I give money directly to a political candidate, our donation is not hidden. It is publicly disclosed. Yet those who oppose the DISCLOSE Act are standing up for special rights for corporations and wealthy donors that you and I do not have.

Recently, the Washington Post documented a trend whereby politically active organizations manipulate and use their tax-exempt status to keep its donor lists private even though these organizations are pouring millions of dollars of undisclosed money into our elections. The increase of secret money can only harm our political process. The DISCLOSE Act would fix this problem. This bill would require any organization spending money on polit-

ical ads, including 501(c)(4)s and Super PACs, to disclose donors who had given \$10,000 or more. This is a commonsense transparency measure that everyone should be willing to support.

When the race is on for secret money and election campaigns are won or lost by who can collect the largest amount of unaccountable, secret donations, it puts at risk government of, by and for the people. In a democracy, our ballots should be secret not massive corporate campaign contributions. Disclosure of who is paying for election ads should not be kept secret from the public.

Vermont is a small state. It would not take more than a tiny fraction of the corporate money flooding the airwaves in other states to outspend all of our local candidates combined. I know that the people of Vermont, like all Americans, take seriously their civic duty to choose wisely on Election Day. Like all Vermonters, I cherish the voters' role in the democratic process and am a staunch believer in the First Amendment. The rights of Vermonters and all Americans to speak to each other and to be heard should not be undercut by corporate spending.

I hope that Republicans who have seen the impact of waves of unaccountable corporate campaign spending will join us to take up this important legislation. I hope Republican Senators will let us vote on the DISCLOSE Act and help us take an important step to ensure the ability of every American to be heard and to be able to meaningfully participate in free and fair elections.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2520. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, is one of our Nation's most important laws, established to give Americans greater access to their government and protect their ability to hold government accountable. In keeping with my commitment to support this law and expand its mission, today I join with Senator JOHN CORNYN to introduce bipartisan legislation that will improve the implementation of FOIA.

I have sought for decades to make our government more open and transparent. Senator CORNYN has been an important partner in these efforts, and our collaboration has resulted in the enactment of several improvements to FOIA: the OPEN Government Act, the first major reform to FOIA in more than a decade; the OPEN FOIA Act, which increased the transparency of legislative exemptions to FOIA; and the Faster FOIA Act, which responded to the concerns of FOIA requestors and addressed agency delays in processing requests.

The FOIA Improvement Act we are introducing today will make additional

improvements to the law. It will enshrine into law the presumption of openness that the President laid out on his first day in office. He said, "The Freedom of Information Act should be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt, openness prevails." Our bipartisan legislation will require that Federal agencies consider the public interest in the disclosure of government information before invoking a FOIA exemption. It will provide additional independence for the Office of Government Information Services, OGIS, created by the OPEN Government Act in 2007, and reduce the overuse of Exemption 5 to withhold information by adding a public interest balancing test.

There has been significant progress in improving the FOIA process over the years, but I am concerned that the growing trend towards relying upon FOIA exemptions to withhold large swaths of government information is hindering the public's right to know. According to the OpenTheGovernment.org 2013 Secrecy Report, Federal agencies used Exemption 5 more than 79,000 times in 2012—an incredible 41 percent increase from the previous year. This does not exemplify the presumption of openness that we expect from our Government, and that is why Senator CORNYN and I are introducing the FOIA Improvement Act today.

Both Democrats and Republicans understand that a commitment to transparency is a commitment to the American values of openness and accountability, and to the public's right to know what their government is doing. I value the strong partnership that I have formed with Senator CORNYN on open government matters. Ensuring an open government should be a non-partisan issue, and I invite all Members to support the FOIA Improvement Act of 2014.

Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2520

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FOIA Improvement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FOIA.

Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "for public inspection and copying" and inserting "for public inspection in an electronic format";

(ii) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) copies of all records, regardless of form or format—

“(i) that have been released to any person under paragraph (3); and

“(ii)(I) that because of the nature of their subject matter, the agency determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records; or

“(II) that have been requested not less than 3 times; and”; and

(iii) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (E), by striking “public inspection and copying current” and inserting “public inspection in an electronic format, and current”;

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking clause (viii) and inserting the following:

“(viii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), an agency shall not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees) under this subparagraph if the agency has failed to comply with any time limit under paragraph (6).

“(II)(aa) If an agency determines that unusual circumstances apply (as the term is defined in paragraph (6)(B)) and the agency provides a timely written notice to the requester in accordance with paragraph (6)(B), a failure described in subclause (I) is excused for an additional 10 days. If the agency fails to comply with the extended time limit, the agency may not assess any search fees (or in the case of a requester described under clause (ii)(II) of this subparagraph, duplication fees).

“(bb) If a court determines that exceptional circumstances exist (as that term is defined in paragraph (6)(C)), a failure described in subclause (I) shall be excused for the length of time provided by the court order.”;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “making such request” and all that follows through “determination; and” and inserting the following: “making such request of—”

“(I) such determination and the reasons therefore;

“(II) the right of such person to seek assistance from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency; and

“(III) in the case of an adverse determination—

“(aa) the right of such person to appeal to the head of the agency, within a period determined by the head of the agency that is not less than 90 days after the receipt of such adverse determination; and

“(bb) the right of such person to seek dispute resolution services from the FOIA Public Liaison of the agency or the Office of Government Information Services; and”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “the agency.” and inserting “the agency, and notify the requester of the right of the requester to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) An agency—

“(A) shall—

“(i) withhold information under this section only if—

“(I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption described in subsection (b) or other provision of law; or

“(II) disclosure is prohibited by law; and

“(ii)(I) consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible whenever the agency determines that a full disclosure of a requested record is not possible; and

“(II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information; and

“(B) may not—

“(i) withhold information requested under this section merely because the agency can demonstrate, as a technical matter, that the records fall within the scope of an exemption described in subsection (b); or

“(ii) withhold information requested under this section because the information may be embarrassing to the agency or because of speculative or abstract concerns.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency, if—

“(A) in the case of deliberative process privilege or attorney work-product privilege, the agency interest in protecting the records or information is not outweighed by a public interest in disclosure;

“(B) in the case of attorney-client privilege, the agency interest in protecting the records or information is not outweighed by a compelling public interest in disclosure; and

“(C) the requested record or information was created less than 25 years before the date on which the request was made.”;

(3) in subsection (e)

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and to the Director of the Office of Government Information Services” after “United States”;

(ii) in subparagraph (N), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(P) the number of times the agency denied a request for records under subsection (c); and

“(Q) the number of records that were made available for public inspection in an electronic format under subsection (a)(2).”;

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) Each agency shall make each such report available for public inspection in an electronic format. In addition, each agency shall make the raw statistical data used in each report available in a timely manner for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

“(A) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

“(B) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

“(C) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “Government Reform and Oversight” and inserting “Oversight and Government Reform”;

(ii) by inserting “Homeland Security and” before “Governmental Affairs”; and

(iii) by striking “April” and inserting “March”; and

(D) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6)(A) The Attorney General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate, and the President a report on or before March 1 of each calendar year, which shall include for the prior calendar year—

“(i) a listing of the number of cases arising under this section;

“(ii) a listing of—

“(I) each subsection, and any exemption, if applicable, involved in each case arising under this section;

“(II) the disposition of each case arising under this section; and

“(III) the cost, fees, and penalties assessed under subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of subsection (a)(4); and

“(iii) a description of the efforts undertaken by the Department of Justice to encourage agency compliance with this section.

“(B) The Attorney General of the United States shall make—

“(i) each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format; and

“(ii) the raw statistical data used in each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format, which shall be made available—

“(I) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

“(II) in an aggregated, searchable format; and

“(III) in a format that may be downloaded in bulk.”;

(4) in subsection (g), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “publicly available upon request” and inserting “available for public inspection in an electronic format”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The head of the Office shall be the Director of the Office of Government Information Services.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) identify procedures and methods for improving compliance under this section.”;

(C) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) The Office of Government Information Services shall offer mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests under this section and administrative agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation and may issue advisory opinions at the discretion of the Office or upon request of any party to a dispute.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) Not less frequently than annually, the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the President—

“(i) a report on the findings of the information reviewed and identified under paragraph (2);

“(ii) a summary of the activities of the Office of Government Information Services under paragraph (3), including—

“(I) any advisory opinions issued; and

“(II) the number of times each agency engaged in dispute resolution with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison; and

“(iii) legislative and regulatory recommendations, if any, to improve the administration of this section.

“(B) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall make each report submitted under subparagraph (A) available for public inspection in an electronic format.

“(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall not be required to obtain the prior approval, comment, or review of any officer or agency of

the United States, including the Department of Justice, the Archivist of the United States, or the Office of Management and Budget before submitting to the Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any reports, recommendations, testimony, or comments, if such submissions include a statement indicating that the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services may submit additional information to Congress and the President as the Director determines to be appropriate.

“(6) Not less frequently than annually, the Office of Government Information Services shall conduct a meeting that is open to the public on the review and reports by the Office and shall allow interested persons to appear and present oral or written statements at the meeting.”; and

(6) by striking subsections (i), (j), and (k), and inserting the following:

“(i) The Government Accountability Office shall—

“(1) conduct audits of administrative agencies on compliance with and implementation of the requirements of this section and issue reports detailing the results of such audits; and

“(2) catalog the number of exemptions described in subsection (b)(3) and the use of such exemptions by each agency.

“(j)(1) Each agency shall designate a Chief FOIA Officer who shall be a senior official of such agency (at the Assistant Secretary or equivalent level).

“(2) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall, subject to the authority of the head of the agency—

“(A) have agency-wide responsibility for efficient and appropriate compliance with this section;

“(B) monitor implementation of this section throughout the agency and keep the head of the agency, the chief legal officer of the agency, and the Attorney General appropriately informed of the agency’s performance in implementing this section;

“(C) recommend to the head of the agency such adjustments to agency practices, policies, personnel, and funding as may be necessary to improve its implementation of this section;

“(D) review and report to the Attorney General, through the head of the agency, at such times and in such formats as the Attorney General may direct, on the agency’s performance in implementing this section;

“(E) facilitate public understanding of the purposes of the statutory exemptions of this section by including concise descriptions of the exemptions in both the agency’s handbook issued under subsection (g), and the agency’s annual report on this section, and by providing an overview, where appropriate, of certain general categories of agency records to which those exemptions apply;

“(F) offer training to agency staff regarding their responsibilities under this section;

“(G) serve as the primary agency liaison with the Office of Government Information Services and the Office of Information Policy; and

“(H) designate 1 or more FOIA Public Liaisons.

“(3) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency shall review, not less frequently than annually, all aspects of the administration of this section by the agency to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section, including—

“(A) agency regulations;

“(B) disclosure of records required under paragraphs (2) and (8) of subsection (a);

“(C) assessment of fees and determination of eligibility for fee waivers;

“(D) the timely processing of requests for information under this section;

“(E) the use of exemptions under subsection (b); and

“(F) dispute resolution services with the assistance of the Office of Government Information Services or the FOIA Public Liaison.

“(k)(1) There is established in the executive branch the Chief FOIA Officers Council (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Council’).

“(2) The Council shall be comprised of the following members:

“(A) The Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(B) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice.

“(C) The Director of the Office of Government Information Services.

“(D) The Chief FOIA Officer of each agency.

“(E) Any other officer or employee of the United States as designated by the Co-Chairs.

“(3) The Director of the Office of Information Policy at the Department of Justice and the Director of the Office of Government Information Services shall be the Co-Chairs of the Council.

“(4) The Administrator of General Services shall provide administrative and other support for the Council.

“(5)(A) The duties of the Council shall include the following:

“(i) Develop recommendations for increasing compliance and efficiency under this section.

“(ii) Disseminate information about agency experiences, ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches related to this section.

“(iii) Identify, develop, and coordinate initiatives to increase transparency and compliance with this section.

“(iv) Promote the development and use of common performance measures for agency compliance with this section.

“(B) In performing the duties described in subparagraph (A), the Council shall consult on a regular basis with members of the public who make requests under this section.

“(6)(A) The Council shall meet regularly and such meetings shall be open to the public unless the Council determines to close the meeting for reasons of national security or to discuss information exempt under subsection (b).

“(B) Not less frequently than annually, the Council shall hold a meeting that shall be open to the public and permit interested persons to appear and present oral and written statements to the Council.

“(C) Not later than 10 business days before a meeting of the Council, notice of such meeting shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(D) Except as provided in subsection (b), the records, reports, transcripts, minutes, appendixes, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, or other documents that were made available to or prepared for or by the Council shall be made publicly available.

“(E) Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Council shall be kept and shall contain a record of the persons present, a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued, or approved by the Council. The minutes shall be redacted as necessary and made publicly available.”.

SEC. 3. REVIEW AND ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each agency (as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code) shall review the regulations of such agency and shall issue regulations on procedures for the disclosure of records under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with the amendments made by section 2.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations of each agency shall include procedures for engaging in dispute resolution through the FOIA Public Liaison and the Office of Government Information Services.

SEC. 4. PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE THROUGH RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Section 3102 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) procedures for identifying records of general interest or use to the public that are appropriate for public disclosure, and for posting such records in a publicly accessible electronic format;”.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act or the amendments made by this Act. The requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 482—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE AREA BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, NORTHWEST VAN NESS STREET, NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, NORTHWEST AND INTERNATIONAL PLACE, NORTHWEST IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS “LIU XIAOBO PLAZA”

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 482

Whereas June 4, 2014, marked the 25th anniversary of the brutal crackdown on protestors at Tiananmen Square in Beijing;

Whereas Dr. Liu Xiaobo is a Chinese human rights activist and Nobel Laureate who is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for inciting subversion against the Government of the People’s Republic of China;

Whereas in recognition of Dr. Liu Xiaobo’s long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in the People’s Republic of China, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2010; and

Whereas renaming a portion of the street in front of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the District of Columbia after Dr. Liu Xiaobo serves as an expression of solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of the People’s Republic of China who are, like Dr. Liu

Xiaobo, engaged in a long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, should be known and designated as “Liu Xiaobo Plaza”, and any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record to that area should be deemed to be a reference to Liu Xiaobo Plaza;

(2) the address of 3505 International Place, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, should be redesignated as 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza, and any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to that address should be deemed to be a reference to 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza; and

(3) the Administrator of General Services should construct street signs that—

(A) contain the phrase “Liu Xiaobo Plaza”;

(B) are similar in design to the signs used by Washington, District of Columbia, to designate the location of Metro stations; and

(C) should be placed on—

(i) the parcel Federal property that is closest to 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza (as described in paragraph (2)); and

(ii) the street corners of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 483—ESTABLISHING A POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION SELLING FEDERAL LAND IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT

Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 483

Resolved,

SECTION 1. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST SELLING FEDERAL LAND IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the houses, or conference report that sells any Federal land and uses the proceeds of the sale to reduce the Federal deficit.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the sale of Federal land as part of a program that acquires land in the same State that is of comparable value or contains exceptional resources.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about one of our greatest treasures in this country: our public lands. Growing up in Butte, MT, I woke

up every day under the morning shadow of the Continental Divide, part of the Deerlodge National Forest. When I was a kid, my dad would take me fishing on the Big Hole River. On the living room wall in my parents' home, there were pictures of three people: a picture of Jesus, a picture of JFK, and a picture of George Meany. I have carried the values my parents instilled in me to this day.

I grew up in a Catholic home similar to Montana writer Norman Maclean, who wrote in his famous book “A River Runs Through It” that his father, a Presbyterian minister, “told us about Christ’s disciples being fishermen, and we were left to assume, as my brother and I did, that all first-class fishermen on the Sea of Galilee were fly fishermen, and that John, the favorite, was a dry-fly fisherman.”

As an adult serving in the Montana National Guard, I would ride my mountain bike almost daily all over trails in the Helena National Forest that connect our streets in the capital city of Helena. One day my granddaughter Kennedy will fish and bike these same lands and waters. These places all have one thing in common beyond being gorgeous and being in Montana; they belong to you and me. We all own them. They are part of what makes living in Montana and in America so special. Other countries and other States have lost this heritage but not in Montana.

Maintaining and improving access to these lands is one of the most important things we can do. That is why today I submitted legislation to make it harder to sell off this land. My bill will create a budget point of order in the Senate to block attempts to sell off public land to pay for Congress’s bills.

There is no question that Washington has a spending problem. Since arriving in the Senate, I have proposed several ways to rein in out-of-control spending. But selling off our kids’ and grandkids’ heritage is a terrible idea. Jeopardizing the countless jobs that rely on our outdoors is also a terrible idea.

There is a theory circulating in some parts of the West that the Federal Government has a continuing duty to dispose of its lands in Western States. What this really means is handing over our most popular recreation areas to the highest out-of-State bidder. That is good for copper barons and trophy-home developers, but it is bad for us.

This theory is as radical as it is wrong, as court rulings have repeatedly found, but it is getting real traction.

Our colleagues in the House of Representatives have passed a budget that could sell off millions of acres of public land—our land—in Montana.

I want you to know that I will fight any similar attempts in this Chamber. I want my granddaughter Kennedy to grow up in Montana with the same easy access to streams and forests I enjoyed, whether she wants to hunt, hike, fish or bike.

We also need to get our forests healthy and working again, creating good jobs and making our forests more resilient to wildfires.

Like many Montanans, I am frustrated with how long it takes to conduct a timber sale or complete an environmental analysis of potential projects. Even simple projects get tied up in court, and our rural communities and the land itself suffer for it.

But the solution isn’t to hand the keys over to special interests and walk away. The solution is to manage the land—from the ground up.

In Montana, tourism is critical to our economy. Outdoor recreation supports 64,000 jobs and generates over \$5.8 billion in revenue annually. Cutting off access or selling the land to out-of-State development is a direct threat to jobs in Montana.

Turning over land in the State is just one step away from privatizing. There is no question that private land is the misguided ultimate goal of many who don’t understand our outdoor heritage in the West.

In the year 2000 I led the response of the Montana National Guard to the wildfires that consumed over 1 million acres of Montana land. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior have spent about \$1.8 billion annually to fight wildfires in the past 5 years. States simply cannot afford that pricetag. One bad wildfire season could bankrupt a State.

I want to share a little more about what is at stake.

Under the Ryan budget in the House of Representatives, with an auction of our public lands, Montana hunters could lose access to elk wallows of the Pioneer Mountains. You might hear elk bugling on Tenderfoot Creek in the Little Belt Mountains, but it could be on private land instead of land protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Montanans could be shut out of the Missouri River Breaks, locked out of putting a canoe in or hunting a mule deer or sheep.

We could lose the Rocky Mountain Front, facing padlocks and orange signs instead of open space and the chance for a bighorn sheep tag.

Under the House plan, anglers in Montana could lose the headwaters of Rock Creek or the Smith River and the chance to sink a perfect fly from a streamside the public owns.

Despite years of effort to secure access, we could be shut out of land around the Three Dollar Bridge south of Bozeman that helped kids like me—growing up, fishing in our own blue-ribbon streams. The same thing could happen to the centennials and swan.

We could lose the best eastern Montana has to offer, from the monster bucks and turkeys in the Custer National Forest to the duck factory of the BLM’s prairie potholes.

Under the House plan, we could be facing closed roads, closed trails, and closed land in the Gallatin National Forest that thousands of Montanans worked together 20 years ago to keep open and keep public forever.

Montana is the last best place because we can hunt, fish, hike, and play on the land that we all own. I will fight to keep it that way.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3375. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3376. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3377. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3375. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) GULF STATES.—The term “Gulf States” means the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 302. FISHERY MANAGEMENT RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall grant to the Gulf States exclusive fishery management authority over the red snapper fish (*lutjanus campechanus*) in the Gulf of Mexico in the area located between the coast line of each Gulf State and the point that is 200 miles seaward of the coast line of each Gulf State, consistent with the jurisdictional limit of the exclusive economic zone.

(b) AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The grant of authority under subsection (a) is contingent on the condition that not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary grants the authority, the Governors of each of the Gulf States—

(A) agree on a fishery management plan governing management of the red snapper fish (*lutjanus campechanus*); and

(B) certify in writing to the Secretary that the Governors have entered into that agreement.

(2) REVERSION.—If the Governors fail to enter into an agreement under paragraph (1), the authority granted to the Governors under subsection (a) shall revert to the Secretary.

SA 3376. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRANSPARENCY OF REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

(a) OPEN MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “session,” and inserting “session that is not subject to paragraph (3)(C);” and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) Any member of a Council, committee, or panel who intends to use a document, exhibit, fact, or statistic at an open or closed meeting of the Council, committee, or panel shall provide to all other members of the Council, committee, or panel the source of the document, exhibit, fact, or statistic not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.”.

(b) CLOSED MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) For any closed meeting, or portion thereof, of a Council, of the Council coordination committee established under subsection (1), and of the scientific and statistical committees or other committees or advisory panels established under subsection (g) that is closed under this paragraph on the basis that the meeting concerns matters or information that pertains to employment matters, the Council, committee, or panel shall maintain detailed minutes as described in paragraph (2)(E) and complete transcripts. Such minutes and transcripts shall be available to any court of competent jurisdiction.”.

SA 3377. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1647. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE IN CYBERSPACE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on foreign economic

and industrial espionage in cyberspace during the 12-month period preceding the submission of the report that—

(A) identifies—

(i) foreign countries that engage in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to trade secrets or proprietary information owned by United States persons;

(ii) foreign countries identified under clause (i) that the President determines engage in the most egregious economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to such trade secrets or proprietary information (in this section referred to as “priority foreign countries”);

(iii) technologies or proprietary information developed by United States persons that—

(I) are targeted for economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace; and

(II) to the extent practicable, have been appropriated through such espionage;

(iv) articles manufactured or otherwise produced using technologies or proprietary information described in clause (iii)(II); and

(v) to the extent practicable, services provided using such technologies or proprietary information;

(B) describes the economic or industrial espionage engaged in by the foreign countries identified under clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A); and

(C) describes—

(i) actions taken by the President to decrease the prevalence of economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace; and

(ii) the progress made in decreasing the prevalence of such espionage.

(2) DETERMINATION OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES ENGAGING IN ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE IN CYBERSPACE.—For purposes of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), the President shall identify a foreign country as a foreign country that engages in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to trade secrets or proprietary information owned by United States persons if the government of the foreign country—

(A) engages in economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace with respect to trade secrets or proprietary information owned by United States persons; or

(B) facilitates, supports, fails to prosecute, or otherwise permits such espionage by—

(i) individuals who are citizens or residents of the foreign country; or

(ii) entities that are organized under the laws of the foreign country or are otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the government of the foreign country.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of each person described in paragraph (2), if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person described in this paragraph is a foreign person the President determines knowingly requests, engages in, supports, facilitates, or benefits from the significant appropriation, through economic or industrial espionage in cyberspace, of technologies or proprietary information developed by United States persons.

(3) EXCEPTION.—The authority to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBERSPACE.—The term “cyberspace”—

(A) means the interdependent network of information technology infrastructures; and

(B) includes the Internet, telecommunications networks, computer systems, and embedded processors and controllers.

(3) ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE.—The term “economic or industrial espionage” means—

(A) stealing a trade secret or proprietary information or appropriating, taking, carrying away, or concealing, or by fraud, artifice, or deception obtaining, a trade secret or proprietary information without the authorization of the owner of the trade secret or proprietary information;

(B) copying, duplicating, downloading, uploading, destroying, transmitting, delivering, sending, communicating, or conveying a trade secret or proprietary information without the authorization of the owner of the trade secret or proprietary information; or

(C) knowingly receiving, buying, or possessing a trade secret or proprietary information that has been stolen or appropriated, obtained, or converted without the authorization of the owner of the trade secret or proprietary information.

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(5) OWN.—The term “own”, with respect to a trade secret or proprietary information, means to hold rightful legal or equitable title to, or license in, the trade secret or proprietary information.

(6) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(7) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—The term “proprietary information” means competitive bid preparations, negotiating strategies, executive emails, internal financial data, strategic business plans, technical designs, manufacturing processes, source code, data derived from research and development investments, and other commercially valuable information that a person has developed or obtained if—

(A) the person has taken reasonable measures to keep the information confidential; and

(B) the information is not generally known or readily ascertainable through proper means by the public.

(8) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2415) (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

(9) TRADE SECRET.—The term “trade secret” has the meaning given that term in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code.

(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m., in Room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Less Student Debt from the Start: What Role Should the Tax System Play?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 24, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on June 24, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Moving Toward Greater Community Inclusion—Olmstead at 15.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 24, 2014, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Judicial Nominations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 24, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on

June 24, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The AT&T/DIRECTTV Merger: The Impact on Competition and Consumers in the Video Market and Beyond.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 24, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., to hold an International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women’s Issues subcommittee hearing entitled, “Combating Violence and Discrimination Against Women: A Global Call to Action.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 803

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the previous order with respect to H.R. 803 be modified as follows: that at noon tomorrow, Wednesday, June 25, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 803, with the time until 2:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators FLAKE and LEE controlling 5 minutes each of the Republican’s time; that the provisions regarding 10 minutes of debate prior to voting on the amendments listed in the order and on the bill be vitiated; and that all provisions of the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the final 30 minutes; and that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 803 under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be four rollcall votes at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

THE JUDICIARY

PAUL G. BYRON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

CARLOS EDUARDO MENDOZA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

BETH BLOOM, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 24, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

LEON RODRIGUEZ, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, June 24, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

LIEUTENANT DARRYN ANDREWS: AMERICAN WARRIOR AND TEXAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, growing up, Darryn Andrews was known as one of the most selfless and patriotic kids in the neighborhood. Not surprisingly, he joined the United States Army to serve America. 2nd Lieutenant Darryn Andrews was the platoon leader for the 3rd Blackfoot Company, 1st Battalion, 501st infantry (Airborne) in Afghanistan.

On September 4, 2009, 2nd Lieutenant Andrews' platoon was on a mission and was traveling along a walled road in Afghanistan when an IED exploded and disabled the lead vehicle in the convoy. Lieutenant Andrews quickly jumped out of his vehicle and was assessing the damage of the vehicle that had hit the IED, and he saw through the glint in his eye an RPG coming straight for him and his fellow troops. So, in an instant, he jumped on top of his fellow soldiers and took the brunt of the RPG. He sacrificed himself so that his buddies would live. Recently, it was learned that Lieutenant Andrews and

his patrol were searching for a missing soldier by the name of Bowe Bergdahl.

Second Lieutenant Andrews was awarded the Silver Star in honor of his service and the sacrifice he made for his fellow soldiers.

At his death, Darryn left behind his 2-year-old son, his pregnant wife, his twin brother, and both of his parents, Andy and Sondra. Both of his parents, Andy and Sondra, were here last week and testified before my Terrorism Subcommittee. Sondra still wears Darryn's dog tags. The family lives in Cameron, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton said it best about warriors such as Lieutenant Darryn Andrews who die in battle. He said:

While we continue to mourn the loss of such soldiers, we should thank God that such men ever lived.

And that's just the way it is.

FOOD RESEARCH AND ACTION CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, ending hunger shouldn't be controversial. It shouldn't be something that we ignore but, rather, a goal that we embrace. Ending hunger is an achievable goal; it is something that we can do if we muster the political will to do so.

Government—Federal, State, and local—will play a large role in ending hunger. The problem is too big and too much a part of our basic values for government institutions not to get involved.

We already created the programs that will help us end hunger: SNAP, WIC, and school meals, just to name a few. Many of these programs are underfunded and need to be responsibly updated for the 21st century. The truth is that these programs do real good in our cities, towns, and communities, and they are working effectively and efficiently.

But government can't do it alone, and that is why I am proud to stand with my friends in the antihunger community in support of their many efforts to end hunger. One such group doing fantastic work to end hunger now is the Food Research and Action Center, known as FRAC.

FRAC is a tremendous organization, but it is not the typical group that first comes to mind when people think about antihunger organizations. FRAC

is not a food bank or a food pantry. Run by my good friend Jim Weill, FRAC works with hundreds of national, State, and local nonprofit organizations, public agencies, corporations, and labor organizations to address hunger, food insecurity, and their root cause—poverty.

FRAC conducts research to document the extent of hunger in America, its impact, and effective solutions. It seeks improved Federal, State, and local public policies that will reduce hunger and undernutrition, monitors the implementation of laws, and serves as a watchdog of programs.

FRAC provides coordination, training, technical assistance, and support on nutrition and antipoverty issues to a nationwide network of advocates, service providers, food banks, program administrators and participants, and policymakers. Lastly, FRAC conducts public information campaigns to help promote changes in attitudes and policies.

FRAC helps frame the debate in Congress and State legislatures, educating elected officials and their staff, and they help implement antihunger programs at the local levels. FRAC does everything but literally hand food to hungry Americans. The work they do has resulted in stronger programs and more eligible people receiving food assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal antihunger safety net is excellent, but it is not perfect. It is vast, but it is not comprehensive. FRAC works with policymakers and government officials to make these programs better, to ensure that no hungry person is left without food.

FRAC was a leader in our fight to save the Heat and Eat program in the recently enacted farm bill. It has stood strong in the fight to ensure that everyone gets breakfast at school and food during the summer, and FRAC has also fought back on antinutrition riders that House Republicans have attached to the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

FRAC has stood with me from day one of my End Hunger Now campaign. Like me, they believe that hunger is a political condition, that it is solvable. FRAC has been invaluable in this fight. They have organized countless numbers of food stamp challenges, including the two food stamp challenges that I participated in; and they work with important local antihunger groups like Project Bread and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, along with the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Northeast Regional Anti-Hunger Network.

FRAC is one of the leaders in the fight to end hunger now. Every single person who works at FRAC is committed to a shared vision of a hunger-free America. Whether it is working to expand the number of kids getting food during the summer or fighting against cuts to SNAP, the people who work for FRAC are doing everything they can to end hunger.

I want to commend Jim Weill and his team at FRAC for everything they do. Not only are they true professionals, they care about their work. I want to thank everyone at FRAC for fighting to end hunger now.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, as they continue their important work, we in Congress will be inspired to do more. It is shameful that this Congress has been so clueless when it comes to ending hunger. We and the White House need to develop a comprehensive plan with benchmarks and timetables to end hunger now and then enact it. Indifference and making believe that the problem will go away on its own is not a policy; it is an excuse to do nothing. Let's instead follow the example of FRAC and End Hunger Now.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a follower of Jesus and a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church USA who is deeply grieved by what transpired at last week's gathering of PCUSA's General Assembly. I feel increasingly alienated from this rich faith tradition, which includes John Witherspoon, the only active clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence, and submit for the RECORD a statement of protest by the Presbyterian Lay Committee Board of Directors, which expresses a similar sentiment.

[June 19, 2014]

PRESBYTERIAN LAY COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPUDIATES ACTION OF PCUSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(By Carmen Fowler LaBerge)

DETROIT, MI.—A statement of protest by the Presbyterian Lay Committee repudiating the action of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA to redefine marriage. The 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has approved both an Authoritative Interpretation of the Constitution and an amendment to redefine marriage. In the name of 1.8 million Presbyterians nationwide, the General Assembly has committed an express repudiation of the Bible, the mutually agreed upon Confessions of the PCUSA, thousands of years of faithfulness to God's clear commands and the denominational ordination vows of each concurring commissioner. This is an abomination. The Presbyterian Lay Committee

mourns these actions and calls on all Presbyterians to resist and protest them. You should tell your pastor and the members of your session that you disapprove of these actions. You should refuse to fund the General Assembly, your synod, your presbytery and even your local church if those bodies have not explicitly and publicly repudiated these unbiblical actions. God will not be mocked and those who substitute their own felt desires for God's unchangeable Truth will not be found guiltless before a holy God. The Presbyterian Lay Committee will continue to call for repentance and reform: repentance of those who have clearly erred at this General Assembly and reform of the PCUSA according to the Word of God. Presbyterian Lay Committee Board of Directors, June 19, 2014.

Mr. WOLF. I will begin with marriage. After several years of internal discussion and debate, the assembly voted overwhelmingly to take a position which runs counter to the counsel of Scripture, which defines marriage as the divinely inspired joining of one man and one woman.

It has long been clear that our culture is in the throes of a seismic shift on this issue. While the current marriage debate is centered around the notion of same-sex unions, in reality there has been a decades-long assault on marriage, such that what was once almost universally recognized as a God-ordained and created institution, the fundamental building block of any society and the nexus of procreation and childrearing, has now been called into question both in the larger culture and increasingly in the legal framework which governs this land. But perhaps the most striking and troubling is that increasingly this is happening within the church itself, which has historically served as a bulwark against the cultural whims of the day.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says:

Haven't you read . . . that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and two will become one flesh"? So they are no longer but two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together let man not separate.

This passage and others like it remind me of Reverend Billy Graham's comments and the lead-up to the 2012 North Carolina ballot initiative regarding marriage, when he remarked:

The Bible is clear—God's definition of marriage is between a man and a woman.

In addition to marriage, I was also troubled by the PCUSA's action on Israel. I submit for the RECORD a Wall Street Journal piece which ran yesterday regarding the vote to divest the denomination stock from three American companies that do business with Israel in the West Bank citing their "involvement in the occupation and the violation of human rights in the region."

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 22, 2014]

PRESBYTERIANS JOIN THE ANTI-ISRAEL CHOIR
DIVESTING FROM COMPANIES LIKE MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIANS

(By Jonathan Marks)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is bleeding members. Between 2000 and 2013, almost 765,000 members left the organization, a loss of nearly 30%. Last week the church's leadership met in Detroit for crisis talks.

No, not about the emptying-pews crisis. The Israel-Palestinian crisis.

On Friday, in a close vote (310-303), the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—the largest of several Presbyterian denominations in America—resolved to divest the organization's stock in Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard and Motorola Solutions. The church's Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment said the companies have continued to "profit from their involvement in the occupation and the violation of human rights in the region," and have even "deepened their involvement in roadblocks to a just peace." Israel's counterterrorism and defense measures have included razing Palestinian houses (with Caterpillar equipment), operating Gaza and West Bank checkpoints (with Hewlett-Packard technology), and utilizing military communications and surveillance (with Motorola Solutions technology).

The church signaled its antipathy for Israel earlier this year by hawking a study guide called "Zionism Unsettled" in its online church store. In the 76-page pamphlet, Zionism—the movement to establish a Jewish homeland and nation-state in the historic land of Israel—is characterized as a "a struggle for colonial and racist supremacist privilege."

In a postscript to "Zionism Unsettled," Naim Ateek, a Palestinian priest and member of the Anglican Church, explains the meaning of the charges in the pamphlet. "It is the equivalent of declaring Zionism heretical, a doctrine that fosters both political and theological injustice. This is the strongest condemnation that a Christian confession can make against any doctrine that promotes death rather than life."

In one response, Katharine Henderson, president of New York's Auburn Theological Seminary, said in February that the "premise of the document appears to be that Zionism is the cause of the entire conflict in the Middle East," in essence "the original sin, from which flows all the suffering of the Palestinian people." And amid intense criticism of the study guide from the Anti-Defamation League and other groups, the church's General Assembly declared on Wednesday that "'Zionism Unsettled' does not represent the views of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)." But the assembly didn't bar the church from continuing to distribute and sell it.

The divestment resolution that ultimately passed included language affirming Israel's right to exist and denying that divesting from the three companies is tantamount to alignment with the broader Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. Still, the vote is a victory for anti-Israel forces within the church. And the divestment vote hardly means that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is ready to shift its focus: The organization's Middle East Issues Committee sees only one Middle East issue. All 14 of the matters before it this year concerned Israel and Palestine. No Syria. No Iraq.

Another vote regarding Palestinian-Israeli matters by the church's General Assembly, seemingly more innocuous, is actually more disturbing. The vote instructed the church's Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to prepare a report to help the General Assembly reconsider its commitment to a two-state solution and to create a study guide "that will help inform the whole church of the situation on the ground in Palestine."

In its "advice and counsel" on an anti-divestment proposal, the committee voiced its support for the boycott-Israel movement, compared Israel with apartheid-era South Africa and declared Israel responsible for its own "de-legitimation." It complained that the anti-divestment proposal "prioritize[d] Israel's security and underline[d] the flaws of Hamas and other 'hostile' neighbors without noting the constant violence of the occupation." Even with respect to Hamas, whose charter commits it to the destruction of Israel, the committee felt compelled to put "hostile" in scare quotes. The committee has some history on this score: In 2004, it drew widespread condemnation for meeting with leaders of the terrorist organization Hezbollah.

The General Assembly instructed the advisory committee that the new study guide should "honestly point out" that "simple financial investment in a completely occupied land where the occupiers are relentless and unwavering regarding their occupation is not enough to dismantle the matrix of that occupation or dramatically change the vast majority of communities or individual lives that are bowed and broken by systematic and intentional injustice." The vote to commission the guide was 482-88.

With a dwindling membership, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) clearly needs new friends, but the church does itself no favors by courting Israel's enemies.

Mr. WOLF. The PCUSA's deeply misguided decision comes against a backdrop of rising anti-Semitism in Europe and even here in the United States.

I submit for the RECORD a June 20 Washington Post piece highlighting the problem, which noted that "Jewish leaders here are now warning of a recent and fundamental shift tied to a spurt of homegrown anti-Semitism."

[From the Washington Post, June 20, 2014]

A "NEW ANTI-SEMITISM" RISING IN FRANCE
(By Anthony Faiola)

PARIS—"I am not an anti-Semite," French comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala says with a devilish grin near the start of his hit show at this city's Théâtre de la Main d'Or. Then come the Jew jokes.

In front of a packed house, he apes Alain Jakubowicz, a French Jewish leader who calls the humor of Dieudonné tantamount to hate speech. While the comedian skewers Jakubowicz, Stars of David glow on screen and, as the audience guffaws, a soundtrack plays evoking the trains to Nazi death camps. In various other skits, he belittles the Holocaust, then mocks it as a gross exaggeration.

In a country where Jewish leaders are decrying the worst climate of anti-Semitism in decades, Dieudonné, a longtime comedian and erstwhile politician whose attacks on Jews have grown progressively worse, is a sign of the times. French authorities issued an effective ban on his latest show in January for inciting hate. So he reworked the material to get back on stage—cutting, for

instance, one joke lamenting the lack of modern-day gas chambers.

But the Afro-French comedian, whose stage name is simply Dieudonné, managed to salvage other bits, including his signature "quenelle" salute. Across Europe, the downward-pointing arm gesture that looks like an inverted Nazi salute has now gone so viral that it has popped up on army bases, in parliaments, at weddings and at professional soccer matches. Neo-Nazis have used it in front of synagogues and Holocaust memorials. Earlier this year, bands of Dieudonné supporters flashed it during a street protest in Paris while shouting, "Jews, out of France!"

"Dieudonné is getting millions of views on his videos on the Internet and is spreading his quenelle," said Roger Cukierman, president of the Council for Jewish Institutions in France. "Something very worrying is happening in France. This is not a good time for Jews."

Dieudonné was unavailable for comment, but his attorney, Sanjay Mirabeau, said the comedian was simply speaking truth to power.

"If the Portuguese were protected in France and had big influence, then he would protest the Portuguese," Mirabeau said. "But as it is, there are others" who fit that description.

Jewish leaders say Dieudonné is a symptom of a larger problem. Here and across the region, they are talking of the rise of a "new anti-Semitism" based on the convergence of four main factors. They cite classic scapegoating amid hard economic times, the growing strength of far-right nationalists, a deteriorating relationship between black Europeans and Jews, and, importantly, increasing tensions with Europe's surging Muslim population.

In Western Europe, no nation has seen the climate for Jews deteriorate more than France.

Anti-Semitism has ebbed and flowed here and throughout the region since the end of World War II, with outbreaks of violence and international terrorism—particularly in the 1980s and early 2000s—often linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But Jewish leaders here are now warning of a recent and fundamental shift tied to a spurt of homegrown anti-Semitism.

This month, authorities arrested Mehdi Nemmouche, a 29-year-old French national, and charged him with the May killings of four people inside a Jewish museum in Brussels. The attack was the deadliest act of anti-Semitism in Western Europe since a gunman killed seven people, including three children at a Jewish day school, in Toulouse in 2012. Nemmouche allegedly launched his attack after a tour of duty with rebels in Syria, prompting fears of additional violence to come as more of the hundreds of French nationals fighting there make their way home.

In a country that is home to the largest Jewish community in Europe, the first three months of the year saw reported acts of anti-Semitic violence in France skyrocket to 140 incidents, a 40 percent increase from the same period last year. This month, two young Jewish men were severely beaten on their way to synagogue in an eastern suburb of Paris.

Near the city's Montmartre district, home to the Moulin Rouge and the Sacré-Coeur basilica, a woman verbally accosted a Jewish mother before rattling the carriage of her 6-month-old child and shouting, "dirty Jewess . . . you Jews have too many children," ac-

cording to a report filed by France's National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism. Meanwhile, not far from the rolling vineyards of Bordeaux, stars of David were recently spray-painted on the homes of Jews.

A recent global survey by the New York-based Anti-Defamation League suggested that France now has the highest percentage in Western Europe—37 percent—of people openly harboring anti-Semitic views. That compares with 8 percent in Britain, 20 percent in Italy and 27 percent in Germany. Jewish leaders chalk that up in part to growing radicalization of youths in France's Muslim population—the largest in Europe—as well as outrage in the general public and French media over Israeli policy toward the Palestinians.

But it is also far more complex.

Anti-Semitism, Jewish activists fear, is becoming more socially acceptable. In May, for instance, the far-right National Front—a party long rooted in anti-Semitism but which sought to portray itself as reformed—came in first in elections here for the European Parliament, winning a whopping 25 percent of the national vote. Yet last week, its patriarch, Jean-Marie Le Pen, suggested just how unreformed a segment of the party remains. In a video posted on the party's Web site, he suggested that a Jewish folk singer should be thrown into an oven.

Le Pen's daughter and current party leader, Marine Le Pen, offered a rare rebuke of her father's words and ordered footage of the comments removed from the party's Web site. The elder Le Pen's musings were nevertheless seen as unsurprising within a party whose older members have long harkened back to the days of Vichy France, the Nazi collaborators who allowed tens of thousands of French Jews to go to their deaths.

"I walked into my kosher sandwich shop the other day and the owner asked me, 'Is it time to leave? Are we Nazi Germany yet?'" said Shimon Samuels, the Paris-based international director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. "We've got the National Front in first place. We've got Dieudonné, spreading his hate. So I told him, 'Well, do you really want to be the last to go?'"

Indeed, French migration to Israel in 2013 jumped to 3,200 people, up 64 percent from 2012. A huge uptick in departures this year has Jewish leaders here predicting that at least 5,000 French Jews will leave in 2014.

"We've been thinking about moving for a long time, but the climate was not as dangerous as it is now," said Alain, 30, a medical equipment specialist who is moving to Israel in July with his wife and three children. He declined to give his last name out of fear for his family's security.

Sitting at his modest dining-room table in eastern Paris, a set of moving boxes in the next room, he added: "It bothers me because this is not normal; this is not how I remember France when I was growing up."

Two weeks ago, Alain said, he woke up to find his 13-year-old daughter, Michele, crying. After a recent attack on two Jewish boys not far from her school, she said she was too afraid to join her regular car pool. Instead, she demanded that he take her to school and pick her up, standing guard as she entered and exited each day. He has moved his work schedule around to accommodate her request.

Asked what she was scared of, Michele, an elegant French teenager in a fashionable black skirt and white T-shirt, looked down and said: "I'm afraid that what happened in Toulouse will happen at my school, too. . . ."

I hear what people say about Jews. And I am scared."

Enter Dieudonné.

Born to a father from Cameroon and a white French mother, Dieudonné, ironically, rose to stardom in the 1990s as part of a duo act with Elie Semoun, a Jewish comedian. But the two grew estranged as Dieudonné's humor became indistinguishable from anti-Semitic diatribe.

In the 2000s, he wooed the far right and the far left as his campaign against Zionism made him an unlikely symbol for both. Throughout the 2000s, he was repeatedly fined for making a variety of anti-Semitic statements, including his description of Holocaust commemorations as "memorial porn."

Blacklisted from mainstream TV shows and radio, he nevertheless thrives, with a cultlike following on stage and via the Internet, where his satirical videos stand out among a rash of new anti-Semitic Web sites in France. As he has become less mainstream, he has traded larger venues for relatively smaller theater spaces where he is filling seats with fans across racial, political and socioeconomic spectrums.

Dieudonné is an equal-opportunity offender. His act is a study in provocation, targeting not only Jews but also gays and mainstream politicians. Yet—as evidenced by the T-shirts bearing the quenelle salute on sale at his shows—he tends to reserve his toughest punch lines for Jews.

Over the past year, observers say, his depictions have sharply worsened. His act became so offensive that the French government in January took the rare step of encouraging local jurisdictions to bar his performances. The move forced him to tone down his material, largely by deploying inference and shorthand to get his point across.

Mr. WOLF. The denomination's action on Israel stands in stark contrast to its inaction on the persecuted church in the region. The PCUSA expressly declined to sign a recently issued Pledge of Solidarity and Call to Action, which more than 200 religious leaders from across the country signed on to.

Representatives of the American church came together across ecumenical lines to pledge to do more to help beleaguered minority faith communities, foremost among them, the ancient Christian communities in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. The PCUSA privately expressed concern that this action would be perceived as an "anti-Muslim" statement.

The pledge itself was carefully crafted with input from faith leaders here in the United States and throughout the region and conveyed that the time has come for the church in the West to "pray and speak with greater urgency about this human rights crisis." With the PCUSA's decision not to associate itself with the urgent call to action, I find myself once again out of step with my denomination in profound ways.

I believe many of the giants of this tradition, among them: Reverend Peter Marshall of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, where President Lincoln worshipped, and a former Senate Chaplain; Reverend Dick Halverson,

senior pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church and also a Senate Chaplain; Reverend Louis Evans, pastor for 18 years of National Presbyterian Church; and Reverend James Boice, pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia would find it difficult to recognize the PCUSA church today.

INCREASING SEA LEVELS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today many Members of Congress awoke listening to NPR for yet another story about Norfolk, Virginia, the area of the United States on the eastern seaboard where we have seen the most rapid increase in the sea level. This matters, being home to the largest naval base in the world, placing in question its long-term survivability.

A story in The Washington Post several weeks ago talked about the impact that this is having on the waterfront, including one church that is being forced to relocate. I love the pastor's comment that his parishioners should not have to consult a tide table to determine whether or not they can go to church.

The morning news also included the Supreme Court's third affirmation of the power of the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases, setting hopefully at rest the long-term battle over whether or not we can deal with this critical area of carbon pollution.

We also have seen a media blitz from a coalition of respected senior officials—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents stretching back to the Nixon administration—talking about the impact of climate change, particularly as it deals with business. We have had a report from four Republican EPA administrators talking about the need to support the EPA's effort with the new rule for carbon emissions.

Today, on the steps of Capitol Hill as I passed, there were representatives from the Citizens Climate Lobby from all over the country who are fanning out across the Capitol making their case.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, the science is, in fact, clear. We have very severe problems associated with carbon pollution and the impacts that humans have had on climate. We are looking at reports that ought to sober everybody around here, tripling the number of days of 95 degree-plus weather, thinking about the impacts that rising sea level is going to have on coastal States.

Louisiana, for example, is looking at up to 5 percent of their insurable land being underwater by midcentury, perhaps 20 percent by the turn of the century. There is \$1.5 trillion of insurable

properties that is likely to be underwater.

It is time for us to stop debating the science. The science is, in fact, clear. It is time for us to look at opportunities. The EPA rule is going to go into effect. We all ought to be engaged with taking advantage of the flexibility that has been proposed by the administration to fine-tune it to the needs and opportunities in our State.

It is important that we start work on the implementation of a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Virtually every expert—conservative, liberal, economists, even many business leaders—agrees that having a revenue-neutral carbon tax to change the habits of American business and households, using the revenues to reduce the impact on lower-income citizens and on small business, is the quickest, fastest way to be able to make progress on climate protection.

We can, in fact, slow the impact, and we can prepare for what we cannot avoid.

Experts in climate science, joined by hardheaded business people and citizen activists, all agree that it is time for Congress to get engaged, for Congress to stop this active denial, and come together on simple commonsense steps that we can make to strengthen our communities to slow the increase of climate change and be able to prepare for stronger opportunities in our local economies as we move to take advantage of this.

Everybody should take action, so that all our families can be safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, energy is vital to every aspect of American life. Working families, retirees, and businesses—large and small—are all depending upon reliable and affordable energy. An unwelcome increase in the electric bill leaves many families no other option but to cut elsewhere.

For businesses, higher energy costs mean less money to invest in jobs or expansion. As business costs increase, so does the price of goods down the line, triggering a chain reaction felt throughout the economy.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration's policies are contributing to the rise in energy costs with policies that discourage exploration of domestic resources and attempt to bypass Congress to implement cap-and-trade. A major way to improve reliability and affordability is to produce more energy here at home.

I am pleased to join my colleagues as we debate energy solutions and advance an all-of-the-above energy policy

to power economic growth and job creation.

CELEBRATING IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, this month, as we celebrate Immigrant Heritage Month, we reflect upon unique backgrounds and honor our collective history, but the reality is that our current immigration system is badly broken.

Immigration reform is not only the right thing to do morally, it is the right thing to do for our economy. Businesses in Connecticut and across the Nation are demanding that we have immigration reform, so that they can hire employees and expand their businesses.

I have heard from manufacturers and from biotech companies in my own district who are eager to hire new engineers and Ph.D.'s, but our current system forces most of the best and brightest who come from around the world, who train at our research institutions here in the United States, trained at taxpayer expense, we force them to leave this country, taking their talents with them.

I have met with dairy farmers in Connecticut who cannot find enough laborers to work on their farms. Farmers are demanding that Congress reform our immigration system to provide a reliable and stable workforce, so that they can continue to provide local food, milk, and cheese for our families.

There are 11 million immigrants who are ready to emerge from the shadows, ready to join the workforce, and to grow our economy: people like Maria, a mother of three from Meriden, who brought her family here to build a better life; people like Camila and Carolina—twin sisters, honor students—from Danbury, who cofounded Connecticut Students for a DREAM, to help DREAMers navigate the immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act. Let's honor our Nation of immigrants by passing comprehensive immigration reform that secures our borders, keeps our families together, and creates an earned path to citizenship.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted against the Defense Appropriations bill because of \$79.4 billion included in OCO funding.

During the amendment process, I joined many of my colleagues in both parties in voting to stop funding the war in Afghanistan after 2014.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in this effort, and I am on the floor of the House today because the American people are frustrated with the administration and with Congress for continuing to spend taxpayer money overseas in unnecessary military interventions. I share this frustration with the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House an article in the Daily Journal Online titled "No End for Afghanistan's War on the United States Taxpayer"—"No End for Afghanistan's War on the United States Taxpayer," which states:

John F. Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, known as SIGAR, may have taken Uncle Sam and shaken him by the lapels last month, but the media missed it. Americans, however, need to hear how Sopko, in an address at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., laid out why Afghanistan remains "relevant"—and a cause for outrage—for every U.S. taxpayer and policymaker. In short, Afghanistan is on life support, and Joe Citizen is its permanent IV.

These are the words of John Sopko. This article goes on to say:

SIGAR, on the job since 2008, has produced 118 audits and inspection reports and made 23 quarterly reports to Congress. Nothing seems to penetrate the Capitol dome, however.

Mr. Speaker, this brings me to a quote by Pat Buchanan, with whom I agree strongly on foreign policy issues:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world, so we can defend the world?

How appropriate a statement is that? We are a debtor nation that has to borrow money every year to pay the debts of our own Nation, and we borrow money to spend overseas in foreign areas. It makes no sense.

That is why I am so disappointed that, last week, we were unable to put a stop on the waste, fraud, and abuse of the American taxpayer money in Afghanistan.

Now, when we also must consider the collapse of Iraq, I am reminded of a quote from our country's first President, in a letter from George Washington to James Monroe, and I quote Washington:

I have always given it as my decided opinion that no nation has a right to intermeddle in the concerns of another, that everybody has a right to form and adopt whatever government they liked best to live under themselves.

Mr. Speaker, beside me is a poster of military carrying the casket of an American soldier killed in either Iraq or Afghanistan. I bring this to the floor because, this past weekend, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune—which is in the district I represent, the Third District of North Carolina—three marines in the engineering battalion in Afghanistan helping to build roads in Afghanistan. The three were shot and killed.

That is why I continue to join my colleagues, and both parties come to this floor and to say to the Congress: you are not listening to the American people, the American people are sick and tired of their sons and daughters dying in foreign lands, borrowing money from the Chinese to pay for that development in those foreign lands, and we continue to have more and more losing their life and their limbs.

It is time for the Congress to listen to the American people. They are the ones that elect us to come here to represent their views and their interests, and we are not listening to them as it relates to Afghanistan.

I pray for our men and women in uniform, their families, and pray for the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant Act that was signed into law in 1864 by then-President Abraham Lincoln and the creation of Yosemite National Park, one of our Nation's greatest treasures.

Yosemite receives over 4 million visitors annually, all who come to experience our breathtaking scenery and wonderment that the park provides for all Americans.

As a Californian and a longtime park supporter since my early childhood, I understand the importance of safeguarding our precious national resources.

Yosemite is an integral part of our communities and our country, and it is also a great source of pride for all Californians. Therefore, we must work together, despite the challenges that we face, to not only preserve Yosemite National Park for future generations to come, but for all of America's great natural resources.

Yosemite is just one of many of the crown jewels of America's national park system. Its beautiful and majestic park is, obviously, something to behold and where visitors come every year from not only across America, but from throughout the world.

For all Americans, we must remember that Yosemite National Park represents among the best of America. As it has been said before: America's national parks, perhaps America's best idea.

Therefore, it is my honor to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Yosemite National Park, the first park designated in our country.

23 IN 1—DEL RIO, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to continue our journey throughout the vast 23rd District of Texas and talk about San Felipe Del Rio, known today as Del Rio, Texas.

San Felipe Del Rio was founded by the Spaniards in the 1600s. In fact, local lore talks about the Spaniards offering a mass there on St. Philip's Day in 1635, hence the name San Felipe.

When the local post office was established in 1883, the name was condensed simply to Del Rio, in order to avoid confusion with San Felipe de Austin.

Del Rio, from the onset, has been carried forward by those with innovation and entrepreneurship in their blood, from the San Felipe Agricultural, Irrigation, and Manufacturing Company, which first harnessed the clear waters of the San Felipe Creek to satisfy the thirst of crops and a growing population, to Julio's Corn Chips, which went from a smalltown favorite now being mailed to Texans abroad who want a little taste of home.

From the skies over war-torn Europe to protecting our border, Del Rio has a long history of military accomplishment and continues to contribute to the safety and security of our Nation.

□ 1030

In 1942, during World War II, the War Department opened Laughlin Field as a training base to prepare pilots for high-risk missions over European skies.

In 1962, U-2 high-altitude spy planes that played a critical role in the discovery of Russian missiles hidden in Cuba were stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio. This action would eventually lead our Nation to having the resolve to win the Cold War.

Through Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio continues its military tradition by training the greatest pilots in the world and serving as a base to those who guard our borders.

Being a mix of Spanish and Mexican tradition, Del Rio is a cultural hub and an example of how in America many cultures can blend together to form something wonderful and exciting.

In Del Rio, you can fill a day visiting a winery run by the Qualia family, which is the oldest winery in Texas; learn about regional history and see Judge Roy Bean's grave at the Whitehead Memorial Museum; or, you can catch an evening show by the Upstagers, Del Rio's award-winning live theater group.

In fact, if you like the outdoors, visit Seminole Canyon, not far from Del Rio, which has one of the largest collections of Indian pictographs found anywhere in the world. You can also visit Devils River, which is the last river in Texas still in its natural state.

If you are a sports fan, there are plenty of sporting events to catch, such as Del Rio's Mighty Ram football team, or the annual fishing tournament held on Lake Amistad, which

is an absolutely phenomenal lake and a national recreational area run by the National Park Service.

So if you find yourself near Del Rio, I invite you to experience the culture, take a dip in the clear waters of the San Felipe Creek, or catch a theater show. And bring back a bag of Julio's Corn Chips, which you are sure to enjoy.

BOKO HARAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a congressional delegation trip to Nigeria, which was both eye-opening and moving.

Nigeria is a country of huge possibilities. It is an oil rich nation, the largest in Africa, with a population that will surpass the United States by 2050. It is mired with corrupt political leaders and a weakened police and military, leading to a dire political climate of joblessness in the northeast and giving rise to a terrorist organization of mostly young men called Boko Haram. They burn schools, churches, mosques, and police stations. They rob, steal, kidnap, and murder innocent victims in their path. Their violence has resulted in the deaths of thousands in the last decade.

Boko Haram's most notorious activity, which was the focus of our trip, was the recent kidnapping of 270 innocent girls attending school. These girls remain hidden—most likely scattered—and subjected to unimaginable crimes. This kidnapping received international attention for a short time, and then, like the girls, disappeared.

While in Nigeria, we met with victims of Boko Haram, as well as political, military, and civic leaders. We learned of the horrific suffering at the hands of Boko Haram and the inability of the corrupt Nigerian government, which is involved in a competitive upcoming election, to stop this violence.

Embedded in my mind are the young teen girls who told us harrowing stories of how they escaped Boko Haram terrorists while their friends, tragically, remained behind. We met with a weeping father of one such girl.

I will never forget the story of a young mother who witnessed Boko Haram decapitate her husband's head and left her dying in the street with her throat slit. She survived physically, but has been left broken financially and, of course, psychologically.

We spent time with a fusion team of Nigerian, U.S., British, and French military law enforcement put together to strategize the return of these girls.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some quick observations of mine to a very complicated situation.

As I have said before, some crimes against humanity are of the nature

that knows no borders and require a response no matter where you live in the world. The kidnapping of 270 girls is such a crime. It cannot be treated just as a flavor of the week that is soon forgotten.

That is why the United States and the international community must continue to apply pressure to the Nigerian government to do all it can to negotiate the safe return of these young girls to their families.

For those citizens who want to join this fight, I join my colleague FREDERICA WILSON in asking people in this country and all over the world to tweet using #bringbackourgirls every day at 9 a.m.

During our trip, Mr. Speaker, we called upon—and we should continue to call upon—the Nigerian government to set up a relief fund for the victims and the families of Boko Haram for the financial and medical care that they so need.

The United States should continue our efforts with the fusion team and quickly respond to the team's request for approval of a strategic plan.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to advise Nigerian authorities on the need for transparency and honesty and the need to deal with the economic plight of their people and urge a free and fair upcoming election.

As I said from the start, Mr. Speaker, Nigeria is a nation of great possibilities. It can one day be a giant economic partner for the United States and her allies, or it can become a safe haven for terrorists. We can keep it on the right path by bringing those girls home.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

On a day when voters in many States participate in congressional primaries, may Your spirit of wisdom be manifest among those who exercise their rights, rights for which so many struggled 50

years ago to secure for all American citizens.

Here in Washington, may all Members realize that Your congregation is wider and broader than ever we could measure or determine. Help them, and help us, O Lord, to put away any judgments that belong to You and do what we can to live together in peace.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRESIDENT OBAMA MUST BRING OUR MARINE HOME

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Andrew Tahmooressi is a 25-year-old United States marine from south Florida who served our country bravely and honorably during two combat tours in Afghanistan. Andrew was meritoriously promoted on the battlefield to sergeant during his last tour, which shows the true character of this young man who once told his mom that he was "nudged by God" to join the military.

Andrew suffers from posttraumatic stress disorder and was invited by a fellow marine to seek treatment in San Diego. He accidentally ended up at the Mexican border, where he was arrested by Mexican authorities for possessing firearms.

Andrew's mistake was taking a wrong turn. The administration's mistake is to let him languish in Mexican prisons where he faced threats and abuses. President Obama and Vice

President BIDEN both had opportunities to demand his release, but they shirked their responsibilities and their obligations to this young man and his family.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our marine home now.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of June as Immigrant Heritage Month. This month I join my colleague, Representative SÁNCHEZ, as an original cosponsor recognizing the month of June as Immigrant Heritage Month in honor of the role immigrants play in shaping the history and culture of the United States.

No country has been more invigorated by immigrant culture, more rewarded by immigrant labor and immigrant ideas than our country, America. I believe the only true way to honor the immigrants that built the foundation of this great Nation is by fixing our broken immigration system, but House Republicans have refused to pass an immigration reform bill.

To mark Immigration Heritage Month, we must create a message of unity and remember that this country was also built by the dreams and hard work of people who came from someplace else. Perhaps then we can change the dialogue around immigration by placing attention on the country's diverse immigrant heritage and the need to bring immigration reform to the floor for a vote.

WRONG SIGNAL ON IMMIGRATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, presented an editorial last Tuesday correctly revealing the wrong signal on immigration. The opinion states:

Central American children have entered the United States in large numbers in recent weeks. Their mass entry has also produced another political obstacle to passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation. Opponents of the initiative reasonably point out that this is the latest border problem as additional evidence of the Obama administration's lack of credibility on the issue. Numerous Republican lawmakers have cited, as a motivating factor of this incoming tide of humanity, President Barack Obama's executive edict deferring deportations. And their continuing migration into our country strengthens the assumption that the President has no intention of fulfilling its pledge to bolster border security. Clearly, if the President and other advocates of sweeping immigration reform are serious about moving one through Congress, Federal border enforcement must be intensified.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

JUNE IS ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Worldwide, at least 44 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease. The number is expected to rise to 76 million by 2030. In the United States, 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's.

Those who are affected by this disease know that the costs are high. The disease affects or hits both the afflicted and those who love the afflicted. It is a disease whose origins are unknown but whose end is absolutely certain. It is a disease that takes your mind, your dignity, and eventually your life. Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and is the most expensive disease, costing our Nation \$214 billion in 2014 alone.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to take action on finding a cure for this fatal disease by supporting the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act to improve diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's and to commit to making a strong investment in funding research to find a cure.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS LUNCH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I had the chance to join with the Consul General Dong-man Han in presenting the memorial wreath at the 25th annual Korean war veterans lunch held at the VFW hall in Anderson, California. It was an honor to be in the company with such a courageous group of men who fought hard for the freedoms that the people of South Korea enjoy today.

The luncheon also served as a solemn reminder of the sacrifices that have been made on our behalf and the commitment we have to our veterans. That commitment wouldn't be embodied any better than by my friend Kim Chamberlain, who is a Korean immigrant.

As I assured the many veterans in the audience on Saturday, from the first time a constituent alerted me about issues he had faced with the VA until today, the vigilance of my office, myself, and many of my colleagues in this House, that commitment will remain to get to the bottom, to get solutions for the VA and the problems the veterans face on the backlog of not

only their health issues but, as well, the backlog of even having their cases heard and the benefits.

So, many questions still remain. I look forward to meeting with the new director of the Oakland regional office there pretty soon and getting to the bottom and getting real solutions for veterans. Our commitment remains on them.

1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM BY THE SENATE

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 1 year since two-thirds of the Senate—Democrats and Republicans—voted for comprehensive immigration reform. So House Republicans have had 1 year to address the 4.3 million families languishing in the immigration backlogs separated from their loved ones for decades, 1 year to bring the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are already in the fabric of our society out of the shadows so they can earn their place in society, and 1 year to allow the brightest minds in the world to graduate from our schools and contribute to the economy. They have had 1 year to reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion, as this bill will do.

They promised the American people reform; all we have heard are excuses for the delays. That is why I helped to introduce H.R. 15, a bipartisan immigration bill. This bill has the votes to pass today.

I urge Republican leadership to put politics aside and bring this bill to the floor. It is time to fix our broken immigration system once and for all.

BORDER CRISIS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know, the surge of illegal immigration on the southern border of Texas is one of the largest security and social issues facing our Nation today. Thousands of illegals crossing into the United States directly impact our schools, our hospitals, government budgets, employment, crime, and all parts of American life.

Sadly, this surge is no coincidence; instead, it is a direct response to President Obama's failed policies.

News reports stated:

White House officials acknowledged some of the thousands of children seeking refuge are coming, in part, because they think they will be allowed to stay in the United States because of President Obama's policies.

This is totally unacceptable. We are a Nation of laws. The President has a duty to fully enforce our laws and protect our borders.

Texans and all Americans want, need, and deserve a secure border, period.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT DICK SHIGEMI HAMADA

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Staff Sergeant Dick Shigemi Hamada, a Japanese American World War II veteran born in Hawaii who served under the Office of Strategic Services, a precursor to the CIA.

He volunteered for the renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943, shipped off to the fearsome battlefields of the Burma-India-China theater, and later parachuted into what is now Beijing in order to rescue more than 600 prisoners of war.

Throughout his military career, Staff Sergeant Hamada stayed true to the aloha spirit. His love of our country and determination to do whatever it took to accomplish the mission are an inspiration to all who have raised their hands to wear the uniform and serve.

Staff Sergeant Hamada passed away on May 27 at the age of 92, leaving behind a legacy of courage and servant leadership. He will be interred later today at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, and we send to him our deepest gratitude and say "aloha" to this Hawaii hero.

WE NEED TO SECURE OUR BORDER

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in May of 2011, President Obama gave a speech in El Paso, Texas, where he effectively said: Mission accomplished—our border is secure. In fact, he mocked those of us who disagreed with him, suggesting that we wouldn't be happy until there was a moat guarding our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, as we witness tens of thousands of children crossing our border today, I hope the President remembers his speech in El Paso and owns up to his administration's failure in enforcing our immigration policy.

We need a secure border before we can address any kind of immigration reform, which is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2220, the SMART Border Act—tough, smart legislation to finally get operational control over our Nation's borders.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WORKERS OF WARREN MILL

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last December, in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, Warren mill, a textile mill that had been in operation for 161 years, sadly closed its doors and laid off its workers.

It was a day where many were sort of writing obituaries for the textile industry in New England, but for many, the memory and the reputation of the high quality of that factory lived on.

Fast forward to this past Wednesday, a new owner, American Woolen, closed on a deal to reopen the plant, which the looms will be humming by the end of this month, hiring back the workers whose quality workmanship, again, resurrected this industry for New England.

It was because of the combined effort of my office, which worked with the parties, to bring them together, and Governor Dan Malloy, who provided some low-interest financing, to help the transaction move forward. It all came together, so that by the end of June, 80 workers are going to be back at the looms producing wool and delivering it with a "Made in America" stamp, which is not just a dream, it is a reality. It is good business practice for people to invest in America's workers.

Congratulations to the workers of Warren mill in Stafford Springs, Connecticut, for setting an example of how we, as a Nation, can lead again in manufacturing.

GI BILL ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the original GI Bill, also known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. This legislation has had an enormous impact on the lives of millions of veterans, creating access to low-cost home loans and educational and vocational training.

Signed into law on June 22, 1944, the GI Bill came into being during the height of World War II, when America was mobilized into war around the globe. These veterans returned from war, utilized access to education and training, and began building an America that would lead the world economically and militarily for generations to come.

Since then, veterans from other conflicts, including Korea, Vietnam, and others, have used the GI Bill. Recently,

it was amended to allow a new generation of veterans to gain access to a variety of benefits to transition to civilian life. The post-9/11 GI Bill builds upon the success of a bill signed into law 70 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have paid a high price to earn these benefits, and they deserve as much.

HONORING MABON "TEENIE" HODGES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an outstanding guitarist, songwriter, singer, and legendary Memphis musician, Mabon Hodges, better known as "Teenie" Hodges, who passed away in Dallas just yesterday.

Teenie started playing the guitar at age 12, and he and his brothers were part of the Hi Rhythm Section, which was part of Royal Studios and Hi Records music that produced Al Green and Otis Clay and others, a great part of the Memphis sound in the seventies under Willie Mitchell, a great producer and great musician himself.

Willie Mitchell kind of adopted Teenie and taught him something about playing guitar and helped him in his career. Willie's grandson, Boo Mitchell, now runs that studio.

Teenie has been a part of it in the heart of the Hi Rhythm Section, which is well known throughout the world. He cowrote, with Al Green, "Love and Happiness" and "Take Me to the River" and other great tunes.

He continued playing through the spring. He fell ill with emphysema, which he had for years, but the emphysema got so strong that he had to be taken to the hospital in Dallas this spring, and then he passed away from emphysema. Services will be held in Memphis next week.

I was a friend of Teenie's. He was a great Memphian, a wonderful spirit, and a great talent. All of Memphis will miss him, and all of us in the country appreciate his great music and contribution to our culture.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JOHN WILSON OF TENNESSEE'S FIRST DISTRICT

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my remarks with my friend, Mr. COHEN, from Memphis.

Today, I rise and recognize Judge John Wilson of Tennessee's First District for his commitment to serving the Third Judicial District of Tennessee and our Nation. His dedication

to freedom, liberty, justice, and many other principles that make our country great is both a testament to his character and an achievement to be proud of.

Judge Wilson was born and raised in east Tennessee. He graduated from East Tennessee State University, located in my hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee, with his undergraduate degree, and graduated law school at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Since his graduation from law school, Judge Wilson has served in the United States Air Force as an assistant district attorney and, most recently, as a circuit court judge for the Third Judicial District of Tennessee for 35 years, representing Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties.

Judge Wilson would be the first to say that he could not have done it without his lovely wife, Nancy, who has been by his side for 48 years. I am proud to call both of them my friends.

I thank Judge Wilson for his service to our community, our State, and our Nation and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding environmental research being conducted at the University of California, Merced.

In the midst of California's worst drought on record, scientists at UC Merced are studying the effects drought, fire, and global warming are having on soil and water resources.

One such researcher, Dr. Berhe, along with her students and collaborators, supported by the National Science Foundation, are investigating the impacts of fire, erosion, and climate change on soil processes.

Extreme drought and other catastrophic events can alter the carbon storage potential of the soil, its water-holding capacity, and lead to high rates of surface runoff.

Research such as Dr. Berhe's is critical for addressing challenges to the soil's ability to sequester atmospheric carbon, water security, and the health of the ecosystem.

Continued Federal support of science and research is needed to provide better information for formulating solutions to the challenges in the world around us.

TEXAS IMMIGRATION CRISIS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing an unprecedented crisis on the Texas border, but this is not the result of a natural disaster. This is an entirely manmade crisis caused by the executive branch.

The number of young undocumented immigrants has nearly tripled over the last 2 years. This is not a coincidence. Two years ago, the President essentially rewrote the Nation's immigration policies and promised amnesty to children of a certain age.

Central Americans heard this message loud and clear and have sent their children to the United States in droves, oftentimes under the care of paid-off drug lords who are abusive and dangerous.

I visited the holding facility at Lackland Air Force Base yesterday and heard the stories firsthand of the difficulties these children experience during their trip to the United States.

The Obama administration has said it is committed to ending human trafficking; but, Mr. Speaker, when you are complicit in this degree of human trafficking, I would call you an enabler.

I urge the President to reverse his course for the sake of these innocent children, for the sake of our hard-working border agents, and on behalf of the taxpayers.

HONORING THE USS PENNSYLVANIA FOR COMPLETING THE NATION'S LONGEST STRATEGIC PATROL

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the sailors of the USS Pennsylvania's gold crew for completing a 140-day patrol.

This is the longest strategic deterrence patrol ever in an Ohio class submarine and the longest of any kind since the 1970s.

The servicemembers of the Pennsylvania ought to be proud of their accomplishments. They have done an extraordinary job of demonstrating the resilience of our sailors and the capability of our platforms.

We must also thank and pay tribute to the families of those servicemembers who went without their loved ones for more than one-third of a year.

President Kennedy once said:

Control of the seas means security, control of the seas means peace, and control of the seas means victory.

The Pacific Northwest is proud—this country is proud—of the accomplishments and sacrifices of our sailors and their families. We are thankful for what you do for our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS AT CORNERSTONE CHURCH IN SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I had the opportunity to speak at Cornerstone Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. The service was a tribute to America, our military, and our veterans, and it was an uplifting experience.

Cornerstone was founded over 20 years ago. The first service had 12 attendees, five of whom were related to the founding pastor, Bill Godair. Pastor Godair continues as lead pastor and seeks to use the ministry to attack racism and poverty. The church is growing and serves the people of Salisbury without regard to age, race, or political affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, it was refreshing to join the congregation at Cornerstone and pay tribute to our men and women who serve or have served in our Armed Forces.

As the scriptures tell us in John 15:13:

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

CHILDREN AT AMERICA'S BORDER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the founder and cochair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise to talk about children, the children in America who need more Head Start seats or the children in northern Nigeria who are being attacked and stolen away by Boko Haram who stole some 30 or 40 girls and some 31 boys.

I rise to talk about the children who are at America's border—through no fault of their own and through no fault of this administration—a baby or children laying on the floor with a blanket. Some have taken to the political grandstanding of blaming the President and the President's administration.

The United Nations has indicated that this is a proportion of international humanitarian crisis. Fifty-eight percent of the children that were questioned were not here for immigration issues; they are displaced internationally—they were forcibly displaced.

It is our job to address this question. We should address this question with humanitarian response, with more processing centers. We should have more detention centers that are there for families and children, so they can be processed appropriately; more immigration judges; we must deal with more children's organizations like the National Center for Missing and Exploited

Children, First Focus, Children's Legal Defense Fund.

Let us not grandstand on these babies. They are here because they have been forced to leave a devastating condition in their country. Attacking the administration is wrong.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is, once again, poised to act on an important issue facing our country.

Today, Senator DEAN HELLER, from my home State of Nevada, and Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island announced that they will be working to pass another extension of unemployment insurance for those who need a financial lifeline and have lost their jobs at no fault of their own.

The last time the Senate sent a bill to the House to help struggling Americans with unemployment insurance, Speaker BOEHNER and the Party of No let the bill expire.

By the end of this month, there will be 33,800 Nevadans cut off from unemployment insurance and another 3.1 million Americans asking why Congress has turned its back on them.

Is it any wonder that Congress is held in such low regard by the hardworking American people? The Speaker's answer to millions of Americans asking for help is deafening silence, with no plan to do anything.

I did not come to Congress to sit and wait for one person, the Speaker, to decide whether or not this body could act.

I urge the Speaker to bring up the Senate-passed unemployment insurance extension to help 3.1 million Americans who need a lifeline.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3301, NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 636 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 636

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All

points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-48. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-49. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to

that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 636 provides for consideration of two energy bills designed to provide certainty for those American businesses that have been given excuse after excuse as to why their permit applications have been delayed by the President, the Department of Energy, and other Federal agencies.

The President and his administration have used every delaying tactic they can think of to put off approval of job-creating projects in the natural gas and oil sectors. Quite frankly, the American people are fed up with it. Republicans are here today to stand up for citizens, unions, and businesses that have stood up and called for a more expeditious process that removes politics from the permitting decision-making.

The rule before us today provides for consideration of two bills, H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act.

Both bills receive a standard structured rule under this rule.

For H.R. 6, the Rules Committee makes in order four amendments—two from Democratic sponsors and two bipartisan amendments. For H.R. 3301, the rule makes in order three amendments, all sponsored by Democrats.

This is a straightforward and fair rule that will allow the House to fully debate the issues of liquefied natural gas exports and cross-border pipeline and transmission line projects.

House Republicans have been focused on this country's energy independence for years. The Energy and Commerce Committee has been out in front of this effort, holding hearings on the Obama administration's harmful policies, holding hearings on the job-killing regulations and those that place restrictions on development on public lands and thereby increase the cost of producing electricity and fuel.

Although President Obama is quick to take credit for an increase in natural gas and oil production in this country over the last few years, any honest observer knows that any increase in production has come as a result of efforts on private, not public land, and certainly not lands controlled by the Federal Government.

In continuing the Republican majority's focus on domestic production issues, utilizing the resources that we have here in North America, Representative CORY GARDNER introduced H.R. 6, the bipartisan Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, to provide for the expedited approval of exploration of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries. I am an original cosponsor of the legislation.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have had hearings about the gridlock which has held up dozens of applications from domestic production companies looking to export liquefied natural gas. Since the first non-free trade agreement application was submitted to the Department of Energy nearly 4 years ago, seven have been approved. Twenty-four are awaiting action.

Interestingly enough, to counter what the Department of Energy knew would be the inevitable bipartisan criticism of its delays at the last hearing we held on this topic, the Department of Energy announced just days before the hearing the approval of another LNG export application.

For anyone who thinks that this activity in the House is futile, given HARRY REID's intransigence in taking up any legislation that comes to the Senate from the House, this action by the Department of Energy highlights that efforts taken in this body—the House—can have meaningful impacts beyond simply having legislation signed into law.

Sending a clear signal to the Obama administration that the people's House

is fed up with its delaying tactics and refusal to move forward with the approval of legitimate permit applications is key to making progress toward a more robust domestic energy sector.

The delays which President Obama's administration has imposed on these applications make it more and more difficult. As applications sit collecting dust for these companies trying to secure financing and countries looking to do business with American suppliers, they will soon lose patience and look elsewhere for their needs. The window for these opportunities is closing, and it is the President's hand that is pushing it down.

Mr. GARDNER's legislation is straightforward. Indeed, it is a two-page bill with a clear purpose and intent. The legislation expedites the decisionmaking process for authorization to export natural gas by requiring the Department of Energy to issue a decision within a finite number of days.

This legislation does not force the Department of Energy to make a decision or to make a decision a certain way. It simply says: make a decision.

Moreover, an increase in liquefied natural gas exports in the United States can have major positive ramifications on international relations.

I recently traveled to the Ukraine for their elections. I saw firsthand how Russia's cruel restrictions on natural gas are affecting the region's social and political atmosphere. Officials from the Ukraine and other Eastern European countries have told members of the Energy and Commerce Committee that the mere mention that the United States is increasing its LNG exports can have dramatic impacts on Russia's influence over the region. Mr. GARDNER's bill achieves that goal.

The passage of this bill will move the United States yet another step closer to both assisting our allies abroad as well as creating a more robust domestic industry at home.

The second bill included in today's rule, H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, authored by Chairman UPTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee, further improves the laws governing the permitting of oil and gas pipelines which cross the United States border between either Mexico or Canada.

As the country has witnessed over the past few years, despite overwhelming support from the American people for the project, President Obama and his Secretary of State—first Hillary Clinton and now John Kerry—have refused to approve the Keystone pipeline to bring oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Those of us who have followed the process over the many years that this administration has had the Keystone application under its review know that the delays which the President has imposed on this approval process have

been done purely for political considerations and, in the process, have harmed the country's relationship with one of our closest allies, our neighbor to the north.

If the goal of the President's delays—which he is clearly doing for his friends in the environmental lobby and certainly not for the many unions who have loudly called for the project's approval—was to stop development of the oil sands in Canada, the President again has failed.

Canada recently approved the exploration of a new pipeline to its western coast, where oil would be transported and exported to Asia. Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee have been highlighting this possibility for years. Apparently, our predictions are about to come true.

H.R. 3301 is about more than simply the Keystone pipeline. This legislation is about preventing the President—and future Presidents, regardless of their party—from playing politics with decisions that should be made on the merits of the project.

This President has repeatedly ignored the State Department's comprehensive environmental review of the application, which found that minimal adverse impacts would occur from the building and operation of a cross-country pipeline, and has instead decided to base the decision purely on those special interests.

This is not how major national projects should be evaluated in this country, and Chairman UPTON's legislation ensures that future decisions will be done without the shadow of politics looming over them.

However, although the legislation removes the politics out of such decision-making, it still ensures that other key safeguards in the approval process remain in place. Cross-border pipelines would still have to meet the Natural Gas Act's requirements, and they would still comply with all relevant Federal, State, and local siting and environmental law.

The Department of Commerce and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission both will play roles in this process, as well as the Department of Energy. Decisions must be made within a 120-day timeframe to prevent the types of delaying tactics that we have seen from the administration with regard to energy projects.

To be clear, this legislation applies only to projects which cross national borders and does not make changes to the application process for interstate and intrastate energy projects.

Mr. Speaker, both bills before us today are commonsense responses to the problems we have experienced when the President decides to play politics with the Nation's domestic energy industry.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the un-

derlying bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule and to the underlying bills. First of all, this rule is not open, and it denies some important and germane amendments. This is consistent with the increasingly closed mindset of this Republican leadership.

I want to remind my colleagues that this is now the most closed Congress in history. There have been 62 closed rules in this Congress alone. That is a title I don't think either party would enjoy having, but this is the most closed Congress in history. Speaker BOEHNER, in his opening speech, said that openness would be the new standard. I guess he misspoke because that is not what is happening on these bills, and it hasn't been happening on most other important pieces of legislation. The approval rating of Congress from a poll, I think, Gallup did last week is at 7 percent. My friends can't blame that on President Obama, and they can't blame that on someone else. They are running the show here in the House. This is a reflection on the work or on the lack of work that is being done here.

I think the American people want a full and open debate on important issues. I think the American people want us to focus on things that will actually make their lives better and that have a chance of actually becoming law. We have millions of our fellow citizens who are unemployed, and we can't even get the Republican leadership to bring an extension of unemployment insurance to the House floor for a vote. We can't even get it on the floor for a vote.

We are trying to raise the minimum wage so that we are not subsidizing McDonald's or Wendy's, which pay their workers minimum wage. We are trying to give people a raise so that work actually pays in this country. We can't even get a minimum wage bill to this House floor for a vote. We can't even debate it, and we can't have a vote on it. They are blocking it.

We need to fix our immigration system. It is broken. An immigration reform bill passed in the United States Senate in a bipartisan way, and it solves many of the problems that some of my friends on the other side are complaining about, but the leadership of this House won't even let us bring a bipartisan immigration reform bill to the House floor so that we can vote on it.

It is no wonder why, under this Republican leadership, the approval rating of this body is 7 percent. I think that is history in and of itself. I don't

know whether there was ever a Congress in the history of this country that had such a low rating.

Now here we are with this legislation, H.R. 6, the amazingly named Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, which would improve neither our domestic prosperity nor global freedom. Instead, it would undermine the Department of Energy's approval process for the export of liquefied natural gas. The current process allows the DOE to evaluate the impacts of LNG exports on domestic natural gas prices for consumers and manufacturers as well as environmental impacts.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Energy is already aggressively approving LNG exports. The amounts already approved for exports would transform the United States into the world's second largest exporter of LNG. Further, under the bill, LNG would not be exported any faster. I urge my colleagues not to be fooled by the rhetoric that you may hear on the floor today. Passing this bill will not magically solve the natural gas problem in Ukraine or in other parts of the world.

The other bill, H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, would dramatically weaken the environmental review process for trans-border pipeline and electrical transmission line projects. This bill, which is a blatantly transparent effort to "rig the game" in favor of the Keystone pipeline project, would preclude the Federal Government from reviewing a project's full impacts, including oil spills and the consequences for landowners, public safety, drinking water, wildlife, and, yes, Mr. Speaker, climate change. Let me say those two words again because I know that many of our Republican colleagues tend to stick their heads in the sand when they hear them—climate change.

I think it is important to say a few things. Here is what we know. We know that burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We know that carbon dioxide traps heat. We know that the levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere are higher than they have been in 800,000 years. We know that 9 of the 10 warmest years since 1880 have been in the last decade. We know that last month was the warmest month of May ever recorded.

Yet, to hear some of my Republican friends, we should just move along—nothing to see here, nothing to worry about. There is no need to worry that the Arctic ice sheets are melting, leading to rapidly rising sea levels. There is no need to worry about more severe and deadly weather events. There is no need to worry about profound impacts to agricultural production. At best, you will hear them say that the science is still unsettled. It isn't. Climate change is real—it is happening—and we need to figure out what we should do about it.

Sometimes they will say: Well, I am not a scientist, so I can't really comment about it. Mr. Speaker, I am not a scientist either, but I know that, if I drop my pen, it will fall to the floor because of gravity. No, most of us here in Congress are not scientists, but the overwhelming majority of the best and brightest scientific minds in the world have concluded that climate change is real, that it is happening, and human-kind is currently making the problem worse.

It would be nice, given the enormity of this problem, if my Republican friends would work with Democrats and would work with the White House to try to fashion a response. Instead, they deny that it is a problem, and we get more of the same old-same old. I regret that very, very much, but I can't quite understand, Mr. Speaker, why my Republican friends continue to ignore this critically important issue. I hope it isn't because of their borderline pathological hatred of President Obama. I hope that it isn't because of the Big Oil special interests and the millions and millions of dollars they pour into Republican campaigns. Whatever the reason, I hope that future generations will forgive them, because this is something that we should have been addressing years and years and years ago, and the continued blocking of any serious attempts to deal with climate change by the majority in this House, I think, is unconscionable.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, vote against the rule because it is not an open rule, and a lot of germane amendments—they were germane—were not made in order. I am glad one of the authors of the bill got his amendment made in order, but he authored the bill, so I guess he gets special preference. There is no reason why all of the amendments couldn't have been made in order, and there is no reason why this couldn't have been an open process, because we are not really doing much this week. As for this legislation we are dealing with here today, my guess is it ain't going anywhere.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute for the purpose of a response.

Two months ago, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion, this House agreed to loan guarantees for the country of Ukraine as they dealt with an internal crisis in their country. It is interesting that, probably less than 24 hours after this House passed that loan guarantee, Vladimir Putin said: Do you know what? Your natural gas price just doubled. In fact, next year, it is going to cost you an extra \$1 billion. So, in effect, he used natural gas pricing policy to offset the loan guarantees that we had provided to the country of Ukraine to deal with their internal problems.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that this Congress can adjust and affect right now. We can remove the stranglehold that Vladimir Putin holds over Ukraine and, indeed, over the entirety of Eastern Europe, and we can do it with the passage of this bill today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague on the Rules Committee for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the rule for both H.R. 6 and H.R. 3301, and I will address both of these bills. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 3301 and a recent cosponsor to H.R. 6 after we amended it out of our committee.

As for H.R. 3301, this legislation would create a North American energy market with our free trading partners Canada and Mexico.

If we want to create this market, we need to have statutory authority. It is true that the Presidential permitting process dates back through many administrations, but to really create this market, we need some certainty, and that is why it should be in statute. These past administrations were forced to use executive orders, but Congress has failed to act. Congress has the duty to regulate the commerce of the United States, and cross-border energy infrastructure projects fall well within that space. Unfortunately, cross-border decisions have now fallen victim to election cycles and political considerations. H.R. 3301 will resolve these issues and those proposed by the amendments debated here today.

Let me say that I wish we had an open rule. Some of the amendments considered by the Rules Committee I would have liked to have voted for, but let's not take that away from the quality of these two pieces of legislation.

H.R. 3301 provides for an environmental review of the cross-border segment of the pipeline. The entire length of the pipeline is reviewed for environmental impacts under existing law. Any time a pipeline crosses Federal lands, waters, endangered habitats, a National Environmental Policy Act review—also known as “NEPA”—must be completed by the Federal Government. Otherwise, the environmental permit must come from the State environmental agency if it is within the State. There are more than 40,000 miles of pipeline in the U.S. that have been constructed with in-depth environmental reviews. This will continue to be the case. H.R. 3301 doesn't take anything away except the State Department only has to deal with their responsibility in its coming from Canada to the United States or from Mexico to the United States or vice versa. There will be environmental reviews by Federal agencies and State agencies, and this will continue to be the case.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Also, this bill doesn't deal with the Keystone XL. Pending applications for permits are grandfathered into the current process, and as a fail-safe, we have pushed the effective date of the legislation back to July 1 of 2016. This legislation isn't about Keystone no matter how badly opponents want to make it. It is about future projects and how to meet the energy needs of the 21st century.

Let me talk about H.R. 6. H.R. 6 would actually quantify how this should be done on exporting LNG, and most of those permits are in Louisiana and Texas. Most of the responsibility is with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, and they take 12 to 18 months to do the environmental reviews. The Department of Energy's only responsibility is if it is in the national interest to export LNG. We are going to keep that in the law, but we want to make sure they give a 30-day response because they have actually already had a possible 18 months to review these applications.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have very little to add to what my colleague from Texas just said.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want my colleagues to understand why I think we should reject this rule. Let me just mention two amendments that were germane and that were brought to the Rules Committee by our colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

One amendment clarifies that a viable merchant marine is in the public interest and should be taken into consideration when processing applications under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act. The other grants priority to the processing of approvals for LNG facilities that will be supplied with or will export LNG by U.S. flag vessels.

These are, basically, two amendments that are germane to this bill that would strengthen our shipping industry, and they were ruled out of order. For no reason, they were just randomly ruled out of order. Those are the kinds of things that Members of Congress do not have an opportunity to vote on when you close the process. Again, this is the most closed Congress in the history of our country—with more closed rules than any other Congress in history. So the tendency of this leadership, notwithstanding what the Speaker promised, which was to have a more open and transparent process, has been to become the most closed Congress in history.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to urge that we defeat the previous question, and if

we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that mirrors the bipartisan measure that overwhelmingly passed the Senate this month. It takes aim at some of the VA's most pressing problems, including the expansion of veterans' access to care, holding VA officials accountable, and increasing medical personnel and needed facilities.

This issue of the VA is something that we need to address. It is important, and it is something on which, I think, there is bipartisan agreement that we ought to focus on, and our use on this floor would be better spent dealing with that.

To discuss this proposal, I yield 3 minutes to the Congresswoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK).

□ 1300

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4841, the bill I introduced to overhaul the VA. The Senate has passed this legislation, and now, we must act swiftly and pass the Veterans' Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 without delay.

Over the past several weeks, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has held hearing after hearing on the multitude of issues that plague the VA. These hearings have covered everything from the gaming strategies to hide long patient wait times and bonuses received by VA executives, to capacity problems in the VA health system, and outdated appointment scheduling software.

These hearings clearly demonstrate that the VA needs an overhaul, and H.R. 4841 seeks to accomplish this. Our veterans have sacrificed so much for us. We have a moral obligation to ensure that sweeping reforms are implemented across the VA, making it an organization that exists with one purpose: to serve our veterans.

As lawmakers, we cannot address these multiple issues through piecemeal legislation. We must pass legislation that addresses the patient access crisis, manages patient care, and holds employees accountable.

H.R. 4841 addresses patient access by expediting the hiring of more VA health care providers and authorizes leases for 26 more health care facilities. It allows our rural veterans who have waited too long for appointments to see a doctor in their community.

It improves access to mobile vet centers for our rural veterans and expands access to survivors of military sexual assault. It strengthens partnerships between the VA and the Indian Health Services, an arrangement that is successfully working on the Navajo Nation in my district.

This bill addresses the VA's outdated appointment scheduling system and outdated IT infrastructure through a

technology task force. It prohibits the falsification of data to report patient wait times and mandates transparency by requiring the VA to publish patient wait times and data that measures the quality of care at all VA medical facilities.

It holds employees accountable by giving the Secretary the authority to immediately fire senior executives who fail to serve veterans.

This bill even helps our student veterans receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities and extends GI benefits to surviving spouses.

This bill is truly an overhaul of the way our veterans access care, of the way the VA manages care, and of the VA culture.

I will fight for the provisions in H.R. 4841 in the conference committee that convenes later today. However, a conference committee is not needed if the House passes this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. The Senate overwhelmingly agreed that these reforms are necessary, and now, the House must act without delay to make these sweeping reforms law.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

The fact of the matter is that a conference committee is meeting on this very issue. In fact, they are having their first meeting this afternoon.

The issues of access, the issues of accountability for VA personnel who have not held themselves to high standards, those are provisions that have already passed the floor of this House, some on suspension and some under a rule.

These bills are before the conference committee with the Senate. It is appropriate that they be acted upon expeditiously, but in no way does defeating the previous question enhance that flexibility or the rapidity with which those questions are taken up.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will insert into the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 3301—NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

(Rep. Upton, R-Michigan, and 20 cosponsors, June 24, 2014)

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 3301, which would require the specified Secretary to issue a "certificate of crossing" for any cross-border segment of an oil pipeline (Secretary of State) or electric transmission facility (Secretary of Energy) within 120 days after the completion of the environmental review, unless the Secretary finds

that the cross-border pipeline or electric transmission facility "is not in the public interest of the United States."

The bill's 120-day approval requirement would circumvent the current authority for issuing Presidential Permits for cross-border pipelines and transmission facilities provided by Executive Orders 13337 and 10485, as amended, which allow for the full consideration of the complex issues raised by the building of such infrastructure. That process dates back through many Administrations and has effectively addressed cross-border permitting decisions in a manner that serves the national interest.

H.R. 3301 would impose an unreasonable deadline that would curtail the thorough consideration of the issues involved, which could result in serious security, safety, foreign policy, environmental, economic, and other ramifications. By preventing the opportunity for the necessary assessment of all factors relevant to the national interest, the bill would create significant policy risks and create legal uncertainty for permitting applicants. Additionally, the bill would prevent assessment of whether modifications to border-crossing pipelines or electric transmission facilities are in the national interest, which is provided for through the current process.

H.R. 3301 would also raise serious trade implications by eliminating the current statutory requirement that the Department of Energy authorize orders for exports and imports of natural gas to and from Canada and Mexico.

Because H.R. 3301 would circumvent longstanding and proven processes for determining whether cross-border pipelines and electric transmission facilities are in the national interest by removing the Presidential permitting requirement, if presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto this bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Let me just read one line here. It says:

Because H.R. 3301 would circumvent longstanding and proven processes for determining whether cross-border pipelines and electric transmission facilities are in the national interest by removing the Presidential permitting requirement, if presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto this bill.

So we are discussing—we are spending time here discussing a bill that will probably not be brought up at all in the Senate and will be vetoed by the White House. So this is just kind of an exercise in futility, when we should be here trying to figure out how to deal with some of the bigger issues like climate change.

If you don't want to talk about climate change, let's talk about increasing the minimum wage. If you don't want to talk about that, let's talk about extending unemployment insurance for people who have lost their jobs.

If you don't want to talk about that, let's talk about immigration reform. Let's talk about something that actually matters, something that—quite frankly, some of the things that are urgent for us to focus on.

Instead, we get these bills that are being brought before us, under a restrictive process, again, which is in

keeping with the mindset of this Congress, which is closed.

Notwithstanding what the Speaker said, that there would be this new commitment to openness, this is now the most closed Congress in history.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA).

Ms. SINEMA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague from Arizona's motion because Arizona veterans demand immediate action.

At the Phoenix VA, managers and employees placed veterans on secret lists where they had to wait months to see a doctor. Even more horrifying are new whistleblower allegations that veterans died while waiting on these lists and that VA managers ordered the records altered to cover up these deaths.

This is not just immoral; it is criminal. Those responsible for this disaster must be prosecuted and held accountable. They should also take responsibility for what they have done to our veterans.

I call on the Phoenix VA management currently on administrative leave to resign immediately and return the bonuses they received over the past 2 years and the pay they have received while on administrative leave.

Ongoing audits by the VA and the VA Office of Inspector General reveal systemic problems with wait times, with the scheduling process, and with the honesty and integrity of the system.

In a letter to the President sent yesterday, the Office of Special Counsel revealed that the VA's procedures for responding to whistleblower disclosures are woefully inadequate. This is totally unacceptable.

VA and Congress must take action to provide our veterans the care they need now, recoup bonuses paid to VA executives who fraudulently manipulated the data, and fire VA executives responsible for these inexcusable actions.

I appreciate the bipartisan work taking place to reform the VA and to provide our veterans the care that they need. In fact, I cosponsored and voted for both House bills.

The bottom line is that there is bipartisan legislation that can help our veterans get the care they need and hold bad actors accountable right now, so that is why I support this motion to send a bill to the President's desk as quickly as possible.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Again, access and accountability are parts of the VA reform bills that have been passed by this House and currently that is in conference. Even today, they are having their first meeting of the conference committee.

I, too, wish the administration would fire someone for incompetence. Whether it be at the VA, the Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Serv-

ice, healthcare.gov, the list of incompetencies grows larger every day and just begs the question: What do you have to do to get fired by the Obama administration?

I have got to share with you something else. This Statement of Administration Policy—and this is the first time I have seen it here as we are presenting the bill today—but it closes with the statement: "Because H.R. 3301"—that is the permitting bill—"would circumvent longstanding and proven processes."

Proven processes? These processes are broken. That is why the legislation is necessary—because the administration refuses to act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I find it somewhat interesting here that my colleague from Texas is all upset about the slowness of the permitting process when it comes to these pipelines.

I think that there is bipartisan concern about the way the VA is currently being managed. I think there is bipartisan concern that we ought to make sure that the system is more responsive to our veterans.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK came to the floor and offered a statement, which will be the subject of the previous question, that I think makes a lot of sense. I mean, what she is talking about is a bill that is the companion to the one that Senator MCCAIN introduced in the United States Senate.

I am a little kind of bothered by the fact that there is not more impatience on the other side of the aisle to fix this VA system, to get it right. Again, you could point all the fingers you want at the administration, and they are trying to get it right.

There are things that we can do right now to more aggressively and quickly address some of these issues, and that is what Mrs. KIRKPATRICK was talking about. That is what Ms. SINEMA was talking about. That is what Senator MCCAIN is talking about in the United States Senate, Senator SANDERS as well.

That, to me, seems urgent. We ought to do this right now, and to kind of use the excuse that, well, we passed a couple of these things and maybe there will be a conference committee that will resolve all this stuff—let's just do it. Let's just get this done.

Again, I am going to urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question, so that we can bring up the very legislation that Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. SINEMA talked about.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Again, I would reiterate that the veterans bills passed by this House, passed

by the House of Representatives, have now gone to conference with the Senate. The most expeditious way to accomplish the goals the gentleman referred to is for the conference committee to give its report and bring that back to the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just—I mean, there is just so much that I want to say here, given the fact that there is so much that we need to do to help the American people, and we are not doing it in this Congress.

We are bringing up kind of the same old-same old energy bills that are going nowhere, that don't respond to the needs of our country, and certainly don't address the issue of climate change.

My colleague talks about how the process is broken. He says the Keystone XL has taken 5 years and counting and that shows that the process is broken.

Let me just say that that project is a highly controversial project, with significant environmental impacts. Because the Obama administration took the time to do the environmental review, we have more information on the project's impacts on climate change.

The State Department's final environmental review found that tar sands produce significantly more carbon pollution than conventional oil, that building the Keystone XL pipeline could allow more rapid expansion of the tar sands, and that this expansion would exacerbate climate change. That is something that we can't afford to do.

Last month, our Nation's leading climate scientists released the country's third national climate assessment. The report confirms that climate change is real, is being caused by humans, and is already harming communities across America.

The report tells us the scientific evidence is unequivocal. The impacts are being felt in every region. They are growing more urgent, and they are going to get worse if we don't act.

A record drought is continuing to destroy crops in California. Torrential rains have flooded Florida. Wildfires are getting more intense. Coastal areas are being inundated as sea levels rise.

No sector of our economy, from oyster hatcheries on the West Coast to maple syrup producers in New England, are untouched. Business as usual is no longer an option. The same old-same old doesn't work.

If we are serious about taking action on climate change, saying no to the Keystone XL pipeline, to me, is an obvious place to start; and the pipeline would produce more carbon pollution than any other project pending in the United States.

The additional carbon pollution from this single project is equivalent to

building seven new coal-fired power plants.

Now, if we can't say "no" to this project on climate grounds, where are we going to draw the line?

□ 1315

So I commend the Obama administration for taking the time to get this decision right.

The environment matters. For years, my friends on the other side of the aisle ignored the environment. I mean, it was always that the environmentalists were the enemy. You know, being good stewards of the environment was somehow a bad thing to do. Well, look at what is happening around us.

So I think it is time that there be a change of attitude, and it is time that we actually bring serious legislation to the floor that deals with, how do we meet our energy needs but how do we also deal with this issue of climate change?

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, the oil produced in the Province of Alberta belongs to the country of Canada. Yes, it may traverse the United States, if the Keystone pipeline is built. But if it is not, the oil will traverse western Canada and be shipped to China. The oil will still be burned. The carbon will still go into the air.

Who would you rather have in charge of the refining process: refineries in China who do not have the environmental controls, or refineries in Texas who do?

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment that I am going to offer if we defeat the previous question in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question, and I urge a "no" vote on the rule.

Again, I just want to remind my colleagues what we would like to bring up. If we defeat the previous question, we will bring up an amendment to the rule that brings legislation forward that mirrors the bipartisan measure that overwhelmingly passed in the Senate this month dealing with some of the VA's most pressing problems. So that is why defeating the previous question would be important.

Let me just close by saying, again, on the environmental issues here, listening to my friend from Texas talk about the issue of climate change, all you hear is excuses why we can't do something, and why we need to do the same old-same old.

I have to tell you that if we don't deal with this issue sooner, rather than later, then history will not look kindly upon us. We may not have a history in the future if we don't address this issue sooner, rather than later.

This is a big deal. This is a big deal. This is something that we ought to be talking about on the House floor at this very moment. If you want to talk about an energy policy, we ought to also talk about climate change. But yet there is nothing. There is nothing. It really is appalling.

And the legislation that is being brought before us today is going nowhere. So we are wasting our time talking about bills that are going nowhere. They are going nowhere in the Senate. The White House has already issued a veto threat. So we are just kind of spinning our wheels here.

Instead, maybe we could use this week to do something productive. If you defeat the previous question, we could actually bring up the Senate-passed VA bill and get that done and help our veterans. And get it done quickly. Maybe that would be a good thing to do. Maybe that would make this week worth it, rather than a week spent talking about things that are going nowhere.

So with that, Madam Speaker, I'm going to urge my colleagues again to vote "no" and defeat the previous question. I urge a "no" vote on the rule. And I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, if it were really true that the actions we take here don't mean anything, then why did the Department of Energy suddenly release one of the export licenses merely on the fact that the Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing on H.R. 6, the bill offered by the gentleman from Colorado, CORY GARDNER, to require a time certain for the export license to be decided upon?

Why does the gentleman from New Mexico, Senator UDALL, have very similar legislation pending over in the Senate? I would say this is one proposal that perhaps has a very good chance of becoming law, even in divided governments, such as we have today.

On the issue of the previous question, I would remind the body that the most expeditious way to get to a solution for the problems that are being experienced by our Nation's veterans within the VA system is for the conference committee to proceed.

If we pass something today, it still goes back over to the Senate. It doesn't

expedite a darn thing. The conference committee is the correct way for that to go. So I do urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question.

Today's rule provides for the consideration of two key pieces of legislation to move our country toward a more energy-independent environment. I certainly thank Chairman UPTON and CORY GARDNER for producing bipartisan pieces of legislation to address real problems that have arisen in the permitting process, when politics are injected into what should be a merit-based system.

H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, are thoughtful pieces of legislation that deserve the support of this body.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 636 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4841) to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4841.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 184, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 341]

YEAS—219

Aderholt	Granger	Perry
Amash	Graves (GA)	Petri
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Pitts
Bachus	Griffith (VA)	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Grimm	Posey
Barr	Guthrie	Price (GA)
Barton	Hall	Reed
Benishek	Harper	Reichert
Bentivolio	Harris	Renacci
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Rice (SC)
Black	Heck (NV)	Rigell
Blackburn	Hensarling	Roby
Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Holding	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hudson	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Rogers (MI)
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rokita
Buchanan	Hunter	Rooney
Bucshon	Hurt	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Issa	Roskam
Byrne	Jenkins	Rothfus
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Royce
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Runyan
Capito	Jolly	Salmon
Carter	Jones	Sanford
Cassidy	Jordan	Scalise
Chabot	Joyce	Schock
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
Coble	King (IA)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	King (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Kinzing (IL)	Sessions
Collins (GA)	Kline	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Shuster
Conaway	LaMalfa	Simpson
Cook	Lamborn	Latham
Cotton	Lance	Latta
Cramer	Latham	LoBiondo
Crawford	Latta	Long
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Lucas
Culberson	Long	Luetkemeyer
Daines	Lucas	Lummis
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Marchant
Denham	Lummis	Marino
Dent	Marchant	Massie
DeSantis	Marino	McAllister
DesJarlais	Massie	McCarthy (CA)
Diaz-Balart	McAllister	McCauley
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	McClintock
Duncan (SC)	McCauley	McHenry
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	McKeon
Ellmers	McHenry	McKinley
Farenthold	McKeon	McMorris
Fincher	McKinley	Rodgers
Fleischmann	McMorris	Meadows
Fleming	Rodgers	Meehan
Flores	Meadows	Messer
Forbes	Meehan	Mica
Fortenberry	Messer	Miller (FL)
Fox	Mica	Miller (MI)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Mulvaney
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Gardner	Mulvaney	Neugebauer
Garrett	Murphy (PA)	Noem
Gerlach	Neugebauer	Nugent
Gibbs	Noem	Nunes
Gibson	Nugent	Olson
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes	Palazzo
Gohmert	Olson	Paulsen
Goodlatte	Palazzo	
Gosar	Paulsen	
Gowdy	Pearce	

NAYS—184

Barber	Bera (CA)	Brady (PA)
Barrow (GA)	Bishop (GA)	Braley (IA)
Bass	Bishop (NY)	Brown (FL)
Beatty	Blumenauer	Brownley (CA)
Becerra	Bonamici	Bustos

Butterfield	Himes	Owens
Capps	Hinojosa	Pallone
Capuano	Holt	Pascarelli
Cárdenas	Honda	Pastor (AZ)
Carson (IN)	Horsford	Payne
Cartwright	Hoyer	Pelosi
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Perlmutter
Castro (TX)	Israel	Peters (CA)
Chu	Jackson Lee	Peters (MI)
Cicilline	Jeffries	Peterson
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Pingree (ME)
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Pocan
Clay	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Cleaver	Keating	Quigley
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Rahall
Cohen	Kennedy	Richmond
Connolly	Kildee	Roybal-Allard
Conyers	Kilmer	Ruiz
Cooper	Kind	Ruppersberger
Costa	Kirkpatrick	Ryan (OH)
Courtney	Kuster	Sanchez, Linda
Cuellar	Langevin	T.
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis (CA)	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes
Davis, Danny	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky
DeFazio	Levin	Schiff
DeGette	Lipinski	Schneider
Delaney	Lowenthal	Schrader
DeLauro	Lowey	Schwartz
DelBene	Lujan Grisham	Scott (VA)
Deutch	(NM)	Sewell (AL)
Dingell	Lujan, Ben Ray	Shea-Porter
Doggett	(NM)	Sherman
Doyle	Lynch	Sinema
Duckworth	Maffei	Sires
Ellison	Maloney,	Slaughter
Engel	Carolyn	Speier
Enyart	Maloney, Sean	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Matheson	Takano
Esty	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Fattah	McCollum	Tierney
Foster	McDermott	Titus
Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Tonko
Fudge	McIntyre	Tsongas
Gabbard	McNerney	Van Hollen
Gallego	Meng	Vargas
Garamendi	Michaud	Veasey
Garcia	Miller, George	Vela
Grayson	Moore	Visclosky
Green, Al	Moran	Walz
Green, Gene	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman
Grijalva	Nader	Schultz
Guírrerz	Napolitano	Waters
Hahn	Neal	Waxman
Hastings (FL)	Negrete McLeod	Welch
Heck (WA)	Nolan	Wilson (FL)
Higgins	O'Rourke	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—28

Campbell	Lewis	Rush
Cantor	Loebback	Scott, David
Carney	Lofgren	Serrano
Crowley	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Edwards	Miller, Gary	Southerland
Fitzpatrick	Mullin	Stutzman
Hanabusa	Munnelee	Turner
Hanna	Polis	Velázquez
Kingston	Pompeo	Williams
Lankford	Rangel	

□ 1347

Messrs. GARCIA, GALLEGO, AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. CAPITO, Messrs. LUETKEMEYER and TIBERI changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 186, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 342]

AYES—221

Aderholt	Gowdy	Pearce
Amash	Granger	Perry
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Petri
Bachmann	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Bachus	Griffin (AR)	Pitts
Barber	Griffith (VA)	Poe (TX)
Barletta	Grimm	Posey
Barr	Guthrie	Price (GA)
Barton	Hall	Reed
Benishek	Harper	Reichert
Bentivolio	Harris	Renacci
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Rice (SC)
Black	Heck (NV)	Rigell
Blackburn	Hensarling	Roby
Boustany	Herrera Beutler	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Holding	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hudson	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Huelskamp	Rogers (MI)
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Broun (GA)	Hultgren	Rokita
Buchanan	Hunter	Rooney
Bucshon	Hurt	Ros-Lehtinen
Burgess	Issa	Roskam
Byrne	Jenkins	Ross
Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rothfus
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Capito	Jolly	Runyan
Carter	Jones	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	Jordan	Salmon
Chabot	Joyce	Sanford
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Coble	King (IA)	Schock
Coffman	King (NY)	Schweikert
Cole	Kinzing (IL)	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Kline	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Sessions
Conaway	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Cook	Lamborn	Shuster
Cotton	Lance	Simpson
Cramer	Latham	Latham
Crawford	Latta	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Culberson	Long	Smith (NJ)
Daines	Lucas	Smith (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Southerland
Denham	Lummis	Stewart
Dent	Marchant	Stivers
DeSantis	Marino	Stockman
DesJarlais	Massie	Stutzman
Diaz-Balart	McAllister	Terry
Duffy	McCarthy (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Duncan (SC)	McCauley	Thornberry
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Tiberi
Ellmers	McHenry	Tipton
Farenthold	McKeon	Turner
Fincher	McKinley	Upton
Fleischmann	McMorris	Valadao
Fleming	Rodgers	Wagner
Flores	Meadows	Walden
Forbes	Meehan	Walorski
Fortenberry	Messer	Weber (TX)
Fox	Mica	Weber (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Gardner	Mulvaney	Whitfield
Garrett	Murphy (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Gerlach	Neugebauer	Wittman
Gibbs	Noem	Wolf
Gibson	Nugent	Womack
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes	Woodall
Gohmert	Olson	Yoder
Goodlatte	Palazzo	Yoho
Gosar	Paulsen	Young (AK)
		Young (IN)

NOES—186

Barrow (GA)	Bonamici	Capuano
Bass	Brady (PA)	Cárdenas
Beatty	Braley (IA)	Carson (IN)
Becerra	Brown (FL)	Cartwright
Bera (CA)	Brownley (CA)	Castor (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Bustos	Castro (TX)
Bishop (NY)	Butterfield	Chu
Blumenauer	Capps	Cicilline

Clark (MA) Jackson Lee
 Clarke (NY) Jeffries
 Clay Johnson (GA)
 Cleaver Johnson, E. B.
 Clyburn Kaptur
 Cohen Keating
 Connolly Kelly (IL)
 Conyers Kennedy
 Cooper Kildee
 Costa Kilmer
 Courtney Kind
 Cuellar Kirkpatrick
 Cummings Kuster
 Davis (CA) Langevin
 Davis, Danny Larsen (WA)
 DeFazio Larson (CT)
 DeGette Lee (CA)
 Delaney Levin
 DeLauro Lewis
 DelBene Lipinski
 Deutch Lofgren
 Dingell Lowenthal
 Doggett Lowey
 Doyle Lujan Grisham
 Duckworth (NM)
 Edwards Luján, Ben Ray
 Ellison (NM)
 Engel Lynch
 Enyart Maffei
 Eshoo Maloney,
 Esty Carolyn
 Farr Maloney, Sean
 Fattah Matheson
 Foster Matsui
 Frankel (FL) McCarthy (NY)
 Fudge McCollum
 Gabbard McDermott
 Gallego McGovern
 Garamendi McIntyre
 Garcia McNERNEY
 Grayson Meng
 Green, Al Michaud
 Green, Gene Miller, George
 Grijalva Moore
 Hahn Moran
 Hastings (FL) Murphy (FL)
 Heck (WA) Nadler
 Higgins Napolitano
 Himes Neal
 Hinojosa Negrete McLeod
 Holt Nolan
 Honda O'Rourke
 Horsford Owens
 Hoyer Pallone
 Huffman Pascrell
 Israel Pastor (AZ)

NOT VOTING—24

Campbell Kingston
 Cantor Lankford
 Carney Loeb sack
 Crowley Meeks
 Fitzpatrick Miller, Gary
 Gutiérrez Mullin
 Hanabusa Nunnelee
 Hanna Polis

□ 1355

Messrs. CUMMINGS and DAVID SCOTT of Georgia changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. BARBER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CUSTOMER PROTECTION AND END USER RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 629 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4413.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1352

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday, June 23, 2014, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 113–476 by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113–476 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendment No. 4 by Ms. WATERS of California.

Amendment No. 5 by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 6 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 249, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 343]

AYES—163

Barber	Bera (CA)	Brady (PA)
Barrow (GA)	Bishop (GA)	Braley (IA)
Bass	Bishop (NY)	Brown (FL)
Beatty	Blumenauer	Brownley (CA)
Becerra	Bonamici	Bustos

Butterfield	Heck (WA)	Pallone
Capps	Higgins	Pascrell
Capuano	Hinojosa	Pastor (AZ)
Cárdenas	Holt	Payne
Carson (IN)	Honda	Pelosi
Cartwright	Horsford	Peters (CA)
Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Peters (MI)
Castro (TX)	Israel	Pingree (ME)
Chu	Jackson Lee	Pocan
Cicilline	Jeffries	Price (NC)
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Clay	Kaptur	Richmond
Cleaver	Keating	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Cohen	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Conyers	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Cooper	Kind	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cuellar	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Cummings	Kuster	Sarbanes
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Schakowsky
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
DeFazio	Lee (CA)	Schneider
DeGette	Levin	Schwartz
DelBene	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Deutch	Loeb sack	Sewell (AL)
Dingell	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Doyle	Lowey	Sherman
Duckworth	Lujan Grisham	Sinema
Edwards	(NM)	Sires
Ellison	Luján, Ben Ray	Slaughter
Engel	(NM)	Speier
Enyart	Maffei	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Farr	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Fattah	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Frankel (FL)	Matsui	Titus
Fudge	McCollum	Tonko
Gabbard	McDermott	Tsongas
Gallego	McGovern	Van Hollen
Garamendi	McNerney	Vargas
Garcia	Meng	Veasey
Gibson	Michaud	Vela
Grayson	Miller, George	Visclosky
Green, Al	Moore	Wasserman
Green, Gene	Nadler	Schultz
Grijalva	Napolitano	Waters
Gutiérrez	Neal	Waxman
Hahn	Negrete McLeod	Wilson (FL)
Hanabusa	Nolan	Yarmuth
Hastings (FL)	O'Rourke	

NOES—249

Aderholt	Courtney	Graves (MO)
Amash	Cramer	Griffin (AR)
Amodei	Crawford	Griffith (VA)
Bachmann	Crenshaw	Grimm
Bachus	Culberson	Guthrie
Barletta	Daines	Hall
Barr	Davis, Rodney	Harper
Barton	Delaney	Harris
Benishek	DeLauro	Hartzler
Bentivolio	Denham	Hastings (WA)
Bilirakis	Dent	Heck (NV)
Bishop (UT)	DeSantis	Hensarling
Black	DesJarlais	Herrera Beutler
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Boustany	Doggett	Holding
Brady (TX)	Duffy	Hudson
Bridenstine	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (TN)	Huffman
Brooks (IN)	Ellmers	Huizenga (MI)
Broun (GA)	Esty	Hultgren
Buchanan	Farenthold	Hunter
Bucshon	Fincher	Hurt
Burgess	Fleischmann	Issa
Byrne	Fleming	Jenkins
Calvert	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Camp	Forbes	Johnson, Sam
Capito	Fortenberry	Jolly
Carney	Foster	Jones
Carter	Fox	Jordan
Cassidy	Franks (AZ)	Joyce
Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (PA)
Chaffetz	Gardner	Kilmer
Coble	Garrett	King (IA)
Coffman	Gerlach	King (NY)
Cole	Gibbs	Kinzinger (IL)
Collins (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Kline
Collins (NY)	Gohmert	Labrador
Conaway	Goodlatte	LaMalfa
Connolly	Gosar	Lamborn
Cook	Gowdy	Lance
Costa	Granger	Larson (CT)
Cotton	Graves (GA)	Latham

Latta
Lewis
LoBlundo
Long
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen

Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus

Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Takano
Tanner
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—19

Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Fitzpatrick
Hanna
Kingston
Lankford

Meeks
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Nunnelee
Polis
Pompeo
Rangel

Rush
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Velázquez
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1401

Mr. VEASEY changed his vote from
“no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from California (Ms.
WATERS) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 168, noes 242,
not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 344]

AYES—168

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebbeck
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Kuster
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—242

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishke
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Cardenas
Carter

Cartwright
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold

Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)

Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBlundo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers

Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Sarbanes

NOT VOTING—21

Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Ellison
Fitzpatrick
Hanna
Kingston

Lankford
Meeks
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Nunnelee
Polis
Pompeo

Rangel
Rush
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Velázquez
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1405

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Chair, I'd like to
note that I intended to vote in support of the
Waters amendment to H.R. 4413, the Cust-
omer Protection and End User Relief Act,
when it came up for a vote earlier today.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms.
MOORE) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the noes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 239, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 345]

AYES—173

Bass	Green, Al	Moran
Beatty	Green, Gene	Murphy (FL)
Becerra	Grijalva	Nadler
Bera (CA)	Gutiérrez	Napolitano
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	Neal
Bishop (NY)	Hanabusa	Negrete McLeod
Blumenauer	Hastings (FL)	Nolan
Bonamici	Heck (WA)	O'Rourke
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pallone
Brown (FL)	Himes	Pascarell
Brownley (CA)	Hinojosa	Pastor (AZ)
Bustos	Holt	Payne
Butterfield	Honda	Pelosi
Capps	Horsford	Perlmutter
Capuano	Hoyer	Peters (CA)
Carney	Huffman	Peters (MI)
Carson (IN)	Israel	Pingree (ME)
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Pocan
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Chu	Johnson, E. B.	Quigley
Cicilline	Jones	Richmond
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Ruiz
Clay	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cleaver	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Clyburn	Kildee	Sánchez, Linda
Cohen	Kilmer	T.
Connolly	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Conyers	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Cooper	Kuster	Schakowsky
Courtney	Langevin	Schiff
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Davis (CA)	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Davis, Danny	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
DeFazio	Levin	Sewell (AL)
DeGette	Lewis	Shea-Porter
Delaney	Lipinski	Sherman
DeLauro	Loeb	Sires
DelBene	Lofgren	Slaughter
Deutch	Lowenthal	Speier
Dingell	Lowe	Swalwell (CA)
Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Takano
Doyle	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
Duckworth	Luján, Ben Ray	Thompson (MS)
Edwards	(NM)	Tierney
Ellison	Lynch	Titus
Engel	Maloney,	Tonko
Enyart	Carolyn	Tsongas
Eshoo	Maloney, Sean	Van Hollen
Esty	Matsui	Veasey
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Visclosky
Fattah	McCormack	Wasserman
Foster	McDermott	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Waters
Fudge	McNerney	Waxman
Gabbard	Meng	Welch
Garamendi	Michaud	Wilson (FL)
Garcia	Miller, George	Yarmuth
Grayson	Moore	

NOES—239

Aderholt	Broun (GA)	Cramer
Amash	Buchanan	Crawford
Amodel	Bucshon	Crenshaw
Bachmann	Burgess	Cuellar
Bachus	Byrne	Culberson
Barber	Calvert	Daines
Barletta	Camp	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Capito	Denham
Barrow (GA)	Cárdenas	Dent
Barton	Carter	DeSantis
Benishkek	Cassidy	DesJarlais
Bentivolio	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Billirakis	Chaffetz	Duffy
Bishop (UT)	Coble	Duncan (SC)
Black	Coffman	Duncan (TN)
Blackburn	Cole	Ellmers
Boustany	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Brady (TX)	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Braley (IA)	Conaway	Fleischmann
Bridenstine	Cook	Fleming
Brooks (AL)	Costa	Flores
Brooks (IN)	Cotton	Forbes

Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Roskam
Fox	Lummis	Ross
Franks (AZ)	Maffei	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Marchant	Royce
Gallego	Marino	Runyan
Gardner	Massie	Ryan (WI)
Garrett	Matheson	Salmon
Gerlach	McAllister	Sanford
Gibbs	McCarthy (CA)	Scalise
Gibson	McCaul	Schick
Gingrey (GA)	McClintock	Schrader
Gohmert	McHenry	Schweikert
Goodlatte	McIntyre	Scott, Austin
Gosar	McKeon	Scott, David
Goody	McKinley	Sensenbrenner
Granger	McMorris	Sessions
Graves (GA)	Rodgers	Shimkus
Graves (MO)	Meadows	Shuster
Graffen (AR)	Meehan	Simpson
Griffith (VA)	Messer	Sinema
Grimm	Mica	Smith (MO)
Guthrie	Miller (FL)	Smith (NE)
Hall	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)
Harper	Mulvaney	Smith (TX)
Harris	Murphy (PA)	Southerland
Hartzler	Neugebauer	Stewart
Hastings (WA)	Noem	Stivers
Heck (NV)	Nugent	Stockman
Hensarling	Nunes	Stutzman
Herrera Beutler	Olson	Terry
Holding	Owens	Thompson (PA)
Hudson	Palazzo	Thornberry
Huelskamp	Paulsen	Tiberi
Huizenga (MI)	Pearce	Tipton
Hultgren	Perry	Turner
Hunter	Peterson	Upton
Hurt	Petri	Valadao
Issa	Pittenger	Vargas
Jenkins	Pitts	Vela
Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)	Wagner
Johnson, Sam	Posey	Walberg
Jolly	Price (GA)	Walden
Jordan	Rahall	Walorski
Joyce	Reed	Walz
Kelly (PA)	Reichert	Weber (TX)
King (IA)	Renacci	Webster (FL)
King (NY)	Ribble	Wenstrup
Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)	Westmoreland
Kline	Rigell	Whitefield
Labrador	Roby	Wilson (SC)
LaMalfa	Roe (TN)	Wittman
Lamborn	Rogers (AL)	Wolf
Lance	Rogers (KY)	Womack
Latham	Rogers (MI)	Woodall
Latta	Rohrabacher	Yoder
LoBiondo	Rokita	Yoho
Long	Rooney	Young (AK)
Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—19

Campbell	Meeks	Rush
Cantor	Miller, Gary	Serrano
Crowley	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Fitzpatrick	Nunnelee	Velázquez
Hanna	Polis	Williams
Kingston	Pompeo	
Lankford	Rangel	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1409

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, noes 233, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 346]

AYES—177

Barrow (GA)	Garamendi	Miller, George
Bass	Garcia	Moore
Beatty	Gibson	Moran
Becerra	Grayson	Murphy (FL)
Bera (CA)	Green, Al	Nadler
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Napolitano
Bishop (NY)	Gutiérrez	Neal
Blumenauer	Hahn	Negrete McLeod
Bonamici	Hanabusa	Nolan
Brady (PA)	Hastings (FL)	O'Rourke
Braley (IA)	Heck (WA)	Pallone
Brown (FL)	Higgins	Pascarell
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Pastor (AZ)
Burgess	Hinojosa	Payne
Bustos	Holt	Pelosi
Butterfield	Honda	Perlmutter
Capps	Horsford	Peters (CA)
Capuano	Hoyer	Peters (MI)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
Carney	Israel	Pocan
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Cartwright	Jeffries	Richmond
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Chu	Jones	Ruppersberger
Cicilline	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clay	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Cleaver	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Cohen	Kind	Schiff
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Conyers	Kuster	Schwartz
Courtney	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Crenshaw	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Shea-Porter
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Sires
Davis (CA)	Levin	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	Lewis	Speier
DeFazio	Lipinski	Stockman
DeGette	Loeb	Swalwell (CA)
Delaney	Lofgren	Takano
DeLauro	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
Deutch	Lujan Grisham	Tierney
Dingell	(NM)	Titus
Doggett	Luján, Ben Ray	Tonko
Doyle	(NM)	Tsongas
Duckworth	Lynch	Van Hollen
Edwards	Maffei	Veasey
Ellison	Maloney,	Visclosky
Engel	Carolyn	Wasserman
Enyart	Maloney, Sean	Schultz
Eshoo	Matsui	Waters
Esty	McCormack	Waxman
Farr	McDermott	Webster (FL)
Fattah	McGovern	Welch
Frankel (FL)	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Fudge	Meng	Yarmuth
Gabbard	Michaud	

NOES—233

Aderholt	Brooks (AL)	Conaway
Amash	Brooks (IN)	Cook
Amodel	Broun (GA)	Cooper
Bachmann	Buchanan	Costa
Bachus	Bucshon	Cotton
Barber	Byrne	Cramer
Barletta	Calvert	Crawford
Barr	Camp	Culberson
Barton	Capito	Daines
Benishkek	Carter	Davis, Rodney
Bentivolio	Cassidy	Denham
Billirakis	Chabot	Dent
Bishop (UT)	Chaffetz	DeSantis
Black	Coble	DesJarlais
Blackburn	Coffman	Diaz-Balart
Boustany	Cole	Duffy
Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)

Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn

Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

NOT VOTING—21

Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Fitzpatrick
Hanna
Kingston
Lankford

Meeks
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Nunnelee
Polis
Pompeo
Rangel

Rush
Sanford
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Velázquez
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1412

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GARRETT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GAR-
RETT) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the ayes
prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 252, noes 158,
not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 347]

AYES—252

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivoglio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger

Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes

Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder

Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—158

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleave
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr

Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Gibson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng

Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Veasey
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—21

Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Fitzpatrick
Grayson
Hanna
Kingston

Lankford
Meeks
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Nunnelee
Polis
Pompeo

Rangel
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Velázquez
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1417

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is
on the amendment in the nature of a
substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule,
the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;
and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs.
BLACK) having assumed the chair, Mr.
HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Com-
mittee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union, reported that that Com-
mittee, having had under consideration

the bill (H.R. 4413) to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 629, reports the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4413 to the Committee on Agriculture with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 10, after line 12, insert the following:
SEC. ____ . PROHIBITING EXCESSIVE OIL AND GAS SPECULATION THAT INCREASES PRICES FOR CONSUMERS.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to—

(1) curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any designated contract market and swap execution facility within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which oil and gasoline futures or swaps are traded; and

(2) eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities.

Page 52, after line 14, insert the following:

(f) TRACKING EVADERS OF UNITED STATES LAW.—The Commissions shall investigate and report back to the Congress within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on the number of swap and security-based swap market participants that have moved their headquarters or operations out of the United States in order to avoid com-

pliance with United States swaps requirements.

Page 52, line 15, strike “(f)” and insert “(g)”.

Page 53, line 18, strike “(2) The” and insert “(2)(A) The”.

Page 54, after line 3, insert the following:

(B) REQUIRING OVERSEAS DERIVATIVES USERS TO OBEY UNITED STATES LAWS PROHIBITING FRAUD AND MANIPULATION OF UNITED STATES MARKETS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term “United States swap requirements” does not include the provisions relating to swaps or security-based swaps concerning fraud, manipulation, or position limits on a United States designated contract market, swap execution facility, national securities exchange or security-based swap execution facility contained in the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that were added by title VI of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, or any rules or regulations prescribed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission or the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to such provisions.

Page 54, line 4, strike “(g)” and insert “(h)”.

Ms. KUSTER (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

Madam Speaker, I commend Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for their bipartisan leadership of our committee. Their pragmatic work together across the aisle is exactly what the American people expect but so rarely get from this Congress. I am proud to serve with them and all of our colleagues on the Agriculture Committee, Republican and Democrat, to address the issues important to rural America and to communities all across our country. This includes reauthorizing the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, the sheriff overseeing much of Wall Street.

Every day, the CFTC defends the Main Street businesses and middle class families from the same reckless behavior that crashed our economy just a few years ago. We must reauthorize the CFTC and ensure that the cops on the beat have the authority they need to protect our farmers, consumers, investors, and retirees from fraud and abuse by the very worst actors on Wall Street.

Now, don't get me wrong, this bill is far from perfect. My amendment would address some of its flaws, including its failure to address the prospect of soaring energy prices facing American consumers, which should be a top priority for the CFTC.

Madam Speaker, when gas prices spike, they immediately hit the pocketbook of every consumer, especially the constituents that I represent in New Hampshire's North Country and communities all across our State, some of which are already paying close to \$4 per gallon of gasoline. When Americans pull up to the pump, they deserve to pay a fair price and not be gouged because of excessive speculation. My amendment would help keep gas prices in check by requiring that the CFTC use its full authority to immediately curb excessive speculation and price distortion in economic markets.

In addition, this amendment would require the CFTC to report when companies move their operations abroad simply to avoid the rules governing U.S. markets. When companies relocate their headquarters or outsource jobs to evade consumer protections, the American people deserve to know.

Finally, my amendment would ensure that foreign businesses comply with U.S. laws to prevent fraud and manipulation in our markets. American companies must already follow antifraud and antimanipulation rules, which protect consumers and the integrity of our markets. Surely, we can all agree that foreign companies must also follow the same safeguards against fraud and abuse that apply to American companies.

So, let's put partisanship aside and give the sheriff of Wall Street the backup it needs to protect Main Street. Let's vote to keep gas prices in check for the middle class families all across this country; let's vote to hold companies accountable when they outsource jobs; and let's vote to prevent foreign firms from defrauding our constituents. Let's vote for my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to state that I really do appreciate the cooperative nature of the Ag Committee and the way that we have worked hard to put this very logical piece of legislation together to address a variety of issues.

I must say, though, in all respect to my colleague, I don't believe this particular language ever came up in any of the markups; so I must respectfully, in that regard, say that this is the wrong hour to be suggesting this language.

But I will go farther than that to say to my friends, if you are concerned about the price of fuel, if you are concerned about the availability of energy for industry and for individuals, we have some really good legislation out here that you should consider.

You should be looking at H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act; you should be looking at H.R.

6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act; you should be looking at H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act. If you really want to make a difference, work for those pieces of legislation, support those pieces of legislation; but otherwise, let's take the bill that has been so carefully crafted, let's reject the motion to recommit with instructions, and let's just pass the bill.

With that, I do the greatest thing I can do for you: I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 220, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 348]

AYES—191

Barber	Dingell	Kilmer
Barrow (GA)	Doggett	Kind
Bass	Doyle	Kirkpatrick
Beatty	Duckworth	Kuster
Becerra	Edwards	Langevin
Bera (CA)	Ellison	Larsen (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Engel	Larson (CT)
Bishop (NY)	Enyart	Lee (CA)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Levin
Bonamici	Esty	Lewis
Brady (PA)	Farr	Lipinski
Braley (IA)	Fattah	Loebsack
Brown (FL)	Foster	Lofgren
Brownley (CA)	Frankel (FL)	Lowenthal
Bustos	Fudge	Lowey
Butterfield	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham
Capps	Galleo	(NM)
Capuano	Garamendi	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cárdenas	Garcia	(NM)
Carney	Grayson	Lynch
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Maffei
Cartwright	Green, Gene	Maloney,
Castor (FL)	Grijalva	Carolyn
Castro (TX)	Gutiérrez	Maloney, Sean
Chu	Hahn	Matheson
Cicilline	Hanabusa	Matsui
Clark (MA)	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (NY)
Clarke (NY)	Heck (WA)	McCollum
Clay	Higgins	McDermott
Cleaver	Himes	McGovern
Clyburn	Hinojosa	McIntyre
Cohen	Holt	McNerney
Connolly	Honda	Meng
Conyers	Horsford	Michaud
Cooper	Hoyer	Miller, George
Costa	Huffman	Moore
Courtney	Israel	Moran
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)
Cummings	Jeffries	Nadler
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Napolitano
Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	Neal
DeFazio	Jones	Negrete McLeod
DeGette	Kaptur	Nolan
Delaney	Keating	O'Rourke
DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Owens
DelBene	Kennedy	Pallone
Deutch	Kildee	Pascarell

Pastor (AZ)	Sanchez, Loretta	Tierney
Payne	Sarbanes	Titus
Pelosi	Schakowsky	Tonko
Perlmutter	Schiff	Tsongas
Peters (CA)	Schneider	Van Hollen
Peters (MI)	Schrader	Vargas
Peterson	Schwartz	Veasey
Pingree (ME)	Scott (VA)	Vela
Pocan	Sewell (AL)	Visclosky
Price (NC)	Shea-Porter	Walz
Quigley	Sherman	Wasserman
Rahall	Sinema	Schultz
Richmond	Sires	Waters
Roybal-Allard	Slaughter	Waxman
Ruiz	Speier	Welch
Ruppersberger	Swalwell (CA)	Wilson (FL)
Ryan (OH)	Takano	Yarmuth
Sanchez, Linda T.	Thompson (CA)	
	Thompson (MS)	

NOES—220

Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Pittenger
Amash	Graves (MO)	Pitts
Amodei	Griffin (AR)	Poe (TX)
Bachmann	Griffith (VA)	Posey
Bachus	Grimm	Price (GA)
Barletta	Guthrie	Reed
Barr	Hall	Reichert
Barton	Harper	Renacci
Benishek	Harris	Ribble
Bentivolio	Hartzler	Rice (SC)
Billirakis	Hastings (WA)	Rigell
Bishop (UT)	Heck (NV)	Roby
Black	Hensarling	Roe (TN)
Blackburn	Herrera Beutler	Rogers (AL)
Boustany	Holding	Rogers (KY)
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Rogers (MI)
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rooney
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan	Hurt	Roskam
Bucshon	Issa	Ross
Burgess	Jenkins	Rothfus
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Royce
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Runyan
Camp	Jolly	Ryan (WI)
Capito	Jordan	Salmon
Carter	Joyce	Sanford
Cassidy	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Chabot	King (IA)	Schock
Chaffetz	King (NY)	Schweikert
Coble	Kinzingler (IL)	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Kline	Scott, David
Cole	Labrador	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	LaMalfa	Sessions
Collins (NY)	Lamborn	Shimkus
Conaway	Lance	Shuster
Cook	Latham	Simpson
Cotton	Latta	Smith (MO)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Long	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Lucas	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Luetkemeyer	Southerland
Daines	Lummis	Stewart
Davis, Rodney	Manchant	Stivers
Denham	Marino	Stockman
Dent	Massie	Stutzman
DeSantis	McAllister	Terry
DesJarlais	McCarthy (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	McCaul	Thornberry
Duffy	McClintock	Tiberi
Duncan (SC)	McHenry	Tipton
Ellmers	McKeon	Turner
Farenthold	McKinley	Upton
Fincher	McMorris	Valadao
Fleischmann	Rodgers	Wagner
Fleming	Meadows	Walberg
Flores	Meehan	Walden
Forbes	Messer	Walorski
Fortenberry	Mica	Weber (TX)
Fox	Miller (FL)	Webster (FL)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Gardner	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Garrett	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gerlach	Noem	Wittman
Gibbs	Nugent	Wolf
Gibson	Nunes	Womack
Gingrey (GA)	Olson	Woodall
Gohmert	Palazzo	Yoder
Goodlatte	Paulsen	Yoho
Gosar	Pearce	Perry
Gowdy	Perry	Young (AK)
Granger	Petri	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Campbell	Lankford	Rangel
Cantor	Meeks	Rush
Crowley	Miller, Gary	Serrano
Duncan (TN)	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Fitzpatrick	Nunnelee	Velázquez
Hanna	Polis	Williams
Kingston	Pompeo	

□ 1433

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 265, noes 144, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 349]

AYES—265

Aderholt	Dent	Johnson, Sam
Amash	DeSantis	Jolly
Amodei	DesJarlais	Jordan
Bachmann	Diaz-Balart	Joyce
Bachus	Duckworth	Kelly (PA)
Barletta	Duffy	Kind
Barr	Duncan (SC)	King (IA)
Barrow (GA)	Duncan (TN)	King (NY)
Barton	Ellmers	Kinzingler (IL)
Benishek	Enyart	Kirkpatrick
Bentivolio	Farenthold	Kline
Bera (CA)	Fincher	Kuster
Billirakis	Fleischmann	Labrador
Bishop (GA)	Fleming	LaMalfa
Bishop (UT)	Flores	Lamborn
Black	Forbes	Lance
Blackburn	Fortenberry	Larsen (WA)
Boustany	Fox	Latham
Brady (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Latta
Bridenstine	Frelinghuysen	Lipinski
Brooks (AL)	Galleo	LoBiondo
Brooks (IN)	Garamendi	Loebsack
Broun (GA)	Garcia	Long
Brownley (CA)	Gardner	Lucas
Buchanan	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Gerlach	Lummis
Burgess	Gibbs	Maffei
Bustos	Gibson	Maloney, Sean
Butterfield	Gingrey (GA)	Marchant
Byrne	Gohmert	Marino
Calvert	Goodlatte	Massie
Camp	Gosar	Matheson
Capito	Gowdy	McAllister
Cárdenas	Granger	McCarthy (CA)
Carter	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Cassidy	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Chabot	Griffin (AR)	McHenry
Chaffetz	Griffith (VA)	McIntyre
Coble	Grimm	McKeon
Coffman	Guthrie	McKinley
Cole	Hall	McMorris
Collins (GA)	Harper	Rodgers
Collins (NY)	Harris	Meadows
Conaway	Hartzler	Meehan
Cook	Hastings (WA)	Meng
Cooper	Heck (NV)	Messer
Costa	Hensarling	Mica
Cotton	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Cramer	Holding	Miller (MI)
Crawford	Hudson	Mulvaney
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Murphy (FL)
Cuellar	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Culberson	Hultgren	Negrete McLeod
Daines	Hunter	Neugebauer
Davis, Rodney	Hurt	Noem
Delaney	Issa	Nolan
DelBene	Jenkins	Nugent
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Nunes

Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman

Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

□ 1440

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on June 24, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 349: H.R. 4413, "aye."

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I missed one recorded vote on June 24. I would like the RECORD to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for that vote.

On rollcall No. 349, passage of the Customer Protection and End User Relief Act to reauthorize and improve the operations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 24, I was unavoidably detained. On rollcalls 343, 344, 345, 346, and 348, I would have voted "no." On rollcalls 341, 342, 347, and 349, I would have voted "aye."

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3301.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 636 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3301.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1443

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BLACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), chairman of the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

□ 1445

Mr. UPTON. Madam Chair, it is a new era for North American energy, and it is time for the continent's infrastructure to finally catch up. That is why I wrote H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, with my friend and colleague GENE GREEN from Texas. With lessons learned from the Keystone XL pipeline debacle, we are creating a fair and transparent approval process for cross-border energy projects, putting them all on a level playing field, finally, for the benefit of North American energy security, lower energy prices, and, yes, plenty of jobs.

North America's growing energy abundance has truly been a global game changer. Our continent, indeed, has the potential to become the world's leading energy-producing region, and the economic and geopolitical benefits are almost too good to believe. However, outdated or unnecessary Federal regs are standing in the way of this potential, including red tape surrounding energy infrastructure projects that cross the Canadian or the Mexican border. These job-creating projects are a critical part of the architecture of abundance, and, yes, they can provide a cheaper and more secure energy supply. Simply put, we cannot become an energy superpower without upgrading the energy infrastructure linking us with our neighbors.

We all know about the Keystone XL—the oil pipeline that would bring enough Canadian oil into the U.S. to displace OPEC imports while supporting up to 42,000 jobs, according to the Obama administration's own estimates. Many of us also know that the project has been extensively studied and has been found to be environmentally safe. Nonetheless, for nearly 6 years, this administration has come up with one excuse after another for delaying its decision on the project.

Keystone XL has yet to deliver any oil, but it has already delivered a message—that our process for approving such projects is, yes, badly broken. Yet the White House is threatening to veto the bill, claiming the bill would "circumvent longstanding and proven processes." While H.R. 3301 does not address Keystone XL's permit—that is right; it does not address it—this House has already passed legislation that does exactly that. This bill would ensure that important projects would not be stuck in limbo once they were fully vetted. It would update and modernize the process for future cross-border energy infrastructure projects, eliminating the opportunities for delay and putting in place the same standards of review for

NOES—144

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson
Green, Al

Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore

Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Barber
Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Fitzpatrick
Hanna
Kingston
Lankford

McCarthy (NY)
Meeks
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Nunnelee
Polis
Pompeo
Rangel

Rush
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Terry
Velázquez
Williams

oil pipelines, electrical transmission facilities, and natural gas lines.

I should also emphasize that the pipeline and transmission line projects impacted by this bill would still be subjected to the same environmental and safety reviews as would a comparable project that stayed within the United States. Those safety measures have been an important priority for our committee and for the Congress, including through the tough new pipeline safety measure that we enacted 2 years ago, signed by President Obama, but these cross-border projects would no longer face additional red tape and open-ended delays simply because they would cross a national border, which is what this bill does.

This commonsense bill enjoys bipartisan support, especially from border State Members who know full well the economic benefits to the U.S. of such projects. I urge all of us here this afternoon to join us in supporting the North American Energy Infrastructure Act. We need to stand together and say “yes” to American jobs and “yes” to energy.

Madam Chair, I submit for the RECORD a series of letters between me and the chairmen of the Natural Resources Committee and of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review the relevant provisions of the text of H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, while the Committee on Natural Resources received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 3301 from further consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Natural Resources reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3301, the “North

American Energy Infrastructure Act.” As you noted, H.R. 3301 was referred to both the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Natural Resources.

I appreciate your willingness to discharge H.R. 3301 from further consideration by the Committee on Natural Resources so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

I agree that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, I agree that the Committee on Natural Resources preserves its right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

Finally, I would be pleased to insert a copy of our exchange into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you again for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, as ordered reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 8, 2014. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, while the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure received an additional referral.

In order to expedite the House’s consideration of H.R. 3301, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the Congressional Record during any consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3301, the “North American Energy Infrastructure Act.” As you noted, H.R. 3301 was referred to both the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 3301 in order to expedite the House’s consideration of the bill.

I agree that forgoing consideration of H.R. 3301 does not prejudice the Committee on

Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction. Further, I will encourage the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would be pleased to insert a copy of our exchange on this matter into the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Thank you again for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Climate change is the biggest energy challenge we face, so before approving a multibillion-dollar energy infrastructure project that will last for decades, we need to evaluate its climate impacts. That is the standard the President rightly set last June, but this test is a significant obstacle for tar sands pipelines because they would carry the dirtiest fuel on the planet. Over the last few years, House Republicans have repeatedly tried to short-circuit the process and mandate the approval of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The bill we are considering today goes even further. It creates a new process to rubberstamp every pending and future tar sands pipeline.

The bill makes an end run around the National Environmental Policy Act. Under this bill, instead of conducting an environmental review of a whole pipeline that crosses the border with Canada or Mexico, the NEPA review, which is the environmental review, would be limited to just the small segment of pipeline crossing the border. That eliminates any meaningful Federal review of the environmental impacts of oil pipelines.

For example, under this bill, the environmental review of the Keystone XL pipeline would only examine the environmental impacts of that small piece of pipeline that crosses the border with Canada. The review could not look at the impacts on climate change of all of the other tar sands oil moved through the pipeline. It could not look at the impacts on the aquifers or landowners in Nebraska, for example, or at the public safety or oil spill concerns here in the United States. That dramatically narrowed scope of review is just another way to gut the Federal environmental review of tar sands pipelines.

The bill doesn’t stop there. It also creates a rebuttable presumption that the Keystone XL and other tar sands pipelines are in the public interest, which tips the scale in favor of their approval. That is a subtle but significant change that makes it much more likely that these projects will go forward; and if the President rejects the Keystone XL or another pipeline because it is not in the national interest,

which is a requirement in the law today, the bill would allow the rejected project to rise from the grave and re-apply under the new, much weaker process. That is why I call this bill the “zombie pipeline” bill.

In the northeastern part of the United States, another controversial pipeline project would carry tar sands oil from Canada through New Hampshire and Vermont to Portland, Maine, where it would be loaded onto tankers. That project wouldn't require any approval at all under this bill's new permitting process because the bill exempts major expansions of existing pipelines and reversals of pipeline flows from even that minimal process. The bill would also allow for unlimited exports of liquefied natural gas through Canada and Mexico with absolutely no controls or conditions. That is why domestic manufacturers like Dow, Alcoa, and Nucor have criticized this bill.

The administration strongly opposes H.R. 3301, citing the unreasonable 120-day deadline imposed by the bill, which would curtail the thorough consideration of issues involved with these projects, noting that the bill's provisions on natural gas exports would raise serious trade implications. The Statement of Administration Policy says that, if H.R. 3301 is presented to the President, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

Faced with the threat of dangerous climate change, we have a responsibility to think through the impacts of proposed cross-border energy infrastructure projects. If Congress is going to establish a new permitting rule or rules through legislation, it should do so in a thoughtful and balanced way. Instead, this bill creates a process that rubberstamps projects and eliminates meaningful environmental review and public participation. This will undoubtedly benefit TransCanada and other multinational oil companies. It will undoubtedly help them, but it will harm the American people, whom we are here to represent.

I oppose the Keystone XL pipeline. Even if you support the XL pipeline, this is a bad bill, and I would urge all Members to vote against this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, today marks the 2,104th day since the original Keystone XL pipeline application was filed at the U.S. State Department, as required by law. For 5 years, this administration has either just been completely incompetent or has, for political purposes, decided to placate its radical environmental political base—the very same folks who said that they would boycott the election if he signed this permit.

Regardless, this administration's failure to make a decision on a single project in over 2,100 days should leave every one of our constituents shaking his head. I have led on this issue, and we have given this President numerous opportunities to get this process right, which he has not done to date.

I introduced the first bill in May of 2011 to turn on the shock clock for the President's decision. The bill passed, and it was even signed into law, but, later, he went ahead and killed the permit instead of following through. Later that year, on December 1, we introduced a second bill to move the decision from the State Department to FERC. In June 2012, we introduced another bill, declaring no Presidential permit is needed for a border crossing. Then last year, in March, I introduced H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, which stated that no Presidential permit shall be required for the Keystone XL pipeline.

We are doing this because we understand that, if we are energy independent, we are more secure. This is an issue of national security, and we are going to take as many whacks at trying to get this passed as it takes. The legislation we are considering today is almost 5 years in the making, and I am happy to join with Chairman UPON in supporting this bill that comes from our committee with bipartisan support.

As our energy future and security go, so go our economy and our Nation. The President has failed in his leadership. He has hurt job creation, hurt our economy, has made us more dependent on OPEC and Venezuela, and has diminished our standing with our Nation's number one trading partner. His failure to lead on this issue shows that his process is clearly broken.

Today, we consider a different process, and if signed into law, the Department of Commerce would be in charge of permitting oil pipelines that cross our border, which would be based on the same standard of whether it is in our national interest. FERC would be in charge of permitting natural gas pipelines that cross our border. The Department of Energy would be in charge of permitting electrical transmission lines that come over our border—again, under the same standard of: Is it in our national interest? Where I come from, that is called common sense. We need to take the election politics out of this and go with the experts, who will determine whether or not, based on the facts, it is in the national interest.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. STEWART). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. TERRY. I appreciate all of that.

Mr. Chairman, by the way, I would disagree with the last speaker on whether or not there would be no environmental oversight. The State Department has over 10,000 pages of environmental studies that were done.

□ 1500

Even under this process, where you let the experts in the respective areas do their job, if there is a Federal trigger in here, all of that has to occur, just like with any other project.

Now, we also heard that there would be this tremendous amount of natural gas exporting without permitting. What was left out of that sentence is that, for there to be an export facility, it has to be permitted, and all of the environmental studies and all of the other studies that are required will be done on behalf of the export facility.

So I think we need to put those in context because you just can't have half the facts laying out there. You need all the facts to make the decision.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from the State of Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a very important member of our committee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3301.

My Republican colleagues argue that we need more bills like H.R. 3301 to transport oil and gas as quickly as possible, but building a modern energy infrastructure for the 21st century requires more than just drilling more wells, laying more pipelines, filling more rail cars with crude oil, and putting more tanker trucks on our highways.

A modern 21st century infrastructure must address the threat of climate change, the biggest energy challenge we face as a country.

Republicans can deny it all they want, but we can't have a meaningful conversation about America's energy infrastructure without also having a conversation about climate.

We have a rapidly diminishing window to act to reduce our carbon pollution before the catastrophic impacts of climate change are irreversible. In fact, we are seeing, today, the devastating consequences in many parts of our country.

The International Energy Agency has concluded that, if the world does not take action to reduce carbon pollution before 2017, then dangerous levels of carbon emissions will be locked in by the energy infrastructure existing at that time.

The energy infrastructure decisions that we make today will have a real impact on whether we can mitigate climate change in the future or lock in carbon pollution for generations to come.

My Republican colleagues don't like to hear this message, and that is reflected in the bill we are discussing today. If enacted into law, H.R. 3301 would move us backward in our fight to address climate change. It essentially pretends that climate change doesn't exist.

H.R. 3301 would rubberstamp permits for pipelines to carry tar sands crude from Canada into the United States. Tar sands crude is the dirtiest fuel on the planet, from a climate perspective, but this bill creates a permitting process for cross-border pipelines that makes it difficult, if not impossible, for the Federal Government to say no.

The bill even allows the oil industry to make major modifications to its pipelines without getting any approval at all. That means, if a company wants to increase its pipeline capacity or reverse an existing pipeline to carry more tar sands crude from Canada into the United States, the company can just do it, no questions asked.

Building new tar sands pipelines or expanding existing ones could have a profound environmental impact, but the bill allows for no meaningful environmental review.

For a cross-border pipeline, the bill says the Federal Government can only examine the environmental impact of the cross-border segment of the project. It is almost hard to believe that that is what the bill does, but it is true.

For a pipeline spanning hundreds of miles, the environmental review will focus on only a tiny part that crosses the U.S. border. That eliminates the possibility of any meaningful examination of the carbon pollution impacts of these pipelines. That is irresponsible.

We know, from our examination of the Keystone XL pipeline, that it will facilitate the production of tar sands crude which is, on average, 17 percent more greenhouse gas intensive than the average crude refined in the United States. We should be examining the carbon impact of every pipeline before we approve it, not ignoring the problem altogether.

That brings us back to Keystone XL. This bill gives TransCanada virtual assurance that Keystone XL will be approved. Even if President Obama finds that the Keystone XL pipeline is not in the national interest and denies the national permit, this bill allows TransCanada to simply reapply and approve it under the new rubberstamp process, with no consideration of the profound environmental climate.

I want to remind my colleagues that this debate and this vote are part of the permanent record. Don't betray your grandchildren and their grandchildren by condemning them to a planet where it is hard to breathe and agriculture is affected.

The future will belong to the country that builds an energy infrastructure to support a cleaner, low-carbon economy. It is our responsibility to lead the country and even the world in that direction.

This bill takes us backwards. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3301.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Kentucky, for yielding. I appreciate it.

Mr. Chairman, American innovation in advanced drilling technologies has unleashed an abundance of domestic energy resources. For the 60,000 manufacturing jobs I represent, the U.S. energy renaissance has increased our global competitiveness, resulting in expanded operations and new jobs.

Ramped-up domestic energy production has also helped absorb recent crude oil price volatility amid the turmoil in the Middle East. When it comes to natural gas, we now have more than enough that surplus can be exported to other countries, without impacting the affordability of our domestic supply.

For our allies looking to diversify their energy supply, especially in the European markets, American natural gas can provide secure access, while bolstering our geopolitical standing.

While the energy industry has been a story of positive growth and American innovation at its best, it is also a source of unnecessary frustration. President Obama likes to take credit for this growth, but growth in the energy industry has occurred, despite his best efforts to lock up access and regulate producers out of business.

Recent studies have made clear that virtually all the increases in production have occurred on State and privately-owned lands, while overall production on Federal lands has decreased.

Beyond limiting access to domestic resources, the Obama administration has also been creating unnecessary obstacles for developing much-needed energy infrastructure.

As previous speakers have already stated, we are aware of the unnecessary delays that the President has placed on the Keystone XL pipeline, the 830,000 barrels of oil it would bring into the United States each day, and the over 40,000 jobs it would create.

We can't afford to have more pipelines delayed that would help America's energy security. This is why the North American Energy Infrastructure Act is an important and necessary piece of legislation.

I thank Chairman UPTON for his leadership on the issue. This bill embodies the type of good governance hard-working American taxpayers deserve, and I urge my colleagues' support.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague from California (Mrs. CAPPS), who is a senior member of our committee and a very respected Member as well.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague—my respected colleague—Mr. WAXMAN for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3301. H.R. 3301 would elimi-

nate meaningful review of the environmental impacts of proposed cross-border energy projects.

The bill dramatically narrows the scope of environmental review to only the cross-border segment of the energy project, that tiny portion that actually physically crosses the national boundary. Now, this makes no sense.

These pipelines, these transmission lines, they are major infrastructure projects. They can span hundreds of miles. They cross through private property, water bodies, farms, and many other sensitive areas, and they carry substances that can catch fire or spill and pollute the environment.

To understand the potential environmental impact of such an energy project, we need to look at the project as a whole. Ignoring the potential environmental or safety risks for every part of the project, except that tiny sliver of land at the national boundary, this defies common sense.

Imagine going to the doctor if you are feeling sick and the doctor gives you a clean bill of health, but he has only looked at your elbow.

That is exactly what this bill does. It green-lights these projects without any meaningful environmental review, and no meaningful review means no opportunity to mitigate potential harm to public health, to public safety, or the environment. That is just reckless.

The White House has threatened to veto this bill because it provides inadequate time for environmental reviews, and environmental organizations are universally opposed to it.

Thirteen environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club, sent a letter emphasizing—and I quote from their letter: "This legislation could severely limit environmental review and public input to a narrow cross-border segment of projects, thereby precluding review of the full project's impacts."

Then National Wildlife Federation says—and I quote from their statement—that this bill "takes a hatchet to the National Environmental Policy Act."

The League of Conservation Voters warns that this dangerous bill would gut the review process and effectively exempt the projects from the National Environmental Policy Act.

These environmental projects—these energy infrastructure projects will last for decades. We need to understand the impacts of these projects before they are constructed, so that we can protect public health and safety and the environment. Ignoring the impacts will not make them disappear.

H.R. 3301 defies common sense, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, this act is important. It is important for Americans.

Now, first, just to allay some fears, actually, this does not eliminate the need for Federal permitting for the entire process, but what it does is eliminate the President's ability to sit on a project, not allowing it to go forward, abusing the trust of the American people, that he is actually working in their interest, as opposed to pursuing his own narrow agenda.

Now, let's make this very clear: the fact that the President is just reviewing this is beyond credibility, but what it does do—his kind of interminable delays eliminates 20,000 to 40,000 jobs just on the one project, Keystone XL pipeline—which the other side is speaking so much of—and 100,000 indirect jobs.

By the way, when we buy products from Canada, 80 percent of the dollars that we spend there stay on the North American continent, improving the economy, not just in Canada, but also in the United States.

If we buy oil from overseas—say the Middle East—only about 40 percent of those dollars return. This is beyond the impact of building pipelines themselves, but also a global economy.

Now, the State Department—this administration's State Department has said that this project, Keystone XL pipeline, will have negligible impact on the economy. Indeed, if we continue to truck or ship by rail, more people will die—Americans will die, Mr. Chairman—than if we build a pipeline in which they anticipate, of course, there is no deaths.

One thing this will do is this will really—the opposition of the President and the other side, it will do wonders for China's economy.

Canada has just announced they are going to build a pipeline to their west coast to send these oil sands to China, creating Chinese jobs, but also Chinese pollution that, once it is into the atmosphere, will blow over onto the United States. Talk about a fruitless policy of delay.

Now, let me just finish by saying there is one more aspect of this. It helps create North American security. No longer are we buying oil from countries which hate us, financing their efforts to undermine our society; rather, we keep that money with our closest ally who, in turn, buys goods for us.

We should approve this bill and this project in particular. We should build it for Americans. It is better for the environment. It is better for our economy. Most of all, it is better for our workers.

□ 1515

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the State of New York (Mr. TONKO), our colleague who is an active leader in energy policy.

Mr. TONKO. I appreciate the gentleman from California, our distinguished ranker on the committee and former chair, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the energy bills before us this week do not lay out a roadmap for where we truly need to go; that is, to a future in which we have reduced our reliance on fossil fuels, greatly increased our focus on energy efficiency, and expanded our use of renewable energy.

H.R. 3301 and H.R. 6 are all about keeping us dependent upon fossil fuels, especially oil and gas. H.R. 3301 establishes a new process for considering and approving cross-border energy projects—pipelines and certainly transmission lines. In fact, it would be good to have a defined and predictable process for evaluating these projects and either approving or rejecting them within a reasonable timeframe.

Unfortunately, this bill is all about approving these projects quickly, with minimal consideration of their value to all sectors of our economy, the value to our consumers, and certainly the value to our environment.

The advocates for this bill and this infrastructure approval process sound as if we have never approved cross-border projects. But, in fact, we have many cross-border pipelines and transmission lines. This infrastructure, once in place, operates for decades. And all projects are not all equal in their impacts and are certainly not all equal in their size.

This bill does not require a sufficient analysis of the overall benefits of proposed projects. It is not enough to determine if any project is in our national security interests. Those are important interests, of course, but there are many others as well. The public, State and local governments, nonfossil fuel business interests, and others should be able to offer their views on a proposed project. This bill virtually cuts them out of that effort. You do not gain public support for infrastructure projects by cutting the public out of the decisionmaking.

H.R. 3301 does not provide for sufficient public input or sufficient weighing of overall national benefits and costs of these projects. Supporters of H.R. 3301 claim that this bill is not about the Keystone XL pipeline.

Well, H.R. 3301 is not a Keystone XL approval bill, per se, but that project would certainly be resurrected and approved if this bill were to become law.

This bill should not become law. It does not provide the type of thoughtful, comprehensive, and certainly inclusive process that should guide decisions that impact energy resources for many decades to come. I urge defeat of this legislation.

Mr. WHITFIELD. May I inquire how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky has 17½ minutes re-

maining, and the gentleman from California has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. At this time, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to point out that H.R. 3301 really, in a way, corrects the inequity. Today, natural gas pipelines are treated one way if they cross international boundaries, and oil pipelines and transmission lines are treated in a different way.

For example, a natural gas pipeline crossing into Canada would not require a Presidential permit, but oil pipelines and transmission lines crossing international boundaries do require a Presidential permit. And I might add that Congress never passed legislation requiring a Presidential permit. That was a power that a President, by executive order, took even before President Obama did it.

But here is the key factor. This law, H.R. 3301, would treat all pipelines the same, whether it is natural gas, whether it is oil, or whether it is a transmission line.

Now, I know that arguments are being made here primarily based on Keystone, and a lot of arguments are being made about climate change.

I would say to all of the American people that we have people coming into Congress on a regular basis from developing countries of the world who say that climate change is not their number one concern. They are more concerned about food. They are more concerned about sanitary living conditions. They are more concerned about clean water. They are more concerned about jobs and the ability to provide income for their families. And, as a matter of fact, polls in America have shown that climate change is way down the list of primary concerns of people.

Now, I know that for Tom Steyer—who I understand is at the White House today—it is his number one issue. And he has said that he is going to spend \$100 million against Republican candidates or any candidate that does not recognize climate change as one of the most important issues facing mankind.

So I simply wanted to make that comment. Sure, climate change is important. And I might add that emissions from energy-produced causes in America today are the lowest that they have been in 20 years. So America does not have to take a back seat to anyone on addressing emissions from greenhouse gases.

And I will tell you that we are the only country in the world where, if natural gas prices go up, we won't even be able to build a new coal plant in America because the technology is not commercially available at a cost that any utility could afford.

So even in Europe, natural gas prices went up. They mothballed natural gas

plants. And last year in Europe, they imported 53 percent of all our coal exports.

But yet this President, in the White House today, has such extreme views that if our gas prices go up, we don't have the option in an affordable way to build a new coal plant to help us meet our base loads. And if we are going to have an economy that is not sluggish—the way it has been consistently under President Obama—we have to have affordable, abundant, and reliable energy. And that is what this bill is about.

Now people are saying, if you pass H.R. 3301, you are exempting oil and transmission lines from a NEPA review. But I want you to know, there are 33 other environmental laws—like the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water, Rivers and Harbors, National Historic Preservation, Clean Air Act—that would trigger. If Federal action is triggered, then it would be triggered even under H.R. 3301. That is, unless, of course, it is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which this administration has granted windmills an exemptions from. So you can kill all the migratory birds you want and bald eagles. If you are a windmill company, you won't be prosecuted, but if you are an individual timber owner in North Carolina, you will be find \$100,000 and convicted of a felony.

So in conclusion of my remarks at this point, I would simply say that the bill is not designed to expedite the Keystone pipeline, because it can't be approved under H.R. 3301. It is under the Presidential permit process. But the Presidential permit process is arbitrary. Even the State Department has said that it would be of negligible environmental impact to approve the Keystone pipeline. But all H.R. 3301 does is it says, we are going to treat oil pipelines and transmission lines that cross international boundaries with Canada or Mexico exactly the way natural gas pipelines are treated today.

So it is not anything extraordinary. It is not anything radical. It is the way natural gas pipelines are created today. And we believe that is the way to go, and that is what H.R. 3301 is all about.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I listened carefully to the comments of the gentleman from Kentucky, and I couldn't really follow a lot of it.

After all, if the price of natural gas goes up, that would perhaps help the coal industry because the coal industry is not able to compete economically when the price of natural gas is low because if you are building a utility, you might as well buy natural gas because it is cheaper. Of course the coal people say, it is the government that is doing it. But it is the marketplace that is doing it.

And the other comment that I found peculiar was, we don't need to have the National Environmental Policy Act evaluation because we have got the Endangered Species Act evaluation.

Well, the Endangered Species Act is looking at endangered species. But what about the rest of the environmental review that would be eliminated if this bill were adopted, especially when we are talking about the impact on climate change and all of the other environmental considerations?

So I must say that, while I came here with a clear view, I am reaffirmed in my view. The gentleman from Kentucky did not even come close to persuading me.

At this time, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank the ranking member of the committee for yielding. Maybe in my 4 minutes, I can convince him.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a proud cosponsor and in support of H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act.

Passing H.R. 3301 will help create the North American energy market. It will help make us energy-independent for North America, between our two free trading partners, Mexico and Canada.

But I also need to correct the record. There is a lot of misinformation about this legislation, and I hope to make a few things clear.

Commerce decisions are the responsibility of Congress. Today we can have 1,000 tank-car trains with crude oil come from Canada without a permit, but to build a pipeline, it has been delayed for years because it couldn't get a Presidential permit. We can bring the same substance from Canada in train cars, but we can't put it on a safer mode of pipelines.

Congress has not acted on legislative cross-border infrastructure since 1850. I think it is time to change that.

The Presidential permit process that my colleague is defending so vigorously is an executive order process that could be changed depending on who is in the White House. My colleague may support the process now but may oppose the process later.

H.R. 3301 gives statutory certainty to build transmission lines, oil pipelines, or natural gas pipelines with our two free trade neighbors, Canada and Mexico. H.R. 3301 eliminates uncertainty that has crippled infrastructure development.

These pipelines are not paid for by tax money. They are paid for by investors.

H.R. 3301 does not eliminate or limit environmental reviews of cross-border infrastructure. In fact, the bill cements environmental reviews by putting it into law. The bill does not eliminate the public interests or deem applica-

tions approved. The bill guarantees the public interest must be met but in a timely fashion.

Finally, the bill does not apply to the current project applications, like Keystone XL. This bill doesn't go into effect if it is passed by the Senate until 2016. Keystone may or may not have their project approval or their plan approval by then, but they would have to get back in line with everyone else after this bill goes into effect. We have safeguarded against this by grandfathering current applications and delaying the effective date until mid-2016.

There are more than 60 cross-border projects that have been built over the last few decades. But today, there are more than 10 applications at the State Department awaiting action because political decisions have been bogged down in the process.

Cross-border infrastructure is important in the public interest. The State Department has stated: "Additional pipeline capacity will advance the strategic interests of the United States, send positive economic signals, and provide construction jobs for workers in the U.S."

We can build cross-border infrastructure while protecting the environment. Federal agencies are required to consider the environmental impacts of the actual infrastructure. Federal, State, and local agencies approve domestic projects every single day. All the opponents of H.R. 3301 want to talk about is Keystone XL and the environmental review.

We have solved both of these issues, advanced the public interest of the United States, secured our domestic energy needs for decades to come, solidified our relationships with our two closest partners, Canada and Mexico; and made North America a new global powerhouse in the energy sector.

H.R. 3301 is not about the past. H.R. 3301 is about securing the economic, security, and environmental needs of the future.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the State of Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

□ 1530

Mr. MATHESON. I thank my ranking member for yielding the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, and I want to thank Mr. GREEN, my colleague, and also Mr. UPTON who worked so much on this bill.

Our country is on the cusp of not only becoming the world's leading energy producer, but we are also close to achieving North American energy independence with our allies to the north and south: Canada and Mexico. With this can come jobs and economic

growth, greater energy security, and less uncertainty in our economy.

However, unnecessarily complicated, outdated, and political roadblocks are currently in place that can encumber this progress. We should remember the current Presidential permitting process for cross-border energy infrastructure projects was developed through a series of ad hoc executive orders, which has created a high level of uncertainty for everyone involved.

This bill would work to modernize and streamline the process, providing producers and consumers with a greater degree of clarity about the process. This is a process that is in desperate need of reform, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGOS).

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for the time as well.

I am not much for hyperbole or finger-pointing. I want to talk about what it is that is important about this bill for me as the representative of much of the Eagle Ford area in Texas and the Permian Basin. It is not about Keystone or even the President because it doesn't go into effect until 2016.

All my life, I grew up hearing about the Arab oil wars, and I remember well the Arab oil embargo as a kid growing up in west Texas. I think we can do something today that secures our energy future for our kids and our grandkids. We can do this carefully, making sure that we preserve the environment for future generations.

Sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act, which apply to the construction of facilities, still apply here. These facilities are still subject to NEPA review. They must still meet the same safety standards, which we all know are very important.

As Mr. MATHESON indicated, our neighbors to the north and south are increasingly vital partners as the rest of the world goes into the global economy. We need not constantly rely on oil from unstable parts of the world when we can get it here at home and get it safely—underscore safely—and cleanly, and we can help our neighbors get it safely and cleanly, too.

My hometown of Alpine is not located near oil or gas fields, but it is on the main line of a railroad, and in 2010, only 1 percent of U.S. oil production was moved by rail, and last year, it was up to 10 percent, and I have personally seen several derailments. One year, many of us in town had soap for a year as a result of a railroad derailment.

I want my son to play in the Big Bend and float the Devils River with

his kids, just as I did, and I also want to be sure that, when he flips the switch, the lights come on, or when he and his kids cook or use their air conditioners or their heaters, the energy is there to do what they need.

Again, I want to thank the ranking member for the use of the time and the Chair and the ranking member for their work, and thank you for letting me share my thoughts.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make an inquiry on the amount of time remaining on both sides.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, we don't have any more speakers on our side, so I will reserve the balance of my time and let the gentleman from California proceed.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes just to say that the President has looked at this bill, and they just cited a number of concerns about it, and they very seldom come in with a Statement of Administration Policy, but they did say on this bill that they would be against it.

They think that this bill raises serious trade implications by eliminating the current statutory requirement that the Department of Energy authorize orders for the natural gas exports. I don't think this bill is going anywhere because I think the Senate is unlikely to take it up.

There are serious and urgent problems facing this Nation: unemployment, the need for immigration reform, climate change, gun violence in our children's schools, foreign policy challenges; but, once again, House Republicans are ignoring the real issues. Instead, they are wasting time on counterproductive legislation that has no prospect of enactment.

Mr. Chairman, I believe we have better things to do. I would urge opposition to the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would say to the American people that, certainly, energy is vitally important, and that is why we have introduced this bill, and that is why we brought this bill to the floor.

Because when you talk about creating jobs and stimulating the economy, you have to have low-cost, affordable, abundant, and reliable energy, or you cannot compete in the global marketplace.

As I had said earlier, I just want to reiterate, once again, that this bill does nothing but make the decision that we are going to treat oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines, and transmission lines all the same.

Right now, a natural gas pipeline that crosses an international boundary does not require a Presidential permit,

but an oil pipeline and a transmission line to bring electricity across the border does require a Presidential permit.

As many speakers have said today, that Presidential permit or authority was not granted by the Congress; it was taken by executive orders. So all we are doing is saying that we are going to treat all of them the same.

Now, some people are saying that: well, you are eliminating the need for NEPA, you are not allowing NEPA review.

I had pointed out that there are 33 environmental laws that all of these pipelines or transmission lines would be subject to, and any Federal action, like crossing a stream that would create a necessity for a Clean Water Act permit, could very well generate a need for a NEPA review.

Nothing in this bill would limit the application of NEPA to the rest of the project. It would certainly apply to the cross border, but it would not limit application to the rest of the project.

So if a project required a right-of-way across Federal lands, the NEPA review would be initiated. Nothing in the bill would exempt the project from requiring applicable Clean Water Act permits, clean air permits, endangered species permits, or any other Federal permit.

So I would respectfully request the Members to support this commonsense bill. It would bring certainty to entities that are trying to bring more energy to America by treating gas pipelines the same as oil pipelines, the same as a transmission line.

In concluding, I would just like to say this: nothing in the bill creates a Federal right of eminent domain or supersedes a State's exercise of eminent domain authority.

In concluding, I would just like to say that, while the gentleman from California and I are on opposite sides of this issue—and a lot of issues—he has been a real leader in the U.S. Congress.

He announced earlier that he is not going to be seeking reelection, but the gentleman from California, HENRY WAXMAN, has been a leader in the U.S. Congress and recognized so throughout the country.

Even though he is going to be with us for 6 or 7 more months until the end of the year, I did want to acknowledge that he is recognized as a congressional leader, with great empathy and commitment to his views, although sometimes we disagree with his views.

With that, I urge the adoption of H.R. 3301 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, of which I am a co-sponsor. This legislation will ensure that transnational pipeline construction permits are considered on their merits instead of politics. Importantly, it is a substantive step towards more affordable energy prices. People are

hurting, Mr. Chair. According to the American Automobile Association's daily fuel gauge report, today's average gas price in the Tampa Bay market: \$3.64, well up from \$2.35 per gallon in 2009. Not only are gas prices up, but so too are the price of groceries and costs of heating and cooling your home or apartment. Domestic energy production helps Americans with their everyday costs. This is the bottom line. H.R. 3301 will aid in that effort. Support this bill and help lower energy costs for all Americans. I yield back.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3301, which would dramatically weaken the public input and environmental review process for cross-border pipelines.

Cross-border pipelines can be enormously complex projects, spanning hundreds of miles and operating for decades. The bill before us today would limit environmental review of these projects to the narrow segment that actually crosses the border, preventing analysis of the full scope of impacts on private property, public safety, and water quality. And it would exempt modifications to existing pipelines from any federal review, so a pipeline's capacity could be increased significantly, its contents could be changed, or its flow could be reversed without any discussion of the impacts of those decisions.

Moreover, this bill opens the door to unlimited natural gas exports by lifting all restrictions on exports to Canada or Mexico. Those exports could then be shipped anywhere in the world without approval or review of impacts on domestic energy prices. A number of American manufacturers have expressed concern about unchecked LNG exports raising their costs of doing business and increasing the price of consumer goods.

Once again, we have a bill on the floor of this House that limits public comment and short-circuits the cost-benefit analysis. While we all want these reviews to operate efficiently, we should not place arbitrary restrictions that fail to give regulators enough information to make a responsible decision. I urge a no vote.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-492. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 3301

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "North American Energy Infrastructure Act".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that the United States should establish a more uniform, transparent, and mod-

ern process for the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity to and from Canada and Mexico, in pursuit of a more secure and efficient North American energy market.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION.*—Except as provided in subsection (c) and section 7, no person may construct, connect, operate, or maintain a cross-border segment of an oil pipeline or electric transmission facility for the import or export of oil or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico without obtaining a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the cross-border segment under this section.

(b) *CERTIFICATE OF CROSSING.*—

(1) *REQUIREMENT.*—Not later than 120 days after final action is taken under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a cross-border segment for which a request is received under this section, the relevant official identified under paragraph (2), in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall issue a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment unless the relevant official finds that the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the cross-border segment is not in the public interest of the United States.

(2) *RELEVANT OFFICIAL.*—The relevant official referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) the Secretary of State with respect to oil pipelines; and

(B) the Secretary of Energy with respect to electric transmission facilities.

(3) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.*—In the case of a request for a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment of an electric transmission facility, the Secretary of Energy shall require, as a condition of issuing the certificate of crossing for the request under paragraph (1), that the cross-border segment of the electric transmission facility be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained consistent with all applicable policies and standards of—

(A) the Electric Reliability Organization and the applicable regional entity; and

(B) any Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator with operational or functional control over the cross-border segment of the electric transmission facility.

(c) *EXCLUSIONS.*—This section shall not apply to any construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment of an oil pipeline or electric transmission facility for the import or export of oil or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico—

(1) if the cross-border segment is operating for such import, export, or transmission as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) if a permit described in section 6 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued;

(3) if a certificate of crossing for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has previously been issued under this section; or

(4) if an application for a permit described in section 6 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending on the date of enactment of this Act, until the earlier of—

(A) the date on which such application is denied; or

(B) July 1, 2016.

(d) *EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.*—

(1) *APPLICATION TO PROJECTS.*—Nothing in this section or section 7 shall affect the applica-

tion of any other Federal statute to a project for which a certificate of crossing for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a cross-border segment is sought under this section.

(2) *NATURAL GAS ACT.*—Nothing in this section or section 7 shall affect the requirement to obtain approval or authorization under sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act for the siting, construction, or operation of any facility to import or export natural gas.

(3) *ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT.*—Nothing in this section or section 7 shall affect the authority of the President under section 103(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

SEC. 4. IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "No order is required under subsection (a) to authorize the export or import of any natural gas to or from Canada or Mexico."

SEC. 5. TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

(a) *REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO SECURE ORDER.*—Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)) is repealed.

(b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

(1) *STATE REGULATIONS.*—Section 202(f) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(f)) is amended by striking "insofar as such State regulation does not conflict with the exercise of the Commission's powers under or relating to subsection 202(e)".

(2) *SEASONAL DIVERSITY ELECTRICITY EXCHANGE.*—Section 602(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a-4(b)) is amended by striking "the Commission has conducted hearings and made the findings required under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "the Secretary has conducted hearings and finds that the proposed transmission facilities would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States or would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary."

SEC. 6. NO PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT REQUIRED.

No Presidential permit (or similar permit) required under Executive Order 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), section 301 of title 3, United States Code, Executive Order 12038, Executive Order 10485, or any other Executive Order shall be necessary for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility, or any cross-border segment thereof.

SEC. 7. MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS.

No certificate of crossing under section 3, or permit described in section 6, shall be required for a modification to the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility—

(1) that is operating for the import or export of oil or natural gas or the transmission of electricity to or from Canada or Mexico as of the date of enactment of the Act;

(2) for which a permit described in section 6 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued; or

(3) for which a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment of the pipeline or facility has previously been issued under section 3.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE; RULEMAKING DEADLINES.

(a) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—Sections 3 through 7, and the amendments made by such sections, shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

(b) *RULEMAKING DEADLINES.*—Each relevant official described in section 3(b)(2) shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register notice of a proposed rulemaking to carry out the applicable requirements of section 3; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register a final rule to carry out the applicable requirements of section 3.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “cross-border segment” means the portion of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility that is located at the national boundary of the United States with either Canada or Mexico;

(2) the term “modification” includes a reversal of flow direction, change in ownership, volume expansion, downstream or upstream interconnection, or adjustment to maintain flow (such as a reduction or increase in the number of pump or compressor stations);

(3) the term “natural gas” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a);

(4) the term “oil” means petroleum or a petroleum product;

(5) the terms “Electric Reliability Organization” and “regional entity” have the meanings given those terms in section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a); and

(6) the terms “Independent System Operator” and “Regional Transmission Organization” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 113-492. Each such amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-492.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 18, strike “a cross-border segment of”.

Page 2, beginning on line 3, strike “a certificate of crossing for” and insert “approval of”.

Page 2, line 5, strike “the cross-border segment” and insert “the pipeline or facility”.

Page 2, line 6, strike “CERTIFICATE OF CROSSING” and insert “APPROVAL”.

Page 2, line 10, strike “cross-border segment” and insert “project”.

Page 2, beginning on line 14, strike “issue a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment” and insert “approve such project”.

Page 2, line 17, strike “of the cross-border segment”.

Page 3, line 3, strike “a certificate of crossing for” and insert “approval of”.

Page 3, beginning on line 4, strike “a cross-border segment of”.

Page 3, line 7, strike “issuing the certificate of crossing for” and insert “approving”.

Page 3, beginning on line 8, strike “the cross-border segment of”.

Page 3, beginning on line 16, strike “the cross-border segment of”.

Page 3, beginning on line 20, strike “a cross-border segment of”.

Page 4, line 1, strike “cross-border segment” and insert “pipeline or facility”.

Page 4, line 7, strike “a certificate of crossing for” and insert “approval of”.

Page 4, line 21, strike “a certificate of crossing for” and insert “approval of”.

Page 4, beginning on line 22, strike “of a cross-border segment”.

Page 6, line 24, strike “, or any cross-border segment thereof”.

Page 7, line 2, strike “certificate of crossing” and insert “approval”.

Page 7, beginning on line 14, strike “a certificate of crossing for the cross-border segment” and insert “approval”.

Page 8, strike lines 7 through 11.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment ensures that the complete length of cross-border projects would be subject to full environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

NEPA was created to provide transparency so people would know what the impact of a project will be on their communities. However, H.R. 3301 will circumvent that transparency, making our lands vulnerable to spills, leaks, and other pipeline hazards, and this is why I have introduced this amendment, which will make certain proper diligence is given to protect the public's interests.

By ensuring a Federal NEPA review is conducted for the entire length of all cross-border projects, we can guarantee all proposals will get the full scope of review necessary to preserve our tremendous natural resources.

Unfortunately, H.R. 3301 makes an end run around NEPA. The bill redefines and significantly narrows the scope of NEPA's environmental review. While traditional NEPA review looks at the impacts of an entire project, this bill restricts NEPA review to only that portion of a project that physically crosses the border, and this restriction doesn't make any sense.

These massive projects are more than just a border crossing. When we approve transboundary pipeline or transmission line, we are approving a multi-billion dollar infrastructure that may stretch hundreds of miles and will last for decades.

These projects pass through private property and sensitive lands and over aquifers. They transport hazardous substances that, if spilled or ignited, can cause serious damage.

Before making decisions about whether to approve such projects, we

need to carefully consider their potential impacts on environment and on communities along their routes. Simply put, we should be looking at the effects of projects as a whole.

That is not what the bill before us does. Instead, it redefines the scope of NEPA's inquiry to only encompass the step across the border, and this is a nonsensical approach. It makes the process of environmental review essentially meaningless.

When Congress passed NEPA, it never intended this law to provide such a narrow review. Congress intended NEPA to provide policymakers with a critical tool to understand a project's full environmental impacts and consider lower-impact alternatives.

NEPA doesn't dictate the outcome or impose any constraint on projects. It simply requires the Federal Government to make some effort to understand the environmental impacts of major Federal actions and to inform the public of those impacts.

We should not be carelessly narrowing or creating loopholes in this law. When the Federal Government makes a decision about a major project, it should understand what it is doing.

As we have seen with Keystone XL, large energy projects often raise safety issues, economic implications, and environmental concerns, both for the local and global environments.

These projects affect communities all along their routes. It is simply common sense that we should understand the broad scope of these impacts before deciding to approve a project.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today prevents this review, which is why I urge all of my colleagues to support this important amendment that ensures that the complete length of cross-border projects would be subject to a full NEPA review.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), his amendment would, in effect, codify the Presidential permit not only for oil pipelines and transmission lines, but also for natural gas pipelines, which are now exempt from the Presidential permit. So he is going in the wrong direction, and would make it even more difficult.

As I said earlier, NEPA would apply anytime Federal action is triggered, and there are 33 different environmental laws that can trigger Federal

action. So I am very much opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding to me. As ranking member on the Health Subcommittee, I, too, am hesitant to rise and oppose your amendment. What the amendment would do is it would ensure that the complete length of cross-border projects would be subject to full environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The bill already guarantees that review at the national boundary based with the Department of Energy.

Existing Federal and State law guarantees an environmental review on the complete length of the project.

Current Federal laws that trigger NEPA reviews in addition to H.R. 3301 include the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Mineral Leasing Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination for Fish and Wildlife Service consultation, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The intent of this bill is not to eliminate any of the NEPA reviews within the continental United States. The problem we have right now is the Department of State is making a decision that really ought to be Federal agencies and even State governments who would need that.

If this amendment was adopted, it would require a State Department or a Presidential permit, and then all of the other agencies, and so it would make it impossible.

The argument for this bill, if you are opposed to Keystone, then you are allowing literally a thousand-car train of crude oil to come across the border now without any of these reviews. A pipeline is inherently safer. That is why we need to bring that crude oil by pipeline from Canada to the gulf coast, where our refining capacity is.

The amendment would actually expand what is under current law. It would make it even harder. The goal of the legislation is to have this North American energy independence market, and we don't need to throw up more roadblocks to keep companies from importing or exporting to Canada or importing or exporting to Mexico, where we already have free trade agreements.

I urge a "no" vote on the amendment.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, this bill provides, if it is a cross boundary with Canada or Mexico, you cannot

have a NEPA review, an environmental review, except right around there, right around where the boundary is. Now, if you built a pipeline in the United States and it went a thousand miles, you would have a review of it. But they are saying just because it goes across the boundary for a thousand miles, let's say, there would be no review. Even though it crosses streams and aquifers, it would not get a real environmental review that would be required if it were solely domestic. That makes no sense.

I urge support for the Pallone amendment because it fixes a problem and preserves meaningful environmental reviews. That is what we need for these projects. It corrects that part of the bill which I think is a glaring, glaring loophole.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 113-492.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 3(c)(4) and insert the following:

(4) if an application for a permit described in section 6 for such construction, connection, operation, or maintenance, or for a substantially similar project, is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, this bill's supporters claim that it is just about the approval process for cross-border energy projects. They say it is not about approving the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline because that is under review now. But, in fact, that is what this bill really does.

If the President determines that the Keystone XL pipeline is not in the na-

tional interest, this bill would allow TransCanada to reapply under this new process designed to rubberstamp permits, and Keystone XL would almost certainly be approved under that process.

This bill establishes a new permitting process which would ensure rapid approval, and not particularly a clear evaluation. The bill makes it very difficult for Federal agencies to do anything other than approve the proposed project for two reasons.

First, the new permitting process narrows the approval and environmental review. And, secondly, the bill establishes this rebuttable presumption of approval, meaning the Federal agency must approve the project unless it finds that the cross-border segment of the project is not in the public interest.

I think this bill, which I have called the "Zombie Pipeline Act," is just for the Keystone XL pipeline. They keep on trying to push that thing and not let it go through the process by which it is still being evaluated. So I urge that we close this backdoor way to ensure Keystone XL itself is brought up again, and I would urge support for this amendment because this bill is not a proper way to deal with that particular project.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

Ranking Member WAXMAN's amendment excludes any project with a pending permit application from the new approval requirements in the bill. The bill does not deal with Keystone XL. The bill shall not apply if an application for a permit for construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending. That is what the bill does, H.R. 3301.

The bill does not apply until after July 1, 2016. We are in 2014 now. Keystone XL has been at the State Department and White House for at least 5 years, and are they going to wait another 2 years? Now, if they want to wait until July 1, 2016, they would have to refile and start all over. But this bill has nothing to do with the Keystone permit. They could stand in line like anyone else after July 1, 2016, stand in line and get their permit. I would assume we would have a number of them.

But let me first take some time, and I appreciate my colleague, Ranking Member WAXMAN. I have been on the Energy and Commerce Committee since 1997, and most of the time we agree, but we do represent individual

districts. But I want to say that I appreciate Mr. WAXMAN's service. We have worked together on a lot of legislation in the committee and even on the floor, but, obviously, we have a disagreement on energy. That is why I think the amendment is not needed, because the bill already prohibits it from applying to any current permit in the law.

Again, Mr. WAXMAN, I thank you for your service. I will miss you because I enjoy our discussions.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate all of the nice words, but let's recognize this amendment. We just heard the statement that this doesn't apply to the Keystone XL pipeline because that is pending, and the bill says it doesn't apply to any project with permit approval pending on the date of enactment. But that doesn't exclude them if they are denied from coming right back and getting rubberstamped under the easier process under this bill.

So if this is not about the Keystone XL pipeline, adopt this amendment which says that the Keystone XL pipeline may not come back as a zombie for approval later if it doesn't get approved under the existing process.

I am just trying to keep people honest. I still have got 6 months to do that, so don't say good-bye to me yet. While I am here, and even after I have left the Congress, I will continue to point out when things are said that just don't add up. It doesn't add up to say that this doesn't apply to the Keystone XL pipeline; it could, and in fact it is a backdoor way to do that. And one might suspect that that is the whole purpose of the legislation. I urge adoption of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would just point out that if we pass H.R. 3301, the Keystone pipeline is still caught up in the Presidential permitting process. And if we adopt the Waxman amendment, the Keystone pipeline would never, ever be able to come back with a new application.

Since they filed an application in September of 2008, and despite the State Department saying that there is no negligible environmental impact by approving it, President Obama continues not to approve it. So if after 2016 the Keystone pipeline entity wants to submit a new application under the new law, they would certainly and should have a right to do that. That is the only reason we oppose the Waxman amendment. I urge that Members vote against the Waxman amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 113-492.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 3, insert "minor" before "modification".

Page 7, line 6, insert "such as a change in ownership" after "fac

Page 8, strike lines 12 through 17.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of the Welch-Pingree-Michaud-Kuster-Shea-Porter amendment, and I want to thank my colleagues from northern New England for cosponsoring this amendment with me.

H.R. 3301, as we have been hearing, exempts literally all modifications of cross-border pipelines from Federal approval and environmental review without any regard to the impacts on public health, safety, and the environment. My view: that is a terrible idea.

Some pipeline modifications, in fact, are truly minor and are unlikely to affect the environment or put public safety at risk. For example, if the pipeline is sold to a new owner, there is no need for a Federal review. So there is a place here for no review.

But many modifications could have just as much impact as a brand new pipeline, and there is no justification to exempt from consideration those issues that would be reviewed if it were a new pipeline.

□ 1600

The Portland Montreal Pipe Line reversal is an exact example of a pipeline modification that could have very significant impacts. Currently that pipeline carries light sweet crude from the U.S. to Canada, but a proposal in the works is to reverse that pipeline to carry tar sands oil from Canada, through New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, to ports of Casco Bay, where it would be loaded on the ships for export. That has raised a lot of concerns in these States.

Any spill of tar sands crude is a very big deal, far worse than any other type of oil spill. Vermonters are concerned about reversing of the pipeline to transport those tar sands, that it would accelerate the development of the tar sands oil, which is the dirtiest and most carbon intensive in the universe.

Forty-two towns and municipalities in the State of Vermont have passed resolutions opposing this project. Concerned citizens deserve to have their voices heard. Under H.R. 3301, the pipeline owners could completely skip the process. I oppose this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I might say I have a great deal of respect for the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) on the committee, and he does great work in the area of efficiency and other areas relating to energy, but I do oppose this amendment.

At this point, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for his comments on the amendment.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for yielding me time.

I, too, understand where my colleague on the committee and Congressman WELCH—let me leave with you one of our examples. You include also pipeline name changes in here. I understand your issue is reversing the flow. I would be glad to work with you, but I have a company that has been waiting years. They bought a pipeline coming from Canada into the United States. They have waited years just for the State Department to change their name.

What really bothered me—and I have contacted the State Department—the State Department said: Oh, well, we are looking at it, but we know you are going to build a lateral from North Dakota into your U.S. part of the line, and we do evaluate that.

The State Department has no right to evaluate those pipelines. It is on our property in the United States. They have the cross-border. What we are seeing is expansion of State Department authority.

I agree that you have an issue and I would like to see if we could work with you on it, but it shouldn't take 3 years to change a name because another company bought it. And believe me, I think the State Department is trying to overreach by saying: By the way, we are going to evaluate what you are doing in the continental United States.

We already have Federal agencies—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and a host of Federal agencies—that will evaluate that pipeline that is in our country. The State Department needs to take care of their business. That is what worries me about your amendment, so I ask for a "no" vote.

I would love to work with you, because I think if there is a reverse flow, I think somebody needs to look at it. I appreciate it. I still request a "no" vote.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Maine, Representative PINGREE.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Thank you very much, Mr. WELCH.

Mr. Chair, I am very proud to sponsor this amendment, along with my colleagues from Vermont, New Hampshire, and my fellow Mainer, to exempt pipeline reversals from the provisions of this bill.

In my opinion, the way this bill is currently written, it is extremely irresponsible because it basically exempts cross-border pipeline projects from the National Environmental Policy Act and would reduce not only critical Federal reviews, but also limit the vital public input that NEPA brings. That would raise great concerns for the constituents in my district who have a lot that they want to say in the public input process.

The amendment scope is limited to pipeline reversals and would at least make it clear that the underlying bill's waivers do not apply to the so-called Portland Montreal Pipe Line and other pipeline reversals. The Portland Montreal Pipe Line proposal threatens the entire southern Maine watershed, where 15 percent of my State's population gets its drinking water.

Oversight by NEPA is essential for this pipeline and any other, and I strongly oppose any attempts to waive NEPA or other reviews for this project. That is why I am here, to urge all my colleagues who care about ensuring that there is strong oversight and environmental review to support this amendment.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. First of all, "minor" is an undefined term that gives little certainty to agencies or industry. One of the things that we are trying to get away from is the uncertainty of a Presidential permit and be treated like natural gas pipelines. As I said, in H.R. 3301, we are trying to treat all of them exactly the same: transmission lines, oil pipelines, natural gas lines.

I would also say that, under the gentleman's amendment, any modifications, such as volume expansion, downstream or upstream interconnections, or adjustments to maintain flow, would potentially be required to obtain a Presidential permit for the modification, even if the original project already has one. Then even operational changes may be subject to a Presidential permit, and ownership changes would be.

So, for those reasons, as I said, I respectfully would oppose the gentleman's amendment and ask the Members to oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, two things. I want to speak to the leader of our Energy and Commerce Committee, but also to the proponent of this bill, Mr. GREEN.

We can have too much regulation or we can have too little regulation, and they both have problems. Mr. GREEN talks about the hassle his company is having getting a name change. That is ridiculous. That company should be able to change its name and not have to go through the hassle of a permit. Then when the agency holds back and doesn't even give them an answer for 3 years, we have a problem, and I agree with that. Under my amendment, those issues like a name change would not be at all subject to the permitting process.

On the other hand, we in Vermont are concerned about a reversal of flow and having tar sands go through. It is a really big deal. Forty-two towns in my State passed resolutions saying that they wanted to have a say in this. It is known that spills happen, and tar sands bills are a much bigger deal than other kinds.

What we have in the legislation is not working together to find what is the balance or to try to move us towards a balance so there are not unnecessary burdens for a name change and simple things, but, on the other hand, we don't abolish the review process altogether.

This legislation doesn't seek that balance. What this legislation does is, in effect, abolish the review process, and that is a problem, so our going from too much review on a name change to no review on tar sands coming through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Our legislation, I think, is the only thing that is being considered that, in fact, offers a balance. If it is a name change, a minor deal, no permit required. If it is significant, then, yes, you are going to have to go through the review.

I want to thank the chairman and the Speaker and the body for its time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont will be postponed.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. HARRIS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state

of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 636 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1610

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, with Mr. HARRIS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, America's natural gas output has been rising since 2006, and the Energy Information Administration expects the increases to continue for decades to come. As a result, we can meet domestic demand for affordable natural gas while also producing a surplus for export to our allies around the world. The only thing standing in the way is outdated Federal redtape that greatly delays the construction of LNG export facilities.

H.R. 6, the bill before us, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, is a targeted bill that cuts redtape and puts the Department of Energy on a reasonable deadline to act on LNG export applications.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, GENE GREEN from Texas, for his cosponsorship of this bipartisan

bill, and I urge the support of every Member in this Chamber for H.R. 6.

According to the lead study conducted for the Department of Energy, natural gas exports would be a net benefit to the American economy. These exports would improve the balance of payments and support up to 45,000 jobs associated with additional natural gas production as well as the construction and operation of LNG export facilities by 2018. Needless to say, these new jobs could not come at a better time for our economy.

Remember the concerns many of us had over the U.S. economy hemorrhaging billions of dollars every year going overseas to pay for energy imports. Well, for natural gas, the roles can be reversed, and we could be the ones selling energy on the global market and bringing in billions of dollars in job-sustaining revenues.

The economic impacts alone make natural gas exports a winning policy, but the geopolitical impacts are an incredible benefit as well and have been ignored for far too long. Allies around the world have told us that they would greatly benefit from American LNG.

Last October, the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a forum that included ambassadors and other officials representing 11 U.S. allies, all of whom strongly urged us to enter the global LNG marketplace. Since then, several other allies have stepped forward with the same request. This includes our friends in eastern Europe unfortunate enough to be reliant on Russia for natural gas.

Not only do these nations face unfair pricing, but political pressure, as a result of their dependence on Russia. These nations believe that the very passage of this legislation, the signal that we are serious about LNG exports, would immediately reduce Russia's negotiating leverage even before the first molecule of LNG shipment actually goes out. H.R. 6 will start doing good the very day it is enacted.

I should note that our efforts on LNG exports began before the current crisis erupted in Ukraine. Russia's actions over the past several months demonstrate the importance of this bill, and Russia's recent decision to cut off supplies to Ukraine further underscore the need for America to provide Europe an alternative supply of natural gas. Indeed, we can effectively push back against Russia's aggression and help our friends without ever putting any troops in harm's way.

□ 1615

Beyond Europe, we can also strengthen our economic ties with allies in Asia, who would rather buy their energy from us than from less reliable Middle Eastern suppliers.

We can also assist nations in achieving their environmental goals by offering the option of clean-burning natural

gas, and we can help many developing countries by providing them with an energy source that is cheaper than the choices available to them now.

The economic benefits alone—or the geopolitical benefits alone—make LNG exports a worthwhile policy; but taken together, they make it a no-brainer. Unfortunately, the decades-old Federal approval process for LNG export facilities is acting as an impediment.

Proposed projects have languished at DOE for years on end. While DOE has recently announced some changes to the process, the agency is still under no deadline to act.

The amendment that I am offering with Mr. GREEN changes that. It provides that, once the extensive environmental review conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act is complete for a project, the Department of Energy has a 30-day deadline to issue a final decision on the application pending before the agency.

It is a sensible and workable solution to the current regulatory bottleneck. It is an answer to a call from our allies for energy security.

It is time to help our friends abroad. It is time to create jobs here at home.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6.

I reserve the balance of my time.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 24, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, I am writing concerning H.R. 6, the "Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act," which the Committee on Energy and Commerce reported on June 19, 2014.

As reported, H.R. 6 contains a section on judicial review, which is within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 6, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert its jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 24, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6, the "Domestic

Prosperity and Global Freedom Act." As you noted, the bill as reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce contains a provision that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, subsection 2(b) provides for judicial review of U.S. Department of Energy orders and failures to issue a decision on applications for authorization to export natural gas.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo seeking a sequential referral on H.R. 6, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 6 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,

Chairman.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I was going to talk about this bill, and I will, but I really want to talk about the inflation in the naming of these bills. This is a bill to allow a faster process for exporting natural gas to other countries.

So what is it called? The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. What do you follow after that? Peace and prosperity in our time, whatever that may, in fact, involve. I just think this bill is overrated in its title. I also want to say it is overrated in what it does.

There are 17 or 18 free trade countries, and they can have the export of natural gas to them right away. They are free trade countries that have an agreement with us. There is no problem in getting the approval for them. The question is: Are we going to approve export of natural gas to non-free trade countries?

The premise of this bill is that we are not doing enough to export natural gas to them or anyone else, I guess. Congressman GARDNER's bill would change the approval process for liquefied natural gas exports, presumably because the Department of Energy is moving too slowly, because they can approve an application now for export anywhere around the world.

In fact, DOE has moved—quite properly, it seems to me—to authorize these LNG exports. They have already approved seven export proposals, and they are continuing to evaluate additional applications.

What these approvals that we have already granted—had granted—the U.S. is poised to transform into the world's second largest exporter of LNG in the world, just behind Qatar. If they approve one more application, we would go from exporting no LNG today to being the largest exporter in the world in just a few years.

So why do we need this legislation? Certainly not to get domestic prosperity and global freedom because this bill doesn't accomplish either goal.

Currently, the Department of Energy goes through a process, and they perform a public interest determination when reviewing export applications, so they can carefully consider the effect of LNG exports on natural gas prices here and the impact of higher prices here on American consumers and these manufacturers that are benefiting from the lower price that they have seen for LNG here.

The public interest determination provides DOE an opportunity to examine a number of factors: energy security, geopolitical, and environmental considerations.

If we would have this bill adopted, it would short circuit this established review process for pending and future LNG export applications. The bill establishes a new deadline for DOE to decide on applications within 90 days of the close of the public comment period or enactment of the bill, whichever comes later.

That is a deadline that is established, so they are forcing the DOE to act, but if DOE looks at an application and they don't feel that they are ready to make a decision in that period of time, they are more likely than not to just turn it down. That doesn't seem to be a worthwhile goal, if we want to have more export of LNG.

This provision would require DOE simultaneously to review and make a decision on all the pending applications within 90 days. It is not realistic, and it certainly isn't responsible.

With few exceptions, environmental reviews haven't been completed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for any of these applications, so the deadline would force DOE to rush its review of each application and make its final decision without a final environmental review.

The other thing I want to comment on is all those ambassadors that told us they want this bill—because of the hold that Russia has over them—they might not even benefit if this bill were adopted because they are not free trade countries.

So there has to be an approval of an export for LNG to a non-free trade country. There is not an approval through the Department of Energy to any particular country. It simply approves the request of a company here to export the LNG.

Under our capitalist system, a business usually seeks the highest reward for its investment. The export of LNG to a non-free trade country is going to be better rewarded in Asia than it will be in Ukraine or in Eastern Europe, where they are so concerned, rightfully so, about what Russia is going to do. It may not even help those countries, as so many of these ambassadors hoped it will.

I would say that this bill is not going to get us to export LNG any faster. Nothing in the bill affects the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's permitting of the actual LNG export terminals.

Rushing the DOE review is not going to speed up the construction of these projects. We need the construction of the infrastructure for the export of natural gas.

The last thing I want to say is there are some controversies about exporting LNG, not exporting it at all, but opening it up to export in a process where the export will be wide open.

A lot of manufacturers in this country are worried that, if we are exporting our LNG, that is going to raise the price of natural gas here at home. Well, of course it will. It will go to a lower price of LNG here at home to eventually a world price, if it could be freely exported around the world the way we have for oil. If that happens, they are afraid that this boom we have seen in manufacturing in the United States may be curtailed.

So it is not without controversy that people are looking at this legislation. In other words, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, if you lose your job because the price of natural gas goes up and you are working for a manufacturer that is benefiting from a lower price for natural gas here in the United States, they are not going to look at this as a bill that leads to domestic prosperity and global freedom, as the authors of this bill would have us believe.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I would just point out that nothing in this bill changes the requirements of a NEPA analysis to be completed.

I share your frustration with the titles of bill names—the bill titles. Imagine our consternation over the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, I want to applaud the gentleman from Colorado for bringing this bill to the floor.

I wholeheartedly support H.R. 6 for a number of reasons. I also want to address some of the issues that the gentleman from the other side raised.

First of all, let's consider international trade is the key to growth, it is the key to job creation, it is the key to reducing our deficits, and it is important geopolitically for the United States.

Because of this great advance in technology with hydraulic fracturing and drilling, we now have unprecedented levels supply of gas that we can use domestically for manufacturing, and we are seeing a domestic manufacturing renaissance.

Secondly, the amount of gas that we will export from this country, for a number of reasons, will not cause significant price spikes. In fact, it will add stability to the pricing of gas in this country and promote more drilling, which is what we need to do.

We need to take care of our own energy security here, and we can provide energy security for our partners—our trading partners—around the world. This is why we need to move forward on this.

It is clear that, over the last 2 years, the U.S. Department of Energy has raised its long-term forecast on gas production by nearly 40 percent, with price expectations having declined 15 percent over the same period.

So the point that the gentleman makes about price spikes because of LNG exports is really, really unfounded—an unfounded point.

LNG exports could contribute up to 450,000 jobs between the years 2016 and 2035 and add \$73.6 billion annually to our GDP.

My home State of Louisiana—in fact, the Third Congressional District, my district, is the leading area in this whole effort. We have currently the first two Department of Energy and FERC-approved facilities that are undergoing construction today.

The first one, the Sabine Pass facility, will see its exports probably the end of 2015, early 2016. The others will follow.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. BOUSTANY. We currently have eight—eight—that are waiting and have been waiting over a year—eight facilities waiting over a year for approval from the Department of Energy. That is before they go through the expensive FERC process.

This is why we need this legislation: to get the Department of Energy to move forward on this, so that we don't hold up something that is going to help us grow our economy, create jobs, and be very important geopolitically.

Trade not only acts as a catalyst for creating jobs, it reduces deficits, promotes American goods and services internationally, and energy should be no different.

That is why we need to move forward. We have a unique opportunity. Let's embrace it now, and let's do the right thing for our country.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana, I respect him greatly, and he made an argument. I don't fully agree with his argument, but that is the purpose of the debate, to discuss ideas and air our point of view.

The author of this legislation, I guess, couldn't help himself because he

said: imagine the consternation when they found that the Affordable Care Act was named the Affordable Care Act. There are millions of people around the country, for the first time, who are able to buy insurance that is affordable.

I don't believe, if this bill passed, that it would lead to domestic prosperity and global freedom. With all due respect to those who have a different point of view, what gall to say that this bill, which is controversial, and many Americans oppose because they feel it will hurt their prosperity here at home or our national security here at home, would think that an appropriate name is to say this bill is the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

Now that I have got that off my chest, Mr. Chairman, I want to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I don't think this bill is needed. LNG permits are being issued faster than they can be built.

This bill establishes a rigid deadline for DOE to complete its public interest review of LNG export applications. That approach raises significant concerns.

□ 1630

I would like to talk about two of the concerns: climate change and economics.

Mr. WAXMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCNERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. You don't think the bill is needed. Does that mean you are against domestic prosperity and global freedom?

Mr. MCNERNEY. No, I don't think that is what it means, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. WAXMAN. Thank you. I just wanted that clarification.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Reclaiming my time, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released its multiyear report on the state of climate science. The world's leading climate scientists examined the peer-reviewed science and confirmed that climate change is already happening on all continents and across the oceans and will get much worse if we don't act.

The impacts of runaway climate change will be severe: reduced crop yields, more heat waves and diseases, decreased water availability, and more extreme weather events.

That means that we need to scrutinize the energy infrastructure decisions that we make today because of their impacts on climate change in the future. Every decision to build a new LNG export terminal has climate implications. We need to understand and weigh those effects. Otherwise, we risk locking in infrastructure that will produce carbon pollution for decades to

come or creating stranded investments that must be shut down before they have paid for themselves.

Natural gas combustion for electricity does emit less carbon pollution than coal, but natural gas production does result in gas escaping, and natural gas is a much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. We need to consider the effect of carbon emissions in the United States.

In addition, liquefying natural gas and shipping it overseas is an energy-intensive process that will result in some significant domestic carbon emissions. For example, the direct emissions from the Sabine Pass process will represent 2 percent of the entire State of Louisiana's emissions.

The Energy Information Administration's modeling shows that LNG exports would increase domestic natural gas production in the United States. Of course, that is obvious. This could increase emissions of methane, which is, as I mentioned, a potent greenhouse gas, unless we take very severe measures to control that pollution at the wellhead and throughout the natural gas system.

In a carbon-constrained world, we need to understand all of these domestic emissions' impacts and how they compare with emission impacts abroad. The DOE has taken a first step to begin looking at these issues but has not completed a rigorous study of the effects of the different levels of LNG exports on carbon emissions.

We need to make sure we understand the effects on climate change of major energy infrastructure investments that will last for decades.

My second concern is economic. Shipping natural gas overseas will raise domestic natural gas prices. That is basically the law of supply and demand—unless that law is no longer valid.

Manufacturing is seeing a domestic renaissance here in this country because of natural gas prices being lower. This is domestic manufacturing. We want to make things in America. We want to make it in America. We want to continue to see that renaissance. We want to see manufacturing increase throughout the country and throughout the States.

Therefore, I oppose the bill.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would point out that our colleagues in the Senate have introduced legislation similar to our legislation here on LNG exports titled, the Freedom Through Energy Export Act, by our colleague from Alaska, Mr. BEGICH.

I point out, too, that when it comes to domestic prosperity, the fact that this could create 45,000 job opportunities, increasing the employment in energy to 3 million people by 2020, that is prosperity and freedom.

Hungary's Ambassador at Large for Energy Security, Dr. Anita Orban, testified that this legislation "sends a clear signal that the global gas market is changing, that there is the prospect of much greater supply coming from other parts of the world."

That is world security, freedom, prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), who has been a true leader on the issue of LNG exports.

Mr. TURNER. I want to thank the author of H.R. 6 for his leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, lifting self-imposed restrictions on natural gas exports is a win-win situation for the American people. It will create American jobs and strengthen our allies' independence, bolstering our economic and strategic partnerships.

As chairman of the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, many foreign leaders have expressed to me the need for energy diversification and its importance to strengthen our strategic partnerships. We already cooperate with our allies on a variety of security issues. Energy security must also be a component of our strategic alliances.

America's emerging role as an energy producer has the potential to enhance our security relationships and influence the global marketplace.

As we have seen in Ukraine, Russia will not hesitate to use its energy resource dominance to expand its sphere of influence. Just last week, Russia's state-owned monopoly, Gazprom, cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

In the Asia Pacific, Japan is a critical security partner as we counter threats posed by countries such as North Korea. Already the world's largest importer of natural gas, Japan is dependent on Russia, the Middle East, and Africa for nearly 50 percent of its natural gas imports and is seeking greater imports as a result of its 2011 nuclear power plant disaster.

Increasing U.S. natural gas exports, along with the development of other sources, such as the Southern Gas Corridor and the Eastern Mediterranean, will help diversify world natural gas supplies and create a more competitive, transparent, and diversified global natural gas marketplace. In fact, U.S. natural gas production has already influenced global markets.

Natural gas previously destined for the United States but no longer needed as a result of increased production was diverted to other markets. This increased supply has made the global natural gas market more competitive, helping to put more pressure on contracts indexed to the price of oil and allowing several European countries to renegotiate their long-term contracts with Gazprom.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TURNER. In fact, President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and Secretary of Energy Moniz have welcomed LNG exports to strengthen our strategic alliances. Mr. Chairman, I will submit their statements for the RECORD.

PRESIDENT OBAMA, CURRENT AND PAST ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WELCOME U.S. LNG EXPORTS

President Barack Obama, in a joint statement with European leaders at the EU-US Summit on March 26, 2014: The situation in Ukraine proves the need to reinforce energy security in Europe and we are considering new collaborative efforts to achieve this goal. We welcome the prospect of U.S. LNG exports in the future since additional global supplies will benefit Europe and other strategic partners.

Secretary of State John Kerry, in a joint statement with European energy leaders at a meeting of the EU-US Energy Council on April 2, 2014: The Council further welcomed the prospect of US LNG exports in the future since additional global supplies will benefit Europe and other strategic partners.

Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, in a joint statement with European energy leaders at the G7 Rome Energy Ministerial meeting on May 6, 2014: No country should depend totally on one supplier. We intend to promote a more integrated LNG market, including through new supplies, the development of transport infrastructures, storage capacities, and LNG terminals.

Mr. TURNER. Regardless of where U.S. natural gas is shipped, increasing supply in the global marketplace will provide international consumers with greater choice and thus increased leverage to negotiate prices.

U.S. natural gas exports will create jobs right here at home and will help foster a more competitive natural gas market.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of H.R. 6.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, 7 percent of the American people approve of the United States Congress. I think one of the reasons for that low approval rating is that we have overpromised and underperformed what they expect of us.

If anybody would think that this bill in and of itself deserves to be called the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, I think they lose credibility with the American people. And there is not much more credibility to lose when they only support us at a rate of 7 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), for whom I have an enormous amount of affection, even though today we have had two bills where we have disagreed. He doesn't overpromise. He just states his views and supports what he believes in. Sometimes he even convinces me, but he is not doing a good job today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank the ranking member for yielding to

me. I have to admit that the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act is a bipartisan problem we have in this Chamber.

I rise as a cosponsor in support of H.R. 6.

H.R. 6 represents a bipartisan effort to legislate. I want to thank my colleague from Colorado, Congressman GARDNER, for working with me. I wasn't an original cosponsor, but through our committee process we have worked it out. We achieved bipartisan support in the committee because we were working together. I think that is what the American people want Congress to do.

It is important to recognize that there are more than 30 export permits to export LNG. These permits represent more than 35 billion cubic feet a day in LNG exports.

Currently, the Department of Energy has conditionally approved six of them, but only one project has received final approval through DOE and through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

DOE has an important role in export to make sure that we don't increase our natural gas prices to where they are not affordable to our country. We are in an energy renaissance because of the success of natural gas, fracking, and directional drilling in our country, and we are producing more natural gas than we can use, whether it be for electricity production or for our chemical industry.

I represent a huge chemical complex in East Harris County. There is literally a renaissance in the expansion of those chemical industries. It is increasing jobs and our exports because a lot of those chemicals we are producing from our U.S. natural gas will be exported. So someone else will pay for those jobs in our district in East Harris County.

The Department of Energy has a role in this. The problem we have is that the Department of Energy has taken so long to approve these permits. The DOE really just needs to look if it is in our national interest. They include all these things under it. And that is correct.

Let me give you an example.

In Texas and North Dakota, we are flaring natural gas right now because we don't have customers in our country and we don't have a way to export it. It is bad for the environment. It is bad for the people who own those royalties because they are not getting paid for them. And it is just terrible to see something we can sell to someone else not be utilized.

So that is why I support this bill.

We wanted to find that sweet spot, so to speak, on where we can export what we are not using.

Those of you who are familiar with Texas, we hold in reverence our Blue Bell Ice Cream. If you are there, in their commercials they will say:

We eat all we can and sell the rest.

That is what I want to do with natural gas. I want to use all we can, but I want to sell all the rest we can't use so it will help our balance of trade, help some of our allies who need it, but also keep our workers working in both the oil patch and the gas patch.

My colleague states that one more approval would make us the largest LNG exporter in the world. But not all of these projects will be constructed. Only one has been approved all the way. Of the more than 30 applications, no more than a handful of these projects will be constructed and ultimately export LNG.

Further, it is important that we clarify the LNG permitting processing before we discuss H.R. 6.

There are two completely separate processes. First, a project must submit an application to export. If the project will send LNG to a country with which the U.S. has a free trade agreement, the application is automatically approved. In fact, the Port of Brownsville got their application approved in 30 days.

If the project sends LNG to a country without a free trade agreement—non-FTA—the DOE must issue a permit based on the public interest. For a project to actually export LNG in either case, the applicant must receive a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reviews the environmental impacts of the actual LNG facility. The FERC process takes 12 to 18 months and costs approximately \$100 million.

The issue H.R. 6 seeks to deal with is the non-FTA permits through the Department of Energy. The Department of Energy currently has 25 permits awaiting decision. The Department of Energy held most of these permits for more than 3 years. Even the DOE recognizes this is a huge problem and proposed changing the approval process.

While I support the DOE changes, unfortunately, they fail to provide any certainty. H.R. 6 would place a timeline for the DOE to issue a decision. Again, remember, the DOE is going to have 12 to 18 months to know that permit because it is going through the Federal regulatory process already.

We need to make sure that the environmental review process is protected—and that is what FERC does—but we also need to make sure that the DOE makes those decisions timely so they can get those permits issued.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 6 and provide certainty to the market.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. I would like to thank my colleague from California for his leadership on the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

This legislation would require the DOE to act quickly in considering applications to export liquefied natural gas.

New technologies have unlocked vast resources of natural gas across the country. Our natural gas production will increase by 56 percent between 2012 and 2014.

□ 1645

If you want to see what real natural gas development looks like in a place that could really use the economic development, come to northern West Virginia or to southwest PA. More production means more American jobs and more West Virginia jobs.

The Marcellus shale production in West Virginia is surging, and the possibility of LNG exports will mean more good-paying jobs here at home—and a lot of them. By 2035, LNG exports are expected to create 8,600 West Virginia jobs and put \$1.7 billion in State revenues.

We need to do everything possible to put West Virginia resources to work for West Virginians, and today's legislation will make a real, positive difference for working families and communities in my State and in States across the Nation.

This bill would allow us to import jobs and economic opportunity, while we export both energy and physical security to our friends and allies. More than a third of the natural gas consumed in Europe comes from Russia, and I am sure our allies would rather be buying natural gas from the United States.

Passing this bill will create jobs in West Virginia and across the country. It will grow our Nation's economy and strengthen our relationships with our allies. I encourage my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. I want to thank Ranking Member HENRY WAXMAN for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation that will help to increase U.S. liquefied natural gas exports and help boost our economy.

In my 15th Congressional District in Texas, oil and natural gas extraction from the Eagle Ford shale has transformed this region, bringing thousands of new jobs, and growing wealth to many rural communities in South Texas.

A study by the University of Texas showed that the Eagle Ford shale has provided a \$61 billion impact to Texas and has supported over 116,000 new jobs. More importantly, the boom in American natural gas production has drastically changed our many counties' energy future.

The United States is now the number one natural gas-producing nation in the world. The USA has more than enough natural gas to meet its domestic needs while also exporting to foreign countries at a huge benefit to the United States' economy.

Unfortunately, the existing application process at the Department of Energy has made it burdensome for companies to export liquefied natural gas to non-FTA countries. This bill will address that problem.

Mr. Chairman, this is a truly bipartisan effort that will resolve a long-standing issue within our administration on expediting exports of natural gas. Our bill, H.R. 6, will cut the red tape and move quickly to approve all pending liquefied natural gas applications at the Department of Energy for our WTO allies, and it will provide future applicants with a much more reasonable process.

I want to thank Representatives CORY GARDNER and TIM RYAN for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes."

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS).

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and I applaud my colleague from Colorado for his leadership.

This bill will expedite exports of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, to our allies abroad by cutting the red tape and streamlining the regulatory process. As a Nation, this has the potential to revitalize our economy, allow us to become energy independent, and to strategically advance our interests overseas.

Now, I know many Hoosiers back at home might be asking themselves: How does this help me? After all, we have limited natural gas wells and processing plants in Indiana. Let me state clearly that the answer is: yes, it will help them.

The bill would be an economic boon to the Hoosier economy. As the Nation's leading manufacturing State, Indiana contributes to the LNG business heavily by making and manufacturing the equipment that makes the gas extraction possible.

The natural gas and oil industry has already created 136,000 jobs in Indiana, and it makes up over 4.1 percent of our entire labor income.

The future for Indiana looks even brighter with the expansion of LNG exports. It is estimated that Indiana's economy would grow by \$2.2 billion a year and produce as many as 12,800 new jobs by simply allowing shipments of gas to our trusted allies.

Just last week, I received a letter from the CEO of the Ports of Indiana that urged the passage of this legislation. He supports the passage because

of the significant competitive advantage it will give our State, in terms of our geography and infrastructure, which will allow Indiana to further capitalize on LNG exports.

Now is the time to allow American entrepreneurship to increase domestic energy production and fuel job creation, but unfortunately, the administration has refused, time and time again, to get out of the way of this entrepreneurship.

The administration refuses to approve licenses for LNG exports, and as I speak now, there are 24 pending applications awaiting action from the Department of Energy. One has been waiting 917 days and counting.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, it is time to unleash the power of America's abundant natural resources in order to capitalize on our ingenuity and create thousands of good-paying jobs in my home State of Indiana and across the Nation. I urge its passage.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman for his yielding, and I thank him for his work as ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Chairman, with H.R. 6, we are embarking on a policy that will lock us into higher and more volatile natural gas prices, and that will erode a key advantage we have for domestic manufacturing, that being low natural gas prices.

Natural gas is used widely throughout our economy. It is, indeed, a valuable commodity, and we should be setting policy to ensure that we use it efficiently and effectively. LNG terminals are expensive to build and require a lot of energy to operate. The contracts signed by exporters commit them to exporting LNG for anywhere from 10 to 20 years.

We already had a small taste of what happens if there is an unexpected event that increases domestic demand when ready supplies are low and exports have increased.

At a time when we are producing record amounts of propane, we had some of the worst shortages and price spikes we have seen in years. It was not entirely due to export increases, but it was definitely a factor. Many of our communities are paying the environmental costs of this natural gas boom. This bill is now going to deny them the benefits associated with sacrifices.

There are very real concerns that this legislation would harm economic growth, job creation, and American manufacturing. This bill will not allow the adequate consideration of the public interest, including impacts on

United States' consumers and manufacturers, before granting the approval of natural gas exports to countries with which we do not have a free trade agreement.

In fact, because we do have free trade agreements with a number of countries, exports of LNG to them do not require any public interest analysis. The DOE has approved billions of cubic feet to be exported to nations with which we have free trade agreements and to others as well.

We are in the midst of a manufacturing renaissance due, in part, to an abundance of affordable domestic natural gas. We have seen 12 consecutive months of growth in the manufacturing sector and a growing trend of the reshoring of jobs back to the United States.

Why would we want to turn that trend around?

Exports on the scale that this legislation would enable will raise domestic natural gas and electricity prices for every American and undermine our manufacturing competitiveness.

The United States' natural gas prices are less than one-half of Europe's and one-third less than in places like Japan and South Korea. The integration of the United States' and Asia's natural gas markets would lead to increases in prices for consumers and businesses, undoing the economic conditions that have led to the recent growth in American manufacturing.

The industrial sector represents some 22 percent of American energy use, with natural gas being the single largest input. Energy is consumed in the industrial sector for a wide range of purposes—from processing to heating, cooling, and as feedstocks to produce non-energy products.

The chemicals, pulp and paper, iron and steel, refining, and nonmetallic minerals industries account for about one-half of all energy used in this sector.

These industries alone represent millions of American jobs. That is why I am so concerned that the Energy Information Administration, the EIA, found that increased natural gas exports will "lead to increased natural gas prices," and "larger export levels lead to larger domestic price increases."

The EIA looked specifically at the potential impact of these price increases on United States' manufacturers, and it found that a high level of LNG exports could increase natural gas costs for the industrial sector by between 5 and 27 percent annually.

The amendment I offered to the Rules Committee, an amendment which was not made in order, would have prevented section 2 of this bill from taking effect until there would be a determination that LNG exports would not adversely impact the competitiveness of the United States' manufacturing community.

American employers are struggling to compete in this global economy, especially with the jobs in the manufacturing sector. Domestic manufacturers are competing with countries that have low wages, limited environmental and worker protections, and manipulated currencies. Low-priced, abundant natural gas is a competitive advantage for domestic manufacturers. Let's not give that up.

This Congress has an obligation to prevent the loss of American manufacturing jobs. The revitalization of the American manufacturing industry and the bringing back of quality jobs from overseas should be the cornerstone of our efforts in Washington in order to help the private sector thrive and to put our people back to work.

This bill is only good for the natural gas-producing industry, and its increased benefits will be coming at everyone else's expense.

With that, I urge the defeat of this bill.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, the Energy and Commerce Committee has been tackling the issue of LNG exports for quite some time now.

What began as a solid case in favor of these exports has only grown stronger. I support this bill, H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and I applaud, in particular, the sponsor, CORY GARDNER, for his efforts on this important bipartisan bill.

Last October, we held a forum that consisted of nearly a dozen representatives of foreign governments, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, all of whom expressed their strong interest in buying LNG from the U.S.

Three of them—Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Lithuania—are Eastern European allies that are currently dependent on Russia for natural gas. They described in great detail how Russia wields natural gas as a weapon against them, threatening to raise prices or to even cut off supplies as a means of exerting political pressure.

We need to respond, as we are seeing their warnings playing out with the ongoing crisis, obviously, today in Ukraine. If Putin is not deterred, he will likely use the same tactics on other Eastern European countries in the years ahead. Russia's aggression is real, and American LNG can provide a much-needed lifeline away from Putin's grip as an alternative supply source.

The Energy Information Administration's estimated reserves of natural gas continue to be revised upward, ensuring that we can continue to provide American manufacturers with low-cost supplies, while having enough for export markets, and the Department of Energy has even concluded that nat-

ural gas exports will be a net benefit to our economy.

Early in our efforts, the DOE insisted that its process for approving LNG export facilities wasn't broken, but over the last year, there have been very few approvals, and most applications continue to languish—some for even more than a year—and the line continues to grow.

The DOE's most recent changes to the process, while a slight improvement from the existing queue, are still very disappointing. They do nothing to address the core problem of open-ended delays. Congress needs to act.

□ 1700

Throughout our efforts on this topic, there has been bipartisan interest in LNG exports. Since the bill was first introduced, the bipartisanship has only grown, and for that, I commend the bill's author, CORY GARDNER, for working with GENE GREEN and others on an amendment adapting the bill's language to address a number of concerns.

I know that we have reached the point where the passage of this bill, H.R. 6, will be seen as a bipartisan success story, as it should; and the Senate should follow our lead, stand up for jobs, as well as our allies, and quickly send this bill to the President's desk.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. UPTON. Because of advances in technology and innovation, we are now entering a new era of abundance. America is emerging, yes, as an energy superpower. We can enjoy the domestic benefits of being an energy superpower while also projecting our influence as a force for good abroad. The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act allows us to do both.

This commonsense bill says "yes" to jobs, "yes" to energy, and I would urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 6.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Colorado for bringing this bill to the floor. It is so important that we exploit American domestic resources to create jobs, create global stability, and make lower prices for consumers. This bill does all those things.

So we have a lot to thank you for, Congressman GARDNER, for what this bill could accomplish, and I appreciate that.

Let me address a couple of points that I think have been erroneously made. Some said that current users of natural gas won't benefit as much if this bill were to become law. That is simply not true.

There is such an abundance of natural gas in this country that we can supply domestic needs and, at the same time, have liquefied natural gas exports to our friends and allies. We can do both, and everyone will benefit. The shale gas revolution in this country is so amazing that that has made this possible.

Secondly, some have said that there will not be the same quality of environmental reviews of LNG if this takes place, and that is simply not true either. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission maintains its role to permit the siting of facilities, just as under current law, and FERC, as they are known, is required by the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, to conduct an environmental assessment and, if necessary, an EIS, an Environmental Impact Statement, if that is required. That does not change either. The same requirements under NEPA will still be met under this law, should it become law. So we are not in any way degrading or compromising environmental standards. They are still going to be satisfied.

So, for all those reasons, I want to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative GARDNER, and I ask all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, might I inquire of the gentleman from Colorado how many more speakers you have?

Mr. GARDNER. We have two additional speakers.

Mr. WAXMAN. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Then I presume the gentleman from Colorado will want to close on his bill. So after your two speakers, we will close on our side, and then you can close.

Mr. GARDNER. At this point, we only have two remaining speakers.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, 5 years ago, companies were building terminals to import natural gas at the cost of billions of dollars because analysts agreed that the United States economy was going to need natural gas from overseas. Today that scenario has flipped on its head, and import terminals are dormant. The Department of Energy has 19 applications waiting to get permission to export U.S. natural gas.

Thanks to technology breakthroughs, U.S. natural gas reserves have climbed 72 percent since 2000. We have more gas than we can use here in the United States. Mr. Chairman, we have the best ice cream company in the world in Brenham, Texas, and their motto is: "We eat all we can, and we sell the rest." That is what our motto should be with natural gas. We should use all we can and sell the rest everywhere in the world that wants to buy it.

As chairman of the Trade Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs, I did a hearing on more LNG exports in April. Every witness at the hearing, from the union representatives to a professor, agreed that we should export natural gas. We have too much gas and our allies have too little.

And then there is Russia. Russia has an energy stranglehold over Europe, including Ukraine. Just this past week, Russia announced it was going to require payments up front from Ukraine. Russia has already increased the price of natural gas and even stopped sending natural gas to Ukraine.

Isn't that lovely?

Ukraine needs access to natural gas down the road, and that could be the United States. We need to compete with Gazprom. That could be the United States. That is how we can help thwart Russian aggression in Eastern Europe.

Technically, the United States can export natural gas, but the approval process is slow as molasses. It is the government. The government takes too long to make a decision, and the Department of Energy wraps companies in red tape. Many times we can lose these natural gas contracts to our competitors.

So I support this legislation. I thank the gentleman for bringing it to the floor.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, championed by my friend and colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman GARDNER of Colorado, a true leader in this area. This Act will help expedite approval of U.S. liquefied natural gas exports to our allies.

The United States is experiencing a North American energy boom that analysts predict can produce enough natural gas to meet our domestic demands as well as that of our global allies, including Ukraine and other Eastern European nations currently at the mercy of Russian energy supplies. Expediting U.S. liquefied natural gas exports serves our national security interests as an aggressive Russian regime looks to expand power in former Soviet Union countries. This legislation helps our allies in eastern Europe and across the globe, while creating jobs here at home through private investment and economic opportunity essential to improving the American economy.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am proud to have helped bring this important energy global security measure to the floor today, and I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage. This is in the national security interest of the United States of America.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), a sponsor of H.R. 6, somebody who has been with this bill, this legislation, from the beginning as we have worked on this bipartisan process.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman. I probably won't take all the time, but I did want to stand up in support of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Chair, in my district in eastern Ohio, we have been—and I have heard speaker after speaker talk about the potential boom for our country and different regions of America. And my region that I represent is one of those areas along eastern Ohio.

I think if we are looking to address many of the issues of global warming, and I know there would be a lot of different discussions and opinions that I may have compared to a lot of people on the other side, but I believe that this is an opportunity for us to address that issue with liquid natural gas, to get it out into the marketplace, to make sure that the economic benefits are here in the United States, that our people in eastern Ohio, western Pennsylvania, into New York and the upstate New York area are able to benefit from this. FERC is going to have to approve these ultimately, at the end of the day, and so I don't think that we can pass up this opportunity to have a transition.

Now, I think, quite frankly, we missed the boat a few years ago when we had an opportunity to pass a comprehensive energy bill that would invest into—in the bill that came before this House, money into coal research was an opportunity that I think we missed.

There was an opportunity for wind and solar and the alternatives that I think, ultimately, will be a part of an extended portfolio here in the United States. But today, the opportunity is with liquid natural gas and getting it abroad.

In one of my positions on the German Study Group, we were in Germany talking to Chancellor Merkel, and the first thing she said to us, as our delegation was over there, was let's talk about natural gas, the first thing, because she had Putin at that time, a year, year and a half ago, breathing down her neck, and now here we are. So I think there is an opportunity here. This is one step in a long process.

I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership and hope we can continue to build out this energy portfolio with natural gas and the others that will come along the way.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For those who want to export natural gas, this bill really isn't necessary because the Department of Energy is approving enough export of natural gas

that will allow us, in a few years, to be the largest exporter of LNG in the world. So DOE is acting.

For those of you who are concerned about global freedom, well, when we get all the facilities going to be able to export the natural gas and once we get all of the approvals to export natural gas, the countries who are going to receive this natural gas are most likely going to be China, Japan, and India, because that is where they are paying higher prices for natural gas. It is going to be more profitable to ship the LNG there.

I don't fault the companies for doing that. They are in business to make money. It is going to provide more money to ship the natural gas there.

Well, what about Ukraine? What about the countries that are under threat from Russia?

Angela Merkel, the head of Germany, may not realize it, but natural gas is not going to be there for quite a long time. It is going to take years. Therefore, if you think domestic prosperity is hinging on the ability to export natural gas, we don't need this bill.

If you think global freedom is hanging on the balance waiting for this bill to become law—and by “global freedom” you don't mean freedom for China to get more natural gas or India or Japan, but Ukraine and countries in eastern Europe—don't count on this bill to bring about global freedom.

The bill is grossly titled because it is promising more than this bill can ever deliver, and I would urge that this bill is not necessary and ought to be rejected.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the chairman for your leadership over this hour and thank the gentleman from California for the debate and the Members who came and debated this important piece of legislation today.

Look, we know this bill has the support of organizations like the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. People who represent the businesses of this country, the industrial might of this country, support H.R. 6 because they know that when we can produce our energy in our own backyard and help our allies to a greater prosperity for themselves, we are doing the right thing with H.R. 6.

□ 1715

This bill is the confluence of two policies that we try to promote but often fail to achieve: the policy of domestic job creation, where 45,000 people could be taken off the unemployment rolls because of H.R. 6. The other policy that we achieve with this legislation is to give our friends and allies a greater degree of freedom, a greater ability to be independent from Russia,

their aggressive neighbors that just decide one day to invade.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 6 is the work of a bipartisan group of lawmakers who have worked over the past several months to make sure that we have the support—not just from the Republican side of the aisle, but strong support from both sides of the aisle, Democrats and Republicans who believe that we should answer the call from our friends and allies for energy security, for economic opportunity at home, and to make sure that we continue the energy revolution in this country.

Opposition to the bill, as I said in committee, is like hanging up on a 911 phone call from our friends and allies.

Let's pass this legislation. Let's achieve exactly what the title of this bill says: prosperity at home and help for our allies.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6, legislation calling for expedited approval of the exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization (WTO) countries.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I believe passage of this legislation is critical to strengthening the United States' presence in Asia, and encourages the growth of the American economy.

Several weeks ago, my Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the implications of increasing exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Asia-Pacific region. The Subcommittee specifically examined the impact that doing so would have on our strategic interests in the region, as well as on the U.S. economy.

It is very evident that increasing exports of LNG would be immensely beneficial to both the U.S. and our strategic partners in the region, and I commend my colleagues for moving this important legislation forward.

The energy landscape is changing drastically in Asia. Asian economies are expected to be the largest consumers of energy in the world by 2035. Current models predict that China will account for nearly 25 percent of the total world energy demand alone. Japan is paying a premium for access to LNG, as a result of a near total shutdown of its nuclear reactors in response to the Fukushima disaster. And as India's economy advances, so too does its demand for energy and the price of natural gas. Vietnam, Taiwan, and others are also expressing strong interest in purchasing U.S. LNG.

The U.S. has the opportunity to promote a more free market in the region, by selling natural gas that is less expensive than the gas supplied by other providers in the region who link their gas prices to the price of oil.

And consequently, shipping U.S. LNG to Asia may free up Malaysian and Qatari natural gas resources which, alternatively, could be shipped to Europe and alleviate their reliance on Russian energy supplies.

Expanding LNG exports to include WTO countries offers the U.S. a chance to bolster our domestic economy and revitalize the U.S. manufacturing sector. In 2012, the increase in

unconventional energy production resulted in over 2 million jobs and reduced our trade deficit by more than \$164 billion over the last five years.

Increasing LNG exports stamped “Made in the USA” brings many benefits both at home and abroad. By passing H.R. 6, we are taking an important step that strengthens our long-term strategic interests in Asia, and also boosts our own domestic economy. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI) having assumed the chair, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 636 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3301.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) kindly take the chair.

□ 1716

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes, with Mr. MILLER of Florida (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 113-492 offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 113-492 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. WAXMAN of California.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 233, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 350]

AYES—176

Barber	Gutiérrez	Negrete McLeod
Bass	Hahn	Nolan
Beatty	Hanabusa	O'Rourke
Becerra	Hastings (FL)	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Heck (WA)	Pascarell
Bishop (NY)	Higgins	Pastor (AZ)
Blumenauer	Himes	Payne
Bonamici	Holt	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Honda	Perlmutter
Braley (IA)	Horsford	Peters (CA)
Brown (FL)	Hoyer	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Huffman	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Israel	Pocan
Butterfield	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Capps	Jeffries	Quigley
Capuano	Johnson (GA)	Rahall
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Carney	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Ruiz
Cartwright	Keating	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Sánchez, Linda
Chu	Kildee	T.
Cicilline	Kilmer	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kind	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kirkpatrick	Schakowsky
Clay	Kuster	Schiff
Cleaver	Langevin	Schneider
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
Cooper	Levin	Scott, David
Courtney	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lipinski	Shea-Porter
Davis (CA)	Loeb sack	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Sinema
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Sires
DeGette	Lowey	Slaughter
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Speier
DelBene	(NM)	Swalwell (CA)
Deutch	Luján, Ben Ray	Takano
Dingell	(NM)	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	Maffei	Tierney
Duckworth	Maloney,	Titus
Ellison	Carolyn	Tonko
Engel	Maloney, Sean	Tsongas
Enyart	Matsui	Van Hollen
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)	Vargas
Esty	McCollum	Veasey
Farr	McDermott	Visclosky
Fattah	McGovern	Walz
Foster	McNerney	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Meng	Schultz
Fudge	Michaud	Waters
Gabbard	Miller, George	Waxman
Garamendi	Moore	Welch
García	Moran	Wilson (FL)
Grayson	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Green, Al	Nadler	
Grijalva	Neal	

NOES—233

Granger	Pearce
Amash	Perry
Amodei	Peterson
Bachmann	Petri
Bachus	Pittenger
Barletta	Pitts
Barr	Poe (TX)
Barrow (GA)	Pompeo
Barton	Posey
Benish	Price (GA)
Bentivoglio	Reed
Bilirakis	Reichert
Bishop (GA)	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Ribble
Black	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Rigell
Boustany	Roby
Brady (TX)	Roe (TN)
Bridenstine	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (AL)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (IN)	Rogers (MI)
Brown (GA)	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Rokita
Bucshon	Hurt
Burgess	Issa
Byrne	Jenkins
Calvert	Johnson (OH)
Camp	Johnson, Sam
Capito	Jolly
Carter	Jordan
Cassidy	Joyce
Chabot	Kelly (PA)
Chaffetz	King (IA)
Coble	King (NY)
Coffman	Kinzinger (IL)
Cole	Kline
Collins (GA)	Labrador
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa
Conaway	Lamborn
Cook	Lance
Cotton	Latham
Cramer	Latta
Crawford	LoBiondo
Crenshaw	Long
Cuellar	Lucas
Culberson	Luetkemeyer
Daines	Lummis
Davis, Rodney	Marchant
Denham	Marino
Dent	Massie
DeSantis	Matheson
DesJarlais	McAllister
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy (CA)
Duffy	McCaul
Duncan (SC)	McClintock
Duncan (TN)	McHenry
Ellmers	McIntyre
Farenthold	McKeon
Fincher	McKinley
Fleischmann	McMorris
Fleming	Rodgers
Flores	Meadows
Forbes	Meehan
Fortenberry	Messer
Fox	Mica
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)
Gallego	Miller, Gary
Gardner	Mulvaney
Garrett	Murphy (PA)
Gerlach	Neugebauer
Gibbs	Noem
Gibson	Nugent
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes
Gohmert	Olson
Goodlatte	Owens
Gosar	Palazzo
Gowdy	Paulsen
Hanna	Rangel
Kingston	Rush
Lankford	Serrano
Meeks	Smith (WA)
Mullin	Velázquez
Napolitano	Williams
Nunnelee	
Polis	

NOT VOTING—22

□ 1742

Messrs. POE of Texas, DUNCAN of Tennessee, HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr.

MEEHAN changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. PETERS of California changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, on Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 350 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the Pallone of New Jersey Amendment that ensures that the complete length of cross-border projects would be subject to full environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WAXMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 171, noes 240, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 351]

AYES—171

Barber	Doggett	Kind
Bass	Doyle	Kirkpatrick
Beatty	Duckworth	Kuster
Becerra	Ellison	Langevin
Bera (CA)	Engel	Larsen (WA)
Bishop (NY)	Eshoo	Larson (CT)
Blumenauer	Esty	Lee (CA)
Bonamici	Farr	Levin
Brady (PA)	Fattah	Lewis
Braley (IA)	Foster	Lipinski
Brown (FL)	Frankel (FL)	Loeb sack
Brownley (CA)	Fudge	Lofgren
Bustos	Gabbard	Lowenthal
Butterfield	Gallego	Lowey
Capps	Garamendi	Lujan Grisham
Capuano	García	(NM)
Cárdenas	Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray
Carney	Green, Al	(NM)
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	Lynch
Cartwright	Gutiérrez	Maffei
Castor (FL)	Hahn	Maloney,
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	Carolyn
Chu	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Cicilline	Heck (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Clark (MA)	Higgins	McCollum
Clarke (NY)	Himes	McDermott
Clay	Holt	McGovern
Cleaver	Honda	McNerney
Cohen	Horsford	Meng
Connolly	Hoyer	Michaud
Conyers	Huffman	Miller, George
Courtney	Israel	Moore
Cummings	Jackson Lee	Moran
Davis (CA)	Jeffries	Nadler
Davis, Danny	Johnson (GA)	Neal
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Negrete McLeod
DeGette	Kaptur	Nolan
Delaney	Keating	O'Rourke
DeLauro	Kelly (IL)	Pallone
DeBene	Kennedy	Pascarell
Deutch	Kildee	Pastor (AZ)
Dingell	Kilmer	Payne

Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky

NOES—240

Aderholt
 Amash
 Amodei
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barrow (GA)
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivolio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cooper
 Cotton
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Enyart
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gibson
 Gingrey (GA)

Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)

Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schock
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sessions
 Sensenbrenner
 Lucas
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Vela
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Wilson (SC)

Campbell
 Cantor
 Costa
 Crowley
 Edwards
 Fitzpatrick
 Hanna

Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder

NOT VOTING—20

Kingston
 Lankford
 Meeks
 Mullin
 Napolitano
 Nunnelee
 Polis

Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

Rangel
 Rush
 Serrano
 Smith (WA)
 Velázquez
 Williams

Levin
 Lewis
 Lipinski
 Loeb sack
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Lujan, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McIntyre
 McNerney
 Meng
 Michaud
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Neal

Negrete McLeod
 Nolan
 O'Rourke
 Pallone
 Pascarell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)

NOES—234

Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gallego
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green, Gene
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Grimm
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Harper
 Harris
 Hartzler
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Hinojosa
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jones
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latham
 Latta
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Malone, Sean
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McKinley
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon

□ 1748
 So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

Stated for:
 Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, on Tuesday,
 June 24th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall
 vote No. 351 due to a medical emergency in
 my family. Had I been present, I would have
 voted "yea" on the Waxman of California
 Amendment that excludes any project with a
 pending Presidential permit application from
 using the new approval requirements in the
 bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH
 The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH)
 on which further proceedings were
 postponed and on which the noes pre-
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE
 The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
 The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 176, noes 234,
 not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 352]

AYES—176

Barber
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers

Cooper
 Courtney
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Ellison
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gibson
 Grayson
 Green, Al

Grijalva
 Gutierrez
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)

Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart

Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski

Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Campbell
Cantor
Costa
Crowley
Edwards
Fitzpatrick
Hanna

NOT VOTING—21

Kingston
Lankford
Meeks
Mullin
Napolitano
Nunnelee
Perlmutter

Polis
Rangel
Rush
Serrano
Smith (WA)
Velázquez
Williams

□ 1752

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, on Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 352 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Welch/Pingree/Kuster/Shea-Porter Amendment that ensures that major pipeline modifications receive a thorough environmental review.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 636, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SCHNEIDER. I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Schneider moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 3301, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 9, after line 6, insert the following new section:

SEC. 10. PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES AND OUR NATION'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY.

The Secretary of State shall not approve an oil pipeline under section 3 if—

(1) a rupture or spill from such pipeline would result in toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, such as benzene, entering into the Great Lakes, the Ogallala Aquifer, or a community's drinking water supply; or

(2) the owner or operator of the oil pipeline was responsible for a major oil spill affecting a community's drinking water supply or has failed to properly clean up such a spill.

Mr. WHITFIELD (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading of the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Madam Speaker, this amendment would ensure that our Great Lakes and the Ogallala Aquifer, and the tremendous economic benefits that come from them, will remain protected and safe from toxic chemicals.

As stewards of the health and safety of our communities, we should take sensible approaches to protect our most valuable assets. This amendment would safeguard our drinking water in 16 States for millions of our constituents—in Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

The Great Lakes provide 56 billion gallons of fresh water per day for agriculture, municipal drinking water, and electricity production. Over 30 million Americans rely on the Great Lakes every day for their safe and clean drinking water.

This amendment would protect the Great Lakes from being put at risk by preventing the Department of State from approving projects that have the potential to contaminate the Great Lakes and their aquifers.

We owe it to our future generations to keep the Great Lakes healthy and to

use the resources we have in a responsible and sustainable way.

This amendment also ensures that the owners and operators of pipelines who have been responsible for major spills in the past that resulted in contaminated community drinking water supplies will not receive special treatment to build additional pipelines across our borders.

When accidents occur in our Great Lakes, it is not a simple fix to restore the ecosystem and return to business as usual. The time it takes our Great Lakes to naturally rid themselves of pollutants can take up to 191 years. This is why we must take every precaution now to make sure that the health of our Great Lakes and the health of our economy are not put at risk for short-term gains.

□ 1800

Energy independence remains one of the primary drivers of our economy and will continue to have a major role in our future competitiveness and the health of our future generations. By eliminating commonsense environmental regulations and evaluations for projects with potentially massive public health consequences, it is a dereliction of our duty to protect our families, protect our communities, and protect our businesses that rely on the Great Lakes.

Instead of assessing the impact of the full project, the underlying bill would limit environmental review for new infrastructure projects to only the cross-border sections. We live in an interconnected environment, and the Great Lakes system is not an isolated resource but, rather, a complex ecosystem intertwined with the health and vibrancy of countless communities across two countries and eight States. What happens to one has an impact on all.

This amendment would ensure the proper planning and environmental impact evaluations are complete and that the total scope of projects are known and assessed.

The Great Lakes represents more than 1,000 miles of border between the United States and Canada. It is irresponsible to take on all the environmental risks to our drinking water, our \$4 billion fishing industry, and the 200 million tons of shipping that occur on the Great Lakes, including 90 percent of the Nation's iron ore and 58 percent of the automobiles produced here.

It is irresponsible to put at risk the millions of Americans who rely on the Great Lakes and the Ogallala Aquifer for their basic human needs. It is irresponsible to take on the risk of chemical and toxic contaminants permanently changing our environment for the worst without doing our own due diligence.

For all Great Lakes and Great Plains communities, I ask that you take this

commonsense step with us to protect our safe access to clean drinking water and to deny companies who have a track record of contamination from being given the opportunity to do so again.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I would just say that H.R. 3301 is designed to do one thing: to treat all pipelines and electric transmission lines exactly as natural gas pipelines are treated.

The Great Lakes, we are all committed to. There are 33 separate environmental laws that would not be changed by this legislation.

With all due respect, I view this as a procedural vote that says “no” to North American energy security and lower prices. It is time to say “yes” and end procedural delays. Please vote “no” on this motion and say “yes” to North American security.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 227, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 353]

AYES—185

Barber	Chu	Doyle
Barrow (GA)	Cicilline	Duckworth
Bass	Clark (MA)	Ellison
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Engel
Becerra	Clay	Enyart
Bera (CA)	Cleaver	Eshoo
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Esty
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Farr
Blumenauer	Connolly	Fattah
Bonomici	Conyers	Poster
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Braley (IA)	Courtney	Fudge
Brown (FL)	Cuellar	Gabbard
Brownley (CA)	Cummings	Gallego
Bustos	Davis (CA)	Garamendi
Butterfield	Davis, Danny	Garcia
Capps	DeFazio	Grayson
Capuano	DeGette	Green, Al
Cárdenas	Delaney	Grijalva
Carney	DeLauro	Gutiérrez
Carson (IN)	DelBene	Hahn
Castright	Deutch	Hanabusa
Castor (FL)	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Castro (TX)	Doggett	Heck (WA)

Higgins	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)
Himes	Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda
Hinojosa	Maloney, Sean	T.
Holt	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Honda	McCarthy (NY)	Sarbanes
Horsford	McCollum	Schakowsky
Hoyer	McDermott	Schiff
Huffman	McGovern	Schneider
Israel	McIntyre	Schrader
Jackson Lee	McNerney	Schwartz
Jeffries	Meng	Scott (VA)
Johnson (GA)	Michaud	Scott, David
Johnson, E. B.	Miller, George	Sewell (AL)
Kaptur	Moore	Shea-Porter
Keating	Moran	Sherman
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Sinema
Kennedy	Nadler	Sires
Kildee	Neal	Slaughter
Kilmer	Negrete McLeod	Speier
Kind	Nolan	Swalwell (CA)
Kirkpatrick	O'Rourke	Takano
Kuster	Owens	Thompson (CA)
Langevin	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Larsen (WA)	Pascarella	Tierney
Larson (CT)	Pastor (AZ)	Titus
Lee (CA)	Payne	Tonko
Levin	Pelosi	Tsongas
Lewis	Perlmutter	Van Hollen
Lipinski	Peters (CA)	Vargas
Loeb sack	Peters (MI)	Vasey
Lofgren	Peterson	Visclosky
Lowenthal	Pingree (ME)	Walz
Lowe y	Pocan	Wasserman
Lujan Grisham	Price (NC)	Schultz
(NM)	Quigley	Waters
Lujan, Ben Ray	Rahall	Waxman
(NM)	Richmond	Welch
Lynch	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Maffei	Ruiz	Yarmuth
	Ruppersberger	

NOES—227

Aderholt	Duncan (TN)	Kelly (PA)
Amash	Ellmers	King (IA)
Amodei	Farenthold	King (NY)
Bachmann	Fincher	Kinzinger (IL)
Bachus	Fleischmann	Kline
Barletta	Fleming	Labrador
Barr	Flores	LaMalfa
Barton	Forbes	Lamborn
Benishek	Fortenberry	Lance
Bentivolio	Fox	Latham
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Latta
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Black	Gardner	Long
Blackburn	Garrett	Lucas
Boustany	Gerlach	Luetkemeyer
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Lummis
Bridenstine	Gibson	Marchant
Brooks (AL)	Gingrey (GA)	Marino
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Massie
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	Matheson
Buchanan	Gosar	McAllister
Bucshon	Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)
Burgess	Granger	McCaul
Byrne	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Camp	Green, Gene	McKeon
Capito	Griffin (AR)	McKinley
Carter	Griffith (VA)	McMorris
Cassidy	Grimm	Rodgers
Chabot	Guthrie	Meadows
Chaffetz	Hall	Meehan
Coble	Harper	Messer
Coffman	Harris	Mica
Cole	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Collins (GA)	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Collins (NY)	Heck (NV)	Miller, Gary
Conaway	Hensarling	Mulvaney
Cook	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)
Costa	Holding	Neugebauer
Cotton	Hudson	Noem
Cramer	Huelskamp	Nugent
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Olson
Culberson	Hunter	Palazzo
Daines	Hurt	Paulsen
Davis, Rodney	Issa	Pearce
Denham	Jenkins	Perry
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Petri
DeSantis	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
DesJarlais	Jolly	Pitts
Diaz-Balart	Jones	Poe (TX)
Duffy	Jordan	Pompeo
Duncan (SC)	Joyce	Posey

Price (GA)	Sanford	Tipton
Reed	Scalise	Turner
Reichert	Schock	Upton
Renacci	Schweikert	Valadao
Ribble	Scott, Austin	Vela
Rice (SC)	Sensenbrenner	Wagner
Rigell	Sessions	Walberg
Roby	Shimkus	Walden
Roe (TN)	Shuster	Walorski
Rogers (AL)	Simpson	Weber (TX)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Wenstrup
Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Westmoreland
Rokita	Smith (TX)	Whitfield
Rooney	Southerland	Wilson (SC)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stewart	Wittman
Roskam	Stivers	Wolf
Ross	Stockman	Womack
Rothfus	Stutzman	Woodall
Royce	Terry	Yoder
Runyan	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
Ryan (WI)	Thornberry	Young (AK)
Salmon	Tiberi	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—19

Campbell	Lankford	Rush
Cantor	Meeks	Serrano
Crowley	Mullin	Smith (WA)
Edwards	Napolitano	Velázquez
Fitzpatrick	Nunnelee	Williams
Hanna	Polis	
Kingston	Rangel	

□ 1808

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during roll call vote #353 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 3301—North American Energy Infrastructure Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 173, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 354]

AYES—238

Aderholt	Byrne	Dent
Amash	Calvert	DeSantis
Amodei	Camp	DesJarlais
Bachmann	Capito	Diaz-Balart
Bachus	Carter	Duffy
Barletta	Cassidy	Duncan (SC)
Barr	Chabot	Duncan (TN)
Barrow (GA)	Chaffetz	Ellmers
Barton	Coble	Enyart
Benishek	Coffman	Farenthold
Bentivolio	Cole	Fincher
Bilirakis	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Bishop (GA)	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Flores
Black	Cook	Forbes
Blackburn	Costa	Fortenberry
Boustany	Cotton	Fox
Brady (TX)	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (AL)	Crenshaw	Gallego
Brooks (IN)	Cuellar	Gardner
Broun (GA)	Culberson	Garrett
Buchanan	Daines	Gerlach
Bucshon	Davis, Rodney	Gibbs
Burgess	Denham	Gibson

Gingrey (GA) Massie
Gohmert Matheson
Goodlatte McAllister
Gosar McCarthy (CA)
Gowdy McCaul
Granger McClintock
Graves (GA) McHenry
Graves (MO) McIntyre
Green, Al McKeon
Green, Gene McKinley
Griffin (AR) McMorris
Griffith (VA) Rodgers
Grimm Meadows
Guthrie Meehan
Hall Messer
Harper Mica
Harris Miller (FL)
Hartzler Miller (MI)
Hastings (WA) Miller, Gary
Heck (NV) Mulvaney
Hensarling Murphy (FL)
Herrera Beutler Murphy (PA)
Hinojosa Neugebauer
Holding Noem
Hudson Nugent
Huelskamp Nunes
Huizenga (MI) Olson
Hultgren Owens
Hunter Palazzo
Hurt Paulsen
Issa Pearce
Jenkins Perry
Johnson (OH) Peterson
Johnson, Sam Petri
Jolly Pittenger
Jordan Pitts
Joyce Poe (TX)
Kelly (PA) Pompeo
King (IA) Posey
King (NY) Price (GA)
Kinzinger (IL) Rahall
Kline Reed
Labrador Reichert
LaMalfa Renacci
Lamborn Ribble
Lance Rice (SC)
Latham Rigell
Latta Roby
LoBiondo Roe (TN)
Long Rogers (AL)
Lucas Rogers (KY)
Luetkemeyer Rogers (MI)
Lummis Rohrabacher
Marchant Rokita
Marino Rooney

NOES—173

Barber DeGette
Bass Delaney
Beatty DeLauro
Becerra DelBene
Bera (CA) Deutch
Bishop (NY) Dingell
Blumenauer Doggett
Bonamici Doyle
Brady (PA) Duckworth
Braley (IA) Ellison
Brown (FL) Engel
Brownley (CA) Eshoo
Bustos Esty
Butterfield Farr
Capps Fattah
Capuano Foster
Cárdenas Frankel (FL)
Carney Fudge
Carson (IN) Gabbard
Cartwright Garamendi
Castor (FL) Garcia
Castro (TX) Grayson
Chu Grijalva
Cicilline Gutiérrez
Clark (MA) Hahn
Clarke (NY) Hanabusa
Clay Hastings (FL)
Cleaver Heck (WA)
Clyburn Higgins
Cohen Himes
Connelly Holt
Conyers Honda
Cooper Horsford
Courtney Hoyer
Cummings Huffman
Davis (CA) Israel
Davis, Danny Jackson Lee
DeFazio Jeffries

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley

Campbell
Cantor
Crowley
Edwards
Fitzpatrick
Hanna
Kingston

Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier

NOT VOTING—20

Lankford
Meeks
Mullin
Napolitano
Nunnelee
Polis
Rangel

Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

□ 1817

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 354 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on final passage of H.R. 3301—North American Energy Infrastructure Act.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4899, LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4923, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-493) on the resolution (H. Res. 641) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule

XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4631) to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4631

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall designate an existing official within the Department of Health and Human Services to oversee, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense and Education, national autism spectrum disorder research, services, and support activities.

(b) DUTIES.—The official designated under subsection (a) shall—

(1) implement autism spectrum disorder activities, taking into account the strategic plan developed by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee under section 399CC(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-2(b)); and

(2) ensure that autism spectrum disorder activities of the Department of Health and Human Services and of other Federal departments and agencies are not unnecessarily duplicative.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 399AA of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “for children and adults” after “reporting of State epidemiological data”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “establishment of regional centers of excellence” and inserting “establishment or support of regional centers of excellence”; and

(B) by inserting “for children and adults” before the period at the end;

(3) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “center to be established” and inserting “center to be established or supported”; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 4. AUTISM INTERVENTION.

Section 399BB of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “culturally competent” after “provide”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii), by inserting “(which may include respite care for caregivers of individuals with an autism spectrum disorder)” after “services and supports”;

(3) in subsection (e)(1)(B)(v), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, which may include collaborating with research centers or networks to provide training for providers of respite care (as defined in section 2901)”;

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “grants or contracts” and all that follows through “for individuals with” and inserting “grants or contracts, which may include grants or contracts to research centers or networks, to determine the evidence-based practices for interventions to improve the physical and behavioral health of individuals with”; and

(5) in subsection (g), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “and annually update”; and

(ii) by striking “intervention” and inserting “interventions, including school and community-based interventions”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (1) as paragraph (2), and inserting before such redesignated paragraph the following:

“(1) monitor autism spectrum disorder research, and to the extent practicable services and support activities, across all relevant Federal departments and agencies, including coordination of Federal activities with respect to autism spectrum disorder;”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “recommendations to the Director of NIH”;

(E) in paragraph (4), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, and the process by which public feedback can be better integrated into such decisions”; and

(F) by striking paragraphs (5) and (6) and inserting the following:

“(5) develop a strategic plan for the conduct of, and support for, autism spectrum disorder research, including as practicable for services and supports, for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder and the families of such individuals, which shall include—

“(A) proposed budgetary requirements; and

“(B) recommendations to ensure that autism spectrum disorder research, and services and support activities to the extent practicable, of the Department of Health and Human Services and of other Federal departments and agencies are not unnecessarily duplicative; and

“(6) submit to Congress and the President—

“(A) an annual update on the summary of advances described in paragraph (2); and

“(B) an annual update to the strategic plan described in paragraph (5), including any progress made in achieving the goals outlined in such strategic plan.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking the paragraph designation, the heading, and the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(1) **FEDERAL MEMBERSHIP.**—The Committee shall be composed of the following Federal members—”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by inserting “, such as the Administration for Community Living, Administration for Children and Families, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Health Resources and Services Administration” before the semicolon at the end; and

(II) by adding at the end “and”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting “and the Department of Defense” after “Department of Education”; and

(II) by striking at the end “; and” and inserting a period; and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (E);

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “ADDITIONAL” and inserting “NON-FEDERAL”;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Not fewer than 6 members of the Committee, or 1/3 of the total membership of the Committee, whichever is greater” and inserting “Not more than 1/2, but not fewer than 1/3, of the total membership of the Committee”;

(iii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “one such member shall be an individual” and inserting “two such members shall be individuals”;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), by striking “one such member shall be a parent or legal guardian” and inserting “two such members shall be parents or legal guardians”; and

(v) in subparagraph (C), by striking “one such member shall be a representative” and inserting “two such members shall be representatives”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—

“(A) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT FOR NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.**—Non-Federal members shall serve for a term of 4 years, and may be reappointed for one or more additional 4-year terms.

“(B) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy on the Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall not affect the powers or duties of the Committee. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member’s term until a successor has been appointed.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “2014” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

Section 399DD of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-3) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “REPORT” and inserting “REPORTS”;

(2) in subsection (b), by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (9) as subparagraphs (A) through (I), respectively, and realigning the margins accordingly;

(3) by redesignating subsections (a) and (b) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, and realigning the margins accordingly;

(4) by inserting after the section heading the following:

“(a) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—”;

(5) in subsection (a)(1) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “2 years after the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011” and inserting “4 years after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2014”;

(B) by inserting “and the Secretary of Defense” after “the Secretary of Education”; and

(C) by inserting “, and make publicly available, including through posting on the Internet Web site of the Department of Health and Human Services,” after “Representatives”; and

(6) in subsection (a)(2) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), (as so redesignated), by striking “Combating Autism Act of 2006” and inserting “Autism CARES Act of 2014”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated), by striking “particular provisions of Combating Autism Act of 2006” and inserting “amendments made by the Autism CARES Act of 2014”;

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated), and inserting the following:

“(C) information on the incidence and prevalence of autism spectrum disorder, including available information on the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder among children and adults, and identification of any changes over time with respect to the incidence and prevalence of autism spectrum disorder”;

(D) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “6-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006” and inserting “4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2014 and, as appropriate, how this age varies across population subgroups”;

(E) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated), by striking “6-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006” and inserting “4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2014 and, as appropriate, how this age varies across population subgroups”;

(F) in subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated), by inserting “and, as appropriate, on how such average time varies across population subgroups” before the semicolon at the end;

(G) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “including by various subtypes,” and inserting “including by severity level as practicable,”; and

(ii) by striking “child may” and inserting “child or other factors, such as demographic characteristics, may”;

(H) by striking subparagraph (I) (as so redesignated), and inserting the following:

“(I) a description of the actions taken to implement and the progress made on implementation of the strategic plan developed by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee under section 399CC(b).”; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) **REPORT ON YOUNG ADULTS AND TRANSITIONING YOUTH.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2014, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and in collaboration with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Attorney General, shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report concerning young adults with autism spectrum disorder and the challenges related to the transition from existing school-based services to those services available during adulthood.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) demographic characteristics of youth transitioning from school-based to community-based supports;

“(B) an overview of policies and programs relevant to young adults with autism spectrum disorder relating to post-secondary

school transitional services, including an identification of existing Federal laws, regulations, policies, research, and programs;

“(C) proposals on establishing best practices guidelines to ensure—

“(i) interdisciplinary coordination between all relevant service providers receiving Federal funding;

“(ii) coordination with transitioning youth and the family of such transitioning youth; and

“(iii) inclusion of the individualized education program for the transitioning youth, as prescribed in section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414);

“(D) comprehensive approaches to transitioning from existing school-based services to those services available during adulthood, including—

“(i) services that increase access to, and improve integration and completion of, post-secondary education, peer support, vocational training (as defined in section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 723)), rehabilitation, self-advocacy skills, and competitive, integrated employment;

“(ii) community-based behavioral supports and interventions;

“(iii) community-based integrated residential services, housing, and transportation;

“(iv) nutrition, health and wellness, recreational, and social activities;

“(v) personal safety services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder related to public safety agencies or the criminal justice system; and

“(vi) evidence-based approaches for coordination of resources and services once individuals have aged out of post-secondary education; and

“(E) proposals that seek to improve outcomes for adults with autism spectrum disorder making the transition from a school-based support system to adulthood by—

“(i) increasing the effectiveness of programs that provide transition services;

“(ii) increasing the ability of the relevant service providers described in subparagraph (C) to provide supports and services to underserved populations and regions;

“(iii) increasing the efficiency of service delivery to maximize resources and outcomes, including with respect to the integration of and collaboration among services for transitioning youth;

“(iv) ensuring access to all services necessary to transitioning youth of all capabilities; and

“(v) encouraging transitioning youth to utilize all available transition services to maximize independence, equal opportunity, full participation, and self-sufficiency.”.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “fiscal years 2012 through 2014” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2019”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal years 2011 through 2014” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2019”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$161,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014” and inserting “\$190,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support of H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support—CARES—Act of 2014, introduced by Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey.

Autism CARES demonstrates our continued effort to address the needs of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder, ASD.

Thanks to the monitoring done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, we know that as many as 1 in 68 children have ASD.

With recent studies showing that ASD can be detected in the first 6 months of life, the screening and diagnosis funded in the bill will mean early diagnosis and improved health and behavioral outcomes.

Many of these children are now transitioning into adulthood and will need community-based services to replace those provided by the schools. As a part of this bill, HHS will be required to study their needs and available services to identify gaps and make their transition seamless and productive.

The bill would also fund important research at the National Institutes of Health to understand and treat ASD and the operation of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014.

Autism spectrum disorder, or ASD, is a developmental disability that can lead to significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges.

We still do not know all the causes of autism, and we do not have a cure, but we do know that early intervention services can improve a child's development.

Recent data for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show more children than ever before are receiving an autism diagnosis. This is due, at least in part, to a broader definition of ASD and better diagnosis, but we cannot rule out the possibility of a true increase in the number of Americans with ASD.

Continued Federal support for autism activities at HHS will help us learn

more about the causes of autism. It will help more children receive early diagnosis and intervention, as well as access to services that they need throughout their lives.

I want to acknowledge the sponsor of this legislation—Congressman SMITH and Congressman DOYLE; the sponsors of the Senate companion legislation, Senators MENENDEZ and ENZI; and leaders on the Energy and Commerce Committee and on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—for making it possible to have a consensus bill before the House today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, so we can send it to the Senate and on to the President for his signature, well in advance of the September 30 sunset provisions in current law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman CHRIS SMITH, the distinguished prime sponsor of the legislation, who has really provided the leadership on this issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank the chairman for yielding and thank him for his strong support, along with Chairman FRED UPTON, former Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and so many others—MIKE DOYLE, my good friend and colleague, who together, since 2000, headed up the Coalition for Autism Research and Education. We have done everything bipartisan. We have 91 members in the coalition right now.

I would also like to thank the staff, who have helped us move this bill and negotiate text, including Gary Andres, Cheryl Jaeger, Brenda Destro, Jean Roehrenbeck, Katie Novaria, Cate Benedetti, and, of course, Neil Bradley, and so many others who have been so critical to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, previous autism law, including the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011, made critical investments—continued by this bill—that are working to determine the causes of autism spectrum disorder, identify autistic children as early as possible to begin treatment, raise critical awareness, and develop new therapies and effective services.

The latest prevalence data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mr. Speaker, is shocking. One in every 68 American children are on the autism spectrum, a tenfold increase over the last 40 years. Boys on the spectrum outnumber girls 5 to 1.

In my home State of New Jersey, one in every 45 children has ASD, the highest rate in the CDC study.

I would note parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, I have chaired two congressional hearings on global autism, and this developmental disability is everywhere—one conservative estimate, 67 million worldwide.

Looking back, Mr. Speaker, it was two dedicated parents from New Jersey who helped launch the comprehensive Federal policy we seek to reauthorize today.

Almost 17 years ago, September 1997, Bobbie and Billy Gallagher of Brick, New Jersey, and parents of two small autistic children, walked into my Ocean County office looking for help.

They believed Brick had a disproportionate number of students with autism and wanted action, especially for their son Austin and daughter Alana, so I invited CDC and other Federal agencies to Brick for an investigation, only to learn that prevalence rates were high not only in Brick, but in nearby communities as well.

Believing we had a serious spike in prevalence, I introduced the ASSURE Act, and that was incorporated as title I of the Children's Health Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, much progress has been made since. Today, the evidence suggests there is no single cause of autism or type. Genetic risk, coupled with environmental factors, including advanced parental age, low birth weight, and prematurity—among other factors—may be triggers.

Signs of autism in a child usually manifest between 12–18 months, some as early as 6 months, while some regress after the age of 2, yet transformative early intervention continues to lag.

According to the IACC:

The clinical reality is that, currently, only about 20 percent of children with ASD are being identified early (by 3 years of age).

That, Members of the House, is not good, and it has got to change. The research clearly shows that early diagnosis means early intervention and much better outcomes.

The most recent IACC strategic plan—and I encourage Members to read it. It is a textbook on how the Federal Government should do anything when it deals with research. They have pointed out that:

During the past few years, there has been a major revolution in ASD genetics research.

Research on the potential relationship between the immune system and ASD has grown considerably, resulting in “major breakthroughs.”

They go on to say:

Much progress has been made in understanding the prevalence and biology of conditions that commonly co-occur with ASD, including epilepsy, sleep disorders, GI disturbances, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other psychiatric comorbidities.

They also point out:

Particularly intriguing are the results of prenatal vitamin intake through supplements and diet, showing a 40 percent reduction in risk of ASD with prenatal vitamin supplements taken in the 3 months before or during the first month of pregnancy.

Daily folic acid is also highly recommended.

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue that this bill seeks to address. Every

year, 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum matriculate to adulthood and are in the process of losing services.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 16-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, was the keynote speaker at a Dare to Dream conference at Mercer County Community College last year. He stated:

I know I can be a great contributor to society when I graduate. However, I need continuing support to get there.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PITTS. I yield an additional minute to the gentleman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Kratchman said:

If you take your high school diploma at age 18, you automatically lose services from your school district.

Both individuals with autism—like Jonathan—and their parents find themselves confronted with almost unimaginable challenges, including loss of school, housing, and then they have job needs.

□ 1830

We are in the midst of a huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and remedies.

The Autism CARES Act tasks multiple Federal agencies to comprehensively study and report back to Congress on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

Additionally, Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS are in the process of requesting a comprehensive aging-out GAO report that will include key stakeholder involvement.

Passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is an important investment in a very important special group of people who, along with their families, caregivers, and friends, face seemingly endless challenges and struggles.

I strongly urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education and Support Act of 2014—Autism CARES ACT of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, previous autism law including the Combatting Autism Act of 2011 made critical investments—continued by this bill—that are working to determine the causes of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), identify autistic children as early as possible to begin treatment, raise critical awareness and develop new therapies and effective services.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), “ASD is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders, characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior. Autistic disorder, sometimes called autism or classical ASD, is the most severe form of ASD, while other conditions along the spectrum include a milder form known as Asperger syndrome . . .”

The latest prevalence data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is shocking: 1 in every 68 American children are

on the autism spectrum—a tenfold increase over the last 40 years. Boys on the autism spectrum outnumber girls 5 to 1.

In my home state of New Jersey, 1 in every 45 children has ASD, the highest rate in the CDC study.

I've chaired two congressional hearings on global autism—and this developmental disability is everywhere. One conservative estimate: 67 million worldwide.

Looking back, it was two dedicated parents from New Jersey who helped launch the comprehensive federal policy we seek to reauthorize today.

Almost 17 years ago—September 13, 1997—Bobbie and Billy Gallagher of Brick, New Jersey and parents of two small children with autism, walked into my Ocean County district office looking for help. They believed Brick had a disproportionate number of students with autism and wanted action especially for their son Austin and daughter Alana. So I invited CDC and other federal agencies to Brick for an investigation only to learn that prevalence rates were high not only in Brick but in nearby communities as well. Believing we had a serious spike in the prevalence of autism, I introduced H.R. 274—the Autism Statistics, Surveillance, Research and Epidemiology Act (ASSURE) which was enacted as Title 1 of the Children Health Act of 2000.

Much progress has been made since. Today, the evidence suggests that there is no single cause or type of autism. Genetic risk coupled with environmental factors including advanced parental age, low birth weight and prematurity among other factors may be triggers. Signs of autism in a child usually manifest between 12–18 months—some as early as 6 months—while some “regress” after 2.

Yet, transformative early intervention continues to lag. According to the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC): “The clinical reality is that currently only about 20 percent of children with ASD are being identified early (by 3 years of age)” and that members of the House is not good and has got to change. Early diagnosis means early intervention and better outcomes. IACC says “More needs to be done to raise awareness in the practitioner community of the current capabilities and benefits of early, repeated screenings, early diagnosis, and early intervention.”

Research on autism is showing tremendous promise. The most recent IACC strategic plan—which is reauthorized for five years by Section 5—is filled with insight and actionable information:

“During the past few years there has been a major revolution in ASD genetics research. Using the newest molecular and epidemiological methods, recent data continues to strongly support the role of genes in ASD, and the understanding of this role has been greatly refined.”

“In infants at high genetic risk for ASD due to having an older sibling with autism, symptoms of autism begin to emerge as young as 6 months of age in those who later develop ASD. These new findings suggest that it may someday be possible to screen for children at risk for ASD before the emergence of the full symptoms of autism and early enough to facilitate even more effective intervention.”

"Research on the potential relationship between the immune system and ASD has grown considerably over the past 2 years, resulting in several major breakthroughs. In the realm of basic developmental research, immune cells and immune signaling molecules have been identified as essential for establishing stable connections between neurons during early brain development."

"Much progress has been made in understanding the prevalence and biology of conditions that commonly co-occur with ASD, including epilepsy, sleep disorders, gastrointestinal (GI) disturbances, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other psychiatric comorbidities."

"The time around conception and during pregnancy are likely the most important time windows of heightened vulnerability for the development of the brain with supporting evidence from early reports linking autism symptoms to maternal ingestion of drugs."

"Particularly intriguing are the results of prenatal vitamin intake through supplements and diet, showing a 40 percent reduction in risk of ASD with prenatal vitamin supplements taken in the 3 months before or during the first month of pregnancy."

"A trend of decreasing ASD risk as mothers consumed greater daily folic acid intake from foods, vitamins, and supplements in the first month of pregnancy was also reported."

Over the past 5 years, progress has been made toward developing tools and practices for more effective screening and early diagnosis—and I am pleased that the Committee report includes language that will ensure federal agencies pay particular attention to the need to focus on early diagnosis and intervention in children.

While biological differences in individuals with ASD were hypothesized earlier, there is now "data demonstrating specific changes in the genome and epigenome, gene expression, cell structure and function, brain connectivity, and behavior that have been linked to the causes and underlying biology of ASD."

I mentioned Bobbie and Billy Gallagher's children earlier because they represent a generation of young men and women who are aging out—both are now over 21 years old, which means far too much of their support system no longer exists.

Mr. Speaker, every year 50,000 young people on the autism spectrum matriculate to adulthood.

Jonathan Kratchman, a 16-year-old with Asperger's from New Jersey, was the keynote speaker at a "Dare To Dream Conference" at Mercer County Community College last year, where he stated: "I know I can be a great contributor to society when I graduate. However, I need continuing support to get there. . . . Here is a fast fact. If you take your high school diploma at age 18, you automatically lose services from your school district."

Both individuals with autism, like Jonathan, and their parents find themselves confronted with almost unimaginable challenges including loss of school instruction, housing and job needs. We are in the midst of huge yet largely invisible crisis that begs serious focus and remedies.

The Autism CARES Act tasks multiple federal agencies to comprehensively study and

report back to Congress on the special needs of autistic young adults and transitioning youth.

While studies show that young adults with autism appear to fare worse in employment outcomes—including when compared to young adults with other types of disabilities—there is evidence that with specialized support programs employment is feasible even among individuals with higher support needs.

I'm planning a congressional hearing next month in my global health committee on employers like software giant SAP which has actively recruited and hired over 700 young adults on the autism spectrum and recently told me these diligent young employees are extraordinarily effective workers.

Well planned transition programs will not only assist families and help shape a brighter future for individuals with ASD, they are also a smart investment that will reduce government spending in the long-term. The University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities recently estimated that: "Diverting just one young person into living-wage employment could save an average of \$150,000 in SSI benefits over their lifetime. According to the Social Security Administration, transitioning just one half of one percent of current SSDI and SSI beneficiaries from benefits to self-sustaining employment would save \$3.5 billion in cash benefits over the work-life of those individuals."

IACC recently concluded that since 2009, the adult services research field has made some important advances, including gathering of new data on the services available across the states, information about how adults are interacting with the service system, and data on the service needs of adults on the autism spectrum.

But in light of the severity of the aging out crisis, we must do more and do it fast and ensure we are providing a comprehensive and thorough review of available services—and those that need to be established. Additionally, Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS are in the process of requesting a comprehensive autism aging-out GAO report that will include key stakeholder involvement.

We are making real progress, but we still don't have all the answers.

Specifically, the Autism Cares Act of 2014 authorizes funding for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 at \$22 million for the CDC, \$48 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and \$190 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and IACC activities—for a total of \$1.3 billion.

I especially want to thank Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, Chairman FRED UPTON and former Chairman HENRY WAXMAN as well as Chairman JOE PITTS—all strong and committed friends of persons with autism—for their critical support of this legislation.

Special thanks to my friend MIKE DOYLE. Since 2000, MIKE and I have co-chaired the 91 member congressional autism caucus—the Coalition on Autism Research and Education (CARE).

I am very grateful to the many excellent, professional staff who played key roles in helping move the bill and negotiate text including Gary Andres, Cheryl Jaeger, Brenda Destro, Jean Roehrenbeck, Katie Novaria, Cate Benedetti, and of course Neil Bradley.

I also want to express my deep appreciation for the extraordinary contributions made by Autism Speaks, the Autism Society, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities and the American Academy of Pediatrics—all of whom strongly endorse H.R. 4631.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill today is an investment in a very important group of people who, along with their families, caregivers and friends, face seemingly endless challenges and struggles. I urge support.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. DOYLE. Thank you, Mr. GREEN, for yielding and for your support of the Autism CARES Act.

First off, I want to thank my good friend and Autism Caucus cochair CHRIS SMITH for his leadership and work on this critical legislation over the past 11 years. It has been a real pleasure and a labor of love to work with CHRIS on these issues. He is truly a champion in the autism community. I look forward to continuing that great working relationship with him.

Mr. Chairman, it seems that every time new data is released on autism spectrum disorders, the numbers become more and more troubling. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control's most recent data show a continued rise in autism prevalence rates: 1 in every 68 American children. That is 1 in 189 girls and 1 in 42 boys.

These are staggering numbers with serious implications for many aspects of American life. That is why passage of the Autism CARES Act today is so important: to continue research into the causes of autism, to educate health care providers and the public, to improve early diagnosis and intervention, to identify effective treatments, and to evaluate the types of services available to young adults with ASD. We can and must do better for the millions of Americans living with ASD and their families.

Many Federal autism programs were first authorized by the Combating Autism Act of 2006, which has made a huge difference in the lives of autistic Americans and their families. Since its inception, Congress has reauthorized these Federal autism programs twice. Without new legislation to reauthorize them, the funding for these important programs will expire on September 30 of this year.

We have made tremendous advances in understanding autism spectrum disorders, but this progress will be lost if Congress allows these programs to expire. This is why it is so important that Congress pass this commonsense, bipartisan, bicameral legislation like the bill that is before us today.

The autism programs this legislation would reauthorize are vitally important to many families and individuals across the country. Early diagnosis and

intervention can make a huge difference in an autistic individual's life and can have a dramatic impact on the individual's family and community as well.

With the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders much higher than we thought just a few years ago, inaction is simply not an option.

I urge my colleagues to support the Autism CARES legislation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a valued member of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4631, the Autism CARES Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. I want to commend a sponsor, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey, as well as a Democratic prime cosponsor, Mr. MIKE DOYLE from the great State of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this bill.

Autism is serious and it does not discriminate. People in all racial, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups are impacted, Mr. Speaker. Autism awareness and research is something people from all walks of life can support.

One in 68 children is diagnosed with autism. That is a disturbing statistic. This legislation will help direct autism research on a Federal level. This research is vital, and I am glad my colleagues and I have come together in a bipartisan manner to continue autism research, early identification, intervention, and education.

I am proud to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support final passage of this legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), my good friend and desk mate on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for yielding me the time. I want to thank my good friend, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey. I have so much respect for his hard work in doing this. Anyone who knows CHRIS knows that when he wants something done, he is tenacious. MIKE DOYLE has been his really good partner. We all take pride in this legislation.

I rise to support the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act, or the Autism CARES Act. I am pleased that we have an opportunity to pass this today.

Autism, as my colleagues have said, affects more than 2 million individuals and their families across our country. The rate of diagnosis has climbed dramatically in recent years. Today, 1 out of every 68 American children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by the age of 8. That is really shocking.

These individuals and their families are counting on us to pass this bill.

The Autism CARES Act will extend and strengthen the efforts we established under the Combating Autism Act of 2006 and the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. I was proud to support both of these bills on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the full House. I am pleased to see that this legislation will give our autism programs the continued support they deserve.

With this bill, we will extend Federal autism programs for another 5 years, including vital autism research and prevalence monitoring, as well as training for medical professionals. This bill will also provide valuable updates to the law. It will increase coordination across Federal agencies and improve our understanding of the issues youth and young adults face as they transition out of school-based services.

These changes will advance our understanding of autism spectrum disorder and allow us to better assist the millions of Americans it impacts.

The programs provided for this in bill have traditionally enjoyed strong bipartisan support in the Energy and Commerce Committee. It enjoyed strong bipartisan support, as I guess it will as well here, because this is a strong bipartisan issue.

So I urge my colleagues to continue this commitment by voting for the Autism CARES Act today.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), one of our distinguished leaders.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

One in 68 is diagnosed with autism, Mr. Speaker, and we have an opportunity to come alongside those families that are dealing with this diagnosis by supporting the Autism CARES Act. It is a holistic approach, one that takes on research, education, early detection, and intervention for those all across the autism spectrum.

There are so many times that we can get into dollars and cents and chapter and verse and future savings in all of these things, but think about it. Beyond all of that is something that is much more important, and it is this: we can be a part of helping children reach their potential as adults. It is the desire of every parent to see their child reach full potential. So we can do that by coming together with this legislation. Think about the joy that is involved in that.

I am pleased to associate myself with the work of Congressman SMITH in this effort and to be a cosponsor of the Autism CARES Act.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support this very important bipartisan legislation. I urge all Members to do so, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4631, the Autism CARES Act, which reauthorizes the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. I want to commend my colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for bringing this measure forward.

Our understanding of autism remains an unsolved puzzle. More children than ever are being diagnosed with communication and behavior disorders that lead to a diagnosis of autism.

Though our understanding of autism is limited, what we do know is that autism affects too many children, strains families, costs too much, and puts those it afflicts at an educational, professional, and social disadvantage compared to their peers.

Families with autistic children do everything they can to help their kids maximize their God-given abilities whatever those may be. But it's not always easy especially in a world where many don't understand the unique challenges autism presents. Helping these families better navigate this treacherous world would make a huge difference.

The Autism CARES Act provides federal support for critical autism research by reauthorizing research programs at the National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill will help better coordinate federal autism research and ensure more focused efforts to maximize the benefits of the resources we invest in such research.

This bill also will begin efforts to determine how best to meet the needs of young adults with autism as they face the new challenges that come with being an adult.

These investments are extremely important because autism imposes tremendous emotional and financial costs on families and economic impact on the health care system. The investments called for by this bill will pale in comparison to the personal and financial benefits they will yield in the future.

Families struggling with autism face challenges many of us can't imagine. They need and deserve our help. It is time to commit ourselves to solving this puzzle today so autism can be prevented, treated, and cured tomorrow.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4631—the Autism CARES Act of 2014. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I would like to commend the author of this legislation, CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, for his leadership on this issue. I would also like to commend Full Committee Chairman FRED UPTON of Michigan and Health Subcommittee Chairman JOE PITTS from Pennsylvania for moving this important, bipartisan, bill through regular order.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the consideration of H.R. 4631, I have been pleased to collaborate with Atlanta's Marcus Autism Center. Those of us from Georgia and leaders in the Congressional Autism Caucus are very familiar with the innovative treatment offered to

children with autism at the Marcus Autism Center and the cutting-edge research its scientists are conducting there. I am proud to say the Marcus Autism Center—which is part of the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta system—is one of three National Institutes of Health Autism Centers of Excellence.

Furthermore, I have enjoyed working with the Center's leadership, particularly Executive Director Don Mueller, to make sure that H.R. 4631—once implemented—will facilitate new breakthroughs in early diagnosis and intervention for children with autism. I have been impressed by the recent study authored by Marcus Autism Center researchers, Dr. Ami Klin and Dr. Warren Jones, which was published in *Nature*, a leading international scientific journal. This study showed that they detected signs of autism in the first two to six months of life using eye-tracking technology. This study opens a window for even earlier diagnosis and intervention in the future. By diagnosing and intervening earlier, we can reduce the most challenging disabilities related to autism and maximize the potential of children with autism.

Mr. Speaker, today, the average age for diagnosing children with autism in the United States is around five years old. I have been informed by Marcus Autism Center officials that this study is the first step towards transformational future change and that if the medical profession can identify signs of autism in toddlers and then infants, we can capitalize on this window of opportunity to change the very course of autism.

Therefore, as this reauthorization is being implemented, agencies must recognize the priority we place on facilitating improvements in early diagnosis and intervention of autism. I made this very point during the Energy and Commerce Committee mark-up, and I am pleased that Chairman UPTON was willing to include important language to this effect in the Committee Report to accompany H.R. 4631.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the continued advancements made at places like the Marcus Autism Center as we diagnosis and treat people with autism with the help of H.R. 4631. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4631, The Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support (CARES) Act of 2014. This legislation will reauthorize research and education activities related to autism spectrum disorders, allowing us to continue making progress toward understanding how autism works and assisting those who are impacted by it.

Autism affects 70 million families worldwide, and one in 68 children born in the United States. The bill we are considering today will help to give hope to every mother and father whose sweet baby doesn't smile or babble, to the child who rocks obsessively, to the teen locked in his own mind who is shunned by classmates, and to the aging parents who fear for their adult child's care when they are gone. All of these families need our continued support to thrive.

I would like to thank Autism Speaks South Florida and all of the advocates who work tirelessly to support autism families and research,

and I am glad that this legislation will help them continue their fantastic work. This is a bipartisan effort to fund autism research and help reduce the strains on families dealing with autism. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I offer my strong support for the Autism CARES Act of 2014, a bill that continues the much-needed research and educational activities related to autism. I strongly support our nation's autistic community; this bill helps to promote and facilitate the good work being done related to autism by federal entities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. Autism is a disorder that has a tremendous effect on the lives of the people with it and their families, including challenges with education, communication, and employment.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies autism as one of our nation's leading public health crises. An autism-related diagnosis is more common today than the diagnosis of pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. More research on this complex neurobiological disorder is still needed because we do not fully understand the cause or course of this disorder.

The Autism CARES Act of 2014 will facilitate autism research by reauthorizing \$190 million annually through 2019. In addition, it focuses attention on the important issue of transitioning autistic youth from school to adulthood. I have heard from constituents with autism about the need to improve the transition of services to consider life after high school graduation to ensure that students are supported as they move to work or higher education. I am well aware of the benefits of services and research dedicated to autism. I am proud that Chicago is home to the Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research run by the Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago. The Center provides care and advances research on autism. It provides multiple services—research, training, early intervention, school-to-work transition training, and independent living training—all under one roof. It is an amazing resource for Chicago, Illinois, and the nation. I strongly support this program and any federal efforts to support and expand these services. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Autism CARES Act of 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4631, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAUMA SYSTEMS AND REGIONALIZATION OF EMERGENCY CARE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4080) to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4080

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN TRAUMA CARE PROGRAMS.

Section 1232(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-32(a)) is amended by striking "2014" and inserting "2019".

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN TRAUMA CARE PROGRAMS.

(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR REGIONALIZED SYSTEMS FOR EMERGENCY CARE RESPONSE.—Section 1232(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-32(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, not more than 50 percent of such amounts remaining for such fiscal year after application of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be allocated for the purpose of carrying out section 1204."

(b) CLARIFICATIONS UNDER TRAUMA SYSTEMS FORMULA GRANTS REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE AMERICAN BURN ASSOCIATION.—Section 1213 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-13) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting "and (for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2014) contains national standards and requirements of the American Burn Association for the designation of verified burn centers," after "such entity,";

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(A), by striking "and the American Academy of Pediatrics," and inserting "the American Academy of Pediatrics, and (for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2014) the American Burn Association,"; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act" after "Act of 2007"; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and the American Academy of Pediatrics" and inserting "the American Academy of Pediatrics, and (with respect to the update pursuant to the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act) the American Burn Association";

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Part B of title XII of the Public Health Service Act is amended—

(1) in section 1218(c)(2) (42 U.S.C. 300d-18(c)(2)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "1232(b)(3)" and inserting "section 1232(b)"; and

(2) in section 1222 (42 U.S.C. 300d-22), by striking "October 1, 2008" and inserting "October 1, 2016".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support of H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, introduced by Representative MICHAEL BURGESS.

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act by reauthorizing two important grant programs: the Trauma Care Systems Planning Grants and the Regionalization of Emergency Care Systems.

The first program supports State and rural development of trauma systems and the second funds pilot projects to design, implement, and evaluate innovative models of regionalized emergency care.

We know that immediate access to trauma care within the golden hour after injury is critical. By improving access to the specialized care designed to treat trauma injuries, both of these trauma bills will save lives.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act. I am proud to be the lead Democratic sponsor on this important bill with my colleague from Texas, Dr. BURGESS. I want to thank him for his leadership and commitment to this issue.

This bill reauthorizes the programs that provide grants to States for planning, implementing, and developing trauma care systems, and establishes pilot projects that design innovative models of emergency care systems.

Ideally, trauma and emergency care systems respond quickly and efficiently to ensure that the seriously injured individuals receive the care they need within that golden hour—the time period when medical intervention is most effective at saving lives.

However, unintentional injury remains the leading cause of death for Americans aged 44 years and younger, and access to trauma centers is inconsistent throughout the country. In fact, 45 million Americans lack access to a trauma care center within that golden hour, which is the first hour after the injury.

Emergency departments and trauma centers are overcrowded, the emergency care system is splintered, and surgical specialists are often unavailable to patients who need them. This legislation helps establish the systems that save lives and improve the functioning of our trauma care systems.

Again, I want to thank Representative BURGESS for championing this effort with me. I also want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member PALLONE, and the work of the committee's staff in advancing this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I support this bipartisan and I urge my colleagues to do the same, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS, the distinguished vice chairman of the Health Subcommittee, who has been a real champion on this issue and is the prime sponsor of the bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, trauma is the leading cause of death for people under the age of 65. It is expensive, costing nearly \$403 billion a year, third only to heart disease and cancer. It affects individuals of all ages, 35 million times each year, or one person every 15 minutes.

□ 1845

H.R. 4080 reauthorizes two existing, bipartisan grant programs that support the regionalization of emergency care and trauma systems across the country.

Trauma systems deliver a full range of care to injured patients. Most Members of the House have trauma systems either in their districts or nearby that are able to serve their constituents.

This bill is supported by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Burn Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, the Emergency Nurses Association, the American Trauma Society, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the Trauma Center Association of America.

A study released in April found that patients living near a recently closed trauma facility were 21 percent more likely to die from their injuries. Two years after closure, the likelihood of death increased to 29 percent, emphasizing the importance of these grants.

This legislation passed out of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health by a voice vote and passed the full committee on April 3 unanimously. This legislation is broadly supported by medicine. It is bipartisan, and it has gone through regular order.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS as well as Ranking Members WAXMAN and PALLONE, and the Energy and Commerce staffs on both sides of the dais: Clay Alspach, Robert Horne, Brenda DeStro, Katie Novaria, as well as Anne Morris Reid.

Mr. GREEN and I have worked on this issue for years, and I appreciate his continued partnership on the bill. I also want to thank his staff, Kristen O'Neill.

Finally, from my office, I want to thank Adrianna Simonelli and JP Paluskiewicz, who shepherded the bill through the process.

I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation. It is important for all of our districts.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today in strong support of H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act.

I would especially like to thank Dr. BURGESS of Texas and Representative GENE GREEN of Texas for introducing this very important, critical piece of legislation.

As has been mentioned, the leading cause of death for people under the age of 45 is trauma. It is, unfortunately, something a majority of States is not adequately prepared to handle. According to the CDC, trauma kills more Americans than AIDS and strokes combined. The Nation needs a robust network to respond quickly and efficiently to get seriously injured individuals to the appropriate trauma center within that golden hour that has been much discussed, which is the time period when medical intervention is the most effective in saving lives and in saving function.

H.R. 4080, if enacted, will allow for the development of innovative State and regionalized care, which is necessary to prevent these trauma deaths. The bill would also direct States to update their model trauma care plans with the input of stakeholders. When the difference between life and death rests on the ability to deliver coordinated trauma care within the golden hour, we need legislation in place, such as H.R. 4080, in order to improve the delivery of emergency medical care to severely injured patients.

While we are at it, at some point, we should deal with the issue of liability reform for trauma centers because we need on-call specialists to deliver that care when we most need it, but that is a fight for another day. Today, let's get H.R. 4080 done.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation that was introduced by Dr. BURGESS and Mr. GREEN.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in closing, as a cosponsor of this bill and in working with my colleague Dr. BURGESS for a number of years on trauma care, I urge an “aye” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. PITTS. Again, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4080 is another very important and bipartisan bill, and I urge all of the Members to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4080, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING TRAUMA CARE ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3548) to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3548

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. TRAUMA DEFINITION.

(a) REVISED DEFINITION UNDER TRAUMA SYSTEMS GRANTS PROGRAMS.—Paragraph (4) of section 1231 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-31) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) TRAUMA.—The term ‘trauma’ means an injury resulting from exposure to—

“(A) a mechanical force; or

“(B) another extrinsic agent, including an extrinsic agent that is thermal, electrical, chemical, or radioactive.”.

(b) REVISED DEFINITION UNDER INTER-AGENCY PROGRAM FOR TRAUMA RESEARCH.—Paragraph (3) of section 1261(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-61(h)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The term ‘trauma’ means an injury resulting from exposure to—

“(A) a mechanical force; or

“(B) another extrinsic agent, including an extrinsic agent that is thermal, electrical, chemical, or radioactive.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014, introduced by Congressman BILL JOHNSON of Ohio.

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act by expanding the current definition of “trauma” to include an injury resulting from exposure to thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other agents.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014.

This legislation amends the definition of the word “trauma” for the purpose of trauma care grants authorized in title XII of the Public Health Service Act to include burns and other injuries resulting from electrical, chemical, or other exposures.

Strengthening our Nation’s trauma care services is an important priority on which I hope to continue to work with Members on both sides of the aisle to address.

I want to thank Congressman JOHNSON for his sponsorship of this legislation, and I want to acknowledge the work of our committee—Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member PALLONE—and of all the staff in bringing this bill to the floor today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014, bipartisan legislation I am proud to have sponsored with the support and counsel of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I commend the committee staff for their hard work to move this legislation forward through markup at the subcommittee and full committee levels and to steer it to the House floor today.

This simple but important bill seeks to refine inconsistent definitions of what constitutes “trauma” as outlined in the United States Code.

Common sense would certainly point to many burn injuries as a type of trauma, but the U.S. Code doesn’t recognize them as such. The failure to incorporate the full range of traumatic injuries in the description of “trau-

ma,” including burns, can result in gaps in coverage and in provisions of care throughout the care system. By modernizing this term as federally defined, Congress can ensure that it accurately reflects the medical realities of trauma and protects access to the provision of trauma care.

There are important gains to be made in the field of traumatic medicine by the further integration of care and by finding synergies between burn and trauma centers. This has been all too evident in efforts to save lives after national tragedies, such as 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombing. The importance of strengthening our Nation’s burn care infrastructure can’t be stressed enough. Inadequacy and inconsistency in the U.S. Code around the classification of burns further compound serious shortfalls in our Nation’s traumatic emergency medical care system.

Traumatic injury is the leading cause of death for those under age 44, but getting a victim of trauma to a level 1 or 2 trauma center within the first golden hour can make all of the difference. However, 45 million Americans do not have access to a level 1 or 2 trauma center within an hour’s travel.

I applaud the efforts of my colleague Dr. BURGESS to reauthorize trauma programs and improve this system with his bill H.R. 4080, which I am also proud to support. I thank him for his endorsement of H.R. 3548, and I am grateful for his efforts to improve trauma care more broadly.

In addition, this legislation has the strong support of a broad coalition of the major medical societies and associations representing the trauma care community, including: the American Burn Association, the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the American Trauma Society, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Trauma Center Association of America, and America’s Essential Hospitals.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman PITTS for their hard work in promoting the Improving Trauma Care Act of 2014.

I hope my colleagues will support this commonsense legislation that prevents gaps in coverage and improves the provision of trauma care, and I strongly encourage a “yes” vote.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3548.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I also urge Members to support this commonsense legislation, bipartisanship supported.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1281) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1281

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Improved newborn and child screening and followup for heritable disorders.

Sec. 3. Evaluating the effectiveness of newborn and child screening and followup programs.

Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.

Sec. 5. Clearinghouse of Newborn Screening Information.

Sec. 6. Laboratory quality and surveillance.

Sec. 7. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Newborn and Child Screening.

Sec. 8. National contingency plan for newborn screening.

Sec. 9. Hunter Kelly Research Program.

Sec. 10. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 11. Reports to Congress.

SEC. 2. IMPROVED NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING AND FOLLOWUP FOR HERITABLE DISORDERS.

Section 1109 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–8) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “subsection (j)” and inserting “section 1117”; and

(ii) by striking “and in consultation with the Advisory Committee” and inserting “and taking into consideration the expertise of the Advisory Committee”;

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) to assist in providing health care professionals and newborn screening laboratory personnel with education in newborn screening, counseling, and training in—

“(A) relevant and new technologies in newborn screening and congenital, genetic, and metabolic disorders;

“(B) the importance of the timeliness of collection, delivery, receipt, and screening of specimens; and

“(C) sharing of medical and diagnostic information with providers and families;”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “treatment” and inserting “followup and treatment”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) to improve the timeliness of—

“(A) the collection, delivery, receipt, and screening of specimens; and

“(B) the diagnosis of heritable disorders in newborns.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “application submitted for a grant under subsection (a)(1)” and inserting “application for a grant under this section”;

(3) in subsection (h), by striking “application submitted under subsection (c)(2)” each place it appears and inserting “application for a grant under this section”;

(4) by striking subsection (j) (relating to authorization of appropriations).

SEC. 3. EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING AND FOLLOWUP PROGRAMS.

Section 1110 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–9) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “AND FOLLOWUP” after “CHILD SCREENING”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “of screening,” and inserting “, including with respect to timeliness, of screening, followup,”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “counseling, testing” and inserting “treatment, counseling, testing, followup,”; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including, as appropriate, through the assessment of health and development outcomes for such children through adolescence”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “counseling, testing” and inserting “treatment, counseling, testing, followup,”;

(ii) by inserting “in a timely manner” after “in newborns and children”; and

(iii) by striking “or” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) methods that may be identified to improve quality in the diagnosis, treatment, and disease management of heritable disorders based on gaps in services or care; or

“(5) methods or best practices by which the eligible entities described in section 1109 can achieve in a timely manner—

“(A) collection, delivery, receipt, and screening of newborn screening specimens; and

“(B) diagnosis of heritable disorders in newborns.”; and

(4) by striking subsection (d) (relating to authorization of appropriations).

SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HERITABLE DISORDERS IN NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN.

Section 1111 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–10) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (6) through (8), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3), the following:

“(4) provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to individuals and organizations regarding the submission of nominations to the uniform screening panel, including prior to the submission of such nominations;

“(5) take appropriate steps, at its discretion, to prepare for the review of nominations prior to their submission, including for conditions for which a screening method has been validated but other nomination criteria are not yet met, in order to facilitate timely action by the Advisory Committee once such submission has been received by the Committee;”;

(C) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by inserting “, including the cost” after “public health impact”; and

(D) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “achieve rapid diagnosis” and inserting “achieve best practices in rapid diagnosis and appropriate treatment”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting before the semicolon “, including information on cost and incidence”;

(iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking “and” at the end;

(iv) in subparagraph (K), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(L) the timeliness of collection, delivery, receipt, and screening of specimens to be tested for heritable disorders in newborns in order to ensure rapid diagnosis and followup.”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “180” and inserting “120”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: “If the Secretary is unable to make a determination to adopt or reject such recommendation within such 120-day period, the Secretary shall notify the Advisory Committee and the appropriate committees of Congress of such determination together with an explanation for why the Secretary was unable to comply within such 120-day period, as well as a plan of action for consideration of such pending recommendation.”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **DEADLINE FOR REVIEW.**—For each condition nominated to be added to the recommended uniform screening panel in accordance with the requirements of this section, the Advisory Committee shall review and vote on the nominated condition within 9 months of the date on which the Advisory Committee referred the nominated condition to the condition review workgroup.”;

(3) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Committee shall meet at least 4 times each calendar year, or at the discretion of the Designated Federal Officer in consultation with the Chair.”;

(5) by amending subsection (g) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(g) **CONTINUATION OF OPERATION OF COMMITTEE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Advisory Committee shall continue to operate through the end of fiscal year 2019.

“(2) **CONTINUATION IF NOT REAUTHORIZED.**—If at the end of fiscal year 2019 the duration of the Advisory Committee has not been extended by statute, the Advisory Committee may be deemed, for purposes of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, an advisory committee established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government under section 9(a) of such Act.”; and

(6) by striking subsection (h) (relating to authorization of appropriations), as redesignated by paragraph (3).

SEC. 5. CLEARINGHOUSE OF NEWBORN SCREENING INFORMATION.

Section 1112 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b–11) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “data” and inserting “information”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(4) maintain current information on the number of conditions for which screening is conducted in each State; and

“(5) disseminate available evidence-based guidelines related to diagnosis, counseling, and treatment with respect to conditions detected by newborn screening.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(4)(D), by striking “Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2008” and inserting “Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014”;

(3) in subsection (c)—
(A) by striking “developing the clearinghouse” and inserting “carrying out activities”;

(B) by striking “clearinghouse minimizes duplication and supplements, not supplants” and inserting “activities minimize duplication and supplement, not supplant”;

(4) by striking subsection (d) (relating to authorization of appropriations).

SEC. 6. LABORATORY QUALITY AND SURVEILLANCE.

Section 1113 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-12) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “AND SURVEILLANCE” before the period;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “and in consultation with the Advisory Committee” and inserting “and taking into consideration the expertise of the Advisory Committee”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “timeliness for processing such tests,” after “newborn-screening tests,”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) (relating to authorization of appropriations) and inserting the following:

“(b) **SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and taking into consideration the expertise of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children established under section 1111, may provide, as appropriate, for the coordination of surveillance activities, including—

“(1) through standardized data collection and reporting, as well as the use of electronic health records; and

“(2) by promoting data sharing regarding newborn screening with State-based birth defects and developmental disabilities monitoring programs.”.

SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON NEWBORN AND CHILD SCREENING.

Section 1114 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-13) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “the Administrator, the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality,” and inserting “the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs,”;

(2) by striking subsection (e) (relating to authorization of appropriations).

SEC. 8. NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR NEWBORN SCREENING.

Section 1115(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-14(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “consortia” and inserting “consortium”;

(2) by adding at the end the following: “The plan shall be updated as needed and at least every five years.”.

SEC. 9. HUNTER KELLY RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Section 1116 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-15) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) providing research findings and data for newborn conditions under review by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children to be added to the recommended uniform screening panel;

“(D) conducting pilot studies on conditions recommended by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children to ensure that screenings are ready for nationwide implementation; and”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “of the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006”.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Part A of title XI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300b-1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end, the following:

“SEC. 1117. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.

“There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) to carry out sections 1109, 1110, 1111, and 1112, \$11,900,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019; and

“(2) to carry out section 1113, \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.”.

SEC. 11. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) GAO REPORT ON TIMELINESS OF NEWBORN SCREENING.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives concerning the timeliness of screening for heritable disorders in newborns.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of information regarding the timeliness of newborn screening, which may include the time elapsed from birth to specimen collection, specimen collection to receipt by laboratory, specimen receipt to reporting, reporting to followup testing, and followup testing to confirmed diagnosis.

(B) A summary of any guidelines, recommendations, or best practices available to States and health care providers intended to support a timely newborn screening system.

(C) An analysis of any barriers to maintaining a timely newborn screening system which may exist and recommendations for addressing such barriers.

(b) **REPORT BY SECRETARY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on activities related to—

(i) newborn screening; and

(ii) screening children who have or are at risk for heritable disorders; and

(B) not less than every 2 years, submit to such committees an updated version of such report.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under this subsection shall contain a description of—

(A) the ongoing activities under sections 1109, 1110, and 1112 through 1115 of the Public Health Service Act; and

(B) the amounts expended on such activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014, introduced by Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD of California and Representative MIKE SIMPSON of Idaho, which now includes 120 cosponsors.

This bill amends the Public Health Service Act to extend and revise a grant program for screening, counseling, and other services related to genetic disorders. H.R. 1281 reauthorizes Federal programs that provide assistance to States to improve and expand their newborn screening programs, support parent and provider education, and ensure laboratory quality and surveillance.

Newborn screening is an important public health program for testing every newborn for certain conditions not apparent at birth. This early screening and diagnosis can be life changing for these children and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014.

Newborn screening is conducted for a number of genetic, metabolic, hormonal, and functional conditions that may not be apparent at birth. Approximately one in every 300 newborns has a condition that can be detected through screening. If diagnosed early, many of these disorders can be managed successfully.

H.R. 1281 reauthorizes the Department of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee that recommends conditions to be included in the uniform screening panel; allows the Advisory Committee to begin the consideration of certain new conditions more quickly; and requires the Secretary of HHS to make determinations on the committee's recommendations in a shorter period of time.

The bill also extends support for State programs involving screening, counseling, education, and other services; demonstration programs to evaluate the effectiveness of services; and a clearinghouse of resources related to newborn screening.

This legislation puts a new emphasis on the timeliness of newborn screening in all of these activities, and it requires the GAO to report to Congress on this issue.

I want to thank the sponsors of this legislation, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congressman SIMPSON; the sponsors of the Senate companion legislation, Senators HAGAN and HATCH; and the leaders on the Energy and Commerce Committee and on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for their work on this bill.

I support H.R. 1281, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1900

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD, for her leadership on this important issue.

I come to the House floor tonight to speak in support of H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, which I am proud to co-sponsor.

For the last 50 years, newborn screening services have played an important role for families across the country. Screening for developmental disabilities or diseases at birth can identify treatable diseases early and give a child the opportunity to live a healthy life.

I also want to take a moment to thank a leading advocate for newborn screening, Buffalo Bills Hall of Fame Quarterback Jim Kelly, who is from New York's 27th District.

In 1997, Jim and his wife, Jill, founded Hunter's Hope Foundation shortly after their son Hunter was diagnosed with Krabbe disease. Krabbe disease is fatal when left untreated and, tragically, cut Hunter's life short.

With universal newborn screening, the story of Hunter Kelly and countless others with developmental diseases could have been different.

I urge the House to reauthorize this vital program today.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to my colleague from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD). We came in at the same time in 1993.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act. I introduced this bill to help ensure our babies continuing receiving lifesaving newborn screenings.

I extend my sincere thanks to my lead cosponsor, Congressman MICHAEL SIMPSON, for his support and his long history of championing newborn screening services.

I thank Senators KAY HAGAN and ORRIN HATCH for introducing the Senate companion bill, which passed by unanimous consent in January of this year.

I also thank the coalition of public health groups—especially the March of

Dimes and the Association of Public Health Laboratories—for working with my office over the last 10 years on this critical issue.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention Debbie Jessup of my staff, for her outstanding management of my bill, and the work of two exceptional public health fellows, Arianna Baseman and Daphne Delgado, who provided strong leadership in moving the bill forward.

Newborn screening is a public health intervention that involves giving babies a simple blood test to identify many life-threatening genetic and metabolic illnesses before symptoms begin. Newborn screening is one of the great public health success stories of the 20th century.

Prior to the enactment of the original Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act in 2008, only 10 States and the District of Columbia required infants to be screened for a complete panel of recommended disorders, and there was no Federal repository of information on the diseases.

Today, 44 States and the District of Columbia require screening of at least 29 of the 31 core treatable conditions. Today, professionals and parents have centralized access to newborn screening information when their baby is diagnosed with one of these disorders.

Since the passage of the original bill, newborn screenings have improved, and new screenings have been added. These screenings are critical for the approximately 12,000 babies who, each year, test positive for one of these treatable diseases.

Fifty years ago, before newborn screening tests were developed, the conditions of these babies would have gone undetected until symptoms appeared. As a result, they would have unnecessarily died or suffered from their lifelong disabling disorder.

Today, because of newborn screening, they have an opportunity and they have hope for a relatively normal life.

The ability to rapidly identify and treat these disorders is making a difference between health and disability—and even life or death—for the children affected by these severe diseases. Unfortunately, critical gaps and challenges still remain.

Due to existing discrepancies in the number of tests given from State to State, each year, approximately 1,000 infants tragically die or are permanently disabled from otherwise treatable disorders.

The passage of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act will help avoid these preventable tragedies by providing States with the resources they need to improve their newborn screening programs and to uniformly test for all recommended disorders.

It also provides States with assistance in developing followup and track-

ing programs. These provisions will help our financially burdened health care system by saving billions of dollars over the life of these children.

In addition, this bill renews the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders and requires the CDC to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening.

The bill also continues the Hunter Kelly Newborn Screening Program, which helps NIH researchers develop better detection, prevention, and treatment strategies.

Mr. Speaker, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act will continue to help parents and health providers to be knowledgeable about the importance of newborn screening tests, and it will help ensure all our newborn babies receive the comprehensive and consistent testing they need to have healthy, happy, and productive lives.

Where a baby is born should not determine its chance to have a healthy future.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the passage of H.R. 1281.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), one of the greatest champions that this Chamber has ever seen in the cause of human life, and I share that cause with him as well.

I thank the authors for their positive intentions on this bill. I am a mother of five biological children and 23 foster children, and that is what every parent and every mother and every father hopes, is to have the best possible health care for their children, the best possible outcome.

I do share concerns on this bill as well, as well intentioned as this is, and let me just list what my concerns are.

Number one, the Federal Government will have the ability to collect and automatically store the blood sample of every baby in the United States. There won't be any allowance for parental consent to be required before the storage of these blood samples are made.

Every baby's DNA, which is the entire genetic code of that baby, will be under the control of the government.

I have data privacy concerns. Why should anyone, especially our government, have everyone's identity at their disposal?

Third, there is no provision for any parent to opt out, so this legislation presumes that every parent of every newborn in the United States of America pre-agrees that the government can have their baby's blood sample, which contains their DNA code, and that the government can indefinitely store that data.

What limitations will there be on our government and what they can do with

this information and how they will handle this data?

Now, Mr. Speaker, knowing that our government has the potential to control every American's health care under ObamaCare, how could government's control of a baby's DNA information impact the full access to health care or education opportunities or job opportunities for a child who is predetermined, by their DNA, to potentially have a problem later in life?

These are just a few of the questions, Mr. Speaker, that I believe need to be addressed.

I know this bill has passed the Senate. I know it will be voice-voted. I would like to ask for a rollcall vote, but I understand that the process is already deep on its way.

I do hope that these questions will be addressed in future legislation. It may not be done in this legislation. I hope it will be in the future because we should not be—Americans should not see the death of privacy, especially of the most sensitive private information that every American can have, their DNA, their genetic code, what God gave to them—that should be something that is between the individual, their doctor, and God; and it shouldn't be for the government to control that data.

I want to thank Mr. PITTS. I, in no way, cast any negative aspersion upon himself or any of the authors on this bill. These are just some of the questions that I have.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge support for the legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support, again, for this important and bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my friend and colleague from California, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, to thank the House of Representatives and leaders on both sides of the aisle for their support of H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, which passed the House last night.

In 2008, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and I introduced the original Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which encouraged states to uniformly test for a recommended set of disorders and provided resources for states to expand and improve their screening programs.

Before this legislation, state screening tests varied greatly, and only 10 states and DC required infants to be screened for all the "core conditions" recommended by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children.

Today, most states require screening for at least 29 of the 31 treatable core conditions.

This bipartisan reauthorization builds upon the foundation of the original bill and ensures infants continue to receive comprehensive screenings—which consists of a simple prick on the heel of newborns before they leave the hospital.

That blood sample tests for serious genetic, metabolic, or hearing disorders that may not

be apparent at birth. Without this test, parents may have no way of knowing their child needs treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of newborn screening is undeniable.

About one in every 300 newborns in the United States has a condition that can be detected through screening. Left untreated, these conditions can lead to serious illness, lifetime disabilities, or even death. These newborns appear healthy, but their conditions can deteriorate quickly and with no warning.

In addition, newborn screening is a powerful tool for savings in our overburdened health care system. As a former dentist, I have seen the value of diagnosing and treating a condition early in a child's life.

One example of the merit of newborn screening comes from a 2012 study on severe combined immunodeficiency, known as SCID. SCID is one of the 31 conditions recommended for state screening.

The Medicaid cost of treating a baby with SCID in the first two years can be \$2 million or more. Yet an infant diagnosed early can be cured through a bone marrow transplant in the first three months of life, costing \$100,000. Without the early intervention, families suffer enormous economic and emotional burdens.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this legislation a reality, particularly Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, who has led the way in making this a reality, and the public health organizations who worked day and night to help move this bill through the process. I look forward to my Senate colleagues passing this important legislation and sending it to the President's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1281, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1098) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1098

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. CDC PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) PREVENTION.—Section 393B(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1c(b)(3)) is amended by striking "health-sta-

tus goals for 2010, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2010" and inserting "health-status goals for 2020, commonly referred to as Healthy People 2020".

(b) SURVEILLANCE.—Subsection (b) of section 393C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-1d) is amended—

(1) by striking "(b) Not later than" and inserting the following:

"(b) REPORTS.—

"(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Director of the National Institutes of Health and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that—

"(A) identifies which recommendations in the report under paragraph (1) have been adopted and which recommendations in such report have not been adopted; and

"(B) includes a description of planned activities to address each recommendation in such report that has not been adopted."

(c) FUNDING.—Section 394A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b-3) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" after "1994,";

(2) by striking the second period at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: "Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, there is authorized to be appropriated \$6,100,000 to carry out sections 393B and 393C."

SEC. 3. STATE GRANTS FOR PROJECTS REGARDING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

Section 1252 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-52) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ", acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration,";

(2) in paragraphs (1)(A)(i) and (3)(E) of subsection (f), by striking "brain injury" and inserting "traumatic brain injury";

(3) in subsection (h), by striking the comma after "under this section" and inserting a comma before "including"; and

(4) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

"(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For carrying out this section and section 1253, there is authorized to be appropriated \$9,760,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019."

SEC. 4. STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.

Section 1253 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-53) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ", acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (referred to in this section as the 'Administrator'),";

(2) in subsections (c), (d)(1), (e)(1), (e)(4), (g), (h), and (j)(1), by striking "Administrator" each place it appears and inserting "Secretary";

(3) in subsection (h)—

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting "REPORTING";

(B) by striking "Each protection and advocacy system" and inserting the following:

"(1) REPORTS BY SYSTEMS.—Each protection and advocacy system"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the

Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the services and activities carried out under this section during the period for which the report is being prepared.”.

(4) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking “Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration” and inserting “Secretary”; and

(B) by striking “by the Administrator” and inserting “by the Secretary”;

(5) in subsection (k), by striking “subtitle C” and inserting “subtitle C of title I”;

(6) by striking subsection (l) (relating to authorization of appropriations); and

(7) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (l).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, introduced by Representative BILL PASCRELL of New Jersey, which will continue to provide the needed services that help patients with a traumatic brain injury, TBI.

More than 3.17 million Americans live with a disability that resulted from a TBI, including children and adults, athletes and soldiers.

The prevention and surveillance work done at the Centers for Disease Control keeps the public and providers aware of TBI research that leads to early diagnosis and treatment.

Research at the National Institutes of Health improves the understanding of TBI and identifies treatments that will improve lives. Programs available at the Health Resources and Services Administration help families to better care for their members who suffer from a TBI.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014.

Traumatic brain injury, or TBI, is an unexpected blow or a jolt to the head. These injuries affect people of all ages. A soldier in a blast injury, an elderly

person who has fallen, or a young driver involved in a car crash can experience TBI.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate more than 2 million Americans experience a traumatic brain injury each year.

The vast majority of these individuals have an injury that can be treated at a hospital emergency room, but not all Americans are as fortunate. Their injuries can have more devastating consequences and may result in death or lasting disability.

The TBI program at the Department of Health and Human Services was first established in 1996 and has been reauthorized twice, in 2001 and, again, in 2008.

The legislation before the House today, once again, reauthorizes the TBI program. It would extend TBI surveillance and research activities. It will also extend programs for TBI services and support administered across Health and Human Services.

I want to commend the sponsors of the legislation, Congressman PASCRELL and Congressman ROONEY, and I also want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, and Ranking Member PALLONE and the work of our committee staff in advancing this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I support this bipartisan bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman PASCRELL, my good friend and colleague.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the passage of this legislation, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN; Chairman PITTS; my friend from New Jersey, Ranking Member PALLONE; and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas for their thoughtful consideration and support for millions of traumatic brain injury survivors and their families. Additionally, I want to thank my fellow cochair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, Congressman TOM ROONEY of Florida, for his leadership on this important issue as well.

Throughout my 13 years working on this issue, I have witnessed firsthand how these programs make a difference in people's lives.

You have heard the numbers, but let's go beyond the numbers. Traumatic brain injury has become the signature wound of the wars in Afghani-

stan and Iraq. Twenty percent of our soldiers deployed are estimated to have experienced a brain injury. Many returning servicemembers suffering from TBI will receive care and rehabilitation services within the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

But others suffering from TBIs that are initially undiagnosed or misdiagnosed will later look to the civilian community and local resources for information and service. That is why it is essential that we continue to foster civilian-military collaboration, like the Department of Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, to build a system that ensures returning troops receive what they need to put their lives back together again.

Unfortunately, TBI remains the silent epidemic in this country. That is why the legislation today is so critical.

The TBI Act is the only legislation that specifically allocates Federal funds for programs supporting individuals with brain injury.

Originally passed in 1996 and reauthorized in 2000 and 2008, the TBI Act represents a foundation for coordinated and balanced public policy on prevention, education, research, and community living for people living with TBI and their circles of support.

And it has produced results. For nearly 18 years, the Traumatic Brain Injury Act has successfully provided direction and legal authority for the vast traumatic brain injury community.

Grants within the TBI Act have helped States improve access to health and other services for persons with TBI. Prior to this law, they did not have the tools to even assess their own needs.

Thanks to the TBI Act and its directive to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we now have a record of incidents, including details and prevalence, plans for prevention, and, finally, access to treatment. We have also begun to educate the public and provide much-needed scientific data for our scientists, health care providers, and policymakers.

Additionally, under this act, the National Institutes of Health is conducting basic and applied research in TBI, making great strides in our knowledge of the brain and the impact of TBI. Mr. Speaker, this is in direct correlation to the President's BRAIN Initiative. We keep on meeting together to explore this new horizon, which I think is going to dramatically have very positive consequences.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014 will elevate the TBI program within Health and Human Services by moving the program from Maternal and Child Health's Children's Program, in acknowledgement of the impact of TBI across the age span, including older adults and returning

servicemembers and veterans. Our intention is for the program to be relocated to the Administration on Community Living to better coordinate with Federal agencies regarding the long-term services and support available to individuals with other disabilities.

Brain injury survivors from all walks of life, and their families, look to community and local resources for all types of information and assistance. Regardless of the source of the injury, this legislation will ensure the framework, the information and research resources, are available to help.

Mr. Speaker, only a strong commitment will allow us to continue the incredible advances we have made in the area of basic brain injury: prevention, detection, early treatment, physical and mental rehabilitation, long-term care, and patient advocacy issues.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important bill.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I urge support for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this is another piece of important legislation, and it enjoys bipartisan support. I urge the Members to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1098, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1681

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.

Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.

Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DIS- ABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 202. CIARDS and FERS special retirement credit for service on detail to another agency.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.

Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.

Sec. 303. Specific authorization of funding for High Performance Computing Center 2.

Sec. 304. Clarification of exemption from Freedom of Information Act of identities of employees submitting complaints to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

Sec. 305. Functional managers for the intelligence community.

Sec. 306. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.

Sec. 307. Software licensing.

Sec. 308. Plans to respond to unauthorized public disclosures of covert actions.

Sec. 309. Auditability.

Sec. 310. Reports of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Sec. 311. Public Interest Declassification Board.

Sec. 312. Official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.

Sec. 313. Declassification review of certain items collected during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011.

Sec. 314. Merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program and the General Defense Intelligence Program.

Subtitle B—Reporting

Sec. 321. Significant interpretations of law concerning intelligence activities.

Sec. 322. Review for official publication of opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice concerning intelligence activities.

Sec. 323. Submittal to Congress by heads of elements of intelligence community of plans for orderly shutdown in event of absence of appropriations.

Sec. 324. Reports on chemical weapons in Syria.

Sec. 325. Reports to the intelligence community on penetrations of networks and information systems of certain contractors.

Sec. 326. Report on electronic waste.

Sec. 327. Promoting STEM education to meet the future workforce needs of the intelligence community.

Sec. 328. Repeal of the termination of notification requirements regarding the authorized disclosure of national intelligence.

Sec. 329. Repeal or modification of certain reporting requirements.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELE- MENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMU- NITY

Subtitle A—National Security Agency

Sec. 401. Appointment of the Director of the National Security Agency.

Sec. 402. Appointment of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency.

Sec. 403. Effective date and applicability.

Subtitle B—National Reconnaissance Office

Sec. 411. Appointment of the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

Sec. 412. Appointment of the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office.

Sec. 413. Effective date and applicability.

Subtitle C—Central Intelligence Agency

Sec. 421. Gifts, devises, and bequests.

TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM

Sec. 501. Continuous evaluation and sharing of derogatory information regarding personnel with access to classified information.

Sec. 502. Requirements for intelligence community contractors.

Sec. 503. Technology improvements to security clearance processing.

Sec. 504. Report on reciprocity of security clearances.

Sec. 505. Improving the periodic reinvestigation process.

Sec. 506. Appropriate committees of Congress defined.

TITLE VI—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Sec. 601. Protection of intelligence community whistleblowers.

Sec. 602. Review of security clearance or access determinations.

Sec. 603. Revisions of other laws.

Sec. 604. Policies and procedures; non-applicability to certain terminations.

TITLE VII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sec. 701. Technical amendments to the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949.

Sec. 702. Technical amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 relating to the past elimination of certain positions.

Sec. 703. Technical amendments to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term “congressional intelligence committees” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

- (1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- (2) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- (3) The Department of Defense.

- (4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
- (5) The National Security Agency.
- (6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.
- (7) The Coast Guard.
- (8) The Department of State.
- (9) The Department of the Treasury.
- (10) The Department of Energy.
- (11) The Department of Justice.
- (12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.
- (14) The National Reconnaissance Office.
- (15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.
- (16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) **SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.**—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2014, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany the bill S. 1681 of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress.

(b) **AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY.**—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) **DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.**—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) **LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.**—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) **AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.**—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2014 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such Schedule for such element.

(b) **TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

(1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) details, joint duty, or long term, full-time training.

(c) **NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to each exercise of an authority described in subsection (a).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2014 the sum of \$528,229,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(b) **AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.**—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 855 positions as of September 30, 2014. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) **CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.**—

(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2014 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.**—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2014, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2014 the sum of \$514,000,000.

SEC. 202. CIARDS AND FERS SPECIAL RETIREMENT CREDIT FOR SERVICE ON DETAIL TO ANOTHER AGENCY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 203(b) of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2013(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “service in the Agency performed” and inserting “service performed by an Agency employee”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “Agency activities” and inserting “intelligence activities”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be applied to retired or deceased officers of the Central Intelligence Agency who were designated at any time under section 203 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2013) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits

for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CENTER 2.

Funds appropriated for the construction of the High Performance Computing Center 2 (HPCC 2), as described in the table entitled Consolidated Cryptologic Program (CCP) in the classified annex to accompany the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6; 127 Stat. 198), in excess of the amount specified for such activity in the tables in the classified annex prepared to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2468) shall be specifically authorized by Congress for the purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094).

SEC. 304. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF IDENTITIES OF EMPLOYEES SUBMITTING COMPLAINTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 103H(g)(3)(A) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “undertaken;” and inserting “undertaken, and this provision shall qualify as a withholding statute pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’);”.

SEC. 305. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) **FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.**—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103I the following new section:

“SEC. 103J. FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) **FUNCTIONAL MANAGERS AUTHORIZED.**—The Director of National Intelligence may establish within the intelligence community one or more positions of manager of an intelligence function. Any position so established may be known as the ‘Functional Manager’ of the intelligence function concerned.

“(b) **PERSONNEL.**—The Director shall designate individuals to serve as manager of intelligence functions established under subsection (a) from among officers and employees of elements of the intelligence community.

“(c) **DUTIES.**—Each manager of an intelligence function established under subsection (a) shall have the duties as follows:

“(1) To act as principal advisor to the Director on the intelligence function.

“(2) To carry out such other responsibilities with respect to the intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 103I the following new item:

“Sec. 103J. Functional managers for the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 306. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

(a) ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506I the following new section:

“SEC. 506J. ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE BY FUNCTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the Functional Managers, submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on covered intelligence functions during the preceding year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include for each covered intelligence function for the year covered by such report the following:

“(1) An identification of the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function, regardless of the element of the intelligence community that carried out such capabilities, programs, and activities.

“(2) A description of the investment and allocation of resources for such intelligence function, including an analysis of the allocation of resources within the context of the National Intelligence Strategy, priorities for recipients of resources, and areas of risk.

“(3) A description and assessment of the performance of such intelligence function.

“(4) An identification of any issues related to the application of technical interoperability standards in the capabilities, programs, and activities of such intelligence function.

“(5) An identification of the operational overlap or need for de-confliction, if any, within such intelligence function.

“(6) A description of any efforts to integrate such intelligence function with other intelligence disciplines as part of an integrated intelligence enterprise.

“(7) A description of any efforts to establish consistency in tradecraft and training within such intelligence function.

“(8) A description and assessment of developments in technology that bear on the future of such intelligence function.

“(9) Such other matters relating to such intelligence function as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered intelligence functions’ means each intelligence function for which a Functional Manager has been established under section 103J during the year covered by a report under this section.

“(2) The term ‘Functional Manager’ means the manager of an intelligence function established under section 103J.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506I the following new item:

“Sec. 506J. Annual assessment of intelligence community performance by function.”

SEC. 307. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 108 the following new section:

“SEC. 109. SOFTWARE LICENSING.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR INVENTORIES OF SOFTWARE LICENSES.—The chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, shall biennially—

“(1) conduct an inventory of all existing software licenses of such element, including utilized and unutilized licenses;

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by such element to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage; and

“(3) submit to the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community each inventory required by paragraph (1) and each assessment required by paragraph (2).

“(b) INVENTORIES BY THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community, based on the inventories and assessments required by subsection (a), shall biennially—

“(1) compile an inventory of all existing software licenses of the intelligence community, including utilized and unutilized licenses; and

“(2) assess the actions that could be carried out by the intelligence community to achieve the greatest possible economies of scale and associated cost savings in software procurement and usage.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a copy of each inventory compiled under subsection (b)(1).”

(b) INITIAL INVENTORY.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENTS.—

(A) DATE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the chief information officer of each element of the intelligence community shall complete the initial inventory, assessment, and submission required under section 109(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(B) BASIS.—The initial inventory conducted for each element of the intelligence community under section 109(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be based on the inventory of software licenses conducted pursuant to section 305 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2472) for such element.

(2) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community shall complete the initial compilation and assessment required under section 109(b) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended—

(1) by striking the second item relating to section 104 (relating to Annual national security strategy report); and

(2) inserting after the item relating to section 108 the following new item:

“Sec. 109. Software licensing.”

SEC. 308. PLANS TO RESPOND TO UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF COVERT ACTIONS.

Section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) For each type of activity undertaken as part of a covert action, the President shall establish in writing a plan to respond to the unauthorized public disclosure of that type of activity.”

SEC. 309. AUDITABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 509. AUDITABILITY OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL AUDITS.—The head of each covered entity shall ensure that there is a full financial audit of such covered entity each year beginning with fiscal year 2014. Such audits may be conducted by an internal or external independent accounting or auditing organization.

“(b) REQUIREMENT FOR UNQUALIFIED OPINION.—Beginning as early as practicable, but in no event later than the audit required under subsection (a) for fiscal year 2016, the head of each covered entity shall take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that each audit required under subsection (a) contains an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of such covered entity for the fiscal year covered by such audit.

“(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The chief financial officer of each covered entity shall provide to the congressional intelligence committees an annual audit report from an accounting or auditing organization on each audit of the covered entity conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

“(d) COVERED ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered entity’ means the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 508 the following new item:

“Sec. 509. Auditability of certain elements of the intelligence community.”

SEC. 310. REPORTS OF FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE.

Section 8H(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in paragraph (1)—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) An employee of an element of the intelligence community, an employee assigned or detailed to an element of the intelligence community, or an employee of a contractor to the intelligence community, who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information with respect to an urgent concern may report such complaint or information to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.”; and

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “Act or section 17” and inserting “Act, section 17”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, or section 103H(k) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)).”

SEC. 311. PUBLIC INTEREST DECLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Section 710(b) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-567; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note) is amended by striking “2014.” and inserting “2018.”

SEC. 312. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ITEMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COAST GUARD ATTACHE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other limitation on the amount of funds that may be used for official representation items, the Secretary of Homeland Security may use funds made available to the Secretary through the National Intelligence Program for necessary

expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities for official representation items in support of the Coast Guard Attaché Program.

SEC. 313. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF CERTAIN ITEMS COLLECTED DURING THE MISSION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN ON MAY 1, 2011.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) in the manner described in the classified annex to this Act—

(A) complete a declassification review of documents collected in Abbottabad, Pakistan, during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden on May 1, 2011; and

(B) make publicly available any information declassified as a result of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(2) report to the congressional intelligence committees—

(A) the results of the declassification review required under paragraph (1); and

(B) a justification for not declassifying any information required to be included in such declassification review that remains classified.

SEC. 314. MERGER OF THE FOREIGN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM AND THE GENERAL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out the merger of the Foreign Counterintelligence Program into the General Defense Intelligence Program as directed in the classified annex to this Act. The merger shall go into effect no earlier than 30 days after written notification of the merger is provided to the congressional intelligence committees.

Subtitle B—Reporting

SEC. 321. SIGNIFICANT INTERPRETATIONS OF LAW CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.), as added by section 309 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 510. SIGNIFICANT INTERPRETATIONS OF LAW CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

“(a) NOTIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and to the extent consistent with due regard for the protection from unauthorized disclosure of classified information relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods or other exceptionally sensitive matters, the General Counsel of each element of the intelligence community shall notify the congressional intelligence committees, in writing, of any significant legal interpretation of the United States Constitution or Federal law affecting intelligence activities conducted by such element by not later than 30 days after the date of the commencement of any intelligence activity pursuant to such interpretation.

“(b) CONTENT.—Each notification under subsection (a) shall provide a summary of the significant legal interpretation and the intelligence activity or activities conducted pursuant to such interpretation.

“(c) EXCEPTIONS.—A notification under subsection (a) shall not be required for a significant legal interpretation if—

“(1) notice of the significant legal interpretation was previously provided to the congressional intelligence committees under subsection (a); or

“(2) the significant legal interpretation was made before the date of the enactment

of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

“(d) LIMITED ACCESS FOR COVERT ACTION.—If the President determines that it is essential to limit access to a covert action finding under section 503(c)(2), the President may limit access to information concerning such finding that is subject to notification under this section to those members of Congress who have been granted access to the relevant finding under section 503(c)(2).”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 509, as so added, the following new item:

“Sec. 510. Significant interpretations of law concerning intelligence activities.”

SEC. 322. REVIEW FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF OPINIONS OF THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONCERNING INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

(a) PROCESS FOR REVIEW FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, establish a process for the regular review for official publication of significant opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice that have been provided to an element of the intelligence community.

(b) FACTORS.—The process of review of opinions established under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) The potential importance of an opinion to other agencies or officials in the Executive branch.

(2) The likelihood that similar questions addressed in an opinion may arise in the future.

(3) The historical importance of an opinion or the context in which it arose.

(4) The potential significance of an opinion to the overall jurisprudence of the Office of Legal Counsel.

(5) Such other factors as the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence consider appropriate.

(c) PRESUMPTION.—The process of review established under subsection (a) shall apply a presumption that significant opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel should be published when practicable, consistent with national security and other confidentiality considerations.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall require the official publication of any opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel, including publication under any circumstance as follows:

(1) When publication would reveal classified or other sensitive information relating to national security.

(2) When publication could reasonably be anticipated to interfere with Federal law enforcement efforts or is prohibited by law.

(3) When publication would conflict with preserving internal Executive branch deliberative processes or protecting other information properly subject to privilege.

(e) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CLASSIFIED OPINIONS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel that would have been selected for publication under the process of review established under subsection (a) but for the fact that publication would reveal classified or other sensitive information relating to national security shall be provided or made available to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COVERT ACTION.—If the President determines that it is essential to limit access to a covert action finding under section 503(c)(2) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093(c)(2)), the President may limit access to information concerning such finding that would otherwise be provided or made available under this subsection to those members of Congress who have been granted access to such finding under such section 503(c)(2).

(f) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The determination whether an opinion of the Office of Legal Counsel is appropriate for official publication under the process of review established under subsection (a) is discretionary and is not subject to judicial review.

SEC. 323. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS BY HEADS OF ELEMENTS OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OF PLANS FOR ORDERLY SHUTDOWN IN EVENT OF ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the head of an applicable agency submits a plan to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 124 of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, pertaining to agency operations in the absence of appropriations, or any successor circular of the Office that requires the head of an applicable agency to submit to the Director a plan for an orderly shutdown in the event of the absence of appropriations, such head shall submit a copy of such plan to the following:

(1) The congressional intelligence committees.

(2) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) The Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(4) In the case of a plan for an element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense, to—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) HEAD OF AN APPLICABLE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “head of an applicable agency” includes the following:

(1) The Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) Each head of each element of the intelligence community that is within the Department of Defense.

SEC. 324. REPORTS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A comprehensive assessment of chemical weapon stockpiles in Syria, including names, types, and quantities of chemical weapons agents, types of munitions, and location and form of storage, production, and research and development facilities.

(2) A listing of key personnel associated with the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(3) An assessment of undeclared chemical weapons stockpiles, munitions, and facilities.

(4) An assessment of how these stockpiles, precursors, and delivery systems were obtained.

(5) A description of key intelligence gaps related to the Syrian chemical weapons program.

(6) An assessment of any denial and deception efforts on the part of the Syrian regime related to its chemical weapons program.

(c) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Every 90 days until the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a progress report providing any material updates to the report required under subsection (a).

SEC. 325. REPORTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ON PENETRATIONS OF NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF CERTAIN CONTRACTORS.

(a) **PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING PENETRATIONS.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish procedures that require each cleared intelligence contractor to report to an element of the intelligence community designated by the Director for purposes of such procedures when a network or information system of such contractor that meets the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b) is successfully penetrated.

(b) **NETWORKS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUBJECT TO REPORTING.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with appropriate officials, establish criteria for covered networks to be subject to the procedures for reporting system penetrations under subsection (a).

(c) **PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **RAPID REPORTING.**—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall require each cleared intelligence contractor to rapidly report to an element of the intelligence community designated pursuant to subsection (a) of each successful penetration of the network or information systems of such contractor that meet the criteria established pursuant to subsection (b). Each such report shall include the following:

(A) A description of the technique or method used in such penetration.

(B) A sample of the malicious software, if discovered and isolated by the contractor, involved in such penetration.

(C) A summary of information created by or for such element in connection with any program of such element that has been potentially compromised due to such penetration.

(2) **ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY PERSONNEL.**—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(A) include mechanisms for intelligence community personnel to, upon request, obtain access to equipment or information of a cleared intelligence contractor necessary to conduct forensic analysis in addition to any analysis conducted by such contractor;

(B) provide that a cleared intelligence contractor is only required to provide access to equipment or information as described in subparagraph (A) to determine whether information created by or for an element of the intelligence community in connection with any intelligence community program was successfully exfiltrated from a network or information system of such contractor and, if so, what information was exfiltrated; and

(C) provide for the reasonable protection of trade secrets, commercial or financial information, and information that can be used to identify a specific person (other than the name of the suspected perpetrator of the penetration).

(3) **LIMITATION ON DISSEMINATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.**—The procedures established pursuant to subsection (a) shall prohibit the dissemination outside the intelligence community of information obtained or derived through such procedures that is

not created by or for the intelligence community except—

(A) with the approval of the contractor providing such information;

(B) to the congressional intelligence committees or the Subcommittees on Defense of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for such committees and such Subcommittees to perform oversight; or

(C) to law enforcement agencies to investigate a penetration reported under this section.

(d) **ISSUANCE OF PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall establish the procedures required under subsection (a) and the criteria required under subsection (b).

(2) **APPLICABILITY DATE.**—The requirements of this section shall apply on the date on which the Director of National Intelligence establishes the procedures required under this section.

(e) **COORDINATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PREVENT DUPLICATE REPORTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures to permit a contractor that is a cleared intelligence contractor and a cleared defense contractor under section 941 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 10 U.S.C. 2224 note) to submit a single report that satisfies the requirements of this section and such section 941 for an incident of penetration of network or information system.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CLEARED INTELLIGENCE CONTRACTOR.**—The term “cleared intelligence contractor” means a private entity granted clearance by the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an element of the intelligence community to access, receive, or store classified information for the purpose of bidding for a contract or conducting activities in support of any program of an element of the intelligence community.

(2) **COVERED NETWORK.**—The term “covered network” means a network or information system of a cleared intelligence contractor that contains or processes information created by or for an element of the intelligence community with respect to which such contractor is required to apply enhanced protection.

(g) **SAVINGS CLAUSES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or limit any otherwise authorized access by government personnel to networks or information systems owned or operated by a contractor that processes or stores government data.

SEC. 326. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC WASTE.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the extent to which the intelligence community has implemented the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community contained in the report entitled “Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices” issued in May 2013. Such report shall include an assessment of the extent to which the policies, standards, and guidelines of the intelligence community governing the proper disposal of electronic waste are applicable to covered commercial electronic waste that may contain classified information.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC WASTE.**—The term “covered commercial electronic waste” means electronic waste of a commercial entity that contracts with an element of the intelligence community.

(2) **ELECTRONIC WASTE.**—The term “electronic waste” includes any obsolete, broken, or irreparable electronic device, including a television, copier, facsimile machine, tablet, telephone, computer, computer monitor, laptop, printer, scanner, and associated electrical wiring.

SEC. 327. PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION TO MEET THE FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the Secretary of Education and the congressional intelligence committees a report describing the anticipated hiring needs of the intelligence community in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy. The report shall—

(1) describe the extent to which competitions, challenges, or internships at elements of the intelligence community that do not involve access to classified information may be utilized to promote education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including cybersecurity and computer literacy, within high schools or institutions of higher education in the United States;

(2) include cost estimates for carrying out such competitions, challenges, or internships; and

(3) include strategies for conducting expedited security clearance investigations and adjudications for students at institutions of higher education for purposes of offering internships at elements of the intelligence community.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.**—In developing the report under subsection (a), the Director shall take into consideration existing programs of the intelligence community, including the education programs of the National Security Agency and the Information Assurance Scholarship Program of the Department of Defense, as appropriate.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HIGH SCHOOL.**—The term “high school” means a school that awards a secondary school diploma.

(2) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) **SECONDARY SCHOOL.**—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

SEC. 328. REPEAL OF THE TERMINATION OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Section 504 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-277; 126 Stat. 2477) is amended by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 329. REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **THREAT OF ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES USING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.**—Section 114 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3050) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(2) TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE.—Section 2(5)(E) of the Senate resolution advising and consenting to ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) of November 19, 1990, adopted at Vienna May 31, 1996 (Treaty Doc. 105-5) (commonly referred to as the “CFE Flank Document”), 105th Congress, agreed to May 14, 1997, is repealed.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 410(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (50 U.S.C. 3309) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall each notify the congressional intelligence committees each time each such Director creates an advisory committee. Each notification shall include—

“(1) a description of such advisory committee, including the subject matter of such committee;

“(2) a list of members of such advisory committee; and

“(3) in the case of an advisory committee created by the Director of National Intelligence, the reasons for a determination by the Director under section 4(b)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) that an advisory committee cannot comply with the requirements of such Act.”.

(2) INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING.—Section 102A(g)(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(g)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

“(4) The Director of National Intelligence shall, in a timely manner, report to Congress any statute, regulation, policy, or practice that the Director believes impedes the ability of the Director to fully and effectively ensure maximum availability of access to intelligence information within the intelligence community consistent with the protection of the national security of the United States.”.

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BUSINESS SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION.—Section 506D(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3100(j)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2015” and inserting “2014”.

(4) ACTIVITIES OF PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OFFICERS.—Section 1062(f)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee-1(f)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “quarterly” and inserting “semi-annually”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the table of contents in the first section, by striking the item relating to section 114 and inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 114. Annual report on hiring and retention of minority employees.”;

(2) in section 114 (50 U.S.C. 3050)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: “ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES”;

(B) by striking “(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING AND RETENTION OF MINORITY EMPLOYEES.”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subsections (a) through (e), respectively;

(D) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(II) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “clauses (i) and (ii)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B)”;

(E) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph), by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”;

(F) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(ii) by striking “subsection,” and inserting “section”;

(3) in section 507 (50 U.S.C. 3106)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The date” and inserting “The date”;

(ii) by striking “subsection (c)(1)(A)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”;

(iii) by striking paragraph (2); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively;

(B) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) by striking “(A) Except” and inserting “Except”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) in subsection (d)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “subsection (a)(1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(II) by inserting “and” after “March 1”;

(iii) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—National Security Agency

SEC. 401. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.—Section 2 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(b)” before “There”;

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so designated by paragraph (1), the following:

“(a)(1) There is a Director of the National Security Agency.

“(2) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(3) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be the head of the National Security Agency and shall discharge such functions and duties as are provided by this Act or otherwise by law or executive order.”.

(b) POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may designate the Director of the National Security Agency as a position of importance and responsibility under section 601 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2), by striking “the National Security Agency”;

(2) in section 12—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,” and inserting “the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code; the Director of the National Security Agency”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,” and inserting “the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, the National Security Agency”.

SEC. 403. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided, the amendments made by sections 401 and 402 shall take effect on October 1, 2014, and shall apply upon the earlier of—

(1) in the case of section 401—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Director of the National Security Agency that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Director of the National Security Agency by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014; and

(2) in the case of section 402—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Inspector General of the National Security Agency that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Inspector General of the National Security Agency by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL NOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A) of subsection (a), an individual serving as the Director of the National Security Agency or the Inspector General of the National Security Agency on the date that the President first nominates an individual for such position on or after October 1, 2014, may continue to perform in that position after such date of nomination and until the individual appointed to the position, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, assumes the duties of the position.

(c) INCUMBENT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The individual serving as Inspector General of the National Security Agency on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible to be appointed by the President to a new term of service under section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Subtitle B—National Reconnaissance Office

SEC. 411. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 106 the following:

“SEC. 106A. DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

“(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(c) FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.—The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office shall be the head of the National Reconnaissance Office and shall discharge such functions and duties as are provided by this Act or otherwise by law or executive order.”.

(b) POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may designate the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office as a position of importance and responsibility under section 601 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 106 the following:

“Sec. 106A. Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.”.

SEC. 412. APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE.

The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) in section 8G(a)(2), as amended by section 402, is further amended by striking “the National Reconnaissance Office,”; and

(2) in section 12, as amended by section 402, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office,” before “as the case may be,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or the National Reconnaissance Office,” before “as the case may be,”.

SEC. 413. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by sections 411 and 412 shall take effect on October 1, 2014, and shall apply upon the earlier of—

(1) in the case of section 411—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014; and

(2) in the case of section 412—

(A) the date of the first nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office that occurs on or after October 1, 2014; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office by the individual performing such duties on October 1, 2014.

(b) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL NOMINATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(A) of subsection (a), an individual serving as the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office or the Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office on the date that the President first nominates an individual for such position on or after October 1, 2014, may continue to perform in that position after such date of nomination and until the individual appointed to the position, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, assumes the duties of the position.

(c) INCUMBENT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The individual serving as Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible to be appointed by the President to a new term of service under section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Subtitle C—Central Intelligence Agency

SEC. 421. GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS.

Section 12 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3512) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting “GIFTS, DEVISES, AND BEQUESTS”;

(2) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “by the Director as a gift to the Agency” after “accepted”; and

(B) by striking “this section” and inserting “this subsection”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “this section,” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(5) in subsection (d), by striking “this section” and inserting “subsection (a),”;

(6) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(7) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) The Director may engage in fundraising in an official capacity for the benefit of nonprofit organizations that provide support to surviving family members of deceased Agency employees or that otherwise provide support for the welfare, education, or recreation of Agency employees, former Agency employees, or their family members.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘fundraising’ means the raising of funds through the active participation in the promotion, production, or presentation of an event designed to raise funds and does not include the direct solicitation of money by any other means.”.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘fundraising’ means the raising of funds through the active participation in the promotion, production, or presentation of an event designed to raise funds and does not include the direct solicitation of money by any other means.”.

TITLE V—SECURITY CLEARANCE REFORM

SEC. 501. CONTINUOUS EVALUATION AND SHARING OF DEROGATORY INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

Section 102A(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(j)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION” and inserting “CLASSIFIED INFORMATION”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(5) ensure that the background of each employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, each contractor to an element of the intelligence community, and each individual employee of such a contractor who has been determined to be eligible for access to classified information is monitored on a continual basis under standards developed by the Director, including with respect to the frequency of evaluation, during the period of eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such individual employee to such a contractor to determine whether such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, and such individual employee of such a contractor continues to meet the requirements for eligibility for access to classified information; and

“(6) develop procedures to require information sharing between elements of the intelligence community concerning potentially derogatory security information regarding an employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, a contractor to an element of the intelligence community, or an individual employee of such a contractor that may impact the eligibility of such employee or officer of an element of the intelligence community, such contractor, or such

individual employee of such a contractor for a security clearance.”.

SEC. 502. REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(x) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONTRACTORS.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the head of each department of the Federal Government that contains an element of the intelligence community and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall—

“(1) ensure that—

“(A) any contractor to an element of the intelligence community with access to a classified network or classified information develops and operates a security plan that is consistent with standards established by the Director of National Intelligence for intelligence community networks; and

“(B) each contract awarded by an element of the intelligence community includes provisions requiring the contractor comply with such plan and such standards;

“(2) conduct periodic assessments of each security plan required under paragraph (1)(A) to ensure such security plan complies with the requirements of such paragraph; and

“(3) ensure that the insider threat detection capabilities and insider threat policies of the intelligence community apply to facilities of contractors with access to a classified network.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contracts entered into or renewed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS TO SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall conduct an analysis of the relative costs and benefits of potential improvements to the process for investigating persons who are proposed for access to classified information and adjudicating whether such persons satisfy the criteria for obtaining and retaining access to such information.

(b) CONTENTS OF ANALYSIS.—In conducting the analysis required by subsection (a), the Director of National Intelligence shall evaluate the costs and benefits associated with—

(1) the elimination of manual processes in security clearance investigations and adjudications, if possible, and automating and integrating the elements of the investigation process, including—

(A) the clearance application process;

(B) case management;

(C) adjudication management;

(D) investigation methods for the collection, analysis, storage, retrieval, and transfer of data and records; and

(E) records management for access and eligibility determinations;

(2) the elimination or reduction, if possible, of the use of databases and information sources that cannot be accessed and processed automatically electronically, or modification of such databases and information sources, to enable electronic access and processing;

(3) the use of government-developed and commercial technology for continuous monitoring and evaluation of government and commercial data sources that can identify and flag information pertinent to adjudication guidelines and eligibility determinations;

(4) the standardization of forms used for routine reporting required of cleared personnel (such as travel, foreign contacts, and financial disclosures) and use of continuous monitoring technology to access databases containing such reportable information to independently obtain and analyze reportable data and events;

(5) the establishment of an authoritative central repository of personnel security information that is accessible electronically at multiple levels of classification and eliminates technical barriers to rapid access to information necessary for eligibility determinations and reciprocal recognition thereof;

(6) using digitally processed fingerprints, as a substitute for ink or paper prints, to reduce error rates and improve portability of data;

(7) expanding the use of technology to improve an applicant's ability to discover the status of a pending security clearance application or reinvestigation; and

(8) using government and publicly available commercial data sources, including social media, that provide independent information pertinent to adjudication guidelines to improve quality and timeliness, and reduce costs, of investigations and reinvestigations.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the analysis required by subsection (a).

SEC. 504. REPORT ON RECIPROCITY OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

The head of the entity selected pursuant to section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report each year through 2017 that describes for the preceding year—

(1) the periods of time required by authorized adjudicative agencies for accepting background investigations and determinations completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency;

(2) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is accepted by another agency;

(3) the total number of cases in which a background investigation or determination completed by an authorized investigative entity or authorized adjudicative agency is not accepted by another agency; and

(4) such other information or recommendations as the head of the entity selected pursuant to such section 3001(b) considers appropriate.

SEC. 505. IMPROVING THE PERIODIC REINVESTIGATION PROCESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until December 31, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategic plan for updating the process for periodic reinvestigations consistent with a continuous evaluation program.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with conducting periodic reinvestigations;

(2) an analysis of the costs and benefits associated with replacing some or all periodic reinvestigations with a program of continuous evaluation;

(3) a determination of how many risk-based and ad hoc periodic reinvestigations are necessary on an annual basis for each component of the Federal Government with employees with security clearances;

(4) an analysis of the potential benefits of expanding the Government's use of continuous evaluation tools as a means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of procedures for confirming the eligibility of personnel for continued access to classified information; and

(5) an analysis of how many personnel with out-of-scope background investigations are employed by, or contracted or detailed to, each element of the intelligence community.

(c) **PERIODIC REINVESTIGATIONS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “periodic reinvestigations” has the meaning given that term in section 3001(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(a)).

SEC. 506. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.

In this title, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VI—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

SEC. 601. PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title XI of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1104. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **AGENCY.**—The term ‘agency’ means an executive department or independent establishment, as defined under sections 101 and 104 of title 5, United States Code, that contains an intelligence community element, except the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(2) **COVERED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENT.**—The term ‘covered intelligence community element’—

“(A) means—

“(i) the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Reconnaissance Office; and

“(ii) any executive agency or unit thereof determined by the President under section 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, to have as its principal function the conduct of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities; and

“(B) does not include the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(3) **PERSONNEL ACTION.**—The term ‘personnel action’ means, with respect to an employee in a position in a covered intelligence community element (other than a position excepted from the competitive service due to its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character)—

“(A) an appointment;

“(B) a promotion;

“(C) a disciplinary or corrective action;

“(D) a detail, transfer, or reassignment;

“(E) a demotion, suspension, or termination;

“(F) a reinstatement or restoration;

“(G) a performance evaluation;

“(H) a decision concerning pay, benefits, or awards;

“(I) a decision concerning education or training if such education or training may reasonably be expected to lead to an appointment, promotion, or performance evaluation; or

“(J) any other significant change in duties, responsibilities, or working conditions.

“(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Any employee of an agency who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee of a covered intelligence community element as a reprisal for a lawful disclosure of information by the employee to the Director of National Intelligence (or an employee designated by the Director of National Intelligence for such purpose), the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the head of the employing agency (or an employee designated by the head of that agency for such purpose), the appropriate inspector general of the employing agency, a congressional intelligence committee, or a member of a congressional intelligence committee, which the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(1) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(2) mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

“(c) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The President shall provide for the enforcement of this section.

“(d) **EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) preempt or preclude any employee, or applicant for employment, at the Federal Bureau of Investigation from exercising rights provided under any other law, rule, or regulation, including section 2303 of title 5, United States Code; or

“(2) repeal section 2303 of title 5, United States Code.”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 1104. Prohibited personnel practices in the intelligence community.”.

SEC. 602. REVIEW OF SECURITY CLEARANCE OR ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

(a) **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(b)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided, not”;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014—

“(A) developing policies and procedures that permit, to the extent practicable, individuals to appeal a determination to suspend or revoke a security clearance or access to classified information and to retain their government employment status while such challenge is pending; and

“(B) developing and implementing uniform and consistent policies and procedures to ensure proper protections during the process for denying, suspending, or revoking a security clearance or access to classified information, including the ability to appeal such a denial, suspension, or revocation, except that there shall be no appeal of an agency’s suspension of a security clearance or access determination for purposes of conducting an investigation, if that suspension lasts no longer than 1 year or the head of the agency or a designee of the head of the agency certifies that a longer suspension is needed before a final decision on denial or revocation to prevent imminent harm to the national security.”.

(2) **REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—The policies and procedures for appeal developed under paragraph (7) of section 3001(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, as added by subsection (a), shall provide for the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, or the inspector general of the employing agency, to conduct fact-finding and report to the agency head or the designee of the agency head within 180 days unless the employee and the agency agree to an extension or the investigating inspector general determines in writing that a greater period of time is required. To the fullest extent possible, such fact-finding shall include an opportunity for the employee to present relevant evidence such as witness testimony.

(b) **RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.**—Section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Agency personnel with authority over personnel security clearance or access determinations shall not take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, any action with respect to any employee’s security clearance or access determination in retaliation for—

“(A) any lawful disclosure of information to the Director of National Intelligence (or an employee designated by the Director of National Intelligence for such purpose) or the head of the employing agency (or employee designated by the head of that agency for such purpose) by an employee that the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(i) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;

“(B) any lawful disclosure to the Inspector General of an agency or another employee designated by the head of the agency to receive such disclosures, of information which the employee reasonably believes evidences—

“(i) a violation of any Federal law, rule, or regulation; or

“(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;

“(C) any lawful disclosure that complies with—

“(i) subsections (a)(1), (d), and (h) of section 8H of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.);

“(ii) subparagraphs (A), (D), and (H) of section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)); or

“(iii) subparagraphs (A), (D), and (I) of section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)); and

“(D) if the actions do not result in the employee or applicant unlawfully disclosing information specifically required by Executive order to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs, any lawful disclosure in conjunction with—

“(i) the exercise of any appeal, complaint, or grievance right granted by any law, rule, or regulation;

“(ii) testimony for or otherwise lawfully assisting any individual in the exercise of any right referred to in clause (i); or

“(iii) cooperation with or disclosing information to the Inspector General of an agency, in accordance with applicable provisions of law in connection with an audit, inspection, or investigation conducted by the Inspector General.

“(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Consistent with the protection of sources and methods, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to authorize the withholding of information from Congress or the taking of any personnel action against an employee who lawfully discloses information to Congress.

“(3) **DISCLOSURES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A disclosure shall not be excluded from paragraph (1) because—

“(i) the disclosure was made to a person, including a supervisor, who participated in an activity that the employee reasonably believed to be covered by paragraph (1)(A)(ii);

“(ii) the disclosure revealed information that had been previously disclosed;

“(iii) the disclosure was not made in writing;

“(iv) the disclosure was made while the employee was off duty; or

“(v) of the amount of time which has passed since the occurrence of the events described in the disclosure.

“(B) **REPRISALS.**—If a disclosure is made during the normal course of duties of an employee, the disclosure shall not be excluded from paragraph (1) if any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action with respect to the employee making the disclosure, took, failed to take, or threatened to take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to that employee in reprisal for the disclosure.

“(4) **AGENCY ADJUDICATION.**—

“(A) **REMEDIAL PROCEDURE.**—An employee or former employee who believes that he or she has been subjected to a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1) may, within 90 days after the issuance of notice of such decision, appeal that decision within the agency of that employee or former employee through proceedings authorized by subsection (b)(7), except that there shall be no appeal of an agency’s suspension of a security clearance or access determination for purposes of conducting an investigation, if that suspension lasts not longer than 1 year (or a longer period in accordance with a certification made under subsection (b)(7)).

“(B) **CORRECTIVE ACTION.**—If, in the course of proceedings authorized under subparagraph (A), it is determined that the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall take specific corrective action to return the employee or former employee, as nearly as practicable and reasonable, to the position such employee or former employee would have held had the violation not occurred. Such corrective action may include back pay and related benefits, travel expenses, and

compensatory damages not to exceed \$300,000.

“(C) **CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.**—In determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall find that paragraph (1) was violated if a disclosure described in paragraph (1) was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual, unless the agency demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that it would have taken the same action in the absence of such disclosure, giving the utmost deference to the agency’s assessment of the particular threat to the national security interests of the United States in the instant matter.

“(5) **APPELLATE REVIEW OF SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCESS DETERMINATIONS BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.**—

“(A) **APPEAL.**—Within 60 days after receiving notice of an adverse final agency determination under a proceeding under paragraph (4), an employee or former employee may appeal that determination in accordance with the procedures established under subparagraph (B).

“(B) **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop and implement policies and procedures for adjudicating the appeals authorized by subparagraph (A).

“(C) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Consistent with the protection of sources and methods, at the time the Director of National Intelligence issues an order regarding an appeal pursuant to the policies and procedures established by this paragraph, the Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees.

“(6) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit or require judicial review of any—

“(A) agency action under this section; or

“(B) action of the appellate review procedures established under paragraph (5).

“(7) **PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit, authorize, or require a private cause of action to challenge the merits of a security clearance determination.”.

(c) **ACCESS DETERMINATION DEFINED.**—Section 3001(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) **ACCESS DETERMINATION.**—The term ‘access determination’ means the determination regarding whether an employee—

“(A) is eligible for access to classified information in accordance with Executive Order 12968 (60 Fed. Reg. 40245; relating to access to classified information), or any successor thereto, and Executive Order 10865 (25 Fed. Reg. 1583; relating to safeguarding classified information with industry), or any successor thereto; and

“(B) possesses a need to know under such an Order.”.

(d) **EXISTING RIGHTS PRESERVED.**—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to preempt, preclude, or otherwise prevent an individual from exercising rights, remedies, or avenues of redress currently provided under any other law, regulation, or rule.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341), as amended by this title, shall be construed to require the repeal or replacement of agency appeal procedures implementing

Executive Order 12968 (60 Fed. Reg. 40245; relating to access to classified information), or any successor thereto, and Executive Order 10865 (25 Fed. Reg. 1583; relating to safeguarding classified information with industry), or any successor thereto, that meet the requirements of paragraph (7) of section 3001(b) of such Act, as added by this section.

SEC. 603. REVISIONS OF OTHER LAWS.

(a) INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—Section 8H of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If the head of an establishment determines that a complaint or information transmitted under paragraph (1) would create a conflict of interest for the head of the establishment, the head of the establishment shall return the complaint or information to the Inspector General with that determination and the Inspector General shall make the transmission to the Director of National Intelligence and, if the establishment is within the Department of Defense, to the Secretary of Defense. In such a case, the requirements of this section for the head of the establishment apply to each recipient of the Inspector General’s transmission.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to an Inspector General under this section may notify any member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, or a staff member of either such Committee, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to that particular Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

(b) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “(i)” after “(B)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) If the Director determines that a complaint or information transmitted under paragraph (1) would create a conflict of interest for the Director, the Director shall return the complaint or information to the Inspector General with that determination and the Inspector General shall make the transmission to the Director of National Intelligence. In such a case, the requirements of this subsection for the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency apply to the Director of National Intelligence”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to the Inspector General under this section may notify any member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, or a staff member of either such Committee, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to the Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

(c) NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947.—Section 103H(k)(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) An individual who has submitted a complaint or information to the Inspector General under this section may notify any member of either of the congressional intel-

ligence committees, or a staff member of either of such committees, of the fact that such individual has made a submission to the Inspector General, and of the date on which such submission was made.”.

SEC. 604. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES; NON-APPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN TERMINATIONS.

(a) COVERED INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ELEMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered intelligence community element”—

(1) means—

(A) the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the National Reconnaissance Office; and

(B) any executive agency or unit thereof determined by the President under section 2302(a)(2)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, to have as its principal function the conduct of foreign intelligence or counterintelligence activities; and

(2) does not include the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) REGULATIONS.—In consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that a personnel action shall not be taken against an employee of a covered intelligence community element as a reprisal for any disclosure of information described in 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 601 of this Act.

(c) REPORT ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit a report on the status of the implementation of the regulations promulgated under subsection (b) to the congressional intelligence committees.

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN TERMINATIONS.—Section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 601 of this Act, and section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341), as amended by section 602 of this Act, shall not apply if—

(1) the affected employee is concurrently terminated under—

(A) section 1609 of title 10, United States Code;

(B) the authority of the Director of National Intelligence under section 102A(m) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(m)), if the Director determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States;

(C) the authority of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under section 104A(e) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3036(e)), if the Director determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States; or

(D) section 7532 of title 5, United States Code, if the head of the agency determines that the termination is in the interest of the United States; and

(2) not later than 30 days after such termination, the head of the agency that employed the affected employee notifies the congressional intelligence committees of the termination.

TITLE VII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 701. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACT OF 1949.

Section 21 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3521) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(D), by striking “section (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(E), by striking “provider.” and inserting “provider”.

SEC. 702. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947 RELATING TO THE PAST ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS.

Section 101(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (6) and (7);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (6); and

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by striking “the Chairman of the Munitions Board, and the Chairman of the Research and Development Board.”.

SEC. 703. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 506 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277; 126 Stat. 2478) is amended—

(1) by striking “Section 606(5)” and inserting “Paragraph (5) of section 605”; and

(2) by inserting “, as redesignated by section 310(a)(4)(B) of this Act,” before “is amended”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–277).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, S. 1681.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

All time yielded is for the purpose of debate only, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank my colleague from Maryland, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, for the great work done by him and the entire Democrat caucus of the committee as well as all of my Republican members for what is a good bipartisan national security bill.

I also want to thank Senators DIANNE FEINSTEIN and SAXBY CHAMBLISS for their work in the Senate to put a bill together that I think America will and should be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, the Intelligence Authorization Act is an annual blueprint for the work of the intelligence community. The bill sets the priorities for our critical intelligence efforts. Passing a yearly intelligence authorization bill is the primary method by which Congress exerts its budgetary and oversight authority over the intelligence community.

As most of the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of this committee's recommendations are found in the classified annex to the bill, which is the same fiscal year '14 annex the House recently passed as part of a combined fiscal year '14 and fiscal year '15 intelligence authorization bill.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the annex for fiscal year 2014 authorizes funding that is slightly below the President's budget request level. Its funding levels are in line with the levels appropriated by the enacted appropriation act for the National Intelligence Program and the National Defense Authorization Act for the Military Intelligence Program.

The House recently passed its version of the fiscal year '14 bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. The bill contained many of the same provisions in the same form as are contained in the Senate bill, S. 1681. And S. 1681 also contains a few additional provisions that were negotiated with the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves at a very interesting time in history. Al Qaeda has metastasized into dangerous affiliates, and safe havens have emerged in Syria, parts of Libya, Yemen, Somalia, and the tribal areas of Pakistan. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is attempting to build a state across the Middle East, from Lebanon to Iraq, including Syria, Jordan, and, unfortunately, Israel as well.

They already control a jihadist Disneyland the size of Indiana. Without leadership from the United States, this will quickly devolve into a full-blown sectarian war, which only helps ISIL's political ambitions.

ISIL does not recognize a border between Syria and Iraq, and we have to remain focused on ISIL across the region so that a safe haven does not emerge on either side of that border.

The goal of our counterterrorism strategy is to deny safe haven from which terrorists can plan attacks against the United States—they can finance; they get breathing space; they can further radicalize individuals from around the world.

Al Qaeda is also regaining a foothold in northeast Afghanistan, just as the President announced a complete withdrawal of United States military forces, and the counterterrorism capability that comes with it, by the end of 2016. We are about to make the same mistake in Afghanistan that we did in Iraq.

Uneven leadership in recent years has also emboldened adversaries like Russia and China, who are increasing their military and intelligence spending and are working to change the international order, to the detriment of the United States and our interests.

We rightly demand that our intelligence agencies provide policymakers with the best and most timely informa-

tion possible on the threats we face. We ask them to track terrorists wherever they train, plan, and fund-raise. We ask them to stop devastating cyber attacks that steal American jobs. We ask them to track nuclear and missile threats. And we demand that they get it right every day of the year.

The dedicated men and women of the intelligence community are some of the finest patriots I have had the privilege to meet. And within budget constraints and the often unclear policy guidance from the White House, this bill seeks to ensure that they have the resources and the authorities necessary to keep our Nation safe.

I urge the passage of S. 1681 and reverse the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I first want to thank the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman ROGERS, for his leadership. Once again, he has produced a bipartisan and bicameral Intelligence Authorization Act that we are taking up today.

I know he is retiring. He has served his country well as an FBI agent and on the Intelligence Committee, and now as chairman. We are going to miss him. But I know that whatever he does, he will always think of the United States of America first. So I thank the gentleman for his leadership and his friendship.

I also want to acknowledge the members of our committee, both Democrat and Republican, and our staff who have come together as a team in a bipartisan way to do what is right for our country.

Now, this Chamber passed its fiscal year 2014 and 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act less than a month ago, with over 300 votes in favor. Today we are taking up just the Senate's fiscal year 2014 bill, which the Senate recently passed by unanimous consent.

I hope the House passes this bill and sends it to the President's desk today. We need these annual intelligence authorization acts to ensure the most rigorous oversight and accountability over all U.S. intelligence agencies and over all U.S. intelligence activities. We must ensure that our intelligence agencies spend money only on programs of which Congress is informed and approves. This bill does that.

We also need these annual intelligence authorizations to set the priorities for our intelligence professionals and their agencies and to allocate resources to critical national security programs, including those that detect, prevent, and disrupt potential terrorist attacks. This bill does that, also.

And we need the intelligence authorization acts to promote fiscal discipline. This bill makes cuts to certain areas and adds money in other in a responsible, well thought-out, and fiscally prudent way. The result is a

budget below the President's request. In fact, since Chairman ROGERS and I assumed leadership of the Intelligence Committee, we have reduced the Intelligence Committee's budget by 20 percent, without reducing capability. I am pleased to see the Senate is going along with us.

I do want to acknowledge, also, Senators FEINSTEIN and CHAMBLISS for working together with us in a partnership to do what is right for our country and our national security.

The unclassified legislative text in this Senate bill is very similar to what this Chamber debated last month. It makes substantial improvements to the security clearance process. It requires detailed reports on matters such as electronic waste and chemical weapons in Syria. And it promotes education in science, technology, engineering, and math.

□ 1945

The Senate also added three substantive provisions, all of which greatly promote transparency, oversight, and accountability.

First, the bill creates independent, Senate-confirmed NSA and National Reconnaissance Office directors, as well as independent, Senate-confirmed NSA and NRO inspectors general.

Second, the bill requires the Attorney General to establish a process for the regular review for publication of Department of Justice legal opinions provided to the intelligence community.

It also requires that any classified opinions that can't be published be made available to the appropriate committees or Members of Congress. Third, it amends the National Security Act to prohibit any personnel actions against a lawful intelligence community whistleblower.

As for the classified schedule of authorizations, it is identical, except for some minor, prorated adjustments.

We encouraged all Members to review the classified schedule of authorizations, as well as the classified text, and I am pleased that so many have come down to the Intelligence Committee's classified spaces to do so.

We have spent a long time poring over every aspect of this bill—in our committee spaces, at the agencies, with the Senate, and in the remotest corners of the Earth, where our intelligence professionals operate—and I can say this is a very good bill, which I am proud to support.

For the sake of keeping the country and its allies safe, for the sake of vigorously overseeing even the most classified intelligence programs, and for the sake of our intelligence professionals who work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, often in harm's way, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill and send it to the President today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Alabama, TERRI SEWELL, who is a very good member of our committee.

I just want to say that Ms. SEWELL is a new member of the Intelligence Committee, and through her dedication, intellect, and willingness to travel, she is quickly becoming a highly influential member on our committee.

She also keeps her focus on the people, both the American people as a whole, and the intelligence professionals who work every day to keep us safe.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the Fiscal Year 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act. The annual authorization act is the most substantial oversight mechanism Congress has over the intelligence community.

Most of the work within the intelligence community and our work on the Intelligence Committee happen behind closed doors and, therefore, far from the television cameras. Let me assure you, though, just because C-SPAN is not in the room when we have our regular meetings and hearings does not mean there is a lack of opinion, discussion, and debate.

There is rigorous back and forth about the necessity and the necessary number of core contractors within the intelligence community, how to best exploit and preserve the documents from the Osama bin Laden raid, and the appropriate ways to respond to unauthorized public disclosure of covert actions.

We ask hard questions in this committee of our witnesses. We read and study legal authorities for U.S. engagement around the world and ensure that the intelligence professionals tasked with protecting America not only have the tools they need to do their jobs, but are held accountable for their actions.

Director Clapper said recently that "at the heart of our work is our people." This bill makes some important changes in the workforce of the intelligence community. It requires the Director of National Intelligence to ensure that contractors have in place security measures consistent with the DNI standards for intelligence community networks.

It requires the DNI to ensure insider threat capabilities of the IC apply to contractors. The bill also requires the DNI to submit a strategic plan for improving the process of reinvestigation, so those individuals who have security clearance are interviewed on a routine basis, to ensure they continue to uphold the standards and requirements necessary to access classified information.

On a final note about the workforce of the intelligence community, Director Clapper continued, "A diverse workforce is critical to the mission success."

He is right. The threats America faces are complex, ranging from proliferation of nuclear weapons to terrorism, to Russian plans and intentions. We need people who understand all cultures and backgrounds and who can use their unique experience for creative solutions.

The IC has made some progress on diversity. Minority representation in the largest intelligence agencies increased to 24 percent in 2013; yet there is still work to be done.

Recently, the CIA released an unclassified report on women in leadership and found that women in the CIA who sought greater responsibility were hindered by organizational and societal challenges.

Indeed, throughout the major intelligence agencies, female hiring has remained below 40 percent for the fourth consecutive year. Women made up 51 percent of the general population in 2013, but only 39 percent of the workforce in the IC community.

In addition, the percentage of female managers was only 35.5 percent. CIA is reviewing the situation of its minority and women officers, and I commend that initiative, and I strongly urge other agencies within the IC to do the same.

This bill and the IC's efforts are good steps in the right direction. However, we have to stay in stride and look for efforts to create a more inclusive, equitable, and diverse workforce.

Going forward, I hope to look at the status of women and minority workers throughout the IC and how to increase their management ranks. Our workforce is our greatest asset and our greatest strength.

There are many parts of this bill which cannot be discussed on the floor. The United States keeps secrets for a reason. However, let me say that the intelligence professionals at each of the 16 IC agencies go to work every day to do their jobs, keep America number one, and to protect the homeland.

I want to commend Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their leadership on the Intel Committee. It was a committee assignment that I was not sure I wanted to accept at first, but I know how important our national security is.

I want to thank your staff, Mr. Chairman, and the ranking member's staff for helping new members come up to speed. Indeed, what we do here is so critically important. The Fiscal Year 2014 Intelligence Authorization is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the gentlewoman for joining us on the committee. It is sometimes long hours and thankless work, and I am fairly confident our IQ on the committee has doubled since she has arrived on the committee.

Penetrating questions, robust debate, curiosity that has no bounds, and her travel around the world has been critically important to the work we do on the committee, and the work that she has done on the committee has been exceptional in adding to the product that you see before us today.

I think that is one of the reasons it is such a good bill. I wanted to thank the gentlewoman for her work on the 2014 fiscal bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure the most rigorous oversight and accountability over all U.S. intelligence agencies and all U.S. intelligence activities, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

I also urge my colleagues to support this bill for the sake of all of us, not just in America, but around the world, who benefit from the work of our intelligence community in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, so that our dedicated intelligence professionals who work worldwide—often in harm's way—can keep us safe and our allies safe. They are truly the best in the world.

We can disagree about policy, but we should never disagree about the professionalism, bravery, and devotion to the rule of law that are the hallmarks of our intelligence professionals.

Finally, once again, let me just thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership for these past years. I also want to sincerely thank every member of the Intelligence Committee.

I want to thank Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL for being here tonight and for being involved in this bill. You were a big part of our success.

We debate, and we argue, but we always negotiate, and we always keep in our minds what is most important: the security, privacy, and civil liberties of the American people.

Together with the Senate—and I thank Senators FEINSTEIN and CHAMBLISS again—we have produced for the House to consider today a truly strong bill, which I am proud to support. I urge all my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my ranking member, and I want to

thank all the staff—Republican and Democrat staff. These bills don't come together for the fond wishes of us Members alone.

We have very dedicated and committed staff who sit down and work through the issues, just the way the Members do, and we wouldn't have this product today if it weren't for that collaboration, and I want to thank all of them for that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank DUTCH on a personal note. There is a lot to not like in this town, and there is a lot to not like in this place, but it shows you—and I think it shows Americans—that when you sit down and have mutual respect for each other, even though we disagreed on certain issues, you can come to a conclusion that is in the best interest of the United States.

Through forging that relationship, I think we forged a lasting friendship that I will always be grateful for, so I want to thank you for that.

Thank you for your work on national security, and thanks to all the staff who brought us here today. We have a lot more work to do, so we can't be too nice to them.

We are going to have to get a lot of pounds of flesh between now and the end of the year, to get a lot of work done.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask and encourage this body to support a bill that will provide national security safety for the United States for the following years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1681.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JIM JORDAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JIM JORDAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, for my testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will determine whether com-

pliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Member of Congress.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INVASION

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, our current immigration policies and political rhetoric broadcast to people around the world that they can come here illegally without consequence. In fact, if they do, they will be rewarded for it. We send this message, and then we act surprised when an illegal immigration invasion into our country sky-rockets.

A growing crisis at our southern border sees tens of thousands of children being abandoned at our doorstep. Their parents miscalculated. They heard someone talk about the DREAM Act and thought their children would be taken care of.

Ultimately, this crisis was brought on by Democrats and Republicans who have advocated granting legal status to those people who are here illegally, especially in terms of the so-called "DREAMers."

While most of those advocating such policies have good motives and good hearts, they have unintentionally created a humanitarian and bureaucratic crisis that our government is not equipped to handle.

I say we should send them home. The children and those who have come here illegally need to be sent home, whether they are adults or children.

PLAYING POLITICS FOR THE CAMERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

There are a number of topics that are on my mind, and generally for me, Mr. Speaker, it flows from the previous debate.

As I listened to the deliberation and the dialogue and I will say the cooperative nature that came between the chairman and the ranking member of the Select Committee on Intelligence here this evening, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that kind of dialogue, and I think our Founding Fathers would be very pleased if they could see that this work that is being done, a lot of it behind closed doors in the Select Committee on Intelligence, is being done in a de-

liberative process, sometimes in a classified setting, but often in a non-partisan environment.

It seems as though, when the television cameras come on, the partisan nature of this United States Congress is amplified by the media's coverage of the events that take place, and when the doors get closed, we get serious about policy in a different kind of a way.

We are no longer messaging to America or simply having that kind of debate and dialogue that our Founding Fathers envisioned, and I don't know that it is particularly a phenomenon that is unique to the United States Congress.

At the time of our Founding Fathers, we didn't have instantaneous media communications that went out across the District of Columbia or into the States or across the country, for that matter, or the world.

□ 1945

As technology developed, they had the printing press. The printing press allowed for newspaper to be printed in a limited form, in a compressed and compact form. And as that message went out across the country, sometimes it took weeks for the actions here in Congress to penetrate into the public. And by then, there was another wave of action and another wave of action, an entirely different rhythm here in Congress as compared to the rhythm that we have here. I think the pace of what we do in this Congress is related to the ability to translate a message out to the American people and out to the world.

And so now going from an era when information traveled at its fastest pace, as our Founding Fathers helped shape this Nation, information traveled at its fastest pace about as fast as a horse could gallop. That was the closest thing they had to lightning speed of communications back in 1776. Today, information travels at the speed of light, and it is not only that there is a single piece of information that goes out of here at the speed of light, but all kinds of pieces of information can go out simultaneously everywhere, not just to the District of Columbia, not to the surrounding States alone, not to the 50 States that we have and the U.S. territories across the reaches of the globe and the Pacific, for example, but everywhere in the world it can go at the speed of light, which is as close to instantaneously as possible. And it can be transmitted out of an iPhone. It used to be a BlackBerry and they got a little bit too slow for us. Now, we can send video around the world in real time from a device that hangs from our belt. That has changed the posture of the politics in the United States Congress. It has changed the messaging. It has changed the civilization, and it has changed the culture in different ways.

So now, we have people sitting in their living rooms all over America who for a long time now have been able to sit down from that desk and do email. That is a methodology that is now more than 20 years old, the ability to transfer instantaneously a letter that we might write on an electronic page and click the “send” button and it can go anywhere around the world at roughly the speed of light. But now there are millions of people sitting there who have practiced with email extensively and set up their email trees. And now a faster way to do that is on Facebook, and a more compressed way is to send it out by Twitter. There are a number of different social media that people are exercising, and there will be more that will be developed.

While that happens, the American people are projecting their opinions and their observations instantaneously to their families and to their friends, to the people who are part of their distribution list, those who are their followers on their friend list. This has changed the way we do business in this country, and it has brought about public opinions that are accelerated in a faster way; a far, far faster way than how public opinions were formed in, say, the era of our founding.

Because of this, it has been an expansion of our economy, the expansion of our efficiency. We are far more productive than we were before because we can communicate more quickly than before. But at the same time, it has opened us up for the kind of attacks that come from people who, in the era of our founding, in that era of say 235 years ago or so, they had no capability of reaching Americans, no capability of getting to our shores, and no capability of penetrating into the domestic life of Americans. We were safe enough then from the Barbary pirates. We had to go there before they would attack us.

Yet, at that era of time, 20 percent of the Federal budget that was appropriated in this city was committed to paying tribute, which was bribes, you might say “mordida” in today’s terms, to the Barbary pirates. Now we find ourselves still fighting the same kind of ideology, of people who would use cyberspace to attack us, who would use airplanes to attack us, both of which were not envisioned by our Founding Fathers, both of which can get here far faster than a Barbary pirate corsair could be rowed across the Atlantic Ocean. That has changed the rhythm of what we do.

The Select Committee on Intelligence sees a lot of this. They see the most immediate intel that we have. They try to address this appropriately. And some of the things that we need to do is intel on our enemies.

So I am hopeful that this bill which has just been passed will contribute to making it safer for Americans, and make our enemies, whose simple design

is that they would want to kill us because we are not their culture, not their religion, not their—and when I refer to them as “civilization,” I have to put that in quotes, Mr. Speaker. But that is the situation that is in front of us.

As the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence delivers a bill to the floor about which most of us don’t have inside knowledge of, we have to keep in mind what has happened with the intelligence community and the results of the attacks that have taken place around the world. That takes me to what we saw, heard, and learned and thought we knew, to a greater degree than most Americans would agree did know, with regard to Iraq.

We went in there to liberate them in March of 2003. I was here in this Congress then. I remember the intelligence that was delivered. I remember the rhythm that was taking place, the message delivered by the President and the Vice President, the agreement on what they had for intelligence that went from U.S. intelligence, Israeli intelligence, French intelligence, everybody in the intelligence community for the world agreed essentially on the same thing, and Saddam was removed from power. American and coalition forces went in to do that, and in the ensuing aftermath of the liberation, we saw an ebb and flow of forces in Iraq.

One of them was a surprise for me to learn, as al Qaeda stepped in to places and took over in places like Fallujah and Ramadi—that we allowed that to happen on our watch. We occupied bases in Iraq. We had swept through the country and cleaned the country up. We had set up a government and turned it over to the voice of the Iraqi people. Free enterprise was starting to flow. Oil was starting to flow and was starting to go into the treasuries of Iraq. And yet, cities like Fallujah and Ramadi and others were taken over by al Qaeda. We watched that happen. That happened under the Bush administration. After it got to a certain point, President George W. Bush began to look for solutions. He was not willing to accept a capitulation in Iraq, an all-out pullout of Iraq that would have allowed for al Qaeda and our American enemies, generally Sunni-related forces, to take Iraq back over again. That was what we had under Saddam, not al Qaeda but the Sunni forces dominated Iraq. And the forces within Iraq that had been pushing back on American forces and Shia forces within Iraq, our President was not willing to accept that. President Bush was not willing to accept that.

He put together the surge, the counterinsurgency strategy that was drafted by General Petraeus. General Petraeus took some time off from his combat leadership in Iraq to sit down at Fort Leavenworth and write the counterinsurgency strategy. That

strategy, before it was actually brought forward and published, was a strategy that was beginning to be developed to be implemented in Iraq.

I had the circumstance of timing to have been in Iraq before the surge was a name but when the concept was being discussed and developed by our commanders in the field and pushed by General Petraeus at the time. I saw the success of the surge as we went in and aligned ourselves with the tribal interests of the Sunnis as well as the Shias, who understood that al Qaeda was too brutal, that they could not be trusted to simply allow the Iraqi people to run their own country and run their own government, and so they aligned themselves with the people who they envisioned would be the successful ones on the other side of the violent and bloody conflict that was ensuing.

That aligned the right people on the right side, on our side of that particular battle, Mr. Speaker, that particular phase of the war in Iraq. There were many battles. It allowed for the surge of U.S. forces to step in, sweep al Qaeda out and build an alliance and an allegiance with local tribal interests say, in Anbar, and in multiple provinces and really all of Iraq to establish a peaceful foundation that would allow for a legitimate government of, by, and for the people of Iraq, and a free enterprise system to be put in place. They had then an opportunity to succeed and an opportunity to build a stable democracy in the country of Iraq.

Those were the circumstances that the Bush administration left for the Obama administration. However, I would add one piece to this that is apparently not being discussed in today’s news media, Mr. Speaker, and that is this: on November 17, 2008, after Barack Obama was elected for his first term in office, President Bush, under his administration, I will say allowed or recommended or assented to our U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker, who is an individual who is a wonderful public servant, one of the most knowledgeable people that we have on that whole area of the world we call the Middle East and whom has impressed me with the deep knowledge and the good judgment he has, and the careful rhythm of the work that he does, someone who has an eye on the moving of the organism in that part of the world and how U.S. policy influences that part of the world. So I wanted to put these commercials in for Ambassador Crocker because I remain very impressed with Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

It came to be his task to sign, however, a new status of forces agreement with Iraq. The moment I read that status of forces agreement, which was signed by Ambassador Crocker on behalf of President Bush, November 17, 2008, after President Obama was elected, so under the lame duck era of President-elect Obama and in the last

months of President Bush's administration—Ambassador Crocker signed the status of forces agreement, which agreed to pull all military forces out of Iraq, agreed to abandon the bases that we had established, abandon the airstrips that we had established, and the defensive positions, and the ability to project force in Iraq was not only diminished, it was essentially eliminated by that agreement.

I was alarmed that the administration would negotiate and agree to such a status of forces agreement that so weakened our ability to project power in Iraq; that with all of the blood and treasure that was invested, it sent the message that said either we don't care any longer or we have such confidence in the Maliki regime and such confidence in the new government that had been set up throughout those bloody years in Iraq that we didn't need to be there any longer.

I think of the history of the United States' involvement, Mr. Speaker, and the times we have gone into places like Germany, Japan, the Philippines, Korea, for example, around the world where America has invested blood and treasure, we have also established bases to operate from, to project power, to project force, to protect freedom throughout the reaches of the interests of the United States of America, and at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and billions, in fact trillions of dollars, we have not in the past washed our hands and walked away as if we wanted to be finished with it, except that as I speak, Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that we did have General Winfield Scott in Mexico in about 1845. We signed the Treaty of Hidalgo which essentially gave Mexico back to Mexico after the Americans had invaded and occupied the state of Mexico, including Mexico City. We could have stayed. We could have established an American presence there. We could have brought the American civilization into Mexico. Looking back on it historically, perhaps we should have done so, but that was the time when American blood and American treasure was just packaged up and brought back home again, although out of that bargain came the Gadsden Purchase and also a new line of American border between the United States and Mexico. So there was something gained from that.

In this case, we sacked up our bats and went home. We left a few marines in the embassy in Baghdad. The rest of it, we left to the Iraqis. As the intelligence came up, Mr. Speaker, and we watched what was going on, we learned that ISIS was growing and the conflict in Syria reached a questionable peak last September, last August, actually, around Labor Day in September when President Obama announced that he was planning on doing a tiny little, it'sy-bitsy, teeny-weeny surgical strike

into Syria, and that was when Secretary of State Kerry said it would be, and this is not an exact quote, but what I remember is that the strike would be infinitesimally small. So a tiny, little military ding on Assad's regime to send a message to him: Don't use your chemical weapons any longer on Syrians. Well, that never happened. It didn't happen partly because we needed the British cooperation. Or, apparently, the President wanted the British cooperation and David Cameron, the Prime Minister, went to the British Parliament and said, I would like to have authorization to conduct a military operation strike—I don't know if he said infinitesimally small—in Syria.

□ 2000

And the British Parliament rejected that proposal, and so David Cameron was powerless to go forward in support of a U.S. effort that might have been a military strike or two, however small they might have been, in Syria.

Then our President, President Obama, toyed with the idea of coming to Congress and asking us for the permission or the endorsement or the authority to conduct operations in Syria.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that my opinion is, constitutionally, the President of the United States is Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States. Some in this Congress would argue that the President can't issue a military strike order without first getting the consent of Congress.

I would argue instead that we are living in an era where the President of the United States must have that authority. He must have the authority to, in an instant, order a military strike if that is what the circumstances and the intelligence say is required. It is the President's decision. If the President orders our military into operations and over a period of time—and I think that an appropriate period of time today is a 30-day window—then if it is going to go beyond that, he should come back to Congress and ask for our support and ask for our endorsement of those military operations. But the initial strikes, the President has to have the authority, and has the authority under the Constitution, to order an immediate and military strike.

The President didn't do that. He followed David Cameron's request before the British Parliament, and then when the British Parliament said, no, he toyed with the idea of asking Congress. Congress sent enough messages out through the media that essentially was a whip check on the vote of Congress on whether we would authorize military force going into Syria.

When the President understood he wasn't going to get that authorization, then he decided apparently not to act in Syria, and he decided apparently to

lead from behind—which is the definition of following, not leading—and he decided apparently to do the things in foreign policy that we have seen him do continually, and that is best described by the word "dither." The President has been dithering on foreign policy, especially the things that require immediate response.

There is a theory in human nature and philosophy that says that if you procrastinate, then eventually the decision will be made for you, that if you dither, the decision will be made for you.

Action in Syria, or the decision, was resolved by dithering and waiting, and now it became clear that we can't identify good guys on either side of this argument. We had good guys. And I didn't advocate for this, Mr. Speaker, and so I am somewhat of a Monday morning quarterback looking back on this Syrian issue.

We had some intelligence that identified the people that were good people, those who wanted to see a free Syria. The Free Syrian Army initially led by Syrians that believed in a free Syria and Syrians that believe that Syria needed to remain a nation-state, a country unto itself, that was owned, operated, and run, a government that responded to the people of Syria, that was the initial ideology that drove the Free Syrian Army by the intel that I picked up. I have traveled into that part of world a number of times, Mr. Speaker.

One of the colonels who was a leader in the movement was essentially, I'll say, given over to the Assad regime in a military operation and was then pressed into prison, and that made him powerless. At that point, al Qaeda and the offshoots of al Qaeda and the factions of it began to assert themselves and infiltrate the Free Syrian Army to the point where we are not able any longer to identify the positive forces in Syria. You have al Qaeda and their affiliates, including ISIS, that are operating there, that have established the foundations for what they believe is to be the future caliphate of Islam.

As a result, partly the result of the U.S. not asserting itself, partly the result of perhaps not having intelligence that was good enough in that part of the world, the U.S. didn't act. The President led from behind. The U.S. didn't act. The British Parliament said "no" to David Cameron, and we have a mess in Syria. We have had multiple executions and beheadings taking place, Christians being persecuted and killed in Syria as well. Now the foundation of ISIS has flowed out of Syria and is flowing across Iraq.

This group, the ISIS, has asserted themselves to the point where some are saying we need to avoid a civil war in Iraq. I will argue instead we are almost past that. We are almost past the point where the civil war has actually been

engaged and it is closer to the point where it could be over, resulting in an ISIS invasion and occupation of nearly the entire nation-state of Iraq. They pushed that far into the countryside where the majority of the real estate is controlled and occupied by them.

This is an astonishing development, especially considered in light of the President's statements 3 or 4 months ago when he told America and the world that we didn't need to worry very much about ISIS because they are simply the junior varsity—the junior varsity, Mr. Speaker. How could a force, a junior varsity that doesn't have an identifiable source of military supplies and munitions—although we have some intel on where that comes from—that doesn't have a confident, identifiable source of funding to pay their people or buy their equipment munitions—although we have some fairly good sources on where that comes from—how could this junior varsity rise up in a period of 3 to 4 months from the time that the President said that they are the JV, how could they rise up and take over that much of Syria and flow into Iraq and invade and occupy Anwar province, for example, and now take the refinery at Baiji, the largest refinery in Iraq, and shut down or control the oil supply in Iraq? Now they have diverted it back to their own uses. Now we are at gas rationing in Iraq. Baghdad is threatened to be surrounded. The President has announced some days ago that he is willing to send up to 300 military personnel into Iraq presumably to prepare to evacuate Americans.

This is a calamity of colossal proportions, Mr. Speaker. Apparently, it was unforeseen by the White House and the President of the United States, the wise Commander in Chief and the people in the White House who have the maximum access to the entire intelligence community, the intelligence community that is being discussed and reauthorized here on the floor of the House tonight by the chair and the ranking member, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

I would think that the question that it doesn't take much intelligence to ask is: Mr. President, how did you miss this? How did you declare ISIS the junior varsity? How could they have emerged as this powerful force that is sweeping across Iraq?

This isn't a civil war. This is a blitzkrieg by the enemy that is taking over the civilian governments and invading and occupying the towns in Iraq and executing the people who do not fit their particular religious sect. They are persecuting Christians. They are driving Christians out of that part of the world, and they are killing those that they choose to.

It isn't that alone. They bragged over a week ago that they had executed 1,700 Iraqi soldiers. Most of these sol-

diers will be Shi'a. And it is the Sunnis that are doing the executing and the killing. They have long been the most aggressive, the most militant, the most brutal, and the most violent force of the Islamic world, in that part of the world, in Iraq in particular.

ISIS has apparently and, according to some news accounts, are so violent and so brutal that they have even caused al Qaeda itself to step back from them and say: You are too violent and too brutal. Now, that is going a long way to think that people that would fly planes into the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, and burn to death the Americans that they did would find that the brutality of ISIS is so brutal that they would want to distance themselves from it.

I am not sure I believe that analysis. I think that that is one of those conclusions du jour that we come to; once you hear somebody say it, it gets repeated again and again, and pretty soon others pick it up, no one challenges it, and now we think that al Qaeda has been repulsed by the brutality of ISIS. I am not convinced of that.

Mr. Speaker, I can say this: I am repulsed by their brutality. I am repulsed by the beheadings that they do. I am repulsed by the videos. I am repulsed by the pictures. I am repulsed by the summary executions of hundreds, and probably thousands, of people that don't fit their religious sect that find themselves within the enforcement capability now of the black-flagged ISIS.

I am repulsed by what has come out of there. If we could see the actual reality of all the things that are going on within that part of the battle zone and in the aftermath of it as they go down through the streets and do their ethnic cleansing, I think we will find that thousands of people have been summarily executed by ISIS.

I think we will find that at least hundreds have been beheaded. I think we will find that thousands have been shot in the back of the head as they have their hands tied behind them and they are forced to kneel. I think we will find that in those numbers there will also be hundreds, and perhaps thousands, that have been forced to lay on the ground in a ditch and simply executed with AK-47 fire into the back of their heads or wherever. I think we will find that some—in fact, the videos are out there now—have been forced to kneel beside a pit in a hole in the ground that has a fire burning in it from gas poured into the hole, had gas poured onto their heads and then pushed into the hole to be burned to death in a pit.

That is the kind of brutality that we have that is taking over that part of the world. That is the kind of people that have raced across the desert, in the open desert, and faced no air power from the United States of America whatsoever. They have only faced this:

the President sitting in the White House dithering, a President who has decided—he gave a speech a week ago last Friday at noon in this town, and this speech was, he came out to do his press conference and he said—I am going to give this my summary version, the STEVE KING interpretation of the President's speech that day, a week ago last Friday at noon. He essentially conveyed this message to us:

Things aren't going as well in Iraq as we had hoped. There is an enemy that has penetrated into Iraq. We are not going to have boots on the ground in Iraq. I have several options. We are going to study the options for a few days. It will take at least that long to evaluate. There will be no boots on the ground. We have options, but we are not going to deploy any options until such time as there are political solutions. If there is not a political solution, there is not going to be peace in Iraq.

So he says: I am going to require the Iraqis to produce a political solution before we will use any of the options that we have that might—he didn't say this—but that might help them, was the implication. There will be no boots on the ground. We are going to study this for a few days. Then after we study it, we are going give the Iraqis an assignment, and the assignment will be: produce a political solution and then maybe we can get around to helping you.

Huh. Well, that is the formula, Mr. Speaker, for dithering. That is the formula for dithering rather than fiddling. And while Iraq is being invaded by the black flag, radical Islamists to establish a caliphate, the President is dithering in a very similar way that Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning.

Iraq is collapsing. The soil in Iraq has been sanctified by the blood of our warriors and our heroes to the tune of billions upon billions of U.S. dollars, much of it borrowed from foreign countries to keep this budget and this economy afloat. All of that price, and we don't know how this is going to come out?

I actually don't expect that the entire nation-state of Iraq will be swamped by the black flag ISIS. I don't actually expect that, but it is a significant threat that that happens—a significant threat. As we watch the map, as the flood and the takeover of that sanctified sand in Iraq is getting greater and greater on the side of ISIS and smaller and smaller for the Shi'as, and while the confusion within what I would call the legitimized Government of Iraq causes them to retreat and back up, it looks like their last redoubt is likely to be Baghdad.

The President has dithered, and the opportunities for air strikes from the military have diminished and now the opportunities to actually bring what

would otherwise be a cheap delay, at least, of that invasion, an invasion that runs at the speed that is as fast as an American military, an American armor penetrated into Iraq when we went in to liberate in March of 2003. ISIS is penetrating into Iraq at a speed almost that fast without nearly the equipment, without nearly the planning, without nearly the communications as the Iraqis peel backwards in front of them.

□ 2015

This is something more similar to—well, I will put it this way: when Desert Storm came about and needed to be done, there was much discussion in the public airways in this country about the Republican Guard in Iraq, these crack troops that were highly trained and well equipped.

Even though their tanks were a little bit on the old side, they were supposedly well maintained and well positioned, and their armor could not be penetrated. To send U.S. forces against them in the desert was going to be a bloodbath supposedly, if you listen to some of the pundits here in this country, generally the liberal ones.

I am listening to this dialogue and have been to the locations now a number of times, and I see where they have dug their tank pits, and they take a bulldozer, dig the sand out in two directions, pull the tank down in, they set that tank in, in a fighting position, and it can fire.

It can fire from that fighting position, and any kind of horizontal fire will be blocked by the dirt that surrounds it, but from the air, they are sitting ducks.

That seemingly did not occur to the liberal people who were pontificating about how fearsome the Republican Guard was, but we know what happened when the American Air Force began to fly sorties over the Republican Guard and over their armored divisions.

A similar, in fact, a greater vulnerability existed for ISIS, as they traveled down the paths through the desert and the roads—easy, easy targets for the U.S. Air Force.

While this is going on, the President had decided: I am going to spend some days thinking about this, we have to study this, we will gather all this intel together, and then I am going to require a political solution for the Iraqis, I am going to dither.

Frustrating and infuriating, it should send a message to the Iraqis there isn't a will there. Our enemies know that, so they push on us. They push on us in Iraq, and we are watching the real estate be taken over, with black flags flying over it.

We are watching the will of the Iraqi troops to collapse in the face of the enemy. We have watched, as I said, the refinery of Baiji is now invaded and oc-

cupied, Fallujah is, and Ramadi is—multiple cities—Tal Afar, on and on, multiple cities in Iraq taken over, who now have a black flag of al Qaeda's affiliate, ISIS, flying over it.

The influence of America is diminished and pushed backwards. Iraq looks to Iran as an ally. They wonder if the U.S. is going to do anything.

That is what we are faced with, Mr. Speaker. We are faced with a Russia that is pushing hard against the free world, a Putin who took the glory of the Olympics and the Russian hypernationalism that flowed from it and decided that he would immediately, after the Olympics in Sochi, went in and invaded and occupied Crimea.

He had a base there with a lease on it. If it was just a place to operate from, he could have done that peacefully, without violating international law and without going and invading and occupying. He could have operated freely out of his naval base there in Crimea. He chose not to do that.

I think it is ironic that Yalta was invaded and occupied by Putin. That was the location where Stalin and Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt negotiated the line across Europe that was to be the line in the aftermath of the Second World War, which became the Iron Curtain and became the dividing line between east and west.

Yalta was invaded and occupied as a component of Crimea, by Putin riding on the wave of Russian hypernationalism that came from the success of the Olympics, and now, he is pushing into Ukraine and testing them.

We know that—no, let's just say this, Mr. Speaker: we believe that, when troops show up and they are wearing Russian uniforms and they are carrying Russian weapons and they appear to be deployed as Russian troops in everything except a lacking of insignias on their uniforms and not flying a Russian flag, who do we think these people are? Do we think they are something other than Russians?

Why would we think that some force that looks, for all the world, like Russian forces—because Putin doesn't admit that they are Russian, somehow they might have come from someplace else. Who do we think they are? The Russians, the Russians in Russian uniforms, with Russian equipment, Russian supplies, Russian systems, everything except the Russian insignias.

Meanwhile, we don't hear from the President of the United States in a strong way, and meanwhile, Ukrainians wonder what is going to happen. They wonder if they have a chance of defending themselves. They wonder if any other part of the world is going to do that. Are we going to see the Iron Curtain be pushed westerly again?

When the Berlin Wall came down November 9, 1989, that was the crashing down of the Iron Curtain. For a time,

freedom echoed across Europe, all the way across Europe. In fact, it echoed, at least theoretically, all the way across Asia, to the Pacific Ocean, and it has been pushed back again by the strong arm of Vladimir Putin.

Now, we are seeing a line of demarcation between east and west that is being redefined by Putin with his hypernationalism, in his effort to restore the old Soviet Union—the former Soviet Union.

The Eastern bloc countries are very nervous about what happens with a very aggressive Putin. They are very nervous because they wonder: Do they have an ally in the United States?

They wonder if they can hang on for another 2½ years until a new President is elected that is going to believe in America, in a robust America, an America that defends itself, an America that has bonded with its allies, an America that has tax and regulatory policies that allows for the growth over a free enterprise system, so that we can see an economic vigor that will drive our economy here and give us confidence in who we are again and go to the furthest outreaches of the world where Americans are doing business in country after country.

The AmCham, the American Chamber of Commerce, and nation after nation become the ambassadors of the United States. They teach the world about trade and free enterprise. They teach the world about we have an American—it is not a hypernationalism. What it is is a very active commercial style. I would give an example.

As I deal with the Australians, for example—and I have a special affection for the Aussies—they will come and make contact, and they will make friends, and they will be sociable. Then they will go away, come back again, and do that same thing.

On the third time, they are more likely to bring up the discussion about the business that they want to conduct, Mr. Speaker, but Americans are not like that. We are a little bit different.

We are more like the Donald Trumps, where we come in, we figure out what we want to do businesswise, we think we understand what the other party needs and wants in a business deal, we believe that all parties involved in a business deal need to have an opportunity to profit.

So if \$1 is going to change hands with one other person, two people need to benefit from that, the buyer and the seller. If it is a three-way deal, then three entities benefit. If it is thousands or tens of thousands of people—shareholders, for example—everybody is designed to benefit from that.

We go in and we say: Here is the deal. This is our proposal. This is why it is good for you. This is why it is good for us. This is why we ought to sign here

on the dotted line. We will get around to all the niceties and discussion afterwards. Maybe we will have a meal or a drink together, but let's do the business, and then we will talk about the social side.

That is the American way. We do business fast. We do business efficiently. It is a culture that has developed in this country because we have had an unfettered ability to buy, sell, trade, make, gain—here in America, without a government interference, without the belief that we had to set at the table negotiators that represented the government, negotiators that represented the unions, to sit and talk with the negotiators that represented the capital.

In America, we do business with capital—capital because we do business for a profit and capital deserves a return on its investment. Labor gets the benefit from that profit by increasing wages and benefits to hire the best people to produce that good or service that has a marketable value.

That is what has made America's economy great, is our attitude about buy, sell, trade, make, gain, do good, produce goods and services with a marketable value here and abroad.

Let's send our Americans abroad to do business, let them take our values there, let them encourage people to come here and do business with us, and let's open up our trade wherever we can all over the world, with a free and smart trade system, that if we are going to grant access to our markets, what we ask is let us also have access to your markets.

We don't believe etiologically in trade protectionism. We believe in free and smart trade. We don't believe in stupid trade. Stupid trade would be, well, you have access to our markets, but it is okay with us if we don't have access to yours. No deal.

Americans make a lot of deals, and we make them efficient, we make them smart, we make them fast, and we make them all over the world. That has been a foundation of the burgeoning growth of the American economy and the American civilization.

It has been restrained in recent years because we have a leadership that has failed to convince me that they believe in free enterprise.

We should remember that, even on the immigration flashcards that we have, Mr. Speaker, when legal immigrants come to America and they want to study to become citizens of the United States, they will study the history of this country and the things that are necessary to be prepared to take the naturalization test.

USCIS, the Citizenship and Immigration Services, has a collection of flashcards that they can study from, so they can be prepared for the test.

These flashcards are laminated. They are about this big. They are mostly red

in their base with white letters on them, and you can look at them and ask this question: Who is the Father of our Country? Flip that card around. The answer: George Washington.

Who emancipated the slaves? Other side of the card: Abraham Lincoln. What is the economic system of the United States of America? Flip the card over: free enterprise capitalism, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I wish that the White House believed in it as much we ask our legal immigrants to believe in it as they prepare for the test for the naturalization to citizenship of the United States. That is part of who we are; yet our economy is stagnant, it is flat.

There seems to be an attitude that emerges from the administration that free enterprise and that capitalism itself is somehow a dirty word. No, it is a foundation of the economy of the United States of America. It is on the test.

They believe, as I watch their reaction, that somehow the capital, the employers, are victimizing both employees and customers and that there is plenty of money there and plenty of profit there to pay for more regulation, to pay for more taxation, and to pay for more raises and wages and benefits for employees that could be dictated by the White House.

That is not the American way. It has got to be free enterprise. The relationship between the employer and the employee is up to them, not up to the government. The government can't set wages.

A government can't determine that one work is comparable to another work. Only supply and demand can do that effectively and efficiently. That is the American way, Mr. Speaker.

There are other things that are the American way. For example, we don't support lawbreakers. We don't believe that people who habitually, in a calculated way, systematically violate America's laws should be rewarded for doing so.

We understand that, when Ronald Reagan said, what you tax, you get less of; what you subsidize, you get more of; and if you subsidize lawbreakers—if you reward lawbreakers, you get more lawbreakers.

I was disappointed with Ronald Reagan. I was disappointed twice during his administration. I watched him closely. I believe that Ronald Reagan understood the founding principles of this country so confidently and so clearly that no amount of lobbying, no amount of rhetoric, no amount of misinformation was going to change his adherence to the fundamental principles that are the pillars of American exceptionalism.

So here in this Congress, in 1986, in the House and down through the rotunda and the Senate, there was an intense debate about amnesty.

The debate went something like this: There are 1 million illegal immigrants in America. They have come across the border—generally across the border from Mexico—and it is too difficult, we can't deport them all—I think I have heard that before—so we must make an accommodation to them.

We are having difficulty getting enforcement at the border because there are competing interests in those who would drag down the effort to enforce our immigration laws, especially secure the border, but we can get full cooperation on border security and full cooperation on domestic enforcement if we just give amnesty to the million people that are here illegally, and from this point forward hereafter, we will all enthusiastically join together and enforce immigration law, and INS will be in every office of every employer in America, examining your records, to make sure that you are carefully following the law and being there to be the tool to help enforce immigration law.

I listened to that, and I thought: President Reagan, you know you can't reward lawbreakers. If you do that, you are going to get more lawbreakers—just like if you subsidize any activity, you are going to get more of that activity, and if you tax it, you are going to get less of it.

Well, the penalty for violating the law is equivalent to a taxation. It is a deterrent for violating the law. The greater the penalty, the less law violators that you have.

□ 2030

The less the penalty, the greater the incentive, the more law violators you have. So, if you wanted to subsidize lawbreakers, you are going to get lots more lawbreakers.

These arguments, I thought, were so clear that I didn't need to go stand outside the White House with a sign. I could just write a letter here and there and with great confidence raise my family, run my business, and have trust that the President of the United States would veto that Amnesty Act that was to come to his desk in 1986.

It came to his desk and the people around him strongly encouraged President Reagan to sign the Amnesty Act and take all of this disagreement and all of this angst off the table that had to do with the million illegal aliens who had entered the United States illegally or were unlawfully present in America, give them a legal presence and be done with it, and INS will enforce this law at the border—Border Patrol—and internally at Immigration and Naturalization Services.

Ronald Reagan signed the Amnesty Act. In my construction office, as an employer, I hit the high levels of frustration, at least for that stage of my life, but I began to comply with the law.

When we had applicants for jobs that came in, I made sure that I took the records that they have. I made sure that I evaluated their documents and their Social Security card, if I could get it. Most of the times, I could then. And a driver's license. At least two forms of identification.

I made sure that our job application form collected the records necessary that were required by that 1986 Amnesty Act. I made sure that I kept those records for every applicant. I was prepared for our employees and the applicants for the jobs that wanted to come in and work for King Construction, and I made sure that I had all those records up to snuff. I was meticulous in keeping those records and making sure that my executive secretary kept those records because I feared—or I was concerned—I don't know that I was afraid, because I did it right—but I expected INS, or Immigration and Naturalization Services, the forerunner to now ICE, to show up at my office and say, We want to see your records. We want to make sure that you haven't hired anybody illegally. We want to make sure you haven't entertained hiring anybody illegally. We want to make sure that you have collected the documentation so that you are not enabling the employment of illegal aliens in America.

Well, you all know this, Mr. Speaker. Nobody ever showed up from INS, as they didn't show up in millions of employers' offices around the country. The enforcement didn't materialize domestically. It didn't really get enhanced at the border either. The promise of enforcement came unfilled, but the promise of amnesty for a million people came in triplicate.

Three times the number of people that were projected to be amnestied by the 1986 Amnesty Act were actually granted amnesty. Over 3 million of them were granted amnesty. I have met with a respectable number of them at random and happenstance over the years, and I asked them, What do you think of amnesty? They will look at me and they will say, I support amnesty. I think it was a good idea. Amnesty was good for me, amnesty was good for my family. Amnesty is a good policy.

So I say, What do you think about the rule of law and what do you think about the reward when people break the law? Should they be rewarded for it?

Well, that takes them off in a place they don't want to discuss. They just know what was good for them. I don't disagree. It was good for them, but it was bad for America. It was really bad for America, because here we are 28 years later and we are still debating the issue. The carrot of amnesty still hangs out in front of people from all over the world that says, Well, Americans have a soft heart. They are the

most generous Nation in the world, welcoming immigrants to the tune of 1.2 million legal immigrants a year.

We don't even care about the quality of the standards of those who are coming into America legally—not very much, anyway—because between 7 and 11 percent of the legal immigration in America is immigration that is measured by some kind of a standard that might be an index of what they can do to contribute to our country.

Every nation in the world should have an immigration policy that is designed to enhance the economic, social, and the cultural well-being of that country.

I have long stated and continue to believe that we must have an immigration policy here that is designed to enhance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of the United States of America. We can't operate an immigration policy that seems to be designed to become the safety valve for those in poverty in the world—over 7 billion people. The poverty in the world grows at a faster rate than we have the ability to drain off even those who are the most aggrieved by poverty.

By the way, the numbers that I have seen when we were back at about 6 billion people on the planet were that there were about 4.6 billion people on the planet that had a lower standard of living than the average person from Mexico.

So if you think about alleviating poverty, there are many places to draw people from where the poverty is worse. And there are many places to draw people from where the perpetrators of violence come in significantly greater numbers.

However, even the violent death rate in the United States is only one-third of the violent death rate in Mexico. If you compare violent death rates in other countries, Mexico is one of the safer countries from Central America and on south. I think you actually have to get down to Chile before you find a country that has a violent death rate in the Western Hemisphere comparable to the lower death rate of the United States.

At one time, Colombia had a violent death rate 15.4 times that of the United States. Our rate today is 6.5 violent deaths per 100,000. Roughly 10 years ago, our violent death rates was 4.5 violent deaths per 100,000. At that time, Mexico's violent death rate was 13.2. A 4.6 violent death rate in the U.S., a 13.2 violent death rate in Mexico.

Drug wars and the massive killings that have taken place that have exceeded 50,000 people in Mexico—maybe 70,000 or more that have died in the drug wars—that is part of the statistic that has taken Mexico at a higher violent death rate now of over 18 per 100,000, and perhaps there is some index here that the U.S. violent death rate has gone in that period of time from 4.6

on up to 6.5 violent deaths per 100,000, but the ratio remains the same. Mexico is about three times more violent than the U.S., but it is significantly less violent than countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

It has been stated here in this Congress that the highest murder rate, I believe, in the world, is Honduras. I have not seen those numbers, Mr. Speaker, and I don't know that that is true, but I can tell you the violent death rate in Guatemala is 74.9 violent deaths per 100,000 compared to 6.5 violent deaths per 100,000 in the United States.

It is easy enough to do the math. It is a little more than 11 times the violent death rate of the United States in Guatemala. So there is significant violence there, but some of the people that are the perpetrators of that violence are also migrants.

If we look at McAllen, Texas, and the housing that is taking place as illegal immigrants come across the border, it looks like thousands and probably tens of thousands of what I will call migrants that appear to be coming from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, they come a thousand miles through Mexico, arrive at the Rio Grande River, and stage themselves to try to come across the river into the United States.

They are brought across by coyotes who are part of the drug cartels. Sometimes they come on jet skis, sometimes in rafts, sometimes in inner tubes. They come across the river.

The staging that is there and the pushing of the people that are in here, the mix of the population that are being picked up at McAllen, Texas, is reported in the Guatemalan newspaper to be this. Of that mix of unaccompanied minors—certainly, they aren't all unaccompanied minors, but it is a special category—of that mix, 80 percent are male—that is, 8 out of 10 are boys, 2 out of 10 are girls—younger than 18. They are 17 and younger. Eighty percent boys, 20 percent girls.

Of the country of origin, two-thirds of them are from the three countries that we have defined as OTMs, or other than Mexicans—Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. That is two-thirds of them.

We see pictures of little kids. We hear stories of a 3-year-old, a 2-month-old, 4, 5, 6, and 7-year-olds. Yes, they are there. They are there in some kind of numbers. Mostly, those younger kids are in the company of, generally, a mother or a parent.

Of those unaccompanied minors, 83 percent of them—let me get my numbers right here—80 percent are boys. Eighty-three percent of them fit this age group, Mr. Speaker, and that is they are either 15, 16, or 17 years old. Eighty percent are boys and 83 percent fit those three ages—prime ages for gang recruitment.

It isn't all innocents that are coming into America through this. Yet we

have a heart, we have an obligation. The first thing we have to do is stop this, and we have to send them back and we have to require the countries of origin to distribute them in the places they want them to live in their country of origin.

We have an agreement. The reason only 12 percent are from Mexico is we have an agreement forged by a bill that passed this Congress in 2008 that requires Health and Human Services to negotiate a repatriation policy. So when we pick up the unaccompanied minors, within 48 hours they are to be turned over to Mexican authorities and taken back to their homes in Mexico, to a significant degree. And not always within 48 hours. That does work, which is why we don't see a larger number of Mexicans coming in on that.

But the OTMs—the other than Mexicans—are exploiting a loophole because we don't have an agreement with those countries. We need to change the statute here in Congress and send a bill to the President that negotiates an agreement so those countries can receive those unaccompanied minors. They will be required to do so. And if we fail to reach those agreements, we should then freeze the foreign aid to those countries so that that amount cannot increase to provide them an incentive.

I would remind the people, Mr. Speaker, who are sending their children here, releasing a child and saying, Go across a thousand miles of Mexico, go with enough pesos to pay mordida to get to the United States, and present yourself to the Border Patrol and say, I am afraid that I'll be killed in my country, I remind them that in this country, if a mother or a father loses track of their child and their child wanders off down the street, they are guilty of child endangerment. They are guilty of child abandonment.

If they are guilty of that, maybe not always on the first offense, but on subsequent offenses we do this. We take those children into the custody of our Health and Human Services, whichever the State may be, and we can terminate the parental rights and we can place that child into foster care and we can transfer that child into adoption. Because we in this country do not tolerate parents who abandon their children or fail to take care of their children or endanger their children.

That is the very description of what happens if you send a child across a thousand miles of a country. That has got to stop, Mr. Speaker. I will be introducing legislation very soon that addresses that very topic.

I appreciate your attention and indulgence, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA: INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under the Speak-

er's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I have to catch my breath after listening the last hour to an unbelievable stream of consciousness.

I want to be very specific about some things that we really need to do here in Congress.

Often, we come to the floor in the evening and we talk about the subject of making it in America, rebuilding the American economy brick by brick, road by road, job by job, and putting the manufacturing sector back on its feet.

Today, my colleagues and I want to talk about one part of that Make It in America agenda, and that is not the trade, taxes, energy, labor, education, or research, but rather the infrastructure part of that equation.

Infrastructure is the foundation upon which any economy grows. And the American infrastructure has a problem.

Here is the problem.

The American infrastructure is falling down, falling apart, overused, overworn, and in desperate need of rebuilding. We can do it. America once built the greatest infrastructure in the world. We are falling way, way behind in our own country and we are not even keeping up with other countries, such as China, which is building everything everywhere and laying in place an infrastructure that will carry them into the future.

□ 2045

Here is why we are not keeping up. Here is why we are falling down. Here is why we have potholes. Here is why cars are losing their ability to stay on the road. It is not because the drivers can't drive but because we are not spending the money that we once did. Way back in 2002, we were spending some \$325 billion a year. Right now, we are down to somewhere below \$250 billion on infrastructure. That is why we see bridges collapsing. That is why we have the transportation snarls and all of the problems in our transportation system.

As they say in the Middle East, just wait. It will get worse. Here in America, we are just 2 months away from this happening. We are going to fall off the transportation bridge. The funding for transportation programs, funded by the Federal Government, will run out of money sometime in August, perhaps in early September, depending on several factors that are simply unknown, but the funding for the maintenance and construction of our roads and bridges by the Federal Government will be over. There will be no more Federal funding available unless this Congress acts.

We have a roadmap. We have a plan. We have a program. President Obama and the Transportation Department, with Secretary Foxx, recently laid out a program called the GROW AMERICA Act. It is a program that would provide \$302 billion over the next 4 years, which is money that is desperately needed for rail, buses, ports, the freight system—"buses" meaning light rail, heavy rail. It is for the transit systems in our cities and the rail systems—Amtrak—bridges and highways. All of this is available. The GROW AMERICA Act is a real proposal. It is one that this Congress should take up. If there are some who have better ideas and better plans, bring them forward. For highways, it is about \$199 billion. For bridges and buses, it is about \$79 billion and about \$10 billion for the freight systems. For the rail, it is another \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

All of this is possible, but we need to do this. We need to finance it, and this program by the President is fully financed. The \$302 billion relies upon the existing excise tax that all of us pay for our gasoline, for our diesel fuel. The President would add another \$100 billion or so to fill up the pot so that we would have the \$302 billion, which is some 27 percent more than we presently are spending on the transportation system. Where does that extra money come from? It comes from corporate reforms, but that is not the only proposal on how to finance our transportation system.

In a few minutes, I will turn this over to my colleague from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who will talk about that in some more detail. Also joining us tonight is my colleague from Kansas City, Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), who will be talking about his transportation system in that area.

But this is a real plan—a real proposal—all of the details that we would need on how we could develop the freight programs: where you would connect the ports to the rail systems, how you would provide those intermodal proposals, how we could repair the bridges—the funding for it—over a period of time, and the highways. It is all coordinated around fixing the things that are broken, not necessarily adding but fixing first, fixing what is broken.

For the rail systems, critically important is the intercity rail, which is the Amtrak system here on the east coast. Then this happens to be the Capitol Corridor in my own district, which runs from Roseville, all the way through San Jose and through San Francisco. It is one of the most heavily used rail corridors in the entire system.

One of the things that we also talk about here in the Make It In America is that we spend our tax money on American-made goods. If we are going

to spend \$302 billion of American taxpayer money, my legislation would increase the Buy American provisions, and I want to give you just one brief example of what it means:

This is the most modern locomotive in the United States, and it is, arguably, one of the most modern electric locomotives in the entire world. It is built in Sacramento. This is money that was made available in the American Recovery Act, the stimulus bill. Written into that bill was a provision that said that money—some \$800 million—for Amtrak locomotives had to be spent 100 percent on American-made locomotives. Siemens, the big German manufacturing company, looked at that, and it said: \$800 million and 100 percent American made? We could do that. So they took their factory in Sacramento and expanded it, and this is the first locomotive among those that will come off the lines—some 70 or 80 of them—that will be 100 percent American made. This locomotive will soon be operating here on the East Coast Corridor. Eventually, we will get those in Sacramento, but those will be diesel electric.

The final point I want to make before turning this over to my colleague Mr. BLUMENAUER is this. These were men and women in my district—Fairfield, California—in December of last year, who attended a job fair that I put on in Fairfield. I expected to find a few of my fellow citizens attending that. This job fair took place in December, and the temperature was just below 40 degrees. It was a foggy and rather cold day. More than 1,000 people lined up outside our job fair seeking a job.

Americans want to go to work. Americans want to work. They want those good, middle class jobs that come from building the infrastructure. It is just not the hard hat jobs. These are the technicians, the engineers, the accountants, the secretaries, the people who are working on the software. There are all of those jobs, and these are the men and women who want them.

So our plea today to our colleagues on the Republican side is: Let's go to work. Let's go to work here in the Congress. Let's put forward a transportation bill that avoids that transportation cliff, that allows the American public to go back to work—tens of thousands of jobs. Indeed, 3.5 million Americans will lose their jobs in the coming year if we fail to put together a transportation bill. That 3.5 million plus thousands upon thousands more will be able to go to work if we get this transportation program moving.

The President has given us a program, the GROW AMERICA Act. If there are those with better ideas, they should come forward. We should act upon that legislation, improve upon it and figure out the financing. If the President's notion of ending unneces-

sary corporate tax loopholes and giveaways isn't the best way, then let's put together a better way.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would yield back my share of the time and, if possible, turn it over to my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), to manage the remaining portion of this session.

TRANSPORTATION—A VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin, if I could, by thanking my friend from California for his ongoing leadership, advocacy, and focus on how we are going to rebuild and renew the country—making these critical investments, putting people to work, and calling upon this Congress to get in gear to be able to move the country forward. I appreciate his courtesy and his leadership.

I would like to begin, if I could, by turning to another of my colleagues from Kansas City, Missouri, Reverend EMANUEL CLEAVER, who is a gentleman who was kind enough to give me a visa to visit his district recently. I watched not just the affection that his constituents had for him but the big plans, evidenced in his community, that were dealing with how we put the pieces together for a more sustainable future—a vision for transportation. It was fascinating for me to watch, and I appreciate his allowing me to be a part of it.

I yield to the gentleman from Kansas City at this time.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here, particularly with Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. GARAMENDI, who spoke earlier, because they have long histories—longer, in fact, than I have been in the House—of pushing for transportation issues.

I think that this is a rather sad and somewhat tragic moment in our history. The interstate highway system was developed and put in place in 1956, and who would have thought when we entered the 21st century that the Congress of the United States would fail to keep that system in top condition?

The transportation bill affects Americans in every State of this country. A robust Federal investment in transportation is an economic engine, strengthening hundreds of communities. The thing that I have said often in my district and, frankly, in hearings is that the best stimulus for the economy—the very best stimulus—is a transportation bill. The weird thing is that the infrastructure is the backbone of our economy upon which businesses, families, and communities thrive. Everyone is

involved in this. Red or blue, urban or rural, we all rely on transportation and infrastructure. Ensuring economic prosperity is of paramount importance. It is not a Republican or a Democratic goal but one that we all share.

One of the things that has troubled me most since being elected to Congress 10 years ago is that we have somehow narrowed everything down to the point at which it is either red or blue—it is either Republican or Democratic. I am not sure how we can look at highway systems in terms of political tribalism. I served as the mayor of Kansas City for 8 years during the 1990s, and I can truthfully say that I had no idea on a day-to-day basis, based on what people said and did, who the Republicans were and who the Democrats were. We were all interested in trying to preserve Kansas City. When there was a pothole in one of the streets in Kansas City—and Kansas City is a huge city. It's 322 square miles. To give you an idea, you can put San Francisco inside our city limits 30 times or St. Louis three times. It is a huge city—what we all were interested in is making sure that it was fixed because there was no Republican way of fixing it, and there was no Democratic way of fixing it. We fixed the pothole. One of my great disappointments when I arrived here was that there was a Republican or a Democratic philosophy on everything, including on transportation and infrastructure.

Every dollar invested in Missouri transportation generates \$4 of economic activity. The Federal Highway Administration actually estimates that, for every \$1 billion spent on transportation, 34,000 direct and indirect jobs are created. Just think about that. There are 34,000 indirect and direct jobs that are generated. That is why I take every opportunity I can to talk about infrastructure and improvements to our roads and bridges and waterways in my district and in districts around the country.

Investments in transportation and infrastructure generate growth and jobs during initial design, construction, and then postconstruction. I can tell you that, at a time like this when we are still having some healing needed with our economy, this is the time to pump it up. We don't need QE4. We don't need to do another Dodd-Frank. We need to pass a transportation and infrastructure bill. That will begin to help heal this economy because it is a job creator.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2013 report card—and I hope the people at home get this—3,500 bridges in Missouri alone are considered structurally deficient. There are 3,500 bridges in my State that are considered structurally deficient.

□ 2100

Over 3,300 are considered functionally obsolete. That is 14 percent of the bridges in the State of Missouri are functionally obsolete, and every day, Kansas Cityans and Missourians are driving over those bridges.

That is a tragedy because it is not only bad in Missouri, it is that way all over this country—all over the country, and this body is the only body that can address the problem.

While I agree that States should step up to raise the necessary revenues and make crucial investments themselves, it should be no surprise that interstate commerce is a duty in which this Congress is uniquely poised to fulfill.

We are a nation of red States and blue States, urban communities and rural communities. I represent both. While each State must make investments within the communities, the responsibility to ensure our Nation remains connected and globally competitive falls on this Congress.

Bridge after bridge after bridge is in danger. Highways are crumbling, and we cannot sit by and play partisan politics and argue while our infrastructure continues to deteriorate.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight, hoping that these words are not falling on the floor and will not be impactful. When we come in here like this, we are hoping that these words matter and that things can change and that they will change.

It is my hope that this Congress will act and act quickly because we cannot wait until the last minute, going into August, when we will end up looking at a highway trust fund becoming insolvent, and that means it will drop below the \$4 billion funding level as soon as next month, July. We must do something, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank Mr. BLUMENAUER for all the work that he has done on this issue over the years, and I hope that the American people will just saturate us with letters telling us: Pass a highway and transportation infrastructure bill.

Thank you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you very much, Congressman CLEAVER. I appreciate your painting a very powerful picture, taking it home, as an example, and the work that you have done, both in Congress and as a local leader, a mayor, a member of the city council.

You understand this. You understand that the infrastructure in Kansas City, Missouri, used to be a point of pride. It was something that brought people together, but that is not unique to your community or mine.

Infrastructure used to be a point of pride that united Americans across this great Nation. 152 years ago, the Transcontinental Railroad under, I might say, a Republican President—President Lincoln—helped us be able to develop the United States.

It tied the country together. It helped in terms of the opening up of the west, and the United States from that point, until the end of World War II, had the finest passenger rail system in the world—not there anymore.

As was referenced, under the leadership, signed into law by President Eisenhower, there was a bipartisan initiative, a Democratically-controlled Congress, a Republican President, who initiated the interstate highway system.

The United States, over the course of a quarter century, had the largest public works project in our history to that point. It was in every State in the Union. It created more economic value than it cost, and it was a point of pride to have the finest road system in the world.

Similarly, we have made great advancements in our history dealing with water and sewage systems.

The simple fact is, as was referenced by both my colleagues already this evening, the United States is falling behind. We are no longer rated number one in the world. The last survey I saw put us at 14th and falling.

We are investing the smallest amount of percentage of our economy as we have in 20 years—less than 2 percent—and far less than our competitors in China, in Europe, Japan, India.

The United States is in trouble. Unless and until we are able to get our act together to be able to protect, maintain, and enhance our infrastructure, we are not going to be able to meet the needs of the American people, and in fact, we are going to lose our competitive position around the world.

On top of this, we are in the midst of a funding crisis for our infrastructure, and this could not come at a worse time.

As both my colleagues indicated, investing in infrastructure is one of the best ways to create family-wage jobs. The estimates are between 25,000 and over 30,000 jobs for each billion dollars that is invested.

The most recent report I saw from Standard & Poor's said, for \$1.3 billion, it is 29,000 jobs.

That investment would actually lower the deficit \$200 million, and it would increase overall economic activity in the United States a third more than the \$1.3 billion invested. The \$1.3 billion gives you, overall, \$2 billion rippling through the economy.

While we are slowly falling apart, while we are struggling with a jobless recovery, and how we could desperately use these family-wage jobs that will be created in every State in the Union, there is also ongoing damage to individuals. They don't have to be on a bridge that collapsed.

AAA tells us—and that is the pre-eminent organization nationally that represents motorists—they have followed this very closely. Their estimate

is that the average motorist incurs \$323 a year of damage to their cars because of inadequately maintained roads, so it is not just that they are not getting the service.

It is not just that they are trapped in congestion. It is actually costing them money every month, in terms of damage to what, for most Americans, is their second or third most valuable asset.

Last Congress gave up on a 6-year reauthorization. They just couldn't do it. They walked around it, but they couldn't deal with the funding question, so they settled for a short-term, 27-month extension that expires in 98 days. September 30, it is over, but the money in the transportation trust fund will not last nearly that long.

My colleague mentioned that, next month or so, we are going to drop below the trust fund balance that the Department of Transportation tells us is necessary to be able to manage the hundreds and hundreds of contracts all across the country that are part of the unique Federal-State-local partnership.

They can't take the trust fund down to zero, so they are going to start cutting back this summer, and because our partners around the country in State and local government understand what is happening, they are starting to cut back now.

More than eight States are already signaling what they are going to have to forego this summer, so we have got a summer slowdown, and it is only going to get worse, and Congress, in the meantime, spins its wheels.

It is hard to be meaningful in efforts to reauthorize the surface transportation bill, which is on the verge of expiring, if you don't even know what your resources are.

We have no idea what the resources are that are available to the House Transportation Committee and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works because we haven't established how we are going to pay for it.

Now, we have heard gimmicks from our Republican friends. You know, last Congress, their solution was to take away all the guaranteed funding for transit and for transportation enhancements.

The enhancements, by the way, are the most popular program that the Department of Transportation administers. They were going to take away that guaranteed funding.

I find that somewhat ironic because that guaranteed funding came from Ronald Reagan. In the Reagan administration, they decided that they were going to have 20 percent in the transit account and 80 percent in the highway account, so you wouldn't have uncertainty. You wouldn't have people battling every year, year in and year out, about going forward on major projects.

Most important, if you are going to deal with major transit and highway projects, you need certainty; and President Reagan and his administration, in their wisdom, promoted a program that established the highway trust fund and had a separate account for transit.

Well, last Congress, the gimmick was: we will just strip away all that guaranteed funding, and we will have some theoretical money to keep the transportation program afloat.

It blew up in their face. They were able to get it through the Ways and Means Committee on a party line vote, by the way, never having a hearing on it, just moved to a work session, and it was roundly attacked.

Groups, truckers, business, environmental groups, local governments, transit, the entire infrastructure community rose up in rebellion against this goofy idea that was not going to deal with the fully funding needs, and it was going to pit people against one another.

The outrage was so strong that our Republican friends couldn't even bring their own bill to the floor, and it collapsed, and we were ending up with this 27-month gimmick.

It was funded by simply draining every dollar out of the highway trust fund, and in so doing, they thought they could maybe last for 27 months. Well, as we are finding out, they can't.

The next gimmick that we are hearing about—and I love this one—it is fascinating. Our Republican friends have required the post office, unlike any other agency—or near as I can tell, any business—to prefund the health insurance of future employees, so they are charging the post office an extra \$5 billion a year for employees that aren't even on the payroll, let alone their retirement in the future.

So the post office has some challenges in terms of different patterns, in terms of this prefunding obligation, shifting use of the post office, and the refusal of some in Congress to allow the post office to operate like a business, so it has got a funding crisis.

The Republican alternative is to take a post office that has a funding crisis—it is a real one, it was artificially created, but it is a real crisis—and to eliminate Saturday mail delivery for 10 years and take these theoretical savings by eliminating Saturday home service and use these theoretical savings from an agency that they claim is going bankrupt, and they are actually trying to make go bankrupt, and use it for another bankrupt institution—that is the highway trust fund.

Ludicrous—10 years' savings of eliminating home delivery, which are theoretical, no sense at all that they are going to materialize, but for 10 years—and it would just produce enough money to get us into the next fiscal year, and leave the post office worse off than it is now.

Luckily, I think our friends on the other side of the aisle have realized that is not a solution, and I think they have dropped that, realizing it is not going to go anywhere.

There are actual proposals that would meet this challenge. I have got legislation that has been endorsed by the AFL-CIO, by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, by both the truckers and AAA, the contractors, engineers, local government, transit, to just—straight up—deal with the fact that we haven't raised the gas tax for 21 years—pretty straightforward. It works.

□ 2115

My colleague, PETER DEFAZIO from Oregon, a senior member on the Transportation Committee, has proposed looking at a barrel tax for oil and makes a strong case that this would have significant advantages and would allow us to go forward.

You know, I don't care what solution we come up with. There are a number of good ideas. Last week, Senator MURPHY of Connecticut and Senator CORKER of Tennessee came up with a proposal in the Senate that they thought would provide those resources.

What is interesting is that the House has been AWOL on this. We have not had a single hearing in Ways and Means this year, last year, the year before that, or the year before that. It has been 42 months since the Republicans took over. We haven't had a single hearing on transportation finance. I find that shocking. I find it embarrassing as a member of the committee and as a Member of the House of Representatives. As an American, I find it shameful that we are not doing our part.

Luckily, the other body is moving. My friend and colleague, Senator RON WYDEN of Oregon, the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, is moving ahead with some alternatives that would help keep the trust fund afloat so that we can avoid the summer shutdown and we don't have to stop the programs and put these people out of work. It will give us breathing room so that the people in the House can step up and do our job.

Mr. Speaker, every single Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee requested the Republican leadership—months ago—to at least give us a hearing. You don't have to buy into any solution, but let's come together, look at the problem, and hear solutions from the Americans who are dealing with it. Let's hear from the Governors. Let's hear from the transit agencies, from the State transportation commissions, highway departments. Let's hear from the men and women who work in the maintenance and construction of our infrastructure—the bridges, the roads, the transit. Let's hear from the engineers, the truckers, the representatives of the automobiles. They have got

some strong opinions. They have potential solutions. They have done research that the committee should hear about, that every Member of Congress should hear about.

Sadly, as the clock winds down, as we look at the summer shutdown and the pending bankruptcy of the highway trust fund, the House is frozen in place. Time is slipping away. We have just a few dozen legislative days before the House is scheduled to adjourn for the election, and we have not one thing on the agenda to deal with this.

I hope that my Republican colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee will join us in at least having a hearing, listening to alternatives, working together to analyze the pros and cons of the various approaches going forward. I hope that every Republican and every Democrat makes a commitment that we are not going to adjourn for the year until we provide the American people, the businesses and communities that depend on it, a robust, well-funded, stable highway transportation trust fund with dedicated funding. That was the key to President Eisenhower and the success of the interstate freeway system. That has helped us with aviation. It has made a difference in terms of transit.

The American people deserve no less than us our doing our job—robust funding, stable funding, dedicated funding that will allow American communities to have the partnership of the Federal Government that they need for the infrastructure they deserve. I strongly urge my colleagues to reflect on this, and I hope each American makes clear their desires and their expectations about how Congress meets this responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FITZPATRICK (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 24 after 5 p.m., June 25 and June 26 on account of a family emergency.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 316. An act to reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1044. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the word that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6114. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Biennial Core Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 112-81, section 2464(B)(e) (125 Stat. 1368); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6115. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6116. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 14 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6117. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of purchases from foreign entities in FY 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6118. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6119. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishing a List of Qualifying Pathogens Under the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act [Docket No.: FDA-2012-N-1037] (RIN: 0910-AG92) received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6120. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Relations, Corporation for National Community Service, transmitting the Corporation's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period

October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6121. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6122. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6123. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6124. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6125. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6126. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending March 31, 2014 and the OIG's Compendium of Unimplemented Recommendations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6127. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6128. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6129. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations, Definition of Indian Tribe [NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-15507; PPWOCRADNO, PCU00RP14.R50000] (RIN: 1024-AD98) received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6130. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Cemeteries, Demonstration, Special Event [NPS-WASO-REGS-14841; PX.XVPAD0517.00.1] (RIN: 1024-AE01) received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6131. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Maximum Civil Money Penalty Amounts; Civil

Money Penalty Complaints; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0113] received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6132. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the 2014 Annual Report: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Status of Actions Addressing the Safety Issue Areas on the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) Most Wanted List; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6133. A letter from the Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5001A and R-5001B, Fort Dix, NJ [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0260; Airspace Docket No. 13-AEA-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6134. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Akutan, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0032; Airspace Docket No. 13-AAL-5] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6135. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of the Philadelphia, PA, Class B Airspace Area [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0922; Airspace Docket No. 13-AWA-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6136. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0731; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASO-18] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6137. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bois Blanc Island, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0986; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-25] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6138. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Grand Forks, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0214; Airspace Docket No. 14-AGL-10] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6139. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Burial Benefits (RIN: 2900-A082) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6140. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Technical Corrections to Regulations [Docket No.: SSA-2013-0005] (RIN: 0960-AH55) received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6141. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the

Administration's final rule — Obtaining Evidence Beyond the Current "Special Arrangement Sources" [Docket No.: SSA-2011-0099] (RIN: 0960-AH44) received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6142. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for the Fourth Quarter of 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 641. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-493).

Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 4944. A bill to require the submission of a report to the Congress on parasitic disease among poor Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4945. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue Transportation Bonds to fund transportation projects in each State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Appropriations, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4946. A bill to promote the tracing of firearms used in crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 4947. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4948. A bill to provide for emergency supplemental appropriations for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 4949. A bill to establish the National Office of New Americans to support the integration of immigrants to the United States into the economic, social, cultural, and civic life of their local communities and the Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAUNO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ENYART, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr.

PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SIREs, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 4950. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States for 7 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BERA of California (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 4951. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4952. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized remote shut down of a cellular phone; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 4953. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 4954. A bill to amend the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 to provide an exemption from the protections of that Act with regard to certain prospective employees whose job would include caring for or interacting with unsupervised children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 4955. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to extend the tariff preference level on imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber, fabric, apparel, and made-up goods from Bahrain under the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 4956. A bill to greatly enhance America's path toward energy independence and economic and national security, to conserve energy use, to promote innovation, to achieve lower emissions, cleaner air, cleaner water, and cleaner land, to rebuild our Nation's aging roads, bridges, locks, and dams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, Oversight and Government Reform, the Budget, Rules, and Education and

the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 4944.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4945.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 1

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 4946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Const. Art. II, Sec. 3, Cl. 3 ("[The President] shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed[.]"); US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 18 ("Congress shall have the power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution . . . all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.") (This bill would instruct the Attorney General to give preferential treatment to police forces that meet certain criteria when distributing grant money, therefore this bill is a valid exercise of Congressional authority per the Necessary and Proper Clause provided the Attorney General's duties, as an agent of the President, to enforce federal law and punish criminal wrongdoing).

US Const. Art. I, Sec. 9, Cl. 7 ("No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law[.]"); US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 18 ("Congress shall have the power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof") (This bill would instruct the Attorney General to give preferential treatment to police forces that meet certain criteria when distributing grant money, therefore this bill is a valid exercise of Congressional authority per the Necessary and Proper Clause to instruct how the Executive Branch can spend appropriated monies).

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states and the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 4948.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Section 9

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 4949.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 4950.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to regulation of interstate commerce).

By Mr. BERA of California:

H.R. 4951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 4953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with Indian Tribes

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 4954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND:

H.R. 4955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 4956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 279: Mr. BARBER, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 411: Mr. NUGENT and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 517: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 543: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 594: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 688: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 713: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 787: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 812: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 831: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 920: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 942: Mr. WALZ, Mr. BARR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 958: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 963: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 975: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 988: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 997: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 1136: Mr. GARCIA, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1150: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1180: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1189: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1225: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1289: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1509: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1518: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1563: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1620: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1751: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 2001: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2144: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 2170: Mr. PIERLUISI.

H.R. 2263: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 2283: Mr. MICA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CAMP, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2368: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2415: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2453: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 2500: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2521: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2529: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2663: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 2673: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 2734: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 2835: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2841: Ms. ESTY and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2959: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. YODER, and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 3221: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3320: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 3382: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3403: Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 3482: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 3489: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 3505: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 3544: Mr. PETERS of California and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 3620: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3649: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 3680: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FARR, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 3708: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 3712: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 3722: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 3963: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 3989: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 3992: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 4012: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 4041: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 4103: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4119: Mr. NADLER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 4123: Mr. COHEN and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 4148: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4166: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 4190: Ms. MOORE and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4217: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 4234: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4286: Mr. McCAUL.
H.R. 4325: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4347: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4349: Mr. BRIDENSTINE and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4351: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4411: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 4415: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 4432: Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LONG, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. COOK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 4450: Mr. OLSON and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4474: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 4475: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4491: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 4510: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 4521: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LONG, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

H.R. 4558: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 4577: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 4578: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 4612: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 4640: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4646: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4653: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 4664: Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4698: Mr. MICA and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 4704: Mr. McNERNEY.

H.R. 4707: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 4723: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4727: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 4740: Mr. HANNA, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4741: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4749: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 4780: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4781: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4792: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 4807: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4841: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 4864: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 4881: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4882: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4899: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 4904: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 4927: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4930: Mr. REICHERT.

H.J. Res. 20: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 30: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 109: Mr. FORBES and Mr. COFFMAN.

H. Res. 281: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H. Res. 416: Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 456: Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 503: Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 529: Mr. RUIZ.

H. Res. 587: Mr. DELANEY.

H. Res. 601: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HIMES and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H. Res. 620: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FINCHER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 621: Mr. FORBES and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 630: Mr. WALZ and Ms. LOFGREN.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The amendment to be offered by myself or a designee, to H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ROBIN LEA HUTTON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Robin Lea Hutton, President of Angels Without Wings, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to giving relief to the poor, the distressed and underprivileged, and honoring those people and groups who help others in need.

It is through her leadership and vision that Angels Without Wings has spearheaded the development and dedication of a national memorial monument to the remarkable Korean War hero horse, Sgt. Reckless. This memorial serves to honor all animals that have served our country in times of war—whether as mascots for our servicemembers, or ammunitions carriers, like Sgt. Reckless.

Ms. Hutton has also brought further recognition to these animals by authoring Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse. This book tells the incredible story of Reckless, who is listed in Life Magazine's "Celebrate our Heroes," as one of our all-time great heroes and whose antics make her a revered part of the history and lore of the United States Marine Corps.

For her patriotic service and exceptional work, Ms. Hutton is being bestowed with the Patriotic Citizen of the Year award and will receive the Silver Patrick Henry medal from the Conejo Valley Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

It is my honor to offer my sincere congratulations to Ms. Hutton on this special occasion and to thank her for her dedication to telling the story of America's war horse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2014, I was unavoidably absent from the House due to a family emergency involving my elderly mother, and missed rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: roll 339; "aye"; roll 340; "aye."

CONGRATULATING DR. DAVID M. PAIGE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. David M. Paige

for his more than forty years of dedication to patients, students and public health in Maryland and across the country. David is a Professor of Population, Family and Reproductive Health with joint appointments in International Health and Human Nutrition at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and in Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is a member of the Maryland State WIC Advisory Panel and the Director of the Johns Hopkins WIC Program.

Through his work as a physician, researcher and professor, David has made indelible marks on the state of public health in this nation. In response to a crisis of malnourishment among low-income infants and pregnant women in Baltimore in the 1960s, David created a voucher system for food assistance that served as the prototype for the federal Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. This program provides essential food assistance to almost 9 million individuals each month and more than 143,000 people in Maryland alone. David remains a vigilant defender of this critical program and has testified more than 20 times before House and Senate committees.

David has also produced significant research on the increasing prevalence of lactose intolerance in children and young adults. His findings have had far-reaching effects on the availability of lactose free foods and prenatal nutrition for lactose-intolerant mothers. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the March of Dimes National Agnes Higgins Award for Distinguished Achievement in Maternal-Fetal Nutrition.

On a personal note, it has been my privilege to know David for over twenty years and to benefit from his passionate advocacy on issues of public health. At all times, David's service to his profession and to the broader community have been characterized by a generosity of spirit and a selfless dedication to improving the lives of those too often left behind. I am proud to call David my friend and I commend the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for recognizing David's long and distinguished record of accomplishment. This tribute could not go to a more deserving person.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 23, 2014, I was absent because of travel delays due to weather related activities.

If I had been present, I would have voted the following on June 23, 2014:

Rollcall 339 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, S. 1044, the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall 340 on the motion to suspend the rules and concur to the Senate amendment, H.R. 316, the Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294, I inadvertently voted "yea," I intended to vote "nay."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL FARMER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Michael Farmer.

Michael Farmer began his advocacy at the young age of 17. He and a group of friends started a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at Apopka High School, a conservative part of Central Florida. While attending Valencia Community College, Michael served as the Valencia College Campus Organizer for the Fairness For All Families (FFAF) Campaign. This campaign aimed to defeat a constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality and civil unions in Florida. He went on to serve as the Orlando Area Field Organizer for FFAF.

In 2009, Michael joined the staff of Equality Florida (EQFL) as the organization's Safe Schools Policy and GSA Network Coordinator. As Equality Florida's GSA Network Coordinator, Michael trained hundreds of students and teachers across the state on best practices for making schools safe for LGBT youth.

From 2010 to 2012, Michael served as EQFL's Statewide Field Coordinator. In this role, Michael helped to increase the organization's pro-equality voter file by more than 20,000 voters. Additionally, he raised EQFL's profile at community events and mobilized members and pro-equality voters to support pro-equality and openly LGBT candidates.

In 2013, Michael transitioned into the role of Statewide Field Director. As Statewide Field Director, Michael led EQFL's field staff on programs related to voter education and mobilization, and increased EQFL's member engagement.

Currently, Michael serves as Equality Florida's Director of Development for Central and North Florida. In this capacity, he leads EQFL's development programs and staff in

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Orlando, Sarasota, Jacksonville and Tallahassee. Since 2012, Michael and his teams across the state have raised over one million dollars in the pursuit of LGBT equality in Florida.

Through his work at Equality Florida, Michael has been able to play a leadership role in changing the policy landscape for the LGBT community in Florida. Michael also played an integral role in the passage of Domestic Partner Registries in both the City of Orlando and Orange County. These registries provide critical protections for unmarried couples in times of emergency. To date, more than 1,000 couples have registered. Michael helped pass Orange County's Human Rights Ordinance, which bans discrimination against the LGBT community in housing, public accommodations, and the workplace. He also contributed to the passage of Orange County's Domestic Partner Benefits for county workers, which allow the spouses of county workers to access important health benefits. Additionally, he helped spearhead the passage of Domestic Partner Benefits and a Nondiscrimination Policy at Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)—the nation's ninth largest school district. These policies provide important healthcare benefits to the spouses of OCPS teachers and protect LGBT teachers and students from discrimination.

In 2012, The Advocate nominated Michael as one of "40 under 40" activists in the nation. He regularly represents Equality Florida's initiatives and programs on local TV and print media, and is a member of the Orlando Anti-Discrimination Ordinance Committee.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Central Florida and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration on American Politics and Public Policy.

I am happy to honor Michael Farmer, during LGBT Pride Month, for his work to secure equality for LGBT individuals in Central Florida and throughout the state of Florida.

HONORING SUE MERIMS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the strength of any religious institution comes from the love and devotion of its congregation. For Sue Merims, that love and devotion to Congregation Anshe Shalom is a family tradition. Sue's sister, Carolyn, was the first to join the synagogue, followed by her parents, Muriel and Ely Cohen, who were long-time members. Sue was next to join the Anshe Shalom family and has been a standout member now for over 40 years.

Following a 1996 meeting of the Anshe Shalom Board of Directors, Sue became the synagogue's treasurer, a role she still serves in today. She worked tirelessly to sustain and modernize the synagogue's operations, by computerizing its administrative and accounting systems, coordinating events, organizing the Community Seder, and working on the monthly bulletin. Being part of Anshe Shalom has brought joy and comfort to Sue and she

considers her special relationship with Rabbi Weinberger and his beloved wife, Hannah, to be a major blessing.

Beyond her work at the synagogue, Sue taught at Millis High School in Millis, Massachusetts before pursuing new opportunities in the travel and food services industry. After 13 years with ARA Services Inc., Sue took a leap of faith and started her own school food service consulting business. For over 25 years, school districts have sought out Sue's expertise, as she has successfully guided them through upgrading and modernizing their food services environment.

Sue's greatest source of joy however is her family. She is blessed with two loving children and six grand children that she loves dearly.

Anshe Shalom in honoring Sue Merims at their Annual Testimonial Dinner and I can't think of a more deserving honoree. Her dedication to and hard work for the Anshe Shalom community has been an inspiration. It is my great pleasure to congratulate her on receiving this recognition.

HONORING TERRY J. HURNE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of Terry J. Hurne, United States Army Specialist, who died on June 9, 2014, at the young age of 34. Terry was an American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States in the Logar Province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Hurne was born to Norman and Shirley Hurne on April 9, 1980. He was raised in Atwater, California. He graduated from Atwater High School in 1998 and joined the military in 2007 after working for Central Valley Electric and various construction jobs.

During his time in the Army, Terry served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. For the past five years he served as a generator mechanic and builder. He was assigned to B Company, 710 Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division stationed in Fort Drum, New York.

Terry will undoubtedly be remembered nationwide as a hero who fought for our freedoms. His family and friends will hold memories of Terry in their hearts forever. His smile, laugh, and kindness will never be forgotten. Eight years ago, Terry married the love of his life, Natalie, and they built a beautiful life together. Natalie as well as Terry's father; mother; stepmother; Ruth, three sisters; Cheryl, Christina, and Sam, and brother; Bryon will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of our fallen soldier, Army Specialist Terry Hurne. He was an exemplary individual, and we will always be grateful for his service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO GILES GIOVINAZZI

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Giles F. Giovinazzi, Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Aviation for the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. As Ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee, I had the pleasure of working with Giles on many issues that came before the Subcommittee. His hard work and wise counsel over the past 12 years has been invaluable, and I look forward to continuing to work with him as he embarks on a new endeavor.

Giles began his career on Capitol Hill serving as Legislative Counsel for Congressman JAMES MCGOVERN from 1999 to 2002. Since that time, Giles has served on the Subcommittee in various positions including Counsel, Senior Counsel and Staff Director, since 2009.

Giles is a true public servant and his dedication to the country extends beyond the halls of Congress. Giles is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve where he has served since 2004.

His understanding of complex technical and legal aviation issues, policy and politics, has been an asset to the Committee for over a decade. Giles has been instrumental in drafting significant pieces of legislation including The Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010.

Last month, Giles was appointed federal transportation liaison at the California Department of Transportation and the California High-Speed Rail Authority. His expertise and counsel will be truly missed.

I join my colleagues on the Transportation Committee in wishing Giles, his wife Jolynn, and daughter, Kathryn Maribel, all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I did not participate in the vote of S. 1044 on June 23, 2014. Unfortunately, I was traveling back from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and due to inclement weather, I could not get back from my trip in time to vote.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on S. 1044.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,529,945,473,040.66. We've added \$6,903,068,424,127.58 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 339, I was unable to get to D.C. to make votes due to a personal conflict, a friend's funeral.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TOM DYER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Tom Dyer. Tom was born in Lancaster, Ohio in 1955. His family moved from Madison, Wisconsin to the Orlando area in 1969. One of his first summer jobs was as a character at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Tom is a graduate of Winter Park High School, DePauw University and the University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

Tom is the founder and publisher of Watermark, Orlando and Tampa Bay's award-winning LGBT newspaper. Founded in 1994, the newspaper distributes 20,000 newspapers to more than 500 locations every other Thursday. The web site, WatermarkOnline.com, is visited by more than 5,000 users every week. The company donates more than \$200,000 annually in free and sponsor advertising to worthy local and national LGBT non-profits.

In 1997 Watermark Media produced Beach Ball at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon, the first large-scale nighttime party associated with Gay Days Weekend. Watermark publishes a glossy guide to Gay Days Weekend, the largest annual LGBT gathering in the nation, as well as programs for St. Pete Pride in June and Orlando's Come Out With Pride in October.

Watermark sought to hang rainbow flags throughout downtown Orlando during Gay Pride Month in 1998. The city reluctantly acquiesced, but the controversy made national news when televangelist, Pat Robertson, predicted Orlando would be beset by hurricanes as punishment.

Tom has interviewed such luminaries as Gloria Steinem, Billie Jean King, Lily Tomlin and Martina Navratilova for Watermark. His recent interview with former governor, and now candidate for governor, Charlie Crist, went viral after it was picked up by HuffPost.com, CNN.com and MSNBC.com.

In addition to publishing Watermark, Tom is a practicing attorney and senior partner in Dyer & Blaisdell, PL. He is a former board member of the Metropolitan Business Association and the Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. He currently serves on the advisory board for the Harvey Milk Foundation.

Tom has received the Vice Versa Award for excellence in LGBT journalism, the Spectrum Award for Male Role Model and Equality Florida's Voice for Equality Award. In 2004, the City of Orlando presented Tom with the "Key to the City" in honor of Watermark's 10th anniversary. In 2014, he was named a Champion of Equality by the Harvey Milk Foundation.

Tom lives in Winter Park, where he enjoys spending time with nine nieces and nephews and his beloved Welsh corgi, Seamus. He's also working on his downward dog at regular Yoga sessions.

I am happy to honor Tom Dyer, during LGBT Pride Month, for his contributions to the Central Florida LGBT community.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Federal Credit Union Act and to use this occasion to honor the contributions that the credit union movement has made to the United States. The Act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1934, permits credit unions to be formed anywhere in the United States. The legislation bolstered the development of credit unions as a way to promote thrift among the American people while setting in place federal oversight of these financial institutions.

Eighty years later, credit unions in the United States claim nearly 100 million members. If the credit unions those members own were a single financial institution, it would be the fifth largest bank in America.

But thankfully, those credit unions are more than 6,600 independent, consumer-owned, volunteer-led, democratically controlled financial institutions, vital to the well-being of their members.

Credit unions are part of the great fabric that makes our country strong.

They are cooperatives—bound together by a common set of business principles and values: voluntary membership; democratic control; economic participation; autonomy and independence; member education; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

A Canadian, Alphonse Desjardins, brought the idea for credit unions west from Europe in 1900 and by 1909 he had successfully organized the first American credit union in New Hampshire. Two Americans, Pierre Jay, the Massachusetts banking commissioner and Edward Filene, a Boston merchant, took up the cause of promoting credit unions in those early years.

In 1908 a national conference on credit unions was held in Boston that brought together Desjardins, Filene, Jay and others interested in the formative stages of the movement. That conference led to the 1909 draft of legislation in Massachusetts that became the nation's first state credit union act.

The movement developed slowly during the following decade and by 1921 Filene became convinced that federal legislation was needed in addition to existing state legislation. He hired Massachusetts attorney Roy Bergengren to help. The Credit Union National Extension Bureau was formed. Four years later, 15 states had passed credit union enabling laws and 419 credit unions were serving 108,000 consumers.

After the 1934 passage of the Federal Credit Union Act, credit unions recognized their need for stronger national representation and unity. The Credit Union National Association was formed—replacing the Credit Union National Extension Bureau.

Robust credit union growth continued until World War II. Wartime slowed the expansion of the movement considerably. Interest picked up again once the conflict ended and by 1955 there were more than 16,000 credit unions across the United States. By 1969, that number had swelled to nearly 24,000.

The 1970s brought about great change to credit unions as they broadened their services to meet the expanding needs of their members. Legislation permitting mortgage lending by credit unions was passed and the total number of credit union members more than doubled during the decade.

As consumer needs evolved and became more complex, many credit unions merged to increase their ability to pool resources and improve member services. While the total number of actual credit unions decreased with mergers, the number of consumer members of credit unions soared, and is now on the cusp of 100 million across the nation.

Credit unions continue to innovate with new services and tools to help their members build economic security.

The work Congress did 80 years ago in passing the Federal Credit Union Act continues to serve the country well.

In fact, the influence credit unions have on the entire financial system saves all consumers money with generally lower rates for loans and higher rates for savings—no matter where they bank. An impressive \$8 billion dollars in savings in 2013 alone is attributed to credit unions.

Today, credit unions are utilized by their members for the convenience, prices, product choice, and financial education they offer.

Credit unions are living up to the promise outlined in their principles. They are institutions that their members and all Americans can choose to be their best financial partner.

RECOGNIZING THE ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT ON 60 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24 2014

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) on its 60th anniversary. Since June 30, 1954, the OCSD has provided residents in North and Central Orange County outstanding wastewater collection, treatment and recycling services.

The OCSD services approximately 2.5 million people, 21 cities and has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources. Through innovative technologies, the OCSD has served as a leader and model for communities around the world as they battle to protect public health and the environment from the harms of untreated wastewater.

However, the OCSD does not just simply treat wastewater. In fact, by utilizing all practical and effective means, the OCSD is producing an average of 10,000 kilowatts of electricity per day, monitoring the water quality of local beaches, and recycling 268,000 tons of biosolids per year. Yet, these are only the secondary benefits of its highest achievement.

In a joint venture with the Orange County Water District, the OCSD facilitated the creation of the world's largest water purification system, the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). Using a three-step advanced treatment process, the GWRS purifies 70 million gallons of high quality potable water per day that would otherwise be unusable. This is the equivalent to the daily water use of 600,000 people. The GWRS has since received more than 35 awards, including the Stockholm Industry Water Award, which is the highest international honor bestowed upon water projects, and the 2014 U.S. Water Prize Award from the U.S. Water Alliance.

I am proud of the work, dedication, and accomplishments of the Orange County Sanitation District over the past 60 years and wish them further success as they continue to lead the world in effective wastewater collection, treatment and recycling.

HONORING WARREN EUSAN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Warren Eusan, an educator and community leader in San Antonio and a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. From Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, this was the famed pursuit squadron who emerged from the Army Air Corps program that trained African-American pilots, navigators, instructors and support staff and who helped secure victory for the allies in World War II.

Mr. Eusan was born and raised in San Antonio in 1920. After graduating from Wiley Col-

lege in Dallas in 1940 with B.A. Degrees in Sociology and Education, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. After initial assignment to Tuskegee Army Air Field he was sent to Bryan, Texas where he integrated the Base Instrument Command Flying School. Upon graduation, he returned to Tuskegee where he taught instrument flying until his discharge in 1946.

The heroic exploits of the Tuskegee Airmen are now well-known, having been portrayed in feature films, documentaries, books and newspaper and magazine articles. Because of racism and discriminatory laws the men and women who were part of the "Tuskegee Experience" were denied rights in the country of their birth yet rose above injustice. In preserving a freedom that had not yet been extended to them, they displayed courage and a largeness of spirit that helped liberate and save the lives of countless women and men.

In 2007, Mr. Eusan was among the Tuskegee Airmen who received the Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush.

When he returned to San Antonio, Mr. Eusan began a 44-year career in education. He was first a school teacher and then the School Liaison to the Superintendent of the San Antonio Independent School District. During that time he earned his Masters of Education degree from Atlanta University and completed additional post-grad studies at Our Lady of the Lake University, Trinity University and the University of Texas.

Always concerned about his community and its youth, Mr. Eusan was an adjunct faculty member at St. Philip's College and worked for the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, San Antonio Neighborhood Youth Organization and the Department of Economic Development of San Antonio. As a member of the San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Mr. Eusan had a ubiquitous presence throughout his community, helping to preserve and share the rich legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Through the chapter's annual Educational Assistance Awards Banquet he helped provide scholarships to dozens of college-bound students.

Mr. Eusan passed away June 14 at the age of 93. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life and achievements of a Warren Eusan, a great San Antonian and a great American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday June 23, 2014 I was not present for 2 votes. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 339, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 340, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARK CHARLES CADY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mark Charles Cady.

Born to Lealond H. Cady, Jr. and Jacqueline C. Cady on December 11, 1964 in Jacksonville, Florida, Mark is the youngest of three. Mark had a typical Florida childhood. He played cars and trucks, cops and robbers, swam in local lakes, ran around with dirt on his face, and played in the rain.

At an early age, Mark started to consider the plight of the less fortunate. While his family was by no means wealthy, his faith and upbringing inspired him to do what was in his capacity to help others. Running on a platform of "Let's help each other," he was elected student council president at his high school in 1981.

Immediately after high school, Mark entered the United States Navy and began 12 years of service as a Religious Programs Specialist. While stationed in Okinawa, Japan, Mark coordinated programs to provide food and services to the host Japanese nationals in conjunction with various non-profit organizations. As an accomplished performer, he also performed more than 20 concerts for military members, their families, and the host nationals. His outstanding career in the Navy earned him a Navy Achievement Medal from the Secretary of the Navy and various other awards, commendations, and newspaper and magazine articles highlighting his accomplishments. As a gay man, Mark chose to leave the Navy in protest of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 1994. He earned an Honorable Discharge.

Over the years, Mark's career led him into advertising and marketing, but he always maintained his desire to help others and strengthen his Christian faith. In his late 20's, he was ordained a Deacon at Joy Metropolitan Community Church, Orlando. He began serving with various community organizations and continued his career as a singer and entertainer.

At age 34, Mark's father died. He withdrew from community service and began a downward spiral that led him into drug addiction. At age 44, he entered drug rehabilitation with the VA Medical System and got his life back on track.

Since his recovery, he has given back to the community that has provided him with so much support. He has served as Vice President and President of the Board of Directors for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual (GLBCC) Community Center, Marketing Chair of the GLBCC Community Center, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Lakeside Behavioral Healthcare, Philanthropic Chair of Aspire Health Partners, Marketing Chair of Come Out With Pride, Chair of the Metropolitan Business Association's Referral Exchange Development Group, and Founder of Out & Proud Veterans of America. He also coordinated the donations for and oversaw the erection of the first LGBT

Veterans Memorial in Florida located at the GLBCC and acts as a liaison for the Orlando VA Medical Center for LGBT Veterans and other LGBT service organizations.

In October 2013, Mark was ordained into the Diaconate of the independent Catholic Church and in January 2015 he will be ordained into the Catholic priesthood. Mark is in a committed relationship with his partner Dr. Carlos Archilla.

I am happy to honor Mark Charles Cady, during LGBT Pride Month, for his service to our country and to the Central Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2014, I was unable to be present for all votes due to an unexpected travel delay due to inclement weather.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following votes:

S. 1044, World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2013—"yea."

H.R. 316, Collinsville Renewable Energy Production Act—"yea."

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM M. GALLOW

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extensive and highly decorated career of a constituent, William "Bill" Gallow. Mr. Gallow has dedicated his life to serving his neighbors throughout the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions of New York.

Mr. Gallow served as a Combat Infantryman in the United States Army during World War II, under the command of General George Patton. Upon returning home, Mr. Gallow began working with the Arnold Ambulance Service, a volunteer EMT position that he held for over 25 years. In 1963, he embarked on a remarkable 60-year career with the Van Etten Volunteer Fire Company. During his tenure, Mr. Gallow held the positions of Chief, President, Secretary, Trustee, and Senior Medic. In addition, he passed down his knowledge and expertise to other first responders by teaching courses at academic institutions, training facilities, and the New York State Fire Academy.

Bill Gallow exemplifies selfless service and true leadership. His generosity and willingness to assist anyone in need has earned him the highest level of respect within the Van Etten community and throughout all of Chemung County. He consistently goes above and beyond through his volunteer work and community service. Mr. Gallow has served as a medic at the Special Olympics and the Susan B. Komen "Race for the Cure" on multiple occasions. In recognition of his excellent and

selfless service, he was awarded the Southern Tier Regional Emergency Service Award in 1997 and the Richard Habbershaw Community Service Award in 2007.

I commend Mr. Gallow for all the great work he has done at the Van Etten Volunteer Fire Company and throughout his community. He is a selfless and generous individual who has made countless positive contributions to New York's 23rd Congressional District, and I am proud to recognize him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday and missed roll Nos. 339 and 340. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll Nos. 339 and 340.

BEN WEINDLING CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Weindling, a longtime businessman from Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Weindling, a loving father and husband, not only created a successful men's clothing store, but was also greatly involved in the Pueblo community.

Mr. Weindling created "Burling's Clothing" with his partner Sheldon Burstein. As owner and manager, Mr. Weindling was named "Dress Apparel Retailer of the Year" in 1972. He was equally involved in his community as he was in his business, serving as president of the Pueblo Country Club, participating on many boards and clubs including Pueblo Housing Authority, the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, and multiple-hospital boards such as Parkview. In 1977, he was appointed to the Colorado Health Facilities Authority by Governor Richard Lamm, where he served until 2013. Additionally, Mr. Weindling worked as a member of the University of Southern Colorado board of trustees and later served a term as president in 1981. He made noteworthy donations to Colorado State University—Pueblo. Above all else, Mr. Weindling found time to care of his wife, children, and grandchildren and was heavily involved in their lives until his death on June 12, 2014.

Mr. Speaker, Ben Weindling gave his family and the Pueblo community all he had to offer and served as a selfless and dedicated public servant throughout his life. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County in giving thanks for his service to the community, and pay tribute to him for a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING MR. ALLEN MCQUARRIE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our constituents. His name is Allen McQuarrie and his contribution to our community has been invaluable. For the past fifteen years, Mr. McQuarrie has served as the Chair of the Bucks County chapter of Pro-Act, a grassroots advocacy and recovery support initiative of The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. In 2002, Allen chaired a meeting to plan PRO-ACT's first Recovery Walk, an event attended by 125 people. Today the Recovery Walk is attended by more than 20,000 people in public view at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, making it the nation's largest recovery walk. Furthermore, he organized a coalition to pursue state enforcement of PA Act 106, which mandates insurance coverage for addiction treatments by medical professionals.

Additionally, Mr. McQuarrie assists our veterans as they transition back to civilian life. Sadly, it has been reported that an estimated one-third of returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or traumatic brain injury. The medications used to treat these problems can lead to addiction. Without treatment, individuals may self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. PRO-ACT and Mr. McQuarrie have granted veterans a support system that allows them to maintain a healthy life after their service. Mr. McQuarrie is a strong voice for recovery in PA 08, serving as a mentor, trainer, and advocate. I am pleased to honor the achievements of Allen McQuarrie.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY ANNE METAXAS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Mary Anne Metaxas. Born to William and Mary Jane Metaxas in Columbus, Ohio, she is the youngest of five children. She grew up in New Jersey and spent many of her summers at the Jersey shore. Metaxas enjoyed growing up in a large family and maintains a very close relationship with all of her siblings and their respective families.

Metaxas earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the Florida State University and is a proud Seminoles football fan. After college, Metaxas entered the video production industry and quickly realized her passion for creating entertaining and effective media.

Metaxas soon joined i.d.e.a.s. at Disney MGM Studios, as a freelance Producer. Through this role, she worked on a variety of projects for Fortune 500 companies, theme parks, the Disney Company, museums, and broadcast television. Metaxas stayed with the

company, now known as IDEAS, when it transitioned to private ownership in 2001. She has been an integral part of the IDEAS creative team since its inception, serving as producer, director, post-supervisor, and creative consultant. She currently serves as Vice President of Media Production and leads the creative team on all IDEAS media projects.

Metaxas is both a longtime supporter and volunteer for the Human Rights Campaign. As a Federal Club member, she played an integral role in creating the Orlando HRC community and continues to help nurture its growth. She has served in a volunteer capacity at a variety of local events over the years and attended the HRC National Dinner in Washington, DC with other national leaders.

Metaxas has a special place in her heart for dogs. For many years, she has volunteered for Florida Little Dog Rescue and has fostered too many puppies and dogs to count. She takes great pride in helping to rehabilitate rescued dogs, and feels great joy in seeing them recover and thrive. The care she takes in ensuring her foster dogs are adopted into great homes is commendable. As a sign of gratitude for her commitment, many of the new families keep in touch long after the adoption.

Metaxas can often be seen around Orlando on her vintage-style scooter. She has utilized this passion to help raise money for Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation's annual "Scooters for Hooters" events. She was named 2010 Fundraising Freak for raising the most donations and has served as captain of the multi-year highest fundraising team. She continues to ride in memory of her beloved mother who passed away in 2001.

Metaxas is an active member of the Orlando community and supports a variety of other local non-profit and political organizations including Hope and Help of Central Florida, Metropolitan Business Association, Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando, and the Zebra Coalition.

Metaxas resides in Orlando, Florida with her spouse Jennifer Foster. On their 10-year anniversary in 2013, the couple was honored to be able to legally marry. They live happily with their three dogs (Matti, Maci, and Patrick), and two cats (Graci and Kevin).

I am happy to honor Mary Anne Metaxas, during LGBT Pride Month, for her professional and civic contributions to the Central Florida community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 340, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I did not participate in the vote of H.R. 316 on June 23, 2014. Unfortunately, I was traveling back from Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and due to inclement weather, I could not get back from my trip in time to vote.

However, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 316.

HONORING PHILMORE GRAHAM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Philmore Graham, who passed away on June 12, 2014, after 75 remarkable years.

Born in North Carolina, Mr. Graham went on to graduate from Tennessee State University, serve our country in the Air Force and finally, build a career at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. Notably, he was the first, and to this day remains the only, African American to hold the position of supervisor at Mare Island's Department of Nuclear Energy. Throughout his life, Mr. Graham was steadfastly dedicated to bettering the lives of young people in our community, particularly the lives of young African-American men.

Mr. Graham founded the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club in Vallejo, California, in 1966. What began as six young boys meeting in Mr. Graham's garage has become a thriving organization that enriches the lives of approximately 300 boys and girls today. He mentored scores of young people, offering them support and encouragement and instilling in them the values and principles they needed to succeed. Mr. Graham provided academic support, encouraged involvement in sports and taught young people the importance of perseverance, hard-work and self-respect. Mr. Graham's unwavering passion and dedication to ensuring that our youth had every opportunity to succeed is an inspiration to all. And in turn, Mr. Graham was beloved by all those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

For his good work, Mr. Graham was named the NAACP's Outstanding Citizen of the Year, was awarded the Good Neighbor Award, Salute to America Lifetime Merit Award, Profile of Excellence Award, Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, the "Who's Who" among Black Americans and was repeatedly named the Omega Man of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Graham for his life of service to a grateful community.

SUPPORT OF H.R. 1098, 1281, 3548, 4080, AND 4631

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of five bipartisan public health bills that will help individuals with traumatic brain injuries, newborns, burn patients, and those with autism. The Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, under the leadership of Rep. JOE PITTS, has been a workhorse that boasts an outstanding record of bipartisan accomplishment on legislation that truly touches people's lives. With a number of bills already signed into law, and these under consideration this evening, the 113th Congress is shaping up to be known as the public health Congress.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight each of the five bills before us this evening.

H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act, would address a problem that affects millions of Americans, including both veterans and children. Introduced by Mr. PASCRELL, this bill would assist states in developing and expanding service delivery capacity for individuals with a traumatic brain injury. According to some estimates, the economic burden of such injuries is more than \$70 billion, and the physical and emotional toll endured by patients and their families is even more burdensome. This bill would help alleviate the problems associated with this unique and complex health problem, providing peace of mind to families across the country.

H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, introduced by Reps. ROYBAL-ALLARD and SIMPSON, funds grants to allow states to expand their newborn screening programs, educate parents and health care providers, and improve follow-up care for infants diagnosed with a condition. Before the first passage of this bill in 2008, the number and quality of newborn screening tests varied from state to state. Today, with guidelines created by the bill, screenings reach 4 million babies in the United States every year. Reauthorization will continue this important program and encourage more timely efforts to identify diseases, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and ensure best practices. Early screening and diagnosis often means better disease management and better outcomes for these children.

H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act, introduced by Energy and Commerce Committee member Rep. BILL JOHNSON, is designed to correct the inconsistencies in the definitions of trauma that have resulted in gaps in care and coverage. This bill will help important trauma centers like Bronson Methodist Hospital's Burn Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan to better care for their patients.

We will also consider H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization. Introduced by Energy and Commerce Committee members Dr. BURGESS and Rep. GREEN, the bill reauthorizes two programs related to the planning and development of regional emergency care. Both of these programs will improve trauma

care so that Americans can promptly receive specialized, life-saving treatment after a traumatic injury.

Finally we will consider H.R. 4631, the Autism CARES Act of 2014, introduced and championed by Reps. CHRIS SMITH and MIKE DOYLE. The sad reality is that in the United States, autism now affects 1 in 68 children and can cost a family approximately \$60,000 annually. H.R. 4631 continues autism-related research, early identification and intervention, education, and the activities of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee. It also asks the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collaborate with other federal agencies to prepare and submit a report concerning young adults with autism spectrum disorder and the challenges related to their transition into adulthood. Finally, the research funded by this legislation also permits diagnosing and intervening earlier and thus help improve the quality of life for children with autism.

This bill is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Autism Society, and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which includes over thirty different organizations including Autism Speaks, the Autism National Committee, and the Council for Learning Disabilities.

We began our day in a bipartisan manner advancing the 21st Century Cures initiative and I am pleased to conclude the day by continuing our efforts to advance legislation to improve the public health. It is through these bills and this initiative that we can truly have an impact on the lives of all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
SUNGLASS DAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Sunglass Day and to honor the sunglass manufacturers and suppliers throughout my Dallas Congressional District, the State of Texas and around the country. Texas and the Dallas area are home to a variety of optical industry leaders including 24 optical laboratories that manufacture prescription sun wear, 3 lens manufacturers that supply UV filtering lenses, and 6 sun wear frame suppliers. As a physician, I commend the sunglass industry and their trade association The

Vision Council (TVC) for ongoing outreach campaigns to educate consumers regarding the damaging effects of ultraviolet (UV) rays to the eye and healthy vision.

In the case of eye protection, what you don't know can hurt you. When it comes to the human eye and the sun's rays, it's what we can't see that matters most. UV radiation that reaches the earth's surface, made up of two types of invisible rays, UVA and UVB, endangers an unprotected eye. The effects of long-term exposure can include cataracts, macular degeneration, abnormal growths on the eye's surface and even cancer of the eye. While everyone should shield their eyes from UV rays, certain risk factors like age and eye color increase an individual's vulnerability to UV related eye disorders. Where you live and travel can also make a big difference in the level of UV exposure. Since UV damage can't be reversed, prevention through protection is key.

Later this summer, sunglass manufacturers and distributors from my home district in Texas and The Vision Council (TVC) will be convening a Capitol Hill briefing on the topic of UV danger and protecting your eye health. I encourage my colleagues to attend and applaud the sunglass community and The Vision Council for their leadership in promoting healthy vision.

SENATE—Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Merciful God, a gracious and willing guest in every heart, thank You for the opportunities and privileges of this day. May Your peace rule within our Senators' hearts. As they remember how You have guided us in the past, give them strength for today and bright hopes for tomorrow. With the ebb and flow of life's seasons, may they grow more certain of Your reality and power. Lord, when much seems obscure to them, may they be even more faithful to the little they can clearly see. Continue to shower them and their loved ones with Your daily mercies.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the next 30 minutes.

At noon the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. At 2:30 p.m. there will be three rollcall votes on amendments and passage of the bill.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate will consider and pass the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. While the unemployment rate has steadily declined since the recession and more than 9 million private sector jobs have been created, too many Americans are still unemployed or lack the tools necessary to compete for today's jobs. That is why this legislation, which updates and streamlines our Nation's job training and local workforce development programs, is so vital.

This legislation is very complicated, very complex, and it is vital. It proves the mere fact that even though this legislation is complicated, complex, and vital, we can pass it. This act will help improve training and educational opportunities for those Americans looking for a job or to advance their careers. It will also help businesses grow and strengthen local economies across the whole country. In Nevada tens of thousands have benefited from the job training placement and educational programs funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Many found their first job while others were able to reenter the workforce, and still others took advantage of the programs to improve their skills. For all of them it meant a paycheck, and for some of them it meant a raise to support their families. This legislation is also an example of how the Senate can and should function.

I repeat, this legislation is not a walk in the park. It is extremely complicated. It shows how Congress can operate when both sides are willing to

compromise and work in good faith to craft legislation that will help improve the lives of Americans.

It has not been easy. This program was last authorized in 1998. Think of how much the world has changed over the last 16 years. Look at the Internet. It has transformed training and education programs and even the way most Americans look for work.

Over the past 16 years there have been several attempts to reauthorize this legislation, and they have all fallen short. After 16 years of attempts, it is even more impressive that Chairman HARKIN, Senators MURRAY, ALEXANDER, and ISAKSON, along with their counterparts in the House, were able to forge a bicameral, bipartisan agreement. Congratulations to each of these Senators and the House Members who worked with them. They worked in a bipartisan, bicameral way, which resulted in successful legislation.

In basketball they say if you are not doing well, you just have a lot of off days and that the best way for a shooter to get his rhythm back is to sink a couple of baskets. I hope this theory proves true in the Senate. It is time we sank a couple of baskets. It is time for us to start working together so we can get things done. Hopefully, by witnessing the success of a good bipartisan bill such as this, the Senate will get its rhythm back.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of H.R. 803, which is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 499, 501, and 787; and that the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; further, if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Influence—it is a word we hear a lot these days, especially from our friends on the other

side who suddenly feel the need to convince their constituents that they are “moderate” Democrats, despite the voting records that say just the opposite. These Senate Democrats can’t stop boasting about how much supposed influence they have on energy issues, but it is a baffling claim to the rest of us because it is so hard to point to what they have actually accomplished.

Take the Keystone Pipeline. The Senate Democrats I am referring to claim to have so much influence within their party to get it approved, but the evidence actually leads to the opposite conclusion; that they have almost none at all. When it comes right down to it, they have not even been able to secure a serious, gimmick-free floor vote from the majority leader to approve the Keystone Pipeline. That should be the bare minimum.

The events that transpired yesterday only underscore the point. Yesterday afternoon several of my Republican colleagues again tried to pass the Keystone Pipeline. Once again, the Democratic leadership blocked the bill, and the so-called moderate Democrats simply stood by while their own party blocked this important job-creation legislation. They didn’t even put up a credible fight.

It is disappointing, but it is no surprise because Washington Democrats have blocked approval of this shovel-ready, job-creation project for years now, even though it would create thousands of well-paying American jobs, even though it would help our struggling economy, even though it would increase North American energy independence, and even though the Obama administration has admitted that constructing the pipeline would have almost zero significant impact on the environment.

In other words, the Senate Democratic leadership is obstructing construction of the Keystone Pipeline for one main reason—to please their patrons on the far left. Let’s be clear about something. The only reason they are able to get away with it is because so-called moderate Democrats let them, the same so-called moderates who claim to have so much influence around here.

The bottom line is these so-called moderates can’t have it both ways. They can’t credibly claim to have influence on issues such as these, even as they let their party leaders shoot down almost every effort to achieve the things they claim to want, such as Keystone.

Frankly, it is hard to see how we could ever hope to get a Keystone bill over to the President’s desk and signed into law while Democrats run the Senate, especially when the so-called moderates stand idly by as the President has yet another meeting with the anti-Keystone jobs lobby tonight. The

President is meeting with an anti-Keystone fundraiser today and will be hearing from an organization with a mission to stop these important jobs. He needs to hear from Americans across the country who are desperate for work in the Obama economy. Preaching to the choir is not going to get that done.

Ironically enough, the President will be meeting with these same anti-Keystone interests right after holding a pep rally with Senate Democrats—his reliable anti-Keystone backstop in Congress.

I think it is time to put aside the charade. The American people have already had to suffer through more than 5 years of delay and obfuscation on this pipeline. The bureaucrats and the experts have studied it to death over and over and over, and every time we learn basically the very same thing: There is a ton of upside to building Keystone and minimal substantive downside.

It is time to end all the politically motivated delays and get serious around here. It is time for Democrats who claim to support these important jobs to stand up to the party bosses and stand with their constituents and not just talk about doing it. We owe it to the American people to get these Keystone Pipeline jobs approved as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, it seems increasingly clear that will never happen under the current Democratic-run Senate, but one way or another, we need to get this done.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from South Dakota.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in a moment some of my colleagues will come to the floor and ask to enter into a colloquy and discuss an issue that is important to many of us, especially to those of us who represent States in the West and Midwest.

The issue I wish to speak about has to do with something that over the past 5 years the Obama administration has been particularly active in pursuing.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will my friend allow me to ask a question through the Chair?

Mr. THUNE. Yes.

Mr. REID. I was in my office when I heard the statement by the Republican leader about Keystone. I direct this question to the Senator from South Dakota, who is a fine Senator and understands energy issues.

We agreed to have a vote on Keystone. My friend, the Republican leader, keeps misdirecting the matter. We can have a vote on Keystone. That was part of the deal we made. We had a bipartisan bill, Portman-Shaheen. They worked on that bill for months, since last fall. They put in amendments that people wanted.

JEANNE SHAHEEN came here yesterday and said: Let’s have a vote on Keystone, but just as long as we can have a vote on energy efficiency. She even suggested we could have a vote using the McConnell rule—a 60-vote threshold—on both of them.

This is so transparent that my friend the Republican leader is doing the bidding again of the Koch brothers, who own the first or second largest tar sands holding which exists in the world.

I say to my friend from South Dakota: Why can’t we just have a vote on both of those—energy efficiency and on Keystone?

Mr. THUNE. I say through the Chair to the majority leader, the offer, as I understand it, that was put forward by the majority leader with respect to the energy efficiency bill was that this bill would be passed with no amendments. There would be no debate, no amendments, and then somewhere down the road we might get the vote on the Keystone Pipeline. Well, it strikes me at least, as many of my colleagues on this side have been pointing out now for some time, that the way in which the majority leader is running the floor and calling up legislation, preventing amendments to be offered, to be debated and voted on, denies the rights not only of us as Senators but ignores the voices of the people we represent.

So for the majority leader to say we will pass this bill without any amendment—energy is an important issue in many of our States. It is important in my State of South Dakota. It is important to a lot of Members on our side and I would suggest to a lot of Members on the leader’s side who would like to have an opportunity to debate some amendments on energy if we are going to have an energy bill on the floor. The leaders came down and said no amendments, no debate, you pass this. We will jam this bill down without amendment, and then sometime we will get to the vote on Keystone.

We would love to get a vote on Keystone. The leader can call that up at any time. We have been saying for some time we ought to have a vote on

Keystone. There is broad bipartisan support for it in the Senate. There are a lot of Democrats who support the Keystone Pipeline. But what the leader is suggesting again is he is going to put a bill up, fill the amendment tree, and prevent Republicans from offering amendments. We don't think that is the way the Senate ought to operate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend from South Dakota, it is so transparent what is going on here. They are hung up on procedure. If this Keystone vote is so important to them, let's have a vote on it. That is what I was told when we brought up, for the second time, the energy efficiency bill. In fact, I was told by our Republican leader who was pushing that bill to go ahead and fill the tree; we have already worked out all the amendments. The bill is different when we first brought it; we put all the amendments in it.

So, again, we get right where we need to be to pass substantive legislation and here they come. The Republicans walk in here dealing with procedure. If this Keystone is such a big deal, let's vote on it. Let's vote on energy efficiency which is a bipartisan bill. But, no, they can't do that. They can't do that because we wouldn't be able to offer more amendments.

Now, remember, the Republicans, who were part of that arrangement on the energy efficiency bill, Shaheen-Portman, thought it was a good bill. But again, I repeat, if this is such a big deal to the Republicans, why do they get hung up on procedure? Let's vote on both of them. Let the cards fall where they may.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would say to the distinguished majority leader that we on this side believe that when we bring an energy bill to the floor to talk about energy, we ought to talk about energy. Now, he may suggest there were certain things incorporated in the bill that some of his Members wanted, maybe even perhaps some of our Members wanted, but we have a lot of Members on this side who have been shut out, who haven't had an opportunity to offer amendments now for the past year. We can come to the floor every day and talk about the fact that since July of last year there have only been votes on 9 Republican amendments and 7 Democratic amendments, out of 1,500 that have been filed. This is insanity.

We would love to get a vote on the Keystone Pipeline, but we also think there are a lot of other energy issues that are important to this country, and if we bring an energy bill to the floor of the Senate, the historical practice in this institution has been that it is open to amendments. All Members get an opportunity to offer amendments. There are issues in addition to the Keystone Pipeline that are critically im-

portant to jobs and to the economy and to the energy security in this country. So the way the leader has suggested that this ought to work isn't simply about an argument on procedure. This is about whether the Senate is going to function in a way where the views of the millions of people we represent—those of us here would love to offer amendments on these bills and are being prevented from doing it.

So I would simply say to the leader that this is not simply about the Keystone Pipeline. This is about the broader debate on energy—what it means for jobs, what it means for our economy. We are in a place now where we are not even getting votes in committee. Appropriations bills are being pulled back at the committee level because Democratic Members don't want to vote on amendments that Republican Members might offer. That is not the way this place is supposed to work.

So I appreciate the majority leader's understandable frustration, but it is a frustration that is grounded in the way he is running this institution, not in anything our side is doing.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, no one needs to take my word for it. Take the word of one of the most senior Republicans in this body, the senior Senator from Tennessee. He came to the floor a few days ago and said—on the appropriations bills we hear this plaintive plea: Let's have some votes. So the Senator from Tennessee said: Why don't we have the votes? What has been established around here is that we have 60 votes on anything that is controversial and 50 votes on everything else, and that is what the Senator from Tennessee said. Let's just go ahead and work through the bills.

There is no better example of that than Dodd-Frank, a bill that the Republicans hate. It passed. On the 24th amendment that we voted on, on that bill, Senator DURBIN offered an amendment on swipe fees, and he was told it was going to be 60 votes. Everything else had been 50. So he had to do his with 60 votes. That is how things work here.

The Republicans don't want to have votes. They want to have issues on procedure. We could finish every one of those appropriations bills—every one of them—if we followed what LAMAR ALEXANDER suggested and what we Democrats have suggested.

So it is interesting. It is interesting. Energy issues—it is just a buzzword for "let's take care of the oil companies some more." That is what this is all about. They want to protect big oil. Now, if they want to have all the appropriations bills pass, let's pass them. All we have to do is follow what I have suggested and what Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER has suggested. That is what we should do.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would simply offer a consent agreement that the majority leader objected to when he pulled the Shaheen bill a while back. It was pretty simple and pretty easily understood. This is the consent that was offered when the majority leader, as I said, pulled the Shaheen-Portman bill a while back. This is what I said:

I propose a different unanimous consent agreement. I ask unanimous consent that the only amendments in order be five amendments from the Republican side related to energy policy with a 60-vote threshold on adoption of each amendment. I further ask that following the disposition of those amendments, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on the passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

Now, that gives the majority leader what he was asking for on the last bill: 60-vote thresholds. It gives him amendments from our side related to energy policy, and it would have led to a vote on Keystone.

So I would propound that unanimous consent request again. It sounds to me as though we may be getting somewhere if the majority leader really wants to give us a chance to have a Keystone vote here on the Senate floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object to my friend's suggestion, I would ask that it be modified to have a vote on Keystone and have a vote on Shaheen-Portman—60-vote threshold, of course.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Republican leader modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, we didn't get amendments on Shaheen-Portman. So what the majority leader is now saying is he wants to pass a kind of comprehensive energy bill dealing with a variety of different subjects without any amendments at all as a condition for having a vote on Keystone with five amendments related to the subject.

I can remember when we used to vote around here. In fact, his Members have only had seven rollcall votes in a year. He has one Member from Alaska who has never had a rollcall vote on the floor his entire Senate career.

So I think rather than these UCs going back and forth, maybe we ought to talk about how to work this out and see if maybe the Senate could actually start voting on things again. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. REID. Yes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let's not have revisionist history. Let's have real, valid history.

Shaheen-Portman was worked on for weeks last fall. SHAHEEN and PORTMAN

worked on this new version of the bill for months, and they worked out many amendments in the committee. They came to me and said they have all this worked out—SHAHEEN and PORTMAN and a number of other Senators. I said: Great.

So before one of our recesses, the day we were getting ready to leave, they came to me and said: What we need to know and what would be even better is if we had a sense-of-the-Senate resolution on Keystone.

I said: We already agreed to what we are going to do. The bill is different with all of this input, such as the Workforce Investment Act, which we will take up this afternoon. So I came back and said: OK, we will have a sense-of-the-Senate; that is fine. And we are going to do this as soon as we get back.

We came back and then I was told: Well, we don't want a sense-of-the-Senate resolution; we want an up-or-down vote here.

I said: OK, let's do it. And that is when that still wasn't good enough. That still wasn't good enough because they want the issue.

The energy efficiency bill is a good bipartisan bill. It is like the one we are going to work on this afternoon. It is a complex bill, but the differences have been worked out, and we should go ahead and vote on it.

So if they really care about Keystone—if this is such a big deal—the Republican leader said we have been working on this for 5 years. The time has come. Let's belly up to the bar where we vote, and let's vote on it. But in the process, let's also do the bipartisan energy efficiency legislation that JEANNE SHAHEEN has put her heart into.

So that is where we are: another obstruction, diversion to keep us from really voting on things. They want the issue. They are focused on procedure. And what the American people want is for us to do things. They want the minimum wage raised. They want unemployment benefits extended for the long-term unemployed. They would like it so that a man working doesn't make more money than a woman who does the same work. The American people believe they should not be burdened with college debt which is larger than any other debt. It is \$1.3 trillion now. They have stopped us from doing that based on procedure. Why don't we work on things that will help the American people?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the exchange between the majority leader and myself come out of our leader time in order not to take further time of the Members.

Mr. REID. I agree to that. That is fine.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

EPA OVERREGULATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I mentioned previously, my colleagues and I intend to enter into a colloquy on the floor of the Senate to talk about an issue that is important to many of our States. The Senator from Wyoming, the Senator from North Dakota, and the Senator from Kansas are all very much impacted, as are our constituents, by the EPA's pursuing and being particularly active in issuing misguided and ill-conceived proposals that will do little more than overregulate and burden hard-working Americans, businesses, and families. One of the worst of these overreaches is the Obama EPA's proposal to significantly expand its authority to regulate small wetlands, creeks, stock ponds, and ditches under the Clean Water Act.

If the EPA's proposal goes through, the Federal Government could expand its regulatory authority from navigable waters such as lakes and rivers to the ditches on your grandfather's property or the dry creek bed behind your house. That is what we are talking about. This could lead to untold compliance costs and bureaucratic wrangling for ordinary families and literally cripple farmers and businesses.

The EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed Clean Water Act jurisdictional rule seeks to redefine "waters of the United States" which would effectively eliminate the Clean Water Act's "navigable waters" provision. Congress specifically referenced "navigable waters" in the Clean Water Act to guarantee limits to Federal authority.

Bodies of water currently deemed "waters of the United States" are subject to multiple regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act, including permitting and reporting, enforcement, mitigation, and citizen suits. Despite strong bipartisan opposition in Congress, the EPA and the Corps have relentlessly pursued an expansion of the definition of "waters of the United States."

Additionally, the EPA is pressing forward despite two recent Supreme Court cases that expressly rejected the Agency's broad assertions of regulatory authority and made it clear that not all bodies of water are subject to Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

If the EPA's power grab is left unchecked, few bodies of water will be able to escape the regulatory reach of the Obama EPA.

This proposed new definition could apply to a countless number of small wetlands and creeks that are typically regulated at the State level. More specifically, the proposed rule extends the reach of Federal regulatory authority

by adding "interstate wetlands" and all "adjacent waters" to the definition of "waters of the United States."

It also deems all tributaries to be categorically jurisdictional, and for the first time ever ditches—ditches—are defined as jurisdictional tributaries. This is cause for concern. This should be disturbing and troubling to all Americans—subjecting roadside, irrigation, and storm water ditches to regulation under the Clean Water Act, which would have practical consequences not fully evaluated by the EPA.

These bodies of water are hardly navigable and are, in many cases, seasonal or sporadic depending on the weather. The proposal also states that the EPA could regulate water on a case-by-case basis—dangerous development for a regulatory agency. The American public is right to be wary of the EPA granting itself such discretion. A case-by-case approach is confusing and will inevitably lead to even more litigation.

This proposal exceeds the established authority of the EPA by infringing upon what has long been a State responsibility under the Clean Water Act. All States—my State of South Dakota, Senator ROBERTS' State of Kansas, Senator HOEVEN's State of North Dakota—have an inherent interest in providing for the well-being of their citizens and businesses and ensuring safe and enduring water resources that play a large role in achieving that end.

My home State of South Dakota's No. 1 industry is agriculture. We help to feed the world. This cannot be done without clean and dependable sources of water for our farmers and ranchers. This expansion of the EPA's regulatory authority would have significant economic impact for property owners who would likely be hit with new Federal permits, compliance costs, and threats of significant fines.

Agriculture is a time-sensitive business, and the burdens this proposal would place on South Dakota farmers would strain the ability of producers to fertilize, to plant, and to irrigate when the seasons and weather conditions dictate. Rather, permits and regulations would bind the ability of producers to get their crops in when they need to and limit what they could do to ensure successful yields.

Tourism is also a vital industry in my State of South Dakota. The Black Hills, which are home to Mount Rushmore, draw nearly 3 million visitors each year. The rugged beauty of the Black Hills depends upon the responsible water management of the State and county governments. According to a letter I just received from the Pennington County Board of Commissioners, which includes much of the Black Hills, their ability to manage the water resources in the Black Hills area is greatly threatened by the EPA's proposed rule.

Similarly, South Dakota's thriving hunting industry is sustained in part by practical and responsible water management, allowing ducks and pheasants to thrive in prairie potholes and creeks. These are connected to waters already responsibly managed by the State of South Dakota. Another layer of Federal regulation will only add needless costs to protecting these waters.

Additionally, cities in my State are already struggling to grow under new taxes and regulations imposed by the Obama administration. The EPA's latest overreach would provide environmental groups with yet another powerful tool to delay and prevent development and interfere with land use activities on property owned by homeowners, small businesses, and municipalities.

I have heard from South Dakotans in nearly every industry, and the common consensus is this: This rule is bad for business—certainly in places such as South Dakota and Kansas and North Dakota and Wyoming but, I would argue, all across this country.

So I am proud to stand with my colleagues on the floor today in support of legislation that would stop the EPA's proposed Clean Water Act jurisdictional rule and protect farmers, ranchers, and homeowners across the country from the latest regulatory overreach by the Obama administration.

Mr. President, the Senator from North Dakota, I think, will carry on with the colloquy between our colleagues from the Midwestern part of the country and speak to the impacts of this ill-proposed rule on the people they represent in their respective States.

I yield for the Senator from North Dakota.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we be allowed until 10:28 a.m. for the purposes of the colloquy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be here this morning with the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, as well as the esteemed Senators from both Kansas and Wyoming, to talk about this regulation that is clearly an overreach by the EPA. It needs to be addressed. We have measures to address it.

As the Senator from South Dakota said so well, this is a regulation that is a huge problem for our farmers and ranchers, but really, as he said, we have been hearing from almost every industry sector that this is a big-time problem that needs to be addressed, and needs to be addressed now.

So, as I said, we have legislation both in committee—I have legislation in the

Appropriations Committee, in the Energy and Water Subcommittee, that would address it—and the good Senator from Wyoming has legislation that he has filed, and he is requesting a floor vote.

But in both cases, whether it is in committee or here on the floor, what we are saying is give us a chance to vote on this issue. This is an important issue for the American people and Senators need to indicate where they stand. I do not know why everybody should not be proud to do that—to vote on this regulatory overreach and to address this challenge for the American people. It is a very straightforward issue.

That is what we are here to discuss and debate this morning, and we sincerely hope, as we continue to highlight this very important problem, the leadership of this body is going to step up on behalf of the American people and allow—allow—the Senate to address it through its rightful duty, which is to vote on issues important to the American people.

To continue this important dialog, I turn to the Senator from Kansas and ask for his comments on behalf of his constituents in his State in terms of what he is hearing and the problems this waters of the U.S. proposed regulation put forward by the EPA creates in the great State of Kansas.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for yielding. I thank Senator HOEVEN for his leadership on this issue and for bringing this issue to the attention of all Members, more especially those of us in our conference, but this should be a bipartisan effort.

I rise today to join my colleagues in discussing yet another—yet another—job-stifling and unjustified regulation proposed by this administration.

The EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Agriculture—what? the three horsemen of the regulatory apocalypse—have proposed a rule that after careful review and study we believe would allow the EPA to further expand its control of private property—control of private property—under the guise of the Clean Water Act.

They claim that the proposed “Waters of the United States” rule “simply clarifies their scope of jurisdiction.” Well, here is the catch: The “clarification” is from categorically classifying so-called “other waters” as regulated, even if the water cannot be navigated and was previously outside of their authority.

This proposal is another example of why many Kansans, many farmers and ranchers from Wyoming, South Dakota, North Dakota, feel their way of life is under attack by the Federal Government's overreach and overregulation.

To date, the Kansas associations of grain and feed, agribusiness retailers, ethanol producers, soybeans, wheat growers, pork producers, livestock, watersheds, golf course superintendents, and the Kansas Cooperative Council all have opposed this rule. Similar organizations in Wyoming and North Dakota and South Dakota and all across farm country have also been in contact with their Senators. These organizations and their members fear the EPA will use this rule to further regulate farmers and ranchers, as well as other normal land uses, such as building homes.

If finalized, this rule could have the EPA requiring a permit for ordinary fieldwork or for the construction of a fence or for even planting crops near certain waters.

Kansans are justifiably worried that the permits would be time-consuming, costly, and that the EPA could ultimately deny the permits, even for longstanding and normal practices—even practices that help the environment.

A friend of mine, Kansas farmer Jim Sipes—he is out there in Manter, KS; that is way out there; that is way out there by the Colorado border; he still has not gotten much rain after 3 years—he explains his view and said: “The only thing that is clear and certain is that, under this rule, it will be more difficult to farm and ranch, or make changes to the land—even if those changes would benefit the environment.” He knows what he is talking about.

For the folks back home, the issue of the EPA trying to control more water, whether it is actually “navigable,” is not new. We have had this before. We have been down a similar road before with the agency wanting to regulate all of the water in the country, even small farm ponds, I would tell my colleagues, that no self-respecting duck would ever land on.

Now, I think maybe there is a file, I say to Senator HOEVEN—I think there is a file down there in the basement of the EPA. It must be a big one: rural fugitive dust; the navigable waters situation; endangered species, so there is the taking of farmers' ground to force them to plant native prairie grass to save the lesser prairie chicken, which we cannot even find; and on and on and on and on. I think it must be labeled: What Drives Farmers and Ranchers Crazy. And about every second foggy night, why, somebody pulls open that file and we go through the whole thing again. It is not as though we have not done this before on this issue.

After personally calling on the EPA and Army Corps to withdraw the proposed rule, I want to make sure the expansion of regulatory jurisdiction over “Waters of the United States”—let's shelve it for good. Let's shelve it for good.

Last week I joined the distinguished Senator from Wyoming Mr. BARRASSO

and the majority of our caucus in introducing straightforward legislation that prohibits the Administrator of the EPA and the Secretary of the Army—the Secretary of the Army, for goodness sakes—from finalizing the rule or trying a similar regulation in the future. Put the file back. Just file it away. Maybe put it somewhere where the hard drive is that Lois Lerner lost.

We will continue working here in the Senate, as well as the House, to either convince the administration to back off of this proposal or, if necessary, to block the agencies from moving forward. We have stopped this type of foolishness before, and I expect we will be successful again.

I thank my colleagues for their arduous efforts.

I say to Senator HOEVEN, thank you for leading this effort.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to thank, again, the Senator from Kansas. He is somebody who has been involved in agriculture for—well, he is still a very young man—he is somebody who has been involved in agriculture for a long time and certainly understands what goes into farming.

Think about it. Farmers and ranchers work the land, but that is also their home. Who knows the land better? Who knows the streams and the potholes and the ditches and the roads, who knows their land better than a farmer or a rancher? And who is more concerned about it? Really. Who is more concerned about it? That farmer or somebody who works at the EPA here in Washington, DC? That is important to think about as we look at this kind of regulatory overreach that goes to the very private property rights that are the foundation of this country.

I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his leadership and for the legislation he has put together that he has filed and that we should be voting on right now that I am very pleased to cosponsor.

I would ask the Senator from Wyoming for his comments on this issue and his legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, the former Governor of North Dakota, now the Senator from North Dakota, who knows these issues very well. And I would like to thank the Senator from Kansas, who talked about the administration's overreach and overregulations and the impact it has on the economy of the United States.

There is very disturbing news out this morning reported by Reuters. The headline: "Bad to worse: US economy shrank more than expected in Q1 [of this year]." U.S. economy shrank more than expected in Q1 of this year.

The U.S. economy contracted, not grew, not stayed the same but con-

tracted at a much steeper pace than previously estimated in the first quarter. The Commerce Department said on Wednesday that gross domestic product fell at a 2.9-percent annual rate, the economy's worst performance in 5 years—worst performance in 5 years.

It is because of the overreach, the overregulation that is coming out of this administration. That is why I rise in support with my colleagues and my colleagues who have very serious concerns about the EPA's proposed Clean Water Act jurisdictional rule.

Many if not all of these colleagues recently joined me in introducing the Protecting Water and Property Rights of 2014 Act. In fact, 34 Senators have cosponsored this bill. More continue to join the important effort. They have joined this effort because this important and consequential legislation restricts the expansion of Federal authority by this EPA, which the EPA is trying to use to encompass all wet areas of farms, of ranches, suburban homes all across America.

More specifically, this bill eliminates the administration's proposed rule to implement the expansion of such Federal authority. Through this recently proposed rule, Federal agencies are attempting to expand the definitions of waters of the United States. They want to include ditches and other dry areas where water flows only for a short duration after a rainfall, but the government wants to control even that.

Federal regulations have never defined ditches and other upland drainage features as waters of the United States, but this proposed rule does. It will have a huge impact on farmers, on ranchers, on small businesses that need to put a shovel in the ground to make a living. The rule amounts to a Federal user fee for farmers and ranchers to use their own land after it rains.

It forces suburban homeowners to pay the EPA and Army Corps to use their backyards after a storm. Let's be clear what is proposed in this rule. It takes money away from family farmers and ranchers who just want to grow crops, raise cattle, and it taxes suburban middle-class families who just want to recreate in their own backyard without Uncle Sam bankrupting them for the privilege.

This is the worst thing I think we can do to Americans in this economy, an economy, as I say, that is shrinking—a shrinking economy, not just stagnant, not just sitting there but actually shrinking. That is why my legislation is endorsed by the American Farm Bureau, as well as the American Land Rights Association. It is because they know how devastating this rule is to farmers, to ranchers, to homeowners, and to other small businesses.

Despite what this administration may say and has said about providing "flexibility"—they use that word—for farmers and ranchers in the proposed

rule, the farmers and ranchers of America are not deceived. They will not be misled by this administration. According to the June edition of the publication *National Cattlemen*, an article entitled: "EPA's Ag Exemptions for WOTUS"—waters of the United States.

Let me point out that the National Cattlemen—it is the trusted leader and definitive voice of the beef industry, the trusted leader and definitive voice of the beef industry, and the official publication of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. What that front page article says is:

Although agriculture exemptions are briefly included, they do not come close—

Do not come close—

to meeting the needs of the cattlemen and women across the country.

The president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, McCan, stated in the article:

For example, wet spots or areas in a pasture that have standing water, under this rule could potentially be affected. We now need permission to travel and move cattle across these types of areas.

The article lists some other major areas of agriculture not exempted by the EPA's proposed rule:

Activities not covered by the exemptions include introduction of new cultivation techniques, planting different crops, changing crops to pasture, changing pasture to crops, changing cropland to orchards and to vineyards and changing crop land to nurseries.

Congress never intended the Clean Water Act to be used this way. The Senate, under Democratic control, never brought legislation such as the Clean Water Restoration Act to the floor that would have removed the word "navigable" from the Clean Water Act. Why? Because they knew it would have been defeated.

In fact, 52 bipartisan Members, a bipartisan group, a majority of the Senators voted for the Barrasso amendment that rejected the EPA's proposed guidance to seize all State waters during the Water Resources Development Act. Yet this proposed rule by the administration is circumventing Congress by effectively writing "navigable" out of the Clean Water Act.

Just as troubling as ignoring Congressional intent, the proposed rule disregards the fundamental tenet embodied in two decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Those are decisions that limit Federal jurisdiction. It is particularly troubling that the proposed rule allows the Army Corps and EPA to regulate waters now considered entirely under State jurisdiction.

This unprecedented exercise of power will allow the EPA to trump States rights and wipe out the authority of State and local governments to meet local land and water use decisions. It is particularly troubling when we have seen no evidence—no evidence at all—

that the States are misusing or otherwise failing to meet their responsibilities. Enormous resources will be needed to expand the Clean Water Act Federal Regulatory Program.

Not only will there be a host of landowners and project proponents who will now be subject to the Clean Water Act's mandates and the cost of obtaining permits, but an increase in the number of permits needed will lead to longer delays in actually getting the permits. Increased delays in securing permits will impede a host of economic activities in 50 States, cost thousands of American jobs.

Farming and ranching, commercial and residential real estate development, electric transmission, transportation projects, bridge repairs, energy development, and mining will all be negatively affected. This is at a time when the United States has seen our economy shrink. The Reuters story today talks about shrinkage much more than predicted previously. Regulations such as this continue to damage America, damage our country, damage our families, damage our communities, damage the hard-working men and woman who want to go to work, put food on the table for their kids, raise their families, and go to work, but yet we have an administration that does not seem to see, is blinded by a role of big government. They are blinded from seeing the impact these onerous, expensive, burdensome regulations are having on the American public and certainly on our economy, as pointed out today in this news release from Reuters about the shrinking of the American economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his leadership on this important issue and pick up on a point he just expressed: Why are we not demanding in this body that we vote on legislation to address this proposed regulation?

As he said so clearly and eloquently, this is an issue this Congress rejected. So now when one of the agencies, the EPA, goes around Congress to set up a proposed regulation that does something the Congress expressly rejected, why in the world are we not voting? It is our responsibility and our right to do so.

America's farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs go to work every day to build a stronger nation. Thanks to those hard-working men and women, we live in a country where there is affordable food at the grocery store, where a dynamic private sector offers Americans the opportunity to achieve a brighter future. In these difficult economic times, the Federal Government should be doing all it can to empower those who grow our food and those who create jobs. Yet instead regulators are stifling growth with burdensome regu-

lations that generate cost and uncertainty.

Look at the economic data, as the Senator from Wyoming said, that came out this morning. What are we doing stifling that entrepreneurial activity, that entrepreneurship, that creativity that makes the American economy go? This proposed regulation is an example of that. It touches almost every industry.

We are talking about our farmers and ranchers, but it goes across all industry sectors. The proposed rule by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the waters of the United States is exactly the type of regulation that is hurting our economy, hurting our entrepreneurs, hurting our farmers, and our ranchers.

The waters of the United States rule greatly expands the scope of the Clean Water Act, regulations over America's streams and wetlands. If we take a look at a chart I brought, I know it is a little hard to see, but it demonstrates the incredible reach of this proposed regulation.

If we look at the chart, we can see it is a real power grab that will enable the EPA to stretch its tentacles far into the countryside and far beyond.

It is not just our farmers and ranchers and water in a ditch or water in a field that is there for maybe 1 week when it rains and the rest of the time it is dry, it affects construction, it affects powerplants, it affects stormwater drainage. I cannot think of anything it is not going to affect.

Is that how our country works now? Instead of the people who are duly elected to pass laws for this country, we stand here and we do not get to vote on any of these issues we were elected to vote on, and someone who is not elected at the EPA or the Corps, they put regulations in place that affect virtually every single American. Is that how this works now? Is that what it has come to?

Because that is exactly what is happening. That is exactly what is going on. The Supreme Court has found that Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act extends to navigable waters. I do not think anyone is arguing about the EPA's ability to regulate the Missouri River or other navigable bodies of water—rivers, lakes—but the Supreme Court also made clear that not all bodies of water are under the EPA's jurisdiction.

So under a significant nexus determination, the EPA has decided: We do not care what the Supreme Court said. We are going to make sure they are all under our jurisdiction, not pursuant to any law. We are going to put a regulation in place that enables us to do whatever we want with any body of water, not just navigable bodies of water.

Again, that is what I have tried to show on this chart. Ephemeral

streams, tributaries, all waters deemed adjacent to any navigable body, including dry ditches, including water in fields that may be there for a short period of time, runoff from storm sewers, you name it.

That is not the intent of the law. That is not the intent of the Supreme Court ruling. That is why it is so important that we address it. That is what we propose to do. In the legislation we put forward, both on the floor, in the bill filed by the Senator from Wyoming, the legislation I have offered in Energy and Water, we straightforwardly, we simply and straightforwardly address this regulation.

How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would have no objection as long as equal time is added to the block that follows for the Democrats.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. HOEVEN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, that is our point. We understand that people bring different points of view to this deliberative body, but the point is this: This is an important issue that affects virtually all Americans, that affects our economy, that affects our farmers, our ranchers, our businesses, the energy sector. You name it.

When we have something of this importance, we have an absolute responsibility to the people of this country to show where we stand on the issue, meaning we have a responsibility to vote on this and the other important issues before this body. That is what we are asking for.

We are saying everybody has a right to bring their point of view and their opinion, but we all have a right and a responsibility to vote on these important issues. That is what we are asking for, a vote on this important issue for the benefit of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is our understanding that Democrats control the next 32 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Democrats control the next 30 minutes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I be allowed to speak in a colloquy with other Members or to yield time during that 30 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN. I was listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the proposed rule for the waters of the United States, and I am somewhat curious as to where they get a lot of their information because if they read the proposed rule—and I point out that this is a proposed rule—it specifically excludes from waters of the United States certain ditches, wastewater treatment plants, ponds, et cetera. I am going to get into the specifics. But if you listen to their points on the floor, you would think all ditches are covered under the proposed rule—which is now subject to comment—and that is not the case.

I would urge those who are interested to please read the proposed rule and determine for yourself the fact that it does not include many of the examples given by the opponents in clarifying the waters of the United States.

Last week I had a roundtable discussion with a group of scientists and concerned citizens dealing with the progress we have made in the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay is critically important—not to just those who live in the watershed; it is the largest estuary in our hemisphere. There is more coastline on the Chesapeake Bay than on the entire west coast of the United States. It is a national treasure and has been declared that by many Presidents. It is iconic to Maryland and supports a diversity of aquatic life which is important to our lives and to our economy. Mr. President, \$1 trillion of our economy is based on the Chesapeake Bay.

Starting in the 1980s, we recognized that we had a responsibility to do what we could to preserve and clean up the quality of the water within the Chesapeake Bay. Starting with Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and now expanding to Delaware, West Virginia, New York, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government, we have a Chesapeake Bay agreement. The most recent, the fourth one, was recently signed. It recognizes that we have a real challenge to deal with the quality of the water in the bay.

We have asked our farmers to do more, and we have provided help to them in the farm bill for conservation practices. We have asked developers to do more by preserving more pervious surfaces and dealing with the loss of acreage of forest land. We have asked local governments to do more as far as dealing with wastewater treatment facility commitments. We have had a partnership between the government and private sectors. All stakeholders are involved because we believe we all have responsibilities. We are not ask-

ing one segment to do it alone. All of us are working together.

But, quite frankly, the regulation of the waters of the United States directly affects the success we are going to have in cleaning the Chesapeake Bay. So the issue we are talking about with the waters of the United States and clarifying that has a direct impact.

I might also tell you that climate change has a direct impact. Those of us who live in the watershed area, yes, we can do our responsibility for reducing our carbon footprint, but we need to get our country engaged in reducing our carbon footprint. We need to do that for many reasons—we need to do that for public health; we need to do that for national security.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Naval Academy, the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Pax River—all critically important to our national defense—are located on our coasts in Maryland and are subjected now to more flooding as a result of sea level increases which, in part, are the result of our activities with climate change. All we ask is that we follow the science.

Let me talk for a moment about waters of the United States because I heard what my colleague said. I have to take us back to 2001 when the Supreme Court issued two decisions concerning the navigable waters and the waters of the United States and added confusion. What this administration is trying to do, what we are trying to do is restore the authority that we all thought was in the law before the two Supreme Court decisions. That is all we are doing—trying to go back to what everyone understood were the regulations of the waters of the United States because the freshwater supply coming into the Chesapeake Bay is critically important to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. So if water goes into the streams, it goes into the bay, and that is of concern to us, and that needs to be regulated under the Clean Water Act.

I will quote from the preamble of the proposed regulation that has been submitted. The preamble says:

The SWANCC and Rapanos decisions resulted in the agencies evaluating the jurisdiction of waters on a case-specific basis far more frequently than is best for clear and efficient implementation of the CWA. This approach results in confusion and uncertainty to the regulated public and results in significant resources being allocated to these determinations by federal and state regulators.

That is why we had this proposed rule—to clarify the law that gives certainty. How many times have I heard from my constituents: Let us know what the rules are so that we can do our business. That is exactly what this proposed rule is all about.

The National Farmers Union issued this statement:

NFU has long advocated for increased certainty surrounding Clean Water Act require-

ments for family farmers and ranchers in the wake of complicating Supreme Court decisions. Today's draft rule clarifies Clean Water Act jurisdiction, maintains existing agricultural exemptions and adds new exemptions, and encourages enrollment in U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs.

That is their quote. The reason that is—there are 56 conservation practices that are specifically exempt from this regulation, so if farmers are participating in these conservation practices, they don't have to worry about the issues to which some of my colleagues referred.

Let me quote from the proposed regulation itself. The regulation says that the following are not waters of the United States: waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons; prior converted cropland; ditches that are excavated, and it gives certain conditions; ditches that do not contribute flow, either directly or through another water, to the waters of the United States, so we have exempted ditches; certain artificially irrigated areas are exempted; artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land; artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools created by excavating and/or diking dry land; small ornamental waters created by excavating and/or diking dry land; water-filled depressions; groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems; and gullies and rills and non-wetland swales.

If you listen to my colleagues, they would tell you that if, as a farmer, you have a ditch on your property that is just on your property, that you are using for irrigation on your property, it would be subject to this regulation. It would not be. It is specifically exempt.

Here is the point.

Mr. HOEVEN. Would the Senator yield?

Mr. CARDIN. Let me finish my point.

Here is the point. This is a proposed regulation. So if you think further clarification is needed, there is an extended comment period. If you think we need to make further clarifications on issues—what we are trying to get at are practices that affect water that will go into our streams and rivers and in my case end up in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which in trying to clean up the bay we have to deal with.

The success of the Chesapeake Bay Program is that all stakeholders are involved. We use the best science. We need everyone doing their fair share. Therefore, if your activities contribute to water flowing into the Chesapeake Bay watershed through our streams and rivers, yes, you are regulated under the Clean Water Act. But if you have a self-contained ditch that is not involved in that and are using it for irrigation, absolutely not. If you participate in the conservation programs, you don't have to worry about a new set of regulations. That is what this does.

Our true leader on this has been Senator WHITEHOUSE. I thank him very much on the climate change issues, on the environmental issues. He has been on the floor every day.

I want to make sure my colleagues have a chance to express their views on this issue. It is critically important.

I yield for my colleague from Rhode Island.

Mr. HOEVEN. I would ask, would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would be pleased to yield for a question, but let me make one point first.

I think it is not insignificant that each Senator who spoke against this proposed regulation hails from a landlocked State. Coastal States such as Maryland and Rhode Island have quite a different perspective because we have bays—in Senator CARDIN's case, the Chesapeake Bay; in my case, Narragansett Bay.

You don't have to look much farther than the Gulf Coast to see an example of what happens when landlocked States up the river overload flowing waters with chemicals, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, that have a beneficial use as fertilizer in those landlocked, upland States, but when they run off and come down into smaller tributaries and end up in the mighty Mississippi River and stream down through the middle of our great country and out into the Gulf of Mexico, they create, literally, dead zones in which nothing lives because the water has become anaerobic, meaning it does not carry enough oxygen to support life. Some of these can be vast dead zones, and very often they result in fish kills and crab kills because the species don't have a chance to get out of the way. Suddenly, they are strangling, they are suffocating in their own waters. That is not something we can overlook.

I am willing to listen to my colleagues with upland, landlocked agricultural States tell me how important it is that they be able to load up with fertilizer, grow their crops, and do all of those things. I appreciate and understand that point of view. That is not the only point of view. There are sister States for which that creates a real problem, and it is not fair to come to this conversation and assume that we have nothing to say, that our coasts have no stake in these decisions, and that there is only one side to this argument; that is, how much stuff you can dump out on your agricultural properties. That isn't fair, it isn't accurate, it is not scientific, and it is not good for our country. I think we need to have a good debate in which the coastal States and their imperatives and their perils are also part of the equation.

I yield for Senator HOEVEN's question.

I ask that the time used for Senator HOEVEN's question be charged against Republican time.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Maryland and the Senator from Rhode Island for coming to the floor and making exactly the type of point I am making.

Thank you for being here. This is the debate we should have, and it should be vigorous, as it is. We should have all Members, whether they are from a coastal State or an inland State, and we should debate every aspect of this proposed rule. This is important to them. This is something that affects American people regardless of what State they live in. We should have this debate, and then we should vote on this issue.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yielded to the Senator for a question.

Mr. HOEVEN. My question to you is, very simply, first, EPA, in order to provide exemptions, has to maintain that they have jurisdiction in all these areas. That is the very point I am making to the point made by the Senator from Maryland. EPA is now deciding where they have jurisdiction and where they don't. We are not. And they are doing it far beyond the scope of the Supreme Court's rule.

So my question is, If they can decide where they are going to give exemptions, how can you say they are not exerting jurisdiction?

To the good Senator from Rhode Island, every downstream State can allege the issue you made in your earlier point. I understand that. But to both of you, my point is, let's have this debate and then let's vote on behalf of the American people. Would the Senators agree that is what we should be doing in this body?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reclaiming the floor, let me say that—first, a little bit of history as to how we got here because I think that bears very much on the Senator's questions. We had quite a clear set of regulations under the Clean Water Act. Most everybody understood them. There was a standard operating practice that had developed, and into that relatively stable situation came these two Supreme Court decisions that Senator CARDIN referred to, and they cast a constitutional and statutory pall over the scope of the EPA's authority for nonnavigable waters. But—and the Supreme Court gets to do this if they want—they provided very little clarity. So there was vast uncertainty about what was going on now in the wake of these decisions.

So Members of Congress, businesses, agricultural groups, environmental groups, and many other stakeholders asked for this rulemaking. They asked for this rulemaking so that the administrative agency that was going to enforce these provisions could be given the first cut at figuring out how they apply. That is what they did in this

rulemaking. They answered the call that came from Congress, agricultural interests, environmental interests, and they came up with a proposed rule. The rule preserves and reiterates all of the current water exemptions and exclusions that preexisted, and it adds even new clarification that excludes certain water features—as Senator CARDIN pointed out—and excludes them outright.

This is the clarification that Congress asked for. This is the clarification that agricultural and environmental interests asked for. And I would submit to my friend Senator HOEVEN that if he doesn't like this result, he should wait until there is actually a result, participate in the administrative process, and let the EPA know what his feelings are.

If they come out with a final rule—this is just a proposed rule—that he finds intolerable for his landlocked upland agricultural interests, then we will have that debate and we will have an actual rule to argue about. But while he has an open invitation from EPA that says, let me know what your thoughts are and we will consider changing our rule, we shouldn't trump that process. They are the experts in this type of enforcement. We are going to hand it back to them, anyway, because we legislate very broadly.

So let's let them do the process. Let's let them come up with the rule, and then I am ready for this debate all day long. But don't forget our coastal States. Don't forget our bays.

Mr. CARDIN. If the Senator will yield for one moment, I also want Senator HOEVEN to understand the history.

Shortly after the Supreme Court decision many of us filed because there needed to be clarification. We had urged Congress to do that. But it was opposition from the Republicans that prevented us from considering that legislation. They blocked us from considering a congressional clarification as to the Supreme Court decision, and now we are faced with a situation in which the administration is doing what it must do; that is, to provide, under its own authority, where it can act, clarification that it so desperately needed.

As Senator WHITEHOUSE has said, what this regulation is about is clarifying the confusion by the Supreme Court decision as to what is regulated or not. As a result, landowners don't know whether they can do this or not. They don't know. That is the worst of all worlds, when you don't have certainty as to how you need to act, and that does cause speculation that in many cases is not true. But they don't know what the rules are.

So, quite frankly, what the administration rule is patterned after is a lot of discussion we had in the Congress of the United States shortly after the Supreme Court decision as to trying to

codify the practice before the Supreme Court decision. There didn't seem to be a lot of people upset with the manner in which the EPA was regulating the waters of the United States prior to the two Supreme Court decisions in 2001. That is what the regulation is aimed at—getting us to before the point of the Supreme Court decision and where Congress was trying to legislate but blocked by Republicans shortly after the decision.

I think Senator WHITEHOUSE is exactly right. What we should be doing now if we have concerns is expressing them. First, it might be helpful to read the regulation and see what is in it and what is not in it, what is regulated and what is not regulated. If there are things in here we think are wrong, that is what a comment period is about. Let's wait until we get the final regulation and then, yes, we will have a debate, I am sure, at that time, which is appropriate, and then we can debate exactly what the regulation says.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. May I ask the Senator from Maryland to comment on another point.

We are having a conversation right here and right now on the floor about a specific EPA regulation. But those of us who are here on the floor a lot and those of us who pay attention to these issues can't not see this conversation in the context of a larger conversation that is taking place in the Senate. That causes me to inquire: When will a Republican come to the floor and ever support EPA on anything? When will that happen?

I was just speaking in the House at a hearing, and Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS, the ranking member of the committee that I was testifying before, pointed out that they were coming up on the House Republicans' 500th vote attacking the environment in the House. Now, we know they have tried to repeal ObamaCare 50-plus times—but 500 attacking environmental regulations? I can't not see this in that larger context of a party that has simply thrown over its proud environmental history and just consistently takes the position of the polluter almost as a reflex.

Mr. CARDIN. Senator WHITEHOUSE is exactly right. We were together in the hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee, where we had many previous administrators from the Environmental Protection Agency. There were those who served under Democratic administrations and Republican administrations.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If I remember correctly, we had four from Republican administrations.

Mr. CARDIN. Four from Republican administrations—and as was pointed out in the hearing where we were talking about the Clean Air Act, it was passed by bipartisan support in Congress and signed into law by President Nixon, and it was a proud moment.

We have done many analyses that show the regulations issued under clean water and clean air pay back dividends far in excess of compliance costs, such as 40 to 1. There are people who can breathe and not have to worry about an asthma attack because we have clean air. There are those who don't get sick because of pathogens that may be in our drinking water or people getting sick just bathing on our shores. We reduced that, and the number of premature deaths we have eliminated.

The public health benefit of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act pays back multiple dividends to people of this country, and that is why this has never been a partisan issue. Quite frankly, the Chesapeake Bay Program—the partnership—has never been a partisan issue in Maryland.

Some of our strongest benefactors—the people who have caused us to have this type of unity—have been Republican leaders in our State, along with Democratic leaders. We don't even know the party it ought to be. This has been a public calling because we know the seriousness of the issue.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a long history of nonpartisan activities in order to protect the public health of the people of this country, and it is extremely disappointing that there is no cooperation at all.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. It is an anomaly. It is a historical anomaly that the present-day Republican party finds itself in this position where they will only come to the floor to attack and try to discredit the EPA. The only time they come to talk about the EPA is to oppose what the EPA is doing. They will never come to the floor and admit climate change is real and we should do something about it. They will never do that. The position that is articulated most frequently on this floor is the position that climate change is a hoax. Even young Republicans think that idea is preposterous, but that is as far as we get in trying to have a conversation on that issue. The other side has just gone dark on dealing with climate change. They simply won't discuss it or they send out as their champions the people who claim it is not real. That makes things a little bit awkward. And always—always—where there are two sides of the ledger, they look just at the one side. They look just at the polluters' side. They look just at the upland farmers and their nitrogen and their phosphorus, and they won't look at what that means to our coastal bays and coasts and harbors. They look only at the money that a polluter has to spend to clean up their powerplant, and they don't look at the savings to the rest of the public from that cleaned-up powerplant.

Senator CARDIN mentioned the savings from the Clean Air Act and the

Clean Water Act. I can be specific about the Clean Air Act savings. It is \$30 in value to all regular American families for every \$1 the polluters had to spend to clean up their act. So for every \$1 spent by polluters to clean up their act, it paid \$30 in benefit to the American public. Yet they will only look at the \$1. They never talk about the rest. They have blinders on that oblige them only to consider the point of view of the polluters. I never hear anything else.

I urge and I challenge my colleagues to get out of that trap. The American people are not with you on this. You are wrong on the science. This general attack on the environment at this stage in our history will stain the party's brand if it is not corrected. They have got to come back and join the debate on a platform of fact and in a context of willingness to look at both sides of the ledger.

Madam President, I see colleagues on the floor who I am sure seek time, so I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Senator from Virginia.

IRAQ

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I rise to discuss the current crisis in Iraq. In particular, I wish to discuss an important question: Would Congress need to approve any U.S. military combat action in Iraq?

Last week, the President summoned congressional leadership to the White House to discuss the deteriorating situation in Iraq and a potential U.S. response. Press reports of the meeting had Members quoting the President as saying he had all necessary authority for military action already, and some accounts had the congressional leaders also agreeing that the President had necessary authority.

I do not believe this President—or any President—has the ability without congressional approval to initiate military action in Iraq or anywhere else, except in the case of an emergency posing an imminent threat to the United States or its citizens.

I also assert that the current crisis in Iraq, while serious and posing the possibility of a long-term threat to the United States, is not the kind of conflict where the President can or should act unilaterally. If the United States is to contemplate military action in Iraq, the President must seek congressional authorization.

Let me point out that the White House has been in significant consultation with congressional leadership and Members in the past weeks, and that consultation is important and it is appreciated. But it is not the same thing as seeking congressional authority. That has yet to be done, and it must be done if the United States intends to engage in any combat activity in Iraq.

A word about the law. The Framers of the Constitution had a clear understanding regarding decisions about war. Congress must act to initiate war. A war, once initiated, is then managed by the President as Commander in Chief.

The principal drafter of the Constitution, Virginian James Madison, often explained why the allocation of power was drawn in this way.

The constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war to the Legislature.

The Framers did understand that a President must be able to act in an emergency to protect the United States or its citizens even prior to congressional approval. That is especially the case in the day when Members of Congress, upon the recess, would ride horses back to Vermont or wherever they lived. The President had to be able to act if the United States or an embassy or a naval ship was under attack. But even in those circumstances, the Framers understood that in an emergency a President could act but would then still need to seek formal congressional approval of any military action that had been taken.

It is important to understand that this basic allocation of power is not just about constitutional phrases. It is about underlying values.

First, the requirement for congressional approval ensures that American troops will not be sent into combat without a clear political consensus that the mission is worthwhile. It would be the height of public immorality to order servicemembers to risk their lives when the Nation's political leadership has not done the work to reach a consensus about the value of a mission.

Secondly, the requirement of congressional approval to initiate war also guarantees that there will be a public process of debate and voting by which the citizenry can also become educated about what is at stake and whether America should take the grave step of authorizing war to protect the national interest. Congress, as the decision-maker, as the initiator, as the declarer of war, supports these important underlying values.

Applying that law to Iraq, the current situation is very troubling. Congress authorized war in Iraq in 2002. In 2008, President Bush signed an agreement with Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki to cease combat operations and withdraw U.S. troops by the end of 2011. After President Obama became President, he worked with Iraq and was willing to have U.S. troops stay past 2011 to provide continued assistance to the Iraqi security forces if they desired it, but the Iraq Government would not provide the immunities and other secu-

rity assurances that were necessary for the United States to stay. They basically communicated that they did not want us to stay. So the U.S. military ceased combat operations and departed in 2011. By all accounts the U.S. combat role stopped at that moment.

In the years since 2011, Prime Minister Maliki has governed Iraq in a way that has exacerbated tensions between the country's ethnic groups. In particular, instead of building an Iraq for all Iraqis, the Maliki government has preferred the Shia population with the support of Iran and marginalized—even oppressing—the Sunni and Kurdish populations, and these regrettable actions have weakened the support for the government and have created fertile ground for Sunni extremism.

The fanatic Sunni organization ISIL has grown in its campaign to topple the current Syrian Government and now seeks to do the same in Iraq as part of its plan to establish a larger single Sunni caliphate from Lebanon to Iraq. ISIL is a well-armed and well-funded organization of jihadists. While their primary motive is the toppling of governments in the region, there is little doubt that they will seek in the future to strike western targets in Europe and in the United States. This explains the current concern and the current debate in this body about how to counter the threat ISIL poses. While ISIL terrorists pose a concern, it is important to point out that there is nothing in current law that would allow the President to take military action against them without congressional approval.

Let's look at current law.

Congress passed an authorization for the use of military force immediately after the 9/11 attacks to allow action against those who perpetrated the attacks on that day. ISIL had no connection with the 9/11 attacks. ISIL did not form until 2003. Both the Bush and Obama administrations have broadly interpreted that AUMF to allow attacks against Al Qaeda or associated forces, but ISIL is not Al Qaeda, nor is it an associated force. While it forged a temporary alliance with Al Qaeda in 2004, 3 years after 9/11, it is now an avowed enemy of Al Qaeda and is viciously battling Al Qaeda in Syria as we speak. It would be a wholly unprecedented stretch to suggest that the 2001 AUMF now would justify military action against ISIL in Iraq.

Congress acted in 2002 to authorize military action in Iraq to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein. All combat operations ceased in 2011 and even the administration now maintains the Iraqi AUMF is obsolete and should be repealed. Clearly the 2002 AUMF would not support unilateral action against ISIL.

In some instances a President relies upon a treaty ratified by Congress that requires the United States to come to

the military defense of an ally, but there is no such treaty obligating America to defend Iraq in this instance.

Finally, there is not yet an imminent threat to the United States that would allow the President to take unilateral military action against ISIL. The administration rightly points out that the growth of ISIL could prove a threat to the United States in the medium or long term, but they pose no imminent threat to the United States today. Of course, should ISIL threaten the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the President could take emergency military action and rescue American personnel, and all of us are watching carefully and all of us will support action to protect the lives of our diplomatic personnel.

I conclude, from looking at all the authorities, that the President cannot initiate unilateral military action in Iraq with the sole exception of acting promptly if needed to secure American Embassy personnel. The dangerous situation of ISIL in Iraq is exactly the kind of situation where the President must not only consult with Congress but he also must seek congressional approval for any proposed military action.

We know seeking congressional approval for military action is very challenging and it is contentious, and it is supposed to be. While this often frustrates the Executive, it is how the system is supposed to work. When Presidents follow the rule, it generally works out for the best. Let me use the recent example of Syria. When the President did follow the basic form, it worked out in a way where something positive happened—not everything we might want but something positive. The President laid down a clear red line: The United States believes it would be wrong for Syria to use chemical weapons in violation of the 1925 Geneva Convention against their use. In August 2013 Syria crossed that red line and did use chemical weapons against men, women, and children, civilians. The President weighed what to do. He didn't act unilaterally. He came to Congress seeking authority to punish the Assad administration for using chemical weapons and to deter their use in the future.

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, we had extensive hearings and then we voted to grant military authority to the President to take action in those circumstances. As you know, it was contentious in the body. The matter never came to a full vote on the Senate floor or the House floor; but after the Foreign Relations Committee authorized the President to use military force, Syria then stepped up for the first time, acknowledged they had a chemical weapons stockpile, essentially acknowledged they had used it, and then committed through international organizations at the U.N.

to destroy one of the largest chemical weapons stockpiles in the world. That accomplished the mission the President had put on the table to deter future use of chemical weapons. There is no better deterrent of that stockpile of chemical weapons than their complete destruction, and as of now the entire declared chemical weapons stockpile of Syria has been destroyed. Work is underway to determine whether there are undeclared elements of the stockpile that still must be destroyed. The fact of the destruction of this chemical weapons stockpile, one of the largest in the world, happened because the President followed the rules, came to the Senate, we acted to support military force, and then that led to this important breakthrough.

I met 2 weeks ago with officials connected with the Israeli Government and they described what a game changer it is in the region for Syria's neighbors, Turkey, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, to have that chemical weapons stockpile removed. So the President followed the rule, came to Congress, and while the Syrian civil war is not over and still is carrying on in a horrific way, that huge stockpile of weapons of mass destruction is now gone.

That teaches me and tells me: Let's learn from it.

The President should come to Congress if military action is contemplated in Iraq, and he has an excellent opportunity before him to initiate that discussion right now. All know that the 2001 authorization passed in the days after 9/11 to enable us to go after the attack perpetrators is badly in need of an update after 13 years. Despite its facial language only allowing military action against those complicit in the 9/11 attacks, it has been broadly interpreted to authorize a global war against Al Qaeda or associated forces so long as they pose a threat to the United States or any of its dozens of "coalition partners." That AUMF 13 years later has no geographic limitations. It has no expiration date. Members of the administration have testified in Senate hearings that they expect the war declared in that AUMF may go on for the next 25 or 30 years.

I wasn't here in 2001, but I have no doubt that the Members of Congress who voted for that authorization never would have contemplated war lasting into the 2030s or 2040s, and the American public has never expressed support for such a notion of perpetual war.

But the threat posed to the United States and our allies by nonstate terrorist organizations, whether it is ISIL or Al-Qaeda or Boko Haram or Al Nusra or others, is real and it has grown; and the very nature of the threat is quite different from the old notion of nation state military power that was our standard challenge even through the end of the 20th century.

In a speech in May of 2013 to the National Defense University, President

Obama recognized that the administration and Congress have to work together to examine and update the 2001 AUMF in order to narrow its scope, clarify what it allows, and make it suitable for the new challenges that are before us. I have heard many of my colleagues in this body say exactly the same, but there has been no progress on this necessary update. The administration has made no proposal. There is no AUMF revision under active consideration in either House. Strangely, while all acknowledge the authorization needs an update, we drift from crisis to crisis—Syria, Iraq, POW exchanges—without grappling with the underlying document that initiated our entrance into war 13 years ago.

We cannot afford further delays in tackling this important task. So as I conclude, I encourage all of us, Congress and the administration, to embark on the work of updating the 2001 authorization to reflect the current dimensions of our security challenges. The administration should send to Congress a proposal for a revised and narrowed authorization that specifies how the United States should seek to counter threats posed by groups such as ISIL. There will be a role for the military and there will be a role for counterterrorism activities carried out by our intelligence agencies. There will be a role for diplomacy and there will also be a role for development assistance to eliminate the conditions of desperation that so often breed fanaticism. But it is time for those roles to be clearly described so they can be publicly debated and ultimately adopted by Congress.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

TRINITY SITE RECOGNITION

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Thank you very much, Madam President, and I thank my colleague from the Foreign Relations Committee for a very good speech on a critical issue that our Nation faces right now.

On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was exploded at the Trinity site in New Mexico. For residents of the Tularosa Basin, it marked the beginning of decades of cancer, chronic illness, and suffering that continues to this day.

Next month there will be a candlelight vigil organized by the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium. Folks will once again gather as they have done now for each year for the past 5 years. They will stand shoulder to shoulder, they will light candles, and they will remember. They will remember that an injustice was done and has yet to be righted.

The Trinity explosion paid little attention to surrounding communities. Radioactive debris fell from the sky,

killing cattle, poisoning water, poisoning food, the air we breathe. The damage was done and would remain long after the test was finished, for generations. The suffering it caused is very real and so is the sadness, disappointment, and anger. Attention was not paid then, but it must be paid now.

That is why I have introduced legislation in this Congress to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to recognize the Trinity site, to include the New Mexicans who have suffered for decades, who still wait for justice, who still wait for compensation from the Federal Government for their injuries almost 70 years later—still waiting.

We cannot change the past. We cannot restore the lives of those who have passed away or erase the years of health problems, the years of suffering endured by too many and for too long, but fair compensation will make a difference and provide badly needed help.

The original RECA legislation required years of work on the ground. My father helped lay the groundwork for RECA a quarter of a century ago. Through his work with radiation exposure survivors and their families, compiling stories and records and histories of victims, the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium continues this critical work and I encourage them to keep up the fight.

This is a bipartisan effort and driven by simple fairness for American citizens who should have been helped but were ignored instead. Our bill would expand the downwind exposure area to include seven States from the Trinity and Nevada test sites and would include Guam from the Pacific side. It would also help post-1971 uranium miners to be eligible for compensation and it would fund a critical public health study of those who live and work in uranium development communities.

I will continue to push for this legislation. It is the right thing to do, and we should get it done.

When folks gather in Tularosa and stand together as candles flicker in the New Mexico sky, we will take a moment and remember those who have been affected by cancer, who have been brought down by radiation-related diseases, and we will remember those who passed away and those who continue to suffer. We offer our prayers and support to those who are still fighting. We stand with you. We know you have suffered. We know justice has not been done, and we will not rest until it is.

I wish to commend the Tularosa Downwinders Consortium, folks such as Tina Cordova and the late Fred Tyler, who will be greatly missed—great advocates, dedicated, committed, and refusing to give up. Thank you for making your voices heard, making your stories known, and for not giving up the fight. Together we will work for fairness until the day comes that we

can stand together in Tularosa and light candles of celebration that justice has been done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to talk today about a couple of issues. This first issue I will address concerns the first freedom and the First Amendment in this country, a matter which people in other parts of the world are seeing in jeopardy, and that is freedom of religion.

I read an article from the BBC about the current status of Meriam Ibrahim. Just 2 days ago she was acquitted of her death sentence in Sudan, and many people in this building and around the world applauded her release. She was sentenced to death because she would not disavow her Christian faith. In fact, for months she had been held in prison. She gave birth to a child while she was in prison, and she had a young child with her while she was in prison. The birth of the baby, and then the early months of the baby's life, was the determining factor as to when she would be first beaten and then hanged because she would not disavow her faith.

Two days ago, she and her two children were set free. She is the wife of a naturalized U.S. citizen. She had been imprisoned by this government, and unfairly so. Many of my colleagues have been working to secure her release. Last month Senator AYOTTE and I sent a letter to Secretary Kerry urging him to offer and provide political asylum for her immediately. We should not have to provide asylum for her family. Her husband is a U.S. citizen, and because of that both her children are U.S. citizens. Because of her faith, she had been sentenced to death.

The State Department wondered how much jurisdiction it had in this case, and so Senator AYOTTE and I sent another letter to both the State Department and Homeland Security—that agency has the ability to allow people to leave a country or come into a country.

On Monday, it looked as though the situation was moving in the right direction. She had reportedly been acquitted and was set free. She was allowed to join her husband and their children at the airport, but yesterday when they tried to leave the airport, news outlets reported she was rearrested. I hope by rearrested they mean she was detained for paperwork, but the Sudanese Government needs to let her go.

If they are so concerned about the issue of faith and don't want someone there who is willing to promote another faith—or at least live another faith—they should at the very least let

her leave the country. I think asylum in the United States for her U.S. citizen husband, her U.S. citizen children, and her is appropriate. That way the danger they feel they face by someone who is willing to profess another faith would be gone.

I cannot imagine why the Sudanese Government would not allow her to leave the country, and I encourage them today to release them.

NBC News reported:

The NISS, a shadowy and feared institution, said on its Facebook page that Ibrahim and her family had been attempting to travel to the U.S. with documents from the Embassy of south Sudan, which split from its northern neighbor in 2011 after years of civil war. It said she was carrying a U.S. visa, and that her attempts to use the documents were considered a "criminal offense."

Apparently the documents were purportedly—at least according to this news report—from South Sudan. But those documents should have been enough to let her leave and should not have been considered another criminal offense.

These authorities have told reporters that Meriam Ibrahim was using a valid travel document issued by the Embassy of South Sudan, and then suddenly her valid travel documents were deemed not valid.

The State Department, I hope, is doing everything it can to work with the Sudanese Government to ensure that this family is able to come back to the United States. This continued harassment over someone's faith has to end. We need to be doing everything we can. Her husband is a U.S. citizen and her children are U.S. citizens. This is an American family and Sudan should let them leave and let them leave now.

If this were the only time something such as this happened, it would be a terrible problem, but this injustice takes place in so many countries around the world. Apparently the one faith you can't profess is the Christian faith.

When news of Meriam's death sentence came to light, it was about the same day there were reports of another American citizen, Pastor Saeed Abedini, who had been beaten badly in a hospital in Iran. He was there because of his faith. He was taken to an Iranian prison that was notoriously known as the most dangerous prison you could possibly be in in Iran.

Last year I joined with 11 of my colleagues—at the time Secretary Clinton was leaving—urging Senator Clinton to use every resource we had to release him as well. Our government condemned the Iranian Government for his prosecution.

He converted to Christianity as a teenager before moving to the United States with his wife. He established some churches that were underground churches in that country.

In 2009, he was arrested for so-called Christian activities. He was released on

bail. He agreed not to continue his work with the underground churches, but as he was traveling back and forth between the United States and Iran in recent years, he was working to establish nonreligious orphanages in Iran.

In September of 2012, he was detained after he lawfully came into Iran through Turkey. He is now serving an 8-year jail sentence on charges related to his Christian faith, and all the while he has been interrogated intensely and beaten to the point where he was taken to the hospital and then he was beaten in the hospital. After that, he was taken to the most dangerous prison you could take a person to in Iran.

The activities I have just described cannot be allowed to continue. I don't know how we can move forward with talks with the Iranians and not ask them for such a simple gesture that would allow this U.S. citizen to come back to the United States—and don't kill him in one of your prisons or hospitals. It would show a sign of a good-faith effort as we continue to have these discussions.

I hope the President will step forward, along with the Secretary of State, and talk about these grave abuses of human rights.

Last year the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported out a bipartisan bill to appoint a special envoy for the purpose of promoting religious freedom among religious minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia. The House has already passed this bill.

This continued violence—particularly against Christians—against all religions that governments are in disagreement with is deeply disturbing. It defies the freedoms we hold dear.

When people's rights to their own religious beliefs are abused in the Middle East or Sudan or anywhere else, the United States of America should be the first country to step up and say: We are going to do whatever we can to ensure more religious freedom, and in this particular case, to ensure that the Ibrahim family—in prison in Sudan—is able to leave and Pastor Abedini is able to leave Iran.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. BLUNT. The other matter I wish to talk about for just a few minutes deals with the disappointing answer Senator ALEXANDER and I got this week from a request we made several days ago about a processing center near St. Louis where the employees have stepped forward and basically said this was a processing center for the Affordable Care Act. One group that may not be able to afford the Affordable Care Act—among many others—may be the taxpayers. These employees stepped forward and said they were really not doing anything.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported this morning:

Whistleblower allegations last month that claims workers slept, read or played games at Wentzville invoked a flurry of questions from Missouri's congressional delegation.

Moving on with their story, they cite one of the whistleblowers as saying:

We played Pictionary. We played 20 Questions. We played Trivial Pursuit.

She estimated she processed six applications the entire month of December.

CMS, while not acknowledging any of those allegations, said it "has adjusted Serco's work to accommodate changing operational needs." That is sort of a nonanswer answer.

If we want the government to work more effectively, the government has to be responsive to the Congress.

Mr. President, I unanimous consent to have my letter printed in the RECORD.

This letter is dated June 17, but we had to call them yesterday to see if they were ever going to respond. They stamp-dated this a few days ago, but we certainly have not received anything.

I understand the Affordable Care Act is not going the way the administration had hoped, but that doesn't mean they can continue to pretend there are applications where there are no applications or work where there is no work or contracts that have not performed.

This is a British company that was already in trouble with the British Government that has not performed there. It appears to be one of the considerations to get a \$1.25 billion contract here.

I wish to have answers to these questions. I know many in the Congress wish to have answers to their questions. They wish to ask questions rather than to have to listen to whatever information the administration would like to give.

I think the entire Missouri congressional delegation is interested in this, as are people who are wanting the taxpayers to be protected and for people to have access to health care they can afford and that meets the needs of their family.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

Washington, DC, June 17, 2014.

Hon. ROY BLUNT,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BLUNT: Thank you for your letter regarding the recent news story about employees of Serco, a contractor to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which provides eligibility support for the Federally-facilitated Marketplace (Marketplace). CMS is committed to working with Serco, and all of CMS's contractors, to ensure that federal funds are spent appropriately and that performance expectations are clear and monitored. We closely monitor the work Serco is doing regarding the num-

ber of employees it has, including staff allocation by job function, and we are confident that the balance is appropriate.

On April 22, CMS was notified by Serco of a request for an interview with KMOV, a local news station in St. Louis, Missouri, regarding the allegations of misconduct at its Wentzville, Missouri facility. Upon learning about the allegations, CMS formally requested Serco to conduct a compliance investigation for the purpose of reviewing the allegations of inappropriate employee conduct at its Wentzville, Missouri facility as cited in the news story and to take any necessary steps to address them. At this time, CMS does not have any knowledge of similar allegations taking place at any of Serco's other facilities.

Regarding adjustments of Serco staffing levels in response to Marketplace workload, total Serco workforce numbers and patterns vary and are adjusted based on the needs of the contract. Currently, Serco has approximately 3,000 employees stationed among its four locations. The number of Serco staff is reviewed on a regular basis by CMS and adjustments to staffing levels are made as appropriate based on the workload and requirements of the contract. Over the course of open enrollment, and now after open enrollment, CMS has adjusted Serco's workforce to accommodate changing operational needs. For example, CMS adjusted the workforce to process more paper applications last fall, when HealthCare.gov had technical problems, and then again for calling consumers to help them take the necessary steps to complete their enrollment.

For oversight purposes, CMS monitors Serco's performance through a range of contractually required reports, meetings and site visits. CMS receives daily production and staffing reports from Serco, and communicates with Serco representatives daily to discuss operations and policy guidance to ensure adequate staffing levels and operational priorities. CMS has also conducted site visits across all four Serco facilities and is in constant communication with Serco's management team.

Regarding the question of oversight or other actions to ensure compliance with contract terms, in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 42.15, CMS will complete an annual evaluation of Serco utilizing the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System at the end of the base period. In the event of inappropriate activity related to payments already made to Serco, CMS would take recourse that is legally and contractually allowed.

Concerning document production and consumer notifications, since October 1, 2013, Serco has handled more than 1 million documents related to the Marketplace and made 1.4 million outbound phone calls to Marketplace applicants. Serco performs a number of duties for CMS other than processing initial paper applications. Serco workers also are involved with verifying information, processing exemptions, resolving conflicts of information, and calling consumers to obtain missing information or necessary documentation.

Finally, in consideration of whether Serco would be granted a one-year option period at the end of the contract's one-year base period, CMS will conduct a review of the quality of the work currently being performed by the contractor, determine whether the contractor has met the terms and conditions of the contract thus far, and assess if the requirement covered by the option continues to fulfill an existing government need.

CMS's review will fulfill all of the conditions prescribed in FAR 17.207, Exercise of Options.

I understand your concerns and appreciate you bringing them to my attention. I will also provide a copy of this response to Senator Lamar Alexander. Once again, thank you for your letter and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further thoughts or concerns.

Sincerely,

MARILYN TAVENNER,
Administrator.

Mr. BLUNT. I yield the floor and ask unanimous consent that we move to the quorum call and that the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE PLIGHT OF MERIAM IBRAHIM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, the Senator from Texas is on his way to the floor to talk about Meriam Ibrahim. He has been regularly joined by other Senators, including Senators AYOTTE, RUBIO, INHOFE, SHAHEEN, and COONS and many others who share my deep concern. Hundreds of Tennesseans have written and called my office about this situation.

I am outraged by this blatant attack on religious freedom, and I join my colleagues in demanding that the President and the State Department act immediately to help Ms. Ibrahim.

Meriam found herself in this situation because she was born to a Muslim father and an Ethiopian Orthodox Christian mother. Meriam's father abandoned the family when Meriam was 6 years old, so she was raised as a Christian. Meriam later married Daniel, an American citizen, who is also a Christian. The Sudanese Government considers Meriam a Muslim, even though she is a devout Christian.

When Meriam was ordered to renounce her faith, she refused. For that crime, the Sudanese Government condemned her to death. She was convicted and sentenced to receive 100 lashes and then be hanged. To make matters worse, she was pregnant with her daughter when this happened. Her son is less than 2 years old and was forced to live in a women's prison outside Khartoum, where they were held until Monday. Monday we learned Meriam was to be released, but that was a celebration that was short-lived because yesterday she and her family were detained at the airport.

President Obama and the State Department should immediately demand that the Sudanese Government follow

their own court's orders and release Meriam and her family. The harassment and targeting of this family must stop immediately. The State Department should be prepared to act quickly to help them leave Sudan as soon as possible.

Occasionally we wonder if words spoken on this floor matter, but in this case I believe they have. This is an outrageous incident that has seared the conscience of Americans and people all over the world. I know in Tennessee many families care about it. I wish to thank Senator CRUZ as well as Senators AYOTTE and RUBIO and INHOFE and SHAHEEN and COONS—Senators on both sides of the aisle—who have used this forum, this tribunal, to talk about the case of Meriam Ibrahim and her plight. It is our hope that the attention, the spotlight placed on this matter will help her be released and that our administration will continue its efforts to register our strong concern.

I am here to express the feelings of hundreds of Tennesseans but also to congratulate Senator CRUZ and the other Senators on both sides of the aisle who have done such an effective job of letting the world know about Meriam Ibrahim and her plight.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PLIGHT OF MERIAM IBRAHIM

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss a heartbreaking tragedy that has focused the attention of people across America and people across the world. I rise today to discuss the plight of Meriam Ibrahim. Meriam is a young wife and a young mother. Meriam has two children. She has a son Martin, who is 20 months old, and she has a newborn baby girl Maya, who was just recently born.

Now, the birth of a little girl should be a cause for celebration. But I am sorry to tell you, Madam President, that Meriam gave birth to Maya while in leg irons in a prison in Sudan.

Meriam is married to a U.S. citizen, Daniel. Her two children are American citizens. Why was Meriam in leg irons in a prison cell in Sudan? She was there because the Government of Sudan had sentenced her to receive 100 lashes and to hang by the neck until dead for the crime of being a Christian.

That is Meriam's only crime in Sudan, and for that crime she was sentenced to be tortured and executed.

Meriam was told by the Government of Sudan that if she would merely renounce Jesus Christ, she would be spared that horrible sentence. But

Meriam told her captors that she would not and could not renounce Christ.

All of us value the religious liberty that is protected here in America that is precious to each and every one of us, and yet I would venture, very few, if any of us, have been tested in our faith the way Meriam has.

Now, 2 days ago, we had cause for celebration. Two days ago, the Government of Sudan—responding to the international outcry that this young wife and mother would be tortured and murdered for being a Christian—released Meriam. There were many prayers of thanksgiving 2 days ago.

Yet, Madam President, I am very sorry to tell you that yesterday, while Meriam was at the airport preparing to leave and come to America with her husband and her two little babies, armed thugs came to the airport and seized Meriam. She is back in a prison in Sudan.

This is wrong. This is an outrage. This calls for prayers across this country. And this calls for U.S. leadership.

I would humbly call upon President Obama to speak out for Meriam. There is no one who has a bully pulpit like the President of the United States. This is a case that cries for Presidential leadership. Her husband is an American from New Hampshire. Her babies are Americans. And this is a grotesque example of religious persecution. I would note that this should not be a cause for partisan division. Indeed, in this Chamber, I am pleased to have joined with Senator SHAHEEN, a Democrat from New Hampshire, and Senator AYOTTE, a Republican from New Hampshire, in legislation that would provide immediate relief for Meriam to allow her to come to America.

It is my hope this body can operate quickly in a bipartisan, in a unanimous manner, to act on that legislation so we can stand together. I am encouraged that so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have stood and fought for Meriam. We need to speak with one uniform voice.

I hope, in particular—I would urge, in particular—President Obama to stand and add his clear voice, to say to the Government of Sudan: Free Meriam Ibrahim.

I would ask everyone watching this to lift her up in your prayers and to speak out.

Sudan, 2 days ago, responded to the international pressure and released her. Now that they have apparently had a change of heart and forcibly captured her, we need to speak even louder. We need to speak for Meriam Ibrahim because it is wrong for anyone—especially this young wife and mother—to be subject to torture and murder for being a Christian. That is unequivocally wrong, and we need to speak in one voice.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Export-Import Bank—the program that is a vital tool of U.S. manufacturers and small businesses across the United States of America to help them grow jobs and gain access to international markets.

There has been a lot written in the last 24, 48 hours about this because there has been a lot of discussion about people who have previously supported the program—maybe voted for it five or six times—and now all of a sudden have either amnesia or have forgotten what is so important about this program.

I am here this morning to talk about this issue because I believe it is so vital to the U.S. economy and to the economic opportunities and challenges we face.

The Export-Import Bank basically gives assistance in the form of securitizing loans that are sought by the private sector when a U.S. company tries to sell a product overseas.

You can imagine that if you are a U.S. manufacturer—and you could be involved in lots of different things; in our State, there is everything from aviation to grain silos to music stands to agricultural products—when you go and say, well, we want to sell to Ethiopia or we want to sell to a South American country or we want to sell to an Asian country—for example, a small businessperson in the State of Washington says: Well, OK, I have found a customer in one of those countries for my product—and I will use grain silos as example because there is a company in our State that now sells grain silos to 82 different countries around the globe—that customer in that country says: Well, how am I going to finance this deal? It is not exactly like this sophistication is present in every one of these developing countries. Yet we want U.S. products to be sold into these developing countries.

I guess we could sit back on our laurels and just think it is all going to happen on its own and let the Europeans sell products into that market or let the Chinese sell products into that market or we could hustle—which is what the United States of America does—and we can figure out a way to secure those deals when those customers have a challenge of financing within their country.

Now, it does not mean that the Export-Import Bank finances all of those deals. It means it provides, in a lot of cases, security so that when a private bank does finance the sale of that deal, there is certainty and predictability.

Why is that important? Well, as one vice president of a bank that operates in 19 different States and the District of Columbia told us: Most banks, even those as large as—in this case—PNC, cannot alone take risks for helping a

U.S. company sell in countries with governments that may be less stable than the United States of America.

It makes sense. Right. Look at what we are seeing around the globe. We are seeing lots of change. You cannot count on a deal and account for the capricious nature of governments. If someone stiffes me in Pittsburgh, I will just go to a court in Pittsburgh and win a judgment against these individuals. Well, you cannot practically expand that to a government in Africa or in Asia. You cannot go to a court system here in the United States and say: Hey, that government failed to pay on that particular customer deal that was enacted. But you can, with the help of the Export-Import Bank, secure those loans and make sure that payment is received.

That is why so many small businesses across the State of Washington like and have used this program in conjunction with the private banking industry.

For example, there is a company: Manhasset music stands. I love that company because it makes music stands somewhat like this podium I am speaking in front of that is used for placement of music, and they sell all over the globe. In fact, China is one of their best customers. I love that there is a place in Yakima, WA, that is figuring out how to sell a U.S.-manufactured product in China and that they are continuing to compete with the Chinese every day and winning that battle.

I am so proud that company uses the Export-Import Bank to reduce their risk to those customers because those customers live in a place where the banking and security might not be there.

Why is this so important? Well, first of all, 95 percent of consumers in the world live outside of the United States of America. So unless we just want to sell to people in the United States of America, we better have a pretty good strategy of how we are going to sell to people outside of the United States of America.

So with 95 percent of consumers outside of the United States of America and a rising middle class around the globe—the middle class is going to double in the next 20 years. It is going to double. That means more people with more disposable income to buy products and to use services that are so critical.

Take aviation, for example. Because there is a rising middle class around the globe and a lot more people want to travel, that is 35,000 new airplanes that are in demand. That is how many we are going to have to build over the next 20 years—35,000 new airplanes.

Well, that could be really good news for the United States of America and U.S. manufacturing because those are great middle-class manufacturing jobs.

But guess what. Those jobs are not secure. The Brazilians want to build airplanes. The Europeans already build airplanes. The Chinese want to build airplanes. They are all competing for that rising middle-class market that is demanding new airplanes. They all want to get in the action of having manufacturing jobs in their states.

So we need to make sure we implement the Export-Import Bank, which is about to expire on September 30 of this year. Without the Export-Import Bank, we are going to be hobbling businesses across the United States of America and not giving them these tools.

The Export-Import Bank has created thousands of jobs in the United States of America. It has increased exports by \$37 billion and helped small businesses and created jobs. It also helps us pay down the Federal deficit. It has generated over \$1.057 billion returned to the U.S. Treasury. So it has actually helped us pay down the Federal debt. So my colleagues who are now all of a sudden either having amnesia on why they supported the Ex-Im Bank or not coming forward to support it now need to remember what a vital tool this is to the U.S. economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent for another 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. I want to close by saying that other countries use these same financial tools. So a lot of my colleagues can see that other countries, for the same reason, when the marketplace does not provide a private sector financial tool to securitize these products—it is important that the United States stay competitive with everybody chasing global market opportunities.

Let's not hobble U.S. manufacturing. Let's get the Export-Import Bank out of committee and reauthorized.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions is discharged from further consideration of H.R. 803 and the Senate will proceed to the measure, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2:30 shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, for the next several hours we will be moving to a bill that the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, and the Senator from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON, have had the principal role in fashioning. They will have a chance to talk about that. In just a few minutes the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator HARKIN, will proceed with the bill. But before that happens, I wish to take 3 or 4 minutes to talk about the importance of what is happening here.

In 1998 Congress passed a sort of "GI bill" for workers. The idea was to do what is at the top of every Governor's agenda in every State right now: How can we help more Americans get the job skills to fit the jobs?

When I was home in Granger County last weekend, the concern of Tennesseans was that it is too hard to find a job; it is too hard to keep a house; what can I do to get a job?

This legislation we are dealing with today, for the first time since 2003, reauthorizes \$9.5 billion in funds that will be spent through local workforce boards, through community colleges, and through State governments to help individuals in North Dakota, in Washington, in Tennessee, in Georgia get the job skills to find a job. This bill will make it easier for them for them to achieve that goal. It has the great advantage of not mandating how they do it from Washington but creating an environment where people can do this for themselves.

Our former Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen said to me that when he first became Governor and went to find out about the \$145 million of federal workforce development funding that comes to Tennessee, he just threw up his hands. He said: It is too complicated. I cannot do anything with it.

So he told his cabinet members: Do the best you can.

Well, working together with the House of Representatives, Senator MURRAY and Senator ISAKSON and a group of us here have taken this law that was passed 16 years ago and made some dramatic changes to it. They will tell you more about that. They will be talking about how we have taken many of the 47 work-training programs that exist in the Federal Government and simplified them, eliminating 15 programs that were ineffective or duplicative, eliminating 21 Federal mandates, streamlining multiple plans into a single State plan that reduces time spent on paperwork, streamlining reporting requirements, giving Governors more flexibility, giving local workforce boards more flexibility, and most importantly, giving the individuals who

need jobs more opportunity to say: This is what I would like to do, and this is what I choose to do.

This has been no easy task. Senator MURRAY and Senator ISAKSON deserve a lot of credit from all of us because many Congresses have tried to reauthorize this law before. I am going to come back after about an hour and deliver a little more extensive discussion on this, but the 108th Congress, the 109th Congress, and the 112th Congress—all tried to do this but could not get a consensus about how to move forward. Finally, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX produced the SKILLS Act in the House of Representatives. The House passed this bill in March of 2013. It came over here to the Senate. The Senate HELP Committee passed its bill last July. Led by Senator MURRAY and Senator ISAKSON, the Senate began working with the House, came up with an agreement, and, working with a number of Senators, we have reduced the number of amendments that actually have to be voted on today to two. So we will have two amendments to be voted on and then will vote on final passage. Then we will send the bill back to the House. Hopefully the President will have a chance to sign it.

I would like to say that I hope that in the midst of what is too much dysfunction in the Senate, this will be an example of what can happen when we put our minds to it.

The members of the HELP Committee, on which I am the ranking Republican, and Senator HARKIN, the ranking Democrat—we have some pretty big philosophical differences. Ideologically, we are not the same. But we have passed 19 bills out of the HELP Committee. 13 have become law this year. That is a record of accomplishment we are proud of. It shows that Senators with different opinions can come to a consensus and come to a resolve.

So let me step aside now and let those who have really done the most work on the bill speak—the Senator from Washington and the Senator from Georgia. I will be back in about an hour, and then we will be voting a little later this afternoon. This is good news for the workers of America, for the Governors who felt hamstrung by Washington, for the workforce boards who have been limited in their ability to meet the needs of local employers and workers, and for Senator COBURN, who has been a real leader in pointing out how many duplicative work programs we have. We have gone a long way in the direction he wanted us to go. I congratulate all of those Senators for the result.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 3378

(PURPOSE: IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE)

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, as provided under the consent agreement,

I now call up the substitute amendment No. 3378.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BROWN, proposes an amendment numbered 3378.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that all after the first vote at 2:30 p.m. be 10 minute votes and that upon disposition of H.R. 803, the time until 4:30 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, just last month I joined seven of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats from the House and the Senate, to introduce a critical piece of legislation called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It is a bill to reauthorize and dramatically improve the Workforce Investment Act, or WIA, which authorizes a number of critical workforce development programs in all 50 States.

This legislation is something I have been working on for several years with a number of our colleagues. It is something that is long overdue—for more than a decade. Since we introduced a compromise deal last month, we have been working feverishly with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to iron out any issues they might have and make a few small technical fixes. We have made sure that every single Member of the Senate and their staffs have had the time to look through this deal, ask questions, and propose amendments. Now, today, we are one final step away from sending this tremendous bipartisan deal to the House of Representatives and then hopefully to the President's desk.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of over 100 organizations supporting this bill, including business groups, labor, educators, Governors, mayors, and countless others.

Improving our Federal workforce programs is, as I said, something I have been working on for more than a decade. During that time, I have heard from so many workers and businesses in my home State of Washington and across the country who tell me how im-

portant effective workforce programs are for themselves and their communities. Business owners, large and small, have told me that while existing programs help, it has become harder and harder to find workers with the skills they need to fill new jobs in the 21st century. Workers who want to advance their careers or get back on the job after being unemployed have told me that it is more and more difficult to get the education and skills they need to compete for the new jobs.

I am thrilled that we have reached this important step in the process. The reason this agreement was even possible is the incredible bipartisan process we have had over the last 2 months to reach a compromise on which we could all agree. So today I thank my coauthors of this bill in the Senate for all of their hard work through the process and their work to rally support for it today: Senator TOM HARKIN, a Democrat from Iowa, the great chairman of the Senate HELP Committee; Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, from whom you heard, a Republican from Tennessee and the esteemed ranking member of the HELP Committee; and finally, my very close partner in this process, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON from Georgia.

Senator ISAKSON and I are the coauthors of the Senate version of this bill to reauthorize WIA. Throughout this process it has been an absolute pleasure to work across the aisle with him to get this done. His integrity and his commitment have been key to making this a reality.

Senator ISAKSON's office is right next door to mine. Whether it was on the phone or while the two of us were walking over here to the Chamber to cast votes, we must have had hundreds of conversations on how to reach this point. So it means a lot for me to be here with him today.

I also thank a few other Senators whose commitment to improving our workforce systems has been remarkable.

First of all, I thank Senator ENZI, our colleague from Wyoming. Senator ENZI and I have been working for a very long time to reauthorize WIA. More than once, we would be at the White House for meetings, and regardless of the topic, wherever we were, he would tell President Bush and now President Obama: This should be a bipartisan effort we can all agree on. I think today's actions are proof that he was right all along.

Second, I wish to recognize and thank Senator SHERROD BROWN from Ohio for his years of leadership on these issues. Senator BROWN's understanding of the changes in the American economy and our places of work is unparalleled. The State of Ohio should be very proud to have him represent them in the Senate.

In particular, Senator BROWN's work on the issues of skills, manufacturing,

economic competitiveness, and education reform have been critical. In crafting this deal, we were fortunate to be able to draw on his SECTORS Act and weave the concepts of that throughout this bill. In fact, it is because of Senator BROWN's strong advocacy that we were successful in requiring SECTOR initiatives at both the State and local levels, as well as including them in plans and functions and reports. I know that in my State of Washington, we use SECTOR strategies in everything from aerospace industries to maritime, health, construction, gaming, finance, renewable energy, and viniculture. They all work to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our workforce system. I am very proud that we have included sections in this bill and have worked with Senator BROWN closely and have benefited from his knowledge and leadership.

I also thank Senator KAY HAGAN from North Carolina for her work on this legislation. Her America Works bill provided us with a great framework to think about skills and certification and credentials and the need to be closely aligned with employers. Because of her leadership and her vision, this bill requires that training that leads to recognized postsecondary credentials receive a priority, meaning that both workers and employers benefit from the training provided through this act.

We also require that all States and locals report on the number of credentials offered, meaning that the entire workforce system will be more closely aligned to the needs of employers and workers and will yield more direct value in and for the marketplace.

I also wish to mention that Senator HAGAN worked hard to ensure that we focused not just on initial credentials but credentials that are industry-recognized and both portable and stackable.

Finally, I thank Senator FRANKEN from Minnesota, who represents the same State as the late Senator Paul Wellstone, who was my Democratic predecessor lead on this bill.

True to Senator Wellstone's legacy, Senator FRANKEN has shown a deep understanding of the needs of job seekers, workers, and employers, as well as a passion to help them all advance and succeed.

I was very pleased to work closely with him on this legislation and ensure that a number of his priorities were included. Lead among his priorities was building closer ties with our community colleges, and we worked hard to make sure that happened.

I am also pleased that we benefited from a truly innovative program in Minnesota, Twin Cities RISE!, which has been a pioneer in pay-for-performance models for many years and which helped to inform our inclusion of pay-for-performance provisions in this bill.

So it is clear this bill is the product of many authors. And while we know that nobody gets everything they want, I think at the end of the day we can all proudly say this bill will help our workers, our businesses, and our economy for years to come, because Federal workforce programs have proven time and again that the best investment we can make as a country is an investment in our American workers.

I have seen firsthand in my home State of Washington workers who were laid off who were able to get new training, new skills, and new jobs. I have seen so many Washington State businesses—from our aerospace companies to video game design firms—that were able to access workers with the new skills they needed to grow and compete.

But with millions of new jobs that would require postsecondary education and advanced skills in the coming years, we will fall behind if we do not modernize our workforce development systems and programs now. We have to make sure that when high-tech jobs of the 21st century are created, Americans are ready to fill them, and that is exactly what we have all done in this bill.

We have doubled down on the programs that work, we have improved the programs that have become outdated, and we have created a workforce system that is more nimble, adaptable, better aligned with what our businesses need, and more accountable so that they can continue to make it better.

We started with a House proposal, a Senate proposal, and we all met in the middle. That is exactly what the American people sent us here to do, to work together to help our workers and help our economy grow.

This is an all too rare opportunity for all of us to get behind a strong, bipartisan, bicameral bill.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and send it to the House for a vote.

I thank my great friend and partner, who has spent innumerable hours getting us to this point. I thank him, his staff, and all of our staffs who have worked hard to find a compromise and not to find a fight.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT—INVESTING IN AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS

LIST OF KEY SUPPORTIVE ORGANIZATIONS

1. ACT
2. AFL-CIO
3. AFSCME
4. American Association of Community Colleges
5. American Federation of Teachers
6. America Forward Coalition
7. The American Legion
8. American Library Association

9. The Arc
10. Associated Builders and Contractors
11. Associated General Contractors of America
12. Association for Advancing Automation
13. Association for Career and Technical Education
14. Association for Talent Development (formerly ASTD)
15. Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
16. Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
17. Association of University Centers on Disabilities
18. Austin Chamber of Commerce
19. Bipartisan Policy Center's Governors Council
20. Business Leaders United
21. Business Roundtable
22. California Workforce Association
23. Center for Law and Social Policy
24. Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
25. City of Seattle
26. Colorado Municipal League
27. Commercial Vehicle Training Association
28. Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities
29. Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy
30. Dallas Regional Chamber
31. Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
32. Easter Seals
33. Georgia Municipal Association
34. Goodwill Industries International
35. Governor Terry Branstad (IA)
36. Governor Chris Christie (NJ)
37. Governor Mary Fallin (OK)
38. Governor Rick Scott (FL)
39. Governor Rick Snyder (MI)
40. Governor Tom Corbett (PA)
41. Greater Baltimore Chamber of Commerce
42. Greater Cleveland Partnership
43. Greater Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce
44. Greater Houston Partnership
45. Greater Louisville Inc.
46. Greater Memphis Chamber
47. Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
48. Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
49. Greater Spokane Incorporated
50. IBM
51. Independent Electrical Contractors
52. International Economic Development Council
53. International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
54. Jobs for the Future
55. Knowledge Alliance
56. The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
57. Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
58. Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation
59. Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
60. Massachusetts Municipal Union
61. Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
62. Minnesota Workforce Council Association
63. Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
64. National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
65. National Association of Counties
66. National Association of Development Organizations
67. National Association of Manufacturers
68. National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
69. National Association of State Workforce Agencies

70. National Association of Workforce Boards
 71. National Association of Workforce Development Professionals
 72. National Center for Learning Disabilities
 73. National Coalition for Literacy
 74. National Conference of State Legislatures
 75. National Council on Independent Living
 76. National Council of La Raza
 77. National Council of State Directors of Adult Education
 78. National Education Association
 79. National Federation of the Blind
 80. National Governors Association
 81. National Job Corps Association
 82. National League of Cities
 83. National Metropolitan Business Alliance
 84. National Restaurant Association
 85. National Retail Federation
 86. National Roofing Contractors Association
 87. National Skills Coalition
 88. National Youth Employment Coalition
 89. New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals
 90. North America's Building Trades Unions
 91. North Carolina Technology Association
 92. Opportunity America Jobs and Careers Coalition
 93. Oregon Bioscience Association
 94. Paralyzed Veterans of America
 95. Rural Country Representatives of California
 96. San Diego Chamber of Commerce
 97. San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
 98. San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce
 99. Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
 100. Service Employees International Union
 101. Siemens Corporation
 102. Society for Human Resource Management
 103. Spokane Area Workforce Development Council
 104. St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association
 105. Tennessee Municipal League
 106. Twin Cities Rise
 107. United States Chamber of Commerce
 108. United States Conference of Mayors
 109. United Way Worldwide
 110. Washington Roundtable
 111. Year Up
 112. YouthBuild USA

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield for Senator ISAKSON, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. I have to say first and foremost that it has been a real privilege to work with Senator MURRAY from the State of Washington. We are across the hall from one another. We see each other coming and going and coming back to the floor and from the office.

We have worked hard, our staffs have worked hard, and finally today lightning has struck. We are about today—in the Congress of the United States—to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and address one of the significant challenges that face America today.

As we sit in this Chamber and talk about this bill, there are 10.6 million

Americans who are unemployed. There are also 4 million jobs waiting to be filled by people who need specific skills. This bill deals with the skills deficit in America, and it is going to match some of those unemployed with some of those jobs to lower our unemployment rate and raise the rate of prosperity in American families. This is an important bill.

A lot of people who have watched the Senate over the past few years might have said: How in the world did you reach an agreement on anything? You always seem to be fighting, you always seem to be arguing.

I want to tell a brief story. About 1 month ago Senator MURRAY and I joined a few other Members of the Senate—Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, a couple of Members from the House: Representative FOXX of North Carolina and Representative KLINE, the chairman of the Education & the Workforce Committee in the House.

We didn't sit around a table and say: What is it that divides us? We said: What is it that unites us?

What unites us is the fact that the American people are looking for leadership from us to deal with the unemployment issue and the training issue. We have been languishing to try to authorize this bill for 12 years. So we sat down and identified what we agreed on. We identified what the problems were. We worked with the Members of the House who opened up and said: Well, we passed the SKILLS Act, but we will sit down, listen to your side, and try to find common ground.

After a few days, really—not weeks—we found common ground on 80 percent of the issues that confront us in workforce and investment areas. There are a few places where we found disagreement, sure—and so did those stop us? No, because the perfect should never be the enemy of the good, and this bill is the good of the Senate in terms of dealing with issues.

I want to brag about a few people in this body, if I can, besides Senator MURRAY. I want to talk about Scott Cheney for a second, her loyal assistant. He sat in my office with me—about a week and a half ago—side-by-side, staff and Senator, working out some of the details on this bill.

I thank Tommy Nguyen on my staff who has worked countless hours for countless years to make this happen.

David Cleary, the aide to the committee, the aide to Senator ALEXANDER, has done a yeoman's job. In fact, he did probably as much of the hand-holding in the past couple of weeks over amendments as anybody I know.

I thank Senator ENZI from Wyoming, who is my mentor in the Senate. When I was first elected to Congress, I was appointed to a Web-based education joint commission between the House and the Senate. MIKE ENZI was the Re-

publican Senator who was appointed to that commission. I was the Republican Congressman. I didn't know MIKE ENZI, but I watched him work. I watched him find solutions to problems. I watched his quiet, patient work to find a solution, and I said: That is the guy I want to be like.

He is the guy who really got Mrs. MURRAY and myself to this point today, because he has forged ahead when nobody else would.

When Chairman Kennedy was chairman of the committee before his tragic loss, MIKE continued to work with Senator Kennedy and said: Let's try to find a way to do workforce innovation and opportunity.

I am glad we are doing it today, and we are doing it in large measure because of Senator ENZI.

Senator TIM SCOTT, who did yeoman's work, introduced the SKILLS Act that was passed in the House and Senate. He could have folded his arms and said: I am going to be recalcitrant, I am not going to cooperate. But he said: What can I do to help? There are some things I want to make sure we do, but one thing I want to make sure we don't do is not address the problem of unemployment and training.

ROB PORTMAN was of tremendous help to us too. We had so many Members whose ideas have been incorporated in this bill to deal with the issue of skill and deal with the issue of unemployment. I am so appreciative of each and every one of them, and I think the American people will appreciate them too.

I want to highlight a couple of features in here that are most important. Unlike most of what government does, we have scaled down the size of workforce investment boards in the States and in the local communities so they are working numbers, not numbers that are so big they can't work.

We put more money into training and less into bureaucracy. We scaled down a number of workforce programs and consolidated them to maximize the Federal dollar to benefit the State level. We gave the State level the local authority to determine the curriculum of what was best for Washington or best for Georgia.

Washington is not a one-size-fits-all town, and workforce development is not a one-size-fits-all issue. Through the labor departments of the various States, we now are going to empower them to train people for the jobs they need in their State, not the jobs Washington might think they might have needed in their State. That is a tremendous advance forward in this legislation and equally very important.

Some people will sit on the floor and say: Well, did we get all we wanted? No, we didn't. Nobody did.

Did you get enough?

We got plenty.

There are a lot of labor commissioners and Governors who are going to

be celebrating. In fact, I have had two calls this morning from Governors' offices or from labor department offices saying: Thank you, you are finally giving us the power to address what we need to do in our State to address unemployment and address job training.

It has been a privilege for me to work with Senator HARKIN, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator MURRAY.

To close, before I turn the floor over to Senator HARKIN—who I think will be next on the floor—I commend Senator HARKIN on his leadership as the chairman. He and Senator ALEXANDER gave us the encouragement that we could get a bill done. They didn't insist on something they wanted in the bill to be there exactly like they wanted it.

As we all know, Senator HARKIN is a champion for those with disabilities. The disability section in this bill is outstanding to provide training, opportunity, and rehabilitation for those who operate with developmental disabilities; and that is what we should be doing on the workforce, because their contribution is as important as the contribution of any other single American.

Today is a great day for the Senate. It is also a great day for the workforce in America. It is a great day for training and for the skills.

We want to fill the 4 million jobs that are vacant in America with 4 million of those 10.6 million who are unemployed in America—to raise prosperity, raise opportunity, and raise hope in America.

With that said, I yield the floor for the distinguished Senator from Iowa, Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I am pleased to join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers today in taking up the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that is a reauthorization of what we always called the WIA bill, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

As the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I can say we have worked on this bill, the one that we have here now, for 5 years. This is the first reauthorization since 2003 of the Workforce Investment Act.

I especially express my appreciation to Senator ISAKSON, Senator MURRAY, and Senator ALEXANDER for their great working relationship and sticking to it for all these years when we didn't know if we were ever going to make it.

I see that our former ranking member Senator ENZI is here, who started with it when he was ranking member. I thank him also for all of his work to get to this point.

What is that old saying? Slow cooking beats fast food any day.

This is kind of slow cooking, home cooking. It took a while but some of

these things do take time. They take time to work out and get ironed out. I understand that.

But, again, I can't express my appreciation enough to my colleagues: Senator ISAKSON, Senator ENZI, Senator MURRAY, and Senator ALEXANDER, for their stick-to-itiveness, never giving up, and making sure that we got to this point.

I also thank my House colleagues who worked closely with us over the last several months: Representatives KLINE, MILLER, FOXX, and HINOJOSA. During those months of negotiations, we reached a compromise between the reauthorization bill the House had passed last year and the bill we passed out of committee in July of last year.

Again, with the great work of Senator MURRAY and Senator ISAKSON, working with our House colleagues, we have a very good bill. It has the broad support—broadly—from employers, to mayors, to Governors, to organized labor. Everybody is now supporting this bill. I suppose, as with any piece of legislation that comes through the Senate, each one of those entities probably didn't get everything they wanted, but that is the art of compromise and the art of getting good legislation through.

It couldn't come at a better time and a more needed time for reauthorization. As our economy continues to recover from one of the worst economic recessions in our history, it is more critical than ever that we stand with our Nation's workers, our businesses, our young people, citizens with disabilities, and with a commitment to help them prosper in the new jobs of the future.

Our economy has undergone substantial changes since the first Workforce Investment Act bill of 1998. In fact, over the past 40 years, America's backbone—the middle class—has been finding it harder and harder to make ends meet as wages have stagnated and costs have risen.

Quite frankly, a lot of the jobs of the past are gone. A lot of those jobs aren't coming back. We have a new economy that we are now entering, and so a lot of people need to be trained, a lot of people need to be retrained, and skills upgraded for these new jobs of the future.

That is what this bill does. It is part of the solution to this challenge facing our middle class in America. Access to education, training, and employment services is critical to helping our workers secure good jobs, gain access to the middle class, and become economically self-sufficient.

This new bill includes provisions that support our State workforce development systems in providing employment and training services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth through State grant programs and the public employment service. It also supports

disconnected youth through programs such as an updated youth program focused on out-of-school youth who need a second chance, such as Job Corps and YouthBuild.

It provides for employment and training activities for Native Americans, migrant, and seasonal farm workers. It supports adult learners through adult education and literacy programs, including services for English language learners.

This bill includes innovative approaches to providing workforce development activities, including industry and sector partnerships, on-the-job and incumbent worker training; transitional job strategies for those who have poor work histories, but who would like to have more steady and upgraded jobs; and workplace learning advisers who can help educate colleagues about services available in the workforce system.

One of the most important parts to me of this bill is a much-needed update to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

I am particularly pleased that the bill addresses the disproportionate burden of unemployment and underemployment experienced by people with disabilities in our country. Despite the enormous progress we have made in ensuring that disabled people have the same rights and opportunities as all Americans, the sad fact is that the unemployment rate among people with disabilities in America is twice as high as people without disabilities, and their workforce participation rate is less than half that of the general population.

We have, quite frankly, failed to ensure that people with disabilities meaningfully participate in the workforce. This bill makes major steps to correct this injustice. It will help a new generation of young people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and succeed in competitive integrated employment, not substandard subminimum wage dead-end jobs but in jobs in which people with disabilities can learn and grow to their maximum potential. That is what this bill would do, ensure that young people with disabilities, let's say, who are in high school and they have an IEP, Individualized Education Program, and they get through high school, are prepared for transition into the workplace.

This bill includes things which will give them those experiences, such as part-time work, summer jobs, internships, workplace skill development, and preparation for jobs that are in high demand. Basically, we are going to give persons with disabilities the same supports and experiences everyone else expects and receives and which they haven't had in the past.

Through school as part of the IDEA Program, they have their IEPs and as soon as they quit they are dropped. That is the end of it or maybe they go

into subminimum wage jobs, and that is where they stay and they never get skills upgrading, but we know from experience that people with disabilities, whether it is intellectual or physical or a combination of both, can learn and train and their skills can be upgraded just like anybody else so they can perform at their maximum potential.

Again, this bill requires State vocational rehabilitation programs to work hand in hand with secondary schools, ensures that employers will have the information necessary to recruit, hire, and retain people with disabilities, and the bill focuses the efforts of State vocational rehabilitation on youth, requiring that 15 percent of their funds be dedicated to transitioning young people into competitive, integrated employment.

I hope these efforts will directly address the high unemployment rate among people with disabilities, smooth the transition of young people with disabilities into the competitive integrated workplace, and help employers to support their employees with disabilities.

I thank my colleagues for working to make this bill one that will address the outrageous status quo facing people with disabilities with regard to employment. More and more employers are finding that with a small bit of support or maybe a modification of the workplace, people with disabilities can do those jobs and sometimes do them better than people without disabilities. More and more employers are finding that out. In our former Workforce Investment Act bills, we didn't get to focus on it that much. This bill now puts a major focus on it, and that is why I am so proud of this bill and why I think this bill is such a major step forward in all its regards.

This bill represents the best of what Congress can accomplish when we work together. We have worked diligently to find areas of agreement in our committee where we can advance legislation on a bipartisan basis.

I heard Senator ALEXANDER earlier mention this, and it is true that on our committee we probably have the widest divergence of philosophical views than any committee in the Senate, but we work together, both on a Senate level and on a staff level.

When this bill passes the Senate, it will mark the 18th bipartisan HELP Committee bill to successfully move to the Senate and this Congress, and—assuming the President will sign it—it will be the 14th bill passed out of our committee this Congress to be signed into law by the President.

The House leaders have indicated that if the Senate acts swiftly to pass this bipartisan, bicameral bill without substantial changes, they will do the same, and we will be able to advance this bill to the President's desk in very short order.

It is a major victory for our workers, our businesses, and our economy. I urge all my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill and in voting yes on final passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Wyoming for allowing me to jump in for about 5 minutes.

This became an issue as we faced the greatest recession we have ever had and, at the same time, we had GAO looking at how we are spending our money.

For just a little history so everybody will know, when GAO did their first report we had 47 separate job training programs run by nine different agencies, and that year they looked at we spent \$18.5 billion. What we found is only two had metrics on them, and we weren't even paying attention to the metrics to use them.

I applaud the work of the HELP Committee, Senator ENZI, Senator ISAKSON, Senator ALEXANDER, Senator MURRAY, and Senator HARKIN, for bringing the bill to the floor. It is an improvement over what we are doing, but I wish to offer a couple of points I think the American people ought to know. We are not going anywhere far enough, not anywhere close to where we need to go.

The SKILLS Act coming out of the House markedly changed job training in this country. Now, this is a big modification to the SKILLS Act, but the SKILLS Act actually paid attention to the Government Accountability Office. What they did is consolidate a lot of programs and put real metrics and real competition into job training.

There are two critical flaws in this bill that I think are a mistake—and I know this bill is going to pass, so it is moving the ball down the road. No. 1, there is no metric in the job training program to say: Did somebody get a job in the area that they were trained for?

So it doesn't matter how many people we train. If there is no job and they got no job for what they trained, we have wasted the money. So that is not anywhere in the bill.

The second thing is the vast majority of money in this country that is spent on job training is Job Corps. When we ask behind the scenes why we didn't have major reform to Job Corps, it is because of all of the parochial people they employ. In Oklahoma, it is over 1,000. Most of the Job Corps programs in Oklahoma are highly inefficient and failing to do what we want them to do, and they are not going to be held accountable with this bill.

So these are two really disastrous things that, had they been added, would have made a real difference. And let me say why I can speak to that. When the GAO put out their report on all the job training programs, I had

every one of my staffers in Oklahoma go to every job training, State and Federal, in Oklahoma. Let me tell you what we found.

What we found was the Federal programs were totally failing. We were very good at employing people in job training programs with Federal money, but when we looked for the outcome of whether we gave somebody a skill that gave them an ability to have a life, we failed.

Contrast that to Oklahoma's Career Tech system and their own State-funded training programs, where they were 90-percent effective in giving somebody a life skill.

So I am disappointed that the SKILLS Act didn't come over here and get voted on because that was what was in the SKILLS Act and it is really accomplishing the goal.

My colleagues have been great with me in working on this bill to try to attest to and to accommodate my desires to see some changes. But there are these two critical flaws, and it speaks to the lack of courage in our country today that because we have people employed in Job Corps programs, we are not going to really shake that system up and make it do what it needs to do.

I will never forget. I had a town hall meeting in Guthrie, OK, the largest Job Corps training in Oklahoma, and I wrote a report that was highly critical of it. They all came here, and I faced them down and said: Do you really want Federal Government money spent on your salary that doesn't accomplish the goal of giving somebody a life skill? They couldn't answer yes. They had to answer, no, they really didn't want that.

But that is what Job Corps still is in this bill, and that is by far the biggest job training program we have.

So I applaud the changes that we have made, the movements that have gone forward. But when there is no metrics on whether the skill that was trained for got a job, we don't have any idea what we are going to be measuring after this bill goes through.

No. 2, if we have not fundamentally gutted the present Job Corps system and changed it to where it is responsible to actually accomplish a goal and hold them accountable—like we need to be holding the VA accountable—if we don't do that, we haven't really fixed anything.

This bill has no CBO score on it. It is at least \$58 billion over the next 6 years—at least. And we are going to vote on a bill again that doesn't have a score.

So the intentions of my colleagues are pure, but I think they are missing two critical provisions if they really want to fix job training. I thank them for their work. I appreciate their accommodation. I know this bill will pass and it is an improvement, but it is not going to fix the fundamental problems.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that, following my speech, Senator BROWN from Ohio be allowed to speak next.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I rise today to speak in favor of the reauthorization of Workforce Investment Act.

I first thank Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON of Georgia, Senator PATTY MURRAY of Washington, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee, and Senator TOM HARKIN of Iowa for their hard work on this bill. We can see from that list of Senators alone that this has been a truly bipartisan effort to reauthorize this Workforce Investment Act.

Of course, we have heard through the course of this discussion how on the House side KLINE, MILLER, FOXX, and HINOJOSA worked on it, which is bipartisan on that side of the building. And the two have been working together, which is bicameral. That doesn't happen a lot around here, but on bills that make it through to the President's signature it does happen, and it has happened on this one.

I thank the many Senators who have had suggestions for this bill. A lot of those suggestions have wound up in here. Some of them had amendments that we will have to continue to work on in the future, and they were very gracious in revising some of those so that they would fit what we are doing and still get the bill done. I know TIM SCOTT could have taken a lot more credit for what he did in the House and when it came over here, but he has been extremely cooperative in using his knowledge of the bill to further the bill. Senator PORTMAN is another critical Senator in working on it, and as we can tell by the passionate speech by Senator COBURN, there are things that could be done and will need to be done in the future to make it an even better bill. But it is something that all of government ought to be doing—not just the workforce.

This is a day of elation for me. We have been working to improve this program for over 11 years. For 11 years this could have made a big difference in our country's jobs. The Workforce Investment Act has been due for reauthorization for 11 years. Who says the Senate works fast? Who says the Senate works slow? Hopefully, the Senate works and gets it right.

I am hopeful that now is the time we are able to get this important piece of legislation renewed and provide some much-needed help to American workers and businesses through the new profile it provides.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will transform the sometimes bureaucratic Federal job train-

ing system into a streamlined program that can help many more people learn the skills they need to get meaningful jobs. The reauthorization will eliminate 15 programs identified as ineffective or duplicative—we don't do that very often—and 21 Federal mandates on State and local workforce boards. That is what we need to be doing throughout government.

This bill would apply common performance measures for all programs with the focus on employment outcomes and employer satisfaction with the trained workers. This will provide stronger accountability for taxpayer dollars. These are all changes that are long overdue.

This piece of legislation also gives authority back to the State governments and equips them with tools to help small businesses. This bill provides Governors and State workforce directors what they told us they needed in hearing after hearing. They wanted flexibility to use the money where it was most needed. There were stovepipes where we required them to do certain things with the money even if they didn't have customers that needed that part of the stovepipe, which meant that some of the money went begging. So by actually eliminating some of the stovepipes, making the money more effective in this program, it increases the value of the money that is there.

With this reauthorization States will better be able to meet the regional economic demand and provide training for jobs in which quality workers are in short supply. We can help people get back to work by offering training for the skills and services needed in their community. State and local officials are in the best position to determine the labor and job training needs of communities across the Nation. The workforce and opportunity act will help improve our current stagnated economy and foster economic development for private sector job creation. If it works as it should, hundreds of thousands of people will be able to move into available jobs that are vacant because folks don't have the right skills.

I remember the New York Times sent reporters out to see if there were any jobs available in the New York area. They came back and reported there were thousands of jobs, there just weren't people trained to be able to do those jobs. That is what this bill is designed to do. Local businesses will finally be able to find workers who live in their communities who have a particular skill set that they need for their business. The job training program that is included in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is what would get our economy going again.

Job training programs are especially important to small-population States such as Wyoming where skilled work-

ers are in high demand and the supply is short. We recently broke ground on the Wind River Job Corps Center in Riverton, WY. The seven-building center will house 300 students and be the first of its kind in Wyoming. When the center opens in the next year or so, my constituents will be able to get the job training they need to succeed in their careers. This project would not have been possible without the determination of the people of Wyoming, the cooperation of the communities around there to provide facilities, the land that was necessary, and legislation like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

I particularly want to thank Senator HARKIN for his recognition as part of the Appropriations Committee that Wyoming and New Hampshire were the two States that didn't have job corps centers and the help he gave us in being sure there was money set aside to be able to do that job corps center. I also appreciate the emphasis on the youth bill that is in there where young people can work during the summer to actually learn a trade while they improve their community.

On a broader scale, America is facing an economic climate that threatens our ability as a nation to compete in the global marketplace. This bill sends a clear message that we are serious about helping our American workers and employers remain competitive and that we are serious about closing the skills gap that is putting America's long-term competitiveness in jeopardy.

I have been on the floor recently discussing articles that declared that our current Congress could be the worst ever and that negotiating political agreements is a lost art. More often than not this year Senators have had no opportunity to weigh in and dissenting opinions are rarely considered. But the HELP Committee has broken through the logjam and produced a bipartisan bill with a bicameral effort that is going to get through the Senate without cloture, without filling the amendment tree, or any of the other procedural tricks. That is a testament to the hard work of Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, MURRAY, ISAKSON, and their staffs and others who have worked on this bill. Their efforts are an example all of us should keep in mind in thinking about how we can and should operate. Almost half of today's sitting Senators have been here less than 6 years, so they haven't seen many times when the Senate has worked as it should, as it could, as it did. I urge them to keep this Workforce Investment Act bill in mind.

The HELP Committee had the first opportunity to shape the legislation. Members were able to iron out unintended consequences and input there. That is how committees work. Then Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, MURRAY, and ISAKSON gave all 100 Members of

the Senate the opportunity to improve the legislation.

It is important to note this isn't the first time the HELP Committee has followed this process. A few months ago we passed the community development block grant for child education after it went through committee and after amendments were offered. I am glad the full Senate is finally considering reauthorization of this important piece of legislation.

I urge my fellow Senators to pass this bicameral, bipartisan agreement based on commonsense policies that will stimulate growth and the economy. The education and job training programs provided by this Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are too important to working families, businesses, local communities, and our Nation's economy to delay it.

I yield the floor for the Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, Madam President, and thanks to Senator ENZI who is one of the most cooperative Members of the Senate on so many levels. He and I cochaired the Air Force caucus together and he has been good to work with. When I sat on the Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee, he was a member known then, as he still is, as one you can reach out to and who would get things done.

Special thanks to Senator ISAKSON who is on the floor and to Senators HARKIN and MURRAY who did so much to work with our office on our SEC-TORS ACT and the whole litany of workforce investment issues. I am indebted to them.

Passing this legislation would reauthorize and improve the Workforce Investment Act which first was established some 15-plus years ago. It includes critical workforce development programs that have helped thousands of Americans get on their feet. It provides streamlined one-stop services that empower adults and students and gives them the tools, skills, and the resources they need to find a new career and improve their current skills. All of this helps to meet the needs of employers looking for trained, skilled workers.

The Cuyahoga Works Career Center in Cleveland is one of those programs. It is run out of The Cuyahoga County Library, known as one of the best library systems in the country. The center told me of a few success stories I wish to share.

A teacher was laid off from Cleveland Public Schools 3 years ago, substitute teaching while she worked with a Cuyahoga Works career counselor. The counselor showed her how to use social networking and LinkedIn more effectively. As a result she connected with an administrator in a local school dis-

trict that invited her to discuss her job search. During this meeting the teacher learned that although she had a strong background, she could benefit from taking a couple computer classes. The Cuyahoga Works career counselor directed her to the library's Google workshops along with a few other computer courses. Shortly afterwards the teacher let her career counselor know she had accepted a long-term position in one of the local school districts.

Let me share another Cuyahoga Works success story. While visiting the new Cleveland casino, a Cuyahoga Works career counselor was stopped by an employee who had worked with this counselor on her job application. The customer was extremely grateful and went so far as to introduce the counselor to her supervisor explaining, "This person is the reason I got this job."

It is clear that legislation such as this works. We know that to compete globally we need workers who can quickly adapt to new technologies in business processes. So our workforce training programs must be able to keep up with the times. That is what the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act does. It builds on existing success and updates it for the 21st century workforce. Part of this improvement means we take a sector-based approach.

Since 2007, I have held some 250 roundtables around my State. From the beginning of the first one at the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce through a whole host of these in agriculture, with farmers and veterans and small businesspeople, workers and others, what I hear over and over is despite high unemployment, too many employers are having a hard time finding workers with the skills necessary. As a result, job openings in high-growth industries—health care, energy, bioscience, even manufacturing—are going unfilled.

The skill gap exists, especially for careers in high-tech fields and for jobs that require more than a high school degree. But often the skills gap exists with people with less than a college degree. This gap denies workers new opportunities they deserve. It undermines our Nation's economic competitiveness and limits our ability to attract new jobs and businesses. To close the gap, we need to create industry or sector partnerships to ensure that workers have the right skills to get hired in high-tech emerging industries with good-paying jobs. It means local communities—local community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local labor unions, local small businesses—decide what they need to put these workforce training programs together regionally in community after community, whether it is in North Dakota, the Presiding Officer's State, or whether it is in my State of Ohio, driven by what kinds of jobs are available.

That is why I introduced the Strengthen Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success—or SEC-TORS Act—back in 2008. I reintroduced this legislation with Republican Senator COLLINS from Maine this year. I am pleased that provisions in today's bill are based on our bipartisan SEC-TORS bill. This modernization bill requires sector-based partnerships to ensure workforce training programs are developed with industry input, with labor input, with local community investment, workforce investment boards, with local businesses, whether it is in Chillicothe or Akron or Toledo or anywhere in my State.

Given the difficulty of negotiations, I am grateful for Chairman MURRAY's dedication to this bill, for her prioritization of these partnerships, because we know from experience how important they are. With too many Americans still unable to find work, we should do all we can to ensure our workers are fully qualified to fill available jobs. That is what the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act does, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Thank you, Madam President.

I also thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers of Congress for their efforts on this important piece of legislation that is before us. I especially thank Senators ISAKSON, MURRAY, ALEXANDER, and HARKIN for their leadership on this issue and for working together with our colleagues in the House to craft this compromise. I am pleased that Congress has come together in a bipartisan manner to address the most pressing issue we face in the country, which is the need to restore our country's economic health.

We have a responsibility here in Washington to ensure that the needs of American workers, businesses, and job seekers are all being met. I believe we need a two-pronged approach to this problem: first, a full-fledged effort to grow the economy and create new jobs; and second, a temporary safety net that helps people unable to secure a job in this current economic environment. The bill now in front of us is a much-needed effort to reauthorize and streamline the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which is the primary Federal law concerning job training and workforce development programs. The services offered through the WIA Program—job search assistance, career counseling, skills training, and on-the-job training—are a critical part of the effort to grow our economy and to ensure that workers are prepared for the job market.

Importantly, these programs are coordinated at the State and local levels

to ensure that the unique needs of our communities are appropriately addressed.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act takes some long overdue steps to modernize our workforce investment system. It eliminates 15 programs that have been identified as duplicative or ineffective. It removes 21 burdensome Federal mandates on States and local workforce boards. It promotes State and local control and improves flexibility so we can better respond to changes in our workforce or the economy. It also improves accountability and transparency measures to guarantee that these programs are operating efficiently and effectively.

Given that this law has been due for reauthorization for more than 10 years, providing States and local communities the flexibility they need is vital to ensuring economic stability. We clearly cannot depend on the Federal Government to provide workers and businesses with timely solutions to help our workforce, so I am pleased this legislation puts much of that control back where it belongs.

The need to reauthorize these important programs is perhaps no more apparent than in my home State of Nevada. Our State is one of the States hit hardest by the economic downturn, and although we are slowly recovering, we still have a long way to go. Industries that thrived for many years suddenly stalled, leaving thousands of workers out of jobs. Nevada had a double-digit unemployment rate for 4½ years, unfortunately topping the charts at nearly 14 percent for several months.

Over the past few years, I have spoken with employers and job seekers in Nevada to look for ways to restore the health of our economy and get Nevadans back to work. Surprisingly, I heard from many employers that they have job opportunities available, they want to hire more employees and grow their businesses, but they are having difficulty finding workers with the necessary skill sets.

The skills gap problem isn't unique to Nevada. In fact, there are millions of unfilled jobs throughout the country. With nearly 10 million Americans still unemployed and looking for work, we must take steps to connect job seekers with employment opportunities in in-demand sectors.

I was proud to join Senator JOE DONNELLY from Indiana in introducing the Skills Gap Strategy Act to develop a solution to this particular issue, and I am glad the manager's amendment before us today also reinforces some of these principles.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that represents real efforts to get our economy back on track. Although no bill is perfect and the nature of compromise means not everyone gets everything

they want, I am grateful for the work my colleagues have done in writing this bill. Although I would have preferred to include efforts to provide stability for unemployed job seekers by temporarily extending unemployment insurance benefits, I also recognize that these job training and workforce investment programs are essential in getting Americans back to work.

I still firmly believe that our economic recovery needs a two-pronged approach that grows the economy and provides stability for job seekers, and this bill is an important part of that equation.

While the Senate is in session, I call constituents back in my State and ask them to join me for a telephone town hall meeting. During one of the calls just last night, I asked Nevadans if they felt as though the economy was improving. Of those participating, 26 percent said yes, they do think the economy is improving; 13 percent said they were unsure; and 60 percent said no, they do not think the economy is getting any better. On a ratio of 2 to 1, Nevadans feel that the economic growth is lagging.

We need to fix this and pass policies to help turn this economy around. In the meantime, we cannot forget about the most important safety net available to Americans. Make no mistake. I have every intention of continuing to work with my colleague from Rhode Island to temporarily extend unemployment benefits for those who are seeking to work.

I was proud to once again team up with the Senator from Rhode Island yesterday to reintroduce a new unemployment extension bill that would provide 5 months of benefits with retroactive eligibility.

We will continue to work with our colleagues here in the Senate, the House, and this administration to pass this legislation to ensure that we continue to provide this temporary safety net while still looking for work.

Again, I thank my friends in both the Senate and the House for their work on this much-needed legislation. This compromise effort proves that Congress is capable of working together on legislation to help our economy. I am hopeful this experience will encourage all of us to continue to work together to pass more bills, grow our economy, and create new jobs for people in Nevada and for all of the United States.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I am proud to rise today in support of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act. I want to thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, Senator MURRAY, and Senator ISAKSON for putting together a strong reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. I am happy that we were able to come together in a bipartisan, bicameral way to reauthorize this bill.

As our Nation continues to look at how to best create, sustain, and sup-

port high-paying jobs, we must look at how best to educate our workforce and how best to provide needed resources to fill jobs in high demand. WIA does just that. It helps people learn new skills and increases their chances of succeeding. This bill before us today is a major step toward improving WIA and helping our Nation remain competitive globally.

This bill allows local workforce boards to tailor services based on regional employment and workforce needs. This means that workers will get access to education and training for the skills needed to fill jobs, including professional development. It helps ensure that Federal workforce and training programs are working together by bringing together multiple programs and providers into a unified State plan to break down barriers and improve efficiency and effectiveness. This bill also ensures that all WIA programs are held to one set of common performance measures. This will help integrate case management and reporting systems while strengthening evaluations. Finally, this bill ensures that youth with disabilities will be provided the services and support they need to be successful in competitive, integrated employment.

I am particularly proud that this bill takes an in-depth look at nontraditional occupations. These are jobs where a gender makes up less than 25 percent of the workforce for that occupation. Women currently represent half of our Nation's workforce, but two-thirds of women are concentrated in 21 of 500 occupational jobs. Except for nursing and teaching, most of these jobs are among the lowest paid, including work in retail, service, and clerical jobs. Less than 16 percent of women who go through federally funded workforce programs receive any training. Most only get a "needs" assessment and receive help in finding a job. The economic recovery is leaving women behind. Of the 1.3 million jobs gained in the United States, nearly 90 percent went to men. Men have since regained 19 percent of jobs lost while women have only regained 6 percent. The incomes of women in the workforce are too often not adequate for a decent standard of living to support a family. This bill would require one-stop career centers to provide info to individuals, including women, on opportunities in fields that are nontraditional. It requires reporting related to job-placement services for participants, including the number and percentage of participants who enter a nontraditional occupation. It also requires all programs to make an effort to develop programs that increase employment opportunities for those that are interested in nontraditional work.

The Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act supports our workforce in providing education and training for

millions of America's workers. It ensures that local workforce boards have the flexibility needed to meet their regional needs. It encourages better coordination between Federal workforce and training programs and State and local efforts to attain economic development. It requires all programs to be accountable, and it provides more opportunities for youth with disabilities. This bill is a downpayment on our middle class and our Nation's future. It is my hope this bill be passed in a swift, expeditious, and uncluttered way and continue to work with Members on both sides of the aisle and across the dome to improve our workforce system.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3381 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3378

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I call up managers' amendment No. 3381.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] for Mrs. MURRAY, for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER, proposes amendment No. 3381 to amendment No. 3378.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 6, after the item relating to section 504, insert the following:

Sec. 505. Report on data capability of Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements.

On page 6, redesignate the second item relating to section 505 as the item relating to section 506.

On page 16, line 4, strike "134(c)(2)" and insert "134(c)(2)(A)(xii)".

On page 55, strike line 5.

On page 55, line 9, strike the period and insert "; and".

On page 55, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(vi) how the State's strategy will improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable).

On page 116, line 19 strike the semicolon and insert ", and improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable);".

On page 222, line 22, insert "allotted under section 127(b)(1)(C), reserved under section 128(a), and" before "available".

On page 232, line 8, strike "may" and insert "shall".

On page 248, lines 6 through 8, strike "less than the greater of" and all that follows through "(aa) an" and insert "an".

On page 248, line 11, strike "; or" and insert a period.

On page 248, strike lines 12 through 18.

On page 293, line 4, strike "may" and insert "shall, consistent with clause (i),".

On page 329, line 9, insert "information regarding the entity in any reports developed by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor and" before "the entity's".

On page 338, strike lines 13 through 18 and insert the following:

(A) significant improvements in program performance in carrying out a performance improvement plan under section 159(f)(2);

On page 338, strike lines 21 and 22 and insert "such as an emergency or disaster, as defined in section 170(a)(1),".

On page 339, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(3) DETAILED EXPLANATION.—If the Secretary exercises an option under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a detailed explanation of the rationale for exercising such option.

On page 339, line 7, strike "(3)" and insert "(4)".

On page 384, line 25, strike "to pro-" and all that follows through line 5 of page 385, and insert the following: "to award grants, on a competitive basis, to entities with demonstrated experience and expertise in developing and implementing programs for the unique populations who reside in Alaska or Hawaii, including public and private non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, American Indian tribal colleges or universities, institutions of higher education, or consortia of such organizations or institutions, to improve job training and workforce investment activities for such unique populations.".

Beginning on page 398, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(7) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary transmits the final report as described in paragraph (6), the Secretary shall make that final report available to the general public on the Internet, on the Web site of the Department of Labor.

On page 398, line 18, strike "(7)" and insert "(8)".

On page 399, line 3, strike "(8)" and insert "(9)".

On page 759, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 505. REPORT ON DATA CAPABILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE DATABASES AND DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to Congress regarding existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements, as of the date of the report, that contain job training information relevant to the administration of programs authorized under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) list existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) and, for each, describe—

(A) the purposes of the database or agreement;

(B) the data elements, such as wage and employment outcomes, contained in the database or accessible under the agreement;

(C) the data elements described in subparagraph (B) that are shared between States;

(D) the Federal and State workforce training programs from which each Federal and

State database derives the data elements described in subparagraph (B);

(E) the number and type of Federal and State agencies having access to such data;

(F) the number and type of private research organizations having access to, through grants, contracts, or other agreements, such data; and

(G) whether the database or data exchange agreement provides for opt-out procedures for individuals whose data is shared through the database or data exchange agreement;

(2) study the effects that access by State workforce agencies and the Secretary of Labor to the databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) would have on efforts to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and on individual privacy;

(3) explore opportunities to enhance the quality, reliability, and reporting frequency of the data included in such databases and data exchange agreements;

(4) describe, for each database or data exchange agreement considered by the study described in subsection (a), the number of individuals whose data is contained in each database or accessible through the data agreement, and the specific data elements contained in each that could be used to personally identify an individual;

(5) include the number of data breaches having occurred since 2004 to data systems administered by Federal and State agencies;

(6) include the number of data breaches regarding any type of personal data having occurred since 2004 to private research organizations with whom Federal and State agencies contract for studies; and

(7) include a survey of the security protocols used for protecting personal data, including best practices shared amongst States for access to, and administration of, data elements stored and recommendations for improving security protocols for the safe warehousing of data elements.

(c) TIMING OF REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress an interim report regarding the initial findings of the report required under this section.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress the final report required under this section.

On page 759, strike line 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 506. EFFECTIVE DATES.

On page 763, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(d) DISABILITY PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in title IV of this Act, title IV, and the amendments made by title IV, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to rescind the quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, while the Senator from Iowa is still on the floor, I wish to compliment him. The committee which he chairs—of

which I am the ranking member—has produced 19 bills this year for this Congress, 10 of which have become law. No other committee has produced as much—this will add one to that—and that is not because we agree on everything.

The truth is we disagree on a lot of things, but we have found a way—when there is a chance to get a result—to come together.

Senator HARKIN has helped to create an environment in which Senator ISAKSON and Senator MURRAY, and a group of other Senators, have finally brought this Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to a conclusion, and a lot of other Senators have tried, and it has taken a long time to do it. Our focus today should be on the workers of America and people who need jobs.

I think it is important to point out that when the Senate tries to do it this way and allow everybody to have a chance to have a say, we can get a pretty good result. This is \$10 billion, and for our State—I say to the Senator from Iowa—it is \$145 million for the single biggest issue in our State: How do I get a better job? It is not a matter of Washington telling you how to do that. This is a bill that empowers States to enable people to get the skills they need so they can get a better job.

I thank the chairman for the way he has worked on this, and I wanted to say that while he was on the floor.

Madam President, I urge my colleagues to support this act today. It is a jobs bill. I was home in Grainger County in East Tennessee this past weekend working with the Clinch-Powell Cooperative. It is a great organization which helps people with home foreclosures and helps them to find a job.

The worry they have is that it is too hard to find a job. The worry of the National Federation of Independent Business Leaders—whom I talked with in Knoxville—is that it is too hard to create a job. We all have our reasons for that. On our side of the aisle, we think there are too many taxes, rules, regulations, and mandates from Washington that make it harder for a person who wants to create a job to do that.

I had one Tennessee small business man tell me he was looking at new employees as a liability more than an asset. He said: I hate that. I want to think of every one of my employees as an asset. When I hire them, I have to think about this health care cost or this tax cost or this regulatory cost, and all these extra costs, and they become, in my eyes, a liability and that discourages me from hiring anyone. That is one reason why so many Americans are having a hard time finding a job. Another reason is—and the reason we are working together today on this bill—because the skills don't fit the job.

We have a very good Governor in Tennessee whose name is Bill Haslam. I think his priority is the same as every other Governor whom I know in the country, which is he is trying to grow and attract jobs. What he hears from every employer is: We have the jobs, but the employees don't have the skills.

Our Governor is working hard, for example, to create a program with Bridgestone Corporation—the big tire maker headquartered in Tennessee—at the community college and technical institute level, where the institute would train people with the exact skills that Bridgestone needs. So many of the new jobs today require more skills than they used to.

I was Governor when the Nissan plant came to Tennessee, and it was a surprise to a lot of people. Automobile plants used to have 20,000 or 30,000 people, but the Nissan plant only had 3,000 or 4,000 or 5,000 people there. Now it has a few more, but it is the largest automobile plant in North America—and the most efficient. I imagine it is as profitable as any automobile plant. But the jobs at the Nissan plant have a lot higher standards and a lot higher skills for the employees.

It is the same today as it was 30 years ago—the biggest challenge they have is finding Tennesseans, or other people, who have the right skills for the right jobs.

What can we in Washington do to help with that?

Well, we could sit here and in our wisdom write a lot of rules and prescriptions about just how to do that. In fact, that is what has been happening with the Workforce Investment Act. It started out in 1998 as sort of a GI bill for workers. The idea was we would make it easier for people to find jobs. We would create work councils in the States, give Governors flexibility, allow them to make arrangements with community colleges, such as the one I just described with Bridgestone. But then the old Washington disease set in, and you know what it is: I have a good idea, let's make everybody do it. Pretty soon we had 47 workforce programs, and according to a Government Accountability Office report, 45 of them were duplicative.

Well, the Senator from Oklahoma, who is retiring this year—which I regret very much—Senator COBURN, has led the charge. He asked for that report, and he pointed out to us that we are wasting money and not helping people when we spent \$9.5 or \$10 billion through the Workforce Investment Act, which is just a few of those programs, in such a complicated way.

I mentioned on the floor of the Senate a while ago what our former Democratic Governor Phil Bredesen said. Governor Bredesen was a very good Governor and businessman. He likes to get results. He took a look at the

Workforce Investment Act programs that were coming to Tennessee from the Federal Government through a dozen or more work councils, and he just threw up his hands.

He said: I told the commissioner of employment security to just do what you can with it. There were too many well-intentioned rules and regulations from Washington that caused these programs to be such a maze that Governors and work councils could not deal with them. The work councils were massive. There were 50 or 60 people who required someone up here saying: This is who you have to have. There were duplicative proposals. Instead of allowing people who wanted a job to say, I would like to have this kind of job with these kinds of skills, we were telling them what kind of skills they needed to have. This was not working.

The House of Representatives passed something called the SKILLS Act, which suited most of us on the Republican side of the Senate better because it eliminated more programs, eliminated more mandates, gave more discretion to Governors, and decentralized the program.

The Senate passed a bill through our committee that we didn't like nearly as well because it still had too many Washington rules and mandates in it.

Senator ISAKSON, who is on the floor, and Senator MURRAY from Washington, led a group of Senators who worked with the House—led by Congressman Klein and VIRGINIA FOXX and others—and we resolved our differences. Basically, what we have done is we moved a long way from where the House of Representatives bill was. I will be specific about what the bill does that I think makes a difference.

It eliminates 15 programs that were identified as ineffective or duplicative. It eliminates 21 Federal mandates on State and local workforce board compensation. In other words, we are saying to Tennessee, which I think has 13 workforce boards: OK, we don't think we got a lot smarter flying to Washington this morning. You can decide more about who is on your workforce board because we assume you know more about what is going on.

It replaces multiple State plans for multiple Federal programs that have to be submitted to Washington with a streamlined single-State plan that will reduce time spent on paperwork.

We are going to spend \$10 billion of the taxpayers' money—nearly 10—so we ought to have some accountability, and we ought to know what is happening, but we don't need everybody spending more time filling out forms than they are helping people find jobs.

This bill also streamlines reporting requirements, and it focuses on real outcomes, such as job placement, retention, earnings, credentials, and employer earning satisfaction.

The second broad thing the bill does is support local and State decision-making and flexibility. In that sense it is like a block grant. It reinstates the authority of Governors to reserve up to 15 percent of formula funds for innovative State and local programs. I like that.

I used to be a Governor. I used to think that the Governor of our State—and I still do—knows more about how to make job training work in Tennessee than anybody up here because he is there, not here, so let him or her be in charge of a large part of that. It gives local workforce boards the freedom to transfer up to 100 percent of funds between the two largest formula programs serving adults and dislocated workers.

In other words, if the money we have allocated doesn't really fit Hohenwald, TN, as well as it does New York City or Madison, WI, or Atlanta, GA, then the local workforce board can transfer money from this program to that program. That just makes common sense. It gives States the ability to incentivize and award performance.

It allows people who want a better job, people who want job training, people who are out of a job to choose the career and training service that best meets their needs, and it empowers Governors to recognize or consolidate local areas that are low-performing in order to better meet regional needs.

Finally, it tackles the accountability issue which we all care about. It authorizes consistent measures of quality, including a 5-percent reduction in funding for poor-performing programs. It requires the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct independent evaluations of programs at least once every 4 years.

This is a good piece of work on the No. 1 subject in this country. Whether one is a Democrat or a Republican, jobs is the issue. It is too hard to find a job. It is too hard to create jobs. We have some differences of opinion about what to do about it, but I think we agree that matching the job skills to the job is a solution for millions of Americans.

I believe and I suspect most of us believe that in the Internet age specially, what we should be doing rather than mandating so many answers from here is empowering Governors and empowering local leaders on workforce boards to enable people who want a better job or a job at all to choose what they want to do and to do it. So in Tennessee Governor Haslam will now have much more freedom and \$145 million a year to spend on helping Tennesseans get a better job at Bridgestone or at the Nissan plant or start their own work because we are enabling, we are empowering. We are not mandating. We are doing less telling. And from the taxpayers' point of view, we are avoiding the waste of a lot of money by avoiding duplication.

I wish to thank Senators on both sides of the aisle for working together so well on this, particularly on our side of the aisle. I know Senator HARKIN and Senator MURRAY worked well with the Democratic Members. We appreciate their patience as we worked through this.

We had a number of Republican Senators whom Senator ISAKSON and I worked with, and I would like to acknowledge their role, starting with Senator ISAKSON. He was the majority leader of the Georgia—well, I guess he was the minority leader of the Georgia Senate. He was the Republican leader. At that time, they didn't have a majority; they just had a few Senators. But he learned the skills of negotiation and compromise in order to get a result, while still sticking to his conservative principles, and I like to see that skill. So on our side of the aisle he gets most of the credit for the result we are getting.

Right up there with him is Senator MIKE ENZI of Wyoming, who worked on this, Senator ENZI says, for nearly 10 years. Now, that may seem hard to do, but this bill was supposed to be reauthorized after 2003, and this is 2014. So Senator ENZI brought it a long way, and we are grateful to him.

In addition, Senator COLLINS and Senator MURKOWSKI are cosponsors of the bills.

Senator SCOTT from South Carolina played a great role by picking up the SKILLS Act from the House and bringing it over to the Senate and reminding us that we needed to get rid of this maze of regulatory problems and go as far in that direction as we could possibly go. So in his first year in the Senate, Senator SCOTT has played a major role in the passage of a very important piece of legislation.

I have mentioned Senator COBURN before. We all acknowledge there is no one on either side of the aisle who is more relentless in looking for waste, fraud, and duplication than Senator COBURN. Through his work and his staff's work, he put the spotlight on the fact that 44 of our 47 workforce programs were duplicative and wasteful. That is not him saying that; that is the General Accountability Office saying that.

Senators LEE and FLAKE worked with us, and they will be offering amendments today.

Senator PORTMAN made significant contributions to the legislation, and we thank him for that.

Senator HATCH and Senator MCCONNELL made important contributions, and Senator TOOMEY and Senator COATS did as well.

There are a number of other Senators who did something we would like to see more of around here; that is, they didn't insist on every right they had. We are a body that operates by unanimous consent, so if we all insist on all

the rights we have, we don't do anything, which is where we find ourselves sometimes. But there were a number of Senators who had good ideas, who had proposals they would like to see adopted. Many of those we were able to incorporate in the manager's amendment, but then some we just couldn't. So they stepped aside and they thought it was more important that we go ahead and come to a consensus and get a result.

In conclusion, let me say this: The other night the Senator from Georgia and I were at the home of the Australian Ambassador to the United States. He was talking about this body. The Australians love the United States—especially Kim Beazley, the Ambassador. He is a Labor Party member. In our country, that would be called a Democrat. But he is a big pro-American former Minister in Australia.

He said: You know, we envy the U.S. Senate. It is the greatest tribunal in the world. We all wish we had it.

It made us all stop and think. Are we really living up to the respect for this body that people around the world have for the U.S. Senate when it is operating the way it should?

Well, today it is operating the way it should, but a lot of the time it does not.

How should it operate? The Senate is different because it is the single legislative body in the world that is designed for extended discussion of an important issue until it comes to a consensus, and then we cut off debate and then we get a result, if it is possible. That is how we get a civil rights bill. That is how we get Social Security. That is how we get a workforce investment act. We have extended discussion and debate and amendment and vote on an important issue until we come to a consensus.

Why is a consensus needed, which means 60 votes instead of 51 much of the time? Because we govern a complex country by consensus. We don't do it by order or edict or any partisan way.

This is a very complicated bill. It brought here today by unanimous consent, but that is only because we have debated it for an extended period of time here in the Senate and we have come to a consensus about it. We have given up on a lot of ideas we had. If we had our way, we would pass the SKILLS Act in a minute—almost every single Republican would—but that is not what the Democrats would do. So we have come to an agreement in the Senate, and we have come to an agreement with the House. That is the consensus. As a result of that, Governors, such as the Bipartisan Policy Center's Governors' Council, have praised this result. I believe our Governor in Tennessee, Governor Haslam, will be delighted with it. I think our former Governor, Governor Bredesen, who threw up his hands when he saw the maze he

had to work with a couple of years ago, will welcome what we have done.

I thank the Senators on both sides of the aisle who have done this. My hope is that this is a disease that is infectious and that we see a little bit more of this kind of legislating in the Senate.

I would like to extend my deep thanks and sincere appreciation to the dedicated staff that worked on this bill to reauthorize the 16 year old Workforce Investment Act for the past several years. Without their hard work and tireless effort we wouldn't have been able to reach the successful conclusion on the passage of this important bipartisan bill.

I would like to thank Scott Cheney on Senator MURRAY's staff, who has been working on this reauthorization effort for many years, as well as Evan Schatz.

Senator ISAKSON's staff worked hard with Senator MURRAY and our Republican offices throughout the Committee process and in coming to this final agreement, including Tommy Nguyen and Brett Layson.

I would also like to thank some former staff who put a lot of time into this reauthorization effort in the 112th Congress, including Glee Smith who worked for Senator ISAKSON, as well as Beth Buehlmann and Kelly Hastings who worked for Senator ENZI on the HELP Committee.

The Chairman of this committee has an outstanding staff that are very capable and dedicated, particularly Crystal Bridgeman, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Lee Perselay, Mildred Otero, and Derek Miller.

Our partners in the House of Representative deserve great thanks for their willingness to come to the table and negotiate a pre-conferenced agreement, including Rosemary Lahasky, Brad Thomas, James Bergeron, Amy Jones, Leticia Mederos, Michele Varnhagen, and Jacque Chevalier on the majority and minority staff of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Many of our Senate Republican offices deserve thanks for their work with the HELP Committee on amendments and other technical fixes to the bill, including Denzel McGuire and Katelyn Conner on Senator McCONNELL's staff, Christopher Toppings and Natasha Hickman on Senator BURR's staff, Leila Kimbrell and Kate Williams on Senator MURKOWSKI's staff, Laura Pence on Senator COBURN's staff, Kristin Chapman on Senator ENZI's staff, Nick Butterfield and Pam Thiessen on Senator PORTMAN's staff, Christy Knese and Wendy Baig on Senator LEE's staff, Chandler Morse on Senator FLAKE's staff, Diane Browning and Katie Neal on Senator HATCH's staff, Dimple Gupta on Senator TOOMEY's staff, Casey Murphy on Senator COATS' staff, and Lizzy Simmons on Senator SCOTT's staff.

We know these bills don't just suddenly appear. The Senate Legislative Counsel staff work long hours on the bill and then on the amendments, so I would like to especially thank Liz King, Amy Gaynor, Chelsea Koester, and Kristin Romero.

And we always rely on the experts at the Congressional Research Service to give us good information in a timely manner, so I extend our thanks to David Bradley and Benjamin Collins.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff. They have put a lot of time and effort in to make this a process that the Senate and American people can be proud of and I appreciate their efforts and late nights on this bill. So, my thanks go out to Patrick Murray, Bill Knudsen, Peter Oppenheim, David Cleary, Diane Tran, Jim Jeffries, Margaret Atkinson, and Liz Wolgemuth.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3379 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3378

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 3379.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. FLAKE] proposes an amendment numbered 3379 to amendment No. 3378.

Mr. FLAKE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

In section 116(g)(2), strike subparagraph (A), and insert the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure occurs for a program year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, which shall include development of a reorganization plan through which—

(i) the Governor shall—

(I) prohibit the use of eligible providers and one-stop partners identified as achieving a poor level of performance; or

(II) take such other significant actions as the Governor determines are appropriate; and

(ii) the Governor may require the appointment and certification of a new local board, consistent with the criteria established under section 107(b).

Mr. FLAKE. Madam President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer this amendment today, and I appreciate my colleague, the ranking member of the HELP Committee, working with my office to make this possible.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act the Senate will vote on today establishes a performance accountability system for adults and youth core programs provided for within it. This bill also establishes sanctions for both States and localities that fail to meet the established accountability measures.

My proposed amendment works to increase accountability in local training programs and one-stop providers.

As the bill currently stands, a Governor can only take corrective action if a local area fails to meet performance accountability measures for 3 years in a row. That is a long period of time. My amendment moves the timeframe that a Governor can get involved in failing programs lacking corrective actions from 3 years to 1 year. I think that makes sense, certainly. Simply put, if training providers and one-stop partners are identified as "poor performers" after 1 year, the Governor should be required to remove them from the list of eligible providers. This amendment is simply common sense. Why should poorly performing programs continue to miss performance accountability measures for 3 years in a row before a Governor can get involved and take corrective action?

In addition, under this amendment a Governor could replace a local board if necessary after just 1 year, but that wouldn't be required.

My hope is that if we are going to do these kinds of things—if we are going to provide these funds—States and localities should work together to make these programs as successful and beneficial as possible.

I believe this amendment will provide an additional level of oversight of these programs, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

Shifting now from this specific amendment, I now wish to talk a little bit about the amendment process in general and the position we find ourselves in today in this body.

At their core, amendments offered on the floor serve as an opportunity to not only thoroughly debate an issue. We all know that legislation is often brought to the floor having only had the benefit of input from just a few Members. What amendments do is provide individual Senators the chance to change and often improve legislation. They are a right in this body, not a privilege.

I believe in this fundamental process so strongly that I have supported controversial cloture motions and other motions to proceed on underlying bills even if I did not support that legislation, simply on good-faith assurances that amendments would be offered and that amendment debate would be allowed. Even though I did not support the bill as it stood, I would at least have the opportunity to make it better through an open legislative process. That is how I felt on a number of pieces

of legislation that have moved through this body.

Unfortunately, many of these assurances were not met and my fear is this body will continue to pass legislation with little to no amendment consideration.

Since last July, Republicans have only had 11 rollcall votes on amendments, including the 2 we will see today. By comparison, in the other body, House Democrats have had over 160 votes on amendments during that same period—160 for the minority party in the House of Representatives. That is more than 14 times the votes Senate Republicans have had.

As my good friend from Kentucky pointed out earlier, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE has singlehandedly received more amendment votes than all Senate Republicans, given that she has had 15 votes on her amendments since last July in the House of Representatives.

Some who lionize this Chamber—and I am one of those—as the world's most deliberative body often take a dim view to the practices of the House—I am not one of those; but this is supposed to be the more deliberative body with open amendments and open debate—they will cite with trepidation the restrictive and structured approach to debate in the House and, with a shudder, the very fact that the House has the dread Rules Committee that picks and chooses which amendments will be offered. I can tell you from experience, when it comes to the ability to offer amendments, I now long for those days in the House.

During my service in the House, between the 107th and 112th Congresses, I personally offered—this is offered; not filed, but offered on the floor of the House of Representatives—239 amendments. In fact, in the last four Congresses, I offered between 30 and 70 amendments per Congress.

Outside of the sheer volume, one could reasonably chuckle at my amendment batting average since very few of my amendments passed. But I actually had more amendments adopted in the past two Congresses each than we have had rollcall votes on Republican amendments in the Senate since July.

Under both Republican and Democratic leadership in the House, my right to offer amendments, particularly during the appropriations process, was respected. They were respected by both parties, even when I was offering dozens of earmark-limitation amendments that most of my colleagues preferred not see the light of day.

Many of my colleagues here in the Senate served with me in the House. They all remember those times. Nobody wanted to vote on Flake amendments. These earmark-limitation amendments were not popular. They

often did not get many votes. But, in fact, in all but one of the 140 earmark-limitation amendments I offered, they failed—all but 1. But I think we can all agree that joining with a small handful of my colleagues to spotlight precisely what was going on in these appropriations bills ultimately aided in the current earmark moratorium that is in force by both Houses. That is a good thing.

While I prefer to have my amendments prevail, that certainly should not be the test for whether I am afforded the ability to offer them.

Unfortunately, in my short time in the Senate, I have filed 85 amendments to improve underlying legislation and to address issues faced by my constituents. It is worth noting that this will be my first amendment that will be voted on by my colleagues.

During last year's NDAA consideration, I filed an amendment that would simply ask DOD to report on OCO spending. The amendment would have required an accounting of OCO funds appropriated during fiscal year 2013 and requested in fiscal year 2014 and would have withheld 10 percent of the budget for the Office of the Secretary of Defense until the report was received. This amendment is not a fundamental policy change; it is simply a reporting requirement that all of us would benefit from.

Last week, I filed 30 amendments to the minibus appropriations bill, but not one is likely to see the light of day. With no disrespect to my colleagues, and having served on the Appropriations Committee in the House myself, I think we can all agree that spending bills benefit from a good scrubbing by this entire body before they move through the legislative process.

For example, one of those amendments would have reduced the USDA Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program from \$560 million to \$360 million—the same amount as is in the President's budget. I think most of us would be surprised to learn that the Department of Agriculture has a Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program and that we are funding it to the tune of \$560 million. The President wants to move that down to \$360 million. I agree with the President. We ought to. At least we ought to be allowed to debate it and vote on it.

This is not an outlandish amendment. It would simply reduce funding levels to the President's request and, more importantly, give this body the opportunity to discuss the merits of the program.

I know some of my colleagues will disagree and will ultimately oppose many of these amendments and others if they come to a vote, and that is fine. What is not fine is the fact that we in the U.S. Senate cannot even have that debate.

To be clear, this is not just a Republican concern. A recent article in the

Hill mentioned how my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are seemingly just as frustrated with the current amendment process. The article included a quote from a Democratic Senator who said: "I've never been in a less productive time in my life than I am right now, in the United States Senate."

So apparently I should count myself lucky to get a rollcall today on this amendment because there are many on the other side of the aisle who have not been afforded the same luxury.

Both Democrats and Republicans are getting shut out of this process, and it is a very dangerous precedent. I urge my colleagues to encourage thoughtful, open debate from here on out. I also encourage support for my commonsense reform to the accountability provisions of this legislation we are debating today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Arizona for his input, and I want to acknowledge his remarks with regard to the amendment process.

One of the reasons we have a bill which is on the floor today—the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act is here—is because it is one of the few bills where we have had a process in working toward a final passage where we have had a lot of amendments.

This bill has a lot of input from a lot of people. We did that. The fact that he is having his first vote, after offering 85 amendments, is a testimony to the reason we ought to have more voting on amendments, more debate on the floor, and we will pass things and be more productive in our process.

So I thank the Senator for his leadership. I thank him for helping us as we brought this legislation forward and encourage him to continue to offer amendments and work to perfect legislation coming before the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, could the Presiding Officer inform us as to the time remaining on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia controls 2 minutes and the Senator from Connecticut controls 45 minutes.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I wish to ask unanimous consent that the majority side yield an additional 10 minutes of their time to the minority side in order for Senator PORTMAN to make his speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I yield for Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Georgia and appreciate his work on this legislation. I know that he and the Senator from Tennessee have been talking about the legislation earlier today. I understand that Senator ALEXANDER talked about some of the work we have done together to try to make sure this legislation does not just reauthorize an existing program but improves that program to give more focus on how to take our Federal worker retraining program to make it work for America's workers at a critical time.

We just learned that the economy, in the first quarter, grew even less than we had thought. I think it now has been readjusted to almost minus 3 percent—minus 2.9 percent growth. We have big problems in terms of our economy getting moving. One of the problems we have is we do not have the trained workers for the 21st century jobs that are out there.

I rise today as the Senate is on the verge of passing this first comprehensive reform of our Nation's primary workforce development programs in about 16 years, to say that I appreciate, again, the fact that Members on both sides of the aisle have worked with me and others to put some reforms into this program to ensure it works better for our workers and for our competitiveness and for our ability to actually get this economy moving again.

We do have this weak economy. And sometimes we are sort of numb to it. We forget that this is not just a typical recovery; it is a very slow recovery. In fact, by measures of growth in economy or unemployment or other measures, it is the weakest economic recovery we have had since the Great Depression. We have become numb to some of the disappointing news.

Almost 20 million Americans are out of work, 317,000 of our friends and neighbors in Ohio are now unemployed, and millions more have given up looking for work. In fact, the number of people who have given up looking for work is growing, so it is a high percentage. As to those who have given up looking for work, you would have to go back 34 years ago, to the 1970s, to find similar numbers of people as a percentage of the workforce.

For men, they say it may go back to the 1940s when we started keeping track of this. So we have problems. We have problems that can be solved in part by closing what is called the skills gap. In other words, there are a whole bunch of jobs that are open, but they cannot be filled because people do not have the skills to take those jobs.

By the way, you do not have to take my word for it. William of the Black Eyed Peas is someone I do not often have an opportunity to quote on the floor of the Senate, but he was at the White House recently. In addition to his work in the music industry, he is also known for his work with kids back in his hometown of Boyle Heights, CA. A lot of that is focused on job training, skills training. During an event at the White House a couple of weeks ago, I saw that he said the following: There are so many jobs in America we can't fill because people aren't brought up to speed with the skill sets that are needed.

William is right. The numbers back him up, by the way. Today, 4.5 million jobs remain open and unfilled in America. Yet we have these high levels of unemployment and all of these people who have left the workforce altogether. What is going on? Part of it is that we do not have the skills to be able to fill those jobs.

In Ohio today, if you go to the OhioMeansJobs Web site, you will see 140,000 jobs advertised. Yet we have about 317,000 people out of work. If you look at these jobs, a lot of them require advanced manufacturing skills, information technology skills, and medical and bioscience skills for health care workers. We have to do better in terms of filling that gap so that American workers are able to meet the demands of the 21st century.

There is a skills gap report by the Manufacturing Institute that came out recently. Based on a poll they did, it said that 74 percent of manufacturers are experiencing workforce shortages or skill deficiencies that keep them from expanding their operations and improving productivity. Seventy-four percent say they are looking for better skills to be able to fill those jobs.

We could be doing so much better than we are to close that skills gap. For too many Americans, the only jobs available are those that they do not have the skills and qualifications to be able to fill.

The Federal Government spends a lot of money on this. This is not for lack of funds. The Federal Government spends between \$15 and \$18 billion a year on these Federal worker retraining programs. As some of you know, there are 47 different programs spread over 9 different departments and agencies. We need to do more to try to consolidate and improve these programs, but in the meanwhile let's do what we can. That is what this legislation does.

The Government Accountability Office or GAO—which looks at all Federal agencies and decides how they are doing, spent a lot of time looking at this. They have said that some of that money—the \$18 billion I talked about of our taxpayer money that does provide the funding for these 47 different programs over 9 departments and agen-

cies—they are not working very well. They say 45 of the 47 programs overlapped with at least 1 other program. Only five have conducted an impact study of their efforts since 2004, meaning that the assessments of outcomes or performance you would expect are not being done. Only five have conducted an impact study of their efforts since 2004.

GAO concluded that "little is known about the effectiveness of most of these programs." But actually we do know something about the effectiveness because these millions of unfilled jobs are an indictment of the program. In other words, we should be doing a better job of getting the skills we need to fill these jobs if we are spending \$15 to \$18 billion of hard-earned taxpayer money on it.

I hear this story all across Ohio, and I know my colleagues hear it across their States. I hear from workers, from businesses, from educators. People are frustrated, and there is good reason for it. I think the way Washington has handled workforce development is simply inefficient. It is not working well. I think it is unfair to employers who have open positions because they cannot find qualified candidates to fill them. It is certainly unfair to taxpayers who send their money to Washington believing that their government will be good stewards of those funds and that we are going to use them effectively for worker retraining, getting the money into the hands of people to train them for jobs that are actually out there. I think it is unfair to, of course, millions of Americans who would like to build a better life for their families and find that the Federal resources allocated to them are not getting the job done.

Because we believe we can do better, this Congress is going to act today. The Senate and the House are working together on this issue, which is good. It is bicameral. It is bipartisan.

I have joined with Senator MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado on what is called the CAREER Act. The CAREER Act is included, in most part, in this legislation. The CAREER Act first calls for a reduction in the wasteful and inefficient overlap in the system.

I am pleased to see that the legislation before us today trims 15 programs from our Nation's workforce development program. I think that is a good start. I also think we can do even more. Understanding that there were a lot of constraints, different points of view, we need to consolidate further, in my view.

Second, we called for an increased focus on helping unemployed workers attain high-quality credentials that give them a leg up in the local job market. I am pleased this bill includes our provisions that require those local boards, the workforce investment boards, to give priority consideration

to programs that lead to credentials that are in demand in their local area.

We worked hard to include a provision requiring the State and local boards to provide specific strategies for helping folks attain high-quality credentials. These are industry-recognized credentials that are in demand, that are portable—they can move from State to State—and that help them move up the career ladder. That is important because we know that these credentials, based on all the research, are critical to getting people into these jobs.

Third, we call for a new and innovative accountability program in the system called Pay for Success. Currently, the workforce development programs provide funding regardless of performance so long as certain rules are followed and input requirements are met—not output but input. This has resulted in this unaccountability the GAO talked about and many complacent programs that have fallen short. Pay for Success turns this model on its head by linking payments to outcome, to actual performance measures. Job-training service providers who do well will be rewarded under this model. Those who fail to deliver results are going to be held accountable.

I am pleased that again this underlying legislation—the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—before us today includes these Pay for Success provisions that allow local workforce boards to use their formula to engage in Pay for Success contracts. That is a step in the right direction. I would like to go even further, but I think it is historic and it is very important.

Finally, we call for access to better data to make it less difficult and expensive for State and local officials to assess the effectiveness of their training activities in real time. I am pleased this legislation includes the provisions for a study on how to access better data that can help the system deliver better results for taxpayers and the unemployed. That is part of the CAREER Act.

These four reforms can help change lives and turn around our economy. They are the kinds of reforms that can empower millions of Americans to get the kinds of jobs that do fund retirement, that do buy homes, that do pay for college educations. These reforms are long overdue.

We live in a dynamic and ever-changing economy, no question about it. We have to be sure our workforce is also dynamic and ever-changing to be able to meet the demands. We should not be held back by a workforce development system that has not been reauthorized since 1998. For reference, that is the year Google was first incorporated as a company. So I strongly support the underlying legislation.

Again, I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—I see some of

them here today on the floor—for their work. I thank them for working with Senator MICHAEL BENNET and me to incorporate some of the bipartisan CAREER Act provisions.

At a time when the two parties in Washington have been at odds on how to finally get our economy moving again, this is a jobs bill that is win-win. It is a win for everyone, especially those Americans who are still looking for jobs and those businesses that are desperate to fill the skills gap they see.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This legislation represents a long-overdue upgrade to our workforce investment system. I wish to commend the bipartisan work of Chairman HARKIN, Senator MURRAY, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator ISAKSON in negotiating this compromise legislation that will move our job training and adult education systems forward.

The need to improve our workforce investment system has crystallized during this recovery from the great recession. My home State of Rhode Island continues to struggle with high unemployment—the highest rate in the Nation. Many of our unemployed workers have been out of work for an extended period of time. Yet employers tell me they have open positions they cannot fill because they cannot find workers with the skills they need today. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act takes important steps to help address the skills mismatch that keeps jobs open and potential workers unemployed.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act streamlines the current workforce development system by requiring a single comprehensive plan that incorporates all of the core programs and is aligned with economic development plans for the States. It also establishes shared performance metrics that apply to all of the programs in the system. In other words, it makes sure that employers, educators, and the workforce system are all on the same page.

The legislation before us today makes some tough choices, eliminating 15 programs. However, it also maintains and strengthens vital national programs such as Job Corps and Youth Build, which have made a difference for so many young people in Rhode Island and across the Nation.

I am particularly pleased that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act strengthens the partnership between our workforce investment system and our public libraries. Libraries are where people go when they need help or information. They are a critical part of the delivery system for adult education and job training.

In fiscal year 2011, the Institute of Museum and Library Services reported

that there were 1.52 billion visits to public libraries across the Nation. Senator COCHRAN and I introduced the Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act to harness the potential of public libraries to expand the reach of the workforce investment system and ensure that job seekers and adult leaders had the opportunity to develop the critical digital skills necessary for today's economy. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act includes many of the provisions of this legislation. I was very pleased to work with Senator COCHRAN and have great gratitude for Senators ALEXANDER, ISAKSON, HARKIN, and MURRAY for incorporating some of our ideas.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act also strengthens adult education and includes many of the provisions of the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act that I introduced with Senator BROWN.

For 2012, data from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies show that an estimated 52 percent of adults age 16 to 65 in the United States lack the literacy skills necessary to identify, interpret, or evaluate one or more pieces of information. These are critical skills for postsecondary education and the workplace. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will help address this critical need for adult education and literacy by ensuring that adult education programs are aligned with job training and postsecondary education, supporting the professional development of adult educators, offering technical assistance for adult education providers, and strengthening the research and evaluation of best practices in adult education.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is an example of what is possible when we work together to solve problems and strengthen the tools available to our communities to improve the quality of life. We have libraries. We have adult education programs throughout this country. What I think the sponsors of this legislation so creatively did is pull them together, so the sum of the parts is much greater and will have a much more effective impact on the employment opportunities for Americans and our productivity as a nation.

In that regard, I would like to discuss for a moment a new bipartisan bill I have introduced with Senator HELLER to restore emergency benefits for job-seekers for 5 months. What we have done here is we have addressed the issue of training, but we still have an issue with people who are desperately looking for work and need the assistance of the unemployment benefits to do that.

I think this legislation will help us make the case because one of the legitimate reasons that were raised with respect to the extension of benefit was,

well, we do not have a job training program, so we are not preparing people for jobs. That is what we should be doing. Well, this bill goes a long way to do that. I think it helps us in trying to make the case.

As we know, in April we voted on a bipartisan basis to send the bill to the House. Unfortunately, it languished there, and then ultimately the time expired. Our new plan would provide prospective emergency benefits—just going forward—for those eligible job seekers who lost their benefits on December 28. They would essentially pick up where they were on December 28.

This is something that, hand in hand with this new job training bill, will give people both additional advantages of training and resources to make it through the training period, pay the rent, have a cell phone so they can call for a job, do those things that are necessary to get by. It is fiscally responsible. It is offset. We are waiting for an official score from CBO, but our intention is to make it a bill that is fiscally responsible. Madam President, 3.1 million Americans lost these benefits—that number grows by approximately 72,000 a week. We can do better. We must do better.

We are doing a lot to try to get people back to work. I commend this legislation. It is an important step forward.

It is an important step forward, because as so many of my colleagues have noted, one of the things that is amazing in this recession—and I have mentioned it previously—is to go into Rhode Island to companies even with the state unemployment rate of 8 percent—and have the owners say they are desperately looking for four or five workers. They can't find them.

Why is that? The skills that 20 years ago got someone a good job in Rhode Island and for the past 20 years kept them working, after this downturn slowed their company or pushed them out, those skills are out of date. Good workers, long work history, they need not only the help to retrain, but they also certainly need the help to get from day to day until they can get back in the workforce.

With that, let me again commend and thank the sponsors and authors of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ISAKSON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that if the final vote on passage is successful, the statement of the managers for the Workforce Innovation and

Opportunity Act be printed in the RECORD immediately following the text of the Senate-passed bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. How much time remains on the Republican side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that 5 additional minutes be extended from the Democratic side to the Republican side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HARKIN. How much time remains on our side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 25 minutes remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. HARKIN. Sure, absolutely.

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield the balance of our time to the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3380 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3378

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3380 to amendment No. 3378.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 3380 to amendment No. 3378.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require that evaluation reports are due every fourth year, to establish a reservation of funds in a fiscal year in which a report is due, and to establish a reduction in funds if a report is not submitted)

Beginning on page 395, strike line 20 and all that follows through line 24, and insert the following:

(B) PERIODIC INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—The evaluations carried out under this paragraph shall include an independent evaluation of the programs and activities carried out under this title. A final report containing the results of the evaluation shall be submitted under paragraph (5) not later than June 30 of 2018 and every fourth year thereafter.

On page 399, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(9) RESERVATION AND REDUCTION IN FUNDS FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT EVALUATION REPORTS.—

(A) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—At the beginning of a report year or a succeeding year,

the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of the funds appropriated and made available to the Office of the Secretary.

(B) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If, by the end of the report year or succeeding year, respectively, the committees described in paragraph (6) do not receive the corresponding report, the funds reserved in subparagraph (A) for the year involved shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) REPORT YEAR.—The term “report year” means a fiscal year in which a report is due under paragraph (1)(B).

(ii) SUCCEEDING YEAR.—The term “succeeding year” means each succeeding fiscal year, after a report year in which a report is due and not received as described in subparagraph (B), if the report remains unsubmitted on the first day of that succeeding fiscal year.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, Federal job training programs are seldom evaluated to determine whether they are meeting their intended purposes.

However, when the United States is \$17.5 trillion in debt, we as representatives of the American taxpayers should do a better job to ensure that the programs we are funding are actually working and we are working with them.

We should pay particularly close attention to programs that receive billions of dollars every year from the Federal Government when their authorization lapsed over one decade ago.

The Murray-Isakson-Harkin-Alexander substitute amendment takes important steps to ensure title I State and local programs are more accurately evaluated, meaning performance measures and held accountable for unmet goals and resubmitted reports.

More specifically, the bill would sanction State and local programs should they continually fail to meet their performance measures or fail to submit required reports. The substitute amendment does not hold the Department of Labor to similar standards.

The Department is required to conduct evaluations and to submit separate reports to Congress. I was very pleased to work with Senators ALEXANDER and HARKIN to include in the managers' amendment a provision that would require the final evaluation reports to be made public and available to the public. In my opinion, requiring the Department to post these reports to the Department's Web site is a commonsense step toward improving transparency in the WIOA job training programs.

In addition, I worked closely with the HELP Committee chairman and ranking member to further discuss a procurement provision within the Job Corps section of the bill. While I believe there are still some outstanding concerns that we should continue to discuss, I believe everyone's goal is to ensure that the best Job Corps operators are able to compete for these sites.

Today I would like to offer an additional good governance measure that

would subject the Department of Labor to similar sanctions as the States. It would help tackle the problem of the Department of Labor delaying congressionally mandated evaluations, which routinely has been abused by both Republican and Democratic administrations.

It is a shame that Congress passing a law requiring the completion of an evaluation by a certain date is not enough to get the job done. My amendment would remedy this problem by reducing the budget of the Department of Labor's Office of the Secretary by 5 percent in the year a report is due, should the agency fail to conduct and release the independent evaluation as required by this bill. This reduction of funds would continue each year until the report is finalized.

WIOA authorizes \$9 billion each year for the next 5 years, and title I represents half of that funding. Therefore, ensuring an independent evaluation of title I programs is conducted and made publicly available for review and scrutiny by Congress and the American public. It is critically important for any future modification, renewal or elimination of programs.

I would appreciate the support of my colleagues for the passage of this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we worked very hard on this bill to make sure we had good, strong, independent evaluations and reporting requirements. Therefore, I am pleased to rise and speak in opposition to the amendment.

We included in the bill requirements for an independent evaluation to be conducted every 4 years, which includes what we call the gold standard impact evaluation, the first of which is due in 2019.

Our House colleagues on both sides of the aisle agreed with and supported these provisions in a bipartisan, bicameral process. What the Lee amendment would do would be to inappropriately penalize the Secretary of Labor if the Secretary does not submit a report by an arbitrary date.

I understand the intent of the amendment. We all want to see reports filed in a timely manner. However, the Lee amendment does not give any allowance for factors that might be outside of the Secretary's control and then would penalize the Secretary for the failure of others over whom the Secretary has absolutely no control—and that is why I oppose the amendment.

As the name suggests, independent evaluations are run by objective, independent third parties. Sometimes the evaluations encounter delays that are far beyond the control of the Department.

For example, data may not be available in a timely manner; alternatively,

followup with States, local areas or programs participating in the evaluation may be necessary. On some occasions, legal challenges may arise. Any of these factors could delay a comprehensive report of this nature.

Then to say, however, we are going to penalize the Department for failing to meet an arbitrary deadline I think is inappropriate and inequitable, because they may not have control over that. So the Lee amendment would disregard any and all of these reasons a report might be delayed even by 1 day.

I wish to make it clear that all of us who worked on this bill believe in the value of independent evaluations and the information they can provide policymakers and consumers, but we also believe they should be done right, without undue pressure of arbitrary deadlines and no room for corrections.

I would also note the underlying bill does strengthen evaluations and reporting in the right way. This is something we all worked on and we have all worked on it in a bipartisan bicameral nature.

Again, the House has been very clear that we work this out. They would not be accepting of this amendment, so I hope all Senators would join with us who worked so hard on this bill in a bipartisan manner to oppose the Lee amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. If I could respond very briefly, I think it is important to point out that, yes, there may come a time when in any government office—whether it is an elected government office or appointed office—when someone who is new to the office might be affected by something that did or didn't happen during the predecessor's time in office.

But even were that to occur in the case of the Secretary of Labor, this is a position that could easily enable, could easily empower the new Secretary to come in and within a matter of months make sure our contractor gets a report done and make sure that report gets submitted.

It is also worth noting that when we entrust a Federal agency with the power to spend \$9 billion of the American people's hard-earned taxpayer money, hard-earned resources, we should expect them to stand accountable, and they should certainly have the ability to have a study conducted and have that study released to the American people.

If we don't trust them to be able to issue that report and make it public, then we should have some reason to be concerned about giving them \$9 billion.

But I think this is a reasonable requirement, and therefore I ask my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. HARKIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in proud support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and to urge my colleagues to support it.

This is an extremely important piece of legislation, and one I was happy to work on in the HELP Committee. It is also long overdue. We haven't reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act since 1998, and it is clear that the law isn't working for the 2014 economy. We know it isn't working because we have a large and growing skills gap.

Now, what is the skills gap? Recent studies have shown that between one-third and one-half of manufacturers in my State have at least one job they can't fill because they can't find a worker with the right skills. That is the skills gap in Minnesota. Of course, it isn't just Minnesota, it is a nationwide phenomenon, and any colleague I talk to on the floor says that is the case in his or her State.

A 2011 survey by Deloitte found that there were 600,000 manufacturing jobs nationwide that were unfilled because of a skills shortage. I just met with Bob Kill, the president and CEO of Enterprise Minnesota, a terrific organization that studies manufacturers in my State of Minnesota, and as he likes to say, "we've been admiring this problem for a long time."

And it is not just manufacturers. There is a skills gap in information technology, in health care, and in other sectors that have jobs sitting there waiting for skilled workers to fill them. There are more than 3 million jobs in this country that could be filled today if there were workers who had the right skills. With too many Americans unemployed, we have to find a way to fill those jobs.

The thing is, we know how to solve this, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will help us do that. I have been to the floor of the Senate a number of times to talk about the strategy. I have talked about it with the Presiding Officer. I am excited about this, as the Presiding Officer very well knows. These are partnerships between businesses and community and technical colleges that are training workers and getting them into high-skilled, high-demand jobs right away.

A number of these partnerships are up and running in Minnesota and have employers fighting over graduates—and sometimes the fight starts even before the students have graduated. That is good for the student. Bob Kill told me about the top student in one of these programs at Alexandria Technical and Community College—by the

way, a community college which has been doing this for a while and doing a great job. This student had 14 job offers before he graduated. All 14 employers said they would pay him to get his engineering degree. I bet if we asked most recent graduates from 4-year or even graduate degree programs, they would be jealous of that kind of eagerness from employers.

So that is a program that is working, and with good reason; employers were involved in the program from day one, so they helped to shape the curriculum to their needs. This is obviously more effective than a training program with no connection to the needs of employers or, as Labor Secretary Tom Perez calls it, "train and pray." Our education system needs more of this focus on skills for jobs that exist.

Careers are different than they were a generation ago. Very few people stay working in one job for one company for their entire life anymore. As technology progresses faster and faster, workers are going to need to constantly update their skills. We need a workforce development system that is agile enough to keep up with these changing demands. That is essential not just so workers will be able to get the different skills they will need over the course of their working lives, it is also going to be one of the keys to the United States remaining globally competitive. If our workers can't adapt to the new industries that are constantly forming, we will lose those jobs to our global competitors. We are seeing manufacturing coming back to our country for all sorts of reasons, and we need to have the skilled workers to take advantage of that and be globally competitive. There is no better way to anticipate and react to these changes than to connect businesses directly with our schools to get workers exactly the skills they need.

This is also about local competitiveness, it is about jobs, it is also about college affordability. I already talked about the student with 14 job offers, all of which included a free engineering degree. We can't get more affordable than free. Many have heard me talk about this issue before, a manufacturer from Minnesota named Erick Ajax.

When Erick hires employees from these business-technical college partnerships, the way he looks at it is they are on a career ladder that would otherwise not be available to them. He told me about one such hire. He hired him right after a credentialing program, like a short CNC credential program. The guy did a great job, and so he said: Well, I am going to send you back to community college to get your associate's degree while you are working, and I will pay for it.

So the guy got his associate's degree, came back, and he was magnificent. So then he said: You know what. I am going to send you to the University of

Minnesota to get your bachelor's degree, while you are working. I believe he is about to get his bachelor's degree, but he is now the head of quality control for this advanced manufacturing company—and he will have a couple of degrees, with zero debt. I think about that story a lot when I think about college affordability.

I could talk about these partnerships for hours, as the Presiding Officer knows—he has heard me—because they work. I have been enthusiastic about this. That is why I worked with PATTY MURRAY, the great Senator from Washington; JOHNNY ISAKSON, the great Senator from Georgia; TOM HARKIN, the great Senator from Iowa; and LAMAR ALEXANDER, the great Senator from Tennessee, to make sure this bill would encourage the formation of these partnerships. I thank each and every one of them for their leadership on this bill. They worked together on a bipartisan basis and led a cooperative process in the HELP Committee. I think the result is a bill of which everyone can be proud.

I will keep working to pass my Community College to Career Fund Act, because I think these partnerships deserve even more focus as well as a dedicated funding source. But I am proud that I fought to make sure the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act contains provisions similar to my bill, and it does a lot to encourage the formation of more of these partnerships—and bigger partnerships—create more jobs, more workers with jobs, and degrees on a path in the right direction. I think this is a huge step in the right direction, and I thank my colleagues. We are creating a smarter, nimbler workforce that will be able to respond to the unique needs of each local area, coordinating all the programs so they will all be working together toward the same goals and the same outcome metrics. This will reduce administrative costs and make the system focus on what counts—getting people good jobs.

Once again, I thank Senators MURRAY, HARKIN, ISAKSON, and ALEXANDER for their hard work on this bill. I encourage my colleagues to support it so we can get our workforce system working for today's economy and the economy of tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as we end this debate, I thank my coauthors and managers of this bill, Senator ISAKSON, Senator HARKIN, and Senator ALEXANDER. And I also again thank Senator ENZI who was for years my partner on this bill.

For over a decade now some combination of us, along with others, has been working to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, and I am so excited that we are finally on the verge of passing this long overdue legislation through the Senate.

Let me remind everyone that the workforce development system serves over 20 million people every year. That is one of every eight working-age adults in this country—people who are looking for work, people who want to change their jobs, people who want to upgrade their skills. And the system serves thousands of employers every year—manufacturers, construction firms, health care providers, financial institutions. The list goes on.

Let's also remember that our workforce development system is a vital partner of economic developers all around the country, making sure that companies being recruited or expanded have access to training and skilled workers necessary to compete and grow.

With millions of new jobs that will require postsecondary education and advanced skills in the coming years, we will fall behind if we do not modernize our workforce development system and programs now. We have to make sure when high-tech jobs of the next century are created, Americans are ready to fill them. That is what we have done with this bill. We have doubled down on the programs that work, we have eliminated programs that have become outdated, and created a workforce system that is more nimble, adaptable, better aligned, and more accountable.

I am very proud to be at this point. I again especially thank my partner who has been with me so many critical times, Senator ISAKSON from Georgia, who has been incredibly hardworking and diligent in getting this done.

I look forward to the votes. We have two amendments—I will be joining all of our cosponsors in voting against those amendments—and then final passage. I again thank everyone who has worked so hard on this legislation for so many years.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as we close the debate, I enthusiastically support and endorse the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act. This is a statement the Senate can send to the United States of America and all people who are on unemployment, looking for better opportunities. We are now going to offer training to see to it those 10,600,000 Americans out of work can find jobs, and hopefully it will be the 4 million jobs available today in America where skilled workers are not trained.

I thank Senator MURRAY for her kind comments and reiterate my appreciation for her, her staff, Scott Cheney, my staff, Tommy Nguyen.

Chairman HARKIN has been a fearless leader on our committee and allowed us the chance to get to where we are today.

Senator ALEXANDER's velvet glove on an iron hand helped us get through an

amendment process that was difficult at times but got us to the point we are today.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill and against the two amendments.

I yield back the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3379, offered by the Senator from Arizona, Mr. FLAKE.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 33, nays 63, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 212 Leg.]

YEAS—33

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heller	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—63

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baldwin	Hagan	Murphy
Begich	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Pryor
Boxer	Hoeven	Reed
Brown	Isakson	Reid
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Chambliss	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Moran	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Cochran	McCaskill
Johannis	Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 3379) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the amendment offered by the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 213 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Ayotte	Graham	Portman
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Tester
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Vitter
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	
Flake	Paul	

NAYS—58

Alexander	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Isakson	Rockefeller
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Chambliss	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Walsh
Donnelly	Markey	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Cochran	Johannis
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The amendment (No. 3380) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3381 offered by the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN.

The amendment (No. 3381) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the substitute amendment, No. 3378, as amended, is agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. HARKIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 214 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murray
Ayotte	Graham	Nelson
Baldwin	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hagan	Portman
Begich	Harkin	Pryor
Bennet	Hatch	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Blunt	Heitkamp	Risch
Booker	Heller	Roberts
Boozman	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Inhofe	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Scott
Carper	King	Sessions
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	Markey	Udall (CO)
Crapo	McCain	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCaskill	Vitter
Donnelly	McConnell	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Flake	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	

NAYS—3

Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Lee
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NOT VOTING—2

Cochran	Johannis
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The bill (H.R. 803), as amended, was passed.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF THE MANAGERS TO ACCOMPANY THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

CONTENTS

I. Purpose and Summary of the Legislation
II. Background and Need for Legislation
III. Legislative History and Committee Action
IV. Explanation of the Bill and Managers' Views
V. Section-by-Section Analysis

I. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which supports the nation's primary programs and investments in employment services, workforce development, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation activities and has been due for reauthorization since 2003. The bill also reauthorizes and enhances the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, amends the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, and amends and reauthorizes certain provisions in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The legislation is the product of an extensive bipartisan, bicameral effort in negotiations between the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and House Committee on Education and the Workforce regarding their respective reauthorization bills and input from the major

stakeholders in workforce development, adult education, employment services, and vocational rehabilitation and other disability programs. In addition, two hearings were held in the 113th Congress regarding the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998—one in the Senate and one in the House of Representatives.

This legislation amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 by making the changes identified below.

This legislation repeals the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and replaces it with new authorization language for workforce systems in the States and local areas, Job Corps, national programs, adult education and literacy, and general provisions. In addition, the legislation includes amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which are important programs connected to the broader workforce development system.

First, the bill makes a number of specific changes to workforce investment activities under title I. The number of required members on State and local workforce boards is reduced. States are required to submit one plan to address all of the core programs—title I-B, title II, employment services under the Wagner-Peyser Act in title and State vocational rehabilitation under title IV—and develop a comprehensive State strategy to align workforce activities with labor market demands and economic development goals. The bill also includes a process describing the partner contributions for infrastructure funding. There is an increased emphasis on ensuring physical and programmatic accessibility of one-stop centers and training providers. Flexibility of funds for use at the local level between adult and dislocated worker funding is enhanced. A set of common performance indicators is required for all core programs under the bill. Importance is placed on providing career pathways and the use of sector strategies for delivering services. Streamlining reporting requirements and administrative burdens are applied. Youth who face severe barriers to employment and education, including out-of-school youth, are targeted for assistance.

Second, the bill makes a number of changes to the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act to support successful transitions to postsecondary education or training, or employment. The bill requires specific activities at the local, State, and national level, including integrating basic adult education and occupational skills training and the use of career pathways. The bill also requires the Secretary of Education to conduct evaluations and research regarding adult education activities provided under the title.

Third, the amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 include changes to the Workforce Information Council, which supports the development of a State-Federal system for identifying labor market information. The amendments also include provisions to support professional development for employment services staff.

Fourth, the bill prioritizes competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities, particularly young people with disabilities who are transitioning from education to employment, by ensuring that these individuals have the skills and training necessary to maximize their potential. The amendments also include better alignment of disability programs in order to ensure that individuals receive the services, technology, and support they need in order to live inclusive, successful lives.

Fifth, the bill repeals the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and eliminates the following 15 programs:

- Youth Opportunity Grants
- 21st Century Workforce Commission
- National Institute for Literacy under Adult Education
- Health Care Gap Coverage for Trade Adjustment Assistance participants
- WIA Incentive Grants
- WIA Pilots and Demonstration Projects
- Community-based Job Training Grants
- Green Jobs Act
- Projects with Industry under the Rehabilitation Act amendments
- Recreation Programs under the Rehabilitation Act amendments
- In-service Training under the Rehabilitation Act amendments
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program under the Rehabilitation Act amendments
- WIA Veterans Workforce Investment Program
- WIA Workforce Innovation Fund
- Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals under the 1998 Amendments to the Higher Education Act.

II. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

When Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, it was seen as a major step forward in streamlining existing Federal workforce programs and supporting Federal investment in workforce development activities. Since the authorization for the statute expired in 2003, there have been numerous attempts to reauthorize the legislation in both the House and the Senate.

III. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE ACTION

In the 113th Congress, the Senate took the following action on reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. On June 20, 2013, the Senate HELP Committee conducted a hearing on reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. On July 24, 2013, Senator Murray, Senator Isakson, Senator Harkin, and Senator Alexander introduced S. 1356, the Workforce Investment Act of 2013. On July 31, 2013, the Senate HELP Committee considered S. 1356 in executive session and reported it favorably, as amended, to the Senate by a vote of 18 to 3. The committee considered and adopted two amendments to the underlying bill. The first amendment was in the nature of a substitute and included changes recommended by the bill managers—Senate HELP Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA), HELP Committee Ranking Member Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA)—and was adopted by unanimous consent. The second amendment, offered by Senator Casey (D-PA), Senator Hatch (R-UT), and Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) included additional reporting requirements for the Job Corps program. The amendment was accepted by voice vote.

In the 113th Congress, the House took the following action on reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. On February 26, 2013, the House Education and the Workforce Committee, in the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, conducted a hearing on the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. On February 25, 2013, Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) introduced H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act. On March 6, 2013, the Committee on Education and the Workforce considered H.R. 803 in legislative session and reported it favorably, as amended, to the House of Representatives.

The committee considered and adopted the following amendments to H.R. 803. The first amendment was in the nature of a substitute and included changes recommended by the bill manager, Representative Foxx, and was adopted by voice vote. The second amendment, offered by Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI), streamlined the unified State plan process at the Federal level. The third amendment, offered by Representative Martha Roby (R-AL), prohibited the use of funds for lobbying and political activities. The fourth amendment, offered by Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN), allowed State and local workforce boards to implement pay-for-performance strategies. The second, third, and fourth amendments were considered en bloc and adopted by voice vote.

On March 15, 2013, the House of Representatives adopted H.R. 803 by a vote of 215–202. During debate the House considered the following amendments. The first amendment, offered by Representative Foxx provided a local application process when designating local workforce investment areas and made technical and clarifying changes to the underlying bill, and passed by voice vote. The second amendment, offered by Representative Pete Gallego (D-TX), required State and local plans include advanced manufacturing workforce development strategies, and passed by voice vote. The third amendment, offered by Representative Don Young (R-AK), required the Secretary of Labor to set aside one percent of the funds for Native American workforce development programs, and passed by voice vote. The fourth amendment, offered by Representative Diane Black (R-TN), expressed a sense of Congress that any administrative costs be off-set by funds currently being used for marketing and outreach by the Department of Agriculture, and was withdrawn by unanimous consent. The fifth amendment, offered by Representative Scott Garrett (R-NJ), required a reduction in funds to the Department of Labor if long overdue evaluations were not completed within a specified amount of time, and passed by voice vote. Another amendment was offered by Representative John Tierney (D-MA) and was in the nature of a substitute, and did not pass by a recorded vote of 192–227.

IV. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL AND MANAGERS' VIEWS

Sections 1, 2, and 3. Sections 1, 2, and 3 describe the short title for the bill, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; include the purposes of the Act; and state the definitions for the Act, which are intended to have the same meaning under each program authorized under the Act unless otherwise stated. The definitions identify the “core programs” under the Act, which consist of title I State grant programs; title II adult education programs; the employment service under title III amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act; and State vocational rehabilitation programs under title IV.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES; PROVIDERS; JOB CORPS; NATIONAL PROGRAMS; AND ADMINISTRATION

Title I of the underlying bill includes the primary components of State and local area workforce development systems as well as several national programs for youth and special populations. In order to strengthen and streamline the workforce system, the title focuses on changes to governance, including reducing the number of required board members at the State and local level; requiring one, unified State plan; and promoting local workforce areas more closely aligned to

labor markets and economic development regions while preserving a locally driven workforce system. The bill also promotes the themes of providing employment services and workforce development along a career pathway for participants, and education training in line with in-demand industry sectors and occupations for a region.

Workforce Boards

In order for boards to be more strategic, the bill reduces the number of required board members at both the State and local level. The boards remain a business majority with a business chairperson, while the representation for the workforce is increased. At the local level, with the exception of the core programs under the Act, the one-stop partners are no longer required members.

Workforce Plans

To support a strategic, comprehensive, and streamlined system, the bill requires one, unified State plan, covering four years, to meet the requirements for each of the core programs. The plan also requires a description of the State's overall strategy for workforce development and how the strategy will help meet identified skill needs for workers, job seekers and employers in the State. This unified plan will improve service delivery to individuals as well as reduce administrative costs and reporting requirements at the State level. In order to promote a one-stop system that accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities, the State and local plans must include a description of how the one-stop system in the State will comply with the applicable requirements of section 188 and the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding the accessibility of programs and facilities for people with disabilities.

Workforce Development Areas

In order to maintain the balance between governors and local elected officials, the bill requires States to consult with local boards and chief elected officials in order to identify local areas and planning regions that are in alignment with labor markets and regional economic development areas. The bill allows for initial and subsequent designations based on performance, fiscal integrity, and participation in regional coordination activities, including regional planning, information sharing, pooling of administrative costs, and coordination of service delivery.

Performance Accountability

In order to promote increased transparency about the outcomes of Federal workforce programs, the bill includes six primary indicators of performance for adults served under programs authorized under the Act, and six primary indicators for youth served under the Act. Commonality among the indicators will allow policymakers, program users, and consumers to better understand the value and effectiveness of the services. The managers recognize that for those participants who have low levels of literacy skills, or who are English language learners, the acquisition of basic English literacy and numeracy skills are critical steps to obtaining employment and success in postsecondary education and training. Therefore, the term "measurable skill gains" referred to under indicator V in this section for adult and youth, is intended to encourage eligible providers under title 11 to serve all undereducated, low-level, and under prepared adults. The managers agree that reporting and evaluation requirements are important tools in measuring effectiveness, especially for the core programs. Therefore, the legislation includes performance reports to be pro-

vided at the State, local and eligible training provider levels, as well as evaluations of the core programs by States.

One-Stop Infrastructure

To improve the quality of the one-stop delivery system, the bill requires the State board, in consultation with chief local elected officials and local boards, to establish criteria for use by the local board in assessing the effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility, and continuous improvement of one-stop centers and delivery systems at least every three years. Regarding infrastructure funding for one-stop centers, the bill maintains requirements for the mandatory one-stop partners in a local area to reach a voluntary agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, to fund the costs of infrastructure, other shared costs, and how the partners will deliver services under the system. If local areas fail to come to an agreement regarding sufficient funding of one-stop infrastructure costs, a State one-stop infrastructure funding mechanism can be imposed for those local areas. Mandatory partner program contributions, pursuant to the State one-stop infrastructure funding mechanism, are based on the proportionate use of the one-stop centers and subject to specified caps.

Employment and Training Activities

For youth, the bill utilizes the existing formula to allot funds to States for youth services. It improves upon existing youth services by placing a priority on out-of-school youth (75 percent of funding at the State and local level), and focusing on career pathways for youth, drop-out recovery efforts, and education and training that lead to the attainment of a high school diploma and a recognized postsecondary credential. A priority is also included for work-based learning activities.

For adults and dislocated workers, the bill utilizes the existing formulas with the inclusion of a minimum and maximum allotment percentage for the dislocated worker formula beginning in fiscal year 2016. The managers believe the addition of the minimum and maximum percentages will help bring stability to the only formula that currently does not include such mechanisms, and will reduce funding volatility for States year to year. The bill preserves the governor's 15 percent set aside for statewide activities.

To eliminate the perceived "sequence of services" under current law, requiring an individual to proceed through core and intensive services before training eligibility can be determined, the bill consolidates core and intensive services into a new "career services" category. While the services remain similar to those under current law, the structure is intended to provide more flexibility to one-stop staff in determining a participant's need for training. Local boards are required to convene, use, or implement industry or sector partnerships. The bill also improves upon the mechanisms for local boards to provide education and training to eligible participants by adding the following optional methods, under certain guidelines, for training—contracting for classes of training for multiple participants or on a pay-for performance basis; incumbent worker training; and transitional jobs strategies. Finally, the title includes authorization levels for appropriations for the State grant programs.

Job Corps

The bill improves upon the current Job Corps program by strengthening the contracting requirements for centers, requiring the program use the performance account-

ability indicators for youth described in section 116 and strengthening reporting requirements, and allowing the Department of Labor to provide technical assistance to centers. The bill includes requirements for a financial report and a third party review of the program every five years. The bill also includes a provision allowing operators of a high-performing center, defined by performance criteria, to be eligible to compete in any procurement process for that center. Where there is not sufficient performance information for the time period required under section 147(b)(2)(B) or Section 147(h)(3) due to the effects of a natural disaster or the participation of the center in a performance pilot program, it is the intent of the managers the Secretary apply the provisions of that section to any performance information that is available to the Secretary from the relevant period preceding the time the determination under that provision is made. This would allow entities operating the center to have an opportunity to meet performance requirements allowing them to compete where the absence of complete information is not the fault of the operating entity.

National Programs

The bill reauthorizes the Native American program; the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker program; and YouthBuild. It also includes provisions for National Dislocated Worker Grants; technical assistance under title I; and evaluations, research, studies and multistate projects conducted by the Secretary of Labor. The bill requires the Secretary of Labor to conduct a multistate study on strategies for placing individuals in jobs and education and training programs that lead to equivalent pay for men and women, including the participation of women in high-wage, high-demand occupations in which women are underrepresented. We believe this is important because a key element of raising women's wages is to provide access to occupations that are predominantly held by men, pay well, and are in demand in the economy. Many occupations today are still dominated by one gender, with more than 75 percent of the jobs in that occupation held by men or by women. Jobs that are predominantly held by men—in industries like transportation, manufacturing, or construction trades—often pay considerably more than jobs traditionally held by women, such as child care workers, health care workers, clerical workers, or workers in retail or other service sectors industries. The managers expect the Secretary to review existing programs and research, State laws and initiatives, and any other relevant project, to determine successful strategies for placement and retention of women in relevant training or jobs and to provide States and localities with the information, tools, and assistance they need to develop programs and activities that will replicate such strategies. We request completion of this project within eighteen months of enactment.

The bill requires an independent evaluation of the activities under title I at least once every four years for the purpose of improving the management and effectiveness of programs and activities. In recognition of the changing demands of the economy, the bill allows the YouthBuild program to expand into additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region.

The bill includes authorization of appropriations for the programs under subtitle D. *Administration*

The bill adds restrictions against lobbying activities with funds under this title. The

managers do not intend for these provisions to restrict awareness or outreach activities regarding services and activities under title I.

TITLE II—THE ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY ACT

In reauthorizing title II, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the bill places an emphasis on ensuring States and local providers offer basic skills, adult education, literacy activities, and English language acquisition concurrently or integrated with occupational skills training to accelerate attainment of secondary school diplomas and postsecondary credentials. Making sure these skills are solidly in place for all students is a priority. The bill also emphasizes utilization of a career pathway approach for adult learners to support transitions to postsecondary education or training and employment opportunities.

The bill requires all adult basic education and literacy programs to use the same set of primary indicators of performance accountability outlined for all employment and training activities authorized under this Act. Individuals receiving these services should be able to use these skills in obtaining a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, obtaining full time employment, increasing their median earnings, and enrolling in postsecondary education or training, or earning a recognized postsecondary credential.

It is essential for adult educators to work closely with workforce development stakeholders in the State, including State and local workforce boards. To help in achieving a seamless statewide workforce development system, the bill requires title II programs to submit a unified State plan with the other core programs within this Act. The bill also provides funds for States to use in offering eligible providers of adult education technical assistance, providing professional development training to improve the instruction and outcomes for adult learners, and conducting evaluations. It encourages State and local leaders to provide activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation and training activities for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

The bill authorizes national activities to assist States and local providers in developing valid, measurable, and reliable performance data, and in using such performance information for the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs. The bill also includes provisions to support research and evaluation of adult education activities at the national level. Finally, the bill places an emphasis on integrating English literacy with civics education, as well as adult education and occupational training activities.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSEY ACT

Title III of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act makes amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, which authorizes the public employment services and the employment statistics system. Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act generally maintain current law but also reflect the need to align the statute with the other changes in the bill such as including the State employment services in the unified State plan; aligning performance accountability indicators with those indicators used for core programs—as described in section 116 of title I; renaming “employment statistics” to the “workforce

and labor market information system” and updating the Workforce Information Council; and providing for staff professional development in order to strengthen the quality of services. Authorization of appropriations for the workforce and labor market information system and the workforce information council is provided for each of the fiscal years of 2015 through 2020.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act amends and reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rehabilitation Act was last reauthorized in 1998.

The Rehabilitation Act is an important law for individuals with disabilities, particularly those with significant disabilities. It authorizes programs that affect the daily lives of many individuals with disabilities, including the vocational rehabilitation program (training, services, and supports for employment); the independent living program; and research and information on new technology to assist individuals with disabilities.

There remains a critical need for employment and training services for individuals with disabilities. Almost 25 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is still difficult for many individuals with significant disabilities to find full time employment that is commensurate with their skills, interests, and goals. Yet State vocational rehabilitation programs can play a significant role in meeting this need by providing training, services and supports for individuals with disabilities.

It is especially important to provide young people with disabilities more opportunities to practice and improve their workplace skills, to consider their career interests, and to get real world work experience. Those activities are prioritized in the amendments to the Act. For example, the bill requires State vocational rehabilitation agencies to make “pre-employment transition services” available to all students with disabilities, and to coordinate those services with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. State vocational rehabilitation programs will set aside at least 15 percent of their Federal program funds to help young people with disabilities transition from secondary school to postsecondary education programs and employment.

In addition, these amendments establish a framework to ensure every young person with a disability, regardless of their level of disability, has the opportunity to experience competitive, integrated employment. These requirements will provide young people with disabilities with the opportunity to develop their skills and to use supports, available through State vocational rehabilitation programs, to experience competitive, integrated employment as they leave school and enter the workforce.

In order to better align the Independent Living program that serves individuals with significant disabilities living in the community with other similar efforts, the amendments transition the administration of the Independent Living program from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. The transition moves the program to an agency with a lifespan and community focus and will better allow the program to fulfill its goal to support “independent living . . . and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.”

The amendments also incorporate “independent living” into the name and mission of

the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and similarly move that program’s administration from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living in order to better align the program priorities with agency goals and priorities.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

The bill repeals the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in its entirety, replacing it with reforms to better serve unemployed and underemployed workers as well as employers. In doing so, authority is provided to the Secretaries of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services to establish a smooth and orderly transition period to implement this Act.

V. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title; Table of Contents

The short title of the bill is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Section 2. Purposes

Identifies the purposes of the Act.

Section 3. Definitions

Defines terms that are common to all titles, except where otherwise noted.

TITLE I: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A.—System Alignment

Chapter 1—State Provisions

Section 101. State Workforce Development Boards

Establishes State boards. Membership includes the governor; one member of each chamber of the State legislature; and members appointed by the governor of which the chair and majority shall remain representatives of business; requires that 20 percent of the board be representatives of the workforce, including labor organizations; requires the balance of the board to include State government officials responsible for core programs (title I State grant programs, adult education programs, employment services under the Wagner-Peyser Act, and State vocational rehabilitation programs), and chief elected officials. Identifies the functions of the board, permits the State board to hire staff, and directs the State board to establish and apply objective qualifications for the director’s position.

Section 102. Unified State Plan

Establishes unified State plans (hereafter referred to as State plans), which will meet the planning requirements for the core programs and describe how the State will develop a coordinated and comprehensive workforce development system. Streamlines the process for plan submission, approval, and modification of State plans among the Federal agencies.

Section 103. Combined State Plan

Establishes a process for the State to allow additional workforce development-related programs to participate in and submit federally required plans through the State planning process.

Chapter 2—Local Provisions

Section 106. Workforce Development Areas

Describes how States, in consultation with local boards and chief elected officials, will identify local areas and planning regions in a State based on criteria for alignment with labor markets, regional economic development, and availability of resources. Describes process for initial and subsequent designation based on performance, fiscal integrity, and participation in regional coordination activities, including regional planning, information sharing, and coordination

of service delivery for local workforce areas. Requires States to provide funding and technical assistance to local areas in a regional planning process that choose to become a single local workforce area. Provides for an appeal process and the continuation of single State designations.

Section 107. Local Workforce Development Boards

Establishes local boards. Membership includes a majority of representatives of businesses in the local area and a business chairperson; requires 20 percent of the board be representatives of the workforce, including labor organizations; other representatives include education and training providers in the local area (such as community colleges), the core programs in the local area, and economic and community development. With the exception of core programs, required one-stop programs are not required to be represented on the board. Describes permissible standing committees; the appointment, certification, and decertification requirements for local boards; and continues to allow the State board of a single State to function as the local board for the State. Identifies the functions of the local board, permits the local board to hire staff, and directs the local board to establish and apply objective qualifications for the director's position. Provides certain limitations for the local board concerning the delivery of career and training services.

Section 108. Local Plan

Requires each local board to develop and submit a local plan to the governor, including a description of how services offered through the core programs at the local level will be coordinated and aligned to regional needs. Requires the strategy described in the local plan to align with the State strategy for workforce development. Local boards participating in a regional planning process are required to contribute to and submit a regional plan. Describes the process for plan submission, approval, and modifications.

Chapter 3—Board Provisions

Section 111. Funding of State and Local Boards

Clarifies that funding to support State and local boards must be provided by title I administrative funds, which may be supplemented by non-Federal funds.

Chapter 4—Performance Accountability

Section 116. Performance Accountability System

Establishes performance accountability indicators at the State level that are common to each of the core programs for adults and performance accountability indicators applicable to all youth programs within the Act. Requires States to negotiate with the Secretaries of Labor and Education a level of expected performance for each of the indicators. Describes factors for consideration in setting and assessing levels of performance. Establishes performance accountability indicators for local programs and a performance negotiation process similar to that required of the State. Requires performance reports to be prepared and submitted by States, local areas, and eligible training providers. Requires States to conduct an evaluation of the core programs, use the results to continuously improve programs, and make results available to the public. Establishes sanctions for poor performance at the State level, including, for those States not meeting performance targets for two consecutive years, a reduction in the percentage of funds governors may reserve. Establishes sanctions for poor performance at the local level. Re-

quires States to establish and operate a fiscal and management accountability information system for the core programs using guidance provided by the Secretaries. Permits the governor to establish incentives using non-Federal funds for pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of services. Requires States to utilize quarterly wage records, consistent with State law, to measure progress on State performance accountability measures.

Subtitle B.—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

Chapter 1—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

Section 121. Establishment of One-Stop Delivery Systems

Establishes the one-stop delivery system. Identifies one-stop partners and their roles and responsibilities. Directs the local board to enter into a MOU with the one-stop partners regarding the operation and costs of the one-stop delivery system. Outlines the competitive process for designating one-stop operators. Describes the services to be made available through the one-stop system, and the criteria for certifying one-stop centers. Establishes a process at the State level for determining one-stop partner program contributions to infrastructure costs, based on proportionate use and funding limitations, for those local areas that do not reach a consensus agreement through the MOU process.

Section 122. Identification of Eligible Providers of Training Services

Describes eligibility for providers; outlines State criteria, information requirements, and application and renewal processes for selecting providers; requires the list of eligible providers be provided to participants; and includes sanctions for providers with substantial violations.

Section 123. Eligible Providers of Youth Workforce Investment Activities

Requires local boards to award grants or contracts to providers for youth workforce investment activities, taking the performance of such providers into account.

Chapter 2—Youth Workforce Investment Activities

Section 126. General Authorization

Requires the Secretary to allot funding to States and grants to outlying areas for youth activities.

Section 127. State Allotments

Establishes reservations for Native Americans, outlying areas, and States; maintains current law formulas for State allotments; describes limitations and requirements. Maintains current law minimum and maximum allotment percentages. Maintains small State minimums. Describes reallocation procedures.

Section 128. Within State Allocations

Allows governors to reserve 15 percent of State allotments for State workforce investment activities. Maintains within-State formula and minimum allocation percentage. Includes a 10 percent limitation on local administrative costs. Describes reallocation procedures.

Section 129. Use of Funds for Youth Workforce Investment Activities.

Describes eligibility for youth participants. Establishes the percentage of youth funds (75 percent) to be used for out-of-school youth. Describes statewide and local activities, including career pathway development, dropout recovery efforts, occupational skills training, and education and training leading

to a recognized postsecondary credential. Includes a priority for the provision of work-based learning experiences for youth, and allows for a priority for training that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

Chapter 3—Adult and Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities

Section 131. General Authorization

Requires the Secretary to allot funding to States and grants to outlying areas for adult and dislocated worker activities.

Section 132. State Allotments

Establishes reservations for outlying areas and States; maintains current law formulas for State allotments; describes limitations requirements. For the adult formula, maintains current law minimum and maximum allotment percentages, and adds similar provisions to the dislocated worker formula beginning in fiscal year 2016. Maintains 20 percent reservation for national dislocated worker grants and technical assistance. Describes reallocation procedures.

Section 133. Within State Allocations

Maintains reservations for governors' statewide and rapid response activities. Allows local boards to transfer 100 percent of funds between the adult and dislocated worker programs at the local level. Maintains a within-State formula and minimum allocations for the adult formula, and adds a similar minimum allocation for the dislocated worker formula beginning in fiscal year 2016. Describes reallocation procedures.

Section 134. Use of Funds for Employment and Training Activities

Specifies required and allowable statewide employment and training activities as well as rapid response activities. Permits incumbent worker and customized training, industry sector strategies, career pathway programs, layoff aversion activities, innovative services to individuals with barriers to employment, and coordination with other workforce-related programs from other agencies. Removes the current "sequence of services" between core, intensive and training services by streamlining core and intensive into "career services." Maintains customer choice requirements and allows for the combined use of individual training accounts, cohort training, and pay-for-performance contracts. At the local level, permits boards to utilize incumbent worker training; on-the-job training; customized training; and transitional jobs activities; and provide supportive services.

Chapter 4—General Workforce Investment Provisions

Section 136. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes appropriations for youth, adult, and dislocated worker programs.

Subtitle C.—Job Corps

Section 141. Purposes

Identifies the purposes of the subtitle.

Section 142. Definitions

Provides definitions specific to Job Corps.

Section 143. Establishment

Establishes within the Department of Labor a "Job Corps".

Section 144. Individuals Eligible for the Job Corps

Describes eligibility for participants and includes a special rule for veterans.

Section 145. Recruitment, Screening, Selection, and Assignment of Enrollees

Specifies general requirements for selecting enrollees and placing them into centers

that offer the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual. Ensures these provisions shall be implemented with organizations that have demonstrated a record of effectiveness in serving at-risk youth. Prohibits denying enrollment in Job Corps based solely on contact with the criminal justice system, but adds an exception barring the selection of individuals convicted of certain felonies. Describes process by which the Secretary develops an assignment plan for enrollment at centers.

Section 146. Enrollment

Outlines two-year enrollment limits and exceptions.

Section 147. Job Corps Centers

Describes the competitive basis for the selection process and the eligibility requirements to operate a Job Corps center. Outlines the criteria for determining high-performing centers. Defines length of agreement and contract renewal conditions for Job Corps centers based on performance.

Section 148. Program Activities

Describes the activities, education and training, and graduate services provided by Job Corps centers and links these activities to in-demand industries and occupations.

Section 149. Counseling and Job Placement

Describes the assessment, counseling, and placement assistance for enrollees, and allows for services to former enrollees.

Section 150. Support

Provides for personal and transition allowances for graduates and support for former enrollees.

Section 151. Operating Plan

Specifies general information for an operating plan.

Section 152. Standards of Conduct

Describes disciplinary measures and zero tolerance standards, as well as an appeals process.

Section 153. Community Participation

Outlines business and community participation, including connections with local workforce boards.

Section 154. Workforce Councils

Describes the roles and responsibilities for workforce councils, including recommending training programs that are in in-demand industry sectors or occupations within the region.

Section 155. Advisory Committees

Allows the Secretary to establish advisory committees, as necessary, consistent with current law.

Section 156. Experimental, Research, and Demonstration Projects

Requires the Secretary to inform authorizing committees if a waiver is required to carry out initiatives under this section. Allows the Secretary to reserve administrative funds to provide technical assistance to the Job Corps program.

Section 157. Application of Provisions of Federal Law

Establishes that enrollees are not Federal employees, consistent with current law.

Section 158. Special Provisions

Generally maintains current law.

Section 159. Management Information

Describes financial management controls and procedures, as well as audit requirements. Aligns performance accountability indicators for Job Corps with the indicators

for all youth activities described in section 116. Establishes performance indicators for recruiters and career transition service providers. Describes data the Secretary must include in congressional reports regarding the program and centers. Outlines performance improvement plan requirements for centers that fail to reach expected levels of performance.

Section 160. General Provisions

Generally maintains current law outlining general provisions required by the Secretary.

Section 161. Job Corps Oversight and Reporting

Requires the Secretary to submit financial reports to applicable congressional committees within a specific timeframe. Requires a third-party review of the Job Corps program once every five years, with results to be submitted to Congress. Directs the Secretary to establish written criteria for Job Corps center closures and submit such written criteria to applicable committees.

Section 162. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes appropriations for the Job Corps program.

Subtitle D.—National Programs

Section 166. Native American Programs

Describes the requirements for competitive grants for Native Americans. Aligns performance indicators for Native American programs with the performance indicators described in Sec. 116. Clarifies the authority of the Advisory Council and the ability for the Secretary to provide assistance to unique populations in Hawaii and Alaska.

Section 167. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs

Describes the requirements for competitive grants for migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Aligns performance indicators for Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs with the performance indicators described in section 116. Outlines the range of activities authorized to access education, training, and employment opportunities.

Section 168. Technical Assistance

Specifies the activities to be undertaken by the Secretary to support an effective workforce development system. Requires the Secretary to establish a system to collect, evaluate, and disseminate promising and proven practices.

Section 169. Evaluations and Research

Requires the Secretary to conduct an independent evaluation at least once every four years. Allows for research, studies, and multistate projects to be conducted by the Secretary.

Section 170. National Dislocated Worker Grants

Provides definitions for areas impacted by “emergency or disaster” and a “disaster area.” Permits the Secretary to provide assistance to such areas.

Section 171. YouthBuild Program

Describes the requirements for YouthBuild grants. Aligns performance indicators for YouthBuild with the performance accountability indicators for all youth activities described in section 116. Allows training for participants to be linked to industries that are in-demand.

Section 172. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes appropriations for Native American programs, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs, Technical, Assistance, and Evaluations and Research.

Subtitle E.—Administration

Section 181. Requirements and Restrictions

Specifies the general requirements on the limitations of funds to carry out the Act.

Section 182. Prompt Allocation of Funds

Describes requirements for the Secretary regarding the distribution of funds under the title, including the use of current data and the publishing of the formula used for funding distribution. Requires the State to distribute funds to local areas in a timely fashion.

Section 183. Monitoring

Similar to current law, describes monitoring guidelines to determine compliance.

Section 184. Fiscal Controls: Sanctions

Provides requirements regarding use of fiscal controls; sanctions for substantial violations; an appeals process; requirements for repayment of funds not expended in accordance with this title; and response and remedies regarding discrimination.

Section 185. Reports; Recordkeeping; Investigations

Describes requirements for record keeping and reporting for recipients of funds under this title.

Section 186. Administrative Adjudication

Describes complaint and appeal procedures regarding dissatisfaction with or failure to receive financial assistance.

Section 187. Judicial Review

Describes the judicial review process for administrative adjudication decisions.

Section 188. Nondiscrimination

Describes prohibitions on discriminations.

Section 189. Secretarial Administrative Authorities and Responsibilities

Describes the general administrative responsibilities of the Secretary in carrying out this title. Excludes requirements regarding funding of infrastructure costs for one-stop centers, and those requirements related to the basic purposes of this title, from provisions the Secretary may waive. Requires expedited approval of waiver requests that have been previously approved by the Secretary for any other State or local area.

Section 190. Workforce Flexibility Plans

Allows States to submit a plan to the Secretary for waiver approval regarding relevant requirements applicable to local areas.

Section 191. State Legislative Authority

Clarifies nothing in statute prevents the enactment of State legislation regarding implementation of provisions of this title, consistent with the requirements of this title.

Section 192. Transfer of Federal Equity in State Employment Security Agency Real Property to the States

Maintains current law.

Section 193. Continuation of State Activities and Policies

Maintains current law.

Section 194. General Program Requirements

Prohibits the use of Federal funds under this title to establish or operate stand-alone, fee-for-service enterprises. Nothing in this provision prohibits or discourages one-stop centers from using such agencies or companies to assist in serving program participants. Includes a maximum rate of pay for staff hired with funds provided under this title.

Section 195. Restrictions on Lobbying Activities

Prohibits funds provided under this Act from being used for lobbying activities.

TITLE II: ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Section 201. Short Title

Cited as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

Section 202. Purpose

Establishes the purposes of this title.

Section 203. Definitions

Defines those terms specific to this title. Defines activities that increase coordination between programs and services to better meet the needs of adult learners and workers, as well as models that integrate adult education and literacy activities with workforce preparation activities and training activities.

Section 204. Home Schools

Retains autonomy of home schools.

Section 205. Rule of Construction Regarding Postsecondary Transition and Concurrent Enrollment Activities

Provides nothing in the title shall be construed to prohibit or discourage eligible individuals' transition to postsecondary education, training, or employment, or concurrent enrollment activities.

Section 206. Authorization of Appropriations

Authorizes appropriations to carry out this title.

*Subtitle A.—Federal Provisions**Section 211. Reservation of Funds; Grants to Eligible Agencies; Allotments*

Describes required reservations for certain programs. Requires eligible State agencies to participate in the State planning processes for the core programs described in title I. Describes process for the allotment and reallocation of funds to eligible agencies.

Section 212. Performance Accountability System

Aligns performance accountability indicators for this title with the indicators for adults described in section 116.

*Subtitle B.—State Provisions**Section 221. State Administration*

Describes responsibilities of eligible State agencies.

Section 222. State Distribution of Funds; Matching Requirement

Describes requirements for State distribution of funds and agency match requirements.

Section 223. State Leadership Activities

Delineates required and permissible State activities, including instruction for adult learners, integrated education and training, and career pathways development. Requires alignment of adult education activities with those of other core programs and one-stop partners in this Act.

Section 224. State Plan

Includes the State agency as part of the unified State planning requirements for all core programs described in title I of this Act.

Section 225. Programs for Corrections Education and Other Institutionalized Individuals

Describes the use of funds under this section and maintains a priority for those individuals most likely to leave the correctional institution within five years of participation in the program.

*Subtitle C.—Local Provisions**Section 231. Grants and Contracts for Eligible Providers*

Describes the considerations the eligible agency must take into account when making awards to eligible providers, including alignment with local plans under title I and past performance.

Section 232. Local Application

Describes requirements for applications from eligible providers.

Section 233. Local Administrative Cost Limits

Establishes limits for uses of funds for administrative purposes.

*Subtitle D.—General Provisions**Section 241. Administrative Provisions*

Maintains requirements related to “supplement not supplant” and maintenance of effort. Includes considerations for extreme financial hardship.

Section 242. National Leadership Activities

Delineates required and allowable national activities to be carried out by the Secretary. Requires research on adult education and literacy and an independent evaluation at least once every four years of the activities under this title.

Section 243. Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education

Authorizes the Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education program, which includes serving English language learners and providing integrated education and training.

TITLE III: AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSEY ACT

Title III amends the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)

Section 301. Employment Service Offices

Clarifies the offices referred to are a part of the public employment service.

Section 302. Definitions

References definitions under title I.

Section 303. Federal and State Employment Service Offices

Requires co-location of employment service offices with one-stop centers. Increases access to and improves the quality of workforce information. Promotes the use of best practices across the system and provides for staff professional development.

Section 304. Allotment of Sums

Clarifies the allotment of funds to the States.

Section 305. Use of Sums

Requires employment service offices to provide unemployment insurance claimants with information about and assistance with applying for education and training programs.

Section 306. State Plan

Includes State employment services in the unified State plan described in title I of this Act.

Section 307. Performance Measures

Aligns performance indicators with the adult performance accountability indicators for all core programs described in section 116.

Section 308. Workforce and Labor Market Information System

Renames “employment statistics” to the “workforce and labor market information system.” Clarifies the duties of the Secretary and provides for a two year plan. Describes the composition, roles and responsibilities of the Workforce Information Advisory Council.

TITLE IV: AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT

Title IV amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.)

Sec. 401. References

Identifies the title refers to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

Sec. 402. Findings, Purpose, Policy

States current findings regarding the disability workforce and identifies the purposes of the title.

Sec. 403. Rehabilitation Services Administration

States the responsibilities of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Sec. 404. Definitions

Includes definitions for this act including “competitive integrated employment,” “pre-employment transition services,” and “supported employment services.”

Sec. 405. Administration of the Act

Describes the responsibilities of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living in reference to carrying out the activities of this Act.

Sec. 406. Reports

Clarifies dissemination requirements for the annual report on activities under the law.

Sec. 407. Evaluation and Information

Describes the responsibilities of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living in reference to evaluating the activities carried out under this Act.

Sec. 408. Carryover

No changes were made to this section.

Sec. 409. Traditionally Underserved Populations

Updates the section to reflect the demographics of the United States.

Sec. 411. Declaration of Policy; Authorization of Appropriations

Sets authorization levels for the program for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 412. State Plans

Specifies the unified State plan, or combined State plan, under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, must include the provisions of the State plan for vocational rehabilitation services. Requires the State plan to assure that individuals who are otherwise eligible for vocational rehabilitation services and who are at imminent risk of losing their jobs unless they receive additional necessary postemployment services receive priority. Allows designated State agencies to prioritize serving students with disabilities. Requires State plan to detail the State's strategies to serve students with disabilities so they are prepared for post-school employment.

Sec. 413. Eligibility and Individualized Plan for Employment

Requires applicants for vocational rehabilitation services be presumed to benefit from an employment outcome, and individuals should be provided the opportunity to try different employment experiences, including supported employment, and the opportunity to become employed in competitive integrated employment.

Sec. 414. Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Requires States to ensure designated State units provide or arrange for the provision of preemployment transition services for all students with disabilities who are in need of these services, and those services are coordinated with services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Also allows State agencies to support advanced training in STEM and other technical professions.

Sec. 415. State Rehabilitation Council

Requires coordination with other entities, and with activities carried out under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.

Sec. 416. Evaluation Standards and Performance Indicators

Aligns the evaluation standards of the Rehabilitation Act with the standards of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Sec. 417. Monitoring and Review

Provides for the provision of technical assistance to promote high quality employment outcomes.

Sec. 418. Training and Services for Employers

Allows States to provide services to employers to promote recruitment, hiring, and retention of workers with disabilities.

Sec. 419. State Allotments

Requires that 15 percent of a State's allotment be designated to provide "pre-employment transition services."

Sec. 420. Payments to States

No substantive changes made to this section.

Sec. 421. Client Assistance Program

Requires the Secretary to reserve funds to provide services to American Indians. If the funds appropriated exceed \$14M, requires the Secretary to reserve a small percentage for grants to provide training and technical assistance to the client assistance programs in the States. Establishes authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 422. Pre-Employment Transition Services

Requires States to ensure that designated State units provide, or arrange for the provision of, preemployment transition services for all students with disabilities who are in need of these services.

Sec. 423. American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Reserves a small percentage of program funds to make grants to provide technical assistance and training.

Sec. 424. Vocational Rehabilitation Services Client Information

No substantive changes made to this section.

Sec. 431. Purpose

Updates purposes of the title.

Sec. 432. Authorization of Appropriations

Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 433. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research

Adds "Independent Living" to the name of the Institute, and moves the Institute from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. Requires the dissemination of educational materials and research results to nongovernmental agencies and organizations, employers and employer organizations, and relevant congressional Committees. Describes the research activities and findings, demonstration projects, reports, evaluations, and studies that will be made available.

Sec. 434. Interagency Committee

Adds independent living research. Requires a periodic meeting of funders, researchers, and individuals with disabilities to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

Sec. 435. Research and Other Covered Activities

Describes allowable research activities.

Sec. 436. Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council

Specifies Council membership and qualifications.

Sec. 437. Definition of Covered School

Defines "covered school" as an "elementary school" or "secondary school" as defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended.

Sec. 441. Purpose; Training

Specifies that technical assistance provided to community rehabilitation programs shall be focused on competitive integrated employment. Also sets authorization levels for training for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 442. Demonstration, Training, and Technical Assistance Programs

Continues to authorize demonstration, training, and technical assistance projects focused on improving transition from education to employment for youth who are individuals with significant disabilities. Repeals the In-Service Training of Rehabilitation Personnel program. Also sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 443. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers; Recreational Programs

Repeals these programs.

Sec. 451. Establishment

Changes the number of Council members from 15 to 9. Alters the appointment of the Council members to share that responsibility among Congress and the President.

Sec. 452. Report

No substantive changes.

Sec. 453. Authorization of Appropriations

Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 456. Interagency Committee, Board, and Council

Sets authorization levels for the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 457. Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights

Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 458. Limitation on the Use of Subminimum Wage

Describes how an entity may not employ an individual with a disability at wages less than the Federal minimum wage unless the individual has first received available pre-employment transition services; applied for vocational rehabilitation services and, if eligible, made a serious attempt at competitive integrated employment; and received counseling and information and referral about alternatives to subminimum wage employment. Individuals with disabilities who are currently employed at subminimum wage shall be provided ongoing career counseling, information and referrals, and notification of training opportunities in the individual's geographic area, in order to promote opportunities to move into competitive integrated employment, as appropriate.

Sec. 461. Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities

Describes how States with an allotment under the Supported Employment Services program must reserve an allotment to support youth with the most significant disabilities, describes extended services, and limits the administrative allotment to be used to administer the program to 2.5 percent. Also establishes a committee to prepare recommendations to increase employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in competitive integrated employment, and terminates that committee after two years. Finally, sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 471. Purpose

Includes the purpose of "improving the independence of individuals with disabilities."

Sec. 472. Administration of the Independent Living Program

Transfers the Independent Living program from the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education to the Administration on Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Services and establishes an Administration on Independent Living.

Sec. 473. Definitions

Includes minor definition additions.

Sec. 474. State Plan

Specifies that the State plan shall be jointly developed by the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council and the directors of centers for independent living in the State.

Sec. 475. Statewide Independent Living Council

Requires meaningful representation by directors of centers for independent living in the State. Amends the responsibilities of the Council to include development of the State plan and the monitor, review and evaluation of the implementation of the plan.

Sec. 475A. Responsibilities of the Administrator

Describes the responsibilities of the Administrator to develop and publish performance indicators for centers for independent living and Statewide Independent Living Councils, and to conduct onsite compliance reviews of such centers and Councils.

Sec. 476. Administration

Specifies funds allotted or made available to a State under the section shall be administered by the Statewide Independent Living Council, in accordance with the approved State plan. Reserves a small percentage of program funds to provide training and technical assistance to Statewide Independent Living Councils. Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 481. Program Authorization

Reserves a small percentage of program funds to make grants to provide training and technical assistance to centers for independent living.

Sec. 482. Centers

Details how the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living should determine how to fund centers for independent living in an unserved region.

Sec. 483. Standards and Assurances

No substantive changes were made to this section.

Sec. 484. Authorization of Appropriations

Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 486. Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind

Reserves a small percentage of program funds to provide training and technical assistance to designated State agencies or other providers of independent living services for older individuals who are blind.

Sec. 487. Program of Grants

No substantive changes were made to this section.

Sec. 488. Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind Authorization of Appropriations

Sets authorization levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2020.

Sec. 491. Transfer of Functions

Transfers the Independent Living program, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and the programs authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 to the

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. Requires the Office of Management and Budget to certify that these transfers do not result in an increase in full time equivalent positions.

TITLE V: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A.—Workforce Investment

Section 501. Privacy

Specifies general privacy protections.

Section 502. Buy-American Requirements

Requires compliance with the Buy American Act. Includes a Sense of the Congress for the purchase of American-made equipment and products. Prohibits contracts with persons falsely labeling products as made in America.

Section 503. Transition Provisions

Describes transition provisions for all titles and programs under this Act.

Section 504. Reduction of Reporting Burdens and Requirements

Instructs the Secretaries of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services to establish procedures and criteria by which State and local boards may reduce reporting burdens and requirements.

Section 505. Effective Dates

Stipulates the effective date of the Act.

Subtitle B.—Amendments to Other Laws

Section 511. Repeal of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998

Repeals the entire Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals under the Higher Education Act.

Section 512. Conforming Amendments

Provides conforming amendments to other legislation, as necessary and appropriate.

Section 513. References

Specifies related references to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

TOM HARKIN,
*Chairman, Senate
HELP Committee.*

PATTY MURRAY,
*Chairman, Senate
Budget Committee
and Member, Senate
HELP Committee.*

JOHN KLINE,
*Chairman, House Com-
mittee on Education
and the Workforce.*

VIRGINIA FOXX,
*Chairwoman, Higher
Education and
Workforce Training
Subcommittee, House
Committee on Edu-
cation and the
Workforce.*

LAMAR ALEXANDER,
*Ranking Member, Sen-
ate HELP Com-
mittee.*

JOHNNY ISAKSON,
*Ranking Member, Sen-
ate HELP Sub-
committee on Em-
ployment and Work-
place Safety.*

GEORGE MILLER,
*Ranking Member,
House Committee on
Education and the
Workforce.*

RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*Ranking Member,
Higher Education
and Workforce
Training Sub-
committee, House
Committee on Edu-
cation and the
Workforce.*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank all of the Senators for their strong affirmative vote for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, now called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It is a great bill. A 95-to-3 vote I think indicates that people worked hard, put together a great bill that meets the needs of our country in training our new workforce for the future.

Again, I thank Senator ALEXANDER, our ranking member, for a very close working relationship on our committee. I would note for the record that the passage of this bill marks the 14th bill reported out of our committee during this session of Congress, during this Congress, that will go to the President for his signature. Our committee met a little bit ago. We are now reporting another bill, the Autism Cures bill we hope to have again before the Senate very shortly also for passage. Our committee has worked very hard across party lines to reach these agreements.

Again, I thank Senator ALEXANDER. On this bill, especially, I thank Senator ISAKSON and Senator MURRAY for sticking with it. This bill took 5 years and a lot of ups and downs, a lot of knots to untangle. But they did it. They worked hard at it.

I think there is a lesson here for all of us, that if you stick to it and you focus on the areas in which you have agreement, not those where you do not have agreement, but you focus on the areas you have agreement and build from there, you can get good things done. So this is a good bill. I want to thank all of the Senators and their staffs.

I again thank my ranking member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, and his staff. I appreciate their assistance in getting this bill through the floor, and I especially appreciate their partnership in the updates we made to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is title IV of the WIOA. My thanks to David Cleary, William Knudsen, Peter Oppenheim, and Patrick Murray on Senator ALEXANDER's team.

I again thank the Democratic champion of reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, Senator MURRAY. She and her staff have dedicated countless hours to advancing this bill. In particular, my thanks to Mike Spahn, Stacy Rich, Evan Schatz, and Scott Cheney.

My thanks as well to Senator ISAKSON and his team, who have been great

partners in this bipartisan effort. I would especially like to thank Tommy Nguyen, Brett Layson, and Michael Black.

We absolutely could not have made it to the finish line in the Senate without the dedication and work of my House colleagues, Representatives KLINE, MILLER, FOXX, and HINOJOSA. Working with them and their staff has been a pleasure, and I would like to take a moment to thank some of the key staff in their offices specifically.

For Representatives KLINE and FOXX, my thanks to Amy Jones, Rosemary Lahasky, Brad Thomas, and James Bergeron who has since moved on to other professional endeavors.

For Representatives MILLER and HINOJOSA, my thanks to Megan O'Reilly, Leticia Mederos, Jamie Fasteau, Jacqueline Chevalier, Brian Kennedy, and Rosa Garcia. I also thank Michele Varnhagan and Jody Calemine, who have since moved on to other professional endeavors. I would also like to thank Kevin McDermott in Representative MCDERMOTT's office.

I also offer my appreciation to my own team for their work in advancing this bill. Specifically, I thank Brian Ahlberg, Derek Miller, Crystal Bridgeman, Michael Gamel-McCormick, Mildred Otero, Lauren McFerran, Lee Perselay, Liz Weiss, Michael Kreps, and Robin Juliano. I would also like to thank Andy Imperato, Pam Smith, David Johns and Thomas Showalter, former members of my staff who have since moved on to other professional endeavors.

Let me also express my appreciation to Senator ENZI and his former HELP Committee staff who dedicated many years to reauthorizing WIA. Specifically, I would like to express my appreciation to Beth Buehlmann and Kelly Hastings.

I also greatly appreciate the technical assistance we received from the Federal agencies and the Congressional Research Service.

Specifically, I thank the Department of Labor and the Department of Education for their technical assistance. Portia Wu, Gerri Fiala, Mark Morin, Sean Cartwright, Michelle Rose, Adri Jayaratne, Julia McKinney, and so many others at the Department played key roles in moving this legislation forward.

At the Department of Education, I extend my thanks to Gabriella Gomez, Lloyd Horwich, Brenda Dann-Messier, Jodie Fingland, and Johan Uvin.

I also thank the following staff at the Congressional Research Service for the expert assistance they provided during this process—David Bradley, Benjamin Collins, Adrienne Fernandes-Alcantara, and Kate Manuel.

Finally, we could not do this work without the help of the Senate Legislative Counsel. Liz King, Kristin Romero, Amy Gaynor, and others on their team were instrumental in drafting this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I want to thank our chairman and ranking member, Senator HARKIN and Senator ALEXANDER, for their tremendous work and backing us as we worked through this process. I again thank my partner, Senator ISAKSON, who was so diligent and true to his word and worked through every issue with us. I want to thank him for that.

I also will take a minute this afternoon to extend a sincere thank you to all of the staff who worked so hard to help put this bill together, worked through its challenges, and got us to this point today where we have passed it in the Senate. If the Senate will bear with me, we have a lot of names, but I think that tells you how many people worked so hard on this. From my office: senior advisor Scott Cheney; my chief of staff Mike Spahn; my Budget Committee staff director Evan Schatz; Stacy Rich and Emma Fulkerson from my floor and leadership staff; my entire communications team, especially Eli Zupnick and Sean Coit; and everyone else from my team who has worked so very hard to move this bill forward.

I thank the wonderful staff from Senator ISAKSON's office: Tommy Nguyen, staff director of the HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, as well as Brett Layson and Michael Black who have been incredible to work with.

I thank Chairman HARKIN's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee team: senior education policy adviser Crystal Bridgeman; chief education counsel Mildred Otero; disability policy director Michael Gamel-McCormick; disability counsel Lee Perselay; Derek Miller, staff director of the HELP Committee; deputy staff director and labor policy director of the HELP Committee Lauren McFerran; and labor policy adviser Liz Weiss; and many more on his staff who have helped.

I also thank the staff of Senator ALEXANDER: education policy adviser Patrick Murray; education policy director and counsel Peter Oppenheim; Bill Knudsen, education policy adviser; and HELP Committee staff director and chief of staff David Cleary.

We also benefited from the expertise of the Congressional Research Service. I thank David Bradley, Benjamin Collins, and Adrienne Fernandes-Alcantara.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the professionals in the Senate Legislative Counsel's office, especially Liz King, Amy Gaynor, Kristin Romero, and Katie Grendon.

As you can see, a lot of people worked a very long time to get us where we are. This has been an 11-year process, so there have been a lot of staff who worked on various versions of this reauthorization over the years. I cannot name them all, but there are

some who deserve recognition as well: Gerri Fiala, Bill Kamela, Beth Buehlmann, Kelly Hastings, Pam Smith, David Johns, and Glee Smith.

Of course, my thanks to the staff in the House and the administration, of whom there are far too many to mention here.

I think that tells all of us that this is a bill that was worked on diligently by many over the years. Who will benefit at the end of the day are our workforce and our employers and our country.

I thank again my counterpart Senator ISAKSON for working with me to get this done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. I want to associate myself with the remarks of Senator HARKIN and Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington. I reiterate what I said in my opening statement about how much regard and respect I have for Senator MURRAY, for the job she has done. We would not be here today if it were not for PATTY MURRAY. I am grateful for her support and her kind words.

I want to reiterate all of the names she said, all the thanks that we have. But I want to particularly thank my staff who have made me once again look good. That is a difficult job to do sometimes. I thank Tommy Nguyen, Amanda Maddox, Michael Black, Brett Layson. I appreciate all they have done; Joan Kirchner, my chief of staff, who came to our aid last week and pulled a rabbit out of the hat in the Republican conference that allowed us to be here.

We all get a lot of credit as Members of the Senate. But it is our staff who make or break what we do. We are very grateful to our staff or the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act would not become law, would not get to the President's desk.

So to PATTY MURRAY, to Senator HARKIN, to Senator ALEXANDER, thank you. And to all of our staff, thank you for day in and day out doing the real work of the Senate and for the people of the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, H.R. 803, as amended, having passed, amendment No. 3382 to the title is agreed to and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The amendment (No. 3382) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JESSICA GARFOLA WRIGHT TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

NOMINATION OF JAMIE MICHAEL MORIN TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

NOMINATION OF THOMAS P. KELLY III TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk reported the nominations of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Jamie Michael Morin, of Michigan, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation; and Thomas P. Kelly III, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti.

VOTE ON WRIGHT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MORIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jamie Michael Morin, of Michigan, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON KELLY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas P. Kelly III, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT
OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—
Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, equal time until 4:30 shall be divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have come here every week now for 72 consecutive weeks that the Senate has been in session to urge colleagues to wake up to the growing threat of climate change. Today I have the pleasure and honor of being joined by my friend and colleague Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from West Virginia and I be allowed to engage in a colloquy for the time we have been allotted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Senator MANCHIN and I come from very different parts of the country. We are the Ocean State, he is the Mountain State. We both came here today to say that climate change is real, that human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, are causing dramatic changes to the Earth's atmosphere and oceans, and to seek responsible solutions that will ensure reliable, sustainable energy for the United States and protect our local communities and economies from the worst effects of a changing climate, recognizing, as we must, that fossil fuels will be part of America's fuel mix for decades.

The recent National Climate Assessment showed many effects of climate change are already being seen across the United States. In my home State of Rhode Island, we have Narragansett Bay, more than 3 degrees warmer in the winter than it was 50 years ago. Measurements at the Newport tide gauge show that as the seawater warms and expands, the sea level is up almost 10 inches against our shores since the 1930s.

Extreme weather depends a lot on natural variability, but climate change increases the odds that heat waves and heavy rain bursts will occur. As the climate has warmed, some types of extreme weather have become more frequent and severe. Here on this chart we see that in the northeast, up here, the area which includes both Rhode Island and West Virginia, between 1958 and 2010, the amount of rain coming in those big downpours has gone up by 70 percent.

Let's remember how climate change affects the economy and jobs. For example, fishermen in Rhode Island have seen their winter flounder catch from Narragansett Bay nearly disappear in the recent decades as the bay has warmed. These are not distant climate model projections, this is now. This is happening to Rhode Island.

The people of West Virginia have Senator MANCHIN fighting for them every day in Washington. I know he believes that we need to find economically responsible answers to environmental problems. I am proud to stand with him today as his friend and colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I thank the Chair.

I am pleased to join my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE from the great State of Rhode Island to talk about this important subject. In the past, we may not always have agreed on how to approach this problem, but at least we have come together to work on a solution together. That is very important. That is a rare thing in Washington, as the Presiding Officer knows. We are determined to see if we can find common ground to move forward.

As the Senator suggested, the way we produce and consume energy in our States is quite different. I am the Mountain State, he is the Ocean State. Nonetheless, we both agree we need to strike a balance between the economy and the environment. One cannot go it alone. It takes a balance, if you will, in about anything we do in life, one that acknowledges the reality of the climate change, while also understanding that fossil fuels, more specifically coal that we produce so much of in our State, is such a part of our economy, is a vital part of our energy mix for decades to come. That is by the Department of Energy, the EAI's own claim.

There is no doubt that 7 billion people have impacted our world's climate. Those who deny that I believe are wrong. A lot of them are my friends. I believe we have had an impact and we have a responsibility. But we need to know what is going on and the facts we are dealing with in the world today.

There are more than 8 billion tons of coal consumed around the world each year. This gives an outline of where most of that coal is consumed. Currently China burns more than 4 billion tons per year. They are not stopping or letting up. If anything, they are increasing their consumption and building more coal-fired plants as we speak, while the United States and Europe each burn less than 1 billion tons. So the United States of America, you could say, uses less than one-eighth of the coal consumed annually in the world. If we stopped burning every kind of coal, would that really clean up the climate? But if we find ways to do it better, can we help the rest of the world clean up the climate? That is what we are here to talk about.

There is a broad agreement in the scientific community that carbon emissions and other human contributions are causing substantial changes to the Earth's climate. According to the West Virginia State Climatologist's Office, five of the six wettest

years have occurred since 1989; four have occurred since 1990.

Just as I do not deny the existence of climate change, my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE does not deny that eliminating coal from the energy mix would hurt the reliability of our grid. He knows that you cannot do it. We have got to work together to keep the reliability in the system, which is so vital to people all over this country.

Without coal, the northeast United States would have suffered severe and enduring power outages during last winter's polar vortex. If our reliability had failed during the polar vortex we came through this past year, there is no question people would have died—no question at all.

Importantly, during that period of time, coal provided 92 percent of the increase in energy needed to survive that disaster.

Coal was able to go online to back up the grid. Ninety-two percent of it was driven by coal because it is dependable, reliable, and affordable.

This chart shows basically the portion of increase in U.S. electricity generation by fuel, January-February 2014, the times we needed it most to keep the grid systems up and running. You can see coal—92 percent—and natural gas fell because of distribution problems we had. It will increase, it will get better as distribution and infrastructure is built.

Oil, nuclear, hydro, renewable—you can see they weren't able to pick up the demand that was needed or the load that was needed to keep the system moving.

Nick Akins is the CEO of American Electric Power. He said this about the polar vortex: "This country did not just dodge a bullet—it dodged a cannon ball."

We need to address climate change, but we need to do it while maintaining the reliability of our electricity system. Senator WHITEHOUSE and I both realize that coal will remain a vital part of our Nation's general portfolio for the foreseeable future.

According to the President's own Energy Information Administration—the EIA—coal generated about 40 percent of all U.S. electricity in 2011. In 2040 coal will still generate more than 30 percent of the domestic electricity that is needed.

This chart basically shows where we are going in the foreseeable future. This is 2040. By 2040 natural gas will be at 35 percent, and coal will still be at 32 percent—both, it can be said, out of fossil, so you have 67 percent. Renewables increase to 16 percent. Nuclear is going down to 16 percent, and I believe we have to reengage our efforts there. I really do. So coal will assume the dominant world markets for the foreseeable future.

According to EIA, coal provided 69 percent of China's energy consumption

in 2011. This chart gives a little bit of an idea of where we are. China used four times the amount of coal used in the United States that year. Coal supplied 41 percent of India's total energy consumption. During that period of time, India used roughly the same amount of coal as we did in the United States. By 2040 China will produce 62 percent of its electricity from coal, while India will produce 56 percent. During the next few years, some 1,200 new coal plants are going to be built across 59 countries; 363 are going to be built in China and 455 in India alone.

It is unbelievable when you look at more than 8 billion tons of coal that are consumed around the world each year. China currently burns more than 4 billion tons per year, while the United States and Europe burn less than 1 billion tons. Use in these countries and in other parts of the world is projected to grow dramatically for decades to come.

The United States has already been a leader in proving to the world that we can produce coal cleaner today. Traditional pollutants—sulfur, mercury, nitrogen, and particulates—have been cut 80 percent in the last several years. What is less known is that technologies are being developed—and some already exist—that dramatically lower coal plant carbon emissions.

With smarter investments from the public and private sectors, we will not only finish the first generation of carbon capture, storage, and utilization plants but also develop the second generation of these technologies. When that happens in the not so distant future, we will lead the world toward utilization of fossil fuels in a way that produces negligible or zero harmful emissions.

With the right policies and the right coordination between the public and private sectors, we can lead by example and show the world that we can burn fossil fuels cleaner than ever. Most importantly, we can do all of this while protecting consumers, creating jobs, and growing our economy.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I agree with my friend from West Virginia that we must address climate change in a way that protects jobs in all sectors and ensures grid stability.

Fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas are indeed going to be an important part of America's energy mix for decades. So we need to invest, as Senator MANCHIN has suggested, in reducing the carbon pollution we generate from these sources.

We also need to adapt our power infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change. Extreme weather has become the main cause of blackouts in the United States.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Energy counted 679 widespread outages between 2003 and 2012 due to severe

weather. Fifty-eight percent of power outages since 2002 and 87 percent of outages affecting 50,000 or more customers were caused by severe weather such as thunderstorms, hurricanes, and blizzards. The average annual cost of power outages caused by severe weather is between \$18 billion and \$33 billion per year. The U.S. Energy Information Administration compiled data that is plotted on this chart showing that weather-related power outages are already on the rise since just the early nineties.

Addressing climate change is also important to grid stability.

We also should expand and modernize our electric grid. A smarter grid will make it easier to respond to and recover from extreme weather events, will boost efficiency within the system, will help lower utility bills, and will bring more renewable energy online.

In both our States, Senator MANCHIN and I realize it is in America's interest to be leaders in the research, development, and deployment of energy efficiency tools; in cleaner fossil fuel research; and in renewable energy technologies—particularly ones we can export. I know Senator MANCHIN has some of these technologies being rolled out in his State.

Mr. MANCHIN. When I was Governor of West Virginia, we set and have now achieved an alternative where we are going to reduce our carbon footprint by 25 percent by using coal in a cleaner fashion and also some of the other things we do, which I will explain. Not only did we do it, we did it 10 years earlier than we had targeted. In 2013, 4.1 percent of West Virginia's energy already came from hydroelectric and wind energy. Mount Storm Wind Farm—so many people don't know what we have done in our little State because we are all in; we want to do it all, and we are trying everything we have—is the second largest wind farm east of the Mississippi, 17 miles across the beautiful landscape.

I also agree with Senator WHITEHOUSE on the importance of energy efficiency. With our friend Senator HOEVEN of North Dakota, I have introduced the All-Of-The-Above Federal Building Energy Conservation Act, legislation that would improve the energy efficiency of all Federal buildings and set an example for the private sector.

This legislation takes a common-sense, all-of-the-above approach to the issue of Federal energy efficiency. I believe that by encouraging the use of innovative technologies and practices, instituting reasonable goals, and allowing building managers flexibility, we can achieve better environmental stewardship in a cost-effective manner.

As Governors, Senator HOEVEN—a Republican from North Dakota—and I relied on common sense to guide our State policies, and this bill applies that much needed common sense to Federal

policies. We should be using all of our abundant resources, including coal, to power our Nation in the most efficient way possible. Our bill accomplishes this goal and proves the Federal Government can lead the way in using fossil fuels to achieve greater energy efficiency in a much cleaner fashion.

While efficiency and renewables are important, let me say again that it is most important to reduce emissions from coal plants while keeping them running well into the future. Advances in coal-use technologies will continue to develop with help from the public sector.

Enhanced oil recovery is already developing into a valuable tool for augmenting domestic oil production. We need Federal investments for technology such as EOR.

Research is ongoing for the use of coal and CO₂ for a multitude of new energy and consumer products, including fertilizers, liquid fuels, and plastic materials.

I just had a gentleman come to my office who basically makes carbon out of coal which cleanses the water we drink.

So there are so many things. Senator WHITEHOUSE is right. There are so many things that we are using, and we can do a lot more.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Efficiency is something we take seriously in Rhode Island as well.

In 2013 the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy ranked Rhode Island as the sixth most energy efficient State in the country. The Energy Information Administration in 2011 ranked Rhode Island the lowest in energy consumption—which, as the Presiding Officer from the small State of Delaware can understand, we have a bit of an unfair advantage—but we were also the sixth lowest in total energy costs per capita. We do our part to save energy, avoid emissions, lower costs, and reduce the demand and stress on the electric grid.

Rhode Island and eight other States participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—we call it “Reggi”—which caps carbon emissions and sells permits to emit greenhouse gases to powerplants. One of the ways Rhode Island has been able to drive down our energy consumption and our utility bills is by investing the money generated through RGGI into energy efficiency. Rhode Island invests over 91 percent of its RGGI proceeds in energy efficiency projects and improvements, helping residents save money on their utility bills and making small businesses more competitive.

Rhode Island is also poised to gain scores of jobs from the development of offshore wind. I think we have the advantage on West Virginia in offshore wind. Our private developer of offshore wind, Deepwater Wind, has received its first major environmental permit to

begin deployment in the Block Island wind farm area.

The price of wind energy has decreased over 90 percent since the early 1980s and is now competitive in the energy markets. I am working to make wind energy more a part of our energy portfolio.

At the Federal level, our energy policy must use the best science available to improve the way we use fossil fuels, and our Tax Code should help address climate change while leveling the playing field for various energy sources.

I believe carbon-driven climate change hurts our economy, damages our infrastructure, and harms public health. Yet those costs are not factored into the cost of fossil fuels. That means the cost of the pollution has been borne by the public. I believe we should adopt a carbon fee to correct this market failure and return all its revenue to the American people—what Republican supporters of a carbon fee call revenue neutral.

On a smaller scale, Congress can also extend the renewable energy tax credits and other measures that are supported by Members on both sides of the aisle, helping renewable energy in West Virginia and a bipartisan array of States.

Mr. MANCHIN. The Senator and I disagree on a few things, but I adamantly disagree with my dear friend Senator WHITEHOUSE regarding the wisdom of a carbon fee or so-called carbon tax. But I do agree that we can use the Tax Code and other Federal tax incentives to help clean up fossil fuels. That is why we are here together to find a pathway.

First, the DOE must approve \$8 billion in loan guarantees for advanced fossil fuel projects that they have had available since 2005. None of it has been invested to try to help use the fuel that we depend on—coal—in a much better, cleaner fashion. Also, I found out that we also have \$3.2 billion from the stimulus money to be used for shovel-ready coal projects that is still sitting and hasn't been invested. So there is a lot we can do without appropriating any new money, just using the money that is there for the purpose it was intended.

New tax incentives could be employed to incentivize providers to update sub-critical plants to the super- and ultra-super-critical configurations that pave the way for CCS.

Finally, we need to incentivize the second generation of CCS technology, the one that holds the future for promise of coal use with negligible emissions.

What are we talking about? Carbon capture sequestration, just being used for that purpose, if you don't have a secondary source to where you can put it and sell it for enhanced oil recovery, as we call it—the technology that we could use in the shale that maybe can

enhance the gas from the shale, the Utica and Marcellus that we have in West Virginia—so much could have been done that we haven't done. Maybe we could solidify the carbon and use it as a spent fuel. These are things we need to get to, and this money lying right now in the Department of Energy for almost 10 years needs to be invested.

With the help of Senator WHITEHOUSE, I can only think that we can move forward and find a solution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I agree with the distinguished Senator from West Virginia that the Department of Energy's advanced fossil projects loan guarantee program has not yet lived up to, at this time, its potential.

I will work with him to push the administration to accelerate its use.

I wish to close my share of this colloquy by noting something very basic; that is, that America has long stood before the world as an exceptional country and deservedly so. America proved the case for popular sovereignty with no need of kings or crowns. America took our balanced market capitalism and rose to international economic dominance. America has long been the vanguard of civil and human rights for our people and around the globe. When American military power must be used, we don't conquer and rule. We come home. This exceptional nature confers upon us a responsibility to lead, to be an example, to be, as President Reagan said, "a shining city on a hill."

Our generation will be judged by whether we were responsible about climate change, whether we listened, and whether we led.

Senator MANCHIN and I are both committed to the idea that American innovation can create the clean energy technologies of the future, so that when it comes to addressing the biggest problems facing our world, the United States should be out front, and we are committed to working together to find responsible solutions to the climate crisis.

We also realize we have different perspectives on what those solutions should look like. I live in a State that is harmed by carbon pollution, and Senator MANCHIN is from a State that sees economic benefit from coal. We believe we could both learn more about those different perspectives. So I am committing to travel with Senator MANCHIN to West Virginia to see the coal plants that power many parts of our country and meet the people there working to curb pollution and improve efficiency, and I invite Senator MANCHIN to Rhode Island to see how climate change is taking its toll on our shorelines and marine industries.

America is still a beacon to the world because ultimately we have the ability to work through disagreements to common ground on a shared platform of

fact. With the commitment of serious leaders such as Senator MANCHIN, I am confident we can move forward to an energy future that preserves the economy and quality of life in West Virginia, in Rhode Island, and for all Americans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MANCHIN have such time as he needs to conclude his colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. Again, I say to my good friend Senator WHITEHOUSE from Rhode Island, I look forward to coming to his beautiful State of Rhode Island and seeing all of what they are doing and the efficiencies they have and technology they are incorporating. I also look forward to showing him my State, the beautiful State of West Virginia, and its great people.

We have both visited each other's States before, so we know how good our States are. It is going to be great to revisit.

I thank the Senator also for joining me on the floor as we continue to have this extremely important dialogue. If Senator WHITEHOUSE and I can start looking for a pathway, I am sure friends from both sides of the aisle can join us. That is what we are trying to have happen.

I agree with Senator WHITEHOUSE, the United States of America has long stood before the world as an exceptional country that people look up to. We have reigned as the dominant world power and have played the role of the world's leader for more than 200 years.

Coal use is expanding across the globe, and we need to face that reality—and we must take our position as the world leader and broker solutions, knowing the rest of the world is going to use this product more than ever before. So finding a balance of the environment between our concerns and our economic prosperity is going to happen. We should be that leader also.

The solution for the United States is to develop a technology that will allow us to use the fuels we need cleanly and to export that technology to the world.

Yes, West Virginia and Rhode Island are indeed different in many ways, but most importantly the Senator and I both know they are both part of this great country, and that is what makes America great. We can deliberate and challenge each other's positions on any one issue—and we sure have had our share of dogged debates on the issues of climate change and energy issues—but when it comes to deciding what is best for our future generations and our beautiful Earth, there is always room for reasonable compromise and a way forward.

So as we continue to work diligently in the Senate, I also look forward to

visiting again with him, and we will make that happen sooner than later.

Once again, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for coming to the table to establish a truly commonsense, all-of-the-above energy policy that acknowledges the vital role coal must play moving forward.

This energy strategy will also help protect good-paying jobs, boost our economy nationwide and around the world, and improve the quality of life of all living things.

We are going to fix this together, not as Democrats or Republicans but as Americans, as the world leaders we always have been. We have been looking to find the balance, and we will find the balance and show not only America but the world that we can look past our differences to better this world. I look forward so much to that. We both have looked at it from this standpoint: We both agree we need to work together and basically agree we have a responsibility in this world and this country to be a leader again in finding a pathway to using the energy the good Lord gave us and find the best balance we can with the economy and environment, cleaning up the environment for which we are responsible.

I thank my good friend, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The senior Senator from Texas is recognized.

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, before I came to the Senate, I read in the history and civics books that the Senate was called the world's greatest deliberative body, where anybody with a good idea or even a bad idea at least had an opportunity to talk about it, offer an amendment or legislation, and get a vote. That is what was meant by "the world's greatest deliberative body."

Unfortunately, the Senate has become virtually unrecognizable to those of us who began our tenure under the previous leadership of the Senate.

Simply put, we have gone from an institution that legislates, that debates the great ideas to solve the problems and challenges of this great democracy to one that has become a killing floor for good ideas.

We have had at least three bipartisan bills in the last few weeks the majority leader has stopped because he has refused the opportunity for Republicans in the minority and the Democrats in the majority to offer any amendments and to get votes.

I think about the Shaheen-Portman bill, the energy conservation bill, the tax extenders bill for the expiring 50 or so tax provisions, and the appropriations bill that recently was on the Senate floor. All of these pieces of legislation enjoy bipartisan support. So one

would think, in a dysfunctional Senate, at least those kinds of bills would have the opportunity to get debate, amendment, and passage.

That is not the case because the majority leader insists on a "my way or the highway" mentality. In essence, he wants to be the traffic cop who decides whose ideas get to be debated, what amendments get to be offered, and what votes get to occur.

As one Senator from a State that represents 26 million constituents, I refuse to participate in a process where the majority leader from Nevada gets to tell my constituents what kind of amendments I get to offer on their behalf. It is unacceptable. This is not the Senate I joined when I got here nor a Senate any of us should be proud of.

Shortly after I got to the Senate, Republicans became the majority party. I always tell my friends and constituents back home, being in the majority is a lot more fun than being in the minority. But back then it was understood by both parties that the price of being in the majority, and recognizing and respecting the minority did have rights, is that you had to take some tough votes on amendments, but after all that is why we are here. That is part of the price we pay for serving in the Senate—to vote sometimes on things we would prefer not to vote on and sometimes we have to take tough votes.

Like it or not, that is how the Senate used to operate. Both Republicans and Democrats alike recognized that allowing an open amendment process was about guaranteeing that all Americans—all Americans—those represented by Senators in the majority and those represented by Senators in the minority—that all Americans acting through their elected representatives had a voice and a vote on the Senate floor.

Sadly, under the current majority leader, the amendment process has become a distant memory. Again, this is not just about a Senator's prerogative. This isn't about just the process or procedure. This is about our constitutional form of governance, where every State has two Senators and every Senator has the prerogative to represent their constituents to the best of their ability.

Here is a sad statistic: Since last July, nearly 1 year ago, we have had rollcall votes on a mere nine minority amendments; that is, among the 45 of us who sit on this side of the Chamber, we have only had a chance for nine rollcall votes on amendments.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, our friends in the House held rollcall votes on more than 160 minority amendments.

In other words, Republicans control the House; Democrats control the Senate. But in the Democratic-controlled Senate, the minority had nine votes on

amendments. In the Republican-controlled House, the minority got 160 votes on amendments.

So this isn't just about our being denied amendments. The fact is and what I can't understand is why majority party Democrats are willing to stand by and allow the majority leader to deny their rights and to deny their constituents a voice and a vote on the important work done in the Senate.

Since July, we have actually had fewer rollcall votes on Democratic amendments than on Republican amendments. Imagine. I understand being in the minority—and being in the minority means not often getting your way, but if I was in the majority and the majority leader was shutting me out and my constituents out and denying us a chance to have votes on amendments—and I am a Member of the majority party—I think I would have some tough explanations to give to my constituents about why I was not allowed to be effective as their representative in the Senate.

But here is an even more shocking scenario. For freshman Democrats—people newly elected to the Senate—this is what Politico said yesterday:

Since joining the Senate in January 2013, the 12 freshmen Democrats have not had a single vote on the floor on any amendment bearing any of their names as the lead sponsor.

That is shocking to me. So none of the 12 freshman Democrats—Members of the majority party—have had a single vote on any of their amendments that bear their name as the lead sponsor since 2013—not a single vote.

Their constituents, the majority party, completely shut out of the process because of the dictatorship on the floor of the Senate of the majority leader.

Over that same period, during the 113th Congress, for example, the junior the Senator from Alaska, the senior Senator from Arkansas, the senior Senator from Colorado, the senior Senator from New Mexico, and the junior Senator from Montana have not had a single rollcall vote on an amendment that bears their name as the lead sponsor.

For that matter, according to The Hill, the junior Senator from Alaska "has never received a roll-call vote on an amendment he's offered on the Senate floor ever." Shocking. So not one time in his Senate career has the junior Senator from Alaska received a rollcall vote on the Senate floor because of the way the majority leader has run the Senate. He has been denied the opportunity to be effective on behalf of the people he represents in the Senate—and he is a Member of the majority party.

It has gotten so bad, according to the same Politico article I cited a moment ago, that the junior Senator from New Jersey recently asked one of his Democratic colleagues whether voting on

Presidential nominees was all the Senate did. He could be forgiven for thinking that because that seems like all we do these days. In addition, the junior Senator from Connecticut said: "I got more substance on the floor of the House in the minority than I've gotten as a member of the Senate majority."

Again—I repeat myself—these are Democrats, Members of the majority party who have been shut out of the process. Their party controls the Chamber, yet this debate is obviously not about party control or individual Members, but it is about making sure that millions upon millions of Americans should have their voices heard in the Senate. It is about giving us a chance on their behalf to represent them in this body.

I am encouraged to read that some of my colleagues across the aisle are starting to push back against the majority leader's tyranny. I would urge them to continue pushing back and to continue to remind the majority leader that putting up a legislative blockade is not only bad for the minority party and the Republicans, it is bad for the majority party and the people they represent, too.

In conclusion, I would say that in addition to the amendment issue I have spoken about for the last 10 minutes or so, there are no fewer than 284—284—House-passed bills that are awaiting consideration here in the Senate—284. Do you not think that among those 284 bills there is just one or two or three decent ideas that might be debated, perhaps improved upon, by an open amendment process in the Senate that we should take up and consider?

Many of these are jobs bills, the type of legislation that would help promote economic growth and, boy, we sure could use some economic growth because the economy is contracting, not growing, which means that jobs are scarce and people are hurting. There are bills that would expand opportunity and increase family income. At a time of mass unemployment and stagnant wages, where the median household income has gone down by nearly \$2,300 since June of 2009, it is simply outrageous that the majority leader has refused to take up any one of those 284 bills that have passed the House, most of which had bipartisan support. It is outrageous he has refused to let us take up those bills, many of which would help the millions of Americans who are currently looking for a job who cannot find a job. The American people, after all, are the reason why we are here, and they are the ones who are suffering the most from the majority leader's autocratic rule. They deserve better, and it is time all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, demanded that.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you, Mr. President.

I concur with the distinguished Senator from Texas and the concerns that we have and we share about the lives of people all across the country and their ability to earn a living.

Tomorrow President Obama is planning to travel to Minnesota. So as I come to the floor the President is making the preparations because the President said he will spend the day in the shoes of a woman who had written a letter about the economic challenges she faces. I hope the President takes the time to actually talk to other people as well and spend a day in their shoes as well, because I think there are a lot of people in Minnesota—a lot of people in Minnesota—who would like to ask the President about his health care law and about some of the damaging side effects of the law.

The Mankato Times had a story from Minnesota schools to lose more than \$200 million because of ObamaCare. A State representative is quoted as saying that wasteful spending on the health care law has left many taxpayers outraged because they will soon be making a significant impact on Minnesota schools, on the students in the State of Minnesota. Will the President address that?

According to documents released by Minnesota's Management and Budget Office, over the next 3 years, the total unfunded costs associated with the health care law compliance will cost school districts statewide at least \$207 million. As the State representative said:

This is troubling news for our schools. This is \$200 million that school districts won't be able to use to hire more teachers to improve their educational programs. This is an unneeded expense that does absolutely nothing for our students.

As the Minnesota State representative says: "It is pretty sad when schools are forced to prioritize ObamaCare compliance over the education of our children."

The President says the health care law should be forcefully defended and be proud of. Is that something the President is going to forcefully defend and be proud of? You take a look at the side effects of the health care law, so many side effects of the health care law.

One of the side effects is the medical device tax that Democrats included in the law. It is a destructive tax and is hitting the people on the ground in Minnesota where the President is going to be tomorrow. This destructive tax impacts the livelihood of individuals. These are the folks who work to make things such as pacemakers, artificial joints, ultrasound equipment. It is a tax the President asked for, the President demanded and wanted as part of the health care law, and that every

Democratic Senator in this Chamber voted for, including the two Democratic Senators from Minnesota where the President will be tomorrow. It adds up to \$3 billion a year. Companies will have to make up for that lost revenue. They are going to do it through higher prices on other individuals and moving some of their construction and their distribution overseas. Is that what the President wanted in this health care law? Will he forcefully defend and be proud of that?

According to a survey by an industry trade group about this—the folks who actually make these medical devices—that is exactly what is happening. Device manufacturers have had to cut 14,000 jobs because of the tax last year. They say they didn't hire another 19,000 they planned to hire. That is a total of 33,000 American jobs lost because of the taxes in the President's health care law. Now there are more than 350 medical device firms in Minnesota, companies in Minnesota that employ people on the ground in Minnesota, citizens who want to be hard-working individuals, supporting more than 30,000 jobs in Minnesota. Since the health care law passed, the medical device industry has lost more than 1,000 of those jobs in Minnesota where the President will be tomorrow. Is the President ready to stand with those individuals about the devastating side effects of his health care law?

One of the biggest device makers in the state is called Medtronic. They announced they are moving their headquarters to Ireland. That is not only because of the President's health care law and not every job lost in the industry is due solely to this one tax, but the Obama administration's burdensome tax policies and this terrible health care law side effects are impacting people all around the country and specifically in this area in Minnesota.

One of the side effects is fewer jobs for American families. The President has said that Democrats who voted for the law should forcefully defend and be proud of it. I hope someone in Minnesota will get the chance to ask the President tomorrow if he is proud of the thousands of jobs his health care law is costing the hard-working men and women who make these medical devices in this State of Minnesota. I hope the President will spend a day in the shoes of someone who lost their job as a medical device maker.

A lot of people in Minnesota and around the country are also worried about another devastating side effect of the health care law, and that is the impact on their paychecks—smaller paychecks that a lot of families are getting specifically because of the health care law. Yesterday there was an article in the Washington Post, page 2, Tuesday, June 24th: "Businesses gear up for employer mandate." Subheadline: "Some cut workers' hours; others struggle with costs, logistics."

Well, what happens if you cut hours? What happens if you are struggling with costs? Who is impacted by that? Obviously, the families of the individuals who are working in those businesses. The article says employers around the country have been cutting their workers' hours back to part-time status. Part time in the health care law is defined as 30 hours a week. Most people think of a 40-hour workweek. Not President Obama. He has a different view of what a full-time job is. They had to cut back to part-time status in order to avoid paying for the expensive health care mandates required by the law.

The article in the Washington Post yesterday adds that "seasonal employees and low wage workers such as adjunct professors, cafeteria staffers" have been especially hard hit.

It is happening in Minnesota. The President is going to be there tomorrow, and he is going to say, "I want to walk a day with this woman and see what her life is like." He can hand-select somebody who makes it look as though his policies might be working, but there are people in Minnesota who are being harmed by the President's policy.

In Faribault, MN, the city is to cut hours of workers because it cannot afford to pay for their insurance. The city of Mankato, MN, had to do the same, cutting most of their workers to 29 hours a week to keep under the limits set by the health care law. In Hastings, MN, the schools have to limit how much their classroom aides, food service, and transportation employees can work. The same thing is happening in towns and counties and businesses all over the State of Minnesota where the President will be tomorrow. They are cutting back hours, reducing the size of their paychecks, and why? Because of the health care law. Is the President going to spend a day in the shoes of someone who has had their hours cut back because of the health care law? Is he going to forcefully defend his law to those people when he is in Minnesota tomorrow?

Are the two Senators from Minnesota who voted for the health care law ready to forcefully defend the smaller paychecks these people are getting? This isn't just happening in Minnesota, it is happening all around the country. You know, it is not bad enough that these people are getting hit a second time by another very expensive side effect of the health care law—smaller paychecks. Now what they are seeing is higher premiums they have to pay. According to a new study, people in Minnesota are paying a lot more for health insurance. Why? Because of the health care law. For an average 64-year-old woman in Minnesota, premiums would have been \$273 a month in 2013 before the mandates in the Obama health care law kicked in. But in 2014, buying in-

surance through an ObamaCare exchange, her premiums jumped to over \$400 a month. She is paying \$1,500 more this year than she did last year because of the President's health care law.

Who is going to forcefully defend that? Who is going to come and be proud on the floor of the Senate and speak with great pride about what they have done to this woman and the effect of this health care law in her life?

For a 27-year-old man, he would have paid an average of \$95 a month in 2013. Under the ObamaCare law, he is paying \$140 a month—an extra \$540 this year compared to last year.

Can the Senators who voted for this law be proud of these kinds of premium increases? The American people wanted reform that gave them access to quality affordable care—access, quality, affordable. What they are getting is higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles.

Republicans have offered solutions for patient-centered health care, measures such as increasing the ability of small businesses to get together and negotiate better rates, expanding health savings accounts, allowing people to buy health insurance that works for them and their families because they know what is best for them and they don't need the government and President Obama to tell them that he knows better what they need in their lives than they know what they need in their lives. Republicans have offered ideas that would give people the care they need from a doctor they choose at a lower cost.

The President may not want to talk about any of these tomorrow in Minnesota, all the ways his health care law is hurting people in Minnesota and around the country, hurting education, hurting jobs, hurting the economy and hurting the pocketbooks of men and women around the country. But Republicans are going to keep coming to the floor, keep talking about the burdensome side effects, the expensive side effects, and sometimes the irreversible and sometimes fatal side effects as a result of this health care law. And we will continue to offer real solutions for better health care without the terrible side effects that the American public continues to face as a result of the President's health care law.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Is there a motion now pending to proceed to S. 2363?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Richard J. Durbin, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Patrick J. Leahy, Angus S. King, Jr., Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Heidi Heitkamp.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, and during that time Senators be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JIM HOST

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my personal friend, Mr. Jim Host. Jim is a native of Ashland, KY, and has spent his life dedicated to business and public service within our home State. The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame recently announced that he will receive their award for Outstanding Contributor to Amateur Football—an honor that he is unquestionably deserving of and will add to his already extensive list of awards and accolades.

A standout high school baseball player, Mr. Host passed on a \$25,000 offer to play professionally and instead accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Kentucky. Host would eventually play professional baseball, though only after he received his degree. As his career progressed, his time as a student athlete would never be too far from his thoughts.

In 1969, Host entered the world of politics, becoming the youngest member of Governor Louie B. Nunn's cabinet at the age of 29. Two years later, he was the Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor, though he lost in the general election. Never one to be deterred by

defeat, he focused his attention squarely on a new venture—starting his own business.

Mr. Host had only \$107 to his name when, in 1972, he started Jim Host and Associates in a small office above a barber shop in downtown Lexington. What he lacked in monetary assets, however, he made up for with an impressive arsenal of smarts and determination. With these tools he built Host Communications, and forever altered the landscape of college athletics.

The foundation of Host Communications was the right to broadcast Kentucky basketball games over the radio. In its early years, Jim Host's company was one of several entities that had this right. However, Host soon obtained the exclusive rights and expanded his broadcast to 117 radio stations in the State. In addition to his radio broadcast, Host bought a publishing company and printed programs for Kentucky basketball and football games.

He continued to grow his business around Kentucky athletics, and over time he created the first model of the consolidated multimedia rights companies we see today. By the time he sold Host Communications to IMG in 2007, Host provided the University of Kentucky, and over 20 other college athletic programs, with what he called the “full-meal-deal”—that is to say that TV deals, radio broadcasts, coaches' shows and their endorsements, publishing, signage, and sponsorship were all controlled by Host, and enabled the university to generate more revenue than was ever thought to be possible. Today, nearly every university with an athletics program follows this blueprint prepared by Jim Host.

Host also developed a close partnership with the NCAA and is credited with creating the organization's first corporate sponsorship program.

Now, at age 76, Jim hasn't slowed down at all. He still gets up at 4 a.m. every morning and is always quick to state that he “can't sleep fast enough.”

As chairman of the Louisville Arena Authority, he was instrumental in the construction of the KFC Yum! Center as well as the subsequent surge of new business activity in the downtown area. Additionally, he currently serves as chairman of Volar Video.

By way of his grit, determination, and sheer smarts, Jim Host has seen immense success in his business and has effected an immeasurable impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky and college athletics. I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing Jim Host and congratulating him for his latest award from the National Football Foundation.

The Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article detailing Jim Host's latest award. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, June 12, 2014]

LEXINGTON BUSINESSMAN JIM HOST HONORED
BY NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame has announced that sports marketing pioneer Jim Host of Lexington has been named the recipient of its award for Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football.

“Jim Host created a lasting legacy as a sports marketing innovator, and his creative genius will continue for many years as the bedrock of multimedia rights in college athletics,” the group's president and CEO, Steve Hatchell, said in a news release. “From humble beginnings, Jim built Host Communications, essentially launching the practice of marketing in college athletics. His efforts have resulted in millions of dollars for colleges and universities nationwide, and those numbers only continue to grow.”

First presented in 1974, the Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football Award provides national recognition to those whose efforts to support the National Football Foundation have been local in nature.

Host becomes the 38th recipient of the award.

Born in Ashland, Host received a baseball scholarship to the University of Kentucky. After running for lieutenant governor in 1971, he opened Jim Host and Associates, a one-man operation above a barbershop in Lexington.

Host is chairman of Volar Video, which delivers customized video across television, computer and mobile platforms. Volar produced the live webcasts of both the National Football Foundation's 56th annual awards dinner and the group's announcement of the 2014 College Football Hall of Fame class.

Host will be honored at a dinner on Dec. 9 in New York.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOE L. CUNNINGHAM

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army 2LT Joe Cunningham of Kingston, OK who died on August 13, 2011 serving our Nation in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Lieutenant

Cunningham was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Army National Guard, Stillwater, OK.

Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2001 and joined the Army Reserves as a military policeman. He volunteered to deploy to Iraq in 2005 where he served as a team leader. After returning from Iraq, he served as a weapons instructor for deploying soldiers. In 2008, Joe switched to the Oklahoma National Guard, serving 18 months in the Air Guard before moving on to the Army Guard, where he was accepted to Officer Candidate School. In August 2010, Joe was commissioned as a second lieutenant and deployed in June 2011 to Afghanistan as the executive officer of B Co 1/179 Infantry.

Joe leaves behind his father Kirk Tucker, from Kingston, and siblings

Tracy, Terri, Bethany, Ashton, Ricky and Taylor. He was preceded in death by his mother Dorothy Cunningham. He touched the lives of many as evidenced by comments written on his online guest book.

“I knew Joe he was an inspiration to the soldiers of Bco. 1/179 he always put soldiers first he is what a soldier wanted to be professional thru and thru in the short time I had to work with him he truly opened my eyes and changed my views on things he was and always will be a great friend and a soldier that will be greatly missed. God Bless Joe Cunningham may god watch and protect you thru “through” the gates of heaven you shall be missed.”

“You will be missed by all. It was pleasure and an honor to have you as troop under my supervision while assigned to the 138th Security Forces Squadron. RIP friend and brother.”

Joe lived a life of love for his family, friends, and country. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and sports. Joe was a big Oklahoma Sooners fan and held season tickets for the Oklahoma City Thunder. He loved kids, and one of his greatest joys was spending time with Korlee Cunningham.

Joe will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom.

SERGEANT BRET D. ISENHOWER

Mr. President, I now wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SGT Bret D. Isenhower of Lamar, OK, who died on September 9, 2011, serving our nation in Paktya Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Isenhower was assigned to 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Sergeant Isenhower was killed by enemy small arms fire when his team was attacked while conducting combat operations in Zurmat District. He was 26 years old.

Our prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: father Kevin Isenhower; mother Janet Dawsey; sisters Bridgette Hall and Krysten Isenhower; and nephew Jackson Hall.

Bret graduated from Seminole High School in 2003 and then attended East Central University and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha chapter. Determined to be a soldier, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 2006 as an infantryman. He deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for a yearlong deployment in 2007–08. He rose to the rank of sergeant and team leader.

Bret actively looked for ways to serve his community and his fellow citizens. On one occasion, he and a friend were enroute to school to take a final and noticed a woman pulled over on the side of the road with a flat tire. Bret pulled the car over and helped change the tire without regard to the

time that it took. Needless to say, he missed his final exam, but didn't care because it was the "right thing to do." Bret also served as a volunteer firefighter at the Seminole Fire Department and the Seminole County 911 dispatcher.

Bret cared deeply for his family and would often let his 3-year-old nephew Jackson use him as a human jungle gym. He was full of kindness and yet very brave under fire.

It is clearly evident how much this young man impacted his family, community and fellow citizens and soldiers by reading through some of the following quotes.

Laura Rose, a former teacher at Seminole High said, "Not only did he give the ultimate sacrifice for his country, but he was a good person too. Some students go on their way and you never see them again, but Bret would come and visit and let me know how he was doing."

Specialist Randen Allison credits Bret with saving his life in Afghanistan by reacting quickly and placing a tourniquet on his arm. When Specialist Allison thanked Bret for helping, Bret responded by saying, "Don't worry about it. I'm just doing my job."

A warrior indeed, Bret died in the heat of a firefight. These tough fights took the life of Bret from us prematurely, but make no mistake; it is a fight we will win. We must continue our unwavering support for the men and women protecting our Nation and allies.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Bret's family. He lived a life of love for his family, friends, and our country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom.

FIRST LIEUTENANT DAMON T. LEEHAN

Mr. President, I also pay tribute to a true American hero, Army 1LT Damon T. Leehan of Moore, OK, who died on August 14, 2011 serving our Nation in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Lieutenant Leehan was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Leehan died of injuries sustained when the vehicle in which he was riding was attacked with an improvised explosive device in the Alingar District while conducting combat operations. He was 30 years old.

Damon graduated from Edmond High School and enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard in 1998 at the age of 17. He had previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 as a combat medic. In 2008, he successfully completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

In his civilian role, Damon served his community as an Xray technician since 2001 at the Integris Southwest Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Damon consistently impressed and touched the lives of those around him. This is evident by reading through some quotes.

Ashely Hale, his supervisor at the hospital said, "He was a hard-working, outgoing, well-known, well-liked co-worker . . . he had many friends here."

Major General Myles Deering, the Adjutant General of Oklahoma said, "LT Leehan served his nation and our state with great honor and distinction for more than a decade. His sacrifice will never be forgotten."

Wendy Deatsch, of Edmond said, "I was one of his high school teachers. He was one of my very favorite students. He always had a smile on his face and had a saying that always put one on mine. He would say, 'Miss Wilks, turn that frown upside down!' It always worked!"

Curtis Meloy, of Cushing said, "Damon was a great soldier, and a better man. I am truly better for having known him."

Members of Damon's platoon posted, "LT, we miss you and you were a true friend and leader. Our platoon will never be the same without you! Your leadership will be missed."

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Damon's family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: his wife Audrey, children, Emma and Ethan, father Dennis, and mother Marina Blevins.

Damon lived a life of love for his wife and two children, family, friends, and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TONY J. POTTER JR.

Mr. President, I pay tribute to a true American hero, Army PFC Tony J. "TJ" Potter Jr. of Okmulgee, OK, who died on September 9, 2011, serving our Nation in Paktya Province, Afghanistan. Private First Class Potter was assigned to 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

TJ was killed by enemy small arms fire when his team was attacked while conducting combat operations in Zurmat District. He was 20 years old.

Born 3 months early, TJ wasn't the biggest kid growing up, but he more than compensated for it in drive and enthusiasm. TJ graduated from Okmulgee High School in 2010 after leading his football team to a state championship. Determined to be a soldier and join the Oklahoma National Guard, even over his parents' reserva-

tions, TJ enlisted as an infantryman prior to graduation in April 2010.

In such a short time on this earth, TJ had an incredible impact on his family, his community and his brothers in arms.

TJ's friend Samuel Trout said, "Everybody knew him, everybody got along with him, you could talk to him."

Fellow co-worker Jon Skinner said, "He was always a great guy, he was always a hard worker, down to earth, great guy to kick it with."

Fellow high school student Earnest Woodruff said, "He tried to help everybody at practice. He always wanted us to run harder so we would do better when we went out to the games. He was always going 100 percent. I just know that he's going to be in a better place."

Football coach Shane Page said TJ could do anything that he put his mind to and "Just every day we have to be thankful for the fact that we do have the soldiers out there fighting to protect us and everything. I mean it's an honor to know that he was a part of that but it's a very, very sad day."

His mother, Yvonne said, "He was the rock of our family. He held everything together." His father, Tony Sr. added, "If he felt we were drifting apart, he would bring us back together. He was our glue. You could always count on him for everything."

TJ lived a life of love for his family, friends, and our country. I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to TJ's family, his wife and high school sweetheart Emily, his son Tony James 'TJ' Potter who was born after his death, and parents Tony and Yvonne Potter. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HENRY COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take

pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Henry County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Henry County worth over \$2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$8 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is our shared commitment to community wellness and their work to obtain wellness grants to promote physical exercise, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles. I am also pleased with the community's success in obtaining funds through Main Street Iowa for the redevelopment of the historic Union Block building and other major renovations in downtown Mt. Pleasant.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Southeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Henry County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Henry County, I have fought for more than \$3 million for National Guard facilities, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; it is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Mount Pleasant to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Henry County has earned \$110,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings.

They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Henry County has received \$756,173 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Henry County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$74,980.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Henry County has received more than \$3.7 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Henry County's fire departments have received over \$1.2 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preven-

tive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Henry County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$423,000 for community wellness activities.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Henry County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Henry County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Henry County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

IOWA COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in

Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Iowa County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$6.6 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the county's use of farm bill dollars to develop local economic opportunity, like the funds used for the startup and marketing of the Fireside Winery.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Iowa County has received \$122,934 in Harkin grants.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get

back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 has provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Iowa County has received over \$1.6 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Iowa County has received more than \$6.3 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic that hit Iowa. During the mid-to-late 1990s, cities in Iowa County received \$199,635 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Iowa County's fire departments have received over \$708,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Iowa County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us

proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Iowa County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Iowa County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

GLOBAL CHILD HEALTH

● **Mr. JOHNSON** of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the successful efforts made over the past 25 years to improve the health of children across the globe. Through a strong, bipartisan commitment to foreign assistance, the United States, in partnership with other world leaders, multinational organizations, and local stakeholders, has played a critical role in reducing the number of child deaths before the age of 5.

Compared to 25 years ago, 6 million fewer children will die this year before their fifth birthday. This achievement could not have been possible without the dedication to service and drive to help others that is characteristic of the American spirit. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have long supported programs such as PEPFAR, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, and other efforts to address child and maternal health. Over the years, I have worked with Republican and Democratic administrations on these initiatives and am proud of the bipartisan support they have received.

Today, thanks to significant investments made by the United States along with faith-based, philanthropic, non-governmental organizations, and support from other countries, fewer children are dying from preventable diseases and conditions such as pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, malaria, and AIDS. We have succeeded in cutting in half the number of deaths among children under 5 and reduced the incidence of preventable illness.

As we celebrate the progress that has been made, we also look ahead to the work that remains. Millions of children still live with the reality that they may not reach their fifth birthday. As we continue to face tight fiscal environments, we must be careful not to try to balance the budget on the back of the world's poor and hungry. After all, total U.S. foreign aid to all countries constitutes only 1% of the U.S. Federal budget. As a leader in our global community, we must find ways to

maintain our commitment to global health programs and continue efforts to improve child mortality rates.●

NATIONAL ROOFING WEEK

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the National Roofing Contractors Association, NRCA, headquartered in Rosemont, IL, and its efforts to designate the week of July 6–12, 2014 as National Roofing Week.

The roof is one of the most important components of any home or business. It is the first line of defense against natural elements, such as rain, snow or wind, and yet it is often taken for granted until it falls into disrepair. National Roofing Week recognizes the thousands of roofing contractors and roofing-related businesses across the country, the industry's commitment to public service and is a valuable reminder of the significance quality roofing has on every home and business in the United States.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the Nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of professional roofing contractors worldwide. Today, the NRCA has more than 3,800 members located across all 50 States and represents a variety of industry stakeholders, including roofing, roof deck, and water proofing contractors. Utilizing its vast network of roofing contractors and industry-related members, NRCA is responsible for the installation of the majority of new construction and replacement roof systems on commercial and residential structures in America. With most of its members employed by small, privately held businesses, the NRCA represents thousands of hard-working families and individuals that are the backbone of our economy.

Professional roofing contractors provide vital services to their communities, both on and off the clock. This year NRCA members will gather in Chicago, IL throughout the week of July 6–12 and donate their time and materials to charitable community service roofing projects throughout the Chicago area. I commend the NRCA and the vital role the organization and its members play in every community and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging their contributions during National Roofing Week.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID F. HEYMAN

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to offer my congratulations and thanks to David F. Heyman as he steps down as the Department of Homeland Security's, DHS Assistant Secretary for Policy. Mr. Heyman is not only a capable and strong leader but a key partner who has worked with Congress as we aim to tackle some of our Nation's most complex homeland security challenges, such as global supply chain se-

curity, advance screening to protect our citizens from threats abroad, and instituting systems that help us better identify who enters and leaves the United States.

Mr. Heyman was confirmed by the Senate in June 2009 as the second Assistant Secretary for Policy in the history of the Department. As head of the Office of Policy, he was charged with leading a team of experts to provide thought leadership, policy development, and decision analysis for the Department's senior leadership.

Mr. Heyman has worked tirelessly over the past 5 years for the Department and the U.S. government. He led a capable and diverse team that handled a variety of important and challenging issues. Through his work across the Department, within the agency, and with many of our partners around the globe, Mr. Heyman brought a cross-cutting view of DHS to the Office of Policy. He has worked steadfastly with Congress and other stakeholders to ensure those outside the Department have a greater appreciation for the breadth and depth of homeland security, encouraging us all to understand the responsibilities we share to protect our nation.

During his tenure, the first and second Quadrennial Homeland Security Reviews were created, both of which outline the Department's mission and roles as well as establish DHS's direction for the next 4 years. Mr. Heyman played key roles in a variety of efforts including: raising global standards for aviation and cargo security, contributing to strategies on countering violent extremism, and strengthening global supply chain security. He has shepherded efforts to transform and build upon our international partnerships with Canada, Mexico, India, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom as well as with many global organizations such as the World Customs Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, and others. Under Mr. Heyman's charge, the Office of Policy has also helped to foster a culture of leadership and innovation through the creation of the Rick Rescorla National Award for Resilience and by initiating efforts to encourage stronger home building standards to safeguard lives and communities.

During the time of his appointment Mr. Heyman's two sons were born. We not only owe Mr. Heyman our deepest gratitude but also a special thanks to his wife and children for their sacrifice of their precious family time—all for the betterment and protection of our Nation.

Mr. David Heyman has served this Nation well, and I urge my colleagues to recognize his great contributions to the security, safety, and resilience of this country.●

EIGHTH STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I honor the Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, AR. In December of 2014, Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

In 1914, several members and deacons from an existing congregation set forward to plant a new church in North Little Rock. The new congregation secured a building and immediately the doors of the Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church were open and they began to receive members.

In 1954, under the leadership of Rev. S.J. Moss, Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church began construction on a new building at 800 Hazel Street in North Little Rock, only to lose this structure to a devastating fire in 1958. The church met at a local school until their church could be rebuilt.

In 1969, the church was forced to make a difficult decision about their facility—make extensive repairs or change locations due to requirements of a community development project. Church leadership decided to sell the property and Rev. R.T. Sawyer authorized the purchase of a new lot on 9th and Hickory Streets. Less than a year later, the church held their groundbreaking ceremony for yet another building where they worshipped until 2014.

It brings me great pleasure to announce that just recently, the church held the dedication ceremony for their newly constructed worship center. The Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church has a rich history of land ownership, leadership, and overcoming tremendous obstacles. Standing as a fixture in the North Little Rock community, the congregation of Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church will continue to demonstrate both their strong faith and devotion to their parishioners and the community.

I have great pride in the Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church's continued growth and the vibrancy of their congregation. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church on its centennial anniversary, with many successful years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN SAVAGE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Plaistow Chief of Police Steven Savage for his extraordinary leadership and service to New Hampshire and to our Nation. The Plaistow Police Department will soon dedicate the town's tactical training center in his honor.

As a young man, Chief Savage enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and answered the call to service during the Vietnam war. He was honored with numerous service ribbons including the

Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation.

After an honorable discharge from the Air Force, Chief Savage went on to earn a B.S. with honors in criminal justice from Northeastern University. He first worked as a police officer in Baltimore, MD, where he earned a Bronze Star and four Ribbons of Commendation from the city's Meritorious Conduct Board.

He returned to his native New Hampshire in 1977, when he was selected as police chief of Haverhill. After 10 years there, he became chief in Plaistow, where he has served for 28 years. These combined 38 years have distinguished Chief Savage as the second longest serving police chief in the state of New Hampshire.

Chief Savage has held leadership positions in local, regional and national law enforcement organizations, from chairman of Plaistow's Highway Safety Committee to president of the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police Association. He has been active in his community as well, volunteering on social service boards, committees, and supporting local youth sports.

For more than 25 years, Plaistow's police department has been working to upgrade its firing range and tactical training facilities, which are used by police from Danville, Hampstead and Haverhill for their annual re-qualification as well as by U.S. postal inspectors from across New England and upstate New York. Finally, under Steven's leadership, a site plan was approved for the project earlier this year. Previously maintained unofficially by its many stakeholders, it will now be more permanently improved and supported.

Chief Savage has worked tirelessly his entire career to keep others safe, and the tactical training center, to be dedicated on June 26th, will stand as a lasting symbol of his commitment. I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in congratulating Chief Savage on his distinguished career in service to New Hampshire and to our country.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4631. An act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4870. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

At 1:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1098. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

H.R. 1281. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.

H.R. 3301. An act to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3548. An act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.

H.R. 4080. An act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4413. An act to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1098. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3548. An act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4080. An act to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4413. An act to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4870. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3301. An act to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 25, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1044. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

S. 2086. An act to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 447. A resolution recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and an amendment to the title and with a preamble:

S. Res. 462. A resolution recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

*Robert M. Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education.

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Shaun L. S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 2525. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude payments received under the Work Colleges Program from gross income, including payments made from institutional funds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2526. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2527. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2528. A bill to clarify the authority of the United States Marshals Service to assist other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the investigation of cases involving missing children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2529. A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2530. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or exportation of mussels of certain genus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2531. A bill to reward and incentivize evidence-based State policies that improve educational continuity and limit juvenile court involvement and incarceration for youth through a priority in awarding certain competitive grants offered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2532. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 484. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Yosemite Grant Act; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 485. A resolution congratulating the San Antonio Spurs for winning the 2014 National Basketball Association Championship; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 232

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 232, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting used by Federal mortgage agencies by ensuring that energy costs are included in the underwriting process, to reduce the amount of energy consumed by homes, to facilitate the creation of energy efficiency retrofit and construction jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to require meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to establish programs with respect to childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1691

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1691, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes.

S. 1971

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1971, a bill to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 2025

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2025, a bill to require data brokers to establish procedures to ensure the accuracy of collected personal information, and for other purposes.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2060, a bill to direct the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board to develop accessibility guidelines for electronic instructional materials and related information technologies in institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes.

S. 2491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator

from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2491, a bill to protect the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to reconciliation involving changes to the Medicare program.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 484—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YOSEMITE GRANT ACT

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 484

Whereas Yosemite National Park is internationally renowned as one of the most extraordinary examples of natural beauty, splendor, and majesty, and is a showcase of spectacular waterfalls, fantastic geologic history, and abundant wildlife that has provided sanctuary, comfort, and inspiration to humans for thousands of years;

Whereas, on June 30, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Act entitled "An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the 'Yo-Semite Valley' and of the Land embracing the 'Mariposa Big Tree Grove'", approved June 30, 1864 (commonly known as the Yosemite Grant) which—

(1) for one of the first times in United States history set aside land for enjoyment and protection for future generations; and

(2) demonstrated—during some of the bloodiest days of the Civil War—the unique vision of the United States to protect what would become one of the most cherished and iconic national parks;

Whereas with President Lincoln's action, this vision was codified and marked Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove as the seed of the conservation movement in what is now known as "America's Best Idea";

Whereas June 30, 1864, marks the birth of the national park idea, the concept that has inspired over 400 National Park units in the United States and hundreds of national parks worldwide;

Whereas the land surrounding Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove was designated the 3rd national park on October 1, 1890, and Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove were added to Yosemite National Park in 1906;

Whereas the land preserved within Yosemite National Park is part of the ancestral homeland of several American Indian tribes and groups;

Whereas Yosemite National Park was dedicated a World Heritage Site in 1984 and has fostered sister park relationships with national parks in foreign countries including—

(1) Huangshan National Park and Jiuzhaigou National Park in China; and

(2) Torres del Paine National Park in Chile;

Whereas Yosemite National Park, a leader within the National Park Service, is—

(1) the first national park to open a museum;

(2) the first national park to hire a female law enforcement ranger;

(3) the birthplace of rustic style architecture and of big wall rock climbing;

(4) the first national park to formally implement park education and interpretation programs; and

(5) the first national park to partner with a nonprofit stewardship organization;

Whereas Yosemite National Park receives over 4,000,000 visitors each year from around the world;

Whereas Yosemite National Park is home to a variety of natural resource features, containing—

(1) wilderness areas encompassing 94 percent of the park's acreage;

(2) more than 800 miles of trails including the renowned Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail;

(3) 2 federally designated wild and scenic rivers, the Tuolumne River and the Merced River;

(4) the largest intact subalpine meadow complex in the Sierra Nevada; and

(5) 30 properties and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places and 5 National Historic Landmarks;

Whereas Yosemite National Park continues to embody amazing opportunities for recreation and public enjoyment in one of the most amazing natural physical landscapes in the world; and

Whereas the preservation of Yosemite National Park is a testament to the commitment and determination of many dedicated people and institutions over the past 150 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Act entitled "An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the 'Yo-Semite Valley' and of the Land embracing the 'Mariposa Big Tree Grove'", approved June 30, 1864 (commonly known as the Yosemite Grant) (referred to in this resolving clause as the "Yosemite Grant Act") on June 30, 2014; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe and honor the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Yosemite Grant Act.

SENATE RESOLUTION 485—CONGRATULATING THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS FOR WINNING THE 2014 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 485

Whereas the San Antonio Spurs (referred to in this preamble as the "Spurs") won their fifth National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NBA") Championship in franchise history on Sunday, June 15, 2014, by defeating the Miami Heat with a score of 104-87 in the fifth game of the NBA Finals at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas;

Whereas during the 2014 NBA playoffs, the Spurs defeated the Dallas Mavericks, Portland Trailblazers, Oklahoma City Thunder, and the Miami Heat;

Whereas the Spurs defeated the Miami Heat, in a rematch of the 2013 NBA Finals, to clinch their fourth title in less than a decade;

Whereas the San Antonio Spurs overcame an early 16-point deficit to finish the final series in a decisive fashion, winning by 17 points and securing the NBA championship in only 5 games;

Whereas during the 2014 postseason, the Spurs won more playoff games by 15 points or more than any team in NBA history;

Whereas the Spurs outscored opponents in the playoffs by 214 points and finished the NBA Finals with a plus 70 point differential, both of which are NBA records;

Whereas the Spurs have the highest field-goal percentage in NBA Finals history at 52.8 percent;

Whereas since its founding in 1967, the San Antonio Spurs franchise has won 5 world championships, 6 conference titles, and 20 division titles;

Whereas the 2013-2014 Spurs roster was comprised of players Jeff Ayres, Aron Baynes, Marco Belinelli, Matt Bonner, Austin Daye, Boris Diaw, Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili, Danny Green, Damion James, Cory Joseph, Kawhi Leonard, Patty Mills, Tony Parker, and Tiago Splitter, all of whom contributed positively to the team's success;

Whereas, Kawhi Leonard was named the Most Valuable Player during the 2014 Finals, averaging 22 points and 10 rebounds for the San Antonio Spurs;

Whereas Tim Duncan broke the record previously held by Kareem Abdul-Jabar for most postseason minutes with 8,870 minutes and exceeded Earvin "Magic" Johnson's previous record for postseason double-doubles with 158;

Whereas Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, and Manu Ginobili have more playoff wins combined than any other 3 players on one team in NBA history;

Whereas Spurs Head Coach and 2014 NBA Coach of the Year Award Winner Gregg Popovich added to his growing list of accomplishments and impressive legacy by winning his fifth NBA championship;

Whereas Spurs Sports and Entertainment owner and Chief Executive Officer Peter Holt and General Manager R. C. Buford have built the Spurs into one of the most successful organizations in NBA history;

Whereas the Spurs coaching staff and management have shown a positive commitment to the franchise by successfully acquiring and maintaining a team of players dedicated to discipline, leadership, and achievement;

Whereas the Spurs serve the greater San Antonio community by promoting education and literacy, encouraging civic responsibility and engagement, and striving to enhance the quality of life for San Antonians and South Texans alike; and

Whereas the Spurs remain the pride and joy of the City of San Antonio: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the San Antonio Spurs for winning the 2014 National Basketball Association Finals;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the 2014 season;

(3) requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an enrolled version of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the owner of San Antonio Spurs;

(B) the general manager for the San Antonio Spurs; and

(C) the head coach of the San Antonio Spurs.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3378. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

SA 3379. Mr. FLAKE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra.

SA 3380. Mr. LEE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra.

SA 3381. Mr. HARKIN (for Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra.

SA 3382. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 803, supra.

SA 3383. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3384. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr.

BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3385. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3386. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3387. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3378. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—System Alignment

CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

- Sec. 101. State workforce development boards.
- Sec. 102. Unified State plan.
- Sec. 103. Combined State plan.

CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

- Sec. 106. Workforce development areas.
- Sec. 107. Local workforce development boards.
- Sec. 108. Local plan.

CHAPTER 3—BOARD PROVISIONS

Sec. 111. Funding of State and local boards.

CHAPTER 4—PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 116. Performance accountability system.

Subtitle B—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

Sec. 123. Eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities.

CHAPTER 2—YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 126. General authorization.

Sec. 127. State allotments.

Sec. 128. Within State allocations.

Sec. 129. Use of funds for youth workforce investment activities.

CHAPTER 3—ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Sec. 131. General authorization.

Sec. 132. State allotments.

Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

CHAPTER 4—GENERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROVISIONS

Sec. 136. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Job Corps

Sec. 141. Purposes.

Sec. 142. Definitions.

Sec. 143. Establishment.

Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

Sec. 146. Enrollment.

Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

Sec. 148. Program activities.

Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

Sec. 150. Support.

Sec. 151. Operations.

Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.

Sec. 153. Community participation.

Sec. 154. Workforce councils.

Sec. 155. Advisory committees.

Sec. 156. Experimental projects and technical assistance.

Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.

Sec. 158. Special provisions.

Sec. 159. Management information.

Sec. 160. General provisions.

Sec. 161. Job Corps oversight and reporting.

Sec. 162. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—National Programs

Sec. 166. Native American programs.

Sec. 167. Migrant and seasonal farmworker programs.

Sec. 168. Technical assistance.

Sec. 169. Evaluations and research.

Sec. 170. National dislocated worker grants.

Sec. 171. YouthBuild program.

Sec. 172. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle E—Administration

Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.

Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.

Sec. 183. Monitoring.

Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.

Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.

Sec. 187. Judicial review.

Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.

Sec. 189. Secretarial administrative authorities and responsibilities.

Sec. 190. Workforce flexibility plans.

Sec. 191. State legislative authority.

Sec. 192. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security agency real property to the States.

Sec. 193. Continuation of State activities and policies.

Sec. 194. General program requirements.

Sec. 195. Restrictions on lobbying activities.

TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Purpose.

Sec. 203. Definitions.

Sec. 204. Home schools.

Sec. 205. Rule of construction regarding postsecondary transition and concurrent enrollment activities.

Sec. 206. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.

Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.

Subtitle B—State Provisions

Sec. 221. State administration.

Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.

Sec. 223. State leadership activities.

Sec. 224. State plan.

Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.

Subtitle C—Local Provisions

Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.

Sec. 232. Local application.

Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.

Subtitle D—General Provisions

Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 242. National leadership activities.

Sec. 243. Integrated English literacy and civics education.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT

Sec. 301. Employment service offices.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Sec. 303. Federal and State employment service offices.

Sec. 304. Allotment of sums.

Sec. 305. Use of sums.

Sec. 306. State plan.

Sec. 307. Performance measures.

Sec. 308. Workforce and labor market information system.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Subtitle A—Introductory Provisions

Sec. 401. References.

Sec. 402. Findings, purpose, policy.

Sec. 403. Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Sec. 404. Definitions.

Sec. 405. Administration of the Act.

Sec. 406. Reports.

Sec. 407. Evaluation and information.

Sec. 408. Carryover.

Sec. 409. Traditionally underserved populations.

Subtitle B—Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Sec. 411. Declaration of policy; authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 412. State plans.

Sec. 413. Eligibility and individualized plan for employment.

Sec. 414. Vocational rehabilitation services.

Sec. 415. State Rehabilitation Council.

Sec. 416. Evaluation standards and performance indicators.

Sec. 417. Monitoring and review.

Sec. 418. Training and services for employers.

Sec. 419. State allotments.

Sec. 420. Payments to States.

Sec. 421. Client assistance program.

Sec. 422. Pre-employment transition services.

Sec. 423. American Indian vocational rehabilitation services.

Sec. 424. Vocational rehabilitation services client information.

Subtitle C—Research and Training

Sec. 431. Purpose.

Sec. 432. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 433. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.

Sec. 434. Interagency committee.

Sec. 435. Research and other covered activities.

Sec. 436. Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council.

Sec. 437. Definition of covered school.

Subtitle D—Professional Development and Special Projects and Demonstration

Sec. 441. Purpose; training.

Sec. 442. Demonstration, training, and technical assistance programs.

Sec. 443. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers; recreational programs.

Subtitle E—National Council on Disability

Sec. 451. Establishment.

Sec. 452. Report.

Sec. 453. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle F—Rights and Advocacy

Sec. 456. Interagency Committee, Board, and Council.

Sec. 457. Protection and advocacy of individual rights.

Sec. 458. Limitations on use of subminimum wage.

Subtitle G—Employment Opportunities for Individuals With Disabilities

Sec. 461. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Subtitle H—Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living

CHAPTER 1—INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 471. Purpose.

Sec. 472. Administration of the independent living program.

Sec. 473. Definitions.

Sec. 474. State plan.

Sec. 475. Statewide Independent Living Council.

Sec. 475A. Responsibilities of the Administrator.

SUBCHAPTER B—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Sec. 476. Administration.

SUBCHAPTER C—CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Sec. 481. Program authorization.

Sec. 482. Centers.

Sec. 483. Standards and assurances.

Sec. 484. Authorization of appropriations.

CHAPTER 2—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

Sec. 486. Independent living services for older individuals who are blind.

Sec. 487. Program of grants.

Sec. 488. Independent living services for older individuals who are blind authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle I—General Provisions

Sec. 491. Transfer of functions regarding independent living to Department of Health and Human Services, and savings provisions.

Sec. 492. Table of contents.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Workforce Investment

Sec. 501. Privacy.

Sec. 502. Buy-American requirements.

Sec. 503. Transition provisions.

Sec. 504. Reduction of reporting burdens and requirements.

Sec. 505. Effective dates.

Subtitle B—Amendments to Other Laws

Sec. 511. Repeal of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Sec. 512. Conforming amendments.

Sec. 513. References.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To increase, for individuals in the United States, particularly those individuals with barriers to employment, access to and opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services they need to succeed in the labor market.

(2) To support the alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality workforce development system in the United States.

(3) To improve the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts to provide America's workers with the skills and credentials necessary to secure and advance in employment with family-sustaining wages and to provide America's employers with the skilled workers the employers need to succeed in a global economy.

(4) To promote improvement in the structure of and delivery of services through the United States workforce development system to better address the employment and skill needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers.

(5) To increase the prosperity of workers and employers in the United States, the economic growth of communities, regions, and States, and the global competitiveness of the United States.

(6) For purposes of subtitle A and B of title I, to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce development systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, and the core program provisions that are not in this Act, except as otherwise expressly provided:

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The term “administrative costs” means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipients (including State grant recipients under subtitle B of title I and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D of title I), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under title I that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment serv-

ices (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and nonpersonnel costs and both direct and indirect costs.

(2) **ADULT.**—Except as otherwise specified in section 132, the term “adult” means an individual who is age 18 or older.

(3) **ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The terms “adult education” and “adult education and literacy activities” have the meanings given the terms in section 203.

(4) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term “area career and technical education school” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(5) **BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT.**—The term “basic skills deficient” means, with respect to an individual—

(A) who is a youth, that the individual has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test; or

(B) who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.

(6) **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**—The term “career and technical education” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(7) **CAREER PATHWAY.**—The term “career pathway” means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that—

(A) aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the State or regional economy involved;

(B) prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including apprenticeships registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) (referred to individually in this Act as an “apprenticeship”, except in section 171);

(C) includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual's education and career goals;

(D) includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(E) organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;

(F) enables an individual to attain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary credential; and

(G) helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

(8) **CAREER PLANNING.**—The term “career planning” means the provision of a client-centered approach in the delivery of services, designed—

(A) to prepare and coordinate comprehensive employment plans, such as service strategies, for participants to ensure access to necessary workforce investment activities and supportive services, using, where feasible, computer-based technologies; and

(B) to provide job, education, and career counseling, as appropriate during program participation and after job placement.

(9) **CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL.**—The term “chief elected official” means—

(A) the chief elected executive officer of a unit of general local government in a local area; and

(B) in a case in which a local area includes more than 1 unit of general local government, the individuals designated under the agreement described in section 107(c)(1)(B).

(10) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The term “community-based organization” means a private nonprofit organization (which may include a faith-based organization), that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that has demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in the field of workforce development.

(11) **COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT.**—The term “competitive integrated employment” has the meaning given the term in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705), for individuals with disabilities.

(12) **CORE PROGRAM.**—The term “core programs” means a program authorized under a core program provision.

(13) **CORE PROGRAM PROVISION.**—The term “core program provision” means—

(A) chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B of title I (relating to youth workforce investment activities and adult and dislocated worker employment and training activities);

(B) title II (relating to adult education and literacy activities);

(C) sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) (relating to employment services); and

(D) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) (relating to vocational rehabilitation services).

(14) **CUSTOMIZED TRAINING.**—The term “customized training” means training—

(A) that is designed to meet the specific requirements of an employer (including a group of employers);

(B) that is conducted with a commitment by the employer to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

(C) for which the employer pays—

(i) a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved, taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board determines to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in training, wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), relation of the training to the competitiveness of a participant, and other employer-provided training and advancement opportunities; and

(ii) in the case of customized training (as defined in subparagraphs (A) and (B)) involving an employer located in multiple local areas in the State, a significant portion of the cost of the training, as determined by the Governor of the State, taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

(15) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—The term “dislocated worker” means an individual who—

(A)(i) has been terminated or laid off, or who has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;

(ii)(I) is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; or

(II) has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate, to the appropriate entity at a one-stop center referred to in section 121(e), attachment to the workforce, but

is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a State unemployment compensation law; and

(iii) is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation;

(B)(i) has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;

(ii) is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or

(iii) for purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training services described in section 134(c)(3), career services described in section 134(c)(2), or supportive services, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close;

(C) was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters;

(D) is a displaced homemaker; or

(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code), and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and who meets the criteria described in paragraph (16)(B).

(16) **DISPLACED HOMEMAKER.**—The term “displaced homemaker” means an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who—

(A)(i) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; or

(ii) is the dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) and whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and

(B) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

(17) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.**—The term “economic development agency” includes a local planning or zoning commission or board, a community development agency, or another local agency or institution responsible for regulating, promoting, or assisting in local economic development.

(18) **ELIGIBLE YOUTH.**—Except as provided in subtitles C and D of title I, the term “eligible youth” means an in-school youth or out-of-school youth.

(19) **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITY.**—The term “employment and training activity” means an activity described in section 134 that is carried out for an adult or displaced worker.

(20) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The term “English language acquisition program” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(21) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.**—The term “English language learner” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(22) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the chief executive of a State or an outlying area.

(23) **IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “in-demand industry sector or occupation” means—

(i) an industry sector that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses, or the growth of other industry sectors; or

(ii) an occupation that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate.

(B) **DETERMINATION.**—The determination of whether an industry sector or occupation is in-demand under this paragraph shall be made by the State board or local board, as appropriate, using State and regional business and labor market projections, including the use of labor market information.

(24) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT.**—The term “individual with a barrier to employment” means a member of 1 or more of the following populations:

(A) Displaced homemakers.

(B) Low-income individuals.

(C) Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, as such terms are defined in section 166.

(D) Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities.

(E) Older individuals.

(F) Ex-offenders.

(G) Homeless individuals (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), or homeless children and youths (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))).

(H) Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system.

(I) Individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers.

(J) Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, as defined in section 167(i).

(K) Individuals within 2 years of exhausting lifetime eligibility under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(L) Single parents (including single pregnant women).

(M) Long-term unemployed individuals.

(N) Such other groups as the Governor involved determines to have barriers to employment.

(25) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “individual with a disability” means an individual with a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(B) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term “individuals with disabilities” means more than 1 individual with a disability.

(26) **INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “industry or sector partnership” means a workforce collaborative, convened by or acting in partnership with a State board or local board, that—

(A) organizes key stakeholders in an industry cluster into a working group that focuses on the shared goals and human resources needs of the industry cluster and that includes, at the appropriate stage of development of the partnership—

(i) representatives of multiple businesses or other employers in the industry cluster, including small and medium-sized employers when practicable;

(ii) 1 or more representatives of a recognized State labor organization or central labor council, or another labor representative, as appropriate; and

(iii) 1 or more representatives of an institution of higher education with, or another provider of, education or training programs that support the industry cluster; and

(B) may include representatives of—

(i) State or local government;

(ii) State or local economic development agencies;

(iii) State boards or local boards, as appropriate;

(iv) a State workforce agency or other entity providing employment services;

(v) other State or local agencies;

(vi) business or trade associations;

(vii) economic development organizations;

(viii) nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, or intermediaries;

(ix) philanthropic organizations;

(x) industry associations; and

(xi) other organizations, as determined to be necessary by the members comprising the industry or sector partnership.

(27) **IN-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—The term “in-school youth” means a youth described in section 129(a)(1)(C).

(28) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)).

(29) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term “integrated education and training” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(30) **LABOR MARKET AREA.**—The term “labor market area” means an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance or can readily change employment without changing their place of residence. Such an area shall be identified in accordance with criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor in defining such areas or similar criteria established by a Governor.

(31) **LITERACY.**—The term “literacy” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(32) **LOCAL AREA.**—The term “local area” means a local workforce investment area designated under section 106, subject to sections 106(c)(3)(A), 107(c)(4)(B)(i), and 189(i).

(33) **LOCAL BOARD.**—The term “local board” means a local workforce development board established under section 107, subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i).

(34) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.**—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(35) **LOCAL PLAN.**—The term “local plan” means a plan submitted under section 108, subject to section 106(c)(3)(B).

(36) **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “low-income individual” means an individual who—

(i) receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received,

assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the supplemental security income program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or State or local income-based public assistance;

(ii) is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of—

(I) the poverty line; or

(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;

(iii) is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), or a homeless child or youth (as defined under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)));

(iv) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(v) is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or

(vi) is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.

(B) LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVEL.—The term “lower living standard income level” means that income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary.

(37) NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT.—The term “nontraditional employment” refers to occupations or fields of work, for which individuals from the gender involved comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work.

(38) OFFENDER.—The term “offender” means an adult or juvenile—

(A) who is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process, and for whom services under this Act may be beneficial; or

(B) who requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

(39) OLDER INDIVIDUAL.—The term “older individual” means an individual age 55 or older.

(40) ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “one-stop center” means a site described in section 121(e)(2).

(41) ONE-STOP OPERATOR.—The term “one-stop operator” means 1 or more entities designated or certified under section 121(d).

(42) ONE-STOP PARTNER.—The term “one-stop partner” means—

(A) an entity described in section 121(b)(1); and

(B) an entity described in section 121(b)(2) that is participating, with the approval of the local board and chief elected official, in the operation of a one-stop delivery system.

(43) ONE-STOP PARTNER PROGRAM.—The term “one-stop partner program” means a program or activities described in section 121(b) of a one-stop partner.

(44) ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.—The term “on-the-job training” means training by an employer that is provided to a paid participant while engaged in productive work in a job that—

(A) provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job;

(B) is made available through a program that provides reimbursement to the employer of up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the participant, except as provided in section 134(c)(3)(H), for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision related to the training; and

(C) is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation for which the participant is being trained, taking into account the content of the training, the prior work experience of the participant, and the service strategy of the participant, as appropriate.

(45) OUTLYING AREA.—The term “outlying area” means—

(A) American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

(B) the Republic of Palau, except during any period for which the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education determine that a Compact of Free Association is in effect and contains provisions for training and education assistance prohibiting the assistance provided under this Act.

(46) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The term “out-of-school youth” means a youth described in section 129(a)(1)(B).

(47) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.—The term “pay-for-performance contract strategy” means a procurement strategy that uses pay-for-performance contracts in the provision of training services described in section 134(c)(3) or activities described in section 129(c)(2), and includes—

(A) contracts, each of which shall specify a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible service provider (which may include a local or national community-based organization or intermediary, community college, or other training provider, that is eligible under section 122 or 123, as appropriate) based on the achievement of specified levels of performance on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) for target populations as identified by the local board (including individuals with barriers to employment), within a defined timetable, and which may provide for bonus payments to such service provider to expand capacity to provide effective training;

(B) a strategy for independently validating the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) a description of how the State or local area will reallocate funds not paid to a provider because the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A) did not occur, for further activities related to such a procurement strategy, subject to section 189(g)(4).

(48) PLANNING REGION.—The term “planning region” means a region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 106(a)(2), subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i).

(49) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line” means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(50) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.—The term “public assistance” means Federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test.

(51) RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITY.—The term “rapid response activity” means an activity provided by a State, or by an entity designated by a State, with funds provided by

the State under section 134(a)(1)(A), in the case of a permanent closure or mass layoff at a plant, facility, or enterprise, or a natural or other disaster, that results in mass job dislocation, in order to assist dislocated workers in obtaining reemployment as soon as possible, with services including—

(A) the establishment of onsite contact with employers and employee representatives—

(i) immediately after the State is notified of a current or projected permanent closure or mass layoff; or

(ii) in the case of a disaster, immediately after the State is made aware of mass job dislocation as a result of such disaster;

(B) the provision of information on and access to available employment and training activities;

(C) assistance in establishing a labor-management committee, voluntarily agreed to by labor and management, with the ability to devise and implement a strategy for assessing the employment and training needs of dislocated workers and obtaining services to meet such needs;

(D) the provision of emergency assistance adapted to the particular closure, layoff, or disaster; and

(E) the provision of assistance to the local community in developing a coordinated response and in obtaining access to State economic development assistance.

(52) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary credential” means a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the State involved or Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

(53) REGION.—The term “region”, used without further description, means a region identified under section 106(a), subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i) and except as provided in section 106(b)(1)(B)(ii).

(54) SCHOOL DROPOUT.—The term “school dropout” means an individual who is no longer attending any school and who has not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

(55) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(56) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(57) STATE BOARD.—The term “State board” means a State workforce development board established under section 101.

(58) STATE PLAN.—The term “State plan”, used without further description, means a unified State plan under section 102 or a combined State plan under section 103.

(59) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term “supportive services” means services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments, that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under this Act.

(60) TRAINING SERVICES.—The term “training services” means services described in section 134(c)(3).

(61) UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “unemployed individual” means an individual who is without a job and who wants and is available for work. The determination of whether an individual is without a job, for purposes of this paragraph, shall be made in accordance with the criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department

of Labor in defining individuals as unemployed.

(62) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of general local government” means any general purpose political subdivision of a State that has the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general corporate and police powers.

(63) VETERAN; RELATED DEFINITION.—

(A) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERAN.—The term “recently separated veteran” means any veteran who applies for participation under this Act within 48 months after the discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service.

(64) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.—The term “vocational rehabilitation program” means a program authorized under a provision covered under paragraph (13)(D).

(65) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.—The term “workforce development activity” means an activity carried out through a workforce development program.

(66) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.—The term “workforce development program” means a program made available through a workforce development system.

(67) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—The term “workforce development system” means a system that makes available the core programs, the other one-stop partner programs, and any other programs providing employment and training services as identified by a State board or local board.

(68) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITY.—The term “workforce investment activity” means an employment and training activity, and a youth workforce investment activity.

(69) WORKFORCE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.—The term “workforce preparation activities” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(70) WORKPLACE LEARNING ADVISOR.—The term “workplace learning advisor” means an individual employed by an organization who has the knowledge and skills necessary to advise other employees of that organization about the education, skill development, job training, career counseling services, and credentials, including services provided through the workforce development system, required to progress toward career goals of such employees in order to meet employer requirements related to job openings and career advancements that support economic self-sufficiency.

(71) YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITY.—The term “youth workforce investment activity” means an activity described in section 129 that is carried out for eligible youth (or as described in section 129(a)(3)(A)).

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—System Alignment

CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce development board to carry out the functions described in subsection (d).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The State board shall include—

(A) the Governor;

(B) a member of each chamber of the State legislature (to the extent consistent with State law), appointed by the appropriate presiding officers of such chamber; and

(C) members appointed by the Governor, of which—

(i) a majority shall be representatives of businesses in the State, who—

(I) are owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, and who, in addition, may be members of a local board described in section 107(b)(2)(A)(i);

(II) represent businesses (including small businesses), or organizations representing businesses described in this subclause, that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the State; and

(III) are appointed from among individuals nominated by State business organizations and business trade associations;

(ii) not less than 20 percent shall be representatives of the workforce within the State, who—

(I) shall include representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by State labor federations;

(II) shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such joint program exists in the State, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the State;

(III) may include representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

(IV) may include representatives of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth; and

(iii) the balance—

(I) shall include representatives of government, who—

(aa) shall include the lead State officials with primary responsibility for the core programs; and

(bb) shall include chief elected officials (collectively representing both cities and counties, where appropriate); and

(II) may include such other representatives and officials as the Governor may designate, such as—

(aa) the State agency officials from agencies that are one-stop partners not specified in subclause (I) (including additional one-stop partners whose programs are covered by the State plan, if any);

(bb) State agency officials responsible for economic development or juvenile justice programs in the State;

(cc) individuals who represent an Indian tribe or tribal organization, as such terms are defined in section 166(b); and

(dd) State agency officials responsible for education programs in the State, including chief executive officers of community colleges and other institutions of higher education.

(2) DIVERSE AND DISTINCT REPRESENTATION.—The members of the State board shall represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.

(3) NO REPRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.—No person shall serve as a member for more than 1 of—

(A) the category described in paragraph (1)(C)(i); or

(B) 1 category described in a subclause of clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(C).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Governor shall select a chairperson for the State board from among the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(C)(i).

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The State board shall assist the Governor in—

(1) the development, implementation, and modification of the State plan;

(2) consistent with paragraph (1), the review of statewide policies, of statewide programs, and of recommendations on actions that should be taken by the State to align workforce development programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system in the State, including the review and provision of comments on the State plans, if any, for programs and activities of one-stop partners that are not core programs;

(3) the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in the State, including—

(A) the identification of barriers and means for removing barriers to better coordinate, align, and avoid duplication among the programs and activities carried out through the system;

(B) the development of strategies to support the use of career pathways for the purpose of providing individuals, including low-skilled adults, youth, and individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities), with workforce investment activities, education, and supportive services to enter or retain employment;

(C) the development of strategies for providing effective outreach to and improved access for individuals and employers who could benefit from services provided through the workforce development system;

(D) the development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers, workers, and jobseekers, particularly through industry or sector partnerships related to in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

(E) the identification of regions, including planning regions, for the purposes of section 106(a), and the designation of local areas under section 106, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials;

(F) the development and continuous improvement of the one-stop delivery system in local areas, including providing assistance to local boards, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and providers with planning and delivering services, including training services and supportive services, to support effective delivery of services to workers, jobseekers, and employers; and

(G) the development of strategies to support staff training and awareness across programs supported under the workforce development system;

(4) the development and updating of comprehensive State performance accountability measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the core programs in the State as required under section 116(b);

(5) the identification and dissemination of information on best practices, including best practices for—

(A) the effective operation of one-stop centers, relating to the use of business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies, including strategies for serving individuals with barriers to employment;

(B) the development of effective local boards, which may include information on factors that contribute to enabling local boards to exceed negotiated local levels of performance, sustain fiscal integrity, and achieve other measures of effectiveness; and

(C) effective training programs that respond to real-time labor market analysis, that effectively use direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure an individual's prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, and that evaluate such skills, and competencies for adaptability, to support efficient placement into employment or career pathways;

(6) the development and review of statewide policies affecting the coordinated provision of services through the State's one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e), including the development of—

(A) objective criteria and procedures for use by local boards in assessing the effectiveness and continuous improvement of one-stop centers described in such section;

(B) guidance for the allocation of one-stop center infrastructure funds under section 121(h); and

(C) policies relating to the appropriate roles and contributions of entities carrying out one-stop partner programs within the one-stop delivery system, including approaches to facilitating equitable and efficient cost allocation in such system;

(7) the development of strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the one-stop delivery system, including such improvements to—

(A) enhance digital literacy skills (as defined in section 202 of the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101); referred to in this Act as "digital literacy skills");

(B) accelerate the acquisition of skills and recognized postsecondary credentials by participants;

(C) strengthen the professional development of providers and workforce professionals; and

(D) ensure such technology is accessible to individuals with disabilities and individuals residing in remote areas;

(8) the development of strategies for aligning technology and data systems across one-stop partner programs to enhance service delivery and improve efficiencies in reporting on performance accountability measures (including the design and implementation of common intake, data collection, case management information, and performance accountability measurement and reporting processes and the incorporation of local input into such design and implementation, to improve coordination of services across one-stop partner programs);

(9) the development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for employment and training activities for adults, and youth workforce investment activities, to local areas as permitted under sections 128(b)(3) and 133(b)(3);

(10) the preparation of the annual reports described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 116(d);

(11) the development of the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)); and

(12) the development of such other policies as may promote statewide objectives for, and enhance the performance of, the workforce development system in the State.

(e) **ALTERNATIVE ENTITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of complying with subsections (a), (b), and (c), a

State may use any State entity (including a State council, State workforce development board (within the meaning of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), combination of regional workforce development boards, or similar entity) that—

(A) was in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

(B) is substantially similar to the State board described in subsections (a) through (c); and

(C) includes representatives of business in the State and representatives of labor organizations in the State.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—A reference in this Act, or a core program provision that is not in this Act, to a State board shall be considered to include such an entity.

(f) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—A member of a State board may not—

(1) vote on a matter under consideration by the State board—

(A) regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents); or

(B) that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or

(2) engage in any other activity determined by the Governor to constitute a conflict of interest as specified in the State plan.

(g) **SUNSHINE PROVISION.**—The State board shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the State board, including information regarding the State plan, or a modification to the State plan, prior to submission of the plan or modification of the plan, respectively, information regarding membership, and, on request, minutes of formal meetings of the State board.

(h) **AUTHORITY TO HIRE STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The State board may hire a director and other staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d) using funds available as described in section 129(b)(3) or 134(a)(3)(B)(i).

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The State board shall establish and apply a set of objective qualifications for the position of director, that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities, to meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the State board.

(3) **LIMITATION ON RATE.**—The director and staff described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the limitations on the payment of salary and bonuses described in section 194(15).

SEC. 102. UNIFIED STATE PLAN.

(a) **PLAN.**—For a State to be eligible to receive allotments for the core programs, the Governor shall submit to the Secretary of Labor for the approval process described under subsection (c)(2), a unified State plan. The unified State plan shall outline a 4-year strategy for the core programs of the State and meet the requirements of this section.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—

(1) **STRATEGIC PLANNING ELEMENTS.**—The unified State plan shall include strategic planning elements consisting of a strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce, that include—

(A) an analysis of the economic conditions in the State, including—

(i) existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(ii) the employment needs of employers, including a description of the knowledge,

skills, and abilities, needed in those industries and occupations;

(B) an analysis of the current workforce, employment and unemployment data, labor market trends, and the educational and skill levels of the workforce, including individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities), in the State;

(C) an analysis of the workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of such activities, and the capacity of State entities to provide such activities, in order to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in the State;

(D) a description of the State's strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including preparing youth and individuals with barriers to employment) and for meeting the skilled workforce needs of employers, including goals relating to performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), in order to support economic growth and economic self-sufficiency, and of how the State will assess the overall effectiveness of the workforce investment system in the State; and

(E) taking into account analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (C), a strategy for aligning the core programs, as well as other resources available to the State, to achieve the strategic vision and goals described in subparagraph (D).

(2) **OPERATIONAL PLANNING ELEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The unified State plan shall include the operational planning elements contained in this paragraph, which shall support the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of how the State board will implement the functions under section 101(d).

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE STRATEGY.**—The unified State plan shall describe how the lead State agency with responsibility for the administration of a core program will implement the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of—

(i) the activities that will be funded by the entities carrying out the respective core programs to implement the strategy and how such activities will be aligned across the programs and among the entities administering the programs, including using co-enrollment and other strategies;

(ii) how the activities described in clause (i) will be aligned with activities provided under employment, training, education, including career and technical education, and human services programs not covered by the plan, as appropriate, assuring coordination of, and avoiding duplication among, the activities referred to in this clause;

(iii) how the entities carrying out the respective core programs will coordinate activities and provide comprehensive, high-quality services including supportive services, to individuals;

(iv) how the State's strategy will engage the State's community colleges and area career and technical education schools as partners in the workforce development system and enable the State to leverage other Federal, State, and local investments that have enhanced access to workforce development programs at those institutions; and

(v) how the activities described in clause (i) will be coordinated with economic development strategies and activities in the State.

(C) **STATE OPERATING SYSTEMS AND POLICIES.**—The unified State plan shall describe

the State operating systems and policies that will support the implementation of the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of—

(i) the State board, including the activities to assist members of the State board and the staff of such board in carrying out the functions of the State board effectively (but funds for such activities may not be used for long-distance travel expenses for training or development activities available locally or regionally);

(ii)(I) how the respective core programs will be assessed each year, including an assessment of the quality, effectiveness, and improvement of programs (analyzed by local area, or by provider), based on State performance accountability measures described in section 116(b); and

(II) how other one-stop partner programs will be assessed each year;

(iii) the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the core programs and other one-stop partner programs during the preceding 2-year period;

(iv) the methods and factors the State will use in distributing funds under the core programs, in accordance with the provisions authorizing such distributions;

(v)(I) how the lead State agencies with responsibility for the administration of the core programs will align and integrate available workforce and education data on core programs, unemployment insurance programs, and education through postsecondary education;

(II) how such agencies will use the workforce development system to assess the progress of participants that are exiting from core programs in entering, persisting in, and completing postsecondary education, or entering or remaining in employment; and

(III) the privacy safeguards incorporated in such system, including safeguards required by section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) and other applicable Federal laws;

(vi) how the State will implement the priority of service provisions for veterans in accordance with the requirements of section 4215 of title 38, United States Code;

(vii) how the one-stop delivery system, including one-stop operators and the one-stop partners, will comply with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), regarding the physical and programmatic accessibility of facilities, programs, services, technology, and materials, for individuals with disabilities, including complying through providing staff training and support for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(viii) such other operational planning elements as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines to be necessary for effective State operating systems and policies.

(D) PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The unified State plan shall include—

(i) with respect to activities carried out under subtitle B, a description of—

(I) State policies or guidance, for the statewide workforce development system and for use of State funds for workforce investment activities;

(II) the local areas designated in the State, including the process used for designating local areas, and the process used for identifying any planning regions under section 106(a), including a description of how the State consulted with the local boards and chief elected officials in determining the planning regions;

(III) the appeals process referred to in section 106(b)(5), relating to designation of local areas;

(IV) the appeals process referred to in section 121(h)(2)(E), relating to determinations for infrastructure funding; and

(V) with respect to youth workforce investment activities authorized in section 129, information identifying the criteria to be used by local boards in awarding grants for youth workforce investment activities and describing how the local boards will take into consideration the ability of the providers to meet performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance for the youth program as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) in awarding such grants;

(ii) with respect to activities carried out under title II, a description of—

(I) how the eligible agency will, if applicable, align content standards for adult education with State-adopted challenging academic content standards, as adopted under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1));

(II) how the State will fund local activities using considerations specified in section 231(e) for—

(aa) activities under section 231(b);

(bb) programs for corrections education under section 225;

(cc) programs for integrated English literacy and civics education under section 243; and

(dd) integrated education and training;

(III) how the State will use the funds to carry out activities under section 223;

(IV) how the State will use the funds to carry out activities under section 243;

(V) how the eligible agency will assess the quality of providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II and take actions to improve such quality, including providing the activities described in section 223(a)(1)(B);

(iii) with respect to programs carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), the information described in section 101(a) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 721(a)); and

(iv) information on such additional specific requirements for a program referenced in any of clauses (i) through (iii) or the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) as the Secretary of Labor determines to be necessary to administer that program but cannot reasonably be applied across all such programs.

(E) ASSURANCES.—The unified State plan shall include assurances—

(i) that the State has established a policy identifying circumstances that may present a conflict of interest for a State board or local board member, or the entity or class of officials that the member represents, and procedures to resolve such conflicts;

(ii) that the State has established a policy to provide to the public (including individuals with disabilities) access to meetings of State boards and local boards, and information regarding activities of State boards and local boards, such as data on board membership and minutes;

(iii)(I) that the lead State agencies with responsibility for the administration of core programs reviewed and commented on the appropriate operational planning elements of the unified State plan, and approved the elements as serving the needs of the populations served by such programs; and

(II) that the State obtained input into the development of the unified State plan and provided an opportunity for comment on the

plan by representatives of local boards and chief elected officials, businesses, labor organizations, institutions of higher education, other primary stakeholders, and the general public and that the unified State plan is available and accessible to the general public;

(iv) that the State has established, in accordance with section 116(i), fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for, funds paid to the State through allotments made for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs to carry out workforce investment activities under chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B;

(v) that the State has taken appropriate action to secure compliance with uniform administrative requirements in this Act, including that the State will annually monitor local areas to ensure compliance and otherwise take appropriate action to secure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements under section 184(a)(3);

(vi) that the State has taken the appropriate action to be in compliance with section 188, if applicable;

(vii) that the Federal funds received to carry out a core program will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities authorized with respect to such funds under that core program;

(viii) that the eligible agency under title II will—

(I) expend the funds appropriated to carry out that title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements under section 241(a) (regarding supplement and not supplant provisions); and

(II) ensure that there is at least 1 eligible provider serving each local area;

(ix) that the State will pay an appropriate share (as defined by the State board) of the costs of carrying out section 116, from funds made available through each of the core programs; and

(x) regarding such other matters as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines to be necessary for the administration of the core programs.

(3) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—As appropriate, a State may use an existing analysis in order to carry out the requirements of paragraph (1) concerning an analysis.

(c) PLAN SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—

(A) INITIAL PLAN.—The initial unified State plan under this section (after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) shall be submitted to the Secretary of Labor not later than 120 days prior to the commencement of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) SUBSEQUENT PLANS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (A), a unified State plan shall be submitted to the Secretary of Labor not later than 120 days prior to the end of the 4-year period covered by the preceding unified State plan.

(2) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—In approving a unified State plan under this section, the Secretary shall submit the portion of the unified State plan covering a program or activity to the head of the Federal agency that administers the program or activity for the approval of such portion by such head.

(B) APPROVAL.—A unified State plan shall be subject to the approval of both the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after approval of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration for the portion of the plan described in

subsection (b)(2)(D)(iii). The plan shall be considered to be approved at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted, unless the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the provisions authorizing the core programs, as appropriate.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—

(A) MODIFICATIONS.—At the end of the first 2-year period of any 4-year unified State plan, the State board shall review the unified State plan, and the Governor shall submit modifications to the plan to reflect changes in labor market and economic conditions or in other factors affecting the implementation of the unified State plan.

(B) APPROVAL.—A modified unified State plan submitted for the review required under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the approval requirements described in paragraph (2). A Governor may submit a modified unified State plan at such other times as the Governor determines to be appropriate, and such modified unified State plan shall also be subject to the approval requirements described in paragraph (2).

(4) EARLY IMPLEMENTERS.—The Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall establish a process for approving and may approve unified State plans that meet the requirements of this section and are submitted to cover periods commencing prior to the second full program year described in paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 103. COMBINED STATE PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT PLAN.—A State may develop and submit to the appropriate Secretaries a combined State plan for the core programs and 1 or more of the programs and activities described in paragraph (2) in lieu of submitting 2 or more plans, for the programs and activities and the core programs.

(2) PROGRAMS.—The programs and activities referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) Career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

(B) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(C) Programs authorized under section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)).

(D) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

(E) Activities authorized under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.).

(F) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

(G) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

(H) Programs authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(I) Employment and training activities carried out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(J) Employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

(K) Programs authorized under section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The portion of a combined plan covering the core programs shall be sub-

ject to the requirements of section 102 (including section 102(c)(3)). The portion of such plan covering a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the requirements, if any, applicable to a plan or application for assistance for that program or activity, under the Federal law authorizing the program or activity. At the election of the State, section 102(c)(3) may apply to that portion.

(2) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION NOT REQUIRED.—A State that submits a combined plan that is approved under subsection (c) shall not be required to submit any other plan or application in order to receive Federal funds to carry out the core programs or the program or activities described in subsection (a)(2) that are covered by the combined plan.

(3) COORDINATION.—A combined plan shall include—

(A) a description of the methods used for joint planning and coordination of the core programs and the other programs and activities covered by the combined plan; and

(B) an assurance that the methods included an opportunity for the entities responsible for planning or administering the core programs and the other programs and activities to review and comment on all portions of the combined plan.

(c) APPROVAL BY THE APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—The appropriate Secretary shall have the authority to approve the corresponding portion of a combined plan as described in subsection (d). On the approval of the appropriate Secretary, that portion of the combined plan, covering a program or activity, shall be implemented by the State pursuant to that portion of the combined plan, and the Federal law authorizing the program or activity.

(2) APPROVAL OF CORE PROGRAMS.—No portion of the plan relating to a core program shall be implemented until the appropriate Secretary approves the corresponding portions of the plan for all core programs.

(3) TIMING OF APPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), a portion of the combined State plan covering the core programs or a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) shall be considered to be approved by the appropriate Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted.

(B) PLAN APPROVED BY 3 OR MORE APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.—If an appropriate Secretary other than the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education has authority to approve a portion of a combined plan, that portion of the combined plan shall be considered to be approved by the appropriate Secretary at the end of the 120-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted.

(C) DISAPPROVAL.—The portion shall not be considered to be approved if the appropriate Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period (or the 120-day period, for an appropriate Secretary covered by subparagraph (B)), that the portion is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal law authorizing or applicable to the program or activity involved, including the criteria for approval of a plan or application, if any, under such law, or the plan is not consistent with the requirements of this section.

(4) SPECIAL RULE.—In paragraph (3), the term “criteria for approval of a plan or application”, with respect to a State and a core program or a program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), includes a requirement for agreement between the State

and the appropriate Secretaries regarding State performance measures or State performance accountability measures, as the case may be, including levels of performance.

(d) APPROPRIATE SECRETARY.—In this section, the term “appropriate Secretary” means—

(1) with respect to the portion of a combined plan relating to any of the core programs (including a description, and an assurance concerning that program, specified in subsection (b)(3)), the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education; and

(2) with respect to the portion of a combined plan relating to a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) (including a description, and an assurance concerning that program or activity, specified in subsection (b)(3)), the head of the Federal agency who exercises plan or application approval authority for the program or activity under the Federal law authorizing the program or activity, or, if there are no planning or application requirements for such program or activity, exercises administrative authority over the program or activity under that Federal law.

CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 106. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

(a) REGIONS.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION.—Before the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act, in order for a State to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b) and as part of the process for developing the State plan, a State shall identify regions in the State after consultation with the local boards and chief elected officials in the local areas and consistent with the considerations described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(2) TYPES OF REGIONS.—For purposes of this Act, the State shall identify—

(A) which regions are comprised of 1 local area that is aligned with the region;

(B) which regions are comprised of 2 or more local areas that are (collectively) aligned with the region (referred to as planning regions, consistent with section 3); and

(C) which, of the regions described in subparagraph (B), are interstate areas contained within 2 or more States, and consist of labor market areas, economic development areas, or other appropriate contiguous subareas of those States.

(b) LOCAL AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) PROCESS.—Except as provided in subsection (d), and consistent with paragraphs (2) and (3), in order for a State to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b), the Governor of the State shall designate local workforce development areas within the State—

(i) through consultation with the State board; and

(ii) after consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, and after consideration of comments received through the public comment process as described in section 102(b)(2)(E)(iii)(II).

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Governor shall designate local areas (except for those local areas described in paragraphs (2) and (3)) based on considerations consisting of the extent to which the areas—

(i) are consistent with labor market areas in the State;

(ii) are consistent with regional economic development areas in the State; and

(iii) have available the Federal and non-Federal resources necessary to effectively administer activities under subtitle B and

other applicable provisions of this Act, including whether the areas have the appropriate education and training providers, such as institutions of higher education and area career and technical education schools.

(2) **INITIAL DESIGNATION.**—During the first 2 full program years following the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor shall approve a request for initial designation as a local area from any area that was designated as a local area for purposes of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for the 2-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act, performed successfully, and sustained fiscal integrity.

(3) **SUBSEQUENT DESIGNATION.**—After the period for which a local area is initially designated under paragraph (2), the Governor shall approve a request for subsequent designation as a local area from such local area, if such area—

(A) performed successfully;

(B) sustained fiscal integrity; and

(C) in the case of a local area in a planning region, met the requirements described in subsection (c)(1).

(4) **DESIGNATION ON RECOMMENDATION OF STATE BOARD.**—The Governor may approve a request from any unit of general local government (including a combination of such units) for designation of an area as a local area if the State board determines, based on the considerations described in paragraph (1)(B), and recommends to the Governor, that such area should be so designated.

(5) **APPEALS.**—A unit of general local government (including a combination of such units) or grant recipient that requests but is not granted designation of an area as a local area under paragraph (2) or (3) may submit an appeal to the State board under an appeal process established in the State plan. If the appeal does not result in such a designation, the Secretary of Labor, after receiving a request for review from the unit or grant recipient and on determining that the unit or grant recipient was not accorded procedural rights under the appeals process described in the State plan, as specified in section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(III), or that the area meets the requirements of paragraph (2) or (3), may require that the area be designated as a local area under such paragraph.

(6) **REDESIGNATION ASSISTANCE.**—On the request of all of the local areas in a planning region, the State shall provide funding from funds made available under sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) to assist the local areas in carrying out activities to facilitate the redesignation of the local areas to a single local area.

(c) **REGIONAL COORDINATION.**—

(1) **REGIONAL PLANNING.**—The local boards and chief elected officials in each planning region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) shall engage in a regional planning process that results in—

(A) the preparation of a regional plan, as described in paragraph (2);

(B) the establishment of regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements;

(C) the development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region;

(D) the collection and analysis of regional labor market data (in conjunction with the State);

(E) the establishment of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate, for the region;

(F) the coordination of transportation and other supportive services, as appropriate, for the region;

(G) the coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers; and

(H) the establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures described in section 116(c), for local areas or the planning region.

(2) **REGIONAL PLANS.**—The State, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials for the planning regions, shall require the local boards and chief elected officials within a planning region to prepare, submit, and obtain approval of a single regional plan that includes a description of the activities described in paragraph (1) and that incorporates local plans for each of the local areas in the planning region. The State shall provide technical assistance and labor market data, as requested by local areas, to assist with such regional planning and subsequent service delivery efforts.

(3) **REFERENCES.**—In this Act, and the core program provisions that are not in this Act:

(A) **LOCAL AREA.**—Except as provided in section 101(d)(9), this section, paragraph (1)(B) or (4) of section 107(c), or section 107(d)(12)(B), or in any text that provides an accompanying provision specifically for a planning region, the term “local area” in a provision includes a reference to a planning region for purposes of implementation of that provision by the corresponding local areas in the region.

(B) **LOCAL PLAN.**—Except as provided in this subsection, the term “local plan” includes a reference to the portion of a regional plan developed with respect to the corresponding local area within the region, and any regionwide provision of that plan that impacts or relates to the local area.

(d) **SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREAS.**—

(1) **CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS DESIGNATION.**—The Governor of any State that was a single State local area for purposes of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on July 1, 2013, may designate the State as a single State local area for purposes of this title. In the case of such designation, the Governor shall identify the State as a local area in the State plan.

(2) **EFFECT ON LOCAL PLAN AND LOCAL FUNCTIONS.**—In any case in which a State is designated as a local area pursuant to this subsection, the local plan prepared under section 108 for the area shall be submitted for approval as part of the State plan. In such a State, the State board shall carry out the functions of a local board, as specified in this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, but the State shall not be required to meet and report on a set of local performance accountability measures.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

(1) **PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY.**—The term “performed successfully”, used with respect to a local area, means the local area met or exceeded the adjusted levels of performance for primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) (or, if applicable, core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for each of the last 2 consecutive years for which data are available preceding the determination of performance under this paragraph.

(2) **SUSTAINED FISCAL INTEGRITY.**—The term “sustained fiscal integrity”, used with respect to a local area, means that the Secretary has not made a formal determination,

during either of the last 2 consecutive years preceding the determination regarding such integrity, that either the grant recipient or the administrative entity of the area misexpended funds provided under subtitle B (or, if applicable, title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 as in effect prior to the effective date of such subtitle B) due to willful disregard of the requirements of the provision involved, gross negligence, or failure to comply with accepted standards of administration.

SEC. 107. LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Except as provided in subsection (c)(2)(A), there shall be established, and certified by the Governor of the State, a local workforce development board in each local area of a State to carry out the functions described in subsection (d) (and any functions specified for the local board under this Act or the provisions establishing a core program) for such area.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **STATE CRITERIA.**—The Governor, in partnership with the State board, shall establish criteria for use by chief elected officials in the local areas for appointment of members of the local boards in such local areas in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) **COMPOSITION.**—Such criteria shall require that, at a minimum—

(A) a majority of the members of each local board shall be representatives of business in the local area, who—

(i) are owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority;

(ii) represent businesses, including small businesses, or organizations representing businesses described in this clause, that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area; and

(iii) are appointed from among individuals nominated by local business organizations and business trade associations;

(B) not less than 20 percent of the members of each local board shall be representatives of the workforce within the local area, who—

(i) shall include representatives of labor organizations (for a local area in which employees are represented by labor organizations), who have been nominated by local labor federations, or (for a local area in which no employees are represented by such organizations) other representatives of employees;

(ii) shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such joint program exists in the area, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the area, if such a program exists;

(iii) may include representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

(iv) may include representatives of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth;

(C) each local board shall include representatives of entities administering education and training activities in the local area, who—

(i) shall include a representative of eligible providers administering adult education and literacy activities under title II;

(ii) shall include a representative of institutions of higher education providing workforce investment activities (including community colleges);

(iii) may include representatives of local educational agencies, and of community-based organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the education or training needs of individuals with barriers to employment;

(D) each local board shall include representatives of governmental and economic and community development entities serving the local area, who—

(i) shall include a representative of economic and community development entities;

(ii) shall include an appropriate representative from the State employment service office under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) serving the local area;

(iii) shall include an appropriate representative of the programs carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), serving the local area;

(iv) may include representatives of agencies or entities administering programs serving the local area relating to transportation, housing, and public assistance; and

(v) may include representatives of philanthropic organizations serving the local area; and

(E) each local board may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate.

(3) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The members of the local board shall elect a chairperson for the local board from among the representatives described in paragraph (2)(A).

(4) **STANDING COMMITTEES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board may designate and direct the activities of standing committees to provide information and to assist the local board in carrying out activities under this section. Such standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the local board, may include other members of the local board, and shall include other individuals appointed by the local board who are not members of the local board and who the local board determines have appropriate experience and expertise. At a minimum, the local board may designate each of the following:

(i) A standing committee to provide information and assist with operational and other issues relating to the one-stop delivery system, which may include as members representatives of the one-stop partners.

(ii) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth, which shall include community-based organizations with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth.

(iii) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with operational and other issues relating to the provision of services to individuals with disabilities, including issues relating to compliance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding providing programmatic and physical access to

the services, programs, and activities of the one-stop delivery system, as well as appropriate training for staff on providing supports for or accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for, individuals with disabilities.

(B) **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The local board may designate standing committees in addition to the standing committees specified in subparagraph (A).

(C) **DESIGNATION OF ENTITY.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the designation of an existing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) entity, such as an effective youth council, to fulfill the requirements of this paragraph as long as the entity meets the requirements of this paragraph.

(5) **AUTHORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS.**—Members of the board that represent organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with optimum policymaking authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities. The members of the board shall represent diverse geographic areas within the local area.

(6) **SPECIAL RULE.**—If there are multiple eligible providers serving the local area by administering adult education and literacy activities under title II, or multiple institutions of higher education serving the local area by providing workforce investment activities, each representative on the local board described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (2)(C), respectively, shall be appointed from among individuals nominated by local providers representing such providers or institutions, respectively.

(c) **APPOINTMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF BOARD.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The chief elected official in a local area is authorized to appoint the members of the local board for such area, in accordance with the State criteria established under subsection (b).

(B) **MULTIPLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AREA.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In a case in which a local area includes more than 1 unit of general local government, the chief elected officials of such units may execute an agreement that specifies the respective roles of the individual chief elected officials—

(I) in the appointment of the members of the local board from the individuals nominated or recommended to be such members in accordance with the criteria established under subsection (b); and

(II) in carrying out any other responsibilities assigned to such officials under this title.

(ii) **LACK OF AGREEMENT.**—If, after a reasonable effort, the chief elected officials are unable to reach agreement as provided under clause (i), the Governor may appoint the members of the local board from individuals so nominated or recommended.

(C) **CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.**—In the case of an area that was designated as a local area in accordance with section 116(a)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), and that remains a local area on that date, the governing body of the concentrated employment program involved shall act in consultation with the chief elected official in the local area to appoint members of the local board, in accordance with the State criteria established under subsection (b), and to carry out any other responsibility relating to workforce investment activities assigned to such official under this Act.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor shall, once every 2 years, certify 1 local board for each local area in the State.

(B) **CRITERIA.**—Such certification shall be based on criteria established under subsection (b), and for a second or subsequent certification, the extent to which the local board has ensured that workforce investment activities carried out in the local area have enabled the local area to meet the corresponding performance accountability measures and achieve sustained fiscal integrity, as defined in section 106(e)(2).

(C) **FAILURE TO ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION.**—Failure of a local board to achieve certification shall result in appointment and certification of a new local board for the local area pursuant to the process described in paragraph (1) and this paragraph.

(3) **DECERTIFICATION.**—

(A) **FRAUD, ABUSE, FAILURE TO CARRY OUT FUNCTIONS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Governor shall have the authority to decertify a local board at any time after providing notice and an opportunity for comment, for—

(i) fraud or abuse; or

(ii) failure to carry out the functions specified for the local board in subsection (d).

(B) **NONPERFORMANCE.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Governor may decertify a local board if a local area fails to meet the local performance accountability measures for such local area in accordance with section 116(c) for 2 consecutive program years.

(C) **REORGANIZATION PLAN.**—If the Governor decertifies a local board for a local area under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Governor may require that a new local board be appointed and certified for the local area pursuant to a reorganization plan developed by the Governor, in consultation with the chief elected official in the local area and in accordance with the criteria established under subsection (b).

(4) **SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREA.**—

(A) **STATE BOARD.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b) and paragraphs (1) and (2), if a State described in section 106(d) indicates in the State plan that the State will be treated as a single State local area, for purposes of the application of this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, the State board shall carry out any of the functions of a local board under this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, including the functions described in subsection (d).

(B) **REFERENCES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), with respect to such a State, a reference in this Act or a core program provision to a local board shall be considered to be a reference to the State board, and a reference in the Act or provision to a local area or region shall be considered to be a reference to the State.

(ii) **PLANS.**—The State board shall prepare a local plan under section 108 for the State, and submit the plan for approval as part of the State plan.

(iii) **PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—The State shall not be required to meet and report on a set of local performance accountability measures.

(d) **FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.**—Consistent with section 108, the functions of the local board shall include the following:

(1) **LOCAL PLAN.**—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor that meets the requirements in section 108. If the local area is part of a planning region that includes

other local areas, the local board shall collaborate with the other local boards and chief elected officials from such other local areas in the preparation and submission of a regional plan as described in section 106(c)(2).

(2) **WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.**—In order to assist in the development and implementation of the local plan, the local board shall—

(A) carry out analyses of the economic conditions in the region, the needed knowledge and skills for the region, the workforce in the region, and workforce development activities (including education and training) in the region described in section 108(b)(1)(D), and regularly update such information;

(B) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), specifically in the collection, analysis, and utilization of workforce and labor market information for the region; and

(C) conduct such other research, data collection, and analysis related to the workforce needs of the regional economy as the board, after receiving input from a wide array of stakeholders, determines to be necessary to carry out its functions.

(3) **CONVENING, BROKERING, LEVERAGING.**—The local board shall convene local workforce development system stakeholders to assist in the development of the local plan under section 108 and in identifying non-Federal expertise and resources to leverage support for workforce development activities. The local board, including standing committees, may engage such stakeholders in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

(4) **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.**—The local board shall lead efforts to engage with a diverse range of employers and with entities in the region involved—

(A) to promote business representation (particularly representatives with optimal policymaking or hiring authority from employers whose employment opportunities reflect existing and emerging employment opportunities in the region) on the local board;

(B) to develop effective linkages (including the use of intermediaries) with employers in the region to support employer utilization of the local workforce development system and to support local workforce investment activities;

(C) to ensure that workforce investment activities meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the region, by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers; and

(D) to develop and implement proven or promising strategies for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers (such as the establishment of industry and sector partnerships), that provide the skilled workforce needed by employers in the region, and that expand employment and career advancement opportunities for workforce development system participants in in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(5) **CAREER PATHWAYS DEVELOPMENT.**—The local board, with representatives of secondary and postsecondary education programs, shall lead efforts in the local area to develop and implement career pathways within the local area by aligning the employment, training, education, and supportive services that are needed by adults and youth, particularly individuals with barriers to employment.

(6) **PROVEN AND PROMISING PRACTICES.**—The local board shall lead efforts in the local area to—

(A) identify and promote proven and promising strategies and initiatives for meeting the needs of employers, and workers and job-seekers (including individuals with barriers to employment) in the local workforce development system, including providing physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), to the one-stop delivery system; and

(B) identify and disseminate information on proven and promising practices carried out in other local areas for meeting such needs.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY.**—The local board shall develop strategies for using technology to maximize the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce development system for employers, and workers and job-seekers, by—

(A) facilitating connections among the intake and case management information systems of the one-stop partner programs to support a comprehensive workforce development system in the local area;

(B) facilitating access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system involved, including facilitating the access in remote areas;

(C) identifying strategies for better meeting the needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including strategies that augment traditional service delivery, and increase access to services and programs of the one-stop delivery system, such as improving digital literacy skills; and

(D) leveraging resources and capacity within the local workforce development system, including resources and capacity for services for individuals with barriers to employment.

(8) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area, shall—

(A)(i) conduct oversight for local youth workforce investment activities authorized under section 129(c), local employment and training activities authorized under subsections (c) and (d) of section 134, and the one-stop delivery system in the local area; and

(ii) ensure the appropriate use and management of the funds provided under subtitle B for the activities and system described in clause (i); and

(B) for workforce development activities, ensure the appropriate use, management, and investment of funds to maximize performance outcomes under section 116.

(9) **NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance accountability measures as described in section 116(c).

(10) **SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.**—

(A) **SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.**—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official for the local area—

(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

(B) **SELECTION OF YOUTH PROVIDERS.**—Consistent with section 123, the local board—

(i) shall identify eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities in the local area by awarding grants or contracts on a competitive basis (except as provided in sec-

tion 123(b)), based on the recommendations of the youth standing committee, if such a committee is established for the local area under subsection (b)(4); and

(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such providers.

(C) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.**—Consistent with section 122, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services in the local area.

(D) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF CAREER SERVICES.**—If the one-stop operator does not provide career services described in section 134(c)(2) in a local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of those career services in the local area by awarding contracts.

(E) **CONSUMER CHOICE REQUIREMENTS.**—Consistent with section 122 and paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 134(c), the local board shall work with the State to ensure there are sufficient numbers and types of providers of career services and training services (including eligible providers with expertise in assisting individuals with disabilities and eligible providers with expertise in assisting adults in need of adult education and literacy activities) serving the local area and providing the services involved in a manner that maximizes consumer choice, as well as providing opportunities that lead to competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

(11) **COORDINATION WITH EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board shall coordinate activities with education and training providers in the local area, including providers of workforce investment activities, providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II, providers of career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and local agencies administering plans under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741).

(B) **APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.**—The coordination described in subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) consistent with section 232—

(I) reviewing the applications to provide adult education and literacy activities under title II for the local area, submitted under such section to the eligible agency by eligible providers, to determine whether such applications are consistent with the local plan; and

(II) making recommendations to the eligible agency to promote alignment with such plan; and

(ii) replicating cooperative agreements in accordance with subparagraph (B) of section 101(a)(11) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)), and implementing cooperative agreements in accordance with that section with the local agencies administering plans under title I of that Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) and subject to section 121(f)), with respect to efforts that will enhance the provision of services to individuals with disabilities and other individuals, such as cross training of staff, technical assistance, use and sharing of information, cooperative efforts with employers, and other efforts at cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

(C) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—In this paragraph, the term “cooperative agreement” means an agreement entered into by a State designated agency or State designated unit

under subparagraph (A) of section 101(a)(11) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(12) BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) BUDGET.—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the local plan and the duties of the local board under this section, subject to the approval of the chief elected official.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—

(i) GRANT RECIPIENT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under sections 128 and 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

(II) DESIGNATION.—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in subclause (I).

(III) DISBURSAL.—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under subclause (II) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under subclause (II) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

(ii) GRANTS AND DONATIONS.—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

(iii) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—For purposes of carrying out duties under this Act, local boards may incorporate, and may operate as entities described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that are exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(13) ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—The local board shall annually assess the physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), of all one-stop centers in the local area.

(e) SUNSHINE PROVISION.—The local board shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the local board, including information regarding the local plan prior to submission of the plan, and regarding membership, the designation and certification of one-stop operators, and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities, and on request, minutes of formal meetings of the local board.

(f) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The local board may hire a director and other staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d) using funds available under sections 128(b) and 133(b) as described in section 128(b)(4).

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The local board shall establish and apply a set of objective qualifications for the position of director, that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities, to

meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the local board.

(3) LIMITATION ON RATE.—The director and staff described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the limitations on the payment of salaries and bonuses described in section 194(15).

(g) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) TRAINING SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no local board may provide training services.

(B) WAIVERS OF TRAINING PROHIBITION.—The Governor of the State in which a local board is located may, pursuant to a request from the local board, grant a written waiver of the prohibition set forth in subparagraph (A) (relating to the provision of training services) for a program of training services, if the local board—

(i) submits to the Governor a proposed request for the waiver that includes—

(I) satisfactory evidence that there is an insufficient number of eligible providers of such a program of training services to meet local demand in the local area;

(II) information demonstrating that the board meets the requirements for an eligible provider of training services under section 122; and

(III) information demonstrating that the program of training services prepares participants for an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the local area;

(ii) makes the proposed request available to eligible providers of training services and other interested members of the public for a public comment period of not less than 30 days; and

(iii) includes, in the final request for the waiver, the evidence and information described in clause (i) and the comments received pursuant to clause (ii).

(C) DURATION.—A waiver granted to a local board under subparagraph (B) shall apply for a period that shall not exceed the duration of the local plan. The waiver may be renewed for additional periods under subsequent local plans, not to exceed the durations of such subsequent plans, pursuant to requests from the local board, if the board meets the requirements of subparagraph (B) in making the requests.

(D) REVOCATION.—The Governor shall have the authority to revoke the waiver during the appropriate period described in subparagraph (C) if the Governor determines the waiver is no longer needed or that the local board involved has engaged in a pattern of inappropriate referrals to training services operated by the local board.

(2) CAREER SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—A local board may provide career services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official in the local area and the Governor.

(3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide a local board with the authority to mandate curricula for schools.

(h) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—A member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not—

(1) vote on a matter under consideration by the local board—

(A) regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents); or

(B) that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or

(2) engage in any other activity determined by the Governor to constitute a conflict of interest as specified in the State plan.

(i) ALTERNATIVE ENTITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of complying with subsections (a), (b), and (c), a State may use any local entity (including a local council, regional workforce development board, or similar entity) that—

(A) is established to serve the local area (or the service delivery area that most closely corresponds to the local area);

(B) was in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, pursuant to State law; and

(C) includes—

(i) representatives of business in the local area; and

(ii) (I) representatives of labor organizations (for a local area in which employees are represented by labor organizations), nominated by local labor federations; or

(II) other representatives of employees in the local area (for a local area in which no employees are represented by such organizations).

(2) REFERENCES.—A reference in this Act or a core program provision to a local board, shall include a reference to such an entity.

SEC. 108. LOCAL PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each local board shall develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive 4-year local plan, in partnership with the chief elected official. The local plan shall support the strategy described in the State plan in accordance with section 102(b)(1)(E), and otherwise be consistent with the State plan. If the local area is part of a planning region, the local board shall comply with section 106(c) in the preparation and submission of a regional plan. At the end of the first 2-year period of the 4-year local plan, each local board shall review the local plan and the local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall prepare and submit modifications to the local plan to reflect changes in labor market and economic conditions or in other factors affecting the implementation of the local plan.

(b) CONTENTS.—The local plan shall include—

(1) a description of the strategic planning elements consisting of—

(A) an analysis of the regional economic conditions including—

(i) existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(ii) the employment needs of employers in those industry sectors and occupations;

(B) an analysis of the knowledge and skills needed to meet the employment needs of the employers in the region, including employment needs in in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

(C) an analysis of the workforce in the region, including current labor force employment (and unemployment) data, and information on labor market trends, and the educational and skill levels of the workforce in the region, including individuals with barriers to employment;

(D) an analysis of the workforce development activities (including education and training) in the region, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of such services, and the capacity to provide such services, to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in the region;

(E) a description of the local board's strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including youth and individuals with barriers to employment), including goals relating to the performance accountability measures based on

primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) in order to support regional economic growth and economic self-sufficiency; and

(F) taking into account analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), a strategy to work with the entities that carry out the core programs to align resources available to the local area, to achieve the strategic vision and goals described in subparagraph (E);

(2) a description of the workforce development system in the local area that identifies the programs that are included in that system and how the local board will work with the entities carrying out core programs and other workforce development programs to support alignment to provide services, including programs of study authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), that support the strategy identified in the State plan under section 102(b)(1)(E);

(3) a description of how the local board, working with the entities carrying out core programs, will expand access to employment, training, education, and supportive services for eligible individuals, particularly eligible individuals with barriers to employment, including how the local board will facilitate the development of career pathways and co-enrollment, as appropriate, in core programs;

(4) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

(A) in order to—

(i) facilitate engagement of employers, including small employers and employers in in-demand industry sectors and occupations, in workforce development programs;

(ii) support a local workforce development system that meets the needs of businesses in the local area;

(iii) better coordinate workforce development programs and economic development; and

(iv) strengthen linkages between the one-stop delivery system and unemployment insurance programs; and

(B) that may include the implementation of initiatives such as incumbent worker training programs, on-the-job training programs, customized training programs, industry and sector strategies, career pathways initiatives, utilization of effective business intermediaries, and other business services and strategies, designed to meet the needs of employers in the corresponding region in support of the strategy described in paragraph (1)(F);

(5) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with economic development activities carried out in the region in which the local area is located (or planning region), and promote entrepreneurial skills training and microenterprise services;

(6) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

(A) a description of how the local board will ensure the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system and ensure that such providers meet the employment needs of local employers, and workers and jobseekers;

(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system, including in remote areas, through the use of technology and through other means;

(C) a description of how entities within the one-stop delivery system, including one-stop operators and the one-stop partners, will comply with section 188, if applicable, and

applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding the physical and programmatic accessibility of facilities, programs and services, technology, and materials for individuals with disabilities, including providing staff training and support for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(D) a description of the roles and resource contributions of the one-stop partners;

(7) a description and assessment of the type and availability of adult and dislocated worker employment and training activities in the local area;

(8) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide rapid response activities, as described in section 134(a)(2)(A);

(9) a description and assessment of the type and availability of youth workforce investment activities in the local area, including activities for youth who are individuals with disabilities, which description and assessment shall include an identification of successful models of such youth workforce investment activities;

(10) a description of how the local board will coordinate education and workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with relevant secondary and postsecondary education programs and activities to coordinate strategies, enhance services, and avoid duplication of services;

(11) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out under this title in the local area with the provision of transportation, including public transportation, and other appropriate supportive services in the local area;

(12) a description of plans and strategies for, and assurances concerning, maximizing coordination of services provided by the State employment service under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) and services provided in the local area through the one-stop delivery system, to improve service delivery and avoid duplication of services;

(13) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out under this title in the local area with the provision of adult education and literacy activities under title II in the local area, including a description of how the local board will carry out, consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) of section 107(d)(11) and section 232, the review of local applications submitted under title II;

(14) a description of the replicated cooperative agreements (as defined in section 107(d)(11)(f)) between the local board or other local entities described in section 101(a)(11)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)(B)) and the local office of a designated State agency or designated State unit administering programs carried out under title I of such Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) and subject to section 121(f)) in accordance with section 101(a)(11) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)) with respect to efforts that will enhance the provision of services to individuals with disabilities and to other individuals, such as cross training of staff, technical assistance, use and sharing of information, cooperative efforts with employers, and other efforts at cooperation, collaboration, and coordination;

(15) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(III), as de-

termined by the chief elected official or the Governor under section 107(d)(12)(B)(i);

(16) a description of the competitive process to be used to award the subgrants and contracts in the local area for activities carried out under this title;

(17) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 116(c), to be used to measure the performance of the local area and to be used by the local board for measuring the performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers under subtitle B, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

(18) a description of the actions the local board will take toward becoming or remaining a high-performing board, consistent with the factors developed by the State board pursuant to section 101(d)(6);

(19) a description of how training services under chapter 3 of subtitle B will be provided in accordance with section 134(c)(3)(G), including, if contracts for the training services will be used, how the use of such contracts will be coordinated with the use of individual training accounts under that chapter and how the local board will ensure informed customer choice in the selection of training programs regardless of how the training services are to be provided;

(20) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (d), to provide an opportunity for public comment, including comment by representatives of businesses and comment by representatives of labor organizations, and input into the development of the local plan, prior to submission of the plan;

(21) a description of how one-stop centers are implementing and transitioning to an integrated, technology-enabled intake and case management information system for programs carried out under this Act and programs carried out by one-stop partners; and

(22) such other information as the Governor may require.

(c) EXISTING ANALYSIS.—As appropriate, a local area may use an existing analysis in order to carry out the requirements of subsection (b)(1) concerning an analysis.

(d) PROCESS.—Prior to the date on which the local board submits a local plan under this section, the local board shall—

(1) make available copies of a proposed local plan to the public through electronic and other means, such as public hearings and local news media;

(2) allow members of the public, including representatives of business, representatives of labor organizations, and representatives of education to submit to the local board comments on the proposed local plan, not later than the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the proposed local plan is made available; and

(3) include with the local plan submitted to the Governor under this section any such comments that represent disagreement with the plan.

(e) PLAN SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—A local plan submitted to the Governor under this section (including a modification to such a local plan) shall be considered to be approved by the Governor at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Governor receives the plan (including such a modification), unless the Governor makes a written determination during the 90-day period that—

(1) deficiencies in activities carried out under this subtitle or subtitle B have been identified, through audits conducted under section 184 or otherwise, and the local area

has not made acceptable progress in implementing corrective measures to address the deficiencies;

(2) the plan does not comply with the applicable provisions of this Act; or

(3) the plan does not align with the State plan, including failing to provide for alignment of the core programs to support the strategy identified in the State plan in accordance with section 102(b)(1)(E).

CHAPTER 3—BOARD PROVISIONS

SEC. 111. FUNDING OF STATE AND LOCAL BOARDS.

(a) STATE BOARDS.—In funding a State board under this subtitle, a State—

(1) shall use funds available as described in section 129(b)(3) or 134(a)(3)(B); and

(2) may use non-Federal funds available to the State that the State determines are appropriate and available for that use.

(b) LOCAL BOARDS.—In funding a local board under this subtitle, the chief elected official and local board for the local area—

(1) shall use funds available as described in section 128(b)(4); and

(2) may use non-Federal funds available to the local area that the chief elected official and local board determine are appropriate and available for that use.

CHAPTER 4—PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 116. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish performance accountability measures that apply across the core programs to assess the effectiveness of States and local areas (for core programs described in subtitle B) in achieving positive outcomes for individuals served by those programs.

(b) STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each State, the performance accountability measures for the core programs shall consist of—

(A)(i) the primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(ii) the additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(A) PRIMARY INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The State primary indicators of performance for activities provided under the adult and dislocated worker programs authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, the program of adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II, the employment services program authorized under sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) (except that subclauses (IV) and (V) shall not apply to such program), and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of—

(I) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(II) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the program;

(III) the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(IV) the percentage of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (iii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program;

(V) the percentage of program participants who, during a program year, are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable skill gains toward such a credential or employment; and

(VI) the indicators of effectiveness in serving employers established pursuant to clause (iv).

(ii) PRIMARY INDICATORS FOR ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The primary indicators of performance for the youth program authorized under chapter 2 of subtitle B shall consist of—

(I) the percentage of program participants who are in education or training activities, or in unsubsidized employment, during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(II) the percentage of program participants who are in education or training activities, or in unsubsidized employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the program; and

(III) the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (III) through (VI) of subparagraph (A)(i).

(iii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), or clause (ii)(III) with respect to clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants, in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent, have obtained or retained employment or are in an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within 1 year after exit from the program.

(iv) INDICATOR FOR SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS.—Prior to the commencement of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of clauses (i)(VI), or clause (ii)(III) with respect to clause (i)(IV), the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with the representatives described in paragraph (4)(B), shall jointly develop and establish, for purposes of this subparagraph, 1 or more primary indicators of performance that indicate the effectiveness of the core programs in serving employers.

(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional performance accountability indicators.

(3) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(A) STATE ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE FOR PRIMARY INDICATORS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each State submitting a State plan, there shall be established, in accordance with this subparagraph, levels of performance for each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2) for each of the programs described in clause (ii).

(ii) INCLUDED PROGRAMS.—The programs included under clause (i) are—

(I) the youth program authorized under chapter 2 of subtitle B;

(II) the adult program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B;

(III) the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B;

(IV) the program of adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II;

(V) the employment services program authorized under sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.); and

(VI) the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741).

(iii) IDENTIFICATION IN STATE PLAN.—Each State shall identify, in the State plan, expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for the first 2 program years covered by the State plan.

(iv) AGREEMENT ON STATE ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(I) FIRST 2 YEARS.—The State shall reach agreement with the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education on levels of performance for each indicator described in clause (iii) for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for each of the first 2 program years covered by the State plan. In reaching the agreement, the State and the Secretary of Labor in conjunction with the Secretary of Education shall take into account the levels identified in the State plan under clause (iii) and the factors described in clause (v). The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the State adjusted levels of performance for the State for such program years and shall be incorporated into the State plan prior to the approval of such plan.

(II) THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR.—The State and the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall reach agreement, prior to the third program year covered by the State plan, on levels of performance for each indicator described in clause (iii) for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for each of the third and fourth program years covered by the State plan. In reaching the agreement, the State and Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall take into account the factors described in clause (v). The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the State adjusted levels of performance for the State for such program years and shall be incorporated into the State plan as a modification to the plan.

(v) FACTORS.—In reaching the agreements described in clause (iv), the State and Secretaries shall—

(I) take into account how the levels involved compare with the State adjusted levels of performance established for other States;

(II) ensure that the levels involved are adjusted, using the objective statistical model established by the Secretaries pursuant to clause (viii), based on—

(aa) the differences among States in actual economic conditions (including differences in unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries); and

(bb) the characteristics of participants when the participants entered the program involved, including indicators of poor work history, lack of work experience, lack of educational or occupational skills attainment, dislocation from high-wage and high-benefit employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status, homelessness, ex-offender status, and welfare dependency;

(III) take into account the extent to which the levels involved promote continuous improvement in performance accountability on the performance accountability measures by such State and ensure optimal return on the investment of Federal funds; and

(IV) take into account the extent to which the levels involved will assist the State in meeting the goals described in clause (vi).

(vi) GOALS.—In order to promote enhanced performance outcomes and to facilitate the

process of reaching agreements with the States under clause (iv), the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall establish performance goals for the core programs, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; 107 Stat. 285) and the amendments made by that Act, and in consultation with States and other appropriate parties. Such goals shall be long-term goals for the adjusted levels of performance to be achieved by each of the programs described in clause (ii) regarding the corresponding primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A).

(vii) REVISIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SERVED DURING THE PROGRAM YEAR.—The Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall, in accordance with the objective statistical model developed pursuant to clause (viii), revise the State adjusted levels of performance applicable for each of the programs described in clause (ii), for a program year and a State, to reflect the actual economic conditions and characteristics of participants (as described in clause (v)(II)) in that program during such program year in such State.

(viii) STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENT MODEL.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with the representatives described in paragraph (4)(B), shall develop and disseminate an objective statistical model that will be used to make the adjustments in the State adjusted levels of performance for actual economic conditions and characteristics of participants under clauses (v) and (vii).

(B) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—The State may identify, in the State plan, State levels of performance for each of the additional indicators identified under paragraph (2)(B). Such levels shall be considered to be State adjusted levels of performance for purposes of this section.

(4) DEFINITIONS OF INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure nationwide comparability of performance data, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with representatives described in subparagraph (B), shall issue definitions for the indicators described in paragraph (2).

(B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The representatives referred to in subparagraph (A) are representatives of States and political subdivisions, business and industry, employees, eligible providers of activities carried out through the core programs, educators, researchers, participants, the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs carried out through the core programs, individuals with expertise in serving individuals with barriers to employment, and other interested parties.

(C) LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR SUBTITLE B.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each local area in a State designated under section 106, the local performance accountability measures for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (III) of subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) shall consist of—

(A)(i) the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs; and

(ii) additional indicators of performance, if any, identified by the State for such programs under subsection (b)(2)(B); and

(B) the local level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

(2) LOCAL LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local levels of performance based on the State adjusted levels of performance established under subsection (b)(3)(A).

(3) ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.—In negotiating the local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall make adjustments for the expected economic conditions and the expected characteristics of participants to be served in the local area, using the statistical adjustment model developed pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(A)(viii). In addition, the negotiated local levels of performance applicable to a program year shall be revised to reflect the actual economic conditions experienced and the characteristics of the populations served in the local area during such program year using the statistical adjustment model.

(d) PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall develop a template for performance reports that shall be used by States, local boards, and eligible providers of training services under section 122 to report on outcomes achieved by the core programs. In developing such templates, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, will take into account the need to maximize the value of the templates for workers, jobseekers, employers, local elected officials, State officials, Federal policymakers, and other key stakeholders.

(2) CONTENTS OF STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The performance report for a State shall include, subject to paragraph (5)(C)—

(A) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) and the State adjusted levels of performance with respect to such indicators for each program;

(B) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) with respect to individuals with barriers to employment, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age;

(C) the total number of participants served by each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(D) the number of participants who received career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years, and the amount of funds spent on each type of service;

(E) the number of participants who exited from career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(F) the average cost per participant of those participants who received career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(G) the percentage of participants in a program authorized under this subtitle who received training services and obtained unsubsidized employment in a field related to the training received;

(H) the number of individuals with barriers to employment served by each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii),

disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals;

(I) the number of participants who are enrolled in more than 1 of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(J) the percentage of the State's annual allotment under section 132(b) that the State spent on administrative costs;

(K) in the case of a State in which local areas are implementing pay-for-performance contract strategies for programs—

(i) the performance of service providers entering into contracts for such strategies, measured against the levels of performance specified in the contracts for such strategies; and

(ii) an evaluation of the design of the programs and performance of the strategies, and, where possible, the level of satisfaction with the strategies among employers and participants benefitting from the strategies; and

(L) other information that facilitates comparisons of programs with programs in other States.

(3) CONTENTS OF LOCAL AREA PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The performance reports for a local area shall include, subject to paragraph (6)(C)—

(A) the information specified in subparagraphs (A) through (L) of paragraph (2), for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (III) of subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(B) the percentage of the local area's allocation under sections 128(b) and 133(b) that the local area spent on administrative costs; and

(C) other information that facilitates comparisons of programs with programs in other local areas (or planning regions, as appropriate).

(4) CONTENTS OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The performance report for an eligible provider of training services under section 122 shall include, subject to paragraph (6)(C), with respect to each program of study (or the equivalent) of such provider—

(A) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) with respect to all individuals engaging in the program of study (or the equivalent);

(B) the total number of individuals exiting from the program of study (or the equivalent);

(C) the total number of participants who received training services through each of the adult program and the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(D) the total number of participants who exited from training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(E) the average cost per participant for the participants who received training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years; and

(F) the number of individuals with barriers to employment served by each of the adult program and the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age.

(5) **DATA VALIDATION.**—In preparing the State reports described in this subsection, each State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

(6) **PUBLICATION.**—

(A) **STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall annually make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the performance reports for States containing the information described in paragraph (2).

(B) **LOCAL AREA AND ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The State shall make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the performance reports for the local areas containing the information described in paragraph (3) and the performance reports for eligible providers of training services containing the information described in paragraph (4).

(C) **RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.**—The disaggregation of data under this subsection shall not be required when the number of participants in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or when the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual participant.

(D) **DISSEMINATION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall make available (including by electronic means) a summary of the reports, and the reports, required under this subsection to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. The Secretaries shall prepare and make available with the reports a set of recommendations for improvements in and adjustments to pay-for-performance contract strategies used under subtitle B.

(e) **EVALUATION OF STATE PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds authorized under a core program and made available to carry out this section, the State, in coordination with local boards in the State and the State agencies responsible for the administration of the core programs, shall conduct ongoing evaluations of activities carried out in the State under such programs. The State, local boards, and State agencies shall conduct the evaluations in order to promote, establish, implement, and utilize methods for continuously improving core program activities in order to achieve high-level performance within, and high-level outcomes from, the workforce development system. The State shall coordinate the evaluations with the evaluations provided for by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education under section 169, section 242(c)(2)(D), and sections 12(a)(5), 14, and 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 709(a)(5), 711, 727) (applied with respect to programs carried out under title I of that Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.)) and the investigations provided for by the Secretary of Labor under section 10(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491(b)).

(2) **DESIGN.**—The evaluations conducted under this subsection shall be designed in conjunction with the State board, State agencies responsible for the administration of the core programs, and local boards and shall include analysis of customer feedback and outcome and process measures in the statewide workforce development system. The evaluations shall use designs that em-

ploy the most rigorous analytical and statistical methods that are reasonably feasible, such as the use of control groups.

(3) **RESULTS.**—The State shall annually prepare, submit to the State board and local boards in the State, and make available to the public (including by electronic means), reports containing the results of evaluations conducted under this subsection, to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce development system.

(4) **COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL EVALUATIONS.**—The State shall, to the extent practicable, cooperate in the conduct of evaluations (including related research projects) provided for by the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education under the provisions of Federal law identified in paragraph (1). Such cooperation shall include the provision of data (in accordance with appropriate privacy protections established by the Secretary of Labor), the provision of responses to surveys, and allowing site visits in a timely manner, for the Secretaries or their agents.

(f) **SANCTIONS FOR STATE FAILURE TO MEET STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) **STATES.**—

(A) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—If a State fails to meet the State adjusted levels of performance relating to indicators described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for a program for any program year, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall provide technical assistance, including assistance in the development of a performance improvement plan.

(B) **REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, or (except in the case of exceptional circumstances as determined by the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate) a State fails to submit a report under subsection (d) for any program year, the percentage of each amount that would (in the absence of this paragraph) be reserved by the Governor under section 128(a) for the immediately succeeding program year shall be reduced by 5 percentage points until such date as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines that the State meets such State adjusted levels of performance and has submitted such reports for the appropriate program years.

(g) **SANCTIONS FOR LOCAL AREA FAILURE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—If a local area fails to meet local performance accountability measures established under subsection (c) for the youth, adult, or dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 2 or 3 of subtitle B for a program described in subsection (d)(2)(A) for any program year, the Governor, or upon request by the Governor, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical assistance, which may include assistance in the development of a performance improvement plan or the development of a modified local plan (or regional plan).

(2) **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If such failure continues for a third consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, which shall include development of a reorganization plan through which the Governor shall—

(i) require the appointment and certification of a new local board, consistent with the criteria established under section 107(b);

(ii) prohibit the use of eligible providers and one-stop partners identified as achieving a poor level of performance; or

(iii) take such other significant actions as the Governor determines are appropriate.

(B) **APPEAL BY LOCAL AREA.**—

(i) **APPEAL TO GOVERNOR.**—The local board and chief elected official for a local area that is subject to a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan. In such case, the Governor shall make a final decision not later than 30 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(ii) **SUBSEQUENT ACTION.**—The local board and chief elected official for a local area may, not later than 30 days after receiving a decision from the Governor pursuant to clause (i), appeal such decision to the Secretary of Labor. In such case, the Secretary shall make a final decision not later than 30 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(C) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The decision made by the Governor under subparagraph (B)(i) shall become effective at the time the Governor issues the decision pursuant to such clause. Such decision shall remain effective unless the Secretary of Labor rescinds or revises such plan pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii).

(h) **ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY INCENTIVES.**—Using non-Federal funds, the Governor may establish incentives for local boards to implement pay-for-performance contract strategies for the delivery of training services described in section 134(c)(3) or activities described in section 129(c)(2) in the local areas served by the local boards.

(i) **FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds authorized under a core program and made available to carry out this chapter, the Governor, in coordination with the State board, the State agencies administering the core programs, local boards, and chief elected officials in the State, shall establish and operate a fiscal and management accountability information system based on guidelines established by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education after consultation with the Governors of States, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners. Such guidelines shall promote efficient collection and use of fiscal and management information for reporting and monitoring the use of funds authorized under the core programs and for preparing the annual report described in subsection (d).

(2) **WAGE RECORDS.**—In measuring the progress of the State on State and local performance accountability measures, a State shall utilize quarterly wage records, consistent with State law. The Secretary of Labor shall make arrangements, consistent with State law, to ensure that the wage records of any State are available to any other State to the extent that such wage records are required by the State in carrying out the State plan of the State or completing the annual report described in subsection (d).

(3) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—In carrying out the requirements of this Act, the State shall comply with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

Subtitle B—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Consistent with an approved State plan, the local board for a local area, with the agreement of the chief elected official for the local area, shall—

(1) develop and enter into the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c) with one-stop partners;

(2) designate or certify one-stop operators under subsection (d); and

(3) conduct oversight with respect to the one-stop delivery system in the local area.

(b) ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—

(1) REQUIRED PARTNERS.—

(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) in a local area shall—

(i) provide access through the one-stop delivery system to such program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the career services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities available at the one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

(ii) use a portion of the funds available for the program and activities to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the infrastructure costs of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c);

(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities; and

(v) provide representation on the State board to the extent provided under section 101.

(B) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—The programs and activities referred to in subparagraph (A) consist of—

(i) programs authorized under this title;

(ii) programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.);

(iii) adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II;

(iv) programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of title I of such Act (29 U.S.C. 732, 741);

(v) activities authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.);

(vi) career and technical education programs at the postsecondary level authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

(vii) activities authorized under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.);

(viii) activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code;

(ix) employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.);

(x) employment and training activities carried out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(xi) programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law);

(xii) programs authorized under section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532); and

(xiii) programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), subject to subparagraph (C).

(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity that carries out a program referred to in subparagraph (B)(xiii) shall be included in the one-stop partners for the local area, as a required

partner, for purposes of this Act and the other core program provisions that are not part of this Act, unless the Governor provides the notification described in clause (i).

(ii) NOTIFICATION.—The notification referred to in clause (i) is a notification that—

(I) is made in writing of a determination by the Governor not to include such entity in the one-stop partners described in clause (i); and

(II) is provided to the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this subtitle, and subtitles C through E, as the “Secretary”) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the local board and chief elected official, in addition to the entities described in paragraph (1), other entities that carry out workforce development programs described in subparagraph (B) may be one-stop partners for the local area and carry out the responsibilities described in paragraph (1)(A).

(B) PROGRAMS.—The programs referred to in subparagraph (A) may include—

(i) employment and training programs administered by the Social Security Administration, including the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–19);

(ii) employment and training programs carried out by the Small Business Administration;

(iii) programs authorized under section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4));

(iv) work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o));

(v) programs carried out under section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732);

(vi) programs authorized under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.); and

(vii) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including employment, education, and training programs provided by public libraries or in the private sector.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official, shall develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding (between the local board and the one-stop partners), consistent with paragraph (2), concerning the operation of the one-stop delivery system in the local area.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each memorandum of understanding shall contain—

(A) provisions describing—

(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated and delivered through such system;

(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, including—

(I) funding through cash and in-kind contributions (fairly evaluated), which contributions may include funding from philanthropic organizations or other private entities, or through other alternative financing options, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop delivery system operations; and

(II) funding of the infrastructure costs of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities;

(iv) methods to ensure the needs of workers and youth, and individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities, are addressed in the provision of necessary and appropriate access to services, including access to technology and materials, made available through the one-stop delivery system; and

(v) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the duration of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services; and

(B) such other provisions, consistent with the requirements of this title, as the parties to the agreement determine to be appropriate.

(d) ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—

(1) LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION.—Consistent with paragraphs (2) and (3), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official, is authorized to designate or certify one-stop operators and to terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive funds made available under this subtitle to operate a one-stop center referred to in subsection (e), an entity (which may be a consortium of entities)—

(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and

(B) shall be an entity (public, private, or nonprofit), or consortium of entities (including a consortium of entities that, at a minimum, includes 3 or more of the one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1)), of demonstrated effectiveness, located in the local area, which may include—

(i) an institution of higher education;

(ii) an employment service State agency established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), on behalf of the local office of the agency;

(iii) a community-based organization, nonprofit organization, or intermediary;

(iv) a private for-profit entity;

(v) a government agency; and

(vi) another interested organization or entity, which may include a local chamber of commerce or other business organization, or a labor organization.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Elementary schools and secondary schools shall not be eligible for designation or certification as one-stop operators, except that nontraditional public secondary schools and area career and technical education schools may be eligible for such designation or certification.

(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The State and local boards shall ensure that in carrying out activities under this title, one-stop operators—

(A) disclose any potential conflicts of interest arising from the relationships of the operators with particular training service providers or other service providers;

(B) do not establish practices that create disincentives to providing services to individuals with barriers to employment who may require longer-term services, such as intensive employment, training, and education services; and

(C) comply with Federal regulations, and procurement policies, relating to the calculation and use of profits.

(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in each local area in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

(A) provide the career services described in section 134(c)(2);

(B) provide access to training services as described in section 134(c)(3), including serving as the point of access to training services for participants in accordance with section 134(c)(3)(G);

(C) provide access to the employment and training activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners described in subsection (b); and

(E) provide access to the data, information, and analysis described in section 15(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(a)) and all job search, placement, recruitment, and other labor exchange services authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—The one-stop delivery system—

(A) at a minimum, shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than 1 physical center in each local area of the State; and

(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide 1 or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

(I) in which each partner provides 1 or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically or technologically linked access point; and

(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the career services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce development system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I);

(C) may have specialized centers to address special needs, such as the needs of dislocated workers, youth, or key industry sectors or clusters; and

(D) as applicable and practicable, shall make programs, services, and activities accessible to individuals through electronic means in a manner that improves efficiency, coordination, and quality in the delivery of one-stop partner services.

(3) COLOCATION OF WAGNER-PEYSER SERVICES.—Consistent with section 3(d) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(d)), and in order to improve service delivery, avoid duplication of services, and enhance coordination of services, including location of staff to ensure access to services in underserved areas, the employment service offices in each State shall be colocated with one-stop centers established under this title.

(4) USE OF COMMON ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM IDENTIFIER.—In addition to using any State or locally developed identifier, each one-stop delivery system shall include in the identification of products, programs, activities, services, facilities, and related property and materials, a common one-stop delivery system identifier. The identifier shall be developed by the Secretary, in consultation with heads of other appropriate departments and agencies, and representatives of State boards and local boards and of other stakeholders in the one-stop delivery system, not later than the beginning of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act. Such common identifier may con-

sist of a logo, phrase, or other identifier that informs users of the one-stop delivery system that such products, programs, activities, services, facilities, property, or materials are being provided through such system. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit one-stop partners, States, or local areas from having additional identifiers.

(F) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to part C of title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 741).

(2) CLIENT ASSISTANCE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require that any entity carrying out a client assistance program authorized under section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732)—

(A) be included as a mandatory one-stop partner under subsection (b)(1); or

(B) if the entity is included as an additional one-stop partner under subsection (b)(2)—

(i) violate the requirement of section 112(c)(1)(A) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 732(c)(1)(A)) that the entity be independent of any agency that provides treatment, services, or rehabilitation to individuals under that Act; or

(ii) carry out any activity not authorized under section 112 of that Act (including appropriate Federal regulations).

(G) CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive infrastructure funding described in subsection (h), the State board, in consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, shall establish objective criteria and procedures for use by local boards in assessing at least once every 3 years the effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq), and continuous improvement of one-stop centers and the one-stop delivery system, consistent with the requirements of section 101(d)(6).

(2) CRITERIA.—The criteria and procedures developed under this subsection shall include standards relating to service coordination achieved by the one-stop delivery system with respect to the programs administered by the one-stop partners at the one-stop centers. Such criteria and procedures shall—

(A) be developed in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines, guidance, and policies provided by the Governor and by the State board, in consultation with the chief elected officials and local boards, for such partners' participation under subsections (h)(1) and (i); and

(B) include such factors relating to the effectiveness, accessibility, and improvement of the one-stop delivery system as the State board determines to be appropriate, including at a minimum how well the one-stop center—

(i) supports the achievement of the negotiated local levels of performance for the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2) for the local area;

(ii) integrates available services; and

(iii) meets the workforce development and employment needs of local employers and participants.

(3) LOCAL CRITERIA.—Consistent with the criteria developed under paragraph (1) by the State, a local board in the State may develop additional criteria (or higher levels of service coordination than required for the State-developed criteria) relating to service coordination achieved by the one-stop delivery sys-

tem, for purposes of assessments described in paragraph (1), in order to respond to labor market, economic, and demographic, conditions and trends in the local area.

(4) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

(5) REVIEW AND UPDATE.—The criteria and procedures established under this subsection shall be reviewed and updated by the State board or the local board, as the case may be, as part of the biennial process for review and modification of State and local plans described in sections 102(c)(2) and 108(a).

(H) FUNDING OF ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) OPTIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

(i) LOCAL OPTIONS.—The local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1) in a local area may fund the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in the local area through—

(I) methods agreed on by the local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners (and described in the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c)); or

(II) if no consensus agreement on methods is reached under subclause (I), the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2).

(ii) FAILURE TO REACH CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON FUNDING METHODS.—Beginning July 1, 2016, if the local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1) in a local area fail to reach consensus agreement on methods of sufficiently funding the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers for a program year, the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2) shall be applicable to such local area for that program year and for each subsequent program year for which those entities and individuals fail to reach such agreement.

(B) GUIDANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—In addition to carrying out the requirements relating to the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2), the Governor, after consultation with chief elected officials, local boards, and the State board, and consistent with the guidance and policies provided by the State board under subparagraphs (B) and (C)(i) of section 101(d)(7), shall provide, for the use of local areas under subparagraph (A)(i)(I)—

(i) guidelines for State-administered one-stop partner programs, for determining such programs' contributions to a one-stop delivery system, based on such programs' proportionate use of such system consistent with chapter II of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling), including determining funding for the costs of infrastructure, which contributions shall be negotiated pursuant to the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c); and

(ii) guidance to assist local boards, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners in local areas in determining equitable and stable methods of funding the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in such areas.

(2) STATE ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.—

(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term "covered portion", used with respect to funding for a fiscal year for a program described in subsection (b)(1), means a portion determined under subparagraph (C) of the Federal funds provided to a State (including local areas within the State) under the Federal law authorizing that program described

in subsection (b)(1) for the fiscal year (taking into account the availability of funding for purposes related to infrastructure from philanthropic organizations, private entities, or other alternative financing options).

(B) **PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Subject to subparagraph (D), for local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), the covered portions of funding for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor from the programs described in subsection (b)(1), to assist in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in those local areas of the State not adequately funded under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I).

(C) **DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (D), the Governor, after consultation with chief elected officials, local boards, and the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (B) by each one-stop partner from each program described in subparagraph (B). In making such determination for the purpose of determining funding contributions, for funding pursuant to clause (i)(II) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) by each partner, the Governor shall calculate amounts for the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State, consistent with chapter II of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling), taking into account the costs of administration of the one-stop delivery system for purposes not related to one-stop centers, for each partner. The Governor shall exclude from such determination of funds the amounts for proportionate use of one-stop centers attributable to the programs of one-stop partners for those local areas of the State where the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers are funded under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I). The Governor shall also take into account the statutory requirements for each partner program and the partner program's ability to fulfill such requirements.

(ii) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In a State in which the State constitution or a State statute places policymaking authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II, postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), or vocational rehabilitation services offered under a provision covered by section 3(13)(D), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the programs authorized under that title, Act, or provision shall be made by the chief officer of the entity, or the official, with such authority in consultation with the Governor.

(D) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(i) **PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subclause (II), the funds provided under this paragraph by each one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the program's limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

(II) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Nothing in this clause shall be construed to apply to the programs carried out under this title, or under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(ii) **CAP ON REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.**—For local areas in a State that are not covered by

paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), the following rules shall apply:

(I) **WIA FORMULA PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.**—The portion of funds required to be contributed under this paragraph from a program authorized under chapter 2 or 3, or the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) shall not exceed 3 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out that program in the State for a fiscal year.

(II) **OTHER ONE-STOP PARTNERS.**—The portion of funds required to be contributed under this paragraph from a program described in subsection (b)(1) other than the programs described in subclause (I) shall not exceed 1.5 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out that program in the State for a fiscal year.

(III) **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.**—Notwithstanding subclauses (I) and (II), an entity administering a program described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) shall not be required to provide from that program, under this paragraph, a portion that exceeds—

(aa) 0.75 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out such program in the State for the second full program year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act;

(bb) 1.0 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the third full program year that begins after such date;

(cc) 1.25 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the fourth full program year that begins after such date; and

(dd) 1.5 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the fifth and each succeeding full program year that begins after such date.

(iii) **FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.**—For local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), an entity administering a program funded with direct spending as defined in section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as in effect on February 15, 2014 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not be required to provide, for purposes of this paragraph, an amount in excess of the amount determined under subparagraph (C)(i) to be equivalent to the cost of the proportionate use of the one-stop centers for the one-stop partner for such program in the State.

(iv) **NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.**—One-stop partners for Native American programs established under section 166 shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection (other than this clause) or subsection (i). For purposes of subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii)(II), the method for determining the appropriate portion of funds to be provided by such partners to pay for the costs of infrastructure of a one-stop center shall be determined as part of the development of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c) for the one-stop center and shall be stated in the memorandum.

(E) **APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.**—The Governor shall establish a process, described under section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(IV), for a one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b)(1) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph. Such a determination may be appealed under the process on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements of this paragraph. Such process shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal in order to ensure the funds are distributed in a timely manner, consistent with the requirements of section 182(e).

(3) **ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate the funds to local areas described in subparagraph (B) in accordance with the formula established under subparagraph (B) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers.

(B) **ALLOCATION FORMULA.**—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas not funding costs of infrastructure under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I). The formula shall be based on factors including the number of one-stop centers in a local area, the population served by such centers, the services provided by such centers, and other factors relating to the performance of such centers that the State board determines are appropriate.

(4) **COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.**—In this subsection, the term “costs of infrastructure”, used with respect to a one-stop center, means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of the one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities, the costs of utilities and maintenance, equipment (including assessment-related products and assistive technology for individuals with disabilities), and technology to facilitate access to the one-stop center, including the center's planning and outreach activities.

(i) **OTHER FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c) for the one-stop delivery system involved, in addition to the funds provided to carry out subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the programs described in subsection (b) and administered by one-stop partners, or the noncash resources available under such programs, shall be used to pay the additional costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid from the funds provided under subsection (h), as determined in accordance with paragraph (3), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such costs shall include the costs of the provision of career services described in section 134(c)(2) applicable to each program and may include common costs that are not paid from the funds provided under subsection (h).

(2) **SHARED SERVICES.**—The costs described under paragraph (1) may include costs of services that are authorized for and may be commonly provided through the one-stop partner programs to any individual, such as initial intake, assessment of needs, appraisal of basic skills, identification of appropriate services to meet such needs, referrals to other one-stop partners, and other similar services.

(3) **DETERMINATION AND GUIDANCE.**—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by the one-stop partner for each program under paragraph (1) for a one-stop center shall be determined as part of the development of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c) for the one-stop center and shall be stated in the memorandum. The State board shall provide guidance to facilitate the determination, for purposes of the memorandum of understanding, of an appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources in local areas, consistent with the requirements of section 101(d)(6)(C).

SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (h), the Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria, information requirements, and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services in local areas in the State.

(2) PROVIDERS.—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive those funds for the provision of training services, the provider shall be—

(A) an institution of higher education that provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

(B) an entity that carries out programs registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”); 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.; or

(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services, which may include joint labor-management organizations, and eligible providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II if such activities are provided in combination with occupational skills training.

(3) INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria, information requirements, and procedures established under this section to be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d). A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be included and maintained on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d) for so long as the corresponding program of the provider remains registered as described in paragraph (2)(B).

(b) CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) STATE CRITERIA.—In establishing criteria pursuant to subsection (a), the Governor shall take into account each of the following:

(A) The performance of providers of training services with respect to—

(i) the performance accountability measures and other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2); and

(ii) other appropriate measures of performance outcomes determined by the Governor for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle (taking into consideration the characteristics of the population served and relevant economic conditions), and the outcomes of the program through which those training services were provided for students in general with respect to employment and earnings as defined under section 116(b)(2).

(B) The need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas, and through the use of technology.

(C) Information reported to State agencies with respect to Federal and State programs involving training services (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs.

(D) The degree to which the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State.

(E) The requirements for State licensing of providers of training services, and the licensing status of providers of training services if applicable.

(F) Ways in which the criteria can encourage, to the extent practicable, the providers to use industry-recognized certificates or certifications.

(G) The ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials.

(H) The quality of a program of training services, including a program of training services that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

(I) The ability of the providers to provide training services to individuals who are employed and individuals with barriers to employment.

(J) Such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate to ensure—

(i) the accountability of the providers;

(ii) that the one-stop centers in the State will ensure that such providers meet the needs of local employers and participants;

(iii) the informed choice of participants among training services providers; and

(iv) that the collection of information required to demonstrate compliance with the criteria is not unduly burdensome or costly to providers.

(2) STATE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—The information requirements established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State, to enable the State to carry out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

(A) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance accountability measures described in section 116 for such participants (taking into consideration the characteristics of the population served and relevant economic conditions), and information specifying the percentage of such participants who entered unsubsidized employment in an occupation related to the program, to the extent practicable;

(B) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

(C) information on cost of attendance, including costs of tuition and fees, for participants in the program;

(D) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

(E) information on the criteria described in paragraph (1).

(3) LOCAL CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—A local board in the State may establish criteria and information requirements in addition to the criteria and information requirements established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required for the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services to receive funds described in subsection (a) for the provision of training services in the local area involved.

(4) CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TO ESTABLISH INITIAL ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this paragraph is to enable the providers of programs carried out under chapter 3 to offer the highest quality training services and be responsive to in-demand and emerging industries by providing training services for those industries.

(B) INITIAL ELIGIBILITY.—Providers may seek initial eligibility under this paragraph as providers of training services and may receive that initial eligibility for only 1 fiscal year for a particular program. The criteria and information requirements established by the Governor under this paragraph shall require that a provider who has not previously been an eligible provider of training services under this section (or section 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in ef-

fect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) provide the information described in subparagraph (C).

(C) INFORMATION.—The provider shall provide verifiable program-specific performance information based on criteria established by the State as described in subparagraph (D) that supports the provider's ability to serve participants under this subtitle.

(D) CRITERIA.—The criteria described in subparagraph (C) shall include at least—

(i) a factor related to indicators described in section 116;

(ii) a factor concerning whether the provider is in a partnership with business;

(iii) other factors that indicate high-quality training services, including the factor described in paragraph (1)(H); and

(iv) a factor concerning alignment of the training services with in-demand industry sectors and occupations, to the extent practicable.

(E) PROVISION.—The provider shall provide the information described in subparagraph (C) to the Governor and the local board in a manner that will permit the Governor and the local board to make a decision on inclusion of the provider on the list of eligible providers described in subsection (d).

(F) LIMITATION.—A provider that receives initial eligibility under this paragraph for a program shall be subject to the requirements under subsection (c) for that program after such initial eligibility expires.

(c) PROCEDURES.—

(1) APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall identify the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services. The procedures shall identify the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing the applications and in making determinations of such eligibility based on the criteria, information, and procedures established under this section. The procedures shall also establish a process for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

(2) RENEWAL PROCEDURES.—The procedures established by the Governor shall also provide for biennial review and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

(d) LIST AND INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to facilitate and assist participants in choosing employment and training activities and in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined to be eligible under this section to offer a program in the State (and, as appropriate, in a local area), accompanied by information identifying the recognized postsecondary credential offered by the provider and other appropriate information, is prepared. The list shall be provided to the local boards in the State, and made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

(2) ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION.—The accompanying information shall—

(A) with respect to providers described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of subsection (a)(2), consist of information provided by such providers, disaggregated by local areas served, as applicable, in accordance with subsection (b);

(B) with respect to providers described in subsection (b)(4), consist of information provided by such providers in accordance with subsection (b)(4); and

(C) such other information as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

(3) **AVAILABILITY.**—The list and the accompanying information shall be made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State, in a manner that does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual participant.

(4) **LIMITATION.**—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, may be disclosed without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(e) **OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.**—In establishing, under this section, criteria, information requirements, procedures, and the list of eligible providers described in subsection (d), the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to make recommendations and submit comments regarding such criteria, information requirements, procedures, and list.

(f) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

(A) **INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.**—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, violated this section (or section 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) by intentionally supplying inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider to receive funds under chapter 3 shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

(B) **SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.**—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title (or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment), the eligibility of such provider to receive funds under chapter 3 for the program involved shall be terminated for a period of not less than 2 years.

(C) **REPAYMENT.**—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, or chapter 3 of this subtitle during a period of violation described in such subparagraph.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but shall not supplant, civil and criminal remedies and penalties specified in other provisions of law.

(g) **AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.**—States may enter into agreements, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept individual training accounts provided in another State.

(h) **ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, CUSTOMIZED TRAINING, INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING, AND OTHER TRAINING EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent

worker training, internships, and paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, or transitional employment shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (f).

(2) **COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, and transitional employment as the Governor may require, and use the information to determine whether the providers meet such performance criteria as the Governor may require. The one-stop operator shall disseminate information identifying such providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible providers of training services.

(i) **TRANSITION PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Governor and local boards shall implement the requirements of this section not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In order to facilitate early implementation of this section, the Governor may establish transition procedures under which providers eligible to provide training services under chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as such chapter was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, may continue to be eligible to provide such services until December 31, 2015, or until such earlier date as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 123. ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds allocated under section 128(b) to a local area, the local board for such area shall award grants or contracts on a competitive basis to providers of youth workforce investment activities identified based on the criteria in the State plan (including such quality criteria as the Governor shall establish for a training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential), and taking into consideration the ability of the providers to meet performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance for the youth program as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), as described in section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(V), and shall conduct oversight with respect to such providers.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—A local board may award grants or contracts on a sole-source basis if such board determines there is an insufficient number of eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities in the local area involved (such as a rural area) for grants and contracts to be awarded on a competitive basis under subsection (a).

CHAPTER 2—YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 126. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary shall make an allotment under section 127(b)(1)(C) to each State that meets the requirements of section 102 or 103 and a grant under section 127(b)(1)(B) to each outlying area that complies with the requirements of this title, to assist the State or outlying area, and to enable the State or outlying area to assist local areas, for the purpose of providing workforce investment activities for eligible youth in the State or outlying area and in the local areas.

SEC. 127. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) for each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 136(a) ex-

ceeds \$925,000,000, reserve 4 percent of the excess amount to provide youth workforce investment activities under section 167 (relating to migrant and seasonal farmworkers); and

(2) use the remainder of the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year to make allotments and grants in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.**—

(1) **YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—From the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year that is not reserved under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 ½ percent of such amount to provide youth workforce investment activities under section 166 (relating to Native Americans).

(B) **OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for each fiscal year that is not reserved under subsection (a)(1) and subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall reserve not more than ¼ of 1 percent of such amount to provide assistance to the outlying areas to carry out youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **LIMITATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(I) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall use funds reserved under clause (i) to award grants to outlying areas to carry out youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(II) **AWARD BASIS.**—The Secretary shall award grants pursuant to subclause (I) on a competitive basis and pursuant to the recommendations of experts in the field of employment and training, working through the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii.

(III) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The Secretary may provide not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for grants under subclause (I) to pay the administrative costs of the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii, regarding activities assisted under this clause.

(iii) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The provisions of section 501 of Public Law 95-134 (48 U.S.C. 1469a), permitting the consolidation of grants by the outlying areas, shall not apply to assistance provided to those areas, including Palau, under this subparagraph.

(C) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the remainder of the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year that exists after the Secretary determines the amounts to be reserved under subsection (a)(1) and subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall make allotments to the States in accordance with clause (ii) for youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clauses (iii) and (iv), of the remainder—

(I) 33 ⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

(II) 33 ⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) 33 ⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States, except as described in clause (iii).

(iii) **CALCULATION.**—In determining an allotment under clause (ii)(III) for any State

in which there is an area that was designated as a local area as described in section 107(c)(1)(C), the allotment shall be based on the higher of—

(I) the number of individuals who are age 16 through 21 in families with an income below the low-income level in such area; or

(II) the number of disadvantaged youth in such area.

(iv) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—In making allotments under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is less than the greater of—

(aa) an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year; or

(bb) 100 percent of the allotments of the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for fiscal year 2014.

(II) SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Subject to subclauses (I), (III), and (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this subparagraph that is less than the total of—

(aa) $\frac{3}{10}$ of 1 percent of \$1,000,000,000 of the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year; and

(bb) if the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year exceeds \$1,000,000,000, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the excess.

(III) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(IV) MINIMUM FUNDING.—In any fiscal year in which the remainder described in clause (i) does not exceed \$1,000,000,000, the minimum allotments under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be calculated by the methodology specified in section 127(b)(1)(C)(iv)(IV) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in paragraph (1)(C):

(A) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the remainder described in paragraph (1)(C)(i) that is received through an allotment made under paragraph (1)(C) for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means the percentage of the amount allotted to States under section 127(b)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that is received under such section by the State involved for fiscal year 2014.

(B) AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.—The term “area of substantial unemployment” means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 6.5 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this subparagraph, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

(C) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—Subject to paragraph (3), the term “disadvantaged youth” means an individual who is age 16 through 21 who received an income, or is a

member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

(i) the poverty line; or

(ii) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

(D) EXCESS NUMBER.—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the higher of—

(i) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State; or

(ii) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in areas of substantial unemployment in such State.

(E) LOW-INCOME LEVEL.—The term “low-income level” means \$7,000 with respect to income in 1969, and for any later year means that amount that bears the same relationship to \$7,000 as the Consumer Price Index for that year bears to the Consumer Price Index for 1969, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

(3) SPECIAL RULE.—For the purpose of the formula specified in paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, exclude college students and members of the Armed Forces from the determination of the number of disadvantaged youth.

(C) REALLOTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible States amounts that are made available to States from allotments made under this section or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “State allotment”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount available for reallocation for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the State allotment, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allotment for the prior program year.

(3) REALLOTMENT.—In making reallocations to eligible States of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount based on the relative amount of the State allotment for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the State allotments for all eligible States for such program year.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible State means a State that does not have an amount available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

(5) PROCEDURES.—The Governor shall prescribe uniform procedures for the obligation of funds by local areas within the State in order to avoid the requirement that funds be made available for reallocation under this subsection. The Governor shall further prescribe equitable procedures for making funds available from the State and local areas in the event that a State is required to make funds available for reallocation under this subsection.

SEC. 128. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor shall reserve not more than 15 percent of each of the

amounts allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) and paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b) for a fiscal year for statewide workforce investment activities.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Regardless of whether the reserved amounts were allotted under section 127(b)(1)(C), or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b), the Governor may use the reserved amounts to carry out statewide activities under section 129(b) or statewide employment and training activities, for adults or dislocated workers, under section 134(a).

(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.—

(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials and local boards in the local areas, shall allocate the funds that are allotted to the State for youth activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 127(b)(1)(C) and are not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3).

(2) FORMULA ALLOCATION.—

(A) YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—

(i) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas, a State may allocate—

(I) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 127(b)(1)(C)(ii)(I);

(II) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 127(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II); and

(III) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in clauses (ii)(III) and (iii) of section 127(b)(1)(C).

(ii) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for a fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph, for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2013 or 2014, means a percentage of the funds referred to in section 128(b)(1) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 128(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as so in effect), for the fiscal year 2013 or 2014, respectively.

(B) APPLICATION.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) references in section 127(b) to a State shall be deemed to be references to a local area;

(ii) references in section 127(b) to all States shall be deemed to be references to all local areas in the State involved; and

(iii) except as described in clause (i), references in section 127(b)(1) to the term “excess number” shall be considered to be references to the term as defined in section 127(b)(2).

(3) YOUTH DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATION.—In lieu of making the allocation described in paragraph (2), in allocating the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas, a State may distribute—

(A) a portion equal to not less than 70 percent of the funds in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) the remaining portion of the funds on the basis of a formula that—

(i) incorporates additional factors (other than the factors described in paragraph (2)(A)) relating to—

(I) excess youth poverty in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(II) excess unemployment above the State average in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(ii) was developed by the State board and approved by the Secretary as part of the State plan.

(4) LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this subsection and section 133(b) for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities under this chapter or chapter 3.

(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available for administrative costs under subparagraph (A) may be used for the administrative costs of any of the local workforce investment activities described in this chapter or chapter 3, regardless of whether the funds were allocated under this subsection or section 133(b).

(C) REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection and after consultation with the State board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are made available to local areas from allocations made under this section or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for youth workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “local allocation”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount available for reallocation for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year.

(3) REALLOCATION.—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means a local area that does not have an amount available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

SEC. 129. USE OF FUNDS FOR YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to participate in activities carried out under this chapter during any program year an individual shall, at the time the eligibility determination is made, be an out-of-school youth or an in-school youth.

(B) OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—In this title, the term “out-of-school youth” means an individual who is—

(i) not attending any school (as defined under State law);

(ii) not younger than age 16 or older than age 24; and

(iii) one or more of the following:

(I) A school dropout.

(II) A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not at-

tended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.

(III) A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is—

(aa) basic skills deficient; or

(bb) an English language learner.

(IV) An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.

(V) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement.

(VI) An individual who is pregnant or parenting.

(VII) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

(VIII) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

(C) IN-SCHOOL YOUTH.—In this section, the term “in-school youth” means an individual who is—

(i) attending school (as defined by State law);

(ii) not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under State law) older than age 21;

(iii) a low-income individual; and

(iv) one or more of the following:

(I) Basic skills deficient.

(II) An English language learner.

(III) An offender.

(IV) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement.

(V) Pregnant or parenting.

(VI) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

(VII) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—For the purpose of this subsection, the term “low-income”, used with respect to an individual, also includes a youth living in a high-poverty area.

(3) EXCEPTION AND LIMITATION.—

(A) EXCEPTION FOR PERSONS WHO ARE NOT LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.—

(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term “covered individual” means an in-school youth, or an out-of-school youth who is described in subclause (III) or (VIII) of paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

(ii) EXCEPTION.—In each local area, not more than 5 percent of the individuals assisted under this section may be persons who would be covered individuals, except that the persons are not low-income individuals.

(B) LIMITATION.—In each local area, not more than 5 percent of the in-school youth assisted under this section may be eligible under paragraph (1) because the youth are in-school youth described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv)(VII).

(4) OUT-OF-SCHOOL PRIORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For any program year, not less than 75 percent of the funds avail-

able for statewide activities under subsection (b), and not less than 75 percent of funds available to local areas under subsection (c), shall be used to provide youth workforce investment activities for out-of-school youth.

(B) EXCEPTION.—A State that receives a minimum allotment under section 127(b)(1) in accordance with section 127(b)(1)(C)(iv) or under section 132(b)(1) in accordance with section 132(b)(1)(B)(iv) may decrease the percentage described in subparagraph (A) to not less than 50 percent for a local area in the State, if—

(i) after an analysis of the in-school youth and out-of-school youth populations in the local area, the State determines that the local area will be unable to use at least 75 percent of the funds available for activities under subsection (c) to serve out-of-school youth due to a low number of out-of-school youth; and

(ii) (I) the State submits to the Secretary, for the local area, a request including a proposed percentage decreased to not less than 50 percent for purposes of subparagraph (A), and a summary of the analysis described in clause (i); and

(II) the request is approved by the Secretary.

(5) CONSISTENCY WITH COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS.—In providing assistance under this section to an individual who is required to attend school under applicable State compulsory school attendance laws, the priority in providing such assistance shall be for the individual to attend school regularly.

(b) STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) REQUIRED STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) shall be used, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b) for statewide activities, which shall include—

(A) conducting evaluations under section 116(e) of activities authorized under this chapter and chapter 3 in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 169(a);

(B) disseminating a list of eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities, as determined under section 123;

(C) providing assistance to local areas as described in subsections (b)(6) and (c)(2) of section 106, for local coordination of activities carried out under this title;

(D) operating a fiscal and management accountability information system under section 116(i);

(E) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter and chapter 3, which may include a review comparing the services provided to male and female youth; and

(F) providing additional assistance to local areas that have high concentrations of eligible youth.

(2) ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.—Funds reserved by a Governor as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) may be used, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b), for statewide activities, which may include—

(A) conducting—

(i) research related to meeting the education and employment needs of eligible youth; and

(ii) demonstration projects related to meeting the education and employment needs of eligible youth;

(B) supporting the development of alternative, evidence-based programs and other activities that enhance the choices available to eligible youth and encourage such youth to reenter and complete secondary education, enroll in postsecondary education and advanced training, progress through a career pathway, and enter into unsubsidized employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency;

(C) supporting the provision of career services described in section 134(c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system in the State;

(D) supporting financial literacy, including—

(i) supporting the ability of participants to create household budgets, initiate savings plans, and make informed financial decisions about education, retirement, home ownership, wealth building, or other savings goals;

(ii) supporting the ability to manage spending, credit, and debt, including credit card debt, effectively;

(iii) increasing awareness of the availability and significance of credit reports and credit scores in obtaining credit, including determining their accuracy (and how to correct inaccuracies in the reports and scores), and their effect on credit terms;

(iv) supporting the ability to understand, evaluate, and compare financial products, services, and opportunities; and

(v) supporting activities that address the particular financial literacy needs of non-English speakers, including providing the support through the development and distribution of multilingual financial literacy and education materials; and

(E) providing technical assistance to, as appropriate, local boards, chief elected officials, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, in local areas, which provision of technical assistance shall include the development and training of staff, the development of exemplary program activities, the provision of technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c), and the provision of technology to facilitate remote access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Not more than 5 percent of the funds allotted to a State under section 127(b)(1)(C) shall be used by the State for administrative activities carried out under this subsection or section 134(a).

(c) **LOCAL ELEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PROGRAM DESIGN.**—Funds allocated to a local area for eligible youth under section 128(b) shall be used to carry out, for eligible youth, programs that—

(A) provide an objective assessment of the academic levels, skill levels, and service needs of each participant, which assessment shall include a review of basic skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, employability, interests, aptitudes (including interests and aptitudes for nontraditional jobs), supportive service needs, and developmental needs of such participant, for the purpose of identifying appropriate services and career pathways for participants, except that a new assessment of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program;

(B) develop service strategies for each participant that are directly linked to 1 or more of the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), and that shall identify career pathways that include education

and employment goals (including, in appropriate circumstances, nontraditional employment), appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate services for the participant taking into account the assessment conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A), except that a new service strategy for a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent service strategy developed for the participant under another education or training program;

(C) provide—

(i) activities leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or a recognized postsecondary credential;

(ii) preparation for postsecondary educational and training opportunities;

(iii) strong linkages between academic instruction (based on State academic content and student academic achievement standards established under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311)) and occupational education that lead to the attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials;

(iv) preparation for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases; and

(v) effective connections to employers, including small employers, in in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional labor markets; and

(D) at the discretion of the local board, implement a pay-for-performance contract strategy for elements described in paragraph (2), for which the local board may reserve and use not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under section 128(b).

(2) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**—In order to support the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, entry into postsecondary education, and career readiness for participants, the programs described in paragraph (1) shall provide elements consisting of—

(A) tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies that lead to completion of the requirements for a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including a recognized certificate of attendance or similar document for individuals with disabilities) or for a recognized postsecondary credential;

(B) alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services, as appropriate;

(C) paid and unpaid work experiences that have as a component academic and occupational education, which may include—

(i) summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;

(ii) pre-apprenticeship programs;

(iii) internships and job shadowing; and

(iv) on-the-job training opportunities;

(D) occupational skill training, which may include priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved, if the local board determines that the programs meet the quality criteria described in section 123;

(E) education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(F) leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social and civic behaviors, as appropriate;

(G) supportive services;

(H) adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;

(I) followup services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, as appropriate;

(J) comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate;

(K) financial literacy education;

(L) entrepreneurial skills training;

(M) services that provide labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the local area, such as career awareness, career counseling, and career exploration services; and

(N) activities that help youth prepare for and transition to postsecondary education and training.

(3) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **INFORMATION AND REFERRALS.**—Each local board shall ensure that each participant shall be provided—

(i) information on the full array of applicable or appropriate services that are available through the local board or other eligible providers or one-stop partners, including those providers or partners receiving funds under this subtitle; and

(ii) referral to appropriate training and educational programs that have the capacity to serve the participant either on a sequential or concurrent basis.

(B) **APPLICANTS NOT MEETING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.**—Each eligible provider of a program of youth workforce investment activities shall ensure that an eligible applicant who does not meet the enrollment requirements of the particular program or who cannot be served shall be referred for further assessment, as necessary, and referred to appropriate programs in accordance with subparagraph (A) to meet the basic skills and training needs of the applicant.

(C) **INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—The local board shall ensure that parents, participants, and other members of the community with experience relating to programs for youth are involved in the design and implementation of the programs described in paragraph (1).

(4) **PRIORITY.**—Not less than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area as described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide in-school youth and out-of-school youth with activities under paragraph (2)(C).

(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that each of the elements described in subparagraphs of paragraph (2) be offered by each provider of youth services.

(6) **PROHIBITIONS.**—

(A) **PROHIBITION AGAINST FEDERAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION.**—No provision of this Act shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution, school, or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks, or other printed or published instructional materials by any educational institution, school, or school system.

(B) **NONINTERFERENCE AND NONREPLACEMENT OF REGULAR ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.**—No funds described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide an activity for eligible youth who are not school dropouts if participation

in the activity would interfere with or replace the regular academic requirements of the youth.

(7) **LINKAGES.**—In coordinating the programs authorized under this section, local boards shall establish linkages with local educational agencies responsible for services to participants as appropriate.

(8) **VOLUNTEERS.**—The local board shall make opportunities available for individuals who have successfully participated in programs carried out under this section to volunteer assistance to participants in the form of mentoring, tutoring, and other activities.

CHAPTER 3—ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

SEC. 131. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary shall make allotments under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b) to each State that meets the requirements of section 102 or 103 and grants under paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of section 132(b) to each outlying area that complies with the requirements of this title, to assist the State or outlying area, and to enable the State or outlying area to assist local areas, for the purpose of providing workforce investment activities for adults, and dislocated workers, in the State or outlying area and in the local areas.

SEC. 132. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) make allotments and grants from the amount appropriated under section 136(b) for a fiscal year in accordance with subsection (b)(1); and

(2)(A) reserve 20 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year for use under subsection (b)(2)(A), and under sections 168(b) (relating to dislocated worker technical assistance), 169(c) (relating to dislocated worker projects), and 170 (relating to national dislocated worker grants); and

(B) make allotments from 80 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(B).

(b) **ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.**—

(1) **ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of such amount to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

(ii) **APPLICABILITY OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—From the amount reserved under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide assistance to the outlying areas for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with the requirements of section 127(b)(1)(B).

(B) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—After determining the amount to be reserved under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount made available under subsection (a)(1) for that fiscal year to the States pursuant to clause (ii) for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clauses (iii) and (iv), of the remainder—

(I) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

(II) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged adults in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged adults in all States, except as described in clause (iii).

(iii) **CALCULATION.**—In determining an allotment under clause (ii)(III) for any State in which there is an area that was designated as a local area as described in section 107(c)(1)(C), the allotment shall be based on the higher of—

(I) the number of adults in families with an income below the low-income level in such area; or

(II) the number of disadvantaged adults in such area.

(iv) **MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.**—In making allotments under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is less than the greater of—

(aa) an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year; or

(bb) 100 percent of the allotment of the State under section 132(b)(1)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for fiscal year 2014.

(II) **SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclauses (I), (III), and (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this subparagraph that is less than the total of—

(aa) $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 percent of \$960,000,000 of the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year; and

(bb) if the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year exceeds \$960,000,000, $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 percent of the excess.

(III) **MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(IV) **MINIMUM FUNDING.**—In any fiscal year in which the remainder described in clause (i) does not exceed \$960,000,000, the minimum allotments under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be calculated by the methodology specified in section 132(b)(1)(B)(iv)(IV) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(v) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purpose of the formula specified in this subparagraph:

(I) **ADULT.**—The term “adult” means an individual who is not less than age 22 and not more than age 72.

(II) **ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.**—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the remainder described in clause (i) that is received through an allotment made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means the percentage of the amount allotted to States under section 132(b)(1)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that is received under such section by the State involved for fiscal year 2014.

(III) **AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.**—The term “area of substantial unem-

ployment” means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 6.5 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this subclause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

(IV) **DISADVANTAGED ADULT.**—Subject to subclause (V), the term “disadvantaged adult” means an adult who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

(aa) the poverty line; or

(bb) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

(V) **DISADVANTAGED ADULT SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary shall, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, exclude college students and members of the Armed Forces from the determination of the number of disadvantaged adults.

(VI) **EXCESS NUMBER.**—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the higher of—

(aa) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State; or

(bb) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in areas of substantial unemployment in such State.

(VII) **LOW-INCOME LEVEL.**—The term “low-income level” means \$7,000 with respect to income in 1969, and for any later year means that amount that bears the same relationship to \$7,000 as the Consumer Price Index for that year bears to the Consumer Price Index for 1969, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

(2) **DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

(ii) **APPLICABILITY OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—From the amount reserved under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide assistance to the outlying areas for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with the requirements of section 127(b)(1)(B).

(B) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall allot the amount referred to in subsection (a)(2)(B) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to clause (ii) for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clause (iii), of the amount—

(I) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in all States;

(II) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in

each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more.

(iii) **MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.**—In making allotments under this subparagraph, for fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is less than the greater of—

(aa) an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year; or

(bb) 100 percent of the allotment of the State under section 132(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for fiscal year 2014.

(II) **MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(iv) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purpose of the formula specified in this subparagraph:

(I) **ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.**—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the amount described in clause (i) that is received through an allotment made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year.

(II) **EXCESS NUMBER.**—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State.

(c) **REALLOTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible States amounts that are made available to States from allotments made under this section or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “State allotment”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) **AMOUNT.**—The amount available for reallocation for a program year for programs funded under subsection (b)(1)(B) (relating to adult employment and training) or for programs funded under subsection (b)(2)(B) (relating to dislocated worker employment and training) is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the State allotments for adult employment and training activities or dislocated worker employment and training activities, respectively, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allotments for the prior program year.

(3) **REALLOTMENT.**—In making reallocations to eligible States of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount based on the relative amount of the State allotment under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of subsection (b) for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the State allotments under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of subsection (b) for all eligible States for such program year.

(4) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible State means—

(A) with respect to funds allotted through a State allotment for adult employment and training activities, a State that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and

(B) with respect to funds allotted through a State allotment for dislocated worker employment and training activities, a State that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

(5) **PROCEDURES.**—The Governor shall prescribe uniform procedures for the obligation of funds by local areas within the State in order to avoid the requirement that funds be made available for reallocation under this subsection. The Governor shall further prescribe equitable procedures for making funds available from the State and local areas in the event that a State is required to make funds available for reallocation under this subsection.

SEC. 133. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

(a) **RESERVATIONS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The Governor shall make the reservation required under section 128(a).

(2) **STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.**—The Governor shall reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2)(B) for a fiscal year for statewide rapid response activities described in section 134(a)(2)(A).

(b) **WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.**—

(1) **METHODS.**—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials and local boards in the local areas, shall allocate—

(A) the funds that are allotted to the State for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 132(b)(1)(B) and are not reserved under subsection (a)(1), in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3); and

(B) the funds that are allotted to the State for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 132(b)(2)(B) and are not reserved under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) **FORMULA ALLOCATIONS.**—

(A) **ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(i) **ALLOCATION.**—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State may allocate—

(I) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 132(b)(1)(B)(ii)(I);

(II) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 132(b)(1)(B)(ii)(II); and

(III) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in clauses (ii)(III) and (iii) of section 132(b)(1)(B).

(ii) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for a fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iii) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph, for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect

to fiscal year 2013 or 2014, means a percentage of the amount allocated to local areas under paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 133(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of that section for fiscal year 2013 or 2014, respectively.

(B) **DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(i) **ALLOCATION.**—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(B) to local areas, a State shall allocate the funds based on an allocation formula prescribed by the Governor of the State. Such formula may be amended by the Governor not more than once for each program year. Such formula shall utilize the most appropriate information available to the Governor to distribute amounts to address the State's worker readjustment assistance needs.

(ii) **INFORMATION.**—The information described in clause (i) shall include insured unemployment data, unemployment concentrations, plant closing and mass layoff data, declining industries data, farmer-rancher economic hardship data, and long-term unemployment data.

(iii) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for fiscal year 2016 or a subsequent fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iv) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means a percentage of the amount allocated to local areas under section 133(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under that section for fiscal year 2014.

(C) **APPLICATION.**—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) references in section 132(b) to a State shall be deemed to be references to a local area;

(ii) references in section 132(b) to all States shall be deemed to be references to all local areas in the State involved; and

(iii) except as described in clause (i), references in section 132(b)(1) to the term “excess number” shall be considered to be references to the term as defined in section 132(b)(1).

(3) **ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATIONS.**—In lieu of making the allocation described in paragraph (2)(A), in allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State may distribute—

(A) a portion equal to not less than 70 percent of the funds in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) the remaining portion of the funds on the basis of a formula that—

(i) incorporates additional factors (other than the factors described in paragraph (2)(A)) relating to—

(I) excess poverty in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(II) excess unemployment above the State average in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(ii) was developed by the State board and approved by the Secretary as part of the State plan.

(4) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—A local board may transfer, if such a transfer is approved by the Governor, up to and including 100 percent of the funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), and up to and including 100 percent of the funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2)(B), for a fiscal year between—

(A) adult employment and training activities; and

(B) dislocated worker employment and training activities.

(5) **ALLOCATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor shall allocate the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas under paragraphs (2) and (3) for the purpose of providing a single system of employment and training activities for adults and dislocated workers in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of section 134.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

(i) **ADULTS.**—Funds allocated under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) shall be used by a local area to contribute to the costs of the one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) as determined under section 121(h) and to pay for employment and training activities provided to adults in the local area, consistent with section 134.

(ii) **DISLOCATED WORKERS.**—Funds allocated under paragraph (2)(B) shall be used by a local area to contribute to the costs of the one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) as determined under section 121(h) and to pay for employment and training activities provided to dislocated workers in the local area, consistent with section 134.

(C) **REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection and after consultation with the State board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are made available to local areas from allocations made under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for adult employment and training activities, or under subsection (b)(2)(B) or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for dislocated worker employment and training activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “local allocation”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) **AMOUNT.**—The amount available for reallocation for a program year—

(A) for adult employment and training activities is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subparagraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year; and

(B) for dislocated worker employment and training activities is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation under subsection (b)(2)(B) for such activities, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subparagraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year.

(3) **REALLOCATION.**—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State—

(A) with respect to such available amounts that were allocated under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), as appropriate, for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), as appropriate, for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year; and

(B) with respect to such available amounts that were allocated under subsection (b)(2)(B), an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations under subsection (b)(2)(B) for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.

(4) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means—

(A) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for adult employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and

(B) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for dislocated worker employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

SEC. 134. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

(a) **STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds reserved by a Governor—

(A) as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to carry out the statewide rapid response activities described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1)—

(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2)(B); and

(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3),

regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

(2) **REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—A State shall carry out statewide rapid response activities using funds reserved by the Governor for the State under section 133(a)(2), which activities shall include—

(I) provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas; and

(II) provision of additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas.

(ii) **USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.**—Funds reserved by a Governor under section 133(a)(2), and section 133(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day be-

fore the date of enactment of this Act), to carry out this subparagraph that remain unobligated after the first program year for which such funds were allotted may be used by the Governor to carry out statewide activities authorized under subparagraph (B) or paragraph (3)(A), in addition to activities under this subparagraph.

(B) **STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the States under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) shall be used for statewide employment and training activities, including—

(i) providing assistance to—

(I) State entities and agencies, local areas, and one-stop partners in carrying out the activities described in the State plan, including the coordination and alignment of data systems used to carry out the requirements of this Act;

(II) local areas for carrying out the regional planning and service delivery efforts required under section 106(c);

(III) local areas by providing information on and support for the effective development, convening, and implementation of industry or sector partnerships; and

(IV) local areas, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, including the development and training of staff, which may include the development and training of staff to provide opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment to enter in-demand industry sectors or occupations and nontraditional occupations, the development of exemplary program activities, and the provision of technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(ii) providing assistance to local areas as described in section 106(b)(6);

(iii) operating a fiscal and management accountability information system in accordance with section 116(i);

(iv) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter and chapter 2;

(v) disseminating—

(I) the State list of eligible providers of training services, including eligible providers of nontraditional training services and eligible providers of apprenticeship programs described in section 122(a)(2)(B);

(II) information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, or transitional jobs;

(III) information on effective outreach to, partnerships with, and services for, business;

(IV) information on effective service delivery strategies to serve workers and job seekers;

(V) performance information and information on the cost of attendance (including tuition and fees) for participants in applicable programs, as described in subsections (d) and (h) of section 122; and

(VI) information on physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), for individuals with disabilities; and

(vi) conducting evaluations under section 116(e) of activities authorized under this chapter and chapter 2 in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 169(a).

(3) **ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(B) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) may be used to carry out additional statewide employment and training activities, which may include—

(i) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers (including small employers) in the State, which programs and strategies may include incumbent worker training programs, customized training, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and implementation of industry or sector partnerships, career pathway programs, microenterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, layoff aversion strategies, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce development system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

(ii) developing strategies for effectively serving individuals with barriers to employment and for coordinating programs and services among one-stop partners;

(iii) the development or identification of education and training programs that respond to real-time labor market analysis, that utilize direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure and provide credit for prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, that evaluate such skills and competencies for adaptability, that ensure credits are portable and stackable for more skilled employment, and that accelerate course or credential completion;

(iv) implementing programs to increase the number of individuals training for and placed in nontraditional employment;

(v) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services, including training services described in subsection (c)(3), provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

(vi) supporting the provision of career services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery systems in the State;

(vii) coordinating activities with the child welfare system to facilitate provision of services for children and youth who are eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677);

(viii) activities—

(I) to improve coordination of workforce investment activities with economic development activities;

(II) to improve coordination of employment and training activities with—

(aa) child support services, and assistance provided by State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(bb) cooperative extension programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture;

(cc) programs carried out in local areas for individuals with disabilities, including programs carried out by State agencies relating to intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, activities carried out by Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d), programs

funded under part B of chapter 1 of title VII of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796e et seq.), and activities carried out by centers for independent living, as defined in section 702 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796a);

(dd) adult education and literacy activities, including those provided by public libraries;

(ee) activities in the corrections system that assist ex-offenders in reentering the workforce; and

(ff) financial literacy activities including those described in section 129(b)(2)(D); and

(III) consisting of development and dissemination of workforce and labor market information;

(ix) conducting research and demonstration projects related to meeting the employment and education needs of adult and dislocated workers;

(x) implementing promising services for workers and businesses, which may include providing support for education, training, skill upgrading, and statewide networking for employees to become workplace learning advisors and maintain proficiency in carrying out the activities associated with such advising;

(xi) providing incentive grants to local areas for performance by the local areas on local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(xii) adopting, calculating, or commissioning for approval an economic self-sufficiency standard for the State that specifies the income needs of families, by family size, the number and ages of children in the family, and substate geographical considerations;

(xiii) developing and disseminating common intake procedures and related items, including registration processes, materials, or software; and

(xiv) providing technical assistance to local areas that are implementing pay-for-performance contract strategies, which technical assistance may include providing assistance with data collection, meeting data entry requirements, identifying levels of performance, and conducting evaluations of such strategies.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds allotted to a State under sections 127(b) and 132(b) and reserved as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) for a fiscal year—

(I) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 127(b)(1);

(II) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(1); and

(III) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(2),

may be used by the State for the administration of statewide youth workforce investment activities carried out under section 129 and statewide employment and training activities carried out under this section.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available for administrative costs under clause (i) may be used for the administrative cost of any of the statewide youth workforce investment activities or statewide employment and training activities, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to a local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B)—

(1) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in sub-

section (c) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively; and

(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively.

(C) REQUIRED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ALLOCATED FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), shall be used—

(i) to establish a one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e);

(ii) to provide the career services described in paragraph (2) to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph;

(iii) to provide training services described in paragraph (3) to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, described in such paragraph;

(iv) to establish and develop relationships and networks with large and small employers and their intermediaries; and

(v) to develop, convene, or implement industry or sector partnerships.

(B) OTHER FUNDS.—Consistent with subsections (h) and (i) of section 121, a portion of the funds made available under Federal law authorizing the programs and activities described in section 121(b)(1)(B), including the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), shall be used as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved.

(2) CAREER SERVICES.—

(A) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Funds described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide career services, which shall be available to individuals who are adults or dislocated workers through the one-stop delivery system and shall, at a minimum, include—

(i) determinations of whether the individuals are eligible to receive assistance under this subtitle;

(ii) outreach, intake (which may include worker profiling), and orientation to the information and other services available through the one-stop delivery system;

(iii) initial assessment of skill levels (including literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency), aptitudes, abilities (including skills gaps), and supportive service needs;

(iv) labor exchange services, including—

(I) job search and placement assistance and, in appropriate cases, career counseling, including—

(aa) provision of information on in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(bb) provision of information on nontraditional employment; and

(II) appropriate recruitment and other business services on behalf of employers, including small employers, in the local area, which services may include services described in this subsection, such as providing information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system;

(v) provision of referrals to and coordination of activities with other programs and services, including programs and services within the one-stop delivery system and, in appropriate cases, other workforce development programs;

(vi) provision of workforce and labor market employment statistics information, including the provision of accurate information relating to local, regional, and national labor market areas, including—

(I) job vacancy listings in such labor market areas;

(II) information on job skills necessary to obtain the jobs described in subclause (I); and

(III) information relating to local occupations in demand and the earnings, skill requirements, and opportunities for advancement for such occupations; and

(vii) provision of performance information and program cost information on eligible providers of training services as described in section 122, provided by program, and eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities described in section 123, providers of adult education described in title II, providers of career and technical education activities at the postsecondary level, and career and technical education activities available to school dropouts, under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and providers of vocational rehabilitation services described in title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.);

(viii) provision of information, in formats that are usable by and understandable to one-stop center customers, regarding how the local area is performing on the local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c) and any additional performance information with respect to the one-stop delivery system in the local area;

(ix)(I) provision of information, in formats that are usable by and understandable to one-stop center customers, relating to the availability of supportive services or assistance, including child care, child support, medical or child health assistance under title XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq. and 1397aa et seq.), benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), assistance through the earned income tax credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and assistance under a State program for temporary assistance for needy families funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other supportive services and transportation provided through funds made available under such part, available in the local area; and

(II) referral to the services or assistance described in subclause (I), as appropriate;

(x) provision of information and assistance regarding filing claims for unemployment compensation;

(xi) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for training and education programs that are not funded under this Act;

(xii) services, if determined to be appropriate in order for an individual to obtain or retain employment, that consist of—

(I) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of adults and dislocated workers, which may include—

(aa) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

(bb) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

(II) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for

the participant to achieve the employment goals, including providing information on eligible providers of training services pursuant to paragraph (3)(F)(ii), and career pathways to attain career objectives;

(III) group counseling;

(IV) individual counseling;

(V) career planning;

(VI) short-term prevocational services, including development of learning skills, communication skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

(VII) internships and work experiences that are linked to careers;

(VIII) workforce preparation activities;

(IX) financial literacy services, such as the activities described in section 129(b)(2)(D);

(X) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; or

(XI) English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs; and

(xiii) followup services, including counseling regarding the workplace, for participants in workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle who are placed in unsubsidized employment, for not less than 12 months after the first day of the employment, as appropriate.

(B) USE OF PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS.—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct a new interview, evaluation, or assessment of a participant under subparagraph (A)(xii) if the one-stop operator or one-stop partner determines that it is appropriate to use a recent interview, evaluation, or assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

(C) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—The career services described in subparagraph (A) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system—

(i) directly through one-stop operators identified pursuant to section 121(d); or

(ii) through contracts with service providers, which may include contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.

(3) TRAINING SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ELIGIBILITY.—Except as provided in clause (ii), funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), shall be used to provide training services to adults and dislocated workers, respectively—

(I) who, after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and career planning, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

(aa) be unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment, that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment, through the career services described in paragraph (2)(A)(xii);

(bb) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment; and

(cc) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

(II) who select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which the adults or dislocated workers are willing to commute or relocate;

(III) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

(IV) who are determined to be eligible in accordance with the priority system in effect under subparagraph (E).

(ii) USE OF PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS.—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct a new interview, evaluation, or assessment of a participant under clause (i) if the one-stop operator or one-stop partner determines that it is appropriate to use a recent interview, evaluation, or assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to mean an individual is required to receive career services prior to receiving training services.

(B) QUALIFICATION.—

(i) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except as provided in clause (ii), provision of such training services shall be limited to individuals who—

(I) are unable to obtain other grant assistance for such services, including Federal Pell Grants established under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.); or

(II) require assistance beyond the assistance made available under other grant assistance programs, including Federal Pell Grants.

(ii) REIMBURSEMENTS.—Training services may be provided under this paragraph to an individual who otherwise meets the requirements of this paragraph while an application for a Federal Pell Grant is pending, except that if such individual is subsequently awarded a Federal Pell Grant, appropriate reimbursement shall be made to the local area from such Federal Pell Grant.

(iii) CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether an individual requires assistance under clause (i)(II), a one-stop operator (or one-stop partner, where appropriate) may take into consideration the full cost of participating in training services, including the costs of dependent care and transportation, and other appropriate costs.

(C) PROVIDER QUALIFICATION.—Training services shall be provided through providers identified in accordance with section 122.

(D) TRAINING SERVICES.—Training services may include—

(i) occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional employment;

(ii) on-the-job training;

(iii) incumbent worker training in accordance with subsection (d)(4);

(iv) programs that combine workplace training with related instruction, which may include cooperative education programs;

(v) training programs operated by the private sector;

(vi) skill upgrading and retraining;

(vii) entrepreneurial training;

(viii) transitional jobs in accordance with subsection (d)(5);

(ix) job readiness training provided in combination with services described in any of clauses (i) through (vii);

(x) adult education and literacy activities, including activities of English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs, provided concurrently or in combination with services described in any of clauses (i) through (vii); and

(xi) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training.

(E) PRIORITY.—With respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment

and training activities under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient for receipt of career services described in paragraph (2)(A)(xii) and training services. The appropriate local board and the Governor shall direct the one-stop operators in the local area with regard to making determinations related to such priority.

(F) CONSUMER CHOICE REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Training services provided under this paragraph shall be provided in a manner that maximizes consumer choice in the selection of an eligible provider of such services.

(ii) ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.—Each local board, through one-stop centers, shall make available the list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), and accompanying information, in accordance with section 122(d).

(iii) INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.—An individual who seeks training services and who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a career planner, select an eligible provider of training services from the list of providers described in clause (ii). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through an individual training account.

(iv) COORDINATION.—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate funding for individual training accounts with funding from other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services.

(v) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—Priority consideration may be given to programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved.

(G) USE OF INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), training services provided under this paragraph shall be provided through the use of individual training accounts in accordance with this paragraph, and shall be provided to eligible individuals through the one-stop delivery system.

(ii) TRAINING CONTRACTS.—Training services authorized under this paragraph may be provided pursuant to a contract for services in lieu of an individual training account if—

(I) the requirements of subparagraph (F) are met;

(II) such services are on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, or transitional employment;

(III) the local board determines there are an insufficient number of eligible providers of training services in the local area involved (such as in a rural area) to accomplish the purposes of a system of individual training accounts;

(IV) the local board determines that there is a training services program of demonstrated effectiveness offered in the local area by a community-based organization or another private organization to serve individuals with barriers to employment;

(V) the local board determines that—

(aa) it would be most appropriate to award a contract to an institution of higher education or other eligible provider of training services in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

(bb) such contract does not limit customer choice; or

(VI) the contract is a pay-for-performance contract.

(iii) LINKAGE TO OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND.—Training services provided under this paragraph shall be directly linked to an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which an adult or dislocated worker receiving such services is willing to relocate, except that a local board may approve training services for occupations determined by the local board to be in sectors of the economy that have a high potential for sustained demand or growth in the local area.

(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the combined use of individual training accounts and contracts in the provision of training services, including arrangements that allow individuals receiving individual training accounts to obtain training services that are contracted for under clause (ii).

(H) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.—

(i) REIMBURSEMENT LEVEL.—For purposes of the provision of on-the-job training under this paragraph, the Governor or local board involved may increase the amount of the reimbursement described in section 3(44) to an amount of up to 75 percent of the wage rate of a participant for a program carried out under chapter 2 or this chapter, if, respectively—

(I) the Governor approves the increase with respect to a program carried out with funds reserved by the State under that chapter, taking into account the factors described in clause (ii); or

(II) the local board approves the increase with respect to a program carried out with funds allocated to a local area under such chapter, taking into account those factors.

(ii) FACTORS.—For purposes of clause (i), the Governor or local board, respectively, shall take into account factors consisting of—

(I) the characteristics of the participants;

(II) the size of the employer;

(III) the quality of employer-provided training and advancement opportunities; and

(IV) such other factors as the Governor or local board, respectively, may determine to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in the training, wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), and relation of the training to the competitiveness of a participant.

(d) PERMISSIBLE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system involved (and through collaboration with the local board, for the purpose of the activities described in clauses (vii) and (ix))—

(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services described in subsection (c)(3) to employers;

(ii) customized employment-related services to employers, employer associations, or other such organizations on a fee-for-service basis;

(iii) implementation of a pay-for-performance contract strategy for training services,

for which the local board may reserve and use not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(b);

(iv) customer support to enable individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities) and veterans, to navigate among multiple services and activities for such populations;

(v) technical assistance for one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers of training services, regarding the provision of services to individuals with disabilities in local areas, including the development and training of staff, the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the coordination of services across providers and programs, and the development of performance accountability measures;

(vi) employment and training activities provided in coordination with—

(I) child support enforcement activities of the State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(II) child support services, and assistance, provided by State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(III) cooperative extension programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture; and

(IV) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

(vii) activities—

(I) to improve coordination between workforce investment activities and economic development activities carried out within the local area involved, and to promote entrepreneurial skills training and microenterprise services;

(II) to improve services and linkages between the local workforce investment system (including the local one-stop delivery system) and employers, including small employers, in the local area, through services described in this section; and

(III) to strengthen linkages between the one-stop delivery system and unemployment insurance programs;

(viii) training programs for displaced homemakers and for individuals training for nontraditional occupations, in conjunction with programs operated in the local area;

(ix) activities to provide business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 108, which services—

(I) may be provided through effective business intermediaries working in conjunction with the local board, and may also be provided on a fee-for-service basis or through the leveraging of economic development, philanthropic, and other public and private resources in a manner determined appropriate by the local board; and

(II) may include—

(aa) developing and implementing industry sector strategies (including strategies involving industry partnerships, regional skills alliances, industry skill panels, and sectoral skills partnerships);

(bb) developing and delivering innovative workforce investment services and strategies

for area employers, which may include career pathways, skills upgrading, skill standard development and certification for recognized postsecondary credential or other employer use, apprenticeship, and other effective initiatives for meeting the workforce investment needs of area employers and workers;

(cc) assistance to area employers in managing reductions in force in coordination with rapid response activities provided under subsection (a)(2)(A) and with strategies for the aversion of layoffs, which strategies may include early identification of firms at risk of layoffs, use of feasibility studies to assess the needs of and options for at-risk firms, and the delivery of employment and training activities to address risk factors; and

(dd) the marketing of business services offered under this title, to appropriate area employers, including small and mid-sized employers;

(x) activities to adjust the economic self-sufficiency standards referred to in subsection (a)(3)(A)(xii) for local factors, or activities to adopt, calculate, or commission for approval, economic self-sufficiency standards for the local areas that specify the income needs of families, by family size, the number and ages of children in the family, and substate geographical considerations;

(xi) improved coordination between employment and training activities and programs carried out in the local area for individuals with disabilities, including programs carried out by State agencies relating to intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, activities carried out by Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d), programs funded under part B of chapter 1 of title VII of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796e et seq.), and activities carried out by centers for independent living, as defined in section 702 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796a); and

(xii) implementation of promising services to workers and businesses, which may include support for education, training, skill upgrading, and statewide networking for employees to become workplace learning advisors and maintain proficiency in carrying out the activities associated with such advising.

(B) WORK SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system involved, work support activities designed to assist low-wage workers in retaining and enhancing employment. The one-stop partners of the system shall coordinate the appropriate programs and resources of the partners with the activities and resources provided under this subparagraph.

(ii) ACTIVITIES.—The work support activities described in clause (i) may include the provision of activities described in this section through the one-stop delivery system in a manner that enhances the opportunities of such workers to participate in the activities, such as the provision of activities described in this section during nontraditional hours and the provision of onsite child care while such activities are being provided.

(2) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B),

may be used to provide supportive services to adults and dislocated workers, respectively—

(A) who are participating in programs with activities authorized in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (c); and

(B) who are unable to obtain such supportive services through other programs providing such services.

(3) NEEDS-RELATED PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide needs-related payments to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, who are unemployed and do not qualify for (or have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensation for the purpose of enabling such individuals to participate in programs of training services under subsection (c)(3).

(B) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the requirements contained in subparagraph (A), a dislocated worker who has ceased to qualify for unemployment compensation may be eligible to receive needs-related payments under this paragraph only if such worker was enrolled in the training services—

(i) by the end of the 13th week after the most recent layoff that resulted in a determination of the worker's eligibility for employment and training activities for dislocated workers under this subtitle; or

(ii) if later, by the end of the 8th week after the worker is informed that a short-term layoff will exceed 6 months.

(C) LEVEL OF PAYMENTS.—The level of a needs-related payment made to a dislocated worker under this paragraph shall not exceed the greater of—

(i) the applicable level of unemployment compensation; or

(ii) if such worker did not qualify for unemployment compensation, an amount equal to the poverty line, for an equivalent period, which amount shall be adjusted to reflect changes in total family income.

(4) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) STANDARD RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The local board may reserve and use not more than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area involved under section 133(b) to pay for the Federal share of the cost of providing training through a training program for incumbent workers, carried out in accordance with this paragraph.

(ii) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—For the purpose of determining the eligibility of an employer to receive funding under clause (i), the local board shall take into account factors consisting of—

(I) the characteristics of the participants in the program;

(II) the relationship of the training to the competitiveness of a participant and the employer; and

(III) such other factors as the local board may determine to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in the training, the wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), and the existence of other training and advancement opportunities provided by the employer.

(iii) STATEWIDE IMPACT.—The Governor or State board involved may make recommendations to the local board for providing incumbent worker training that has statewide impact.

(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training program for incumbent workers carried out under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local board in conjunction with the employers or groups of employers of such workers (which may include employers in partnership with other entities for the purposes of delivering training) for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment or avert layoffs.

(C) EMPLOYER PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Employers participating in the program carried out under this paragraph shall be required to pay for the non-Federal share of the cost of providing the training to incumbent workers of the employers.

(D) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) FACTORS.—Subject to clause (ii), the local board shall establish the non-Federal share of such cost (taking into consideration such other factors as the number of employees participating in the training, the wage and benefit levels of the employees (at the beginning and anticipated upon completion of the training), the relationship of the training to the competitiveness of the employer and employees, and the availability of other employer-provided training and advancement opportunities.

(ii) LIMITS.—The non-Federal share shall not be less than—

(I) 10 percent of the cost, for employers with not more than 50 employees;

(II) 25 percent of the cost, for employers with more than 50 employees but not more than 100 employees; and

(III) 50 percent of the cost, for employers with more than 100 employees.

(iii) CALCULATION OF EMPLOYER SHARE.—The non-Federal share provided by an employer participating in the program may include the amount of the wages paid by the employer to a worker while the worker is attending a training program under this paragraph. The employer may provide the share in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated.

(5) TRANSITIONAL JOBS.—The local board may use not more than 10 percent of the funds allocated to the local area involved under section 133(b) to provide transitional jobs under subsection (c)(3) that—

(A) are time-limited work experiences that are subsidized and are in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors for individuals with barriers to employment who are chronically unemployed or have an inconsistent work history;

(B) are combined with comprehensive employment and supportive services; and

(C) are designed to assist the individuals described in subparagraph (A) to establish a work history, demonstrate success in the workplace, and develop the skills that lead to entry into and retention in unsubsidized employment.

CHAPTER 4—GENERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 136. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 127(a), \$820,430,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$883,800,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$902,139,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$922,148,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$943,828,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$963,837,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(b) ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(1), \$766,080,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$825,252,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$842,376,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$861,060,000 for

fiscal year 2018, \$881,303,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$899,987,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(C) **DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(2), \$1,222,457,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$1,316,880,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$1,344,205,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$1,374,019,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$1,406,322,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$1,436,137,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle C—Job Corps

SEC. 141. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to—

(A) assist eligible youth to connect to the labor force by providing them with intensive social, academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in primarily residential centers, in order for such youth to obtain secondary school diplomas or recognized postsecondary credentials leading to—

(i) successful careers, in in-demand industry sectors or occupations or the Armed Forces, that will result in economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement; or

(ii) enrollment in postsecondary education, including an apprenticeship program; and

(B) support responsible citizenship;

(2) to set forth standards and procedures for selecting individuals as enrollees in the Job Corps;

(3) to authorize the establishment of Job Corps centers in which enrollees will participate in intensive programs of activities described in this subtitle; and

(4) to prescribe various other powers, duties, and responsibilities incident to the operation and continuing development of the Job Corps.

SEC. 142. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **APPLICABLE LOCAL BOARD.**—The term “applicable local board” means a local board—

(A) that provides information for a Job Corps center on local employment opportunities and the job skills needed to obtain the opportunities; and

(B) that serves communities in which the graduates of the Job Corps center seek employment.

(2) **APPLICABLE ONE-STOP CENTER.**—The term “applicable one-stop center” means a one-stop center that provides services, such as referral, assessment, recruitment, and placement, to support the purposes of the Job Corps.

(3) **ENROLLEE.**—The term “enrollee” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program, and remains with the program, but has not yet become a graduate.

(4) **FORMER ENROLLEE.**—The term “former enrollee” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program, but left the program prior to becoming a graduate.

(5) **GRADUATE.**—The term “graduate” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program and who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a secondary school diploma or recognized equivalent, or completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency or entrance into postsecondary education or training.

(6) **JOB CORPS.**—The term “Job Corps” means the Job Corps described in section 143.

(7) **JOB CORPS CENTER.**—The term “Job Corps center” means a center described in section 147.

(8) **OPERATOR.**—The term “operator” means an entity selected under this subtitle to operate a Job Corps center.

(9) **REGION.**—The term “region” means an area defined by the Secretary.

(10) **SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “service provider” means an entity selected under this subtitle to provide services described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center.

SEC. 143. ESTABLISHMENT.

There shall be within the Department of Labor a “Job Corps”.

SEC. 144. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to become an enrollee, an individual shall be—

(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 21 on the date of enrollment, except that—

(A) not more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be not less than age 22 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment; and

(B) either such maximum age limitation may be waived by the Secretary, in accordance with regulations of the Secretary, in the case of an individual with a disability;

(2) a low-income individual; and

(3) an individual who is one or more of the following:

(A) Basic skills deficient.

(B) A school dropout.

(C) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, an individual in foster care, or an individual who was in foster care and has aged out of the foster care system.

(D) A parent.

(E) An individual who requires additional education, career and technical education or training, or workforce preparation skills to be able to obtain and retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE FOR VETERANS.**—Notwithstanding the requirement of subsection (a)(2), a veteran shall be eligible to become an enrollee under subsection (a) if the individual—

(1) meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of such subsection; and

(2) does not meet the requirement of subsection (a)(2) because the military income earned by such individual within the 6-month period prior to the individual's application for Job Corps prevents the individual from meeting such requirement.

SEC. 145. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

(a) **STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prescribe specific standards and procedures for the recruitment, screening, and selection of eligible applicants for the Job Corps, after considering recommendations from Governors of States, local boards, and other interested parties.

(2) **METHODS.**—In prescribing standards and procedures under paragraph (1), the Secretary, at a minimum, shall—

(A) prescribe procedures for informing enrollees that drug tests will be administered to the enrollees and the results received within 45 days after the enrollees enroll in the Job Corps;

(B) establish standards for recruitment of Job Corps applicants;

(C) establish standards and procedures for—

(i) determining, for each applicant, whether the educational and career and technical education and training needs of the applicant can best be met through the Job Corps program or an alternative program in the community in which the applicant resides; and

(ii) obtaining from each applicant pertinent data relating to background, needs, and interests for determining eligibility and potential assignment;

(D) where appropriate, take measures to improve the professional capability of the individuals conducting screening of the applicants; and

(E) assure appropriate representation of enrollees from urban areas and from rural areas.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The standards and procedures shall be implemented through arrangements with—

(A) applicable one-stop centers;

(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in serving at-risk youth and placing such youth into employment, including community action agencies, business organizations, or labor organizations; and

(C) child welfare agencies that are responsible for children and youth eligible for benefits and services under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677).

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—The standards and procedures shall provide for necessary consultation with individuals and organizations, including court, probation, parole, law enforcement, education, welfare, and medical authorities and advisers.

(5) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with and make payments to individuals and organizations for the cost of conducting recruitment, screening, and selection of eligible applicants for the Job Corps, as provided for in this section. The Secretary shall make no payment to any individual or organization solely as compensation for referring the names of applicants for the Job Corps.

(b) **SPECIAL LIMITATIONS ON SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No individual shall be selected as an enrollee unless the individual or organization implementing the standards and procedures described in subsection (a) determines that—

(A) there is a reasonable expectation that the individual considered for selection can participate successfully in group situations and activities, and is not likely to engage in behavior that would prevent other enrollees from receiving the benefit of the Job Corps program or be incompatible with the maintenance of sound discipline and satisfactory relationships between the Job Corps center to which the individual might be assigned and communities surrounding the Job Corps center;

(B) the individual manifests a basic understanding of both the rules to which the individual will be subject and of the consequences of failure to observe the rules, and agrees to comply with such rules; and

(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary and with applicable State and local laws.

(2) **INDIVIDUALS ON PROBATION, PAROLE, OR SUPERVISED RELEASE.**—An individual on probation, parole, or supervised release may be selected as an enrollee only if release from the supervision of the probation or parole official involved is satisfactory to the official

and the Secretary and does not violate applicable laws (including regulations). No individual shall be denied a position in the Job Corps solely on the basis of individual contact with the criminal justice system except for a disqualifying conviction as specified in paragraph (3).

(3) INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN CRIMES.—An individual shall not be selected as an enrollee if the individual has been convicted of a felony consisting of murder (as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code), child abuse, or a crime involving rape or sexual assault.

(C) ASSIGNMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Every 2 years, the Secretary shall develop and implement a plan for assigning enrollees to Job Corps centers. In developing the plan, the Secretary shall, based on the analysis described in paragraph (2), establish targets, applicable to each Job Corps center, for—

(A) the maximum attainable percentage of enrollees at the Job Corps center that reside in the State in which the center is located; and

(B) the maximum attainable percentage of enrollees at the Job Corps center that reside in the region in which the center is located, and in surrounding regions.

(2) ANALYSIS.—In order to develop the plan described in paragraph (1), every 2 years the Secretary, in consultation with operators of Job Corps centers, shall analyze relevant factors relating to each Job Corps center, including—

(A) the size of the population of individuals eligible to participate in Job Corps in the State and region in which the Job Corps center is located, and in surrounding regions;

(B) the relative demand for participation in the Job Corps in the State and region, and in surrounding regions;

(C) the capacity and utilization of the Job Corps center, including the education, training, and supportive services provided through the center; and

(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the expected levels of performance for the indicators described in section 159(c)(1), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 159(f).

(D) ASSIGNMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENROLLEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After an individual has been selected for the Job Corps in accordance with the standards and procedures of the Secretary under subsection (a), the enrollee shall be assigned to the Job Corps center that offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The Secretary may waive this requirement if—

(A) the enrollee would be unduly delayed in participating in the Job Corps program because the closest center is operating at full capacity; or

(B) the parent or guardian of the enrollee requests assignment of the enrollee to another Job Corps center due to circumstances in the community of the enrollee that would impair prospects for successful participation in the Job Corps program.

(2) ENROLLEES WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN 18.—An enrollee who is younger than 18 shall not be assigned to a Job Corps center other than the center closest to the home that offers the career and technical education and training desired by the enrollee pursuant to paragraph (1) if the parent or guardian of the enrollee objects to the assignment.

SEC. 146. ENROLLMENT.

(A) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENROLLMENT AND MILITARY OBLIGATIONS.—Enrollment in the Job Corps shall not relieve any individual of obligations under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.).

(B) PERIOD OF ENROLLMENT.—No individual may be enrolled in the Job Corps for more than 2 years, except—

(1) in a case in which completion of an advanced career training program under section 148(c) would require an individual to participate in the Job Corps for not more than one additional year;

(2) in the case of an individual with a disability who would reasonably be expected to meet the standards for a Job Corps graduate, as defined under section 142(5), if allowed to participate in the Job Corps for not more than 1 additional year;

(3) in the case of an individual who participates in national service, as authorized by a Civilian Conservation Center program, who would be granted an enrollment extension in the Job Corps for the amount of time equal to the period of national service; or

(4) as the Secretary may authorize in a special case.

SEC. 147. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

(A) OPERATORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(A) OPERATORS.—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a Federal, State, or local agency, an area career and technical education school, a residential career and technical education school, or a private organization, for the operation of each Job Corps center.

(B) PROVIDERS.—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with a local entity, or other entity with the necessary capacity, to provide activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center.

(2) SELECTION PROCESS.—

(A) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title 41, United States Code, the Secretary shall select on a competitive basis an entity to operate a Job Corps center and entities to provide activities described in this subtitle to the Job Corps center. In developing a solicitation for an operator or service provider, the Secretary shall consult with the Governor of the State in which the center is located, the workforce council for the Job Corps center (if established), and the applicable local board regarding the contents of such solicitation, including elements that will promote the consistency of the activities carried out through the center with the objectives set forth in the State plan or in a local plan.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—

(i) OPERATORS.—In selecting an entity to operate a Job Corps center, the Secretary shall consider—

(I) the ability of the entity to coordinate the activities carried out through the Job Corps center with activities carried out under the appropriate State plan and local plans;

(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that has been proposed by the workforce council under section 154(c), and the degree to which such education and training reflects employment opportunities in the local areas in which enrollees at the center intend to seek employment;

(III) the degree to which the entity demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, labor organiza-

tions, State boards, local boards, applicable one-stop centers, and the State and region in which the center is located;

(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including the entity's demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); and

(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including providing them with intensive academics and career and technical education and training.

(ii) PROVIDERS.—In selecting a service provider for a Job Corps center, the Secretary shall consider the factors described in clause (i).

(3) ADDITIONAL SELECTION FACTORS.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center, an entity shall submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, information related to additional selection factors, which shall include the following:

(A) A description of the program activities that will be offered at the center and how the academics and career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including opportunities in in-demand industry sectors and occupations recommended by the workforce council under section 154(c)(2)(A).

(B) A description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment or education leading to a recognized postsecondary credential upon completion of the program.

(C) A description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment and postsecondary education, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle or subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and as appropriate, the entity's demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(D) A description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State boards, local boards, applicable one-stop centers, employers, labor organizations, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in which the center is located, in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce development system.

(E) A description of the entity's ability to coordinate the activities carried out through the Job Corps center with activities carried out under the appropriate State plan and local plans.

(F) A description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a).

(G) A description of the steps to be taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3).

(H) A detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle and non-Federal resources.

(I) An assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located.

(J) An assurance the entity will comply with basic health and safety codes, which

shall include the disciplinary measures described in section 152(b).

(K) Any other information on additional selection factors that the Secretary may require.

(b) HIGH-PERFORMING CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an entity meets the requirements described in paragraph (2) as applied to a particular Job Corps center, such entity shall be allowed to compete in any competitive selection process carried out for an award to operate such center.

(2) HIGH PERFORMANCE.—An entity shall be considered to be an operator of a high-performing center if the Job Corps center operated by the entity—

(A) is ranked among the top 20 percent of Job Corps centers for the most recent preceding program year; and

(B) meets the expected levels of performance established under section 159(c)(1) and, with respect to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)—

(i) for the period of the most recent preceding 3 program years for which information is available at the time the determination is made, achieved an average of 100 percent, or higher, of the expected level of performance established under section 159(c)(1) for the indicator; and

(ii) for the most recent preceding program year for which information is available at the time the determination is made, achieved 100 percent, or higher, of the expected level of performance established under such section for the indicator.

(3) TRANSITION.—If any of the program years described in paragraph (2)(B) precedes the implementation of the establishment of expected levels of performance under section 159(c) and the application of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), an entity shall be considered an operator of a high-performing center during that period if the Job Corps center operated by the entity—

(A) meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(B) with respect to such preceding program years using the performance of the Job Corps center regarding the national goals or targets established by the Office of the Job Corps under the previous performance accountability system for—

(i) the 6-month follow-up placement rate of graduates in employment, the military, education, or training;

(ii) the 12-month follow-up placement rate of graduates in employment, the military, education, or training;

(iii) the 6-month follow-up average weekly earnings of graduates;

(iv) the rate of attainment of secondary school diplomas or their recognized equivalent;

(v) the rate of attainment of completion certificates for career and technical training;

(vi) average literacy gains; and

(vii) average numeracy gains; or

(B) is ranked among the top 5 percent of Job Corps centers for the most recent preceding program year.

(c) CHARACTER AND ACTIVITIES.—Job Corps centers may be residential or nonresidential in character, and shall be designed and operated so as to provide enrollees, in a well-supervised setting, with access to activities described in this subtitle. In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be nonresidential participants in the Job Corps.

(d) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers,

operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall provide, in addition to academics, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

(2) ASSISTANCE DURING DISASTERS.—Enrollees in Civilian Conservation Centers may provide assistance in addressing national, State, and local disasters, consistent with current child labor laws (including regulations). The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that with respect to the provision of such assistance the enrollees are properly trained, equipped, supervised, and dispatched consistent with standards for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife established under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

(3) NATIONAL LIAISON.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate a Job Corps National Liaison to support the agreement under this section between the Departments of Labor and Agriculture.

(e) INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may enter into agreements with Indian tribes to operate Job Corps centers for Indians.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms “Indian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given such terms in subsections (d) and (e), respectively, of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(f) LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not more than a 2-year period. The Secretary may exercise any contractual option to renew the agreement in 1-year increments for not more than 3 additional years, consistent with the requirements of subsection (g).

(g) RENEWAL CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of an agreement for any 1-year additional period described in subsection (f) for an entity to operate a particular Job Corps center if, for both of the 2 most recent preceding program years for which information is available at the time the determination is made, or if a second program year is not available, the preceding year for which information is available, such center—

(A) has been ranked in the lowest 10 percent of Job Corps centers; and

(B) failed to achieve an average of 50 percent or higher of the expected level of performance under section 159(c)(1) with respect to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may exercise an option to renew the agreement for no more than 2 additional years if the Secretary determines such renewal would be in the best interest of the Job Corps program, taking into account factors including—

(A) significant improvements in program performance from when the agreement was originally executed, which may include consideration of partial program year information, or steps taken that are likely to result in such improvement;

(B) that the performance is due to circumstances beyond the control of the entity, such as a natural disaster, economic down-

turn in the area, or other such similar factors;

(C) a significant disruption in the operations of the center, including in the ability to continue to provide services to students, or significant increase in the cost of such operations; or

(D) a significant disruption in the procurement process with respect to carrying out a competition for the selection of a center operator.

(3) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall only renew the agreement of an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the entity—

(A) has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;

(B) has adequate financial resources to perform the agreement;

(C) has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills; and

(D) is otherwise qualified and eligible under applicable laws and regulations, including that the contractor is not under suspension or debarred from eligibility for Federal contracts.

SEC. 148. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

(a) ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY JOB CORPS CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well organized, and fully supervised program of education, including English language acquisition programs, career and technical education and training, work experience, work-based learning, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, driver's education, and counseling, which may include information about financial literacy. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to career services described in clauses (i) through (xi) of section 134(c)(2)(A).

(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

(A) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

(B) enroll in and complete secondary education or postsecondary education or training programs, including other suitable career and technical education and training, and apprenticeship programs; or

(C) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

(3) LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to employment opportunities in in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State or local area in which the Job Corps center is located and, to the extent practicable, in the State or local area in which the enrollee intends to seek employment after graduation.

(b) ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary may arrange for career and technical education and training of enrollees through local public or private educational agencies, career and technical educational institutions, technical institutes, or national service providers, whenever such entities provide education and training substantially equivalent in cost and quality to that which the Secretary could provide through other means.

(c) ADVANCED CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may arrange for programs of advanced career training for selected enrollees in which the enrollees may continue to participate for a period of not to exceed 1 year in addition to the period of participation to which the enrollees

would otherwise be limited. The advanced career training may be provided through the eligible providers of training services identified under section 122.

(2) **BENEFITS.**—During the period of participation in an advanced career training program, an enrollee shall be eligible for full Job Corps benefits, or a monthly stipend equal to the average value of the residential support, food, allowances, and other benefits provided to enrollees assigned to residential Job Corps centers.

(3) **DEMONSTRATION.**—The Secretary shall develop standards by which any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

(B) for the most recently preceding 2 program years, such operator has, on average, met or exceeded the expected levels of performance under section 159(c)(1) for each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(d) **GRADUATE SERVICES.**—In order to promote the retention of graduates in employment or postsecondary education, the Secretary shall arrange for the provision of job placement and support services to graduates for up to 12 months after the date of graduation. Multiple resources, including one-stop partners, may support the provision of these services, including services from the State vocational rehabilitation agency, to supplement job placement and job development efforts for Job Corps graduates who are individuals with disabilities.

(e) **CHILD CARE.**—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide child care at or near Job Corps centers, for individuals who require child care for their children in order to participate in the Job Corps.

SEC. 149. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

(a) **ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING.**—The Secretary shall arrange for assessment and counseling for each enrollee at regular intervals to measure progress in the academic and career and technical education and training programs carried out through the Job Corps.

(b) **PLACEMENT.**—The Secretary shall arrange for assessment and counseling for enrollees prior to their scheduled graduations to determine their capabilities and, based on their capabilities, shall place the enrollees in employment leading to economic self-sufficiency for which the enrollees are trained or assist the enrollees in participating in further activities described in this subtitle. In arranging for the placement of graduates in jobs, the Secretary shall utilize the one-stop delivery system to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) **STATUS AND PROGRESS.**—The Secretary shall determine the status and progress of enrollees scheduled for graduation and make every effort to assure that their needs for further activities described in this subtitle are met.

(d) **SERVICES TO FORMER ENROLLEES.**—The Secretary may provide such services as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under this subtitle to former enrollees.

SEC. 150. SUPPORT.

(a) **PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.**—The Secretary may provide enrollees assigned to Job Corps centers with such personal allowances as the Secretary may determine to be necessary or appropriate to meet the needs of the enrollees.

(b) **TRANSITION ALLOWANCES.**—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allow-

ance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate's completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials.

(c) **TRANSITION SUPPORT.**—The Secretary may arrange for the provision of 3 months of employment services for former enrollees.

SEC. 151. OPERATIONS.

(a) **OPERATING PLAN.**—The provisions of the contract between the Secretary and an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center shall, at a minimum, serve as an operating plan for the Job Corps center.

(b) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The Secretary may require the operator, in order to remain eligible to operate the Job Corps center, to submit such additional information as the Secretary may require, which shall be considered part of the operating plan.

(c) **AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall make the operating plan described in subsections (a) and (b), excluding any proprietary information, available to the public.

SEC. 152. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

(a) **PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary shall provide, and directors of Job Corps centers shall stringently enforce, standards of conduct within the centers. Such standards of conduct shall include provisions forbidding the actions described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(b) **DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To promote the proper behavioral standards in the Job Corps, the directors of Job Corps centers shall have the authority to take appropriate disciplinary measures against enrollees if such a director determines that an enrollee has committed a violation of the standards of conduct. The director shall dismiss the enrollee from the Job Corps if the director determines that the retention of the enrollee in the Job Corps will jeopardize the enforcement of such standards, threaten the safety of staff, students, or the local community, or diminish the opportunities of other enrollees.

(2) **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AND DRUG TESTING.**—

(A) **GUIDELINES.**—The Secretary shall adopt guidelines establishing a zero tolerance policy for an act of violence, for use, sale, or possession of a controlled substance, for abuse of alcohol, or for other illegal or disruptive activity.

(B) **DRUG TESTING.**—The Secretary shall require drug testing of all enrollees for controlled substances in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary under section 145(a).

(C) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

(i) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.**—The term “controlled substance” has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(ii) **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.**—The term “zero tolerance policy” means a policy under which an enrollee shall be automatically dismissed from the Job Corps after a determination by the director that the enrollee has carried out an action described in subparagraph (A).

(c) **APPEAL.**—A disciplinary measure taken by a director under this section shall be subject to expeditious appeal in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

(a) **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.**—The director of each Job Corps center shall ensure the establishment and development of the mutually beneficial business and community relationships and networks described in subsection (b), including the use of

local boards, in order to enhance the effectiveness of such centers.

(b) **NETWORKS.**—The activities carried out by each Job Corps center under this section shall include—

(1) establishing and developing relationships and networks with—

(A) local and distant employers, to the extent practicable, in coordination with entities carrying out other Federal and non-Federal programs that conduct similar outreach to employers;

(B) applicable one-stop centers and applicable local boards, for the purpose of providing—

(i) information to, and referral of, potential enrollees; and

(ii) job opportunities for Job Corps graduates; and

(C)(i) entities carrying out relevant apprenticeship programs and youth programs;

(ii) labor-management organizations and local labor organizations;

(iii) employers and contractors that support national training contractor programs; and

(iv) community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and intermediaries providing workforce development-related services; and

(2) establishing and developing relationships with members of the community in which the Job Corps center is located, informing members of the community about the projects of the Job Corps center and changes in the rules, procedures, or activities of the center that may affect the community, and planning events of mutual interest to the community and the Job Corps center.

(c) **NEW CENTERS.**—The director of a Job Corps center that is not yet operating shall ensure the establishment and development of the relationships and networks described in subsection (b) at least 3 months prior to the date on which the center accepts the first enrollee at the center.

SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council, appointed by the director of the center, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

(b) **WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

(A) a majority of members who shall be owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector employers, who—

(i) have substantial management, hiring, or policy responsibility; and

(ii) represent businesses with employment opportunities that reflect the employment opportunities of the applicable local areas in which enrollees will be seeking employment;

(B) representatives of labor organizations (where present) and representatives of employees; and

(C) enrollees and graduates of the Job Corps.

(2) **LOCAL BOARD.**—The workforce council may include members of the applicable local boards who meet the requirements described in paragraph (1).

(3) **EMPLOYERS OUTSIDE OF LOCAL AREA.**—The workforce council for a Job Corps center may include, or otherwise provide for consultation with, employers from outside the local area who are likely to hire a significant number of enrollees from the Job Corps center.

(4) **SPECIAL RULE FOR SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREAS.**—In the case of a single State local

area designated under section 106(d), the workforce council shall include a representative of the State Board.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

(1) to work closely with all applicable local boards in order to determine, and recommend to the Secretary, appropriate career and technical education and training for the center;

(2) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan or the local plan, to—

(A) recommend the in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the area in which the Job Corps center operates;

(B) determine the employment opportunities in the local areas in which the enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

(C) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities; and

(D) recommend to the Secretary the type of career and technical education and training that should be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

(3) to meet at least once every 6 months to reevaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine, and recommend to the Secretary, any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.

(d) **NEW CENTERS.**—The workforce council for a Job Corps center that is not yet operating shall carry out the responsibilities described in subsection (c) at least 3 months prior to the date on which the center accepts the first enrollee at the center.

SEC. 155. ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

The Secretary may establish and use advisory committees in connection with the operation of the Job Corps program, and the operation of Job Corps centers, whenever the Secretary determines that the availability of outside advice and counsel on a regular basis would be of substantial benefit in identifying and overcoming problems, in planning program or center development, or in strengthening relationships between the Job Corps and agencies, institutions, or groups engaged in related activities.

SEC. 156. EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **PROJECTS.**—The Secretary may carry out experimental, research, or demonstration projects relating to carrying out the Job Corps program. The Secretary may waive any provisions of this subtitle that the Secretary finds would prevent the Secretary from carrying out the projects if the Secretary informs the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, in writing, not less than 90 days in advance of issuing such waiver.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—From the funds provided under section 162 (for the purposes of administration), the Secretary may reserve $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance for the Job Corps program for the purpose of improving program quality. Such assistance shall include—

(1) assisting Job Corps centers and programs—

(A) in correcting deficiencies under, and violations of, this subtitle;

(B) in meeting or exceeding the expected levels of performance under section 159(c)(1)

for the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A);

(C) in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures; and

(2) assisting entities, including entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the additional selection factors information described in section 147(a)(3).

SEC. 157. APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL LAW.

(a) **ENROLLEES NOT CONSIDERED TO BE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and in section 8143(a) of title 5, United States Code, enrollees shall not be considered to be Federal employees and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including such provisions regarding hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

(2) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), enrollees shall be deemed to be employees of the United States and any service performed by an individual as an enrollee shall be deemed to be performed in the employ of the United States.

(3) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMPENSATION TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FOR WORK INJURIES.**—For purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries), enrollees shall be deemed to be civil employees of the Government of the United States within the meaning of the term “employee” as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of such subchapter shall apply as specified in section 8143(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(4) **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS PROVISIONS.**—For purposes of the Federal tort claims provisions in title 28, United States Code, enrollees shall be considered to be employees of the Government.

(b) **ADJUSTMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS.**—Whenever the Secretary finds a claim for damages to a person or property resulting from the operation of the Job Corps to be a proper charge against the United States, and the claim is not cognizable under section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, the Secretary may adjust and settle the claim in an amount not exceeding \$1,500.

(c) **PERSONNEL OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**—Personnel of the uniformed services who are detailed or assigned to duty in the performance of agreements made by the Secretary for the support of the Job Corps shall not be counted in computing strength under any law limiting the strength of such services or in computing the percentage authorized by law for any grade in such services.

SEC. 158. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

(a) **ENROLLMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that women and men have an equal opportunity to participate in the Job Corps program, consistent with section 145.

(b) **STUDIES, EVALUATIONS, PROPOSALS, AND DATA.**—The Secretary shall assure that all studies, evaluations, proposals, and data produced or developed with Federal funds in the course of carrying out the Job Corps program shall become the property of the United States.

(c) **TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, and any other provision of law, the Secretary and the Secretary of Education shall receive priority

by the Secretary of Defense for the direct transfer, on a nonreimbursable basis, of the property described in paragraph (2) for use in carrying out programs under this Act or under any other Act.

(2) **PROPERTY.**—The property described in this paragraph is real and personal property under the control of the Department of Defense that is not used by such Department, including property that the Secretary of Defense determines is in excess of current and projected requirements of such Department.

(d) **GROSS RECEIPTS.**—Transactions conducted by a private for-profit or nonprofit entity that is an operator or service provider for a Job Corps center shall not be considered to be generating gross receipts. Such an operator or service provider shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, to any State or subdivision of a State (nor to any person acting on behalf of such a State or subdivision) for any gross receipts taxes, business privilege taxes measured by gross receipts, or any similar taxes imposed on, or measured by, gross receipts in connection with any payments made to or by such entity for operating or providing services to a Job Corps center. Such an operator or service provider shall not be liable to any State or subdivision of a State to collect or pay any sales, excise, use, or similar tax imposed on the sale to or use by such operator or service provider of any property, service, or other item in connection with the operation of or provision of services to a Job Corps center.

(e) **MANAGEMENT FEE.**—The Secretary shall provide each operator and (in an appropriate case, as determined by the Secretary) service provider with an equitable and negotiated management fee of not less than 1 percent of the amount of the funding provided under the appropriate agreement specified in section 147.

(f) **DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept on behalf of the Job Corps or individual Job Corps centers charitable donations of cash or other assistance, including equipment and materials, if such donations are available for appropriate use for the purposes set forth in this subtitle.

(g) **SALE OF PROPERTY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Administrator of General Services sells a Job Corps center facility, the Administrator shall transfer the proceeds from the sale to the Secretary, who shall use the proceeds to carry out the Job Corps program.

SEC. 159. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.

(a) **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that each operator, and each service provider, maintains a financial management information system that will provide—

(A) accurate, complete, and current disclosures of the costs of Job Corps operations; and

(B) sufficient data for the effective evaluation of activities carried out through the Job Corps program.

(2) **ACCOUNTS.**—Each operator and service provider shall maintain funds received under this subtitle in accounts in a manner that ensures timely and accurate reporting as required by the Secretary.

(3) **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.**—Operators shall remain fiscally responsible and control costs, regardless of whether the funds made available for Job Corps centers are incrementally increased or decreased between fiscal years.

(b) **AUDIT.**—

(1) **ACCESS.**—The Secretary, the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, the

Comptroller General of the United States, and any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the operators and service providers described in subsection (a) that are pertinent to the Job Corps program, for purposes of conducting surveys, audits, and evaluations of the operators and service providers.

(2) **SURVEYS, AUDITS, AND EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary shall survey, audit, or evaluate, or arrange for the survey, audit, or evaluation of, the operators and service providers, using Federal auditors or independent public accountants. The Secretary shall conduct such surveys, audits, or evaluations not less often than once every 3 years.

(c) **INFORMATION ON INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

(1) **LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE AND INDICATORS.**—The Secretary shall annually establish expected levels of performance for a Job Corps center and the Job Corps program relating to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) **PERFORMANCE OF RECRUITERS.**—The Secretary shall also establish performance indicators, and expected levels of performance on the performance indicators, for recruitment service providers serving the Job Corps program. The performance indicators shall relate to—

(A) the number of enrollees recruited, compared to the established goals for such recruitment, and the number of enrollees who remain committed to the program for 90 days after enrollment; and

(B) the measurements described in subparagraphs (I), (L), and (M) of subsection (d)(1).

(3) **PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The Secretary shall also establish performance indicators, and expected performance levels on the performance indicators, for career transition service providers serving the Job Corps program. The performance indicators shall relate to—

(A) the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); and

(B) the measurements described in subparagraphs (D), (E), (H), (J), and (K) of subsection (d)(1).

(4) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall collect, and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report including—

(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, based on the performance indicators described in paragraph (1), as compared to the expected level of performance established under such paragraph for each performance indicator; and

(B) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (2) and (3) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs, as compared to the expected level of performance established for each performance indicator.

(d) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall also collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (c)(4), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

(A) the number of enrollees served;

(B) demographic information on the enrollees served, including age, race, gender, and education and income level;

(C) the number of graduates of a Job Corps center;

(D) the number of graduates who entered the Armed Forces;

(E) the number of graduates who entered apprenticeship programs;

(F) the number of graduates who received a regular secondary school diploma;

(G) the number of graduates who received a State recognized equivalent of a secondary school diploma;

(H) the number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps program and the number who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the education and training received;

(I) the percentage and number of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b);

(J) the percentage and number of graduates who enter postsecondary education;

(K) the average wage of graduates who enter unsubsidized employment—

(i) on the first day of such employment; and

(ii) on the day that is 6 months after such first day;

(L) the percentages of enrollees described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 145(c)(1), as compared to the percentage targets established by the Secretary under such section for the center;

(M) the cost per enrollee, which is calculated by comparing the number of enrollees at the center in a program year to the total budget for such center in the same program year;

(N) the cost per graduate, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates of the center in a program year compared to the total budget for such center in the same program year; and

(O) any additional information required by the Secretary.

(2) **RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.**—The disaggregation of data under this subsection shall not be required when the number of individuals in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or when the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual.

(e) **METHODS.**—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 116(i)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

(f) **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center. Based on the assessment, the Secretary shall take measures to continuously improve the performance of the Job Corps program.

(2) **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.**—With respect to a Job Corps center that fails to meet the expected levels of performance relating to the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action to be taken during a 1-year period, including—

(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

(B) changing the career and technical education and training offered at the center;

(C) changing the management staff of the center;

(D) replacing the operator of the center;

(E) reducing the capacity of the center;

(F) relocating the center; or

(G) closing the center.

(3) **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.**—In addition to the performance improvement plans required under paragraph (2), the Secretary may develop and implement additional performance improvement plans. Such a plan shall require improvements, including the actions described in such paragraph, for a Job Corps center that fails to meet criteria established by the Secretary other than the expected levels of performance described in such paragraph.

(4) **CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.**—With respect to a Civilian Conservation Center that fails to meet the expected levels of performance relating to the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1) or fails to improve performance as described in paragraph (2) after 3 program years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall select an entity to operate the Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, in accordance with the requirements of section 147.

(g) **PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.**—

(1) **CENTER.**—The Secretary shall ensure that a review by an appropriate Federal, State, or local entity of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center occurs annually.

(2) **WORK-BASED LEARNING LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall require that an entity that has entered into a contract to provide work-based learning activities for any Job Corps enrollee under this subtitle shall comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) or, as appropriate, under the corresponding State Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 requirements in the State in which such activities occur.

(h) **BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.**—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (c)(4), information regarding the state of Job Corps buildings and facilities. Such report shall include—

(1) a review of requested construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition projects, by each Job Corps center; and

(2) a review of new facilities under construction.

(i) **NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**—The Secretary shall include in the report described in subsection (c)(4) available information regarding the national and community service activities of enrollees, particularly those enrollees at Civilian Conservation Centers.

(j) **CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTER.**—Prior to the closure of any Job Corps center, the Secretary shall ensure—

(1) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register or other appropriate means;

(2) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary; and

(3) that the Member of Congress who represents the district in which such center is located is notified within a reasonable period of time in advance of any final decision to close the center.

SEC. 160. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

The Secretary is authorized to—

(1) disseminate, with regard to the provisions of section 3204 of title 39, United States Code, data and information in such forms as the Secretary shall determine to be appropriate, to public agencies, private organizations, and the general public;

(2) subject to section 157(b), collect or compromise all obligations to or held by the Secretary and exercise all legal or equitable rights accruing to the Secretary in connection with the payment of obligations until such time as such obligations may be referred to the Attorney General for suit or collection; and

(3) expend funds made available for purposes of this subtitle—

(A) for printing and binding, in accordance with applicable law (including regulation); and

(B) without regard to any other law (including regulation), for rent of buildings and space in buildings and for repair, alteration, and improvement of buildings and space in buildings rented by the Secretary, except that the Secretary shall not expend funds under the authority of this subparagraph—

(i) except when necessary to obtain an item, service, or facility, that is required in the proper administration of this subtitle, and that otherwise could not be obtained, or could not be obtained in the quantity or quality needed, or at the time, in the form, or under the conditions in which the item, service, or facility is needed; and

(ii) prior to having given written notification to the Administrator of General Services (if the expenditure would affect an activity that otherwise would be under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration) of the intention of the Secretary to make the expenditure, and the reasons and justifications for the expenditure.

SEC. 161. JOB CORPS OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.

(a) TEMPORARY FINANCIAL REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the periods described in paragraphs (2) and (3)(B), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the applicable committees financial reports regarding the Job Corps program under this subtitle. Each such financial report shall include—

(A) information regarding the implementation of the financial oversight measures suggested in the May 31, 2013, report of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor entitled “The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration Needs to Strengthen Controls over Job Corps Funds”;

(B) a description of any budgetary shortfalls for the program for the period covered by the financial report, and the reasons for such shortfalls; and

(C) a description and explanation for any approval for contract expenditures that are in excess of the amounts provided for under the contract.

(2) TIMING OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit a financial report under paragraph (1) once every 6 months beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, for a 3-year period. After the completion of such 3-year period, the Secretary shall submit a financial report under such paragraph once a year for the next 2 years, unless additional reports are required under paragraph (3)(B).

(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN CASES OF BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS.—If any financial report required under this subsection finds that the Job Corps program under this subtitle has a budgetary shortfall for the period covered by the report, the Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the budgetary shortfall was identified, submit a report to the applicable committees explaining how the budgetary shortfall will be addressed; and

(B) submit an additional financial report under paragraph (1) for each 6-month period subsequent to the finding of the budgetary

shortfall until the Secretary demonstrates, through such report, that the Job Corps program has no budgetary shortfall.

(b) THIRD-PARTY REVIEW.—Every 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for a third-party review of the Job Corps program under this subtitle that addresses all of the areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 169(a)(2). The results of the review shall be submitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(c) CRITERIA FOR JOB CORPS CENTER CLOSURES.—By not later than December 1, 2014, the Secretary shall establish written criteria that the Secretary shall use to determine when a Job Corps center supported under this subtitle is to be closed and how to carry out such closure, and shall submit such criteria to the applicable committees.

(d) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “applicable committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee of Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(4) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee of Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 162. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle—

- (1) \$1,688,155,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$1,818,548,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$1,856,283,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$1,897,455,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$1,942,064,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$1,983,236,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle D—National Programs

SEC. 166. NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The purpose of this section is to support employment and training activities for Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals in order—

(A) to develop more fully the academic, occupational, and literacy skills of such individuals;

(B) to make such individuals more competitive in the workforce and to equip them with the entrepreneurial skills necessary for successful self-employment; and

(C) to promote the economic and social development of Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities in accordance with the goals and values of such communities.

(2) INDIAN POLICY.—All programs assisted under this section shall be administered in a manner consistent with the principles of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) and the government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribal governments.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(1) ALASKA NATIVE.—The term “Alaska Native” includes a Native and a descendant of a Native, as such terms are defined in subsections (b) and (r) of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b), (r)).

(2) INDIAN, INDIAN TRIBE, AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms “Indian”, “Indian tribe”, and “tribal organization” have the

meanings given such terms in subsections (d), (e), and (l), respectively, of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The terms “Native Hawaiian” and “Native Hawaiian organization” have the meanings given such terms in section 7207 of the Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Every 4 years, the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (d).

(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under subsection (c) shall be used to carry out the activities described in paragraph (2) that—

(A) are consistent with this section; and

(B) are necessary to meet the needs of Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians preparing to enter, reenter, or retain unsubsidized employment leading to self-sufficiency.

(2) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under subsection (c) shall be used for—

(i) comprehensive workforce development activities for Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians, including training on entrepreneurial skills; or

(ii) supplemental services for Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian youth on or near Indian reservations and in Oklahoma, Alaska, or Hawaii.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, individuals who were eligible to participate in programs under section 401 of the Job Training Partnership Act (as such section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998) shall be eligible to participate in an activity assisted under this section.

(e) PROGRAM PLAN.—In order to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity described in subsection (c) shall submit to the Secretary a program plan that describes a 4-year strategy for meeting the needs of Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian individuals, as appropriate, in the area served by such entity. Such plan shall—

(1) be consistent with the purpose of this section;

(2) identify the population to be served;

(3) identify the education and employment needs of the population to be served and the manner in which the activities to be provided will strengthen the ability of the individuals served to obtain or retain unsubsidized employment leading to self-sufficiency;

(4) describe the activities to be provided and the manner in which such activities are to be integrated with other appropriate activities; and

(5) describe, after the entity submitting the plan consults with the Secretary, the performance accountability measures to be used to assess the performance of entities in carrying out the activities assisted under this section, which shall include the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) and expected levels of performance for such indicators, in accordance with subsection (h).

(f) **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.**—Each entity receiving assistance under subsection (c) may consolidate such assistance with assistance received from related programs in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.).

(g) **NONDUPLICATIVE AND NONEXCLUSIVE SERVICES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to limit the eligibility of any entity described in subsection (c) to participate in any activity offered by a State or local entity under this Act; or

(2) to preclude or discourage any agreement, between any entity described in subsection (c) and any State or local entity, to facilitate the provision of services by such entity or to the population served by such entity.

(h) **PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND STANDARDS.**—

(A) **DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS AND STANDARDS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Native American Employment and Training Council, shall develop a set of performance indicators and standards that is in addition to the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) and that shall be applicable to programs under this section.

(B) **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—Such performance indicators and standards shall take into account—

(i) the purpose of this section as described in subsection (a)(1);

(ii) the needs of the groups served by this section, including the differences in needs among such groups in various geographic service areas; and

(iii) the economic circumstances of the communities served, including differences in circumstances among various geographic service areas.

(2) **AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary and the entity described in subsection (c) shall reach agreement on the levels of performance for each of the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), taking into account economic conditions, characteristics of the individuals served, and other appropriate factors and using, to the extent practicable, the statistical adjustment model under section 116(b)(3)(A)(viii). The levels agreed to shall be the adjusted levels of performance and shall be incorporated in the program plan.

(i) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT ESTABLISHED.**—The Secretary shall designate a single organizational unit within the Department of Labor that shall have primary responsibility for the administration of the activities authorized under this section.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with the entities described in subsection (c) in—

(A) establishing regulations to carry out this section, including regulations relating to the performance accountability measures for entities receiving assistance under this section; and

(B) developing a funding distribution plan that takes into consideration previous levels of funding (prior to the date of enactment of this Act) to such entities.

(3) **WAIVERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to an entity described in subsection (c), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law,

may, pursuant to a request submitted by such entity that meets the requirements established under subparagraph (B), waive any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of this title that are inconsistent with the specific needs of the entity described in such subsection, except that the Secretary may not waive requirements relating to wage and labor standards, worker rights, participation and protection of workers and participants, grievance procedures, and judicial review.

(B) **REQUEST AND APPROVAL.**—An entity described in subsection (c) that requests a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall submit a plan to the Secretary to improve the program of workforce investment activities carried out by the entity, which plan shall meet the requirements established by the Secretary and shall be generally consistent with the requirements of section 189(i)(3)(B).

(4) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a Native American Employment and Training Council to facilitate the consultation described in paragraph (2) and to provide the advice described in subparagraph (C).

(B) **COMPOSITION.**—The Council shall be composed of individuals, appointed by the Secretary, who are representatives of the entities described in subsection (c).

(C) **DUTIES.**—The Council shall advise the Secretary on the operation and administration of the programs assisted under this section, including the selection of the individual appointed as head of the unit established under paragraph (1).

(D) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(i) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

(ii) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

(iii) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Secretary shall provide the Council with such administrative support as may be necessary to perform the functions of the Council.

(E) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Council shall select a chairperson from among its members.

(F) **MEETINGS.**—The Council shall meet not less than twice each year.

(G) **APPLICATION.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.

(5) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary, acting through the unit established under paragraph (1), is authorized to provide technical assistance to entities described in subsection (c) that receive assistance under such subsection to enable such entities to improve the activities authorized under this section that are provided by such entities.

(6) **AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE PROGRAM.**—A federally recognized Indian tribe that administers funds provided under this section and funds provided by more than one State under other sections of this title may enter into an agreement with the Secretary and the Governors of the affected States to transfer the funds provided by the States to the program administered by the tribe under this section.

(j) **COMPLIANCE WITH SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS; RELATED REQUIREMENT.**—Grants made and contracts and cooperative agreements entered into under this section shall

be subject to the requirements of chapter 75 of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, and charging of costs under this section shall be subject to appropriate circulars issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

(k) **ASSISTANCE TO UNIQUE POPULATIONS IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to provide assistance to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Incorporated, and the University of Hawaii at Maui, for the unique populations who reside in Alaska or Hawaii, respectively, to improve job training and workforce investment activities.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

(A) \$461,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(B) \$497,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(C) \$507,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(D) \$518,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(E) \$530,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(F) \$542,000 for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 167. MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARM-WORKER PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Every 4 years, the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract under this section, an entity shall have an understanding of the problems of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (including dependents), a familiarity with the area to be served, and the ability to demonstrate a capacity to administer and deliver effectively a diversified program of workforce investment activities (including youth workforce investment activities) and related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

(c) **PROGRAM PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract under this section, an entity described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary a plan that describes a 4-year strategy for meeting the needs of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the area to be served by such entity.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Such plan shall—

(A) describe the population to be served and identify the education and employment needs of the population to be served and the manner in which the services to be provided will strengthen the ability of the eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers and dependents to obtain or retain unsubsidized employment, or stabilize their unsubsidized employment, including upgraded employment in agriculture;

(B) describe the related assistance and supportive services to be provided and the manner in which such assistance and services are to be integrated and coordinated with other appropriate services;

(C) describe the performance accountability measures to be used to assess the performance of such entity in carrying out the activities assisted under this section, which shall include the expected levels of performance for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A);

(D) describe the availability and accessibility of local resources, such as supportive services, services provided through one-stop delivery systems, and education and training services, and how the resources can be made available to the population to be served; and

(E) describe the plan for providing services under this section, including strategies and

systems for outreach, career planning, assessment, and delivery through one-stop delivery systems.

(3) **AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary and the entity described in subsection (b) shall reach agreement on the levels of performance for each of the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), taking into account economic conditions, characteristics of the individuals served, and other appropriate factors, and using, to the extent practicable, the statistical adjustment model under section 116(b)(3)(A)(viii). The levels agreed to shall be the adjusted levels of performance and shall be incorporated in the program plan.

(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Grants and contracts awarded under this section shall be centrally administered by the Department of Labor and competitively awarded by the Secretary using procedures consistent with standard Federal Government competitive procurement policies.

(d) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Funds made available under this section and section 127(a)(1) shall be used to carry out workforce investment activities (including youth workforce investment activities) and provide related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, which may include—

(1) outreach, employment, training, educational assistance, literacy assistance, English language and literacy instruction, pesticide and worker safety training, housing (including permanent housing), supportive services, and school dropout prevention and recovery activities;

(2) followup services for those individuals placed in employment;

(3) self-employment and related business or micro-enterprise development or education as needed by eligible individuals as identified pursuant to the plan required by subsection (c);

(4) customized career and technical education in occupations that will lead to higher wages, enhanced benefits, and long-term employment in agriculture or another area; and

(5) technical assistance to improve coordination of services and implement best practices relating to service delivery through one-stop delivery systems.

(e) **CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNORS AND LOCAL BOARDS.**—In making grants and entering into contracts under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Governors and local boards of the States in which the eligible entities will carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers groups and States in establishing regulations to carry out this section, including regulations relating to how economic and demographic barriers to employment of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers should be considered and included in the negotiations leading to the adjusted levels of performance described in subsection (c)(3).

(g) **COMPLIANCE WITH SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS; RELATED REQUIREMENT.**—Grants made and contracts entered into under this section shall be subject to the requirements of chapter 75 of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code and charging of costs under this section shall be subject to appropriate circulars issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

(h) **FUNDING ALLOCATION.**—From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent for discretionary pur-

poses, such as providing technical assistance to eligible entities.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS.**—The term “eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers” means individuals who are eligible migrant farmworkers or are eligible seasonal farmworkers.

(2) **ELIGIBLE MIGRANT FARMWORKER.**—The term “eligible migrant farmworker” means—

(A) an eligible seasonal farmworker described in paragraph (3)(A) whose agricultural labor requires travel to a job site such that the farmworker is unable to return to a permanent place of residence within the same day; and

(B) a dependent of the farmworker described in subparagraph (A).

(3) **ELIGIBLE SEASONAL FARMWORKER.**—The term “eligible seasonal farmworker” means—

(A) a low-income individual who—

(i) for 12 consecutive months out of the 24 months prior to application for the program involved, has been primarily employed in agricultural or fish farming labor that is characterized by chronic unemployment or underemployment; and

(ii) faces multiple barriers to economic self-sufficiency; and

(B) a dependent of the person described in subparagraph (A).

SEC. 168. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Department has sufficient capacity to, and does, provide, coordinate, and support the development of, appropriate training, technical assistance, staff development, and other activities, including—

(A) assistance in replicating programs of demonstrated effectiveness, to States and localities;

(B) the training of staff providing rapid response services;

(C) the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, including the staff of local boards and State boards;

(D) the training of members of State boards and local boards;

(E) assistance in the development and implementation of integrated, technology-enabled intake and case management information systems for programs carried out under this Act and programs carried out by one-stop partners, such as standard sets of technical requirements for the systems, offering interfaces that States could use in conjunction with their current (as of the first date of implementation of the systems) intake and case management information systems that would facilitate shared registration across programs;

(F) assistance regarding accounting and program operations to States and localities (when such assistance would not supplant assistance provided by the State);

(G) peer review activities under this title; and

(H) in particular, assistance to States in making transitions to implement the provisions of this Act.

(2) **FORM OF ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out paragraph (1) on behalf of a State or recipient of financial assistance under section 166 or 167, the Secretary, after consultation with the State or grant recipient, may award grants or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—Grants or contracts awarded under paragraph (1) to entities other than States or local units of govern-

ment that are for amounts in excess of \$100,000 shall only be awarded on a competitive basis.

(b) **DISLOCATED WORKER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—Of the amounts available pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent of such amounts to provide technical assistance to States that do not meet the State performance accountability measures for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) with respect to employment and training activities for dislocated workers. Using such reserved funds, the Secretary may provide such assistance to other States, local areas, and other entities involved in providing assistance to dislocated workers, to promote the continuous improvement of assistance provided to dislocated workers, under this title.

(2) **TRAINING.**—Amounts reserved under this subsection may be used to provide for the training of staff, including specialists, who provide rapid response services. Such training shall include instruction in proven methods of promoting, establishing, and assisting labor-management committees. Such projects shall be administered through the Employment and Training Administration of the Department.

(c) **PROMISING AND PROVEN PRACTICES COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding promising and proven practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act;

(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding such promising and proven practices and identify knowledge gaps; and

(3) commission research under section 169(b) to address knowledge gaps identified under paragraph (2).

SEC. 169. EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.

(a) **EVALUATIONS.**—

(1) **EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS TITLE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purpose of improving the management and effectiveness of programs and activities carried out under this title, the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities under this title, including those programs and activities carried out under this section.

(B) **PERIODIC INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.**—The evaluations carried out under this paragraph shall include an independent evaluation, at least once every 4 years, of the programs and activities carried out under this title.

(2) **EVALUATION SUBJECTS.**—Each evaluation carried out under paragraph (1) shall address—

(A) the general effectiveness of such programs and activities in relation to their cost, including the extent to which the programs and activities—

(i) improve the employment competencies of participants in comparison to comparably-situated individuals who did not participate in such programs and activities; and

(ii) to the extent feasible, increase the level of total employment over the level that would have existed in the absence of such programs and activities;

(B) the effectiveness of the performance accountability measures relating to such programs and activities;

(C) the effectiveness of the structure and mechanisms for delivery of services through such programs and activities, including the

coordination and integration of services through such programs and activities;

(D) the impact of such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and participants involved;

(E) the impact of such programs and activities on related programs and activities;

(F) the extent to which such programs and activities meet the needs of various demographic groups; and

(G) such other factors as may be appropriate.

(3) **EVALUATIONS OF OTHER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may conduct evaluations of other federally funded employment-related programs and activities under other provisions of law.

(4) **TECHNIQUES.**—Evaluations conducted under this subsection shall utilize appropriate and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies. The Secretary shall conduct at least 1 multisite control group evaluation under this subsection by the end of fiscal year 2019, and thereafter shall ensure that such an analysis is included in the independent evaluation described in paragraph (1)(B) that is conducted at least once every 4 years.

(5) **REPORTS.**—The entity carrying out an evaluation described in paragraph (1) or (2) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a draft report and a final report containing the results of the evaluation.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after the completion of a draft report under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall transmit the draft report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate. Not later than 60 days after the completion of a final report under such paragraph, the Secretary shall transmit the final report to such committees.

(7) **PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.**—If an entity that enters into a contract or other arrangement with the Secretary to conduct an evaluation of a program or activity under this subsection requests permission from the Secretary to publish a report resulting from the evaluation, such entity may publish the report unless the Secretary denies the request during the 90-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives such request.

(8) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure the coordination of evaluations carried out by States pursuant to section 116(e) with the evaluations carried out under this subsection.

(b) **RESEARCH, STUDIES, AND MULTISTATE PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After consultation with States, localities, and other interested parties, the Secretary shall, every 2 years, publish in the Federal Register, a plan that describes the research, studies, and multistate project priorities of the Department of Labor concerning employment and training for the 5-year period following the submission of the plan. The plan shall be consistent with the purposes of this title, including the purpose of aligning and coordinating core programs with other one-stop partner programs. Copies of the plan shall be transmitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Department of Education, and other relevant Federal agencies.

(2) **FACTORS.**—The plan published under paragraph (1) shall contain strategies to ad-

dress national employment and training problems and take into account factors such as—

(A) the availability of existing research (as of the date of the publication);

(B) the need to ensure results that have interstate validity;

(C) the benefits of economies of scale and the efficiency of proposed projects; and

(D) the likelihood that the results of the projects will be useful to policymakers and stakeholders in addressing employment and training problems.

(3) **RESEARCH PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall, through grants or contracts, carry out research projects that will contribute to the solution of employment and training problems in the United States and that are consistent with the priorities specified in the plan published under paragraph (1).

(4) **STUDIES AND REPORTS.**—

(A) **NET IMPACT STUDIES AND REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and other relevant Federal agencies, may conduct studies to determine the net impact and best practices of programs, services, and activities carried out under this Act.

(B) **STUDY ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study examining the characteristics of eligible youth that result in such youth being significantly disconnected from education and workforce participation, the ways in which such youth could have greater opportunities for education attainment and obtaining employment, and the resources available to assist such youth in obtaining the skills, credentials, and work experience necessary to become economically self-sufficient.

(C) **STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN MEETING BUSINESS NEEDS.**—Using funds available to carry out this subsection jointly with funds available to the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study of the effectiveness of the workforce development system in meeting the needs of business, such as through the use of industry or sector partnerships, with particular attention to the needs of small business, including in assisting workers to obtain the skills needed to utilize emerging technologies.

(D) **STUDY ON PARTICIPANTS ENTERING NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study examining the number and percentage of individuals who receive employment and training activities and who enter nontraditional occupations, successful strategies to place and support the retention of individuals in nontraditional employment (such as by providing post-placement assistance to participants in the form of exit interviews, mentoring, networking, and leadership development), and the degree to which recipients of employment and training activities are informed of the possibility of, or directed to begin, training or education needed for entrance into nontraditional occupations.

(E) **STUDY ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct studies to determine the feasibility of, and potential means to replicate, measuring the compensation, including the wages, benefits,

and other incentives provided by an employer, received by program participants by using data other than or in addition to data available through wage records, for potential use as a performance indicator.

(F) **STUDY ON JOB TRAINING FOR RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, may conduct studies to assist public housing authorities to provide, to recipients of public housing assistance, job training programs that successfully upgrade job skills and employment in, and access to, jobs with opportunity for advancement and economic self-sufficiency for such recipients.

(G) **STUDY ON IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may conduct studies that lead to better design and implementation of, in conjunction with employers, local boards or State boards, community colleges or area career and technical education schools, and other organizations, effective evidence-based strategies to provide services to workers who are low-income, low-skilled older individuals that increase the workers' skills and employment prospects.

(H) **STUDY ON PRIOR LEARNING.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with other heads of Federal agencies, as appropriate, may conduct studies that, through convening stakeholders from the fields of education, workforce, business, labor, defense, and veterans services, and experts in such fields, develop guidelines for assessing, accounting for, and utilizing the prior learning of individuals, including dislocated workers and veterans, in order to provide the individuals with postsecondary educational credit for such prior learning that leads to the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential identified under section 122(d) and employment.

(I) **STUDY ON CAREER PATHWAYS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PROVIDERS OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall conduct a multistate study to develop, implement, and build upon career advancement models and practices for low-wage health care providers or providers of early education and child care, including faculty education and distance education programs.

(J) **STUDY ON EQUIVALENT PAY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a multistate study to develop and disseminate strategies for ensuring that programs and activities carried out under this Act are placing individuals in jobs, education, and training that lead to equivalent pay for men and women, including strategies to increase the participation of women in high-wage, high-demand occupations in which women are underrepresented.

(K) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and to the public, including through electronic means, reports containing the results of the studies conducted under this paragraph.

(5) **MULTISTATE PROJECTS.**—

(A) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may, through grants or contracts, carry out multistate projects that require demonstrated expertise that is available at the national level to effectively disseminate best practices and models for implementing employment and training services, address the

specialized employment and training needs of particular service populations, or address industry-wide skill shortages, to the extent such projects are consistent with the priorities specified in the plan published under paragraph (1).

(B) DESIGN OF GRANTS.—Agreements for grants or contracts awarded under this paragraph shall be designed to obtain information relating to the provision of services under different economic conditions or to various demographic groups in order to provide guidance at the national and State levels about how best to administer specific employment and training services.

(6) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—A grant or contract awarded for carrying out a project under this subsection in an amount that exceeds \$100,000 shall be awarded only on a competitive basis, except that a noncompetitive award may be made in the case of a project that is funded jointly with other public or private sector entities that provide a substantial portion of assistance under the grant or contract for the project.

(B) TIME LIMITS.—A grant or contract shall not be awarded under this subsection to the same organization for more than 3 consecutive years unless such grant or contract is competitively reevaluated within such period.

(C) PEER REVIEW.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall utilize a peer review process—

(I) to review and evaluate all applications for grants in amounts that exceed \$500,000 that are submitted under this section; and

(II) to review and designate exemplary and promising programs under this section.

(ii) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The Secretary is authorized to use funds provided under this section to carry out peer review activities under this subparagraph.

(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants or contracts under this subsection, priority shall be provided to entities with recognized expertise in the methods, techniques, and knowledge of workforce investment activities. The Secretary shall establish appropriate time limits for the duration of such projects.

(C) DISLOCATED WORKER PROJECTS.—Of the amount made available pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A) for any program year, the Secretary shall use not more than 10 percent of such amount to carry out demonstration and pilot projects, multiservice projects, and multistate projects relating to the employment and training needs of dislocated workers. Of the requirements of this section, such projects shall be subject only to the provisions relating to review and evaluation of applications under subsection (b)(6)(C). Such projects may include demonstration and pilot projects relating to promoting self-employment, promoting job creation, averting dislocations, assisting dislocated farmers, assisting dislocated fishermen, and promoting public works. Such projects shall be administered by the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

SEC. 170. NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EMERGENCY OR DISASTER.—The term “emergency or disaster” means—

(A) an emergency or a major disaster, as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 (1) and (2)); or

(B) an emergency or disaster situation of national significance that could result in a

potentially large loss of employment, as declared or otherwise recognized by the chief official of a Federal agency with authority for or jurisdiction over the Federal response to the emergency or disaster situation.

(2) DISASTER AREA.—The term “disaster area” means an area that has suffered or in which has occurred an emergency or disaster.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to award national dislocated worker grants—

(A) to an entity described in subsection (c)(1)(B) to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations;

(B) to provide assistance to—

(i) the Governor of any State within the boundaries of which is a disaster area, to provide disaster relief employment in the disaster area; or

(ii) the Governor of any State to which a substantial number of workers from an area in which an emergency or disaster has been declared or otherwise recognized have relocated;

(C) to provide additional assistance to a State board or local board for eligible dislocated workers in a case in which the State board or local board has expended the funds provided under this section to carry out activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and can demonstrate the need for additional funds to provide appropriate services for such workers, in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Secretary; and

(D) to provide additional assistance to a State board or local board serving an area where—

(i) a higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities for dislocated members of the Armed Forces, spouses described in section 3(15)(E), or members of the Armed Forces described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(iv), exceeds State and local resources for providing such activities; and

(ii) such activities are to be carried out in partnership with the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs transition assistance programs.

(2) DECISIONS AND OBLIGATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue a final decision on an application for a national dislocated worker grant under this subsection not later than 45 calendar days after receipt of the application. The Secretary shall issue a notice of obligation for such grant not later than 10 days after the award of such grant.

(c) EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) GRANT RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (b)(1)(A), an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this paragraph, the term “entity” means a State, a local board, an entity described in section 166(c), an entity determined to be eligible by the Governor of the State involved, and any other entity that demonstrates to the Secretary the capability to effectively respond to the circumstances relating to particular dislocations.

(2) PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive employment and training assistance under a national dislocated worker grant awarded pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A), an individual shall be—

(i) a dislocated worker;

(ii) a civilian employee of the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy employed at a military installation that is being closed, or that will undergo realignment, within the next 24 months after the date of the determination of eligibility;

(iii) an individual who is employed in a nonmanagerial position with a Department of Defense contractor, who is determined by the Secretary of Defense to be at risk of termination from employment as a result of reductions in defense expenditures, and whose employer is converting operations from defense to nondefense applications in order to prevent worker layoffs; or

(iv) a member of the Armed Forces who—
(I) was on active duty or full-time National Guard duty;

(II)(aa) is involuntarily separated (as defined in section 1141 of title 10, United States Code) from active duty or full-time National Guard duty; or

(bb) is separated from active duty or full-time National Guard duty pursuant to a special separation benefits program under section 1174a of title 10, United States Code, or the voluntary separation incentive program under section 1175 of that title;

(III) is not entitled to retired or retained pay incident to the separation described in subclause (II); and

(IV) applies for such employment and training assistance before the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of that separation.

(B) RETRAINING ASSISTANCE.—The individuals described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be eligible for retraining assistance to upgrade skills by obtaining marketable skills needed to support the conversion described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

(C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish and publish additional requirements related to eligibility for employment and training assistance under the national dislocated worker grants to ensure effective use of the funds available for this purpose.

(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the terms “military installation” and “realignment” have the meanings given the terms in section 2910 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

(d) DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available under subsection (b)(1)(B)—

(A) shall be used, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as applicable, to provide disaster relief employment on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance for emergency and disaster victims, and projects regarding demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities, and lands located within the disaster area and in offshore areas related to the emergency or disaster;

(B) may be expended through public and private agencies and organizations engaged in such projects; and

(C) may be expended to provide employment and training activities.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual shall be eligible to be offered disaster relief employment under subsection (b)(1)(B) if such individual—

(A) is a dislocated worker;

(B) is a long-term unemployed individual;

(C) is temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the emergency or disaster; or

(D) in the case of an individual who is self-employed, becomes unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the emergency or disaster.

(3) LIMITATIONS ON DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no individual shall be employed under subsection (b)(1)(B) for more than 12 months for work related to recovery from a single emergency or disaster.

(B) EXTENSION.—At the request of a State, the Secretary may extend such employment, related to recovery from a single emergency or disaster involving the State, for not more than an additional 12 months.

(4) USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Funds made available under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be available to assist workers described in paragraph (2) who are affected by an emergency or disaster, including workers who have relocated from an area in which an emergency or disaster has been declared or otherwise recognized, as appropriate. Under conditions determined by the Secretary and following notification to the Secretary, a State may use such funds, that are appropriated for any fiscal year and available for expenditure under any grant awarded to the State under this section, to provide any assistance authorized under this subsection. Funds used pursuant to the authority provided under this paragraph shall be subject to the liability and reimbursement requirements described in paragraph (5).

(5) LIABILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to relieve liability, by a responsible party that is liable under Federal law, for any costs incurred by the United States under subsection (b)(1)(B) or this subsection, including the responsibility to provide reimbursement for such costs to the United States.

SEC. 171. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.

(a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(2) to provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities;

(3) to foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities;

(4) to expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth; and

(5) to improve the quality and energy efficiency of community and other nonprofit and public facilities, including those facilities that are used to serve homeless and low-income families.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADJUSTED INCOME.—The term “adjusted income” has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(2) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means an eligible entity that has submitted an application under subsection (c).

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a public or private nonprofit agency or organization (including a consortium of such agencies or organizations), including—

(A) a community-based organization;

(B) a faith-based organization;

(C) an entity carrying out activities under this title, such as a local board;

(D) a community action agency;

(E) a State or local housing development agency;

(F) an Indian tribe or other agency primarily serving Indians;

(G) a community development corporation;

(H) a State or local youth service or conservation corps; and

(I) any other entity eligible to provide education or employment training under a Federal program (other than the program carried out under this section).

(4) HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.—The term “homeless individual” means a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))) or a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))).

(5) HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The term “housing development agency” means any agency of a State or local government, or any private nonprofit organization, that is engaged in providing housing for homeless individuals or low-income families.

(6) INCOME.—The term “income” has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(7) INDIAN; INDIAN TRIBE.—The terms “Indian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(8) LOW-INCOME FAMILY.—The term “low-income family” means a family described in section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)).

(9) QUALIFIED NATIONAL NONPROFIT AGENCY.—The term “qualified national nonprofit agency” means a nonprofit agency that—

(A) has significant national experience providing services consisting of training, information, technical assistance, and data management to YouthBuild programs or similar projects; and

(B) has the capacity to provide those services.

(10) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term “registered apprenticeship program” means an apprenticeship program—

(A) registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

(B) that meets such other criteria as may be established by the Secretary under this section.

(11) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—The term “transitional housing” has the meaning given the term in section 401(29) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(29)).

(12) YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.—The term “YouthBuild program” means any program that receives assistance under this section and provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities for employment, education, leadership development, and training through the rehabilitation (which, for purposes of this section, shall include energy efficiency enhancements) or construction of housing for homeless individuals and low-income families, and of public facilities.

(c) YOUTHBUILD GRANTS.—

(1) AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out YouthBuild programs approved under this section.

(2) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to carry out a YouthBuild program, which may include the following activities:

(A) Education and workforce investment activities including—

(i) work experience and skills training (coordinated, to the maximum extent feasible, with preapprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs) in the activities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) related to rehabilitation or construction, and, if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates;

(ii) occupational skills training;

(iii) other paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing;

(iv) services and activities designed to meet the educational needs of participants, including—

(I) basic skills instruction and remedial education;

(II) language instruction educational programs for participants who are English language learners;

(III) secondary education services and activities, including tutoring, study skills training, and school dropout prevention and recovery activities, designed to lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including recognized certificates of attendance or similar documents for individuals with disabilities);

(IV) counseling and assistance in obtaining postsecondary education and required financial aid; and

(V) alternative secondary school services;

(v) counseling services and related activities, such as comprehensive guidance and counseling on drug and alcohol abuse and referral;

(vi) activities designed to develop employment and leadership skills, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors, and activities related to youth policy committees that participate in decision-making related to the program;

(vii) supportive services and provision of need-based stipends necessary to enable individuals to participate in the program and to assist individuals, for a period not to exceed 12 months after the completion of training, in obtaining or retaining employment, or applying for and transitioning to postsecondary education or training; and

(viii) job search and assistance.

(B) Supervision and training for participants in the rehabilitation or construction of housing, including residential housing for homeless individuals or low-income families, or transitional housing for homeless individuals, and, if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates.

(C) Supervision and training for participants—

(i) in the rehabilitation or construction of community and other public facilities, except that not more than 15 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section may be used for such supervision and training; and

(ii) if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates.

(D) Payment of administrative costs of the applicant, including recruitment and selection of participants, except that not more

than 10 percent of the amount of assistance provided under this subsection to the grant recipient may be used for such costs.

(E) Adult mentoring.

(F) Provision of wages, stipends, or benefits to participants in the program.

(G) Ongoing training and technical assistance that are related to developing and carrying out the program.

(H) Follow-up services.

(3) APPLICATION.—

(A) FORM AND PROCEDURE.—To be qualified to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall require that the application contain, at a minimum—

(i) labor market information for the labor market area where the proposed program will be implemented, including both current data (as of the date of submission of the application) and projections on career opportunities in construction and in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

(ii) a request for the grant, specifying the amount of the grant requested and its proposed uses;

(iii) a description of the applicant and a statement of its qualifications, including a description of the applicant's relationship with local boards, one-stop operators, local unions, entities carrying out registered apprenticeship programs, other community groups, and employers, and the applicant's past experience, if any, with rehabilitation or construction of housing or public facilities, and with youth education and employment training programs;

(iv) a description of the proposed site for the proposed program;

(v) a description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, postsecondary education and training opportunities, and other services that will be provided to participants, and how those activities, opportunities, and services will prepare youth for employment in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the labor market area described in clause (i);

(vi)(I) a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken under the grant related to rehabilitation or construction, and, in the case of an applicant requesting approval from the Secretary to also carry out additional activities related to in-demand industry sectors or occupations, a description of such additional proposed activities; and

(II) the anticipated schedule for carrying out all activities proposed under subclause (I);

(vii) a description of the manner in which eligible youth will be recruited and selected as participants, including a description of arrangements that will be made with local boards, one-stop operators, faith- and community-based organizations, State educational agencies or local educational agencies (including agencies of Indian tribes), public assistance agencies, the courts of jurisdiction, agencies operating shelters for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve youth who are homeless individuals, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and private agencies;

(viii) a description of the special outreach efforts that will be undertaken to recruit eligible young women (including young women with dependent children) as participants;

(ix) a description of the specific role of employers in the proposed program, such as their role in developing the proposed pro-

gram and assisting in service provision and in placement activities;

(x) a description of how the proposed program will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local activities and activities conducted by Indian tribes, such as local workforce investment activities, career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, activities conducted by public schools, activities conducted by community colleges, national service programs, and other job training provided with funds available under this title;

(xi) assurances that there will be a sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory personnel in the proposed program;

(xii) a description of the levels of performance to be achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii);

(xiii) a description of the applicant's relationship with local building trade unions regarding their involvement in training to be provided through the proposed program, the relationship of the proposed program to established registered apprenticeship programs and employers, the ability of the applicant to grant an industry-recognized certificate or certification through the program, and the quality of the program leading to the certificate or certification;

(xiv) a description of activities that will be undertaken to develop the leadership skills of participants;

(xv) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the proposed program;

(xvi) a description of the commitments for any additional resources (in addition to the funds made available through the grant) to be made available to the proposed program from—

(I) the applicant;

(II) recipients of other Federal, State, or local housing and community development assistance that will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation or construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

(III) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

(xvii) information identifying, and a description of, the financing proposed for any—

(I) rehabilitation of the property involved;

(II) acquisition of the property; or

(III) construction of the property;

(xviii) information identifying, and a description of, the entity that will operate and manage the property;

(xix) information identifying, and a description of, the data collection systems to be used;

(xx) a certification, by a public official responsible for the housing strategy for the State or unit of general local government within which the proposed program is located, that the proposed program is consistent with the housing strategy; and

(xxi) a certification that the applicant will comply with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) and will affirmatively further fair housing.

(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—For an applicant to be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the applicant and the applicant's

proposed program shall meet such selection criteria as the Secretary shall establish under this section, which shall include criteria relating to—

(A) the qualifications or potential capabilities of an applicant;

(B) an applicant's potential for developing a successful YouthBuild program;

(C) the need for an applicant's proposed program, as determined by the degree of economic distress of the community from which participants would be recruited (measured by indicators such as poverty, youth unemployment, and the number of individuals who have dropped out of secondary school) and of the community in which the housing and community and public facilities proposed to be rehabilitated or constructed is located (measured by indicators such as incidence of homelessness, shortage of affordable housing, and poverty);

(D) the commitment of an applicant to providing skills training, leadership development, and education to participants;

(E) the focus of a proposed program on preparing youth for in-demand industry sectors or occupations, or postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(F) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities to be carried out through the proposed program with local boards, one-stop operators, and one-stop partners participating in the operation of the one-stop delivery system involved, or the extent of the applicant's good faith efforts in achieving such coordination;

(G) the extent of the applicant's coordination of activities with public education, criminal justice, housing and community development, national service, or postsecondary education or other systems that relate to the goals of the proposed program;

(H) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities with employers in the local area involved;

(I) the extent to which a proposed program provides for inclusion of tenants who were previously homeless individuals in the rental housing provided through the program;

(J) the commitment of additional resources (in addition to the funds made available through the grant) to a proposed program by—

(i) an applicant;

(ii) recipients of other Federal, State, or local housing and community development assistance who will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation or construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

(iii) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

(K) the applicant's potential to serve different regions, including rural areas and States that have not previously received grants for YouthBuild programs; and

(L) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for purposes of carrying out the proposed program in an effective and efficient manner.

(5) APPROVAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall notify each applicant, not later than 5 months after the date of receipt of the application by the Secretary, whether the application is approved or not approved.

(d) USE OF HOUSING UNITS.—Residential housing units rehabilitated or constructed

using funds made available under subsection (c), shall be available solely—

(1) for rental by, or sale to, homeless individuals or low-income families; or

(2) for use as transitional or permanent housing, for the purpose of assisting in the movement of homeless individuals to independent living.

(e) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an individual may participate in a YouthBuild program only if such individual is—

(i) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24, on the date of enrollment;

(ii) a member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), a youth offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of incarcerated parents, or a migrant youth; and

(iii) a school dropout, or an individual who was a school dropout and has subsequently reenrolled.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT MEETING INCOME OR EDUCATIONAL NEED REQUIREMENTS.—Not more than 25 percent of the participants in such program may be individuals who do not meet the requirements of clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A), but who—

(i) are basic skills deficient, despite attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including recognized certificates of attendance or similar documents for individuals with disabilities); or

(ii) have been referred by a local secondary school for participation in a YouthBuild program leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma.

(2) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION.—An eligible individual selected for participation in a YouthBuild program shall be offered full-time participation in the program for a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 24 months.

(3) MINIMUM TIME DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—A YouthBuild program receiving assistance under subsection (c) shall be structured so that participants in the program are offered—

(A) education and related services and activities designed to meet educational needs, such as those specified in clauses (iv) through (vii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 50 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program; and

(B) work and skill development activities, such as those specified in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (viii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 40 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program.

(4) AUTHORITY RESTRICTION.—No provision of this section may be construed to authorize any agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution (including a school) or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks, or other printed or published instructional materials by any educational institution or school system.

(5) STATE AND LOCAL STANDARDS.—All educational programs and activities supported with funds provided under subsection (c) shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards. Standards and procedures for the programs and activities that relate to awarding academic credit for and certifying educational attainment in such programs and activities shall be con-

sistent with applicable State and local educational standards.

(f) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE AND INDICATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall annually establish expected levels of performance for YouthBuild programs relating to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth activities described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—The Secretary may establish expected levels of performance for additional indicators for YouthBuild programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(g) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) SECRETARY ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may enter into contracts with 1 or more entities to provide assistance to the Secretary in the management, supervision, and coordination of the program carried out under this section.

(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with or make grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies, in order to provide training, information, technical assistance, program evaluation, and data management to recipients of grants under subsection (c).

(B) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts available under subsection (i) to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent to carry out subparagraph (A).

(3) CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts available under subsection (i) to award grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies to pay for the Federal share of the cost of capacity building activities.

(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) shall be 25 percent. The non-Federal share shall be provided from private sources.

(h) SUBGRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—Each recipient of a grant under subsection (c) to carry out a YouthBuild program shall provide the services and activities described in this section directly or through subgrants, contracts, or other arrangements with local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, State or local housing development agencies, other public agencies, including agencies of Indian tribes, or private organizations.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

- (1) \$77,534,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$83,523,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$85,256,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$87,147,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$89,196,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$91,087,000 for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 172. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 166 (not including subsection (k) of such section)—

- (1) \$46,082,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$49,641,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$50,671,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$51,795,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$53,013,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$54,137,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(b) MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 167—

- (1) \$81,896,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$88,222,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(3) \$90,052,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(4) \$92,050,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(5) \$94,214,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(6) \$96,211,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 168—

(1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(2) \$3,232,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(3) \$3,299,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(4) \$3,372,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(5) \$3,451,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(6) \$3,524,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(d) EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 169—

(1) \$91,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(2) \$98,029,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(3) \$100,063,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(4) \$102,282,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(5) \$104,687,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(6) \$106,906,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(e) ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS.—If, as of the date of enactment of this Act, any unobligated funds appropriated to carry out section 168 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, remain available, the Secretary of Labor shall continue to use such funds to carry out such section, as in effect on such day, until all of such funds are expended.

(f) ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE WORKERS.—If, as of the date of enactment of this Act, any unobligated funds appropriated to carry out subsections (f) and (g) of section 173 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, remain available, the Secretary of Labor shall continue to use such funds to carry out such subsections, as in effect on such day, until all of such funds are expended.

Subtitle E—Administration

SEC. 181. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

(a) BENEFITS.—

(1) WAGES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Individuals in on-the-job training or individuals employed in activities under this title shall be compensated at the same rates, including periodic increases, as trainees or employees who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience, and skills, and such rates shall be in accordance with applicable law, but in no event less than the higher of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the applicable State or local minimum wage law.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The reference in subparagraph (A) to section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall not be applicable for individuals in territorial jurisdictions in which section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) does not apply.

(2) TREATMENT OF ALLOWANCES, EARNINGS, AND PAYMENTS.—Allowances, earnings, and payments to individuals participating in programs under this title shall not be considered as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of income transfer and in-kind aid furnished under any Federal or federally assisted program based on need, other than as provided under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

(b) LABOR STANDARDS.—

(1) LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES THAT IMPACT WAGES OF EMPLOYEES.—No funds provided under this title shall be used to pay the wages of incumbent employees during their

participation in economic development activities provided through a statewide workforce development system.

(2) **DISPLACEMENT.**—

(A) **PROHIBITION.**—A participant in a program or activity authorized under this title (referred to in this section as a “specified activity”) shall not displace (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of nonovertime work, wages, or employment benefits) any currently employed employee (as of the date of the participation).

(B) **PROHIBITION ON IMPAIRMENT OF CONTRACTS.**—A specified activity shall not impair an existing contract for services or collective bargaining agreement, and no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization and employer concerned.

(3) **OTHER PROHIBITIONS.**—A participant in a specified activity shall not be employed in a job if—

(A) any other individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially equivalent job;

(B) the employer has terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise reduced the workforce of the employer with the intention of filling the vacancy so created with the participant; or

(C) the job is created in a promotional line that will infringe in any way upon the promotional opportunities of currently employed individuals (as of the date of the participation).

(4) **HEALTH AND SAFETY.**—Health and safety standards established under Federal and State law otherwise applicable to working conditions of employees shall be equally applicable to working conditions of participants engaged in specified activities. To the extent that a State workers’ compensation law applies, workers’ compensation shall be provided to participants on the same basis as the compensation is provided to other individuals in the State in similar employment.

(5) **EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.**—Individuals in on-the-job training or individuals employed in programs and activities under this title shall be provided benefits and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other trainees or employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work.

(6) **OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.**—Interested members of the public, including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations, shall be provided an opportunity to submit comments to the Secretary with respect to programs and activities proposed to be funded under subtitle B.

(7) **NO IMPACT ON UNION ORGANIZING.**—Each recipient of funds under this title shall provide to the Secretary assurances that none of such funds will be used to assist, promote, or deter union organizing.

(c) **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State and local area receiving an allotment or allocation under this title shall establish and maintain a procedure for grievances or complaints alleging violations of the requirements of this title from participants and other interested or affected parties. Such procedure shall include an opportunity for a hearing and be completed within 60 days after the filing of the grievance or complaint.

(2) **INVESTIGATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall investigate an allegation of a violation described in paragraph (1) if—

(i) a decision relating to such violation has not been reached within 60 days after the date of the filing of the grievance or complaint and either party appeals to the Secretary; or

(ii) a decision relating to such violation has been reached within such 60 days and the party to which such decision is adverse appeals such decision to the Secretary.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall make a final determination relating to an appeal made under subparagraph (A) no later than 120 days after receiving such appeal.

(3) **REMEDIES.**—Remedies that may be imposed under this section for a violation of any requirement of this title shall be limited—

(A) to suspension or termination of payments under this title;

(B) to prohibition of placement of a participant with an employer that has violated any requirement under this title;

(C) where applicable, to reinstatement of an employee, payment of lost wages and benefits, and reestablishment of other relevant terms, conditions, and privileges of employment; and

(D) where appropriate, to other equitable relief.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in paragraph (3) shall be construed to prohibit a grievant or complainant from pursuing a remedy authorized under another Federal, State, or local law for a violation of this title.

(d) **RELOCATION.**—

(1) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO ENCOURAGE OR INDUCE RELOCATION.**—No funds provided under this title shall be used, or proposed for use, to encourage or induce the relocation of a business or part of a business if such relocation would result in a loss of employment for any employee of such business at the original location and such original location is within the United States.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS AFTER RELOCATION.**—No funds provided under this title for an employment or training activity shall be used for customized or skill training, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, transitional employment, or company-specific assessments of job applicants or employees, for any business or part of a business that has relocated, until the date that is 120 days after the date on which such business commences operations at the new location, if the relocation of such business or part of a business results in a loss of employment for any employee of such business at the original location and such original location is within the United States.

(3) **REPAYMENT.**—If the Secretary determines that a violation of paragraph (1) or (2) has occurred, the Secretary shall require the State that has violated such paragraph (or that has provided funding to an entity that has violated such paragraph) to repay to the United States an amount equal to the amount expended in violation of such paragraph.

(e) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—No funds available to carry out an activity under this title shall be used for employment generating activities, investment in revolving loan funds, capitalization of businesses, investment in contract bidding resource centers, economic development activities, or similar activities, that are not directly related to training for eligible individuals under this title. No funds received to carry out an activity under subtitle B shall be used for foreign travel.

(f) **TESTING AND SANCTIONING FOR USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State shall not be prohibited by the Federal Government from—

(A) testing participants in programs under subtitle B for the use of controlled substances; and

(B) sanctioning such participants who test positive for the use of such controlled substances.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **PERIOD OF SANCTION.**—In sanctioning participants in a program under subtitle B who test positive for the use of controlled substances—

(i) with respect to the first occurrence for which a participant tests positive, a State may exclude the participant from the program for a period not to exceed 6 months; and

(ii) with respect to the second occurrence and each subsequent occurrence for which a participant tests positive, a State may exclude the participant from the program for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(B) **APPEAL.**—The testing of participants and the imposition of sanctions under this subsection shall be subject to expeditious appeal in accordance with due process procedures established by the State.

(C) **PRIVACY.**—A State shall establish procedures for testing participants for the use of controlled substances that ensure a maximum degree of privacy for the participants.

(3) **FUNDING REQUIREMENT.**—In testing and sanctioning of participants for the use of controlled substances in accordance with this subsection, the only Federal funds that a State may use are the amounts made available for the administration of statewide workforce investment activities under section 134(a)(3)(B).

(g) **SUBGRANT AUTHORITY.**—A recipient of grant funds under this title shall have the authority to enter into subgrants in order to carry out the grant, subject to such conditions as the Secretary may establish.

SEC. 182. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

(a) **ALLOTMENTS BASED ON LATEST AVAILABLE DATA.**—All allotments to States and grants to outlying areas under this title shall be based on the latest available data and estimates satisfactory to the Secretary. All data relating to disadvantaged adults and disadvantaged youth shall be based on the most recent satisfactory data from the Bureau of the Census.

(b) **PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER RELATING TO FORMULA FUNDS.**—Whenever the Secretary allots funds required to be allotted under this title, the Secretary shall publish in a timely fashion in the Federal Register the amount proposed to be distributed to each recipient of the funds.

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDS DISTRIBUTED BY FORMULA.**—All funds required to be allotted under section 127 or 132 shall be allotted within 45 days after the date of enactment of the Act appropriating the funds, except that, if such funds are appropriated in advance as authorized by section 189(g), such funds shall be allotted or allocated not later than the March 31 preceding the program year for which such funds are to be available for obligation.

(d) **PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER RELATING TO DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.**—Whenever the Secretary utilizes a formula to allot or allocate funds made available for distribution at the Secretary’s discretion under this title, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days prior to such allotment or allocation, publish for comment in the Federal Register the formula, the rationale for the formula,

and the proposed amounts to be distributed to each State and local area. After consideration of any comments received, the Secretary shall publish final allotments and allocations in the Federal Register.

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds shall be made available under section 128, and funds shall be made available under section 133, for a local area not later than 30 days after the date the funds are made available to the Governor involved, under section 127 or 132 (as the case may be), or 7 days after the date the local plan for the area is approved, whichever is later.

SEC. 183. MONITORING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to monitor all recipients of financial assistance under this title to determine whether the recipients are complying with the provisions of this title, including the regulations issued under this title.

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS.**—The Secretary may investigate any matter the Secretary determines to be necessary to determine the compliance of the recipients with this title, including the regulations issued under this title. The investigations authorized by this subsection may include examining records (including making certified copies of the records), questioning employees, and entering any premises or onto any site in which any part of a program or activity of such a recipient is conducted or in which any of the records of the recipient are kept.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—For the purpose of any investigation or hearing conducted under this title by the Secretary, the provisions of section 9 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 49) (relating to the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents) apply to the Secretary, in the same manner and to the same extent as the provisions apply to the Federal Trade Commission.

SEC. 184. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL CONTROLS BY STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State shall establish such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds allocated to local areas under subtitle B. Such procedures shall ensure that all financial transactions carried out under subtitle B are conducted and records maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable in each State.

(2) **COST PRINCIPLES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State (including the Governor of the State), local area (including the chief elected official for the area), and provider receiving funds under this title shall comply with the applicable uniform cost principles included in appropriate circulars or rules of the Office of Management and Budget for the type of entity receiving the funds.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—The funds made available to a State for administration of statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with section 134(a)(3)(B) shall be allocable to the overall administration of workforce investment activities, but need not be specifically allocable to—

(i) the administration of adult employment and training activities;

(ii) the administration of dislocated worker employment and training activities; or

(iii) the administration of youth workforce investment activities.

(3) **UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State (including the Governor of the State), local area (including

the chief elected official for the area), and provider receiving funds under this title shall comply with the appropriate uniform administrative requirements for grants and agreements applicable for the type of entity receiving the funds, as promulgated in circulars or rules of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Procurement transactions under this title between local boards and units of State or local governments shall be conducted only on a cost-reimbursable basis.

(4) **MONITORING.**—Each Governor of a State shall conduct on an annual basis onsite monitoring of each local area within the State to ensure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) **ACTION BY GOVERNOR.**—If the Governor determines that a local area is not in compliance with the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3), the Governor shall—

(A) require corrective action to secure prompt compliance with the requirements; and

(B) impose the sanctions provided under subsection (b) in the event of failure to take the required corrective action.

(6) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Governor shall, every 2 years, certify to the Secretary that—

(A) the State has implemented the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3);

(B) the State has monitored local areas to ensure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements as required under paragraph (4); and

(C) the State has taken appropriate action to secure compliance with the requirements pursuant to paragraph (5).

(7) **ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.**—If the Secretary determines that the Governor has not fulfilled the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) require corrective action to secure prompt compliance with the requirements of this subsection; and

(B) impose the sanctions provided under subsection (e) in the event of failure of the Governor to take the required appropriate action to secure compliance with the requirements.

(b) **SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION.**—

(1) **ACTION BY GOVERNOR.**—If, as a result of financial and compliance audits or otherwise, the Governor determines that there is a substantial violation of a specific provision of this title, and corrective action has not been taken, the Governor shall—

(A) issue a notice of intent to revoke approval of all or part of the local plan affected; or

(B) impose a reorganization plan, which may include—

(i) decertifying the local board involved;

(ii) prohibiting the use of eligible providers;

(iii) selecting an alternative entity to administer the program for the local area involved;

(iv) merging the local area into one or more other local areas; or

(v) making such other changes as the Secretary or Governor determines to be necessary to secure compliance with the provision.

(2) **APPEAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The actions taken by the Governor pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) may be appealed to the Secretary and shall not become effective until—

(i) the time for appeal has expired; or

(ii) the Secretary has issued a decision.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall make a final decision under subparagraph (A) not later than 45 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(3) **ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.**—If the Governor fails to take promptly an action required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take such action.

(c) **REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS TO THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Every recipient of funds under this title shall repay to the United States amounts found not to have been expended in accordance with this title.

(2) **OFFSET OF REPAYMENT AMOUNT.**—If the Secretary determines that a State has expended funds received under this title in a manner contrary to the requirements of this title, the Secretary may require repayment by offsetting the amount of such expenditures against any other amount to which the State is or may be entitled under this title, except as provided under subsection (d)(1).

(3) **REPAYMENT FROM DEDUCTION BY STATE.**—If the Secretary requires a State to repay funds as a result of a determination that a local area of the State has expended funds in a manner contrary to the requirements of this title, the Governor of the State may use an amount deducted under paragraph (4) to repay the funds, except as provided under subsection (e).

(4) **DEDUCTION BY STATE.**—The Governor may deduct an amount equal to the misexpenditure described in paragraph (3) from subsequent program year (subsequent to the program year for which the determination was made) allocations to the local area from funds reserved for the administrative costs of the local programs involved, as appropriate.

(5) **LIMITATIONS.**—A deduction made by a State as described in paragraph (4) shall not be made until such time as the Governor has taken appropriate corrective action to ensure full compliance with this title within such local area with regard to appropriate expenditures of funds under this title.

(d) **REPAYMENT OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each recipient of funds under this title shall be liable to repay the amounts described in subsection (c)(1), from funds other than funds received under this title, upon a determination by the Secretary that the misexpenditure of the amounts was due to willful disregard of the requirements of this title, gross negligence, failure to observe accepted standards of administration, or a pattern of misexpenditure described in subsection (c)(1). No such determination shall be made under this subsection or subsection (c) until notice and opportunity for a fair hearing have been given to the recipient.

(2) **FACTORS IN IMPOSING SANCTIONS.**—In determining whether to impose any sanction authorized by this section against a recipient of funds under this title for violations of this title (including applicable regulations) by a subgrantee or contractor of such recipient, the Secretary shall first determine whether such recipient has adequately demonstrated that the recipient has—

(A) established and adhered to an appropriate system, for entering into and monitoring subgrant agreements and contracts with subgrantees and contractors, that contains acceptable standards for ensuring accountability;

(B) entered into a written subgrant agreement or contract with such a subgrantee or contractor that established clear goals and obligations in unambiguous terms;

(C) acted with due diligence to monitor the implementation of the subgrant agreement or contract, including carrying out the appropriate monitoring activities (including audits) at reasonable intervals; and

(D) taken prompt and appropriate corrective action upon becoming aware of any evidence of a violation of this title, including regulations issued under this title, by such subgrantee or contractor.

(3) **WAIVER.**—If the Secretary determines that the recipient has demonstrated substantial compliance with the requirements of paragraph (2), the Secretary may waive the imposition of sanctions authorized by this section upon such recipient. The Secretary is authorized to impose any sanction consistent with the provisions of this title and with any applicable Federal or State law directly against any subgrantee or contractor for violation of this title, including regulations issued under this title.

(e) **IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**—In emergency situations, if the Secretary determines it is necessary to protect the integrity of the funds or ensure the proper operation of the program or activity involved, the Secretary may immediately terminate or suspend financial assistance, in whole or in part, to the recipient if the recipient is given prompt notice and the opportunity for a subsequent hearing within 30 days after such termination or suspension. The Secretary shall not delegate any of the functions or authority specified in this subsection, other than to an officer whose appointment is required to be made by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(f) **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PARTICIPANTS.**—If the Secretary determines that any recipient under this title has discharged or in any other manner discriminated against a participant or against any individual in connection with the administration of the program involved, or against any individual because such individual has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this title, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or an investigation under or related to this title, or otherwise unlawfully denied to any individual a benefit to which that individual is entitled under the provisions of this title, including regulations issued under this title, the Secretary shall, within 30 days, take such action or order such corrective measures, as necessary, with respect to the recipient or the aggrieved individual, or both.

(g) **REMEDIES.**—The remedies described in this section shall not be considered to be the exclusive remedies available for violations described in this section.

SEC. 185. REPORTS; RECORDKEEPING; INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) **RECIPIENT RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Recipients of funds under this title shall keep records that are sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by this title and to permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditure adequate to ensure that the funds have not been spent unlawfully.

(2) **RECORDS AND REPORTS REGARDING GENERAL PERFORMANCE.**—Every such recipient shall maintain such records and submit such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Secretary may require regarding the performance of programs and activities carried out under this title. Such records and reports shall be submitted to the Secretary but shall not be required to be

submitted more than once each quarter unless specifically requested by Congress or a committee of Congress, in which case an estimate regarding such information may be provided.

(3) **MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDIZED RECORDS.**—In order to allow for the preparation of the reports required under subsection (c), such recipients shall maintain standardized records for all individual participants and provide to the Secretary a sufficient number of such records to provide for an adequate analysis of the records.

(4) **AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), records maintained by such recipients pursuant to this subsection shall be made available to the public upon request.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

(i) information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and

(ii) trade secrets, or commercial or financial information, that is—

(I) obtained from a person; and

(II) privileged or confidential.

(C) **FEES TO RECOVER COSTS.**—Such recipients may charge fees sufficient to recover costs applicable to the processing of requests for records under subparagraph (A).

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS OF USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **SECRETARY.**—In order to evaluate compliance with the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall conduct, in several States, in each fiscal year, investigations of the use of funds received by recipients under this title.

(B) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States may conduct investigations of the use of funds received under this title by any recipient.

(2) **PROHIBITION.**—In conducting any investigation under this title, the Secretary or the Comptroller General of the United States may not request the compilation of any information that the recipient is not otherwise required to compile and that is not readily available to such recipient.

(3) **AUDITS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out any audit under this title (other than any initial audit survey or any audit investigating possible criminal or fraudulent conduct), either directly or through grant or contract, the Secretary, the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, or the Comptroller General of the United States shall furnish to the State, recipient, or other entity to be audited, advance notification of the overall objectives and purposes of the audit, and any extensive recordkeeping or data requirements to be met, not later than 14 days (or as soon as practicable) prior to the commencement of the audit.

(B) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—If the scope, objectives, or purposes of the audit change substantially during the course of the audit, the entity being audited shall be notified of the change as soon as practicable.

(C) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The reports on the results of such audits shall cite the law, regulation, policy, or other criteria applicable to any finding contained in the reports.

(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing contained in this title shall be construed so as to be inconsistent with the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) or government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(c) **GRANTEE INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Each State, each local board, and each recipient (other than a subrecipient, subgrantee, or contractor of a recipient) receiving funds under this title—

(1) shall make readily accessible such reports concerning its operations and expenditures as shall be prescribed by the Secretary;

(2) shall prescribe and maintain comparable management information systems, in accordance with guidelines that shall be prescribed by the Secretary, designed to facilitate the uniform compilation, cross tabulation, and analysis of programmatic, participant, and financial data, on statewide, local area, and other appropriate bases, necessary for reporting, monitoring, and evaluating purposes, including data necessary to comply with section 188;

(3) shall monitor the performance of providers in complying with the terms of grants, contracts, or other agreements made pursuant to this title; and

(4) shall, to the extent practicable, submit or make available (including through electronic means) any reports, records, plans, or any other data that are required to be submitted or made available, respectively, under this title.

(d) **INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The reports required in subsection (c) shall include information regarding programs and activities carried out under this title pertaining to—

(A) the relevant demographic characteristics (including race, ethnicity, sex, and age) and other related information regarding participants;

(B) the programs and activities in which participants are enrolled, and the length of time that participants are engaged in such programs and activities;

(C) outcomes of the programs and activities for participants, including the occupations of participants, and placement for participants in nontraditional employment;

(D) specified costs of the programs and activities; and

(E) information necessary to prepare reports to comply with section 188.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that all elements of the information required for the reports described in paragraph (1) are defined and that the information is reported uniformly.

(e) **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each local board in a State shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Governor with respect to programs and activities carried out under this title. Such reports shall include information identifying all program and activity costs by cost category in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and by year of the appropriation involved.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Each State shall submit to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, on a quarterly basis, a summary of the reports submitted to the Governor pursuant to paragraph (1).

(f) **MAINTENANCE OF ADDITIONAL RECORDS.**—Each State and local board shall maintain records with respect to programs and activities carried out under this title that identify—

(1) any income or profits earned, including such income or profits earned by subrecipients; and

(2) any costs incurred (such as stand-in costs) that are otherwise allowable except for funding limitations.

(g) **COST CATEGORIES.**—In requiring entities to maintain records of costs by cost category under this title, the Secretary shall require only that the costs be categorized as administrative or programmatic costs.

SEC. 186. ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Whenever any applicant for financial assistance under this title is dissatisfied because the Secretary has made a determination not to award financial assistance in whole or in part to such applicant, the applicant may request a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Department of Labor. A similar hearing may also be requested by any recipient for whom a corrective action has been required or a sanction has been imposed by the Secretary under section 184.

(b) **APPEAL.**—The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute final action by the Secretary unless, within 20 days after receipt of the decision of the administrative law judge, a party dissatisfied with the decision or any part of the decision has filed exceptions with the Secretary specifically identifying the procedure, fact, law, or policy to which exception is taken. Any exception not specifically urged during the 20-day period shall be deemed to have been waived. After the 20-day period the decision of the administrative law judge shall become the final decision of the Secretary unless the Secretary, within 30 days after such filing, notifies the parties that the case involved has been accepted for review.

(c) **TIME LIMIT.**—Any case accepted for review by the Secretary under subsection (b) shall be decided within 180 days after such acceptance. If the case is not decided within the 180-day period, the decision of the administrative law judge shall become the final decision of the Secretary at the end of the 180-day period.

(d) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The provisions of section 187 shall apply to any final action of the Secretary under this section.

SEC. 187. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **PETITION.**—With respect to any final order by the Secretary under section 186 by which the Secretary awards, declines to award, or only conditionally awards, financial assistance under this title, or any final order of the Secretary under section 186 with respect to a corrective action or sanction imposed under section 184, any party to a proceeding that resulted in such final order may obtain review of such final order in the United States Court of Appeals having jurisdiction over the applicant for or recipient of the funds involved, by filing a review petition within 30 days after the date of issuance of such final order.

(2) **ACTION ON PETITION.**—The clerk of the court shall transmit a copy of the review petition to the Secretary, who shall file the record on which the final order was entered as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. The filing of a review petition shall not stay the order of the Secretary, unless the court orders a stay. Petitions filed under this subsection shall be heard expeditiously, if possible within 10 days after the date of filing of a reply to the petition.

(3) **STANDARD AND SCOPE OF REVIEW.**—No objection to the order of the Secretary shall be considered by the court unless the objection was specifically urged, in a timely manner, before the Secretary. The review shall be limited to questions of law and the findings of fact of the Secretary shall be conclusive if supported by substantial evidence.

(b) **JUDGMENT.**—The court shall have jurisdiction to make and enter a decree affirming, modifying, or setting aside the order of the Secretary in whole or in part. The judgment of the court regarding the order shall be final, subject to certiorari review by the Supreme Court as provided in section 1254(1) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 188. NONDISCRIMINATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—For the purpose of applying the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), on the basis of disability under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), on the basis of sex under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), or on the basis of race, color, or national origin under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), programs and activities funded or otherwise financially assisted in whole or in part under this Act are considered to be programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

(2) **PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION, BENEFITS, AND EMPLOYMENT.**—No individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with, any such program or activity because of race, color, religion, sex (except as otherwise permitted under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE FOR FACILITIES FOR SECTARIAN INSTRUCTION OR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.**—Participants shall not be employed under this title to carry out the construction, operation, or maintenance of any part of any facility that is used or to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship (except with respect to the maintenance of a facility that is not primarily or inherently devoted to sectarian instruction or religious worship, in a case in which the organization operating the facility is part of a program or activity providing services to participants).

(4) **PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF PARTICIPANT STATUS.**—No person may discriminate against an individual who is a participant in a program or activity that receives funds under this title, with respect to the terms and conditions affecting, or rights provided to, the individual, solely because of the status of the individual as a participant.

(5) **PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CERTAIN NONCITIZENS.**—Participation in programs and activities or receiving funds under this title shall be available to citizens and nationals of the United States, lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens, refugees, asylees, and parolees, and other immigrants authorized by the Attorney General to work in the United States.

(b) **ACTION OF SECRETARY.**—Whenever the Secretary finds that a State or other recipient of funds under this title has failed to comply with a provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(1), or with paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a), including an applicable regulation prescribed to carry out such provision or paragraph, the Secretary shall notify such State or recipient and shall request that the State or recipient comply. If within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 60 days, the State or recipient fails or refuses to comply, the Secretary may—

(1) refer the matter to the Attorney General with a recommendation that an appropriate civil action be instituted; or

(2) take such other action as may be provided by law.

(c) **ACTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—When a matter is referred to the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (b)(1), or whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that a State or other recipient of funds under this title is engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of a provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(1) or in violation of paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a), the Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States for such relief as may be appropriate, including injunctive relief.

(d) **JOB CORPS.**—For the purposes of this section, Job Corps members shall be considered to be the ultimate beneficiaries of Federal financial assistance.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall issue regulations necessary to implement this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Such regulations shall adopt standards for determining discrimination and procedures for enforcement that are consistent with the Acts referred to in subsection (a)(1), as well as procedures to ensure that complaints filed under this section and such Acts are processed in a manner that avoids duplication of effort.

SEC. 189. SECRETARIAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may prescribe rules and regulations to carry out this title, only to the extent necessary to administer and ensure compliance with the requirements of this title. Such rules and regulations may include provisions making adjustments authorized by section 6504 of title 31, United States Code. All such rules and regulations shall be published in the Federal Register at least 30 days prior to their effective dates. Copies of each such rule or regulation shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees of Congress on the date of such publication and shall contain, with respect to each material provision of such rule or regulation, a citation to the particular substantive section of law that is the basis for the provision.

(b) **ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AND SERVICES.**—The Secretary is authorized, in carrying out this title, to accept, purchase, or lease in the name of the Department of Labor, and employ or dispose of in furtherance of the purposes of this title, any money or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, received by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to accept voluntary and uncompensated services notwithstanding the provisions of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND TO MAKE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES.**—The Secretary may make such grants, enter into such contracts or agreements, establish such procedures, and make such payments, in installments and in advance or by way of reimbursement, or otherwise allocate or expend such funds under this title, as may be necessary to carry out this title, including making expenditures for construction, repairs, and capital improvements, and including making necessary adjustments in payments on account of overpayments or underpayments.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of

the Senate an annual report regarding the programs and activities funded under this title. The Secretary shall include in such report—

(1) a summary of the achievements, failures, and challenges of the programs and activities in meeting the objectives of this title;

(2) a summary of major findings from research, evaluations, pilot projects, and experiments conducted under this title in the fiscal year prior to the submission of the report;

(3) recommendations for modifications in the programs and activities based on analysis of such findings; and

(4) such other recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) **UTILIZATION OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES.**—The Secretary is authorized, in carrying out this title, under the same procedures as are applicable under subsection (c) or to the extent permitted by law other than this title, to accept and use the services and facilities of departments, agencies, and establishments of the United States. The Secretary is also authorized, in carrying out this title, to accept and use the services and facilities of the agencies of any State or political subdivision of a State, with the consent of the State or political subdivision.

(f) **OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary shall have no authority to enter into contracts, grant agreements, or other financial assistance agreements under this title, except to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

(g) **PROGRAM YEAR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **PROGRAM YEAR.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities funded under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on July 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.

(B) **YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may make available for obligation, beginning April 1 of any fiscal year, funds appropriated for such fiscal year to carry out youth workforce investment activities under subtitle B and activities under section 171.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds obligated for any program year for a program or activity funded under subtitle B may be expended by each State receiving such funds during that program year and the 2 succeeding program years. Funds received by local areas from States under subtitle B during a program year may be expended during that program year and the succeeding program year.

(B) **CERTAIN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds obligated for any program year for any program or activity carried out under section 169 shall remain available until expended.

(2) **INCREMENTAL FUNDING BASIS.**—A contract or arrangement entered into under the authority of subsection (a) or (b) of section 169 (relating to evaluations, research projects, studies and reports, and multistate projects), including a long-term, nonseverable services contract, may be funded on an incremental basis with annual appropriations or other available funds.

(C) **SPECIAL RULE.**—No amount of the funds obligated for a program year for a program or activity funded under this title shall be deobligated on account of a rate of expendi-

ture that is consistent with a State plan, an operating plan described in section 151, or a plan, grant agreement, contract, application, or other agreement described in subtitle D, as appropriate.

(D) **FUNDS FOR PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGIES.**—Funds used to carry out pay-for-performance contract strategies by local areas shall remain available until expended.

(h) **ENFORCEMENT OF MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each individual participating in any program or activity established under this title, or receiving any assistance or benefit under this title, has not violated section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 453) by not presenting and submitting to registration as required pursuant to such section. The Director of the Selective Service System shall cooperate with the Secretary to enable the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

(i) **WAIVERS.**—

(1) **SPECIAL RULE REGARDING DESIGNATED AREAS.**—A State that has enacted, not later than December 31, 1997, a State law providing for the designation of service delivery areas for the delivery of workforce investment activities, may use such areas as local areas under this title, notwithstanding section 106.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE REGARDING SANCTIONS.**—A State that has enacted, not later than December 31, 1997, a State law providing for the sanctioning of such service delivery areas for failure to meet performance accountability measures for workforce investment activities, may use the State law to sanction local areas for failure to meet State performance accountability measures under this title.

(3) **GENERAL WAIVERS OF STATUTORY OR REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may waive for a State, or a local area in a State, pursuant to a request submitted by the Governor of the State (in consultation with appropriate local elected officials) with a plan that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B)—

(i) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle A, subtitle B, or this subtitle (except for requirements relating to wage and labor standards, including non-displacement protections, worker rights, participation and protection of workers and participants, grievance procedures and judicial review, nondiscrimination, allocation of funds to local areas, eligibility of providers or participants, the establishment and functions of local areas and local boards, the funding of infrastructure costs for one-stop centers, and procedures for review and approval of plans, and other requirements relating to the basic purposes of this title); and

(ii) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g through 49i) (excluding requirements relating to the provision of services to unemployment insurance claimants and veterans, and requirements relating to universal access to basic labor exchange services without cost to jobseekers).

(B) **REQUESTS.**—A Governor requesting a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall submit a plan to the Secretary to improve the statewide workforce development system that—

(i) identifies the statutory or regulatory requirements that are requested to be waived and the goals that the State or local area in the State, as appropriate, intends to achieve as a result of the waiver;

(ii) describes the actions that the State or local area, as appropriate, has undertaken to remove State or local statutory or regulatory barriers;

(iii) describes the goals of the waiver and the expected programmatic outcomes if the request is granted;

(iv) describes the individuals impacted by the waiver; and

(v) describes the process used to monitor the progress in implementing such a waiver, and the process by which notice and, in the case of a waiver for a local area, an opportunity to comment on such request has been provided to the local board for the local area for which the waiver is requested.

(C) **CONDITIONS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the original submission of a request for a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide a waiver under this subsection if and only to the extent that—

(i) the Secretary determines that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of the State or local area, as appropriate, to implement the plan described in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) the State has executed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary requiring such State to meet, or ensure that the local area for which the waiver is requested meets, agreed-upon outcomes and to implement other appropriate measures to ensure accountability.

(D) **EXPEDITED DETERMINATION REGARDING PROVISION OF WAIVERS.**—If the Secretary has approved a waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements for a State or local area pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall expedite the determination regarding the provision of that waiver, for another State or local area if such waiver is in accordance with the approved State or local plan, as appropriate.

SEC. 190. WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY PLANS.

(a) **PLANS.**—A State may submit to the Secretary, and the Secretary may approve, a workforce flexibility plan under which the State is authorized to waive, in accordance with the plan—

(1) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under this title to local areas, pursuant to applications for such waivers from the local areas, except for requirements relating to the basic purposes of this title, wage and labor standards, grievance procedures and judicial review, non-discrimination, eligibility of participants, allocation of funds to local areas, establishment and functions of local areas and local boards, procedures for review and approval of local plans, and worker rights, participation, and protection;

(2) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g through 49i) to the State (excluding requirements relating to the provision of services to unemployment insurance claimants and veterans, and requirements relating to universal access to basic labor exchange services without cost to jobseekers); and

(3) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to State agencies on aging with respect to activities carried out using funds allotted under section 506(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056d(b)), except for requirements relating to the basic purposes of such Act, wage and labor standards, eligibility of participants in the activities, and standards for grant agreements.

(b) **CONTENT OF PLANS.**—A workforce flexibility plan implemented by a State under subsection (a) shall include descriptions of—

(1)(A) the process by which local areas in the State may submit and obtain approval by the State of applications for waivers of requirements applicable under this title; and

(B) the requirements described in subparagraph (A) that are likely to be waived by the State under the plan;

(2) the requirements applicable under sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act that are proposed to be waived, if any;

(3) the requirements applicable under the Older Americans Act of 1965 that are proposed to be waived, if any;

(4) the outcomes to be achieved by the waivers described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

(5) other measures to be taken to ensure appropriate accountability for Federal funds in connection with the waivers.

(c) **PERIODS.**—The Secretary may approve a workforce flexibility plan for a period of not more than 5 years.

(d) **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.**—Prior to submitting a workforce flexibility plan to the Secretary for approval, the State shall provide to all interested parties and to the general public adequate notice of and a reasonable opportunity for comment on the waiver requests proposed to be implemented pursuant to such plan.

SEC. 191. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

(a) **AUTHORITY OF STATE LEGISLATURE.**—Nothing in this title shall be interpreted to preclude the enactment of State legislation providing for the implementation, consistent with the provisions of this title, of the activities assisted under this title. Any funds received by a State under this title shall be subject to appropriation by the State legislature, consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title.

(b) **INTERSTATE COMPACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—In the event that compliance with provisions of this title would be enhanced by compacts and cooperative agreements between States, the consent of Congress is given to States to enter into such compacts and agreements to facilitate such compliance, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

SEC. 192. TRANSFER OF FEDERAL EQUITY IN STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCY REAL PROPERTY TO THE STATES.

(a) **TRANSFER OF FEDERAL EQUITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal equity acquired in real property through grants to States awarded under title III of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.) or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) is transferred to the States that used the grants for the acquisition of such equity. The portion of any real property that is attributable to the Federal equity transferred under this section shall be used to carry out activities authorized under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act. Any disposition of such real property shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Secretary and the portion of the proceeds from the disposition of such real property that is attributable to the Federal equity transferred under this section shall be used to carry out activities authorized under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act.

(b) **LIMITATION ON USE.**—A State shall not use funds awarded under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act to amortize the costs of real

property that is purchased by any State on or after the date of enactment of the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007.

SEC. 193. CONTINUATION OF STATE ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may not deny approval of a State plan for a covered State, or an application of a covered State for financial assistance, under this title, or find a covered State (including a State board or Governor), or a local area (including a local board or chief elected official) in a covered State, in violation of a provision of this title, on the basis that—

(1)(A) the State proposes to allocate or disburse, allocates, or disburses, within the State, funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 in accordance with the allocation formula for the type of activities involved, or in accordance with a disbursement procedure or process, used by the State under prior consistent State laws; or

(B) a local board in the State proposes to disburse, or disburses, within the local area, funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 in accordance with a disbursement procedure or process used by a private industry council under prior consistent State law;

(2) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which local areas use, as fiscal agents for funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 and allocated within the State, fiscal agents selected in accordance with a process established under prior consistent State laws;

(3) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which the local boards in the State (or the local boards, the chief elected officials in the State, and the Governor) designate or select the one-stop partners and one-stop operators of the statewide system in the State under prior consistent State laws, in lieu of making the designation or certification described in section 121 (regardless of the date the one-stop delivery systems involved have been established);

(4) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which the persons responsible for selecting eligible providers for purposes of subtitle B are permitted to determine that a provider shall not be selected to provide both intake services under section 134(c)(2) and training services under section 134(c)(3), under prior consistent State laws;

(5) the State proposes to designate or designates a State board, or proposes to assign or assigns functions and roles of the State board (including determining the time periods for development and submission of a State plan required under section 102 or 103), for purposes of subtitle A in accordance with prior consistent State laws; or

(6) a local board in the State proposes to use or carry out, uses, or carries out a local plan (including assigning functions and roles of the local board) for purposes of subtitle A in accordance with the authorities and requirements applicable to local plans and private industry councils under prior consistent State laws.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED STATE.**—The term “covered State” means a State that enacted State laws described in paragraph (2).

(2) **PRIOR CONSISTENT STATE LAWS.**—The term “prior consistent State laws” means State laws, not inconsistent with the Job Training Partnership Act or any other applicable Federal law, that took effect on September 1, 1993, September 1, 1995, and September 1, 1997.

SEC. 194. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, the following conditions apply to all programs under this title:

(1) Each program under this title shall provide employment and training opportunities to those who can benefit from, and who are most in need of, such opportunities. In addition, the recipients of Federal funding for programs under this title shall make efforts to develop programs that contribute to occupational development, upward mobility, development of new careers, and opportunities for nontraditional employment.

(2) Funds provided under this title shall only be used for activities that are in addition to activities that would otherwise be available in the local area in the absence of such funds.

(3)(A) Any local area may enter into an agreement with another local area (including a local area that is a city or county within the same labor market) to pay or share the cost of educating, training, or placing individuals participating in programs assisted under this title, including the provision of supportive services.

(B) Such agreement shall be approved by each local board for a local area entering into the agreement and shall be described in the local plan under section 108.

(4) On-the-job training contracts under this title, shall not be entered into with employers who have received payments under previous contracts under this Act or the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and have exhibited a pattern of failing to provide on-the-job training participants with continued long-term employment as regular employees with wages and employment benefits (including health benefits) and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work.

(5) No person or organization may charge an individual a fee for the placement or referral of the individual in or to a workforce investment activity under this title.

(6) The Secretary shall not provide financial assistance for any program under this title that involves political activities.

(7)(A) Income under any program administered by a public or private nonprofit entity may be retained by such entity only if such income is used to continue to carry out the program.

(B) Income subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) receipts from goods or services (including conferences) provided as a result of activities funded under this title;

(ii) funds provided to a service provider under this title that are in excess of the costs associated with the services provided; and

(iii) interest income earned on funds received under this title.

(C) For purposes of this paragraph, each entity receiving financial assistance under this title shall maintain records sufficient to determine the amount of such income received and the purposes for which such income is expended.

(8)(A) The Secretary shall notify the Governor and the appropriate local board and chief elected official of, and consult with the Governor and such board and official concerning, any activity to be funded by the Secretary under this title within the corresponding State or local area.

(B) The Governor shall notify the appropriate local board and chief elected official of, and consult with such board and official concerning, any activity to be funded by the

Governor under this title within the corresponding local area.

(9)(A) All education programs for youth supported with funds provided under chapter 2 of subtitle B shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards.

(B) Standards and procedures with respect to awarding academic credit and certifying educational attainment in programs conducted under such chapter shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable State and local law, including regulation.

(10) No funds available under this title may be used for public service employment except as specifically authorized under this title.

(11) The Federal requirements governing the title, use, and disposition of real property, equipment, and supplies purchased with funds provided under this title shall be the corresponding Federal requirements generally applicable to such items purchased through Federal grants to States and local governments.

(12) Nothing in this title shall be construed to provide an individual with an entitlement to a service under this title.

(13) Services, facilities, or equipment funded under this title may be used, as appropriate, on a fee-for-service basis, by employers in a local area in order to provide employment and training activities to incumbent workers—

(A) when such services, facilities, or equipment are not in use for the provision of services for eligible participants under this title;

(B) if such use for incumbent workers would not have an adverse effect on the provision of services to eligible participants under this title; and

(C) if the income derived from such fees is used to carry out the programs authorized under this title.

(14) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate a stand-alone fee-for-service enterprise in a situation in which a private sector employment agency (as defined in section 701 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e)) is providing full access to similar or related services in such a manner as to fully meet the identified need. For purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e).

(15)(A) None of the funds available under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) The limitation described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in subparagraph (A) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

SEC. 195. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

(a) PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used for—

(A) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

(B) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication,

electronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat—

(i) the enactment of legislation before Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body; or

(ii) any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

(B) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in paragraph (1)(B) in presentation to Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body; or

(C) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government.

(b) SALARY RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds provided under this Act shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships; or

(B) participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Adult Education and Family Literacy Act”.

SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to create a partnership among the Federal Government, States, and localities to provide, on a voluntary basis, adult education and literacy activities, in order to—

(1) assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and economic self-sufficiency;

(2) assist adults who are parents or family members to obtain the education and skills that—

(A) are necessary to becoming full partners in the educational development of their children; and

(B) lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family;

(3) assist adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in the transition to postsecondary education and training, including through career pathways; and

(4) assist immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in—

(A) improving their—

(i) reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills in English; and

(ii) mathematics skills; and

(B) acquiring an understanding of the American system of Government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADULT EDUCATION.—The term “adult education” means academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary

level that increase an individual’s ability to—

(A) read, write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities necessary for the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

(B) transition to postsecondary education and training; and

(C) obtain employment.

(2) ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.—The term “adult education and literacy activities” means programs, activities, and services that include adult education, literacy, workplace adult education and literacy activities, family literacy activities, English language acquisition activities, integrated English literacy and civics education, workforce preparation activities, or integrated education and training.

(3) ELIGIBLE AGENCY.—The term “eligible agency” means the sole entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and literacy activities in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively.

(4) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible individual” means an individual—

(A) who has attained 16 years of age;

(B) who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

(C) who—

(i) is basic skills deficient;

(ii) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

(iii) is an English language learner.

(5) ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.—The term “eligible provider” means an organization that has demonstrated effectiveness in providing adult education and literacy activities that may include—

(A) a local educational agency;

(B) a community-based organization or faith-based organization;

(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

(D) an institution of higher education;

(E) a public or private nonprofit agency;

(F) a library;

(G) a public housing authority;

(H) a nonprofit institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education and literacy activities to eligible individuals;

(I) a consortium or coalition of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H); and

(J) a partnership between an employer and an entity described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (I).

(6) ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term “English language acquisition program” means a program of instruction—

(A) designed to help eligible individuals who are English language learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

(B) that leads to—

(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

(ii) transition to postsecondary education and training; or

(iii) employment.

(7) ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.—The term “English language learner” when used with respect to an eligible individual, means an eligible individual who has limited ability in

reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and—

(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

(8) **ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF READING INSTRUCTION.**—The term “essential components of reading instruction” has the meaning given the term in section 1208 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6368).

(9) **FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term “family literacy activities” means activities that are of sufficient intensity and quality, to make sustainable improvements in the economic prospects for a family and that better enable parents or family members to support their children’s learning needs, and that integrate all of the following activities:

(A) Parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, and economic self-sufficiency.

(B) Interactive literacy activities between parents or family members and their children.

(C) Training for parents or family members regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

(D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

(10) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(11) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term “integrated education and training” means a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

(12) **INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**—The term “integrated English literacy and civics education” means education services provided to English language learners who are adults, including professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries, that enables such adults to achieve competency in the English language and acquire the basic and more advanced skills needed to function effectively as parents, workers, and citizens in the United States. Such services shall include instruction in literacy and English language acquisition and instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic participation, and may include workforce training.

(13) **LITERACY.**—The term “literacy” means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems, at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society.

(14) **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “postsecondary educational institution” means—

(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

(B) a tribally controlled college or university; or

(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

(15) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(16) **WORKPLACE ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workplace adult education and literacy activities” means adult education and literacy activities offered by an eligible provider in collaboration with an employer or employee organization at a workplace or an off-site location that is designed to improve the productivity of the workforce.

(17) **WORKFORCE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workforce preparation activities” means activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment.

SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent or family member engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and literacy activities.

SEC. 205. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION AND CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit or discourage the use of funds provided under this title for adult education and literacy activities that help eligible individuals transition to postsecondary education and training or employment, or for concurrent enrollment activities.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$577,667,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$622,286,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$635,198,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$649,287,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$664,552,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$678,640,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

(1) shall reserve 2 percent to carry out section 242, except that the amount so reserved shall not exceed \$15,000,000; and

(2) shall reserve 12 percent of the amount that remains after reserving funds under paragraph (1) to carry out section 243.

(b) **GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a unified State plan approved under section 102 or a combined State plan approved under section 103 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g), to enable the eligible agency to carry out the activities assisted under this title.

(2) **PURPOSE OF GRANTS.**—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible entity involved agrees to expend the grant for adult education and literacy activities in accordance with the provisions of this title.

(c) **ALLOTMENTS.**—

(1) **INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a unified State plan approved under section 102 or a combined State plan approved under section 103—

(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

(2) **ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sum as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

(d) **QUALIFYING ADULT.**—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term “qualifying adult” means an adult who—

(1) is at least 16 years of age;

(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

(e) **SPECIAL RULE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **AWARD BASIS.**—The Secretary shall award grants pursuant to paragraph (1) on a competitive basis and pursuant to the recommendations from the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii.

(3) **TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title except during the period described in section 3(45).

(4) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The Secretary may provide not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for grants under this subsection to pay the administrative costs of the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory regarding activities assisted under this subsection.

(f) **HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsection (c), for fiscal year 2015 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this section that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this section.

(2) **RATABLE REDUCTION.**—If for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1) the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

(g) **REALLOTMENT.**—The portion of any eligible agency’s allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Programs and activities authorized in this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in section 116.

Subtitle B—State Provisions**SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.**

Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the State or outlying area administration of activities under this title, including—

(1) the development, implementation, and monitoring of the relevant components of the unified State plan in section 102 or the combined State plan in section 103;

(2) consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title; and

(3) coordination and nonduplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

(a) **STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under section 211(b) for a fiscal year—

(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 20 percent of such amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$85,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

(b) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b) each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and literacy activities for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and literacy activities in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and literacy activities in the State.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.**—An eligible agency's non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and literacy activities in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

(a) **ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **REQUIRED.**—Each eligible agency shall use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for the following adult education and literacy activities to develop or enhance the adult education system of the State or outlying area:

(A) The alignment of adult education and literacy activities with other core programs and one-stop partners, including eligible providers, to implement the strategy identified in the unified State plan under section 102 or the combined State plan under section 103, including the development of career path-

ways to provide access to employment and training services for individuals in adult education and literacy activities.

(B) The establishment or operation of high quality professional development programs to improve the instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b), including instruction incorporating the essential components of reading instruction as such components relate to adults, instruction related to the specific needs of adult learners, instruction provided by volunteers or by personnel of a State or outlying area, and dissemination of information about models and promising practices related to such programs.

(C) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and literacy activities receiving funds under this title, including—

(i) the development and dissemination of instructional and programmatic practices based on the most rigorous or scientifically valid research available and appropriate, in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, English language acquisition programs, distance education, and staff training;

(ii) the role of eligible providers as a one-stop partner to provide access to employment, education, and training services; and

(iii) assistance in the use of technology, including for staff training, to eligible providers, especially the use of technology to improve system efficiencies.

(D) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult education and literacy activities and the dissemination of information about models and proven or promising practices within the State.

(2) **PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for 1 or more of the following adult education and literacy activities:

(A) The support of State or regional networks of literacy resource centers.

(B) The development and implementation of technology applications, translation technology, or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

(C) Developing and disseminating curricula, including curricula incorporating the essential components of reading instruction as such components relate to adults.

(D) Developing content and models for integrated education and training and career pathways.

(E) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing and implementing programs that achieve the objectives of this title and in measuring the progress of those programs in achieving such objectives, including meeting the State adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(b)(3).

(F) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult education to postsecondary education, including linkages with postsecondary educational institutions or institutions of higher education.

(G) Integration of literacy and English language instruction with occupational skill training, including promoting linkages with employers.

(H) Activities to promote workplace adult education and literacy activities.

(I) Identifying curriculum frameworks and aligning rigorous content standards that—

(i) specify what adult learners should know and be able to do in the areas of reading and language arts, mathematics, and English language acquisition; and

(ii) take into consideration the following:

(I) State adopted academic standards.

(II) The current adult skills and literacy assessments used in the State or outlying area.

(III) The primary indicators of performance described in section 116.

(IV) Standards and academic requirements for enrollment in nonremedial, for-credit courses in postsecondary educational institutions or institutions of higher education supported by the State or outlying area.

(V) Where appropriate, the content of occupational and industry skill standards widely used by business and industry in the State or outlying area.

(J) Developing and piloting of strategies for improving teacher quality and retention.

(K) The development and implementation of programs and services to meet the needs of adult learners with learning disabilities or English language learners, which may include new and promising assessment tools and strategies that are based on scientifically valid research, where appropriate, and identify the needs and capture the gains of such students at the lowest achievement levels.

(L) Outreach to instructors, students, and employers.

(M) Other activities of statewide significance that promote the purpose of this title.

(b) **COLLABORATION.**—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall collaborate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

(c) **STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.**—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

Each State desiring to receive funds under this title for any fiscal year shall submit and have approved a unified State plan in accordance with section 102 or a combined State plan in accordance with section 103.

SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

(1) adult education and literacy activities;

(2) special education, as determined by the eligible agency;

(3) secondary school credit;

(4) integrated education and training;

(5) career pathways;

(6) concurrent enrollment;

(7) peer tutoring; and

(8) transition to re-entry initiatives and other postrelease services with the goal of reducing recidivism.

(c) **PRIORITY.**—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders

within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

(d) **REPORT.**—In addition to any report required under section 116, each eligible agency that receives assistance provided under this section shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the progress, as described in section 116, of the eligible agency with respect to the programs and activities carried out under this section, including the relative rate of recidivism for the criminal offenders served.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “correctional institution” means any—

(A) prison;

(B) jail;

(C) reformatory;

(D) work farm;

(E) detention center; or

(F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

(2) **CRIMINAL OFFENDER.**—The term “criminal offender” means any individual who is charged with or convicted of any criminal offense.

Subtitle C—Local Provisions

SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multiyear grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and literacy activities within the State.

(b) **REQUIRED LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**—The eligible agency shall require that each eligible provider receiving a grant or contract under subsection (a) use the grant or contract to establish or operate programs that provide adult education and literacy activities, including programs that provide such activities concurrently.

(c) **DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.**—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply and compete for grants or contracts under this section; and

(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Each eligible agency awarding a grant or contract under this section shall not use any funds made available under this title for adult education and literacy activities for the purpose of supporting or providing programs, services, or activities for individuals who are not individuals described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 203(4), except that such agency may use such funds for such purpose if such programs, services, or activities are related to family literacy activities. In providing family literacy activities under this title, an eligible provider shall attempt to coordinate with programs and services that are not assisted under this title prior to using funds for adult education and literacy activities under this title for activities other than activities for eligible individuals.

(e) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In awarding grants or contracts under this section, the eligible agency shall consider—

(1) the degree to which the eligible provider would be responsive to—

(A) regional needs as identified in the local plan under section 108; and

(B) serving individuals in the community who were identified in such plan as most in need of adult education and literacy activities, including individuals—

(i) who have low levels of literacy skills; or

(ii) who are English language learners;

(2) the ability of the eligible provider to serve eligible individuals with disabilities, including eligible individuals with learning disabilities;

(3) past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the literacy of eligible individuals, to meet State-adjusted levels of performance for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116, especially with respect to eligible individuals who have low levels of literacy;

(4) the extent to which the eligible provider demonstrates alignment between proposed activities and services and the strategy and goals of the local plan under section 108, as well as the activities and services of the one-stop partners;

(5) whether the eligible provider's program—

(A) is of sufficient intensity and quality, and based on the most rigorous research available so that participants achieve substantial learning gains; and

(B) uses instructional practices that include the essential components of reading instruction;

(6) whether the eligible provider's activities, including whether reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition instruction delivered by the eligible provider, are based on the best practices derived from the most rigorous research available and appropriate, including scientifically valid research and effective educational practice;

(7) whether the eligible provider's activities effectively use technology, services, and delivery systems, including distance education in a manner sufficient to increase the amount and quality of learning and how such technology, services, and systems lead to improved performance;

(8) whether the eligible provider's activities provide learning in context, including through integrated education and training, so that an individual acquires the skills needed to transition to and complete postsecondary education and training programs, obtain and advance in employment leading to economic self-sufficiency, and to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

(9) whether the eligible provider's activities are delivered by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet any minimum qualifications established by the State, where applicable, and who have access to high quality professional development, including through electronic means;

(10) whether the eligible provider's activities coordinate with other available education, training, and social service resources in the community, such as by establishing strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, institutions of higher education, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, and social service agencies, business, industry, labor organizations, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and intermediaries, for the development of career pathways;

(11) whether the eligible provider's activities offer flexible schedules and coordination with Federal, State, and local support serv-

ices (such as child care, transportation, mental health services, and career planning) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

(12) whether the eligible provider maintains a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 116) and to monitor program performance; and

(13) whether the local areas in which the eligible provider is located have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs and civics education programs.

SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract from an eligible agency shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and literacy activities;

(3) a description of how the eligible provider will provide services in alignment with the local plan under section 108, including how such provider will promote concurrent enrollment in programs and activities under title I, as appropriate;

(4) a description of how the eligible provider will meet the State adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(b)(3), including how such provider will collect data to report on such performance indicators;

(5) a description of how the eligible provider will fulfill one-stop partner responsibilities as described in section 121(b)(1)(A), as appropriate;

(6) a description of how the eligible provider will provide services in a manner that meets the needs of eligible individuals; and

(7) information that addresses the considerations described under section 231(e), as applicable.

SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

(1) not less than 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and literacy activities; and

(2) the remaining amount, not to exceed 5 percent, shall be used for planning, administration (including carrying out the requirements of section 116), professional development, and the activities described in paragraphs (3) and (5) of section 232.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for the activities described in subsection (a)(2), the eligible provider shall negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

Subtitle D—General Provisions

SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and literacy activities.

(b) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **DETERMINATION.**—An eligible agency may receive funds under this title for any

fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of such eligible agency for activities under this title, in the second preceding fiscal year, were not less than 90 percent of the fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of such eligible agency for adult education and literacy activities in the third preceding fiscal year.

(B) **PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION.**—Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), for any fiscal year with respect to which the Secretary determines under subparagraph (A) that the fiscal effort or the aggregate expenditures of an eligible agency for the preceding program year were less than such effort or expenditures for the second preceding program year, the Secretary—

(i) shall determine the percentage decreases in such effort or in such expenditures; and

(ii) shall decrease the payment made under this title for such program year to the agency for adult education and literacy activities by the lesser of such percentages.

(2) **COMPUTATION.**—In computing the fiscal effort and aggregate expenditures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall exclude capital expenditures and special one-time project costs.

(3) **DECREASE IN FEDERAL SUPPORT.**—If the amount made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title for a fiscal year is less than the amount made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title for the preceding fiscal year, then the fiscal effort per student and the aggregate expenditures of an eligible agency required in order to avoid a reduction under paragraph (1)(B) shall be decreased by the same percentage as the percentage decrease in the amount so made available.

(4) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the requirements of this subsection for not more than 1 fiscal year, if the Secretary determines that a waiver would be equitable due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or an unforeseen and precipitous decline in the financial resources of the State or outlying area of the eligible agency. If the Secretary grants a waiver under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year, the level of effort required under paragraph (1) shall not be reduced in the subsequent fiscal year because of the waiver.

SEC. 242. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national leadership activities to enhance the quality and outcomes of adult education and literacy activities and programs nationwide.

(b) **REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**—The national leadership activities described in subsection (a) shall include technical assistance, including—

(1) assistance to help States meet the requirements of section 116;

(2) upon request by a State, assistance provided to eligible providers in using performance accountability measures based on indicators described in section 116, and data systems for the improvement of adult education and literacy activities;

(3) carrying out rigorous research and evaluation on effective adult education and literacy activities, as well as estimating the number of adults functioning at the lowest levels of literacy proficiency, which shall be coordinated across relevant Federal agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences; and

(4) carrying out an independent evaluation at least once every 4 years of the programs

and activities under this title, taking into consideration the evaluation subjects referred to in section 169(a)(2).

(c) **ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.**—The national leadership activities described in subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Technical assistance, including—

(A) assistance related to professional development activities, and assistance for the purposes of developing, improving, identifying, and disseminating the most successful methods and techniques for providing adult education and literacy activities, based on scientifically valid research where available;

(B) assistance in distance education and promoting and improving the use of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English language learners;

(C) assistance in the development and dissemination of proven models for addressing the digital literacy needs of adults, including older adults; and

(D) supporting efforts aimed at strengthening programs at the State and local levels, such as technical assistance in program planning, assessment, evaluation, and monitoring of activities carried out under this title.

(2) **Funding national leadership activities** either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded on a competitive basis to or with postsecondary educational institutions, institutions of higher education, public or private organizations or agencies (including public libraries), or consortia of such institutions, organizations, or agencies, which may include—

(A) developing, improving, and identifying the most successful methods and techniques for addressing the education needs of adults, including instructional practices using the essential components of reading instruction based on the work of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development;

(B) supporting national, regional, or local networks of private nonprofit organizations, public libraries, or institutions of higher education to strengthen the ability of such networks' members to meet the performance requirements described in section 116 of eligible providers;

(C) increasing the effectiveness, and improving the quality, of adult education and literacy activities, which may include—

(i) carrying out rigorous research;

(ii) carrying out demonstration programs;

(iii) accelerating learning outcomes for eligible individuals with the lowest literacy levels;

(iv) developing and promoting career pathways for eligible individuals;

(v) promoting concurrent enrollment programs in adult education and credit bearing postsecondary coursework;

(vi) developing high-quality professional development activities for eligible providers; and

(vii) developing, replicating, and disseminating information on best practices and innovative programs, such as—

(I) the identification of effective strategies for working with adults with learning disabilities and with adults who are English language learners;

(II) integrated education and training programs;

(III) workplace adult education and literacy activities; and

(IV) postsecondary education and training transition programs;

(D) providing for the conduct of an independent evaluation and assessment of adult education and literacy activities through

grants and contracts awarded on a competitive basis, which shall include descriptions of—

(i) the effect of performance accountability measures and other measures of accountability on the delivery of adult education and literacy activities;

(ii) the extent to which the adult education and literacy activities increase the literacy skills of eligible individuals, lead to involvement in education and training, enhance the employment and earnings of such participants, and, if applicable, lead to other positive outcomes, such as success in re-entry and reductions in recidivism in the case of prison-based adult education and literacy activities;

(iii) the extent to which the provision of support services to eligible individuals enrolled in adult education and literacy activities increase the rate of enrollment in, and successful completion of, such programs; and

(iv) the extent to which different types of providers measurably improve the skills of eligible individuals in adult education and literacy activities;

(E) collecting data, such as data regarding the improvement of both local and State data systems, through technical assistance and development of model performance data collection systems;

(F) determining how participation in adult education and literacy activities prepares eligible individuals for entry into postsecondary education and employment and, in the case of programs carried out in correctional institutions, has an effect on recidivism; and

(G) other activities designed to enhance the quality of adult education and literacy activities nationwide.

SEC. 243. INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From funds made available under section 211(a)(2) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants to States, from allotments under subsection (b), for integrated English literacy and civics education, in combination with integrated education and training activities.

(b) **ALLOTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), from amounts made available under section 211(a)(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate—

(A) 65 percent to the States on the basis of a State's need for integrated English literacy and civics education, as determined by calculating each State's share of a 10-year average of the data of the Office of Immigration Statistics of the Department of Homeland Security for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence for the 10 most recent years; and

(B) 35 percent to the States on the basis of whether the State experienced growth, as measured by the average of the 3 most recent years for which the data of the Office of Immigration Statistics of the Department of Homeland Security for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence are available.

(2) **MINIMUM.**—No State shall receive an allotment under paragraph (1) in an amount that is less than \$60,000.

(c) **GOAL.**—Each program that receives funding under this section shall be designed to—

(1) prepare adults who are English language learners for, and place such adults in, unsubsidized employment in in-demand industries and occupations that lead to economic self-sufficiency; and

(2) integrate with the local workforce development system and its functions to carry out the activities of the program.

(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and make available to the public, a report on the activities carried out under this section.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT

SEC. 301. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES.

Section 1 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49) is amended by inserting “service” before “offices”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49a) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the terms ‘chief elected official’, ‘institution of higher education’, ‘one-stop center’, ‘one-stop partner’, ‘training services’, ‘workforce development activity’, and ‘workplace learning advisor’, have the meaning given the terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “investment board” each place it appears and inserting “development board”; and

(B) by striking “section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”; and

(B) by striking “Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) the term ‘employment service office’ means a local office of a State agency; and

“(7) except in section 15, the term ‘State agency’, used without further description, means an agency designated or authorized under section 4.”.

SEC. 303. FEDERAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES.

(a) COORDINATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(a)) is amended by striking “services” and inserting “service offices”.

(b) PUBLIC LABOR EXCHANGE SERVICES SYSTEM.—Section 3(c) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking the semicolon and inserting “, and identify and disseminate information on best practices for such system; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) in coordination with the State agencies and the staff of such agencies, assist in the planning and implementation of activities to enhance the professional development and career advancement opportunities of such staff, in order to strengthen the provision of a broad range of career guidance services, the identification of job openings (including providing intensive outreach to small and medium-sized employers and enhanced employer services), the provision of technical assistance and training to other providers of workforce development activities (including workplace learning advisors) relating to counseling and employment-related services, and the development of new strategies for coordinating counseling and technology.”.

(c) ONE-STOP CENTERS.—Section 3 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) In order to improve service delivery, avoid duplication of services, and enhance coordination of services, including location of staff to ensure access to services under section 7(a) statewide in underserved areas, employment service offices in each State shall be colocated with one-stop centers.

“(e) The Secretary, in consultation with States, is authorized to assist the States in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to improve access to workforce information for individuals through—

“(1) the one-stop delivery systems established as described in section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and

“(2) such other delivery systems as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

SEC. 304. ALLOTMENT OF SUMS.

Section 6 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “amounts appropriated pursuant to section 5” and inserting “funds appropriated and (except for Guam) certified under section 5 and made available for allotments under this section”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before “the Secretary” the following “after making the allotments required by subsection (a),”; and

(ii) by striking “sums” and all that follows through “this Act” and inserting “funds described in subsection (a)”;

(B) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “sums” and inserting “remainder”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘State’ does not include Guam or the Virgin Islands.”.

SEC. 305. USE OF SUMS.

(a) IMPROVED COORDINATION.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “, including unemployment insurance claimants,” after “seekers”.

(b) RESOURCES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS.—Section 7(a)(3) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by inserting “, including making eligibility assessments,” after “system”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) providing unemployment insurance claimants with referrals to, and application assistance for, training and education resources and programs, including Federal Pell Grants under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.), educational assistance under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Montgomery GI Bill), and chapter 33 of that title (Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance), student assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), State student higher education assistance, and training and education programs provided under titles I and II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.).”.

(c) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Section 7(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “performance standards established by the Secretary” and inserting “the performance accountability measures that are based on indicators described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “offices” after “employment service”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, and models for enhancing professional development and career advancement opportunities of State agency staff, as described in section 3(c)(4)” after “subsection (a)”.

(d) PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Subsections (c)(2) and (d) of section 7 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f) are amended by striking “the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(e)) is amended by striking “labor employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 306. STATE PLAN.

Section 8 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. Any State desiring to receive assistance under section 6 shall prepare and submit to, and have approved by, the Secretary and the Secretary of Education, a State plan in accordance with section 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

SEC. 307. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Section 13(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The activities carried out pursuant to section 7 shall be subject to the performance accountability measures that are based on indicators described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

SEC. 308. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) HEADING.—The section heading for section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l-2) is amended by striking “EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS” and inserting “WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM”.

(b) NAME OF SYSTEM.—Section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l-2(a)(1)) is amended by striking “employment statistics system of employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information system”.

(c) SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 15(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l-2(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) STRUCTURE.—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be evaluated and improved by the Secretary, in consultation with the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in subsection (d).

“(B) GRANTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the provisions of this section in a timely manner, through grants to or agreements with States.

“(ii) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Using amounts appropriated under subsection (g), the Secretary shall provide funds through those grants and agreements. In distributing the funds (relating to workforce and labor market information funding) for fiscal years 2015 through 2020, the Secretary shall continue to distribute the funds to States in the

manner in which the Secretary distributed funds to the States under this section for fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) DUTIES.—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that the statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions, and that the information is accessible and understandable to users of such data.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of heads of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Solicit, receive, and evaluate the recommendations from the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in subsection (d) concerning the evaluation and improvement of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and respond in writing to the Council regarding the recommendations.

“(D) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings.

“(E) Through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, and in collaboration with States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(F) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely; and

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum.”.

(d) TWO-YEAR PLAN.—Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) TWO-YEAR PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, and in consultation with the Workforce Information Advisory Council described in subsection (d) and heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall prepare a 2-year plan for the workforce and labor market information system. The plan shall be developed and implemented in a manner that takes into account the activities described in State plans submitted by States under section 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and shall be submitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. The plan shall include—

“(1) a description of how the Secretary will work with the States to manage the nationwide workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and the statewide workforce and labor market information systems that comprise the nationwide system;

“(2) a description of the steps to be taken in the following 2 years to carry out the duties described in subsection (b)(2);

“(3) an evaluation of the performance of the system, with particular attention to the improvements needed at the State and local levels;

“(4) a description of the involvement of States in the development of the plan, through consultation by the Secretary with the Workforce Information Advisory Council in accordance with subsection (d); and

“(5) a description of the written recommendations received from the Workforce Information Advisory Council established under subsection (d), and the extent to which those recommendations were incorporated into the plan.”.

(e) WORKFORCE INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) WORKFORCE INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, shall formally consult at least twice annually with the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in accordance with paragraph (2). Such consultations shall address the evaluation and improvement of the nationwide workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and the statewide workforce and labor market information systems that comprise the nationwide system and how the Department of Labor and the States will cooperate in the management of such systems. The Council shall provide written recommendations to the Secretary concerning the evaluation and improvement of the nationwide system, including any recommendations regarding the 2-year plan described in subsection (c).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council that shall be known as the Workforce Information Advisory Council (referred to in this section as the ‘Council’) to participate in the consultations and provide the recommendations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Council, which shall consist of—

“(i) 4 members who are representatives of lead State agencies with responsibility for workforce investment activities, or State agencies described in section 4, who have been nominated by such agencies or by a national organization that represents such agencies;

“(ii) 4 members who are representatives of the State workforce and labor market information directors affiliated with the State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(2), who have been nominated by the directors;

“(iii) 1 member who is a representative of providers of training services under section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

“(iv) 1 member who is a representative of economic development entities;

“(v) 1 member who is a representative of businesses, who has been nominated by national business organizations or trade associations;

“(vi) 1 member who is a representative of labor organizations, who has been nominated by a national labor federation;

“(vii) 1 member who is a representative of local workforce development boards, who has been nominated by a national organization representing such boards; and

“(viii) 1 member who is a representative of research entities that utilize workforce and labor market information.

“(C) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Council is geographically diverse and that no 2 of the members appointed under clauses (i), (ii), and (vii) represent the same State.

“(D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Council shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that the initial terms for members may be 1, 2, or 3 years in order to establish a rotation in which one-third of the members are selected each year. Any such member may be appointed for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(ii) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office.

“(E) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Council shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Council, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Council.

“(F) PERMANENT COUNCIL.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.”.

(f) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “employment statistics” each place it appears and inserting “workforce and labor market information”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “annual plan” and inserting “plan described in subsection (c)”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking subparagraph (H);

(C) in subparagraph (I), by striking “section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 116(i)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 15(g) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(g)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2004” and inserting “\$60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$64,799,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$66,144,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$67,611,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$69,200,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$70,667,000 for fiscal year 2020”.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Subtitle A—Introductory Provisions

SEC. 401. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a provision of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

SEC. 402. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a) (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “workforce investment systems under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “workforce development systems defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(7)(A) a high proportion of students with disabilities is leaving secondary education without being employed in competitive integrated employment, or being enrolled in postsecondary education; and

“(B) there is a substantial need to support such students as they transition from school to postsecondary life.”

(b) PURPOSE.—Section 2(b) (29 U.S.C. 701(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment systems implemented in accordance with title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “workforce development systems defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(B) at the end of subparagraph (F), by striking “and”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with significant disabilities, for competitive integrated employment;”

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) to increase employment opportunities and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, including through encouraging meaningful input by employers and vocational rehabilitation service providers on successful and prospective employment and placement strategies; and

“(5) to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that youth with disabilities and students with disabilities who are transitioning from receipt of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and receipt of services under section 504 of this Act have opportunities for postsecondary success.”

SEC. 403. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

Section 3 (29 U.S.C. 702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting “in the Department of Education” after “Secretary”;

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting “Such Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer, of the Department for purposes of carrying out titles I, III, VI, and chapter 2 of title VII.”;

(C) in the fourth and sixth sentences, by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” the first place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”.

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) to the maximum extent possible, relies on information obtained from experiences in integrated employment settings in the community, and other integrated community settings;”

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TERMS.—

“(A) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘assistive technology’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002).

“(B) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.—The term ‘assistive technology device’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, except that the reference in such section to the term ‘individuals with disabilities’ shall be deemed to mean more than 1 individual with a disability as defined in paragraph (20)(A)).

“(C) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE.—The term ‘assistive technology service’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, except that the reference in such section—

“(i) to the term ‘individual with a disability’ shall be deemed to mean an individual with a disability, as defined in paragraph (20)(A); and

“(ii) to the term ‘individuals with disabilities’ shall be deemed to mean more than 1 such individual.”

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4);

(4) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (O) through (Q) as subparagraphs (P) through (R), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following:

“(O) customized employment;” and

(C) in subparagraph (R), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking “(P)” and inserting “(Q)”;

(5) by inserting before paragraph (6) the following:

“(5) COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘competitive integrated employment’ means work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis (including self-employment)—

“(A) for which an individual—

“(i) is compensated at a rate that—

“(I)(aa) shall be not less than the higher of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the rate specified in the applicable State or local minimum wage law; and

“(bb) is not less than the customary rate paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by other employees who are not individuals with disabilities, and who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience, and skills; or

“(II) in the case of an individual who is self-employed, yields an income that is comparable to the income received by other individuals who are not individuals with disabilities, and who are self-employed in similar occupations or on similar tasks and who have similar training, experience, and skills; and

“(ii) is eligible for the level of benefits provided to other employees;

“(B) that is at a location where the employee interacts with other persons who are not individuals with disabilities (not including supervisory personnel or individuals who are providing services to such employee) to

the same extent that individuals who are not individuals with disabilities and who are in comparable positions interact with other persons; and

“(C) that, as appropriate, presents opportunities for advancement that are similar to those for other employees who are not individuals with disabilities and who have similar positions.”

(6) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “includes” and all that follows through “fees” and inserting “includes architects’ fees”;

(7) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘customized employment’ means competitive integrated employment, for an individual with a significant disability, that is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs, and interests of the individual with a significant disability, is designed to meet the specific abilities of the individual with a significant disability and the business needs of the employer, and is carried out through flexible strategies, such as—

“(A) job exploration by the individual;

“(B) working with an employer to facilitate placement, including—

“(i) customizing a job description based on current employer needs or on previously unidentified and unmet employer needs;

“(ii) developing a set of job duties, a work schedule and job arrangement, and specifics of supervision (including performance evaluation and review), and determining a job location;

“(iii) representation by a professional chosen by the individual, or self-representation of the individual, in working with an employer to facilitate placement; and

“(iv) providing services and supports at the job location.”

(8) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”; and

(ii) by inserting “customized employment,” before “self-employment.”;

(9) in paragraph (12), by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” each place it appears;

(10) in paragraph (14)(C), by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”;

(11) in paragraph (17)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) services that—

“(i) facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services;

“(ii) provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and

“(iii) facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)), and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.”

(12) in paragraph (18), by striking “term” and all that follows through “includes—” and inserting “term ‘independent living services’ includes—”;

(13) in paragraph (19)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the period the following: “and includes a

Native and a descendant of a Native, as such terms are defined in subsections (b) and (r) of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: "and a tribal organization (as defined in section 4(1) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(1)))";

(14) in paragraph (23), by striking "section 101" and inserting "section 102";

(15) by striking paragraph (25) and inserting the following:

"(25) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—The term 'local workforce development board' means a local board, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.";

(16) by striking paragraph (37);

(17) by redesignating paragraphs (29) through (39) as paragraphs (31) through (36), and (38) through (41), respectively;

(18) by inserting after paragraph (28) the following:

"(30) PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES.—The term 'pre-employment transition services' means services provided in accordance with section 113.";

(19) by striking paragraph (33), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

"(33) SECRETARY.—Unless where the context otherwise requires, the term 'Secretary'—

"(A) used in title I, III, IV, V, VI, or chapter 2 of title VII, means the Secretary of Education; and

"(B) used in title II or chapter 1 of title VII, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.";

(20) by striking paragraphs (35) and (36), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

"(35) STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.—The term 'State workforce development board' means a State board, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

"(36) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.—The term 'statewide workforce development system' means a workforce development system, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.";

(21) by inserting after that paragraph (36) the following:

"(37) STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'student with a disability' means an individual with a disability who—

"(i)(I)(aa) is not younger than the earliest age for the provision of transition services under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)); or

"(bb) if the State involved elects to use a lower minimum age for receipt of pre-employment transition services under this Act, is not younger than that minimum age; and

"(II)(aa) is not older than 21 years of age; or

"(bb) if the State law for the State provides for a higher maximum age for receipt of services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), is not older than that maximum age; and

"(ii)(I) is eligible for, and receiving, special education or related services under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

"(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

"(B) STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term 'students with disabilities' means more than 1 student with a disability.";

(22) by striking paragraphs (38) and (39), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

"(38) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT.—The term 'supported employment' means competitive integrated employment, including customized employment, or employment in an integrated work setting in which individuals are working on a short-term basis toward competitive integrated employment, that is individualized and customized consistent with the strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choice of the individuals involved, for individuals with the most significant disabilities—

"(A)(i) for whom competitive integrated employment has not historically occurred; or

"(ii) for whom competitive integrated employment has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a significant disability; and

"(B) who, because of the nature and severity of their disability, need intensive supported employment services and extended services after the transition described in paragraph (13)(C), in order to perform the work involved.

"(39) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—The term 'supported employment services' means ongoing support services, including customized employment, needed to support and maintain an individual with a most significant disability in supported employment, that—

"(A) are provided singly or in combination and are organized and made available in such a way as to assist an eligible individual to achieve competitive integrated employment;

"(B) are based on a determination of the needs of an eligible individual, as specified in an individualized plan for employment; and

"(C) are provided by the designated State unit for a period of not more than 24 months, except that period may be extended, if necessary, in order to achieve the employment outcome identified in the individualized plan for employment.";

(23) in paragraph (41), as redesignated by paragraph (17), by striking "as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(24) by inserting after paragraph (41), as redesignated by paragraph (17), the following:

"(42) YOUTH WITH A DISABILITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'youth with a disability' means an individual with a disability who—

"(i) is not younger than 14 years of age; and

"(ii) is not older than 24 years of age.

"(B) YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES.—The term 'youth with disabilities' means more than 1 youth with a disability.".

SEC. 405. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT.

(a) PROMULGATION.—Section 8(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 706(a)(2)) is amended by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary".

(b) PRIVACY.—Section 11 (29 U.S.C. 708) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The provisions"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) Section 501 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act shall apply, as specified in that section, to amendments to this Act that were made by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.".

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 12 (29 U.S.C. 709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "(1)" and inserting "(1)(A)"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) provide technical assistance to the designated State units on developing successful partnerships with local and multi-State businesses in an effort to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities;

"(C) provide technical assistance to providers and organizations on developing self-employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities; and

"(D) provide technical assistance to entities carrying out community rehabilitation programs to build their internal capacity to provide individualized services and supports leading to competitive integrated employment, and to transition individuals with disabilities away from nonintegrated settings"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "centers for independent living";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "Commissioner" the first place it appears and inserting "Secretary of Education";

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary";

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998" each place it appears and inserting "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary";

(5) in subsection (f), by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary";

(6)(A) in subsection (c), by striking "(c)" and inserting "(c)(1)";

(B) in subsection (d), by striking "(d)" and inserting "(d)(1)";

(C) in subsection (e), by striking "(e)" and inserting "(2)";

(D) in subsection (f), by striking "(f)" and inserting "(2)"; and

(E) by moving paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (D)) to the end of subsection (c); and

(7) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e)(1) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living (referred to in this subsection as the 'Administrator') may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Commissioner described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) through (4) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), except that, for purposes of applying subsections (a) and (b), a reference in those subsections—

"(A) to facilitating meaningful and effective participation shall be considered to be a reference to facilitating meaningful and effective collaboration with independent living programs, and promoting a philosophy of independent living for individuals with disabilities in community activities; and

"(B) to training for personnel shall be considered to be a reference to training for the personnel of centers for independent living and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

"(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Education described in subsections (c) and (d).

"(f)(1) In subsections (a) through (d), a reference to 'this Act' means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Education has authority to carry out; and

"(2) In subsection (e), for purposes of applying subsections (a) through (d), a reference in those subsections to 'this Act'

means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to carry out.”.

SEC. 406. REPORTS.

Section 13 (29 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in section (c)—
(A) by striking “(c)” and inserting “(c)(1)”;

and
(B) in the second sentence, by striking “section 136(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 116(d)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) The Commissioner shall ensure that the report described in this section is made publicly available in a timely manner, including through electronic means, in order to inform the public about the administration and performance of programs under this Act.”.

SEC. 407. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION.

(a) EVALUATION.—Section 14 (29 U.S.C. 711) is amended—

(1) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by inserting “competitive” before “integrated employment”;

(3)(A) in subsection (b), by striking “(b)” and inserting “(b)(1)”;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)” and inserting “(2)”;

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “(d)” and inserting “(3)”;

(D) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (3)(D), the following:

“(e)(1) The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Education described in subsections (a) and (b).
“(2) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Commissioner described in subsections (a) and (d)(1), except that, for purposes of applying those subsections, a reference in those subsections to exemplary practices shall be considered to be a reference to exemplary practices concerning independent living services and centers for independent living.

“(f)(1) In subsections (a) through (d), a reference to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Education has authority to carry out; and
“(2) In subsection (e), for purposes of applying subsections (a), (b), and (d), a reference in those subsections to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to carry out.”.

(b) INFORMATION.—Section 15 (29 U.S.C. 712) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” each place it appears; and
(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “State workforce investment boards” and inserting “State workforce development boards”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Secretary of Education”.

SEC. 408. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”.

SEC. 409. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “racial” and inserting “demographic”;

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking “rate of increase” the first place it appears and inserting “percentage increase from 2000 to 2010”;

(II) by striking “is 3.2” and inserting “was 9.7”;

(III) by striking “rate of increase” and inserting “percentage increase”;

(IV) by striking “is much” and inserting “was much”;

(V) by striking “38.6” and inserting “43.0”;

(VI) by striking “14.6” and inserting “12.3”;

(VII) by striking “40.1” and inserting “43.2”; and

(VIII) by striking “and other ethnic groups”; and

(iii) by striking the last sentence; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following: “In 2011—

“(A) among Americans ages 16 through 64, the rate of disability was 12.1 percent;

“(B) among African-Americans in that age range, the disability rate was more than twice as high, at 27.1 percent; and

“(C) for American Indians and Alaska Natives in the same age range, the disability rate was also more than twice as high, at 27.0 percent.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “Director” and inserting “Director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”.

Subtitle B—Vocational Rehabilitation Services

SEC. 411. DECLARATION OF POLICY; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS; PURPOSE; POLICY.—Section 100(a) (29 U.S.C. 720(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “integrated” and inserting “competitive integrated employment”;

(B) in subparagraph (D)(iii), by striking “medicare and medicaid” and inserting “Medicare and Medicaid”;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking “investment” and inserting “development”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)—

(i) by striking “workforce investment systems” and inserting “workforce development systems”; and

(ii) by striking “workforce investment activities” and inserting “workforce development activities”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and informed choice,” and inserting “informed choice, and economic self-sufficiency.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “gainful employment in integrated settings” and inserting “competitive integrated employment”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “should” before “facilitate”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 100(b)(1) (29 U.S.C. 720(b)(1)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,302,053,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2020”.

SEC. 412. STATE PLANS.

(a) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 101(a) (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “to participate” and all that follows and inserting “to receive funds under this title for a fiscal year, a State shall submit, and have approved by the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor, a unified State plan in accordance with section 102, or a combined State plan in accordance with section 103, of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The unified or combined State plan shall include, in the portion of the plan described in section 102(b)(2)(D) of such Act (referred to in this subsection as the ‘vocational rehabilitation services portion’), the provisions of a State plan for vocational rehabilitation services, described in this subsection.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “in the State plan for vocational rehabilitation services,” and inserting “as part of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the unified or combined State plan submitted in accordance with subparagraph (A),”; and

(ii) by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “The State plan shall remain in effect subject to the submission of such modifications” and inserting “The vocational rehabilitation services portion of the unified or combined State plan submitted in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall remain in effect until the State submits and receives approval of a new State plan in accordance with subparagraph (A), or until the submission of such modifications”; and

(ii) by striking “, until the State submits and receives approval of a new State plan”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “The State plan” and inserting “The State plan for vocational rehabilitation services”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(i) in subclause (II), by inserting “who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the vocational rehabilitation program” before the semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subclause (IV), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(V) has the sole authority and responsibility within the designated State agency described in subparagraph (A) to expend funds made available under this title in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this title.”;

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) notwithstanding subparagraph (C), permit the State, in its discretion, to elect to serve eligible individuals (whether or not receiving vocational rehabilitation services) who require specific services or equipment to maintain employment; and”;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(v)—

(i) in subclause (I), after “rehabilitation technology” insert the following: “, including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003)”; and

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) the establishment and maintenance of education and experience requirements, to ensure that the personnel have a 21st century understanding of the evolving labor force and the needs of individuals with disabilities, including requirements for—

“(I)(aa) attainment of a baccalaureate degree in a field of study reasonably related to vocational rehabilitation, to indicate a level of competency and skill demonstrating basic preparation in a field of study such as vocational rehabilitation counseling, social work, psychology, disability studies, business administration, human resources, special education, supported employment, customized employment, economics, or another field that reasonably prepares individuals to work with consumers and employers; and

“(bb) demonstrated paid or unpaid experience, for not less than 1 year, consisting of—

“(AA) direct work with individuals with disabilities in a setting such as an independent living center;

“(BB) direct service or advocacy activities that provide such individual with experience and skills in working with individuals with disabilities; or

“(CC) direct experience as an employer, as a small business owner or operator, or in self-employment, or other experience in human resources, recruitment, or experience in supervising employees, training, or other activities that provide experience in competitive integrated employment environments; or

“(II) attainment of a master’s or doctoral degree in a field of study such as vocational rehabilitation counseling, law, social work, psychology, disability studies, business administration, human resources, special education, management, public administration, or another field that reasonably provides competence in the employment sector, in a disability field, or in both business-related and rehabilitation-related fields; and”;

(5) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(i) by inserting “an accommodation or auxiliary aid or service or” after “prior to providing”; and

(ii) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “medicaid” and inserting “Medicaid”;

(II) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(III) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(IV) by inserting “and, if appropriate, accommodations or auxiliary aids and services,” before “that are included”; and

(V) by striking “provision of such vocational rehabilitation services” and inserting “provision of such vocational rehabilitation services (including, if appropriate, accommodations or auxiliary aids and services)”;

and

(ii) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(II) by inserting “, and accommodations or auxiliary aids and services” before the period; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(6) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “annual” and all that follows through “of 1998” and inserting “annual reporting of information, on eligible individuals receiving the services, that is necessary to assess the State’s performance on the standards and indicators described in section 106(a)”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, from each State,” after “additional data”;

(ii) by striking clause (i) and inserting:

“(i) the number of applicants and the number of individuals determined to be eligible or ineligible for the program carried out under this title, including the number of individuals determined to be ineligible (disaggregated by type of disability and age);”;

(iii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(II) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the number of individuals with open cases (disaggregated by those who are receiving training and those who are in postsecondary education), and the type of services the individuals are receiving (including supported employment);

“(V) the number of students with disabilities who are receiving pre-employment transition services under this title; and

“(VI) the number of individuals referred to State vocational rehabilitation programs by one-stop operators (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and the number of individuals referred to such one-stop operators by State vocational rehabilitation programs;”;

(iv) in clause (iv)(I), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “and, for those who achieved employment outcomes, the average length of time to obtain employment”;

(C) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(D) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “of the State” and all that follows and inserting “of the State in meeting the standards and indicators established pursuant to section 106.”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.—The disaggregation of data under this Act shall not be required within a category if the number of individuals in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information, or if the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual.

“(H) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The State plan shall specify that the Commissioner will provide an annual comprehensive report that includes the reports and data required under this section, as well as a summary of the reports and data, for each fiscal year. The Commissioner shall submit the report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year involved.”;

(7) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS” and inserting “WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS”;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(iii) in clause (i)(II)—

(I) by striking “investment” and inserting “development”; and

(II) by inserting “(including programmatic accessibility and physical accessibility)” after “program accessibility”;

(iv) in clause (ii), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(v) in clause (v), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “the State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003),” after “including”; and

(ii) by inserting “, noneducational agencies serving out-of-school youth,” after “Agriculture”; and

(iii) by striking “such agencies and programs” and inserting “such Federal, State, and local agencies and programs”; and

(iv) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, including pre-employment transition services,” before “under this title”;

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting “, which may be provided using alternative means for meeting participation (such as video conferences and conference calls),” after “consultation and technical assistance”; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking “completion” and inserting “implementation”;

(E) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (H), respectively;

(F) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) COORDINATION WITH EMPLOYERS.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State unit will work with employers to identify competitive integrated employment opportunities and career exploration opportunities, in order to facilitate the provision of—

“(i) vocational rehabilitation services; and

“(ii) transition services for youth with disabilities and students with disabilities, such as pre-employment transition services.”;

(G) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph—

(i) by inserting “chapter 1 of” after “part C of”; and

(ii) by inserting “, as appropriate” before the period;

(H) by inserting after subparagraph (F), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph, the following:

“(G) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT REGARDING INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit has entered into a formal cooperative agreement with the State agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and the State agency with primary responsibility for providing services and supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals with developmental disabilities, with respect to the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services, including extended services, for individuals with the most significant disabilities who have been determined

to be eligible for home and community-based services under a Medicaid waiver, Medicaid State plan amendment, or other authority related to a State Medicaid program.”;

(I) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph—

(i) in clause (ii)—
(I) by inserting “on or” before “near”; and
(II) by striking “and” at the end;
(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) strategies for the provision of transition planning, by personnel of the designated State unit, the State educational agency, and the recipient of funds under part C, that will facilitate the development and approval of the individualized plans for employment under section 102; and”; and

(J) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit, and the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of the State under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.

“(J) COORDINATION WITH TICKET TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit will coordinate activities with any other State agency that is functioning as an employment network under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19).

“(K) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency or agencies (if more than 1 agency is designated under paragraph (2)(A)) will collaborate with the State agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the State agency responsible for providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the State agency responsible for providing mental health services, to develop opportunities for community-based employment in integrated settings, to the greatest extent practicable.”;

(8) in paragraph (14)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “SEMIANNUAL”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “an annual” and inserting “a semiannual”;

(ii) by striking “has achieved an employment outcome” and inserting “is employed”;

(iii) by striking “achievement of the outcome” and all that follows through “representative)” and inserting “beginning of such employment, and annually thereafter”;

(iv) by striking “to competitive” and all that follows and inserting the following: “to competitive integrated employment or training for competitive integrated employment”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the individuals described” and all that follows and inserting “individuals described in subparagraph (A) in attaining competitive integrated employment; and”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) an assurance that the State will report the information generated under sub-

paragraphs (A), (B), and (C), for each of the individuals, to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for each fiscal year, not later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year.”;

(9) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(bb) by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) youth with disabilities, and students with disabilities, including their need for pre-employment transition services or other transition services.”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) include an assessment of the needs of individuals with disabilities for transition services and pre-employment transition services, and the extent to which such services provided under this Act are coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) in order to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the number of individuals who are eligible for services under this title, but are not receiving such services due to an order of selection; and”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (v) as clauses (iv) through (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to postsecondary life (including the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, postsecondary education, employment, and pre-employment transition services);”; and

(iii) in clause (vi), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(10) in paragraph (20), in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(11) in paragraph (22), by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(12) by adding at the end the following:

“(25) SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.—The State plan shall provide an assurance that, with respect to students with disabilities, the State—

“(A) has developed and will implement—

“(i) strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15); and

“(ii) strategies to achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State, in accordance with paragraph (15), to improve and ex-

pand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis; and

“(B) has developed and will implement strategies to provide pre-employment transition services.

“(26) JOB GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The State plan shall provide an assurance describing how the State will utilize initiatives involving in-demand industry sectors or occupations under sections 106(c) and 108 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.”.

(b) APPROVAL.—Section 101(b) (29 U.S.C. 721(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) SUBMISSION; APPROVAL; MODIFICATION.—The State plan for vocational rehabilitation services shall be subject to—

“(1) subsection (c) of section 102 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in a case in which that plan is a portion of the unified State plan described in that section 102; and

“(2) subsection (b), and paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c), of section 103 of such Act in a case in which that State plan for vocational rehabilitation services is a portion of the combined State plan described in that section 103.”.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 721) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to reduce the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) of a local educational agency or any other agency to provide or pay for any transition services that are also considered special education or related services and that are necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities within the State involved.”.

SEC. 413. ELIGIBILITY AND INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 102(a) (29 U.S.C. 722(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “is an” and inserting “has undergone an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs and as a result has been determined to be an”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or regain employment,” and inserting “advance in, or regain employment that is consistent with the individual’s strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs under this Act, an individual shall be presumed to have a goal of an employment outcome.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “DEMONSTRATION” and inserting “APPLICANTS”; and

(ii) by striking “, unless” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “METHODS” and inserting “RESPONSIBILITIES”;

(ii) in the first sentence—

(I) by striking “In making the demonstration required under subparagraph (A),” and inserting “Prior to determining under this subsection that an applicant described in subparagraph (A) is unable to benefit due to

the severity of the individual's disability or that the individual is ineligible for vocational rehabilitation services,"; and

(II) by striking ", except under" and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking "individual or to determine" and all that follows and inserting "individual. In providing the trial experiences, the designated State unit shall provide the individual with the opportunity to try different employment experiences, including supported employment, and the opportunity to become employed in competitive integrated employment.";

(3) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking "outcome from" and all that follows and inserting "outcome due to the severity of the individual's disability (as of the date of the determination)."; and

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "If an individual" and inserting "If, after the designated State unit carries out the activities described in paragraph (2)(B), a review of existing data, and, to the extent necessary, the assessment activities described in section 7(2)(A)(ii), an individual"; and

(ii) by striking "title is determined" and all that follows through "not to be" and inserting "title is determined not to be";

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as subparagraphs (B) through (E), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the following:

"(A) the ineligibility determination shall be an individualized one, based on the available data, and shall not be based on assumptions about broad categories of disabilities"; and

(D) in clause (i) of subparagraph (C), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by inserting after "determination" the following: ", including the clear and convincing evidence that forms the basis for the determination of ineligibility".

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND RELATED INFORMATION.—Section 102(b) (29 U.S.C. 722(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking ", to the extent determined to be appropriate by the eligible individual"; and

(B) by inserting "or, as appropriate, a disability advocacy organization" after "counselor";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE.—For an individual entitled to benefits under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) on the basis of a disability or blindness, the designated State unit shall provide to the individual general information on additional supports and assistance for individuals with disabilities desiring to enter the workforce, including assistance with benefits planning.";

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(iii) amended, as necessary, to include the postemployment services and service pro-

viders that are necessary for the individual to maintain or regain employment, consistent with the individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(F) TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT.—The individualized plan for employment shall be developed as soon as possible, but not later than a deadline of 90 days after the date of the determination of eligibility described in paragraph (1), unless the designated State unit and the eligible individual agree to an extension of that deadline to a specific date by which the individualized plan for employment shall be completed."; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "choice of the" and all that follows and inserting "choice of the eligible individual, consistent with the general goal of competitive integrated employment (except that in the case of an eligible individual who is a student, the description may be a description of the student's projected postschool employment outcome).";

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(ii) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

"(I) needed to achieve the employment outcome, including, as appropriate—

"(aa) the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including referrals described in section 103(a)(3) to the device reutilization programs and demonstrations described in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 4(e)(2) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003(e)(2)) through agreements developed under section 101(a)(11)(I); and

"(bb) personal assistance services (including training in the management of such services);

"(II) in the case of a plan for an eligible individual that is a student, the specific transition services and supports needed to achieve the student's employment outcome or projected postschool employment outcome; and";

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and" at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(H) for an individual who also is receiving assistance from an employment network under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19), a description of how responsibility for service delivery will be divided between the employment network and the designated State unit.".

(c) PROCEDURES.—Section 102(c) (29 U.S.C. 722(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: "The procedures shall allow an applicant or an eligible individual the opportunity to request mediation, an impartial due process hearing, or both procedures.";

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in clause (iii), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) any applicable State limit on the time by which a request for mediation under paragraph (4) or a hearing under paragraph

(5) shall be made, and any required procedure by which the request shall be made."; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

"(A) OFFICER.—A due process hearing described in paragraph (2) shall be conducted by an impartial hearing officer who, on reviewing the evidence presented, shall issue a written decision based on the provisions of the approved State plan, requirements specified in this Act (including regulations implementing this Act), and State regulations and policies that are consistent with the Federal requirements specified in this title. The officer shall provide the written decision to the applicant or eligible individual, or, as appropriate, the applicant's representative or individual's representative, and to the designated State unit. The impartial hearing officer shall have the authority to render a decision and require actions regarding the applicant's or eligible individual's vocational rehabilitation services under this title."; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "in laws" and inserting "about Federal laws".

SEC. 414. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

Section 103 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (13), by striking "workforce investment system" and inserting "workforce development system";

(B) by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

"(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the transition from school to postsecondary life, such as achievement of an employment outcome in competitive integrated employment, or pre-employment transition services";

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (17) and (18) as paragraphs (19) and (20), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

"(17) customized employment;

"(18) encouraging qualified individuals who are eligible to receive services under this title to pursue advanced training in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, medicine, law, or business";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking "(A)"; and

(II) by striking the second sentence and inserting "Such programs shall be used to provide services described in this section that promote integration into the community and that prepare individuals with disabilities for competitive integrated employment, including supported employment and customized employment."; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) Technical assistance to businesses that are seeking to employ individuals with disabilities."; and

(C) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

"(6) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State educational agencies and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to postsecondary life, including employment.

"(7) Transition services to youth with disabilities and students with disabilities, for which a vocational rehabilitation counselor works in concert with educational agencies, providers of job training programs, providers

of services under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), entities designated by the State to provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, centers for independent living (as defined in section 702), housing and transportation authorities, workforce development systems, and businesses and employers.

“(8) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.

“(9) Support (including, as appropriate, tuition) for advanced training in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, medicine, law, or business, provided after an individual eligible to receive services under this title, demonstrates—

“(A) such eligibility;

“(B) previous completion of a bachelor's degree program at an institution of higher education or scheduled completion of such degree program prior to matriculating in the program for which the individual proposes to use the support; and

“(C) acceptance by a program at an institution of higher education in the United States that confers a master's degree in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, a juris doctor degree, a master of business administration degree, or a doctor of medicine degree,

except that the limitations of subsection (a)(5) that apply to training services shall apply to support described in this paragraph, and nothing in this paragraph shall prevent any designated State unit from providing similar support to individuals with disabilities within the State who are eligible to receive support under this title and who are not served under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 415. STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

Section 105 (29 U.S.C. 725) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking clause (ix) and inserting the following:

“(ix) in a State in which one or more projects are funded under section 121, at least one representative of the directors of the projects located in such State;”;

(B) in clause (xi), by striking “State workforce investment board” and inserting “State workforce development board”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “State workforce investment board” and inserting “State workforce development board”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “Service Act” and all that follows and inserting “Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-3(a)) and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.)”.

SEC. 416. EVALUATION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.—The evaluation standards and performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title shall be subject to the performance accountability provisions

described in section 116(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

“(2) ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS.—A State may establish and provide information on additional performance accountability indicators, which shall be identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking “review the program” and all that follows through “request the State” and inserting “on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Commissioner, direct the State”.

SEC. 417. MONITORING AND REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(E), by inserting before the period the following: “, including personnel of a client assistance program under section 112, and past or current recipients of vocational rehabilitation services”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) the eligibility process, including the process related to the determination of ineligibility under section 102(a)(5);

“(B) the provision of services, including supported employment services and pre-employment transition services, and, if applicable, the order of selection;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) data reported under section 101(a)(10)(C)(i); and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) provide technical assistance to programs under this title to—

“(A) promote high-quality employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities;

“(B) integrate veterans who are individuals with disabilities into their communities and to support the veterans to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment;

“(C) develop, improve, and disseminate information on procedures, practices, and strategies, including for the preparation of personnel, to better enable individuals with intellectual disabilities and other individuals with disabilities to participate in postsecondary educational experiences and to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment; and

“(D) apply evidence-based findings to facilitate systemic improvements in the transition of youth with disabilities to postsecondary life.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 108(a) (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”.

SEC. 418. TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS.

Section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 109. TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS.

“A State may expend payments received under section 111 to educate and provide services to employers who have hired or are interested in hiring individuals with disabilities under programs carried out under this title, including—

“(1) providing training and technical assistance to employers regarding the employment of individuals with disabilities, including disability awareness, and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and other employment-related laws;

“(2) working with employers to—

“(A) provide opportunities for work-based learning experiences (including internships, short-term employment, apprenticeships, and fellowships), and opportunities for pre-employment transition services;

“(B) recruit qualified applicants who are individuals with disabilities;

“(C) train employees who are individuals with disabilities; and

“(D) promote awareness of disability-related obstacles to continued employment;

“(3) providing consultation, technical assistance, and support to employers on workplace accommodations, assistive technology, and facilities and workplace access through collaboration with community partners and employers, across States and nationally, to enable the employers to recruit, job match, hire, and retain qualified individuals with disabilities who are recipients of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, or who are applicants for such services; and

“(4) assisting employers with utilizing available financial support for hiring or accommodating individuals with disabilities.”.

SEC. 419. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Subject to the provisions of subsection (c)” and inserting “Subject to the provisions of subsections (c) and (d).”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1987” and inserting “2015”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and all that follows through “(B)” and inserting “Secretary,”; and

(ii) by striking “2000 through 2003” and inserting “2015 through 2020”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) From any State allotment under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the State shall reserve not less than 15 percent of the allotted funds for the provision of pre-employment transition services.

“(2) Such reserved funds shall not be used to pay for the administrative costs of providing pre-employment transition services.”.

SEC. 420. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

Section 111(a)(2)(B) (29 U.S.C. 731(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “For fiscal year 1994 and each fiscal year thereafter, the” and inserting “The”;

(2) by striking “this title for the previous” and inserting “this title for any previous”; and

(3) by striking “year preceding the previous” and inserting “year preceding that previous”.

SEC. 421. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 732) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting “including under sections 113 and 511,” after “all available benefits under this Act.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “not later than October 1, 1984,”;

(3) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “The Secretary shall allot” and inserting “After reserving funds under subparagraphs (E) and (F), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) The Secretary shall reserve funds appropriated under subsection (h) to make a grant to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium to provide services in accordance with this section. The amount of such a grant shall be the same amount as is provided to a territory under this subsection.

“(ii) In this subparagraph:

“(I) The term ‘American Indian Consortium’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002).

“(II) The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a protection and advocacy system established under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.).

“(F) For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under subsection (h) equals or exceeds \$14,000,000, the Secretary may reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2.2 percent of such amount to provide a grant for training and technical assistance for the programs established under this section. Such training and technical assistance shall be coordinated with activities provided under section 509(c)(1)(A).”; and

(4) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this section—

“(1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$12,927,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(3) \$13,195,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(4) \$13,488,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(5) \$13,805,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

“(6) \$14,098,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 422. PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES.

Part B of title I (29 U.S.C. 730 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 113. PROVISION OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the funds reserved under section 110(d), and any funds made available from State, local, or private funding sources, each State shall ensure that the designated State unit, in collaboration with the local educational agencies involved, shall provide, or arrange for the provision of, pre-employment transition services for all students with disabilities in need of such services who are eligible or potentially eligible for services under this title.

“(b) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Funds available under subsection (a) shall be used to make available to students with disabilities described in subsection (a)—

“(1) job exploration counseling;

“(2) work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, or experience outside the traditional school setting (including internships), that is provided in an integrated environment to the maximum extent possible;

“(3) counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education;

“(4) workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living; and

“(5) instruction in self-advocacy, which may include peer mentoring.

“(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Funds available under subsection (a) and remaining after the provision of the required activities described in subsection (b) may be used to improve the transition of students with dis-

abilities described in subsection (a) from school to postsecondary education or an employment outcome by—

“(1) implementing effective strategies to increase the likelihood of independent living and inclusion in communities and competitive integrated workplaces;

“(2) developing and improving strategies for individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals with significant disabilities to live independently, participate in postsecondary education experiences, and obtain and retain competitive integrated employment;

“(3) providing instruction to vocational rehabilitation counselors, school transition personnel, and other persons supporting students with disabilities;

“(4) disseminating information about innovative, effective, and efficient approaches to achieve the goals of this section;

“(5) coordinating activities with transition services provided by local educational agencies under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

“(6) applying evidence-based findings to improve policy, procedure, practice, and the preparation of personnel, in order to better achieve the goals of this section;

“(7) developing model transition demonstration projects;

“(8) establishing or supporting multistate or regional partnerships involving States, local educational agencies, designated State units, developmental disability agencies, private businesses, or other participants to achieve the goals of this section; and

“(9) disseminating information and strategies to improve the transition to postsecondary activities of individuals who are members of traditionally unserved populations.

“(d) PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION COORDINATION.—Each local office of a designated State unit shall carry out responsibilities consisting of—

“(1) attending individualized education program meetings for students with disabilities, when invited;

“(2) working with the local workforce development boards, one-stop centers, and employers to develop work opportunities for students with disabilities, including internships, summer employment and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year, and apprenticeships;

“(3) work with schools, including those carrying out activities under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)), to coordinate and ensure the provision of pre-employment transition services under this section; and

“(4) when invited, attend person-centered planning meetings for individuals receiving services under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

“(e) NATIONAL PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall support designated State agencies providing services under this section, highlight best State practices, and consult with other Federal agencies to advance the goals of this section.

“(f) SUPPORT.—In carrying out this section, States shall address the transition needs of all students with disabilities, including such students with physical, sensory, intellectual, and mental health disabilities.”.

SEC. 423. AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 741) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting before the period the following:

“(referred to in this section as ‘eligible individuals’), consistent with such eligible individuals’ strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, so that such individuals may prepare for, and engage in, high-quality employment that will increase opportunities for economic self-sufficiency”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) contains assurances that—

“(i) all decisions affecting eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services, the nature and scope of available vocational rehabilitation services and the provision of such services will, consistent with this title, be made by a representative of the tribal vocational rehabilitation program funded through the grant; and

“(ii) such decisions will not be delegated to another agency or individual.”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c)(1) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Commissioner shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide training and technical assistance to governing bodies described in subsection (a) for such fiscal year.

“(2) From the funds reserved under paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall make grants to, or enter into contracts or other cooperative agreements with, entities that have experience in the operation of vocational rehabilitation services programs under this section to provide such training and technical assistance with respect to developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating such programs.

“(3) The Commissioner shall conduct a survey of the governing bodies regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“(4) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, such an entity shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information as the Commissioner may require. The Commissioner shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the operation of vocational rehabilitation services programs under this section.”.

SEC. 424. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES CLIENT INFORMATION.

Section 131(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 751(a)(2)) is amended by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

Subtitle C—Research and Training

SEC. 431. PURPOSE.

Section 200 (29 U.S.C. 760) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “technical assistance,” after “training,”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “technical assistance,” after “training,”;

(3) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “and use” after “transfer”; and

(B) by inserting “, in a timely and efficient manner,” after “disabilities”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “distribution” and inserting “dissemination”;

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by inserting “, including individuals with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities,” after “disabilities”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(6) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(7) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) identify strategies for effective coordination of services to job seekers with disabilities available through programs of one-stop partners, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;”;

(8) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) identify effective strategies for supporting the employment of individuals with disabilities in competitive integrated employment.”.

SEC. 432. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$103,970,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$112,001,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$114,325,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$116,860,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$119,608,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$122,143,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 433. NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.

Section 202 (29 U.S.C. 762) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “, INDEPENDENT LIVING,” after “DISABILITY”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Department of Education” and all that follows through “which” and inserting “Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (referred to in this title as the ‘Institute’), which”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “and training; and” and inserting “, training, and technical assistance;”;

(II) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(III) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) outreach and information that clarifies research implications for policy and practice; and”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “directly” and all that follows through the period and inserting “directly responsible to the Administrator for the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) private organizations engaged in research relating to—

“(i) independent living;

“(ii) rehabilitation; or

“(iii) providing rehabilitation or independent living services;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “in rehabilitation” and inserting “on disability, independent living, and rehabilitation”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “independent living.”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (D) and inserting the following:

“(A) public and private entities, including—

“(i) elementary schools and secondary schools (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); and

“(ii) institutions of higher education;

“(B) rehabilitation practitioners;

“(C) employers and organizations representing employers with respect to employment-based educational materials or research;

“(D) individuals with disabilities (especially such individuals who are members of minority groups or of populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under this Act);

“(E) the individuals’ representatives for the individuals described in subparagraph (D); and

“(F) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;”;

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “advances in rehabilitation” and inserting “advances in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation”; and

(ii) by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “employment, independent living.”;

(E) by striking paragraph (7);

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively;

(G) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “health, income,” and inserting “health and wellness, income, education.”; and

(ii) by striking “and evaluation of vocational and other” and inserting “and evaluation of independent living, vocational, and”;

(H) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by subparagraph (F), by striking “with vocational rehabilitation services for the purpose of identifying effective rehabilitation programs and policies that promote the independence of individuals with disabilities and achievement of long-term vocational goals” and inserting “with independent living and vocational rehabilitation services for the purpose of identifying effective independent living and rehabilitation programs and policies that promote the independence of individuals with disabilities and achievement of long-term independent living and employment goals”; and

(I) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by subparagraph (F), by striking “and telecommuting; and” and inserting “, supported employment (including customized employment), and telecommuting; and”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“The Director shall be an individual with substantial knowledge of and experience in independent living, rehabilitation, and research administration.”;

(5) in subsection (f)(1), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“The scientific peer review shall be conducted by individuals who are not Department of Health and Human Services employees. The Secretary shall consider for peer review individuals who are scientists or other

experts in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation, including individuals with disabilities and the individuals’ representatives, and who have sufficient expertise to review the projects.”;

(6) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) by striking “priorities for rehabilitation research,” and inserting “priorities for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.”; and

(ii) by inserting “dissemination,” after “training.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “especially in the area of employment” and inserting “especially in the areas of employment and independent living”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “developed by the Director” and inserting “coordinated with the strategic plan required under section 203(c)”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “Rehabilitation” and inserting “Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(IV) in clause (iv), by striking “researchers in the rehabilitation field” and inserting “researchers in the independent living and rehabilitation fields”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) be developed by the Director.”;

(v) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by clause (iii), by inserting “and information that clarifies implications of the results for practice,” after “covered activities.”; and

(vi) in subparagraph (G), as redesignated by clause (iii), by inserting “and information that clarifies implications of the results for practice” after “covered activities”;

(7) in subsection (j), by striking paragraph (3); and

(8) by striking subsection (k) and inserting the following:

“(k) The Director shall make grants to institutions of higher education for the training of independent living and rehabilitation researchers, including individuals with disabilities and traditionally underserved populations of individuals with disabilities, as described in section 21, with particular attention to research areas that—

“(1) support the implementation and objectives of this Act; and

“(2) improve the effectiveness of services authorized under this Act.

“(1)(1) Not later than December 31 of each year, the Director shall prepare, and submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report on the activities funded under this title.

“(2) The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a compilation and summary of the information provided by recipients of funding for such activities under this title;

“(B) a summary describing the funding received under this title and the progress of the recipients of the funding in achieving the measurable goals described in section 204(d)(2); and

“(C) a summary of implications of research outcomes on practice.

“(m)(1) If the Director determines that an entity that receives funding under this title

fails to comply with the applicable requirements of this Act, or to make progress toward achieving the measurable goals described in section 204(d)(2), with respect to the covered activities involved, the Director shall utilize available monitoring and enforcement measures.

“(2) As part of the annual report required under subsection (1), the Secretary shall describe each action taken by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and the outcomes of such action.”

SEC. 434. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.

Section 203 (29 U.S.C. 763) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “conducting rehabilitation research” and inserting “conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research”;

(ii) by striking “chaired by the Director” and inserting “chaired by the Secretary, or the Secretary’s designee.”;

(iii) by inserting “the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living,” after “Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.”; and

(iv) by striking “and the Director of the National Science Foundation.” and inserting “the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, and for not less than 1 of such meetings at least every 2 years, the Committee shall invite policymakers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers, to offer input on the Committee’s work, including the development and implementation of the strategic plan required under subsection (c)” after “each year”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “from targeted individuals” and inserting “individuals with disabilities”;

(ii) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “independent living research,” after “assistive technology research.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, independent living research,” after “technology research”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and research that incorporates the principles of universal design” and inserting “, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and research that incorporates the principles of universal design.” and inserting “, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design.”;

(3) by striking subsection (d);

(4) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(5) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c)(1) The Committee shall develop a comprehensive government wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

“(2) The strategic plan shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) a description of the—

“(i) measurable goals and objectives;

“(ii) existing resources each agency will devote to carrying out the plan;

“(iii) timetables for completing the projects outlined in the plan; and

“(iv) assignment of responsible individuals and agencies for carrying out the research activities;

“(B) research priorities and recommendations;

“(C) a description of how funds from each agency will be combined, as appropriate, for projects administered among Federal agencies, and how such funds will be administered;

“(D) the development and ongoing maintenance of a searchable government wide inventory of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across Federal agencies;

“(E) guiding principles, policies, and procedures, consistent with the best research practices available, for conducting and administering disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research across Federal agencies; and

“(F) a summary of underemphasized and duplicative areas of research.

“(3) The strategic plan described in this subsection shall be submitted to the President and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.”;

(6) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) describes the progress of the Committee in fulfilling the duties described in subsections (b) and (c), and including specifically for subsection (c)—

“(A) a report of the progress made in implementing the strategic plan, including progress toward implementing the elements described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

“(B) detailed budget information.”; and

(7) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) the term ‘independent living’, used in connection with research, means research on issues and topics related to attaining maximum self-sufficiency and function by individuals with disabilities, including research on assistive technology and universal design, employment, education, health and wellness, and community integration and participation.”.

SEC. 435. RESEARCH AND OTHER COVERED ACTIVITIES.

Section 204 (29 U.S.C. 764) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “pay” and inserting “fund”;

(ii) by inserting “have practical applications and” before “maximize”; and

(iii) by striking “employment, independent living,” and inserting “employment, education, independent living, health and wellness.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and from which the research findings, conclusions, or recommendations can be transferred to practice” after “State agencies”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) studies and analyses of factors related to industrial, vocational, educational, em-

ployment, social, recreational, psychiatric, psychological, economic, and health and wellness variables affecting individuals with disabilities, including traditionally underserved populations as described in section 21, and how those variables affect such individuals’ ability to live independently and their participation in the work force”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “are homebound” and all that follows and inserting “have significant challenges engaging in community life outside their homes and individuals who are in institutional settings.”;

(III) in clause (iv), by inserting “, including the principles of universal design and the interoperability of products and services” after “disabilities”;

(IV) in clause (v), by inserting “, and to promoting employment opportunities in competitive integrated employment” after “employment”;

(V) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(VI) in clause (vii), by striking “and assistive technology,” and inserting “, assistive technology, and communications technology; and”;

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) studies, analyses, and other activities affecting employment outcomes as defined in section 7(11), including self-employment and telecommuting, of individuals with disabilities.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In carrying out this section, the Director shall emphasize covered activities that include plans for—

“(A) dissemination of high-quality materials, of scientifically valid research results, or of findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from covered activities, including through electronic means (such as the website of the Department of Health and Human Services), so that such information is available in a timely manner to the general public; or

“(B) the commercialization of marketable products, research results, or findings, resulting from the covered activities.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(18)” both places the term appears and inserting “(17)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

“(i) be operated in collaboration with institutions of higher education, providers of rehabilitation services, developers or providers of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, or information technology devices or services, as appropriate, or providers of other appropriate services; and

“(ii) serve as centers of national excellence and national or regional resources for individuals with disabilities, as well as providers, educators, and researchers.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by adding “independent living and” after “research in”;

(bb) by adding “independent living and” after “will improve”; and

(cc) by striking “alleviate or stabilize” and all that follows and inserting “maximize health and function (including alleviating or stabilizing conditions, or preventing secondary conditions), and promote maximum social and economic independence of individuals with disabilities, including promoting the ability of the individuals to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment”;

(II) by redesignating clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively;

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(i) conducting research in, and dissemination of, employer-based practices to facilitate the identification, recruitment, accommodation, advancement, and retention of qualified individuals with disabilities;”;

(IV) in clause (iii), as redesignated by subclause (II), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation services”;

(V) in clause (iv), as redesignated by subclause (II)—

(aa) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation” each place the term appears; and

(bb) by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(VI) by striking clause (v), as redesignated by subclause (II), and inserting the following:

“(v) serving as an informational and technical assistance resource to individuals with disabilities, as well as to providers, educators, and researchers, by providing outreach and information that clarifies research implications for practice and identifies potential new areas of research; and

“(vi) developing practical applications for the research findings of the Centers.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in clause (i), by inserting “, including research on assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices” after “research”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “and social” and inserting “, social, and economic”; and

(bb) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation”; and

(III) by striking clauses (iii) and (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clauses (v) and (vi) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(V) in clause (iii), as redesignated by subclause (IV), by striking “to develop” and all that follows and inserting “that promotes the emotional, social, educational, and functional growth of children who are individuals with disabilities, as well as their integration in school, employment, and community activities.”;

(VI) in clause (iv), as redesignated by subclause (IV), by striking “that will improve” and all that follows and inserting “to develop and evaluate interventions, policies, and services that support families of those children and adults who are individuals with disabilities.”; and

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) continuation of research that will improve services and policies that foster the independence and social integration of individuals with disabilities, and enable individuals with disabilities, including individuals with intellectual disabilities and other developmental disabilities, to live in their communities; and

“(vi) research, dissemination, and technical assistance, on best practices in vocational rehabilitation, including supported employment and other strategies to promote competitive integrated employment for persons with the most significant disabilities.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) Training of students preparing to be independent living or rehabilitation personnel or to provide independent living, rehabilitative, assistive, or supportive services (such as rehabilitation counseling, personal care services, direct care, job coaching, aides

in school based settings, or advice or assistance in utilizing assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices and services) shall be an important priority for each such Center.”;

(v) in subparagraph (E), by striking “comprehensive”;

(vi) in subparagraph (G)(i), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation-related”;

(vii) by striking subparagraph (I); and

(viii) by redesignating subparagraphs (J) through (O) as subparagraphs (I) through (N), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “independent living strategies and” before “rehabilitation technology”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)(I), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation problems”;

(II) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “employment” and inserting “educational, employment,”; and

(III) in clause (iii)(II), by striking “employment” and inserting “educational, employment,”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II), by striking “postschool” and inserting “postsecondary education, competitive integrated employment, and other age-appropriate”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by inserting “the impact of any commercialized product researched or developed through the Center,” after “individuals with disabilities.”;

(D) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking “vocational” and inserting “independent living, employment,”;

(II) by striking “special” and inserting “unique”; and

(III) by inserting “social and functional needs, and” before “acute care”; and

(ii) in clause (iv), by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “employment,”;

(E) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) Grants may be used to conduct a program of joint projects with other administrations and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Labor, other Federal agencies, and private industry in areas of joint interest involving rehabilitation.”;

(F) by striking paragraphs (9) and (11);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (18), as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), and (16), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by subparagraph (G)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “employment needs of individuals with disabilities, including” and inserting “employment needs, opportunities, and outcomes (including those relating to self-employment, supported employment, and telecommuting) of individuals with disabilities, including”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and employment related” after “the employment”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) develop models to facilitate the successful transition of individuals with disabilities from nonintegrated employment and employment that is compensated at a wage less than the Federal minimum wage to competitive integrated employment;

“(H) develop models to maximize opportunities for integrated community living, including employment and independent living, for individuals with disabilities;

“(I) provide training and continuing education for personnel involved with community living for individuals with disabilities;

“(J) develop model procedures for testing and evaluating the community living related needs of individuals with disabilities;

“(K) develop model training programs to teach individuals with disabilities skills which will lead to integrated community living and full participation in the community; and

“(L) develop new approaches for long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities, including supports necessary for competitive integrated employment.”;

(I) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by subparagraph (G)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “an independent living or” after “conduct”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “independent living or” before “rehabilitation”; and

(iii) in the matter following subparagraph (E), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”;

(J) in paragraph (13), as redesignated by subparagraph (G), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation needs”; and

(K) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by subparagraph (G), by striking “and access to gainful employment.” and inserting “, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this title, the Director shall award the funding on a competitive basis.

“(2)(A) To be eligible to receive funds under this section for a covered activity, an entity described in subsection (a)(1) shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

“(B) The application shall include information describing—

“(i) measurable goals, as established through section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, and a timeline and specific plan for meeting the goals, that the applicant has established;

“(ii) how the project will address 1 or more of the following: commercialization of a marketable product, technology transfer (if applicable), dissemination of any research results, and other priorities as established by the Director; and

“(iii) how the applicant will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether such goals have been accomplished.

“(3)(A) In the case of an application for funding under this section to carry out a covered activity that results in the development of a marketable product, the application shall also include a commercialization and dissemination plan, as appropriate, containing commercialization and marketing

strategies for the product involved, and strategies for disseminating information about the product. The funding received under this section shall not be used to carry out the commercialization and marketing strategies.

“(B) In the case of any other application for funding to carry out a covered activity under this section, the application shall also include a dissemination plan, containing strategies for disseminating educational materials, research results, or findings, conclusions, and recommendations, resulting from the covered activity.”.

SEC. 436. DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 205 (29 U.S.C. 765) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND**” before “**REHABILITATION**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Department of Education a Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council” and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services a Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council”; and

(B) by inserting “not less than” after “composed of”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Council shall be generally representative of the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation professionals, the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation researchers, the directors of independent living centers and community rehabilitation programs, the business community (including a representative of the small business community) that has experience with the system of vocational rehabilitation services and independent living services carried out under this Act and with hiring individuals with disabilities, the community of stakeholders involved in assistive technology, the community of covered school professionals, and the community of individuals with disabilities, and the individuals’ representatives. At least one-half of the members shall be individuals with disabilities or the individuals’ representatives.”; and

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “Department of Education” and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services”.

SEC. 437. DEFINITION OF COVERED SCHOOL.

Title II (29 U.S.C. 760 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 206. DEFINITION OF COVERED SCHOOL.

“In this title, the term ‘covered school’ means an elementary school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) or an institution of higher education.”.

Subtitle D—Professional Development and Special Projects and Demonstration

SEC. 441. PURPOSE; TRAINING.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—Section 301(a) (29 U.S.C. 771(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking “workforce investment systems” and inserting “workforce development systems”.

(b) **TRAINING.**—Section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking all after “deliver” and inserting “supported employment services and customized employment services to individuals with the most significant disabilities.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) personnel trained in providing assistive technology services.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), by striking “or prosthetics and orthotics” and inserting “prosthetics and orthotics, vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility instruction, or low vision therapy”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by adding after the period the following: “Any technical assistance provided to community rehabilitation programs shall be focused on the employment outcome of competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(5) in subsection (i), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$36,257,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$37,009,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$37,830,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$38,719,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$39,540,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 442. DEMONSTRATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”;

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) initiatives focused on improving transition from education, including postsecondary education, to employment, particularly in competitive integrated employment, for youth who are individuals with significant disabilities.”; and

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) increasing competitive integrated employment for individuals with significant disabilities.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(viii), by striking “under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(D) by striking paragraph (6);

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) to provide support and guidance in helping individuals with significant disabilities, including students with disabilities, transition to competitive integrated employment; and”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) by inserting “the” after “closely with”; and

(II) by inserting “, the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act, and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act” after “Individuals with Disabilities Education Act”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and demonstrate the capacity for serving,” after “shall serve”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **RESERVATION.**—From the amount appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, may be reserved to carry out paragraph (6).”; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the purpose of carrying out this section there are authorized to be appropriated \$5,796,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$6,244,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$6,373,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$6,515,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$6,668,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$6,809,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 443. MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS; RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking sections 304 and 305;

(2) by redesignating section 306 as section 304.

Subtitle E—National Council on Disability

SEC. 451. ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 400 (29 U.S.C. 780) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) There is established within the Federal Government a National Council on Disability (referred to in this title as the ‘National Council’), which, subject to subparagraph (B), shall be composed of 9 members, of which—

“(i) 5 shall be appointed by the President;

“(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

“(iii) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

“(iv) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

“(v) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

“(B) The National Council shall transition from 15 members (as of the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) to 9 members as follows:

“(i) On the first 4 expirations of National Council terms (after that date), replacement

members shall be appointed to the National Council in the following order and manner:

“(I) 1 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

“(II) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

“(III) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“(IV) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

“(ii) On the next 6 expirations of National Council terms (after the 4 expirations described in clause (i) occur), no replacement members shall be appointed to the National Council.

“(C) For any vacancy on the National Council that occurs after the transition described in subparagraph (B), the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “national leaders on disability policy,” after “guardians of individuals with disabilities,”; and

(ii) by striking “policy or programs” and inserting “policy or issues that affect individuals with disabilities”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “, except” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “Eight” and inserting “Five”.

SEC. 452. REPORT.

Section 401 (29 U.S.C. 781) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 453. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$3,186,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$3,432,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$3,503,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$3,581,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$3,665,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$3,743,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subtitle F—Rights and Advocacy

SEC. 456. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE, BOARD, AND COUNCIL.

(a) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—Section 501 (29 U.S.C. 791) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD.—Section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$7,448,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$8,023,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$8,190,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$8,371,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$8,568,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$8,750,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

(c) PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY.—Section 504(b)(2)(B) (29 U.S.C. 794(b)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “vocational education” and inserting “career and technical education”.

(d) INTERAGENCY DISABILITY COORDINATING COUNCIL.—Section 507(a) (29 U.S.C. 794c(a)) is amended by inserting “the Chairperson of the National Council on Disability,” before “and such other”.

SEC. 457. PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

Section 509 (29 U.S.C. 794e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting “a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement for” before “training”;

(2) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) by striking “general” and all that follows through “records” and inserting “general authorities, including the authority to access records”; and

(B) by inserting “of title I” after “subtitle C”; and

(3) in subsection (1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$17,650,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$19,013,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$19,408,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$19,838,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$20,305,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$20,735,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 458. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SUBMINIMUM WAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 511. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SUBMINIMUM WAGE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No entity, including a contractor or subcontractor of the entity, which holds a special wage certificate as described in section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)) may compensate an individual with a disability who is age 24 or younger at a wage (referred to in this section as a ‘subminimum wage’) that is less than the Federal minimum wage unless 1 of the following conditions is met:

“(1) The individual is currently employed, as of the effective date of this section, by an entity that holds a valid certificate pursuant to section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

“(2) The individual, before beginning work that is compensated at a subminimum wage, has completed, and produces documentation indicating completion of, each of the following actions:

“(A) The individual has received pre-employment transition services that are available to the individual under section 113, or transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) such as transition services available to the individual under section 614(d) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)).

“(B) The individual has applied for vocational rehabilitation services under title I, with the result that—

“(i)(I) the individual has been found ineligible for such services pursuant to that title and has documentation consistent with section 102(a)(5)(C) regarding the determination of ineligibility; or

“(II)(aa) the individual has been determined to be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services;

“(bb) the individual has an individualized plan for employment under section 102;

“(cc) the individual has been working toward an employment outcome specified in such individualized plan for employment, with appropriate supports and services, including supported employment services, for a reasonable period of time without success; and

“(dd) the individual’s vocational rehabilitation case is closed; and

“(ii)(I) the individual has been provided career counseling, and information and referrals to Federal and State programs and other resources in the individual’s geographic area that offer employment-related services and supports designed to enable the individual to explore, discover, experience, and attain competitive integrated employment; and

“(II) such counseling and information and referrals are not for employment compensated at a subminimum wage provided by an entity described in this subsection, and

such employment-related services are not compensated at a subminimum wage and do not directly result in employment compensated at a subminimum wage provided by an entity described in this subsection.

“(b) CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) RULE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(A) change the purpose of this Act described in section 2(b)(2), to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize opportunities for competitive integrated employment; or

“(B) preference employment compensated at a subminimum wage as an acceptable vocational rehabilitation strategy or successful employment outcome, as defined in section 7(11).

“(2) CONTRACTS.—A local educational agency (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) or a State educational agency (as defined in such section) may not enter into a contract or other arrangement with an entity described in subsection (a) for the purpose of operating a program for an individual who is age 24 or younger under which work is compensated at a subminimum wage.

“(3) VOIDABILITY.—The provisions in this section shall be construed in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended before or after the effective date of this Act.

“(c) DURING EMPLOYMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The entity described in subsection (a) may not continue to employ an individual, regardless of age, at a subminimum wage unless, after the individual begins work at that wage, at the intervals described in paragraph (2), the individual (with, in an appropriate case, the individual’s parent or guardian)—

“(A) is provided by the designated State unit career counseling, and information and referrals described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), delivered in a manner that facilitates independent decisionmaking and informed choice, as the individual makes decisions regarding employment and career advancement; and

“(B) is informed by the employer of self-advocacy, self-determination, and peer mentoring training opportunities available in the individual’s geographic area, provided by an entity that does not have any financial interest in the individual’s employment outcome, under applicable Federal and State programs or other sources.

“(2) TIMING.—The actions required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be carried out once every 6 months for the first year of the individual’s employment at a subminimum wage, and annually thereafter for the duration of such employment.

“(3) SMALL BUSINESS EXCEPTION.—In the event that the entity described in subsection (a) is a business with fewer than 15 employees, such entity can satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) by referring the individual, at the intervals described in paragraph (2), to the designated State unit for the counseling, information, and referrals described in paragraph (1)(A) and the information described in paragraph (1)(B).

“(d) DOCUMENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The designated State unit, in consultation with the State educational agency, shall develop a new process or utilize an existing process, consistent with guidelines developed by the Secretary, to document the completion of the actions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of

subsection (a)(2) by a youth with a disability who is an individual with a disability.

“(2) DOCUMENTATION PROCESS.—Such process shall require that—

“(A) in the case of a student with a disability, for documentation of actions described in subsection (a)(2)(A)—

“(i) if such a student with a disability receives and completes each category of required activities in section 113(b), such completion of services shall be documented by the designated State unit in a manner consistent with this section;

“(ii) if such a student with a disability receives and completes any transition services available for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including those provided under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)), such completion of services shall be documented by the appropriate school official responsible for the provision of such transition services, in a manner consistent with this section; and

“(iii) the designated State unit shall provide the final documentation, in a form and manner consistent with this section, of the completion of pre-employment transition services as described in clause (i), or transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as described in clause (ii), to the student with a disability within a reasonable period of time following the completion; and

“(B) when an individual has completed the actions described in subsection (a)(2)(B), the designated State unit shall provide the individual a document indicating such completion, in a manner consistent with this section, within a reasonable time period following the completion of the actions described in this subparagraph.

“(e) VERIFICATION.—

“(1) BEFORE EMPLOYMENT.—Before an individual covered by subsection (a)(2) begins work for an entity described in subsection (a) at a subminimum wage, the entity shall review such documentation received by the individual under subsection (d), and provided by the individual to the entity, that indicates that the individual has completed the actions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2) and the entity shall maintain copies of such documentation.

“(2) DURING EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to employ an individual at a subminimum wage, the entity described in subsection (a) shall verify completion of the requirements of subsection (c), including reviewing any relevant documents provided by the individual, and shall maintain copies of the documentation described in subsection (d).

“(B) REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION.—The entity described in subsection (a) shall be subject to review of individual documentation described in subsection (d) by a representative working directly for the designated State unit or the Department of Labor at such a time and in such a manner as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of this section, consistent with regulations established by the designated State unit or the Secretary of Labor.

“(f) FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE.—In this section, the term ‘Federal minimum wage’ means the rate applicable under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section takes effect 2 years after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Subtitle G—Employment Opportunities for Individuals With Disabilities

SEC. 461. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

Title VI (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking part A;

(2) by striking the part heading relating to part B;

(3) by redesignating sections 621 through 628 as sections 602 through 609, respectively;

(4) in section 602, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “part” and inserting “title”; and

(B) by striking “individuals with the most significant disabilities” and all that follows and inserting “individuals with the most significant disabilities, including youth with the most significant disabilities, to enable such individuals to achieve an employment outcome of supported employment in competitive integrated employment.”;

(5) in section 603, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “part” and inserting “title”;

(II) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “amount” after “whichever”; and

(III) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) by striking “part for the fiscal year” and inserting “title for the fiscal year”;

(bb) by striking “this part in fiscal year 1992” and inserting “part B of this title (as in effect on September 30, 1992) in fiscal year 1992”; and

(cc) by inserting “amount” after “whichever”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “one-eighth of one percent” and inserting “ $\frac{1}{8}$ of 1 percent”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by inserting “under subsection (a)” after “allotment to a State”;

(ii) by striking “part” each place the term appears and inserting “title”; and

(iii) by striking “one or more” and inserting “1 or more”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that receives an allotment under this title shall not use more than 2.5 percent of such allotment to pay for administrative costs.

“(d) SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES.—A State that receives an allotment under this title shall reserve and expend half of such allotment for the provision of supported employment services, including extended services, to youth with the most significant disabilities in order to assist those youth in achieving an employment outcome in supported employment.”;

(6) by striking section 604, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 604. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.

“(a) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—Funds provided under this title may be used to provide supported employment services to individuals who are eligible under this title.

“(b) EXTENDED SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided under this title, or title I, may not be used to provide extended services to individuals under this title or title I.

“(2) EXTENDED SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES.—Funds allotted under this title, or title I, and used for the provision of services under this title to youth with the most significant disabilities pursuant to section 603(d), may be used

to provide extended services to youth with the most significant disabilities. Such extended services shall be available for a period not to exceed 4 years.”;

(7) in section 605, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, including a youth with a disability,” after “An individual”; and

(ii) by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “under title I” after “rehabilitation services”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) for purposes of activities carried out with funds described in section 603(d), the individual is a youth with a disability, as defined in section (7)(42); and”;

(F) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by subparagraph (D), by striking “assessment of rehabilitation needs” and inserting “assessment of the rehabilitation needs”;

(8) in section 606, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”; and

(ii) by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “individuals”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, including youth,” after “rehabilitation needs of individuals”;

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “provided to individuals”; and

(II) by striking “section 622” and inserting “section 603”;

(iv) by striking paragraph (7);

(v) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(vi) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) describe the activities to be conducted pursuant to section 603(d) for youth with the most significant disabilities, including—

“(A) the provision of extended services for a period not to exceed 4 years; and

“(B) how the State will use the funds reserved in section 603(d) to leverage other public and private funds to increase resources for extended services and expand supported employment opportunities for youth with the most significant disabilities.”;

(vii) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by clause (v)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “under this part” both places the term appears and inserting “under this title”;

(II) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “significant disabilities”;

(III) in subparagraph (C)—

(aa) in clause (i), by inserting “, including, as appropriate, for youth with the most significant disabilities, transition services and pre-employment transition services” after “services to be provided”;

(bb) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including the extended services that may be provided to youth with the most significant disabilities under this title, in accordance with an approved individualized plan for employment, for a period not to exceed 4 years” after “services needed”; and

(cc) in clause (iii)—

(AA) by striking “identify the source of extended services,” and inserting “identify, as appropriate, the source of extended services,”;

(BB) by striking “or to the extent” and inserting “or indicate”; and

(CC) by striking “employment is developed” and all that follows and inserting “employment is developed;”

(IV) in subparagraph (D), by striking “under this part” and inserting “under this title”;

(V) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(VI) in subparagraph (G), by striking “for the maximum number of hours possible”; and

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) the State agencies designated under paragraph (1) will expend not more than 2.5 percent of the allotment of the State under this title for administrative costs of carrying out this title; and

“(I) with respect to supported employment services provided to youth with the most significant disabilities pursuant to section 603(d), the designated State agency will provide, directly or indirectly through public or private entities, non-Federal contributions in an amount that is not less than 10 percent of the costs of carrying out such services; and”;

(9) by striking section 607, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 607. RESTRICTION.

“Each State agency designated under section 606(b)(1) shall collect the information required by section 101(a)(10) separately for—

“(1) eligible individuals receiving supported employment services under this title;

“(2) eligible individuals receiving supported employment services under title I;

“(3) eligible youth receiving supported employment services under this title; and

“(4) eligible youth receiving supported employment services under title I.”;

(10) in section 608(b), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking “this part” both places the terms appears and inserting “this title”; and

(11) by striking section 609, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 609. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INCREASING COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish an Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (referred to in this section as the ‘Committee’).

“(b) APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall appoint the members of the Committee described in subsection (c)(6), in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner, in accordance with the same paragraph of subsection (c), as the original appointment or designation was made.

“(c) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall be composed of—

“(1) the Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, and the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, of the Department of Labor;

“(2) the Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, or the Commissioner’s designee;

“(3) the Director of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Director’s designee;

“(4) the Commissioner of Social Security, or the Commissioner’s designee;

“(5) the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, or the Commissioner’s designee; and

“(6) representatives from constituencies consisting of—

“(A) self-advocates for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(B) providers of employment services, including those that employ individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in competitive integrated employment;

“(C) representatives of national disability advocacy organizations for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(D) experts with a background in academia or research and expertise in employment and wage policy issues for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(E) representatives from the employer community or national employer organizations; and

“(F) other individuals or representatives of organizations with expertise on increasing opportunities for competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

“(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Committee shall elect a Chairperson of the Committee from among the appointed members of the Committee.

“(e) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less than 8 times.

“(f) DUTIES.—The Committee shall study, and prepare findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the Secretary of Labor on—

“(1) ways to increase the employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or other individuals with significant disabilities in competitive integrated employment;

“(2) the use of the certificate program carried out under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)) for the employment of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or other individuals with significant disabilities; and

“(3) ways to improve oversight of the use of such certificates.

“(g) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

“(1) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Committee shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Committee, but shall be allowed reasonable travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Committee.

“(2) STAFF.—The Secretary of Labor may designate such personnel as may be necessary to enable the Committee to perform its duties.

“(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Committee without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

“(4) FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES.—The Secretary of Labor shall make available to the Committee, under such arrangements as may be appropriate, necessary equipment, supplies, and services.

“(h) REPORTS.—

“(1) INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS.—The Committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Labor, as well as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives—

“(A) an interim report that summarizes the progress of the Committee, along with any interim findings, conclusions, and recommendations as described in subsection (f); and

“(B) a final report that states final findings, conclusions, and recommendations as described in subsection (f).

“(2) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—The reports shall be prepared and submitted—

“(A) in the case of the interim report, not later than 1 year after the date on which the Committee is established under subsection (a); and

“(B) in the case of the final report, not later than 2 years after the date on which the Committee is established under subsection (a).

“(i) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the day after the date on which the Committee submits the final report.

“SEC. 610. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$27,548,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$29,676,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$30,292,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$30,963,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$31,691,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$32,363,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

**Subtitle H—Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living
CHAPTER 1—INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES
Subchapter A—General Provisions**

SEC. 471. PURPOSE.

Section 701 (29 U.S.C. 796) is amended, in paragraph (3)—

(1) by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: “, with the goal of improving the independence of individuals with disabilities”.

SEC. 472. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

Title VII (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 701 the following:

“SEC. 701A. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

“There is established within the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services, an Independent Living Administration. The Independent Living Administration shall be headed by a Director (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’) appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The Director shall be an individual with substantial knowledge of independent living services. The Independent Living Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Director shall be the principal officer, to carry out this chapter. In performing the functions of the office, the Director shall be directly responsible to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Secretary shall ensure that the Independent Living Administration has sufficient resources (including designating at least 1 individual from the Office of General Counsel

who is knowledgeable about independent living services) to provide technical assistance and support to, and oversight of, the programs funded under this chapter.”.

SEC. 473. DEFINITIONS.

Section 702 (29 U.S.C. 796a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by inserting “for individuals with significant disabilities (regardless of age or income)” before “that—”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “, including, at a minimum, independent living core services as defined in section 7(17).”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting the following: “, in terms of the management, staffing, decisionmaking, operation, and provisions of services, of the center.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(4) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services.”.

SEC. 474. STATE PLAN.

Section 704 (29 U.S.C. 796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting after “State plan” the following: “developed and signed in accordance with paragraph (2).”; and

(ii) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “developed and signed by”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) developed by the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the directors of the centers for independent living in the State, after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State; and

“(B) signed by—

“(i) the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council;

“(ii) the director of the designated State entity described in subsection (c); and

“(iii) not less than 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living in the State.”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “State independent living services” and inserting “independent living services in the State”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) working relationships and collaboration between—

“(i) centers for independent living; and

“(ii) (I) entities carrying out programs that provide independent living services, including those serving older individuals;

“(II) other community-based organizations that provide or coordinate the provision of housing, transportation, employment, information and referral assistance, services, and supports for individuals with significant disabilities; and

“(III) entities carrying out other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.”.

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) STATEWIDENESS.—The State plan shall describe strategies for providing independent living services on a statewide basis, to the greatest extent possible.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “UNIT” and inserting “ENTITY”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the designated State unit of such State” and inserting “a State entity of such State (referred to in this title as the ‘designated State entity’)”;

(C) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under part B, for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).”;

(3) in subsection (i), by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Statewide Independent Living Council;

“(2) centers for independent living;

“(3) the designated State entity; and

“(4) other State agencies or entities represented on the Council, other councils that address the needs and issues of specific disability populations, and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the Council.”;

(4) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(o) PROMOTING FULL ACCESS TO COMMUNITY LIFE.—The plan shall describe how the State will provide independent living services described in section 7(18) that promote full access to community life for individuals with significant disabilities.”.

SEC. 475. STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL.

Section 705 (29 U.S.C. 796d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and maintain” after “shall establish”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “among its voting members,” before “at least”; and

(II) by striking “one” and inserting “1”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

“(B) among its voting members, for a State in which 1 or more centers for independent living are run by, or in conjunction with, the governing bodies of American Indian tribes located on Federal or State reservations, at least 1 representative of the directors of such centers; and

“(C) as ex officio, nonvoting members, a representative of the designated State entity, and representatives from State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (F) as subparagraphs (D) through (G), respectively;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “parents and guardians of”; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (B) the following:

“(C) parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities.”;

(C) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(D) in paragraph (6)(B), by inserting “, other than a representative described in paragraph (2)(A) if there is only one center for independent living within the State,” after “the Council”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

“(A) develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);

“(B) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;

“(C) meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;

“(D) submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and

“(E) as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complementary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

“(2) AUTHORITIES.—The Council may, consistent with the State plan described in section 704, unless prohibited by State law—

“(A) in order to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with centers for independent living to coordinate services with public and private entities;

“(B) conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection or to support the provision of independent living services by centers for independent living; and

“(C) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subsection, as the Council determines to be appropriate.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The Council shall not provide independent living services directly to individuals with significant disabilities or manage such services.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “prepare” and all that follows through “a plan” and inserting “prepare, in conjunction with the designated State entity, a plan”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “State agency” and inserting “State entity”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “such resources” and inserting “available resources”; and

(B) by striking “(including” and all that follows through “compensation” and inserting “(such as personal assistance services), and to pay reasonable compensation”.

SEC. 475A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.

Section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d-1) is amended—

(1) by striking the title of the section and inserting the following:

“SEC. 706. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting “or the Commissioner” after “to the Secretary”; and

(bb) by striking “to the Commissioner; and” and inserting “to the Administrator;”;

(II) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) to the State agency shall be deemed to be references to the designated State entity; and”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) INDICATORS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Administrator shall develop and publish in the Federal Register indicators of minimum compliance for centers for independent living (consistent with the standards set forth in section 725), and indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils.”;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) by striking the last sentence;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “such a review” and inserting “a review described in paragraph (1)”; and

(iii) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “Department” each place it appears and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services”; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director described in section 701A shall provide to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and the Administrator shall include, in an annual report, information on the extent to which centers for independent living receiving funds under part C have complied with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725. The Director may identify individual centers for independent living in the analysis contained in that information. The Director shall include in the report the results of onsite compliance reviews, identifying individual centers for independent living and other recipients of assistance under part C.

“(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall ensure that the report described in this subsection is made publicly available in a timely manner, including through electronic means, in order to inform the public about the administration and performance of programs under this Act.”.

Subchapter B—Independent Living Services

SEC. 476. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 711 (29 U.S.C. 796e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) by striking “Except” and inserting “After the reservation required by section 711A is made, and except”; and

(ii) by inserting “the remainder of the” before “sums appropriated”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “amounts made available for purposes of this part” and inserting “remainder described in paragraph (1)(A)”; and

(2) in subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Funds allotted or made available to a State under this section shall be administered by the designated State entity, in accordance with the approved State plan.”.

(b) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Part B of chapter 1 of title VII is amended by inserting after section 711 (29 U.S.C. 796e) the following:

“TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

“(Sec. 711A. (a) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Administrator shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, training and technical assistance to Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 for such fiscal year.

“(b) The Administrator shall conduct a survey of such Statewide Independent Living Councils regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such training and technical assistance.

“(c) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information, as the Administrator may require. The Administrator shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the operation of such Statewide Independent Living Councils.”.

(c) PAYMENTS.—Section 712(a) (29 U.S.C. 796e-1(a)) is amended by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”.

(d) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—Section 713 (29 U.S.C. 796e-2) is amended—

(1) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The State may use funds received under this part to provide the resources described in section 705(e) (but may not use more than 30 percent of the funds paid to the State under section 712 for such resources unless the State specifies that a greater percentage of the funds is needed for such resources in a State plan approved under section 706), relating to the Statewide Independent Living Council, may retain funds under section 704(c)(5), and shall distribute the remainder of the funds received under this part in a manner consistent with the approved State plan for the activities described in subsection (b).

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The State may use the remainder of the funds described in subsection (a)—”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, particularly those in unserved areas of the State” after “disabilities”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$22,878,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$24,645,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$25,156,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$25,714,000 for fiscal year

2018, \$26,319,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$26,877,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subchapter C—Centers for Independent Living

SEC. 481. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 721 (29 U.S.C. 796f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “1999” and inserting “2015”; and

(B) by striking “Commissioner shall allot” and inserting “Administrator shall make available”; and

(C) by inserting “, centers for independent living,” after “States”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “OTHER ARRANGEMENTS” and inserting “COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS”;

(ii) by striking “For” and all that follows through “Commissioner” and inserting “From the funds appropriated to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Administrator”;

(iii) by striking “reserve from such excess” and inserting “reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds”; and

(iv) by striking “eligible agencies” and all that follows and inserting “centers for independent living and eligible agencies for such fiscal year.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner shall make grants to, and enter into contracts and other arrangements with,” and inserting “Administrator shall make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with,”; and

(ii) by inserting “fiscal management of,” before “planning.”;

(C) in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “Statewide Independent Living Councils and”;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “other arrangement” and inserting “cooperative agreement”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(5) in subsection (d), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 482. CENTERS.

(a) CENTERS IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING.—Section 722 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “grants” and inserting “grants for a fiscal year”; and

(B) by striking “by September 30, 1997” and inserting “for the preceding fiscal year”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) by striking “region, consistent” and all that follows and inserting “region. The Administrator’s determination of the most qualified applicant shall be consistent with the provisions in the State plan setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) shall consider comments regarding the application—

“(i) by individuals with disabilities and other interested parties within the new region proposed to be served; and

“(ii) if any, by the Statewide Independent Living Council in the State in which the applicant is located;” and

(4) in subsections (e) and (g) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator.”

(b) **CENTERS IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING.**—Section 723 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a), (b), (g), (h), and (i), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), by inserting “of a designated State unit” after “director”; and

(B) in the heading of paragraph (3), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “grants” and inserting “grants for a fiscal year”; and

(B) by striking “by September 30, 1997” and inserting “for the preceding fiscal year”.

(c) **CENTERS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCIES.**—Section 724 (29 U.S.C. 796f-3) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “1993” and inserting “2015”; and

(B) by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(C) by striking “1994” and inserting “2015”; and

(2) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 483. STANDARDS AND ASSURANCES.

Section 725 (29 U.S.C. 796f-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(D)—

(A) by striking “access of” and inserting “access for”; and

(B) by striking “to society and” and inserting “, within their communities,”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 484. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$78,305,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$84,353,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$86,104,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$88,013,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$90,083,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$91,992,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

CHAPTER 2—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

SEC. 486. INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND.

Chapter 2 of title VII (29 U.S.C. 796j et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 751 the following:

“TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

“SEC. 751A. (a) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this chapter for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Commissioner shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, training and technical assistance to designated State agencies, or other providers of independent living services for older individuals who are blind, that are funded under this chapter for such fiscal year.

“(b) The Commissioner shall conduct a survey of designated State agencies that receive grants under section 752 regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such training and technical assistance.

“(c) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information, as the Commissioner may require. The Commissioner shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the provision of services to older individuals who are blind.”.

SEC. 487. PROGRAM OF GRANTS.

Section 752 (29 U.S.C. 796k) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h);

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively;

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking “subsection (j)” and inserting “subsection (i)”;

(B) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (h)”;

(4) in subsection (g), by inserting “, or contracts or cooperative agreements with,” after “grants to”; and

(5) in subsection (h), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (j)(4)” and inserting “subsection (i)(4)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(vi), by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(III), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by inserting “, and not reserved under section 751A,” after “section 753”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “, and not reserved under section 751A,” after “section 753”;

(C) in paragraph (4)(B)(i), by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (h)”.

SEC. 488. INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$33,317,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$35,890,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$36,635,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$37,448,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$38,328,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$39,141,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subtitle I—General Provisions

SEC. 491. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS REGARDING INDEPENDENT LIVING TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context—

(1) the term “Administration for Community Living” means the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) the term “Federal agency” has the meaning given to the term “agency” by section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term “function” means any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

(4) the term “Rehabilitation Services Administration” means the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the Department of Education.

(b) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—There are transferred to the Administration for Community Living, all functions which the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of that Administration) under chapter 1 of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.).

(c) **PERSONNEL DETERMINATIONS BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.**—The Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) ensure that this section does not result in any net increase in full-time equivalent employees at any Federal agency impacted by this section; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, certify compliance with this subsection to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(d) **DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.**—Except where otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided by this section, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living may delegate any of the functions transferred to the Administrator of such Administration by subsection (b) and any function described in subsection (b) that was transferred or granted to such Administrator after the effective date of this section to such officers and employees of such Administration as the Administrator may designate, and may authorize successive redelegations of such functions described in subsection (b) as may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of such functions by the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living under this subsection or under any other provision of this section shall relieve such Administrator of responsibility for the administration of such functions.

(e) **REORGANIZATION.**—Except where otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided by this Act, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to allocate or reallocate any function transferred under subsection (b) among the officers of such Administration, and to consolidate, alter, or discontinue such organizational entities in such Administration as may be necessary or appropriate.

(f) **RULES.**—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, such rules and regulations as that Administrator determines necessary or appropriate to administer and manage the functions described in subsection (b) of that Administration.

(g) **TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS AND PERSONNEL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the personnel employed in connection with, and the assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred by subsection (b), subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the Administration for Community Living. Unexpended funds transferred pursuant to this

subsection shall be used only for the purposes for which the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

(h) **INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at such time or times as the Director shall provide, is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by subsection (b), and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide for the termination of the affairs of all entities terminated by this section and for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section, with respect to such functions.

(i) **SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **CONTINUING EFFECT OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, privileges, and other administrative actions—

(A) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, any Federal agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of functions which are transferred under subsection (b); and

(B) which are in effect at the time this section takes effect, or were final before the effective date of this section and are to become effective on or after the effective date of this section, shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living or other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) **PROCEEDINGS NOT AFFECTED.**—The provisions of this section shall not affect any proceedings, including notices of proposed rulemaking, or any application for any license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending before the Rehabilitation Services Administration at the time this section takes effect, with respect to functions transferred by subsection (b) but such proceedings and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this section had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section had not been enacted.

(3) **SUITS NOT AFFECTED.**—The provisions of this section shall not affect suits commenced (with respect to functions transferred under subsection (b)) before the effective date of this section, and in all such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(4) **NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.**—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), shall abate by reason of the enactment of this section.

(5) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RELATING TO PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.**—Any administrative action relating to the preparation or promulgation of a regulation by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)) may be continued by the Administration for Community Living with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(j) **SEPARABILITY.**—If a provision of this section or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder of this section nor the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall be affected.

(k) **REFERENCES.**—A reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or relating to—

(1) the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), shall be deemed to refer to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living; and

(2) the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), shall be deemed to refer to the Administration for Community Living.

(l) **TRANSITION.**—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to utilize—

(1) the services of such officers, employees, and other personnel of the Rehabilitation Services Administration with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b); and

(2) funds appropriated to such functions, for such period of time as may reasonably be needed to facilitate the orderly implementation of this section.

(m) **ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—There are transferred to the Administration for Community Living, all functions which the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of that Administration) under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—Subsections (d) through (l) shall apply to transfers described in paragraph (1).

(n) **NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context—

(A) the term “NIDILRR” means the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(B) the term “NIDRR” means the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the Department of Education.

(2) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—There are transferred to the NIDILRR, all functions which the Director of the NIDRR exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of the NIDRR).

(3) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsections (d) through (l) shall apply to transfers described in paragraph (2).

(B) **REFERENCES.**—For purposes of applying those subsections under subparagraph (A), those subsections—

(i) shall apply to the NIDRR and the Director of the NIDRR in the same manner and to the same extent as those subsections apply to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Commissioner of that Administration; and

(ii) shall apply to the NIDILRR and the Director of the NIDILRR in the same manner and to the same extent as those subsections apply to the Administration for Community Living and the Administrator of that Administration.

(o) **REFERENCES IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.**—

(1) **SECRETARY.**—Section 3(13) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002(13)) is amended by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

(2) **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Section 6(d)(4) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3005(d)(4)) is amended by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

(3) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 7 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3006) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Assistant Secretary” and all that follows through “Rehabilitation Services Administration,” and inserting “the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “The Assistant Secretary” and all that follows and inserting “The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living shall consult with the Office of Special Education Programs of the Department of Education, the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education, the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the Department of Labor, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and other appropriate Federal entities in the administration of this Act.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking “the Rehabilitation Services Administration” and inserting “the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

SEC. 492. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 109 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 109. Training and services for employers.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 112 the following:

“Sec. 113. Provision of pre-employment transition services.”;

(3) by striking the item relating to section 202 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 202. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.”;

(4) by striking the item relating to section 205 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 205. Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council.

“Sec. 206. Definition of covered school.”;

(5) by striking the items relating to sections 304, 305, and 306 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.”.

(6) by inserting after the item relating to section 509 the following:

“Sec. 511. Limitations on use of subminimum wage.”;

(7) by striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the following:

“TITLE VI—EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

“Sec. 601. Short title.

“Sec. 602. Purpose.

“Sec. 603. Allotments.

“Sec. 604. Availability of services.

“Sec. 605. Eligibility.

“Sec. 606. State plan.

“Sec. 607. Restriction.

“Sec. 608. Savings provision.

“Sec. 609. Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities.

“Sec. 610. Authorization of appropriations.”;

and

(8) in the items relating to title VII—

(A)(i) by inserting after the item relating to section 701 the following:

“Sec. 701A. Administration of the independent living program.”;

and

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 706 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Administrator.”;

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following:

“Sec. 711A. Training and technical assistance.”;

and

(C) by inserting after the item relating to section 751 the following:

“Sec. 751A. Training and technical assistance.”.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Workforce Investment

SEC. 501. PRIVACY.

(a) SECTION 444 OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROVISIONS ACT.—Nothing in this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to supersede the privacy protections afforded parents and students under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(b) PROHIBITION ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to permit the development of a national database of personally identifiable information on individuals receiving services under title I or under the amendments made by title IV.

(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to prevent the proper administration of national programs under subtitles C and D of title I, or the amendments made by title IV (as the case may be), or to carry out program management activities consistent with title I or the amendments made by title IV (as the case may be).

SEC. 502. BUY-AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.—None of the funds made available under title

I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the funds the entity will comply with sections 8301 through 8303 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the “Buy American Act”).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS; REQUIREMENT REGARDING NOTICE.—

(1) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided using funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), it is the sense of Congress that entities receiving the assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In providing financial assistance using funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act, the head of each Federal agency shall provide to each recipient of the assistance a notice describing the statement made in paragraph (1) by Congress.

(c) PROHIBITION OF CONTRACTS WITH PERSONS FALSELY LABELING PRODUCTS AS MADE IN AMERICA.—If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a “Made in America” inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, as such sections were in effect on August 7, 1998, or pursuant to any successor regulations.

SEC. 503. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

(a) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall take such actions as the Secretaries determine to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) to any authority under subtitle A of title I. Such actions shall include the provision of guidance related to unified State planning, combined State planning, and the performance accountability system described in such subtitle.

(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to any authority under subtitles B through E of title I.

(c) ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Education shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, as amended by this Act.

(d) EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as in effect

on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended by this Act.

(e) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall take such actions as the Secretaries determine to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by this Act.

(f) REGULATIONS.—

(1) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate, shall develop and publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations relating to the transition to, and implementation of, this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

(2) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries described in paragraph (1), as appropriate, shall develop and publish in the Federal Register final regulations relating to the transition to, and implementation of, this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

(g) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS DURING TRANSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with regulations developed under subsection (f), States, grant recipients, administrative entities, and other recipients of financial assistance under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 may expend funds received under such Act in order to plan and implement programs and activities authorized under this Act.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Not more than 2 percent of any allotment to any State from amounts appropriated under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for fiscal year 2014 may be made available to carry out activities authorized under paragraph (1) and not less than 50 percent of any amount used to carry out activities authorized under paragraph (1) shall be made available to local entities for the purposes of the activities described in such paragraph.

SEC. 504. REDUCTION OF REPORTING BURDENS AND REQUIREMENTS.

In order to simplify reporting requirements and reduce reporting burdens, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish procedures and criteria under which a State board and local board may reduce reporting burdens and requirements under this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

SEC. 505. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the first day of the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION DATE FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply in lieu of section 116 of this Act, for the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—For purposes of the application described in paragraph (1)—

(A) except as otherwise specified, a reference in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to a provision in such Act (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than to a provision in such section or section 112 of such Act, shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act;

(B) the terms “local area”, “local board”, “one-stop partner”, and “State board” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of this Act;

(C) except as provided in subparagraph (B), terms used in such section 136 shall have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801);

(D) any agreement negotiated and reached under section 136(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(c)(2)) shall remain in effect, until a new agreement is so negotiated and reached, for that first full program year;

(E) if a State or local area fails to meet levels of performance under subsection (g) or (h), respectively, of section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 during that first full program year, the sanctions provided under such subsection shall apply during the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(F) the Secretary shall use an amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under section 136(g)(1)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871(g)(1)(B)), to provide technical assistance as described in subsections (f)(1) and (g)(1) of section 116 of this Act, in lieu of incentive grants under section 503 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9273) as provided in section 136(g)(2) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871(g)(2)).

(c) APPLICATION DATE FOR STATE AND LOCAL PLAN PROVISIONS.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—Sections 112 and 118 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822, 2833), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to implementation of State and local plans, in lieu of sections 102 and 103, and section 108, respectively, of this Act, for the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—For purposes of the application described in paragraph (1)—

(A) except as otherwise specified, a reference in section 112 or 118 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to a provision in such Act (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than to a provision in or to either such section or to section 136 of such Act, shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act;

(B) the terms “local area”, “local board”, “one-stop partner”, and “State board” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of this Act;

(C) except as provided in subparagraph (B), terms used in such section 112 or 118 shall have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801); and

(D) section 112(b)(18)(D) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b)(18)(D)) shall not apply.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Sections 102, 103, and 108 of this Act shall apply to plans for the second full program year after the date of enactment, including the development, submission, and approval of such plans during the first full program year after such date.

Subtitle B—Amendments to Other Laws

SEC. 511. REPEAL OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.

(a) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.—The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) GRANTS TO STATES FOR WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY TRANSITION TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.—Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151) is repealed.

SEC. 512. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.—Section 414(c)(3)(C) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916a(3)(C)) is amended by striking “entities involved in administering the workforce investment system established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “entities involved in administering the workforce development system, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(b) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.—The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 3(1)(C) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3002(1)(C)) is amended by striking “such as a one-stop partner, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)” and inserting “such as a one-stop partner, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 4 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3003) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(IV), by striking “a representative of the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821)” and inserting “a representative of the State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(D)(i), by striking “such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801),” and inserting “such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)(I)(aa), by striking “with entities in the statewide and local workforce investment systems established under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.),” and inserting “with entities in the statewide and local workforce development systems established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”.

(c) ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ACT.—Section 113(a)(2) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (15 U.S.C. 720k(a)(2)) is amended by striking “consistent with the vision and goals set forth in the State of Alaska Unified Plan, as developed pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “consistent with the vision and goals set forth in the State of Alaska unified plan or combined plan, as appropriate, as developed pursuant to section 102 or 103, as appropriate, of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(d) ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACT.—Section 4604(c)(6)(A) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2704(c)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “programs carried out by the Secretary of Labor under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “programs carried out by the Secretary of Labor under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(e) CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006.—The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 118(d)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2328(d)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “PUBLIC LAW 105-220” and inserting “WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT”; and

(B) by striking “functions and activities carried out under Public Law 105-220” and inserting “functions and activities carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 121(a)(4) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2341(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “activities undertaken by the State boards under section 111 of Public Law 105-220” and inserting “activities undertaken by the State boards under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the service delivery system under section 121 of Public Law 105-220” and inserting “the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 122 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2342) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii), by striking “entities participating in activities described in section 111 of Public Law 105-220” and inserting “entities participating in activities described in section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(20), by striking “the description and information specified in sections 112(b)(8) and 121(c) of Public Law 105-220 concerning the provision of services only for postsecondary students and school dropouts” and inserting “the description and information specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C)(iii) of section 102(b)(2), and, as appropriate, section 103(b)(3)(A), and section 121(c), of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act concerning the provision of services only for postsecondary students and school dropouts”; and

(C) in subsection (d)(2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “501 PLAN” and inserting “COMBINED PLAN”; and

(ii) by striking “as part of the plan submitted under section 501 of Public Law 105-220” and inserting “as part of the plan submitted under section 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(4) Section 124(c)(13) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2344(c)(13)) is amended by striking “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of Public Law 105-220” and inserting “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(5) Section 134(b)(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)(5)) is amended by striking “entities participating in activities described in section 117 of Public Law 105-220 (if applicable)” and inserting “entities participating in activities described in section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (if applicable)”.

(6) Section 135(c)(16) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2355(c)(16)) is amended by striking “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of Public Law 105-220 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(7) Section 321(b)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2411(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Chapters

4 and 5 of subtitle B of title I of Public Law 105-220" and inserting "Chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(f) **COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT.**—Section 676(b)(5) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908(b)(5)) is amended by striking "the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 101 of such Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act".

(g) **COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003.**—The Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 105(f)(1)(B)(iii) of such Act (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking "title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than subtitle C of that Act (29 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.) (Job Corps), title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.; commonly known as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act)," and inserting "titles I (other than subtitle C) and II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,".

(2) Section 108(a) of such Act (48 U.S.C. 1921g(a)) is amended by striking "subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.; relating to Job Corps)" and inserting "subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (relating to Job Corps)".

(h) **DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973.**—Section 103(d) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(d)) is amended by striking "employment." and all that follows and inserting the following: "employment. Whenever feasible, such efforts shall be coordinated with an appropriate local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.".

(i) **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**—The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 1203(c)(2)(A) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6363(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking ", in consultation with the National Institute for Literacy,"; and

(B) by striking clause (ii); and

(C) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively.

(2) Section 1235(9)(B) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6381d(9)(B)) is amended by striking "any relevant programs under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "any relevant programs under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 1423(9) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6453(9)) is amended by striking "a description of how the program under this subpart will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs, such as programs under title I of Public Law 105-220" and inserting "a description of how the program under this

subpart will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs, such as programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(4) Section 1425(9) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6455(9)) is amended by striking "coordinate funds received under this subpart with other local, State, and Federal funds available to provide services to participating children and youth, such as funds made available under title I of Public Law 105-220," and inserting "coordinate funds received under this subpart with other local, State, and Federal funds available to provide services to participating children and youth, such as funds made available under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,".

(5) Section 7202(13)(H) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7512(13)(H)) is amended by striking "the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(j) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1984.**—Section 2(a) of the Environmental Programs Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 4368a(a)) is amended by striking "Funding for such grants or agreements may be made available from such programs or through title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Funding for such grants or agreements may be made available from such programs or through title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(k) **ENERGY CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION ACT.**—Section 414(b)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6864(b)(3)) is amended by striking "securing, to the maximum extent practicable, the services of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "securing, to the maximum extent practicable, the services of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(l) **FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.**—The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 5(l) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2014(l)) is amended by striking "Notwithstanding section 181(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, earnings to individuals participating in on-the-job-training under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Notwithstanding section 181(a)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, earnings to individuals participating in on-the-job training under title I of such Act".

(2) Section 6 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(4)(M), by striking "activities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act";

(B) in subsection (e)(3)(A), by striking "a program under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "a program under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(C) in subsection (o)(1)(A), by striking "a program under the title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "a program under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 17(b)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2026(b)(2)) is amended by striking "a program carried out under title I of the Workforce In-

vestment Act of 1998" and inserting "a program carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(m) **FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED GROWTH ACT OF 1978.**—Section 206 of the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3116) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "the Secretary of Labor shall, as appropriate, fully utilize the authority provided under the Job Training Partnership Act and title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "the Secretary of Labor shall, as appropriate, fully utilize the authority provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "the President shall, as may be authorized by law, establish reservoirs of public employment and private nonprofit employment projects, to be approved by the Secretary of Labor, through expansion of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "the President shall, as may be authorized by law, establish reservoirs of public employment and private nonprofit employment projects, to be approved by the Secretary of Labor, through expansion of activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(n) **HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 418A of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070d-2) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii), by striking "section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking "section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 479(d)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087ss(d)(1)) is amended by striking "The term 'dislocated worker' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)" and inserting "The term 'dislocated worker' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 479A(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087tt(a)) is amended by striking "a dislocated worker (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "a dislocated worker (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(4) Section 480(b)(1)(I) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(b)(1)(I)) is amended by striking "benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(5) Section 803 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (i)(1), by striking "for changes to this Act and related Acts, such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (including titles I and II), to help create and sustain business and industry workforce partnerships at institutions of higher education" and inserting "for changes to this Act and related Acts, such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical

Education Act of 2006 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (including titles I and II), to help create and sustain business and industry workforce partnerships at institutions of higher education"; and

(B) in subsection (j)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "local board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local board (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "a State board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "a State board (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(6) Section 861(c)(1)(B) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161q(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "local boards (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local boards (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(7) Section 872(b)(2)(E) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161s(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "local boards (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local boards (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(c) HOUSING ACT OF 1949.—Section 504(c)(3) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474(c)(3)) is amended by striking "an insufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Older American Community Service Employment Act," and inserting "an insufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act,".

(p) HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968.—Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(iii), by striking "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(iii), by striking "To YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "To YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "to YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "to YouthBuild programs receiving assistance

under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(q) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 245A(h)(4)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255a(h)(4)(F)) is amended by striking "Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(r) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 7527(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)" after "of 1998".

(s) MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.—Section 103(c)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(c)(2)) is amended by striking "a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(t) MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT.—The Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 204(f)(3) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9103(f)(3)) is amended by striking "activities under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) (including activities under section 134(c) of such Act) (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (including activities under section 121(e) of such Act)".

(2) Section 224(b)(6)(C) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9134(b)(6)(C)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "the activities carried out by the State workforce investment board under section 111(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821(d))" and inserting "the activities carried out by the State workforce development board under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "the State's one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "the State's one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of such Act".

(u) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1990.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 112(a)(3)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12523(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "or who may participate in a Youthbuild program under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918a)" and inserting "or who may participate in a Youthbuild program under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 199L(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12655m(a)) is amended by striking "coordinated with activities supported with assistance made available under programs administered by the heads of such agencies (including title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "coordinated with activities supported with assistance made available under programs administered by the heads of such agencies (including title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(v) NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY ACT.—Section 233 of the National Energy Conservation and Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 6873) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "a sufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted

pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Older American Community Service Employment Act" and inserting "a sufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act".

(w) OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.—The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3013) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "In particular, the Secretary of Labor shall consult and cooperate with the Assistant Secretary in carrying out title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "In particular, the Secretary of Labor shall consult and cooperate with the Assistant Secretary in carrying out title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 321(a)(12) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(12)) is amended by striking "including programs carried out under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "including programs carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (H), by striking "will coordinate activities with training and other services provided under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including utilizing the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce investment areas involved" and inserting "will coordinate activities with training and other services provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including utilizing the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce development areas involved";

(II) in subparagraph (O)—

(aa) by striking "through the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce investment areas involved as established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "through the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce development areas involved as established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(bb) by striking "and will be involved in the planning and operations of such system pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the local workforce investment board in accordance with section 121(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841(c))" and inserting "and will be involved in the planning and operations of such system pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the local workforce development board in accordance with section 121(c) of such Act"; and

(III) in subparagraph (Q)—

(aa) in clause (i), by striking "paragraph (8), relating to coordination with other Federal programs, of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b))" and inserting "clauses (i) and (viii) of paragraph (2)(B), relating to coordination with other Federal programs, of section 102(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(bb) in clause (ii), by striking "paragraph (14), relating to implementation of one-stop

delivery systems, of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "paragraph (2)(C)(i), relating to implementation of one-stop delivery systems, of section 102(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking "An assessment and service strategy required by paragraph (1)(N) to be prepared for an eligible individual shall satisfy any condition for an assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan for an adult participant under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), in order to determine whether such eligible individual also qualifies for intensive or training services described in section 134(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(d))." and inserting "An assessment and service strategy required by paragraph (1)(N) to be prepared for an eligible individual shall satisfy any condition for an assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan for an adult participant under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in order to determine whether such eligible individual also qualifies for career or training services described in section 134(c) of such Act."; and

(II) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998" and inserting "WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT"; and

(bb) by striking "An assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan prepared under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)" and inserting "An assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan prepared under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii), by striking "one-stop delivery systems established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "one-stop delivery systems established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(4) Section 503 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "the State and local workforce investment boards established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "the State and local workforce development boards established under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking "plans for facilitating the coordination of activities of grantees in the State under this title with activities carried out in the State under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "plans for facilitating the coordination of activities of grantees in the State under this title with activities carried out in the State under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking "with the program carried out under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "with the program carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(5) Section 505(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3056c(c)(1)) of such Act is amended by striking "activities carried out under other Acts, especially activities provided under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), in-

cluding activities provided through one-stop delivery systems established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))." and inserting "activities carried out under other Acts, especially activities provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including activities provided through one-stop delivery systems established under section 121(e) of such Act.".

(6) Section 510 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056h) is amended—

(A) by striking "by local workforce investment boards and one-stop operators established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "by local workforce development boards and one-stop operators established under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) by striking "such title I" and inserting "such title".

(7) Section 511 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056i) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "Grantees under this title shall be one-stop partners as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(vi) of section 121(b)(1) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(b)(1)) in the one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)) for the appropriate local workforce investment areas" and inserting "Grantees under this title shall be one-stop partners as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(v) of section 121(b)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in the one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of such Act for the appropriate local workforce development areas"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "be signatories of the memorandum of understanding established under section 121(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(c))" and inserting "be signatories of the memorandum of understanding established under section 121(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(8) Section 518(b)(2)(F) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056p(b)(2)(F)) is amended by striking "has failed to find employment after utilizing services provided under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "has failed to find employment after utilizing services provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(X) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996.—Section 403(c)(2)(K) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(c)(2)(K)) is amended by striking "Benefits under the title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Benefits under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(Y) PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.—Section 5101(d)(3)(D) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 294q(d)(3)(D)) is amended by striking "other health care workforce programs, including those supported through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)," and inserting "other health care workforce programs, including those supported through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(Z) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 399V(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–11(e)) is amended by striking "one-stop delivery systems under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "one-stop delivery systems under

section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 751(c)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 294a(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking "the applicable one-stop delivery system under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998," and inserting "the applicable one-stop delivery system under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 799B(23) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(23)) is amended by striking "one-stop delivery system described in section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(aa) RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.—Section 322(a)(7) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–2(a)(7)) is amended by striking "(including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "(including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(bb) SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—The Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17501 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 212 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 17532) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking "in coordination with the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))." and inserting "in coordination with the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iii), by striking "the local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832)," and inserting "the local workforce development boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 231(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 17541(e)) is amended by striking "the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(cc) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—Section 7(j)(13)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(13)(E)) is amended by striking "an institution eligible to provide skills training or upgrading under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "an institution eligible to provide skills training or upgrading under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(dd) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 403(a)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(vii)(I), by striking “chief elected official (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)” and inserting “chief elected official (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking “local workforce investment board established for the service delivery area pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as appropriate” and inserting “local workforce development board established for the local workforce development area pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as appropriate”.

(2) Section 1148(f)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–19(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “a one-stop delivery system established under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)” and inserting “a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 1149(a)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–20(a)(3)) is amended by striking “a one-stop delivery system established under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)” and inserting “a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(4) Section 2008(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397g(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “a local workforce investment board established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,” and inserting “a local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”.

(ee) TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 665 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “Whoever, being an officer, director, agent, or employee of, or connected in any capacity with any agency or organization receiving financial assistance or any funds under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Whoever, being an officer, director, agent, or employee of, or connected in any capacity with any agency or organization receiving financial assistance or any funds under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “a contract of employment in connection with a financial assistance agreement or contract under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “a contract of employment in connection with a financial assistance agreement or contract under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “Whoever willfully obstructs or impedes or willfully endeavors to obstruct or impede, an investigation or inquiry under the Job Training

Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,” and inserting “Whoever willfully obstructs or impedes or willfully endeavors to obstruct or impede, an investigation or inquiry under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,”.

(ff) TITLE 31 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 6703(a)(4) of title 31 of the United States Code is amended by striking “Programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,” and inserting “Programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

(gg) TITLE 38 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38 of the United States Code is amended as follows:

(1) Section 4101(9) of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking “The term ‘intensive services’ means local employment and training services of the type described in section 134(d)(3) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “The term ‘career services’ means local employment and training services of the type described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 4102A of title 38 of the United States Code is amended—

(A) in subsection (d), by striking “participation of qualified veterans and eligible persons in employment and training opportunities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “participation of qualified veterans and eligible persons in employment and training opportunities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking “be consistent with State performance measures applicable under section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “be consistent with State performance accountability measures applicable under section 116(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 4104A of title 38 of the United States Code is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking “the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))” and inserting “the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))” and inserting “the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)”.

(4) Section 4110B of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking “enter into an agreement with the Secretary regarding the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that includes the description and information described in paragraphs (8) and (14) of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b))” and inserting “enter into an agreement with the Secretary regarding the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that includes the descriptions described in sections 102(b)(2)(B)(ii) and 103(b)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and a description of how the State board will carry out the activities described in section 101(d)(3)(F) of such Act”.

(5) Section 4213(a)(4) of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking

“Any employment or training program carried out under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “Any employment or training program carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(hh) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—The Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 221(a) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2271) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(i) by striking “, one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) including State employment security agencies,” and inserting “, one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) including State employment security agencies,”; and

(ii) by striking “or the State dislocated worker unit established under title I of such Act,” and inserting “or a State dislocated worker unit,”; and

(B) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking “rapid response activities and appropriate core and intensive services (as described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864)) authorized under other Federal laws” and inserting “rapid response activities and appropriate career services (as described in section 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) authorized under other Federal laws”.

(2) Section 222(d)(2)(A)(iv) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2272(d)(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking “one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))” and inserting “one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)”.

(3) Section 236(a)(5) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any training program provided by a State pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “any training program provided by a State pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in the flush text following subparagraph (H), by striking “The Secretary may not limit approval of a training program under paragraph (1) to a program provided pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “The Secretary may not limit approval of a training program under paragraph (1) to a program provided pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

(4) Section 239 of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2311) is amended—

(A) in subsection (f), by striking “Any agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the coordination of the administration of the provisions for employment services, training, and supplemental assistance under sections 235 and 236 of this Act and under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Any agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the coordination of the administration of the provisions for employment services, training, and supplemental assistance under sections 235 and 236 of this Act and under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking “the description and information described in paragraphs (8) and (14) of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C.

2822(b))” and inserting “the descriptions described in sections 102(b)(2)(B)(ii) and 103(b)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a description of how the State board will carry out the activities described in section 101(d)(3)(F) of such Act.”.

(ii) UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.—Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking “lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “the local agencies (if any) responsible for carrying out programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act,” and inserting “the local agencies (if any) responsible for carrying out programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “any local agencies responsible for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act” and inserting “any local agencies responsible for programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(H), by striking “programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and any other relevant employment, child care, transportation, training, and education programs in the applicable area” and inserting “programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and any other relevant employment, child care, transportation, training, and education programs in the applicable area”.

(jj) VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994.—Section 3113(a)(4)(C) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13823(a)(4)(C)) is amended by striking “job training programs authorized under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485)” and inserting “job training programs authorized under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485)”.

(kk) WORKER ADJUSTMENT AND RETRAINING NOTIFICATION ACT.—Section 3(a)(2) of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2102(a)(2)) is amended by striking “the State or entity designated by the State to carry out rapid response activities under section 134(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,” and inserting “the State or entity designated by the State to carry out rapid response activities under section 134(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

SEC. 513. REFERENCES.

(a) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998 REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified,

a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act.

(b) WAGNER-PEYSER ACT REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified, a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of such Act, as amended by this Act.

(c) DISABILITY-RELATED REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified, a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of such Act, as amended by this Act.

SA 3379. Mr. FLAKE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 116(g)(2), strike subparagraph (A), and insert the following:

(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure occurs for a program year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, which shall include development of a reorganization plan through which—

(i) the Governor shall—

(I) prohibit the use of eligible providers and one-stop partners identified as achieving a poor level of performance; or

(II) take such other significant actions as the Governor determines are appropriate; and

(ii) the Governor may require the appointment and certification of a new local board, consistent with the criteria established under section 107(b).

SA 3380. Mr. LEE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 395, strike line 20 and all that follows through line 24, and insert the following:

(B) PERIODIC INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—The evaluations carried out under this paragraph shall include an independent evaluation of the programs and activities carried out under this title. A final report containing the results of the evaluation shall be submitted under paragraph (5) not later than June 30 of 2018 and every fourth year thereafter.

SA 3381. Mr. HARKIN (for Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 6, after the item relating to section 504, insert the following:

Sec. 505. Report on data capability of Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements.

On page 6, redesignate the second item relating to section 505 as the item relating to section 506.

On page 16, line 4, strike “134(c)(2)” and insert “134(c)(2)(A)(xii)”.

On page 55, strike line 5.

On page 55, line 9, strike the period and insert “; and”.

On page 55, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(vi) how the State’s strategy will improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable).

On page 116, line 19 strike the semicolon and insert “, and improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable);”.

On page 222, line 22, insert “allotted under section 127(b)(1)(C), reserved under section 128(a), and” before “available”.

On page 232, line 8, strike “may” and insert “shall”.

On page 248, lines 6 through 8, strike “less than the greater of” and all that follows through “(aa) an” and insert “an”.

On page 248, line 11, strike “; or” and insert a period.

On page 248, strike lines 12 through 18.

On page 293, line 4, strike “may” and insert “shall, consistent with clause (i),”.

On page 329, line 9, insert “information regarding the entity in any reports developed by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor and” before “the entity’s”.

On page 338, strike lines 13 through 18 and insert the following:

(A) significant improvements in program performance in carrying out a performance improvement plan under section 159(f)(2);

On page 338, strike lines 21 and 22 and insert “such as an emergency or disaster, as defined in section 170(a)(1);”.

On page 339, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(3) DETAILED EXPLANATION.—If the Secretary exercises an option under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a detailed explanation of the rationale for exercising such option.

On page 339, line 7, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

On page 384, line 25, strike “to pro-” and all that follows through line 5 of page 385, and insert the following: “to award grants, on a competitive basis, to entities with demonstrated experience and expertise in developing and implementing programs for the unique populations who reside in Alaska or Hawaii, including public and private nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, American Indian tribal colleges or universities, institutions of higher education, or consortia of such organizations or institutions, to improve job training and workforce investment activities for such unique populations.”.

Beginning on page 398, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(7) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary transmits the final report as described in paragraph (6), the Secretary shall make that final report available to the general public on the Internet, on the Web site of the Department of Labor.

On page 398, line 18, strike “(7)” and insert “(8)”.

On page 399, line 3, strike “(8)” and insert “(9)”.

On page 759, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 505. REPORT ON DATA CAPABILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE DATABASES AND DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to Congress regarding existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements, as of the date of the report, that contain job training information relevant to the administration of programs authorized under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) list existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) and, for each, describe—

(A) the purposes of the database or agreement;

(B) the data elements, such as wage and employment outcomes, contained in the database or accessible under the agreement;

(C) the data elements described in subparagraph (B) that are shared between States;

(D) the Federal and State workforce training programs from which each Federal and State database derives the data elements described in subparagraph (B);

(E) the number and type of Federal and State agencies having access to such data;

(F) the number and type of private research organizations having access to,

through grants, contracts, or other agreements, such data; and

(G) whether the database or data exchange agreement provides for opt-out procedures for individuals whose data is shared through the database or data exchange agreement;

(2) study the effects that access by State workforce agencies and the Secretary of Labor to the databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) would have on efforts to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and on individual privacy;

(3) explore opportunities to enhance the quality, reliability, and reporting frequency of the data included in such databases and data exchange agreements;

(4) describe, for each database or data exchange agreement considered by the study described in subsection (a), the number of individuals whose data is contained in each database or accessible through the data agreement, and the specific data elements contained in each that could be used to personally identify an individual;

(5) include the number of data breaches having occurred since 2004 to data systems administered by Federal and State agencies;

(6) include the number of data breaches regarding any type of personal data having occurred since 2004 to private research organizations with whom Federal and State agencies contract for studies; and

(7) include a survey of the security protocols used for protecting personal data, including best practices shared amongst States for access to, and administration of, data elements stored and recommendations for improving security protocols for the safe warehousing of data elements.

(c) TIMING OF REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress an interim report regarding the initial findings of the report required under this section.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress the final report required under this section.

On page 759, strike line 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 506. EFFECTIVE DATES.

On page 763, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(d) DISABILITY PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in title IV of this Act, title IV, and the amendments made by title IV, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3382. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in

the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.”.

SA 3383. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 232, line 8, strike “may” and insert “shall”.

On page 293, line 4, strike “may” and insert “shall, consistent with clause (i),”.

SA 3384. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 6, after the item relating to section 504, insert the following:

Sec. 505. Report on data capability of Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements.

On page 6, redesignate the second item relating to section 505 as the item relating to section 506.

On page 759, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 505. REPORT ON DATA CAPABILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE DATABASES AND DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to Congress regarding existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements, as of the date of the report, that contain job training information relevant to the administration of programs authorized under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) list existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) and, for each, describe—

(A) the purposes of the database or agreement;

(B) the data elements, such as wage and employment outcomes, contained in the database or accessible under the agreement;

(C) the data elements described in subparagraph (B) that are shared between States;

(D) the Federal and State workforce training programs from which each Federal and State database derives the data elements described in subparagraph (B);

(E) the number and type of Federal and State agencies having access to such data;

(F) the number and type of private research organizations having access to, through grants, contracts, or other agreements, such data; and

(G) whether the database or data exchange agreement provides for opt-out procedures for individuals whose data is shared through the database or data exchange agreement;

(2) study the effects that access by State workforce agencies and the Secretary of Labor to the databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) would have on efforts to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and on individual privacy;

(3) explore opportunities to enhance the quality, reliability, and reporting frequency of the data included in such databases and data exchange agreements;

(4) describe, for each database or data exchange agreement considered by the study described in subsection (a), the number of individuals whose data is contained in each database or accessible through the data agreement, and the specific data elements contained in each that could be used to personally identify an individual;

(5) include the number of data breaches having occurred since 2004 to data systems administered by Federal and State agencies;

(6) include the number of data breaches regarding any type of personal data having occurred since 2004 to private research organizations with whom Federal and State agencies contract for studies; and

(7) include a survey of the security protocols used for protecting personal data, including best practices shared amongst States for access to, and administration of, data elements stored and recommendations for improving security protocols for the safe warehousing of data elements.

(c) TIMING OF REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress an interim report regarding the initial findings of the report required under this section.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress the final report required under this section.

On page 759, strike line 10 and insert the following:

SEC. 506. EFFECTIVE DATES.

SA 3385. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3378 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HAGAN,

Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. COONS) to the bill H.R. 803, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 55, strike line 5.

On page 55, line 9, strike the period and insert “; and”.

On page 55, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(vi) how the State’s strategy will improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable).

On page 116, line 19, strike the semicolon and insert “; and improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable);”.

SA 3386. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII, insert the following:

SEC. —. AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE IN MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR CIVILIAN INDIVIDUALS WITH CERTAIN DISEASES NOT OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE FOR CARE IN SUCH FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and subject to the provisions of this section, a military treatment facility may provide health care or treatment for a civilian individual described in subsection (b) who is not otherwise eligible for care in such facility under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, or any other provision of law, for the disease or condition of such individual as specified in that subsection.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—A civilian individual described in this subsection is a civilian individual who—

(1) has a disease or condition that, under commonly accepted medical guidelines, requires care or treatment in or through a civilian care center capable of providing care or treatment specifically tailored to such disease or condition; and

(2) resides more than 100 miles from the nearest civilian care center capable of providing care or treatment specifically tailored to such disease or condition.

(c) PAYMENT FOR CARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A civilian individual may not be provided care or treatment under sub-

section (a) unless the individual agrees to contribute to the cost of such care or treatment such percentage of the cost of such care or treatment as the Secretary shall provide in the regulations under this section.

(2) PROOF OF CAPACITY TO PAY.—A military treatment facility may require proof of a capacity to pay for care or treatment before providing such care or treatment under this section, including the availability of insurance or another secondary payor for such care or treatment.

(d) CARE AND TREATMENT PROVIDED.—A military treatment facility providing care and treatment for an individual under subsection (a) may provide the following:

(1) Care and treatment for the disease or condition of the individual as specified in subsection (b).

(2) Such other care and treatment as may be medically necessary (as determined pursuant to the regulations under this section) in connection with the provision of care and treatment under paragraph (1).

(e) CARE AND TREATMENT ONLY ON SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A military treatment facility may not provide care and treatment under subsection (a) if the provision of such care and treatment would prevent or limit the availability of health care services at the facility for members of the Armed Forces on active duty or any other covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program who are eligible for care and services in or through the facility.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a military treatment facility declines to provide care or treatment under this section pursuant to paragraph (1), the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on such action. The report shall include a description of the care or treatment sought, an analysis of the capacity of the facility concerned to provide such care or treatment, and a justification for such action.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “TRICARE program” and “covered beneficiary” have the meaning given such terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 3387. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA REDUCTION EFFORTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a review of the policies, procedures, and programs of the Department of Defense to reduce the stigma associated with mental health treatment for members of the Armed Forces and deployed civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(1) An assessment of the availability and access to mental health treatment services for members of the Armed Forces and deployed civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

(2) An assessment of the perception of the impact of the stigma of mental health treatment on the career advancement and retention of members of the Armed Forces and such employees.

(3) An assessment of the policies, procedures, and programs, including training and education, of each of the Armed Forces to reduce the stigma of mental health treatment for members of the Armed Forces and such employees at each unit level of the organized forces.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2016, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the review required under subsection (a).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Financial Stability Oversight Council Annual Report to Congress.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, “NextGen: A Review of Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities for Improving Aviation Safety and Efficiency.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Trade Enforcement: Using Trade Rules to Level the Playing Field for U.S. Companies and Workers.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Future of US-China Relations.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Economic Development: Encouraging Investment in Indian Country.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Voting Rights Amendment Act, S. 1945: Updating the Voting Rights Act in Response to Shelby County v. Holder.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2 p.m. in room SR-301 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Election Administration: Examining How Early and Absentee Voting Can Benefit Citizens and Administrators.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Dreams Deferred: Young Workers and Recent Graduates in the U.S. Economy.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 25, 2014, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “State of Play: Brain Injuries and Diseases of Aging.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that from my office Brianna Steirer, Grant Gregory, and Jasper Verhofste be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today’s session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, June 26, 2014, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 897, 896, 654, 557, 620, and 503; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that all rollcall votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be

immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Nos. 600, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, and 891, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Navy, that the nominees be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Donald R. Lindberg.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Julian D. Alford
Colone Norman L. Cooling
Colonel Karsten S. Heckl
Colonel William M. Jurney
Colonel Tracy W. King
Colonel Michael E. Langley
Colonel Christopher J. Mahoney
Colonel Austin E. Renforth
Colonel Paul J. Rock, Jr.
Colonel Joseph F. Shrader

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Shane G. Gahagan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Raquel C. Bono

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John F. Thompson

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Mathias W. Winter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Thomas W. Luscher

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Eric C. Young

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Keith M. Jones

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Janet R. Donovan

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Martha E. G. Herb

Rear Adm. (lh) John F. Weigold

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Althea H. Coetzee

Rear Adm. (lh) Valerie K. Huegel

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain Kevin C. Hayes
Captain Daniel B. Hendrickson
Captain Thomas G. Reck
Captain Linda R.D. Wackerman
Captain Matthew A. Zirkle

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Sean S. Buck
Rear Adm. (lh) Mark W. Darrah
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael M. Gilday
Rear Adm. (lh) Jeffrey A. Harley
Rear Adm. (lh) Kevin J. Kovacich
Rear Adm. (lh) Dietrich H. Kuhlmann, III
Rear Adm. (lh) Victorino G. Mercado
Rear Adm. (lh) John C. Scorby, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Smith, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Richard P. Snyder
Rear Adm. (lh) Scott A. Stearney
Rear Adm. (lh) Joseph E. Tofalo

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Francis M. Beaudette
Colonel Paul Bontrager
Colonel Gary M. Brito
Colonel Scott E. Brower
Colonel Patrick W. Burden

Colonel Joseph R. Calloway
Colonel Paul T. Calvert
Colonel Welton Chase, Jr.
Colonel Brian P. Cummings
Colonel Edwin J. Deedrick, Jr.
Colonel Jeffrey W. Drushal
Colonel Rodney D. Fogg
Colonel Robin L. Fontes
Colonel Karen H. Gibson
Colonel David C. Hill
Colonel Michael D. Hoskin
Colonel Kenneth D. Hubbard
Colonel James B. Jarrard
Colonel Sean M. Jenkins
Colonel Mitchell L. Kilgo
Colonel Richard C. S. Kim
Colonel William E. King, IV
Colonel Ronald Kirklin
Colonel John S. Kolasheski
Colonel David P. Komar
Colonel Viet X. Luong
Colonel Patrick E. Matlock
Colonel James J. Mingus
Colonel Joseph W. Rank
Colonel Eric L. Sanchez
Colonel Christopher J. Sharpsten
Colonel Christopher L. Spillman
Colonel Michael J. Tarsa
Colonel Frank W. Tate
Colonel Richard M. Toy
Colonel William A. Turner
Colonel Brian E. Winski

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David H. Berger

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Daniel R. Ammerman
Brigadier General Scottie D. Carpenter
Brigadier General Phillip M. Churn, Sr.
Brigadier General Allan W. Elliott
Brigadier General A. C. Roper, Jr.
Brigadier General Tracy A. Thompson

To be brigadier general

Colonel Sandra L. Alvey
Colonel James A. Blankenhorn
Colonel David E. Elwell
Colonel Steven T. Eveker
Colonel Carlton Fisher, Jr.
Colonel Darrell J. Guthrie
Colonel Mary-Kate Leahy
Colonel Frederick R. Maiocco, Jr.
Colonel Jonathan J. McCollum
Colonel Gregory J. Mosser
Colonel Barbara L. Owens
Colonel Joe D. Robinson
Colonel Alberto C. Rosende
Colonel Richard C. Staats
Colonel Christopher W. Stockel
Colonel Kelly E. Wakefield
Colonel Jason L. Walrath
Colonel Donna R. Williams

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Warren H. Hurst, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William J. Bender

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General Bradley A. Becker
Brigadier General Michael A. Bills
Brigadier General Peggy C. Combs
Brigadier General Bruce T. Crawford
Brigadier General Susan A. Davidson
Brigadier General James H. Dickinson
Brigadier General Duane A. Gamble
Brigadier General Ryan F. Gonsalves
Brigadier General Wayne W. Grigsby, Jr.
Brigadier General Steven R. Grove
Brigadier General Theodore C. Harrison
Brigadier General Daniel P. Hughes
Brigadier General Paul C. Hurley, Jr.
Brigadier General Clark W. LeMasters, Jr.
Brigadier General Ronald F. Lewis
Brigadier General James B. Linder
Brigadier General Michael D. Lundy
Brigadier General Todd B. McCaffrey
Brigadier General Brian J. McKiernan
Brigadier General John B. Morrison, Jr.
Brigadier General Paul A. Ostrowski
Brigadier General Walter E. Piatt
Brigadier General Mark R. Quantock
Brigadier General Laura J. Richardson
Brigadier General Michael C. Wehr
Brigadier General Eric P. Wendt
Brigadier General Robert P. White
Brigadier General Cedric T. Wins

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1666 AIR FORCE nominations (20) beginning CHRISTINE R. BERBERICK, and ending DEEDRA L. ZABOKRTSKY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1745 AIR FORCE nomination of Troy R. Harting, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

PN1746 AIR FORCE nomination of William E. Bundy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

PN1747 AIR FORCE nomination of David V. Eastham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1427 ARMY nominations (8) beginning RALF C. BEILHARDT, and ending RICHARD L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1428 ARMY nominations (71) beginning MICHAEL P. ABEL, and ending D001883, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1748 ARMY nominations (7) beginning ROBERT L. BOYLES, and ending TYLER B. SMITH, which nominations were received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

PN1755 ARMY nominations (8) beginning JEREMY J. BEARSS, and ending JODI L. NICKLAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2014.

PN1756 ARMY nominations (17) beginning NORMAN W. AYOTTE, and ending D005191, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2014.

PN1757 ARMY nominations (38) beginning DAWUD A. A. AGBERE, and ending ROBERT K. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2014.

PN1758 ARMY nominations (62) beginning DENISE K. ASKEW, and ending BRET G. WITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2014.

PN1759 ARMY nominations (93) beginning DOREENE R. AGUAYO, and ending GEORGE J. ZECKLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 5, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1653 NAVY nominations (9) beginning COLIN CAMPBELL, and ending JAY T. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1654 NAVY nomination of Joseph M. Acosta, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1655 NAVY nominations (11) beginning JOHN BELLISSIMO, and ending RANDALL J. WROBLEWSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1656 NAVY nominations (3) beginning DARYL S. BORGQUIST, and ending JOHN FILOSTRAT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1657 NAVY nomination of David R. Storr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1658 NAVY nomination of Billy C. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1659 NAVY nomination of Mark J. Mouriski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1660 NAVY nominations (6) beginning PHILLIP H. BURNSIDE, and ending ERIC M. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1661 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ROBERT DRYMAN, and ending JERI L. ONEILL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1662 NAVY nominations (3) beginning TIMOTHY M. BAKER, and ending JOHN E. SEDLOCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1663 NAVY nominations (19) beginning CHAD E. BAKER, and ending CHRIS F. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1664 NAVY nominations (60) beginning SCOTT W. ALEXANDER, and ending JAMES A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1665 NAVY nomination of Roger F. Wilbur, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 5, 2014.

PN1682 NAVY nominations (195) beginning TODD A. ABRAHAMSON, and ending DAVID A. YOUTT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1683 NAVY nominations (17) beginning TIMOTHY A. BARNEY, and ending ROBERT A. WOLF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1684 NAVY nominations (14) beginning DOUGLAS S. BELVIN, and ending LAURA A. SCHUESSLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1685 NAVY nominations (10) beginning JERRY L. ALEXANDER, JR., and ending JASON L. WEBB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1686 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ROBERT L. CALHOUN, JR., and ending THADDEUS O. WALKER, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1687 NAVY nominations (4) beginning CHRISTOPHER J. COUCH, and ending NATHAN D. SCHNEIDER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1688 NAVY nominations (4) beginning GREGORY S. IRETON, and ending CYNTHIA V. MORGAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1689 NAVY nominations (3) beginning CHARLES W. BROWN, and ending SCOTT E. NORR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1690 NAVY nominations (6) beginning JEFFREY D. BUSS, and ending BRAULIO PAIZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1691 NAVY nominations (6) beginning MICHAEL L. BAKER, and ending ROBERT F. OGDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1692 NAVY nominations (8) beginning NONITO V. BLAS, and ending DAVID S. WARNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1693 NAVY nominations (12) beginning ANTHONY T. BUTERA, and ending MIRIAM K. SMYTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1694 NAVY nominations (10) beginning BRYAN E. BRASWELL, and ending TYRONE L. WARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1695 NAVY nominations (3) beginning REGINALD T. KING, and ending KEVIN L. STECK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2014.

PN1720 NAVY nominations (66) beginning ADDIE ALKHAS, and ending PATRICK E. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1721 NAVY nominations (22) beginning JEFFREY G. ANT, and ending DONNA M. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1722 NAVY nominations (27) beginning PAUL J. BROCHU, and ending GARY D. WEST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1723 NAVY nominations (7) beginning BRADLEY A. APPLEMAN, and ending JOSEPH ROMERO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1724 NAVY nominations (17) beginning JEFFREY W. BLEDSOE, and ending SUSAN A. UNION, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1725 NAVY nominations (26) beginning KRISTIN ACQUAVELLA, and ending JEROME R. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1726 NAVY nominations (11) beginning CHRISTOPHER G. ADAMS, and ending NICOLAS D. I. YAMODIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2014.

PN1749 NAVY nomination of Thor Martinsen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

PN1750 NAVY nomination of Christopher S. Mayfield, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 4, 2014.

PN1782 NAVY nominations (54) beginning ROBERT ARIAS, and ending BOBBY L. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1783 NAVY nominations (36) beginning ADAM L. ALBARADO, and ending ERIC D. WYATT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1784 NAVY nominations (20) beginning JOSHUA J. BURKHOLDER, and ending JIMMY J. STORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1785 NAVY nominations (27) beginning ADRIAN Z. BEJAR, and ending DEBORAH B. YUSKO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1786 NAVY nominations (9) beginning CHARLES R. ALLEN, and ending RICARDO A. TREVINO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1787 NAVY nominations (15) beginning GREGORY R. ADAMS, and ending DAVID R. WILCOX, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1788 NAVY nominations (9) beginning DAVID A. BENHAM, and ending JAMES D. STOCKMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1789 NAVY nominations (11) beginning JEFFREY A. BROWN, and ending MICHAEL D. WAGNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1790 NAVY nominations (17) beginning JEFFERY A. BARRETT, and ending CECILY E. WALSH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1791 NAVY nominations (32) beginning CHRISTOPHER D. ADDINGTON, and ending KURT A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1792 NAVY nominations (17) beginning KEITH ARCHIBALD, and ending MCKINNYA J. WILLIAMSROBINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1793 NAVY nominations (465) beginning JEREMIAH V. ADAMS, and ending CHARLES B. ZUHOSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1794 NAVY nominations (13) beginning KATHERINE E. BOYCE, and ending JON C. WATSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1795 NAVY nominations (2) beginning MICHAEL S. GILES, and ending MARTY E. GRIFFIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1796 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ROBERT H. CARPENTER, and ending JOSEPH V. SHELDON, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1797 NAVY nominations (5) beginning JAMES F. CROOM, and ending TODD L. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1798 NAVY nominations (17) beginning TIMOTHY K. ATMAJIAN, and ending RUMEI YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1799 NAVY nominations (4) beginning RAMESH S. DURVASULA, and ending BEN M. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1800 NAVY nominations (5) beginning FRANCIS F. DERK, and ending KATHERINE T. ORMSBEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1801 NAVY nominations (13) beginning THOMAS P. BELSKY, and ending JEFFREY J. TRUITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

PN1802 NAVY nominations (11) beginning JULIO C. ALBORNOZ, and ending ERIC L. PETERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 16, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

HONORING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOSEMITE GRANT ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 484.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 484) recognizing and honoring the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Yosemite Grant Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to,

and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 484) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CONGRATULATING THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 485.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 485) congratulating the San Antonio Spurs for winning the 2014 National Basketball Association Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 485) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3301

Mr. REID. I understand there is a bill at the desk and it is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its

business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, June 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, and that the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 738, and there be 2 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the Krause nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Tomorrow there will be a rollcall vote at noon and another at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:39 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 25, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JESSICA GARFOLA WRIGHT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS.

JAMIE MICHAEL MORIN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DONALD R. LINDBERG

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS P. KELLY III, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JULIAN D. ALFORD
COLONEL NORMAN L. COOLING
COLONEL KARSTEN S. HECKL
COLONEL WILLIAM M. JURNERY
COLONEL TRACY W. KING
COLONEL MICHAEL E. LANGLEY
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY
COLONEL AUSTIN E. RENFORTH
COLONEL PAUL J. ROCK, JR.
COLONEL JOSEPH F. SHRADER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. SHANE G. GAHAGAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RAQUEL C. BONO

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. THOMPSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MATHIAS W. WINTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. THOMAS W. LUSCHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ERIC C. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KEITH M. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JANET R. DONOVAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARTHA E. G. HERB

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN F. WEIGOLD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ALTHEA H. COETZEE

REAR ADM. (LH) VALERIE K. HUEGEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN KEVIN C. HAYES

CAPTAIN DANIEL B. HENDRICKSON

CAPTAIN THOMAS G. RECK

CAPTAIN LINDA R.D. WACKERMAN

CAPTAIN MATTHEW A. ZIRKLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) SEAN S. BUCK

REAR ADM. (LH) MARK W. DARRAH

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL M. GILDAY

REAR ADM. (LH) JEFFREY A. HARLEY

REAR ADM. (LH) KEVIN J. KOVACH

REAR ADM. (LH) DIETRICH H. KUHLMANN III

REAR ADM. (LH) VICTORINO G. MERCADO

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN C. SCORBY, JR.

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN W. SMITH, JR.

REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD P. SNYDER

REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT A. STEARNEY

REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH E. TOFALO

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL FRANCIS M. BEAUDETTE

COLONEL PAUL BONTRAGER

COLONEL GARY M. BRITO

COLONEL SCOTT E. BROWER

COLONEL PATRICK W. BURDEN

COLONEL JOSEPH R. CALLOWAY

COLONEL PAUL T. CALVERT

COLONEL WELTON CHASE, JR.

COLONEL BRIAN P. CUMMINGS

COLONEL EDWIN J. DEEDRICK, JR.

COLONEL JEFFREY W. DRUSHAL

COLONEL RODNEY D. FOGG

COLONEL ROBIN L. FONTES

COLONEL KAREN H. GIBSON

COLONEL DAVID C. HILL

COLONEL MICHAEL D. HOSKIN

COLONEL KENNETH D. HUBBARD

COLONEL JAMES B. JARRARD

COLONEL SEAN M. JENKINS

COLONEL MITCHELL L. KILGO

COLONEL RICHARD C. S. KIM

COLONEL WILLIAM E. KING IV

COLONEL RONALD KIRKLIN

COLONEL JOHN S. KOLASHESKI

COLONEL DAVID P. KOMAR

COLONEL VIET X. LUONG

COLONEL PATRICK E. MATLOCK

COLONEL JAMES J. MINGUS

COLONEL JOSEPH W. RANK

COLONEL ERIC L. SANCHEZ

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER J. SHARPSTEN

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER L. SPILLMAN

COLONEL MICHAEL J. TARSA

COLONEL FRANK W. TATE

COLONEL RICHARD M. TOY

COLONEL WILLIAM A. TURNER

COLONEL BRIAN E. WINSKI

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID H. BERGER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DANIEL R. AMMERMAN

BRIGADIER GENERAL SCOTTIE D. CARPENTER

BRIGADIER GENERAL PHILLIP M. CHURN, SR.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ALLAN W. ELLIOTT

BRIGADIER GENERAL A. C. ROPER, JR.

BRIGADIER GENERAL TRACY A. THOMPSON

To be brigadier general

COLONEL SANDRA L. ALVEY

COLONEL JAMES A. BLANKENHORN

COLONEL DAVID E. ELWELL

COLONEL STEVEN T. EVEKER

COLONEL CARLTON FISHER, JR.

COLONEL DARRELL J. GUTHRIE

COLONEL MARY-KATE LEAHY

COLONEL FREDERICK R. MAIOCCO, JR.

COLONEL JONATHAN J. MCCOLUMN

COLONEL GREGORY J. MOSSER

COLONEL BARBARA L. OWENS

COLONEL JOE D. ROBINSON

COLONEL ALBERTO C. ROSENDE

COLONEL RICHARD C. STAATS

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER W. STOCKEL

COLONEL KELLY E. WAKEFIELD

COLONEL JASON L. WALRATH

COLONEL DONNA R. WILLIAMS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. WARREN H. HURST, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WALTER E. CARTER, JR.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM J. BENDER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL BRADLEY A. BECKER
 BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL A. BILLS
 BRIGADIER GENERAL PEGGY C. COMBS
 BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE T. CRAWFORD
 BRIGADIER GENERAL SUSAN A. DAVIDSON
 BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES H. DICKINSON
 BRIGADIER GENERAL DUANE A. GAMBLE
 BRIGADIER GENERAL RYAN F. GONSALVES
 BRIGADIER GENERAL WAYNE W. GRIGSBY, JR.
 BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN R. GROVE
 BRIGADIER GENERAL THEODORE C. HARRISON
 BRIGADIER GENERAL DANIEL P. HUGHES
 BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL C. HURLEY, JR.
 BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARK W. LEMASTERS, JR.
 BRIGADIER GENERAL RONALD F. LEWIS
 BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES B. LINDER
 BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL D. LUNDY
 BRIGADIER GENERAL TODD B. MCCAFFREY
 BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIAN J. MCKIERNAN
 BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN B. MORRISON, JR.
 BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL A. OSTROWSKI
 BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER E. PIATT
 BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK R. QUANTOCK
 BRIGADIER GENERAL LAURA J. RICHARDSON
 BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL C. WEHR
 BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIC P. WENDT
 BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT P. WHITE
 BRIGADIER GENERAL CEDRIC T. WINS

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINE R. BERBERICK AND ENDING WITH DEEDRA L. ZABOKRTSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TROY R. HARTING, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF WILLIAM E. BUNDY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DAVID V. EASTHAM, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RALF C. BEILHARDT AND ENDING WITH RICHARD L. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL P. ABEL AND ENDING WITH D001883, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT L. BOYLES AND ENDING WITH TYLER B. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 4, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY J. BEARSS AND ENDING WITH JODI L. NICKLAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 5, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NORMAN W. AYOTTE AND ENDING WITH D005191, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 5, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAWUD A. A. AGBERE AND ENDING WITH ROBERT K. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 5, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DENISE K. ASKEW AND ENDING WITH BRET G. WITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 5, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DOREENE R. AGUAYO AND ENDING WITH GEORGE J. ZECKLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 5, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COLIN CAMPBELL AND ENDING WITH JAY T. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOSEPH M. ACOSTA, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN BELLISSIMO AND ENDING WITH RANDALL J. WROBLEWSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DARYL S. BORQUIST AND ENDING WITH JOHN FILOSTRAT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID R. STORR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF BILLY C. YOUNG, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARK J. MOURISKI, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PHILLIP H. BURNSIDE AND ENDING WITH ERIC M. THOMAS, WHICH

NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT DRYMAN AND ENDING WITH JERI L. ONEILL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY M. BAKER AND ENDING WITH JOHN E. SEDLOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHAD E. BAKER AND ENDING WITH CHRIS F. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SCOTT W. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH JAMES A. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ROGER F. WILBUR, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TODD A. ABRAHAMSON AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. YOUTT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 5, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY A. BARNEY AND ENDING WITH ROBERT A. WOLF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DOUGLAS S. BELVIN AND ENDING WITH LAURA A. SCHUESSLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JERRY L. ALEXANDER, JR. AND ENDING WITH JASON L. WEBB, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT L. CALHOUN, JR. AND ENDING WITH THADDEUS O. WALKER III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER J. COUCH AND ENDING WITH NATHAN D. SCHNEIDER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY S. IRETON AND ENDING WITH CYNTHIA V. MORGAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES W. BROWN AND ENDING WITH SCOTT E. NORR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY D. BUSS AND ENDING WITH BRAULIO PAIZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL L. BAKER AND ENDING WITH ROBERT F. OGDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NONITO V. BLAS AND ENDING WITH DAVID S. WARNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY T. BUTERA AND ENDING WITH MIRIAM K. SMYTH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRYAN E. BRASWELL AND ENDING WITH TYRONE L. WARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REGINALD T. KING AND ENDING WITH KEVIN L. STECK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 7, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADDIE ALKHAS AND ENDING WITH PATRICK E. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY G. ANT AND ENDING WITH DONNA M. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL J. BROCHU AND ENDING WITH GARY D. WEST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRADLEY A. APPLEMAN AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH ROMERO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY W. BLEDSOE AND ENDING WITH SUSAN A. UNION, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KRISTIN ACQUAVELLA AND ENDING WITH JEROME R. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER G. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH NICOLAS D. I. YAMODIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 20, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOR MARTINSEN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER S. MAYFIELD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT ARIAS AND ENDING WITH BOBBY L. WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM L. ALBARADO AND ENDING WITH ERIC D. WYATT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA J. BURKHOLDER AND ENDING WITH JIMMY J. STORK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADRIAN Z. BEJAR AND ENDING WITH DEBORAH B. YUSKO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLES R. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH RICARDO A. TREVINO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GREGORY R. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DAVID R. WILCOX, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID A. BENHAM AND ENDING WITH JAMES D. STOCKMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFREY A. BROWN AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. WAGNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFERY A. BARRETT AND ENDING WITH CECILY E. WALSH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER D. ADDINGTON AND ENDING WITH KURT A. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEITH ARCHIBALD AND ENDING WITH MCKINNYA J. WILLIAMSROBINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMIAH V. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CHARLES B. ZUHSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHERINE E. BOYCE AND ENDING WITH JON C. WATSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL S. GILES AND ENDING WITH MARTY E. GRIFFIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT H. CARPENTER AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH V. SHELDON III, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES F. CROOM AND ENDING WITH TODD L. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY K. ATMAJIAN AND ENDING WITH RUMEI YUAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAMESH S. DURVASULA AND ENDING WITH BEN M. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANCIS F. DERK AND ENDING WITH KATHERINE T. ORMSBEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS P. BELSKY AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY J. TRUITT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIO C. ALBORNOZ AND ENDING WITH ERIC L. PETERSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 16, 2014.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 25, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today in celebration of LGBT Pride Month because this year my friends in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have more to celebrate than ever.

America was founded on the principle that we are all created equal, but for decades the struggle for LGBT equality seemed like a distant dream. Just 45 years ago, in June of 1969, a series of police actions against the gay community sparked the stonewall riots, one of the most pivotal moments in the fight for LGBT equality.

What began as a moment is now a movement, bringing LGBT Americans together with allies to fight for the rights they deserve but are too often denied. Back then, the movement moved slowly but surely, making inroads neighborhood by neighborhood, city by city. Now I am proud to say the equality movement is moving State by State, picking up steam across the country with no signs of slowing down.

It seems like almost every other month a new State is reaffirming the rights of its gay and lesbian citizens to marry whom they love, regardless of gender. In fact, last November, my home State of Illinois became the 16th State to legalize same-sex marriage. I have to smile when I think that, just 2 months prior, I was officiating symbolic marriages at a festival in Chicago to draw awareness to the cause. What a difference a few months can make.

Currently, gay and lesbian Americans have achieved marriage equality in 18 States and the District of Columbia, and America is stronger for it. Even the Supreme Court has recognized the march toward equality is inevitable, striking down the antiquated Defense of Marriage Act last year.

For too long, DOMA denied same-sex couples the Federal benefits they earned and deserved. Thankfully, the Supreme Court saw this discriminatory law for what it was and tossed it into the ash heap of history. Now LGBT couples are able to file taxes jointly and take advantage of tax breaks that were once limited to heterosexual couples. Now the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces can use the veterans benefits they have earned for their same-sex partners. Now binational couples who once lived every day under a cloud of uncertainty are able to sponsor their partners for green cards and are treated equally under the immigration laws.

What once was one a dream is now our reality. As I said, Madam Speaker, there is more to celebrate this Pride Month than ever before. This weekend, thousands will celebrate how far we have come at the 45th annual Chicago Pride Parade. I will be proud to join the celebration, as I have every year since 1982, and recommit to the work that lies ahead to reach full LGBT equality.

I look forward to one day soon when the Supreme Court extends marriage rights to all citizens once and for all so that no American is denied equality because of the State they live in, a day in which Congress passes the employment nondiscrimination act here in the House so that no American can be fired simply because of whom they love, a day in which LGBT Americans are allowed to visit their loved ones in the hospital and have access to every Federal benefit that is available to all other Americans, a day in which we ensure LGBT youth are protected from harassment and bullying, and a day in which healthy gay and bisexual men

are no longer barred from donating lifesaving blood to patients in need.

It is a day that is coming soon; there is no doubt about that. Until then, we must find the courage to keep marching, fighting, and believing that one day America will be a Nation that fulfills its promise of liberty and justice for all.

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will extend the deadline on its decision whether to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in order to further review public comments on the proposal. The announcement comes in response to a letter initiated by members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation outlining the lack of sufficient data used to support the designation and cautioning that moving forward with the listing would constitute a fundamentally ineffective approach to species restoration while severely harming the economy.

The Service initially cited the effects of the white-nose syndrome as the lone basis for its proposed endangered listing. Although the disease is impacting the long-eared bat in areas of 38 States, the Service has acknowledged that the economic activities that would be most affected by the proposed listing have little impact on the population numbers or the decline of the species.

Madam Speaker, this extension will allow for a fresh look at the sufficiency and the accuracy of the data and, with any hope, will allow the Service to consider a better alternative or more effective approach to combat the white-nose syndrome.

CRAFT AN IMMIGRATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I came to the floor on April 2 to tell my Republican colleagues that they had 3 months to craft an immigration policy before the July Fourth recess. At the time, there was still hope that sensible Republicans would see that their existence as a national party depended on getting the immigration issue resolved.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I came back to this well almost every week to remind my Republican colleagues that time was running out. With the Nation gripped by World Cup fever, let me give you a visual representation of my message for the last 3 months.

I gave Republicans a yellow card to put them on warning if they failed to act on immigration. If they failed to act, they would be out of the game. Having met with the President in March, I knew he was prepared to give Republicans time to craft an immigration reform bill, but if they failed to take action, I knew the President intended to use his pen and pad to save families at risk of being deported.

Let's review where we stand 3 months after I gave you the first warning.

A year ago this Friday marks the 1-year anniversary of passage of the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill that passed with 68 votes in the Senate. We had our own group of 8 here in the House crafting a tough but fair immigration compromise, but politics slowed us down and the effort collapsed. Some leaders in the Republican Party, knowing that immigration reform is the only way to achieve border security and workplace verification like E-Verify, legal immigration to feed our economy, and compassion and justice for how we treat our immigrant neighbors and friends, some in the Republican Party kept trying, and I thank them.

On my side of the aisle, we kept an open mind. When the Speaker of the House said no to the Senate bill, I said, okay, let's find a way to craft a House bill. When Republicans said no to a conference, I said we will find a way to make it work if that is what needs to be done.

Piecemeal bills they said, not a comprehensive bill. I said we will work with you. No direct path to citizenship for most immigrants, well, we didn't like it, but we kept talking. No one tried harder than I did to keep the two parties talking about how to move forward on immigration.

There are Members of the House Republican Conference who need immigration reform politically, others who want it because it restores law and order, and others for reasons deeply grounded in their conservative philosophy. Still others in the Republican Conference are fighting for reform out of a sense of compassion and doing the right thing, as my friend Mr. DIAZ-BALART from Florida has.

But months passed and Republicans turned their backs on their own members, turned their backs on the American people, turned their backs on the business community, on Latino and Asian voters, and on those trying to save the Republican Party from itself.

You know, Madam Speaker, I kept hoping the better angels in the Republican Party would tamp down the irra-

tional and angry angels blocking reform the American people want and deserve.

And then the last straw. As violence and poverty and gangs drive families out of Central America, I see Republican Members of Congress and their allies in talk radio and TV taking advantage of a humanitarian crisis to score cheap political points. In a few hours, the Judiciary Committee, which has done nothing to help move the Republican Party and the Congress forward on immigration, will hold a hearing on what it calls "Administration-Made Disaster at U.S.-Mexico Border."

I gave you the warning 3 months ago and now I have no other choice. You are done. You are done. Leave the field. Too many flagrant offenses and unfair attacks and too little action. You are out. Hit the showers. It is the red card.

First of all, your chance to play a role in how immigration and deportation policies are carried out this year is over. Having been given ample time and space to craft legislation, you failed. The President now has no other choice but to act within existing law to ensure that our deportation policies are humane, that due process rights are protected, that detention conditions are as they should be, and, most importantly, that the people who we are deporting are detriments to our communities, not assets to our families, economy, and society.

I think we all know that you are out when it comes to the White House. By taking no action, even after repeated warnings, you have decided it is up to the Democrats to pick the Supreme Court Justices, conduct foreign policy, and carry out all the functions of the executive branch for a generation, for the next 30 years. The Republican Presidential nominee, whoever he or she may be, will enter the race with an electoral college deficit they cannot make up.

Republicans in the House simply have no answer when it comes to immigration reform, and Republicans have failed America and failed themselves. Madam Speaker, it is now time for the President to act.

A CALL TO ACTION AGAINST BULLYING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Madam Speaker, I rise, unfortunately, today to call attention to a growing epidemic that is plaguing families across our country, and particularly in my district in Staten Island and Brooklyn.

This week the New York Post and the Staten Island Advance mentioned a story of an 11-year-old student, Cyon Williams. Cyon's struggle is with unaddressed bullying, which drove him to contemplate violence and suicide.

Think about that, an 11-year-old boy contemplating violence and suicide.

Just a few weeks ago, I met with this bright and very impressive young man along with his mother at their home. I have to tell you it was an absolutely heartbreaking story to see this very mild-mannered, very nice, polite, respectful young man tell me a heartbreaking story of how he is terrified to go to school every day, but yet he is yearning to read and to learn.

□ 1015

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, Cyon is far from alone. There is an example of a tragic suicide of a 15-year-old Tottenville student back in 2012, and that suicide proves all too well that this epidemic is continuing.

In her memory and the memory of countless innocent children victimized by bullying, it is time that we all say enough is enough. We must demand accountability from those charged with addressing bullying in our schools, especially in New York City, where one in five public school students are victimized by abusive peers.

I am calling on all of my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1199, the Safe Schools Improvement Act. This would require all public schools to establish policies to combat bullying.

We owe it to all of our young adults to demand safe learning environments, where they can grow and develop in a peaceful environment.

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, how do we all get here? How do we get to be one of 435 people in the United States Congress, a great honor that it is to serve in this Congress?

Madam Speaker, we all get here because people vote for us, the American public votes. It is the essence of a democracy. That is what makes this country great. That is why we have sent soldiers to Iraq and other places, to try to give other people democracy and have people vote.

Forty-nine years ago, this Congress passed the Voting Rights Act. JOHN LEWIS, a Member of this Congress now, marched in Selma, Alabama, and was beaten by troopers to get the right to vote.

Even before that, students went to Mississippi and throughout the South—which was called the Mississippi Freedom Summer—to register people to vote and had to fight to give African Americans the opportunity to vote.

Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman were killed in Mississippi. They were Mississippi Freedom Summer fighters. I met with Andy Goodman's—who was murdered down there—brother yesterday because a year ago, almost to the

day, if not to the day, the Supreme Court, in *Shelby v. Holder*, ruled part of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. Our Chief Justice said it is no longer needed.

Well, he was wrong. It is needed. Everyone should be entitled to vote. There are issues about States, right now, denying people the right to vote—voter ID, Madam Speaker, long lines, ending early voting, different problems being placed before people to stop them from voting, that is anti-American, yet it is occurring in this country right now.

There is a Voting Rights Amendment Act proposed, right now bipartisan, but limited bipartisan. Mr. SENSENBRENNER and a few other Republicans—I can count them on both my hands—are cosponsors, along with Democrats, to pass a law that would require preclearance in States that have shown by actions—indeed, discriminatory practices—that would inhibit the right to vote and stop it before it becomes discrimination, but we have got just a paucity of Republican support.

I haven't been a sponsor of that act because the decision was we wanted to be bipartisan, and for a Democrat to be a sponsor, they had to bring a Republican along.

I went over here, Madam Speaker, and I talked to at least 15 different Republicans and asked them to be a cosponsor because I thought they should have been a cosponsor because I wanted to be a cosponsor, and I had to bring somebody with me.

It would have been easier to go to the South Pacific and find that airplane in the ocean than to find another cosponsor over here, so today, it is being opened up for Democrats to show that they want to be for voting rights. I will be added as a cosponsor today, and many, many, many other Democrats will be too. Madam Speaker, every Republican should join as well.

This is American as apple pie, to have a Voting Rights Act that gives the courts—the Justice Department—the right to go and have preclearance and stop discrimination before it occurs.

The Voting Rights Act amendment would create a new coverage formula to identify those States and localities with a recent history of discriminatory voting laws and practices that are still at high risk for continuing voting discrimination.

It would enhance the authority of courts to order a preclearance remedy, require greater transparency regarding voting changes, and clarifies the Attorney General's authority to send Federal observers to monitor elections in jurisdictions subject to preclearance requirements.

Those changes that the Voting Rights Amendment Act would make to current law would help prevent voting practices that are likely to be discrimi-

natory before they have a chance to cause harm.

The House Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, and particularly the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, of which I am the ranking member, should have hearings immediately and pass this act now.

Forty-nine years ago, this Chamber historically passed voting rights, and now, we can't pass an amendment. In 2006, the House voted to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act by a vote of 390–33, which meant, on both sides of the aisle, great majorities were for it, but now that the Supreme Court has struck it down and said we need to modernize it by finding States in localities that are currently exercising discriminatory practices, we can't come up with a formula because, politically, it would harm, theoretically, one side more than the other.

Just as Mr. GUTIÉRREZ spoke earlier about immigration and how that is going to affect the Republican Party in the future elections, voting rights will affect them too, and it won't affect them positively because, if the party becomes a party that is against people of color and giving them the American right to vote, as well as opportunities for sound and logical immigration practices, which this country needs for labor, it will be a minority party forever.

I am not here to lecture the Republicans about what they can do to help themselves politically. I am saying what they can do to make America more America. Pass the voting rights amendment.

LINSLY SCHOOL 200TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Linsly School in Wheeling.

Established in 1814, Linsly is a preparatory school committed to academic excellence and character development. The Linsly School was the first of its kind west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The school's founder, Noah Linsly, was born in Connecticut in 1772. With a law degree from Yale, he began his career at his alma mater. However, recognizing opportunity in this frontier town of Wheeling, Noah Linsly moved there in 1799 and, valuing the need for education, established a school for children.

At the time of Linsly's founding, Napoleon Bonaparte was still causing havoc in Europe. James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, was President; and the British troops had captured and burned Washington, D.C.

200 years ago, there were no phones, no cars, no buses, no trains, just a lawyer with a vision who moved to a small town on the frontier and donated all his belongings to help children get an education.

Reno DiOrio, Linsly's current president for external affairs, said it best when he said:

When one considers everything that has happened to our country and to our local community in the time period of 200 years—the Civil War, two world wars, the Great Depression, major floods in the valley, the civil rights movement—we are proud that Linsly has been able to adapt with the times, to persevere and overcome challenges, and to remain committed to its founding principles.

Linsly's motto—"Forward and no retreat"—has been reflected in their emphasis that the greatest accomplishment is not in ever failing, but in rising again after you fall. With this motto, Linsly has continued to believe that children should be challenged and pressed without the possibility that they will quit.

From the fourth President to the 44th President of the United States, Linsly not only has survived, but has thrived. Among its graduates are Federal judges, business leaders, professional athletes, authors, Congressmen, and college presidents, among others.

This little school in Wheeling—this little school in Wheeling, not Boston or Philadelphia—is the 25th oldest boarding school in the United States of America, and its reputation is spread internationally. Now in its 200th year, Linsly is welcoming students from 15 States and 12 foreign nations.

As one of Linsly's greatest benefactors once stated:

Linsly will, in years to come, influence the lives of hundreds of young people who will go forward to serve their fellow men.

After 200 years, Linsly has already influenced the lives of hundreds of young people, and now, it is ready for another 200.

Madam Speaker, I ask that we honor this momentous and heartfelt anniversary for a program at Linsly. Happy 200th birthday, Linsly School.

IRAQ CANNOT BE LOST OR WON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, over 60 years ago, the United States President sent advisers to a nation in Asia. He did so because a regime that was perceived as friendly to U.S. interests, but which was, in fact, deeply corrupt and rotten, was threatened.

He promised that those advisers would not engage in combat, that they were there to protect American military equipment. Years later, with 60,000 dead Americans and billions and billions of dollars expended, the helicopters lifted off from Saigon, and the Vietnamese regime fell.

Today, another U.S. President is sending advisers to a nation in Asia and contemplating air strikes in a three-way civil war in Iraq. This President is doing it purportedly to preserve a nation which was the creation, as Secretary Albright says, of British and French diplomats lying to each other almost a hundred years ago.

It is a Nation which, while we have paid gravely in blood and treasure to preserve, may not have the support of its own people.

As usual, politics are intruding. The architects of the Iraq war under George W. Bush see the possibility of redemption for their mistakes, so unbelievably, they are accusing this President of losing Iraq.

Let's be very clear: Iraq cannot be lost or won. A brutal dictator or the United States military can sit on top of conflicts between Sunni and Shiite and Saxon tribes that have roiled that society for centuries, but remove that dictator or remove the U.S. military, and those conflicts will reemerge.

At the end of the day, it is Iraqis and Iraqis alone who have to decide whether their Nation will be preserved, whether there will be multiple countries reflecting multiple fates, or whether there will be one pluralistic nation. Whether they will live in the 21st century, the 7th century, a caliphate, what kind of nation they will have is up for them to determine.

There is an argument, of course, that ISIS—the terrorists who have made such astounding gains in regions of Iraq—are bad and brutal people. This is true. I sit on the Intelligence Committee and see, every day, the outrages that they perpetrate.

They have made two mistakes: one, their brutality will ultimately be their undoing with their own people; and, second, they are now occupying territory—this means that they have addresses.

Just as there are terrorists in Nigeria, in Somalia, in Libya, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Iraq, in Iran, in Egypt, and Morocco—the list goes on—there are terrorists in the Sunni areas of Iraq, but the answer cannot be that the United States military will be there to prevent them from doing what they would wish to do.

Our interests—let's be clear about what our interests are—it must first and foremost be up to the citizens of those nations that I just listed to determine what sort of society they will live in. We cannot do it for them, and when we try, it does not end well.

We must say to these nations that: if you work to craft an inclusive society respecting your minorities, respecting the rights of the individual and of women in particular, if you abide by international norms, we will be at your side. We did this 240 years ago, and we know a little something about how one might do it, and if not, we will not be at your side.

Number two, our interest is to say to them that: if, in the birthing pains of your new societies, you nurture or support or in any way assist those terrorists that would target us or that would target our ally Israel or would target other civilized nations, we will find them, we will fix them, and we will take them off the battlefield, as we are doing around the world today.

□ 1030

Those are our national interests. Those goals are worth our time, our treasure, and our talent. Coaching a team in a three-way civil war is not.

Colleagues, let us not expend one more dollar or one more life on military activity that is not in the clear service of our essential national interests.

VIOLENCE AGAINST MUSLIMS IN SRI LANKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing violence against the minority Muslim population in Sri Lanka.

Last week, Buddhist mobs rampaged their way through three towns, attacking Muslim homes and businesses, burning many to the ground. As one victim said:

The house I own was burned down. My family has nowhere to go.

Another victim describes every night following another attack as being a "nightmare," with her family cowering in fear of the next attack.

The Sri Lankan government has not done enough to deal with the threat of the so-called Buddhist Power Force, the group responsible for this violence. When the Sri Lankan police were called in to stop the violence, reportedly, many just stood on the sidelines doing nothing.

Madam Speaker, the Sri Lankan government must take a stronger stance against this violence and protect its minority Muslim population. While promises have been made to rebuild houses and shops, it is unacceptable that this minority continues to live in fear.

REMEMBERING SUE KINT

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, today, we pay our respects to Sue Kint, a longtime friend of many in the community of Buena Park, California, who recently passed away after battling what began as lung cancer.

Sue Kint's remarkable story has humble beginnings. Born to Korean parents in Japan, Sue later moved to South Korea as a young girl, where she attended Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. She later moved to the United States to complete her bachelor's degree at California State Uni-

versity of Los Angeles, majoring in finance and law.

Ms. Kint was the founder and CEO of Kint & Associates, a successful international consulting and trading company. Through her exceptional work and dedication, she was recognized as one of 2,000 notable American women.

Among her other notable accomplishments, Sue served on the Chapman University board of governors and was recently awarded an honorary doctor of the university degree. She also served on the Orange County chapter of the National Unification Advisory Council as an appointee of former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and current President Park Geun-hye. She was a valuable asset on my Asia Pacific Community Advisory Council, and was known as an exemplary woman who cared deeply about excellence in education and what could be done in education and opportunities for the next generation.

In her fight with cancer, she maintained a spirit of courage, dignity, and grace. Her strong will and desire to live a fulfilling life has encouraged others to do the same. She will be truly missed by her brother, Kevin, all of her friends, and all the lives she has touched. She will be remembered as her spirit lives on.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, one of the greatest legislative achievements in the history of our country.

There were so many men and women who were a part of the civil rights movement, but I would like to take this time to highlight one of them who has been especially important in my life, and that is my father, who was a civil rights lawyer and who wrote much of the enforcement language behind the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was one of the greatest achievements in human rights in our Nation's history.

Like me, my father was trained as a scientist. During World War II, he designed fire-control computers for the Navy. Most of the way through the war, he started getting reports about how many people had been killed this week by his team's equipment. Despite his understanding of the justice of that war, he became deeply unhappy with the idea of his technical skills being used to hurt other human beings.

So when he came back from the war, he thought about it for a while and decided that he wanted to spend part of his life in service to his fellow man. This was the late 1940s and 1950s and the birth of the civil rights movement.

My father grew up in the South, where he saw firsthand the struggles

for equality and basic human rights. He saw civil rights as the great cause of his generation. So he left behind his career in science and became a civil rights lawyer.

My father, among other things, wrote the Federal regulations for implementing school desegregation under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

There were 10 years between the famous Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which established the right of children to attend integrated schools, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. During those 10 years, only the Federal courts attempted to desegregate the public school systems. My father spent much of those 10 years traveling around the South, interviewing and offering advice to school districts that were struggling with the implications of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

My father served as sort of an informal advance man for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. He would send back memos saying, for example, that in one southern county there was one guy who runs the place, that understands the tide of history, and if you could get Burke Marshall or Robert Kennedy or whoever was running the Justice Department to give him a call, then everything would be okay; but in another county, it was a lost cause, and you should just plan on bringing in troops and filing suit.

It was while actually reading my father's papers after he passed away that I first started thinking about stepping away from my career in science and spending part of my life in service to my fellow man.

It was as a result of this work that when the Civil Rights Act was passed, my father, who had become somewhat of an expert on the nuts and bolts of desegregating schools, was called upon to write what were referred to as the Federal guidelines for implementing title VI of the Civil Rights Act. These were the detailed rules that called out what Southern school systems had to do each year to desegregate their schools in order to qualify for Federal funds.

With the carrot of Federal education funding and the stick provided by the Federal guidelines for title VI of the Civil Rights Act, more school desegregation was achieved in the year following the Civil Rights Act than had been achieved in the previous 10 years following *Brown v. Board of Education*.

My father had the chance to work with some of the leaders of the civil rights movement. He described having dinner at the kitchen table of Myrlie and Medgar Evers and holding their infant child in his hands only weeks before Medgar was shot down in his driveway.

My father was not an activist or a protester, but he saw a great injustice and he quietly devoted himself to changing it.

Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said:

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.

But the arc does not bend on its own.

On July 2, 1964, when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law, the arc was bent towards justice, but only because of the tireless efforts of so many who fought so long to bend it in the right direction. I am proud to say that my father was among them.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all of those who played a part in advancing civil rights and making our country and our universe more just.

RECOGNIZING DR. JO ANNE MCFARLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, today, I am honored to rise to recognize a pillar of the higher education community in Wyoming. Dr. Jo Anne McFarland is retiring as the president of Central Wyoming College after 40 years of service, and 25 years after she was named Wyoming's first woman college president.

Active nationally with the American Association of Community Colleges and with the Higher Learning Commission, Dr. McFarland has made great contributions to the development of community colleges nationwide.

Dr. McFarland started as an adjunct faculty member in 1970, shortly after the college was founded in Riverton. Under her leadership, Central Wyoming College has expanded its academic offerings and instituted distance learning programs. It has opened facilities in Jackson, Lander, Thermopolis, and on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

Notably, Dr. McFarland has created an atmosphere of courtesy, manners, and respect at Central Wyoming College unlike any I have seen on any college campus. The leader sets the tone for such a positive, respectful atmosphere. Jo Anne McFarland is in every way imaginable leadership personified.

Madam Speaker, the mascot of Central Wyoming College is the cattle rustler. As a cattle rancher, I have a bit of a dislike for rustlers, but this is one rustler I will be very sorry to see hang up her spurs. She earned those spurs, Madam Speaker.

23 IN 1—SAN ELIZARIO, TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, today, as we continue our journey through the 23rd District of Texas, I would like to talk about the newest city in the 23rd District and one of the newest cities in Texas, which is the

city of San Elizario, with a population of about 12,000 people.

Located south of El Paso, it is a small community that incorporated on November 5, 2013, after its residents voted to make it a city. Recently, on May 10, the people of the city of San Elizario elected their first mayor, Maya Sanchez, and the voters of San Elizario also elected council members Leticia Hurtado-Miranda, David Cantu, Miguel Najera, Jr., Rebecca Martinez-Juarez, and George Almanzar.

While it is a new city, the San Elizario community has been around a very long time.

In 1598, Don Juan de Onate, who was a Spanish conquistador and nobleman who was born in Zacatecas, led a group of more than 530 colonists and about 7,000 head of livestock from southern Chihuahua to settle the province of New Mexico.

The group traveled a northeasterly route for weeks and crossed the desert until reaching the banks of the Rio Grande in present day—you guessed it—San Elizario.

On April 30, 1598, the travelers, who were very thirsty, drank the cool water of the river and then celebrated with a thanksgiving mass and enjoyed a feast. They ate fish, fowl, and deer. That is actually considered the very first Thanksgiving ever celebrated in the present-day United States of America.

Mr. Onate performed a ceremony known as "La Toma," or "the take," declaring the land a new province of Spain, to be ruled by King Phillip II.

San Elizario was established around 1760 as a civilian settlement of Hacienda de los Tiburcios. In 1789, the Spaniards established a fort there called Presidio de San Elizario. The town grew around the fort and took the name of San Elizario.

The word San Elizario actually comes from the Spanish word "San Eliceario," known as the Roman Catholic patron saint of soldiers.

The chapel there at the mission of San Elizario, or La Capilla, is one of three missions in El Paso—Socorro and Ysleta being the other two—and is part of El Paso's historic Mission Trail.

During the 20th century, it served as the center of missionary work throughout the Mission Valley. The chapel was moved to its present site in 1789 to protect travelers and settlers along the Camino Real, or Royal Highway, which ran from Mexico through Ciudad Juarez, which was then called Paso del Norte, and on to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Upon Mexico's independence, the presidio fell into ruins. Rebuilding efforts didn't begin until 1853, with a small church. The present structure was completed in 1882, and little has changed since then.

I invite everyone to visit the city of San Elizario and the historic Mission Valley of El Paso to learn more about

the cultures and traditions of the 23rd District of Texas.

I congratulate the new city.

□ 1045

SUPPORT THE PROTECT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LUMMIS). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today, I am rising in support of H.R. 4836, the Providing Rigorous Oversight to Terminate Extreme Criminal Transfers, or PROTECT, Act.

The PROTECT Act is a piece of legislation I have introduced with Congressman WOLF of Virginia. It will ensure that Guantanamo Bay detainees do not ever end up on American soil. The PROTECT Act will prevent the transfer to the United States of Gitmo detainees or any other unprivileged enemy belligerents captured overseas. Current transfer prohibitions are tied to annual funding bills. The PROTECT Act is a long-term solution to the detainee issue and punishes unlawful transfers by up to 5 years in prison. It is supported by the 9/11 Families for a Safe and Strong America.

We do need the PROTECT Act. Why do we need it? Because of lawlessness. This administration has demonstrated a pattern of lawless behavior that is creating a constitutional crisis in our Nation. The most recent example of this was the President's failure to notify Congress about the release of the Taliban Five.

Make no mistake. The administration fully intends to bring Gitmo detainees to American soil, read them their Miranda rights, and give them access to our civilian courts. Gitmo detainees do not belong here. Their presence would endanger our local communities. We need a solution that will deter this administration from looking for ways around the law. It is important to consider the administration's actions regarding this detainee issue.

First, President Obama signed Executive Order No. 13492 on January 22, 2009, to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Second, in November 2009, the administration announced 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed would be tried in New York. It later abandoned the idea.

Third, on December 15, 2009, a letter signed by Hillary Clinton and several other administration officials was sent to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, stating the administration's intent to bring Gitmo detainees to the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois.

These actions triggered an avalanche of opposition and forced the President to temporarily abandon his plan to bring these Gitmo detainees to the U.S.

However, in this year's State of the Union address, the President renewed his pledge to close Gitmo by stating:

And, with the Afghan war ending, this needs to be the year Congress lifts the remaining restrictions on detainee transfers and we close the prison at Guantanamo Bay.

Cliff Sloan, an administration special envoy for the closure of Guantanamo Bay, recently told ABC that the administration would have to work with Congress on changing the law so that detainees could be brought here.

He stated:

For detention and trial and prosecution, we think people should be allowed to be brought to the United States. Our supermax facilities are very secure, and we have hundreds of people convicted of terrorist offenses in our supermax prisons.

The President may not like having three branches of government, and he may not like checks and balances, but this system of checks and balances has served our Nation well. His lawless actions are creating a constitutional crisis, and it must stop. Gitmo detainees are coming to American soil unless we pass the PROTECT Act. Its criminal penalties will ensure that the President respects the law.

I encourage my colleagues to join me on the PROTECT Act, which includes a transfer prohibition, provides a long-term solution, enacts criminal penalties, and provides an exception for American citizens.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, Congregation Beth Chaverim, Virginia Beach, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Our one God of life's blessings who brings us together to be one family, gloriously diverse and gratefully united through the divine commandments of loving kindness.

In this House of Representatives' august Chamber of the most flourishing democracy, we give thanks to the awesome author of an endangered universe for the essential twin gifts of freedom and responsibility. May You in Your infinite goodness ever guide our elected and appreciated lawmakers who are entrusted with the American people's agenda and the safeguarding of our precious liberties.

Mindful of living in our uncertain and unsettling world, let us reaffirm

that the Creator's divinity and human dignity are inseparable, that he who upholds but one human life upholds a unique, irreplaceable universe of purpose and meaning.

May blemishes turn into blessings, hatred into love, violence into vision, and pain into promise in a global village at Shalom's peace at last.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SONIA GARRO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of Sonia Garro, a member of the pro-democracy group, Ladies in White, las Damas de Blanco, who, after being in prison for more than 2 years in one of Castro's gulags, will face a kangaroo trial on Monday. She faces the likelihood of 10 to 12 years in jail because she is brave enough to speak out, demanding respect for human rights and democratic change.

Cases like those of Sonia—and there are so many others—show us the true nature and brutality of the Castro regime. There have been efforts by Castro apologists aimed at changing our policy toward Cuba, but it is the Castro regime that must change its oppressive policies against the people of Cuba.

While Castro's thugs continue to flagrantly violate the fundamental liberties and the dignity of the Cuban people, the U.S. will stay on the side of the Cuban people who call for freedom like Sonia Garro.

TIM RUSSERT EXHIBIT

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, since 2008, the "Inside Tim Russert's Office" exhibit has been on display at the Newseum here in Washington, D.C. This week the exhibit is in the process of relocating to the Buffalo History Museum in western New York.

This unique mix of personal and professional pieces of Tim's life will represent a homecoming, as he was born, raised, and began his career in Buffalo, New York. Even after moving to Washington, D.C., he never forgot his hometown and his dedication to his beloved Buffalo Bills. Whether working in politics or in journalism, Tim Russert made western New York proud as he exemplified the values that he learned right in our own community: love of family, faith, community, and country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor to work with the Russert family, the Buffalo History Museum, and the Newseum in making this homecoming a reality. We eagerly await the debut of this expanded exhibit in the fall, including additional pieces that reflect Tim's south Buffalo roots and the story of Buffalo, the city he never forgot.

GET OUR ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today the first quarter GDP numbers were revised downward, again, and now show the economy contracted by 2.9 percent in the opening months of 2014. The administration's spin machine cited cold weather as the root cause of this, but as critics noted, Canada's GDP grew by 1.8 percent in the first quarter. Was it warmer in Canada?

It is clear that this President is out of ideas about how to get our economy back on track. It now seems we have exhausted even his supply of excuses as well.

Being out of excuses is a positive development. Since this administration seems prone to believing their own spin, perhaps they will now, at long last, work with House Republicans on legislation that will put Americans back to work.

There are 40 House-passed bills awaiting action in the Senate. These bills will help. Will the President and his party act on them?

TRIA AND THE THREAT TO NEW YORK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist who is at this moment leading insurgent attacks against Iraq and cities in Iraq reportedly once said to U.S. soldiers, "I will see you guys in New York."

When he said it, he didn't mean he wanted to go to a Broadway show like "Jersey Boys" or "Beautiful." New York has been and continues to be a target for terrorists to attack. It is a towering symbol of all that makes America so exceptional. That is why it is so important for Congress to get the changes that were being made to the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act absolutely correct.

The TRIA bill that was recently reported out of the Financial Services Committee, as it now stands, would drive small- and medium-sized insurers out of the market and actually reduce the amount of insurance available. That is just the wrong way to go.

At a time like this, Congress should acknowledge that a very real threat still exists and pass the strongest TRIA bill possible. It is important to the American economy, and it is important for American jobs.

IRS INVESTIGATION

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Department of Justice to appoint a special prosecutor to examine political targeting at the IRS. Abuse of the Tax Code for political purposes by the most feared and powerful agency in the Federal Government is simply unacceptable.

Despite promises of full cooperation, we have yet to receive all of the documents we have requested from the agency. The IRS tells us it cannot locate nearly 2 years of emails from Lois Lerner, a central figure in the investigation. We know the IRS has been aware of this concern for months and chose not to notify Congress in a timely manner.

We must work to restore confidence that Americans won't be targeted for their political beliefs. The House of Representatives has already voted on a bipartisan basis to urge the Department of Justice to appoint a special prosecutor, and I hope that the Department of Justice will work to assure the American people that the scales of justice also apply to the IRS.

RHODE ISLAND HOUSING

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rhode Island Housing, a public agency that works to ensure that all people who live or work in Rhode Island can afford a healthy, safe home that meets their needs.

Rhode Island Housing has made a real impact on the lives of thousands of Rhode Islanders helping over 60,000

families buy homes; and its success is due in large part to its dedicated and talented staff, led by executive director, Richard Godfrey.

Last week, Rhode Island Housing was awarded over \$856,000 in Federal funds to continue its important work to end homelessness in Rhode Island.

A good home provides a foundation upon which individuals and families thrive, children learn and grow, and communities prosper; but finding affordable, healthy housing has become a real concern for middle class working Americans. According to the Providence Journal, in 2012 a Rhode Island household earning the State's median income could afford a median-priced house in just 11 of our 39 cities and towns.

For more than 40 years, Rhode Island Housing has been providing valuable assistance to middle class Rhode Islanders to help them become homeowners and overcome the many challenges they face. I am delighted that these funds will support their efforts to end homelessness in Rhode Island, and I am proud to support their outstanding work to strengthen our communities.

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. DESJARLAIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about H. Res. 631, which supports the goals and ideas of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. PTSD is a condition affecting more than 5.2 million Americans.

Our heroic servicemen and -women face daily atrocities and dangers on the battlefield. When they return home, adjusting to everyday life can be a brutal challenge, and living with PTSD can become a waking nightmare. Without treatment, PTSD can lead to alcohol and drug abuse, flashbacks, depression, and suicide. Sadly, because of the stigma surrounding mental health in our country, less than 40 percent of returning military personnel seek help.

My first job out of medical school was at a VA hospital. I witnessed firsthand the toll PTSD takes on our soldiers and their loved ones.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 631. Show our brave men and women in uniform that we have their backs like they have ours.

Thank you to Bob Mims of Tennessee's Fourth District for his continued efforts on this critical issue.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the urgent need to fix our Nation's broken immigration system. We cannot continue to wait. The time is now to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the bill H.R. 15 would reduce the deficit by \$900 billion over the next two decades. There are 200 bipartisan cosponsors supporting H.R. 15, and the Senate overwhelmingly passed an immigration reform bill, almost to the day, last year.

We know that comprehensive immigration reform will grow our economy, so what are we waiting for?

Americans across the country want us to do something on this issue, and they want us to act now. I urge a vote on H.R. 15, the comprehensive immigration reform bill introduced by my Hispanic Caucus colleague Congressman JOE GARCIA from Florida. Now is the time.

IRS HARD DRIVE CRASH

(Mr. DESANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are not buying what the IRS is selling re these lost emails.

They want us to believe that within 10 days of DAVE CAMP requesting emails from the IRS, Lois Lerner's hard drive just happened to crash; her emails are gone and unrecoverable.

Now, what are the odds that the IRS is telling the truth? My friend, colleague, and MIT grad THOMAS MASSIE provided me the following calculations:

Using the IRS's own figures, the chance that a hard drive would crash on any given day is 0.01 percent. So, over a 10-day period, the odds are basically 1 in 1,000 that your hard drive would crash. But here's the thing: only 10 percent of hard drive crashes result in having data and emails that are completely unrecoverable. So if you multiply those probabilities out, the odds that the IRS is telling the truth is one one-hundredth of 1 percent.

Now, if you, as a taxpayer, provided the IRS with an explanation that was that improbable, how long do you think it would take them to laugh in your face and hold you accountable? So the question we have, Mr. Speaker, is: Why should we accept such an improbable explanation from the IRS?

□ 1215

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in April, nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls were kidnapped by the terrorist group Boko Haram. As late as yester-

day, there are reports of more abductions.

I listened in horror as the Nigerian Government announced it has completed its inquiry in the April abduction and has little progress to report. This means these girls remain in the hands of Boko Haram. Boko Haram has emerged as a well-armed insurrection, with a growing thirst for blood, and the government has no plan to take action. This is unconscionable.

The government's failure to rescue the girls and protect them has sparked international outrage and launched the Bring Back Our Girls movement dedicated to the support and rescue of the girls.

We must keep pressure on the Nigerian Government until the girls are safely returned to their families.

Please join our Tweet war every day, 9 a.m. to noon, #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson. Tweet, tweet, tweet "Bring Back Our Girls."

CALLING FOR A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO BE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE LOIS LERNER EMAILS

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, after months of requesting all of Lois Lerner's emails, the agency now tells Congress that it has lost 2 years' worth of her emails. The IRS knew about these problems for months. They even told the White House about the lost emails, but withheld this information from Congress.

This stonewalling by the IRS must end. The complete lack of faith of my constituents in the IRS compels me to demand a special prosecutor to independently investigate the lost emails of Lois Lerner.

There needs to be an independent investigation that leaves no stone unturned. This should also include a forensic audit of their IT systems. Only then will the American people know the truth. This will send the message to the IRS that the American people will not tolerate further abuses.

EXTEND FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am calling, again, on the House to introduce a dose of democracy into this body.

For months, since December 28, millions of Americans have lost their extended unemployment benefits. We were elected to represent the will of the people, to chart a course for this country, and to deal with the exigent needs of those Americans who are struggling.

A majority of this House is ready to do that. A majority of this House would vote to extend Federal unemployment benefits to prevent people who have worked hard for their entire lives from losing everything that they have worked for because this body fails to act.

A majority is for it—a majority of the people and a majority of this House. The Senate will pass unemployment extension. They did once already. The President will sign it.

It is incumbent upon us to do the will of the people. If we do not do this, we bear responsibility for the fact that, for generations, poverty could be inflicted upon people who have worked hard their entire lives and stand a chance of losing everything simply because we won't act.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW ARSHT AND ANDREW MARKOFF

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on April 1 of this year, Georgetown University seniors, Andrew Arsht—who happens to be a Utahan in my district—and Andrew Markoff won the 68th National Debate Tournament for the second time in 3 years.

As sophomores and seniors, they were the national citizenship team. As juniors, they were in the final four, which means they are the only team in the history to accomplish these standards each year.

There have been 286 colleges who have competed at this tournament since 1947. Only eight of those colleges have actually won more championships than these two guys by themselves.

They are the only team to have won two national championships and the Copeland Award for the best yearlong performance. Arsht was also named as the top individual speaker at the tournament.

I congratulate these two debaters, as well as congratulations to Jonathan Paul, who is the director of debate at Georgetown University.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOU GEHRIG'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this Fourth of July will mark the 75th anniversary of Lou Gehrig's historic farewell address at Yankee Stadium, where he brought national attention to the disease that bears his name today. Sadly, so many decades later, we are still struggling to understand the cause of ALS, and there is still no known cure.

On June 13, I was proud to join the Rhode Island ALS chapter to reaffirm

our commitment to the families affected by this disease. Hearing their stories emboldened me to fight harder than ever for additional research funding that will lead to more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure.

Lou Gehrig famously said in his farewell speech:

I might have been given a bad break, but I've got an awful lot to live for.

So, too, do the millions of people in the fight against ALS—I recognize them and the caregivers that take care of them. They are unsung heroes as well. Together, I know this is a fight that we can win.

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Posttraumatic Stress Awareness Day on Friday, June 27.

Approximately one in five veterans that served in Iraq and Afghanistan has been diagnosed with PTS, with many also affected by other mental illnesses and physical disabilities. All our veterans deserve treatment, Mr. Speaker.

There is almost one veteran suicide an hour. This is inexcusable. It is vital that we recognize the invisible wounds that are just as serious as the physical ones.

The one-size-fits-all doesn't always work. That is why I am introducing the creating options for veterans expedited recovery act tomorrow that will pave the way towards alternative treatments for those suffering from PTS.

All options should be on the table to treat our true American heroes, Mr. Speaker.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and let's get our veterans covered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House to action.

On Friday, we will mark 1 year since the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform with broad bipartisan support. We also mark 1 year of inaction in this House, where we have not even had one vote on immigration reform.

This is despite the fact that we have had a House bill with 200 bipartisan cosponsors. This is despite the fact that we have a House bill that 80 percent of Americans support, and this is despite the fact that hundreds of businesses, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a variety of religious orga-

nizations, are all calling for the same thing: comprehensive immigration reform.

It is not just a moral thing to do, it is the right thing to do for our economy, for public safety, and to reduce our deficit.

The time is now.

I am asking House leadership today: bring this bipartisan effort to the floor for a vote.

HONORING ANNETTE LAMBERT

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vice Chairwoman Annette Lambert of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, who recently passed away.

Serving her people was Ms. Lambert's calling in life. Prior to her election to the tribal executive board, she was a businesswoman who helped provide services and jobs on the reservation.

She inspired the young men and women to pursue higher education as a volunteer member of the tribe's higher education board of directors and one of the founders of Fort Peck Community College, a tribal college in Poplar, Montana.

Ms. Lambert will be greatly missed by many. Her commitment to service and leadership should not only serve as an inspiration for her fellow tribal members, but for all Montanans.

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to celebrate two very different anniversaries. Fifty years ago, we enjoyed the Freedom Summer and the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that paved the way for voting rights in this country.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, 49 years later—and 1 year ago today—the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, saying that it was outdated and unjustified.

Since this decision, we have seen that the Voting Rights Act is needed more than ever now before. From 2000 to 2013, there were a recorded 148 violations in 29 States, meaning 29 States have actively tried to pass laws, such as requiring a photo ID or cutting out early voting, which limits access to the ballot.

It is time we pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor, and keep fighting until voting rights are reinstated in this country.

PROTECT STUDENTS FROM FAILING INSTITUTIONS ACT

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, we have seen too many for-profit colleges deceive their students and mismanage their finances, all while reaping millions of dollars in Federal funding.

It is critical that we hold institutions accountable for delivering quality education, but we must also protect the students who fall victim to these schools and ensure that they don't have to live with the mistakes of the college, should they close.

That is why I have introduced the Protecting Students from Failing Institutions Act, which ensures every student who was enrolled at a school that closed the campus has the assurance that their Federal loans will be forgiven and their Pell grants restored.

Career Colleges of America, a for-profit college with a campus in my district in South Gate, abruptly closed earlier this year, abandoning hundreds of students, with tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt and no degree to show for it. That is inexcusable, and our students deserve better.

There have been instances of other for-profit schools that have closed across this country.

I am going to continue—and I hope you do too—to work to protect hard-working students in my district across the country from these shameful predatory practices.

ASK VETERANS ACT

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, from the day that I was sworn into office, I have heard from the veterans that I have the honor of representing that while—when they can get into the VA to seek care—the care is great and the providers are wonderful, it is too hard to get an appointment, and that appointment, once given, is often canceled.

The VA, on the other hand, was telling me something far different, that there were no problems with wait times.

To resolve the differences, we surveyed the veterans themselves. What they told us was that more than 36 percent of the veterans that I represent cannot get in to receive a mental health care appointment. This is at a time when we have 22 veteran suicides every day in this country.

That is why I join my colleague from across the State and across the aisle, Mr. FLORES, to introduce the ask veterans act, so that we do this in every community and VHA district in this country, so that veterans help us lead

the VA out of the crisis that we are currently in.

We cannot trust the VA to tell us how the VA is doing, but we can certainly trust veterans to do just that.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM DUNCAN OF THE SAN ANTONIO SPURS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my hometown stars, Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs.

Tim is a five-time champion, a 14-time all star, a two-time MVP, and a three-time finals MVP. He grew up on my home island of St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and he graduated from St. Dunstan's Episcopal School with my eldest daughter. That is where a tall, thin, and shy Timmy began playing basketball, and let me just say: they were not the winningest team.

From his time at Wake Forest, where I attended his last game, we, in the Virgin Islands, have followed his career with pride. Beyond the games, we appreciate the way he stayed in touch with his classmates and friends these 22 years, the way he has given back to us, to North Carolina, and to San Antonio through his foundation—the character program in our schools—and his support of youth sports and health awareness and research.

Tim Duncan is a champion in basketball and in the lives of the communities that he continues to give back to.

On behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands: Thank you, Timmy, for making us proud and for being the role model that you have been for our young men and for young men everywhere.

□ 1230

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the American people want and favor comprehensive immigration reform. An overwhelming majority believe in a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented because we are a compassionate country.

But you have not brought it to the floor.

You have said you favor the ENLIST Act, but wouldn't put it as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

What is wrong with serving our country and earning a pathway to citizenship? What is wrong with going to school and being a good member of our society and earning a pathway to citizenship?

These are DREAMers—dreamers of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with reuniting families, keeping the promises to people like the Filipino World War II veterans, who believed in what General MacArthur said to them? There is nothing wrong with that.

Bring the comprehensive immigration reform bill to the floor and let us all vote. Vote for the DREAMers who truly believe in this country.

PRE-K FOR USA

(Mr. CASTRO of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for generations in America, we have seen that education is the surest path to success. That is why today I am introducing the Pre-K for USA Act.

The Pre-K for USA Act allows local education agencies and governments to apply directly to the Federal Government for grants to develop and expand high-quality pre-K programs. Cities and school districts need to have the ability to step up to the plate and pick up the slack where their State governments are failing.

Unfortunately, in my home State of Texas, as is the case in other States, legislatures have curtailed their investment in education. Instead, they have picked up the troubling practice of pretending to balance budgets by slashing early childhood education funds.

I call on my colleagues to support the Pre-K for USA Act and get our country one step closer to ensuring that all American children have the opportunity to get ahead in life, achieve their dreams, and boost our Nation's prosperity.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PASS A FAIR PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Americans want Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform, and the Senate already has. In fact, it has been exactly 1 year this week since the Senate passed bipartisan legislation to offer a pathway to citizenship for millions living in the United States. But 365 days later, there has still been no action in this House.

The Democrats have a plan that will decrease the Nation's deficit by nearly \$1 trillion, secure our borders, unite families, and provide an earned pathway to citizenship. But the GOP has other ideas. Republicans have made it clear that they have no intention of acting on a plan for comprehensive immigration reform.

Last October, we introduced H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Oppor-

tunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, based on bipartisan principles and bipartisan solutions to fix our country's broken immigration system. The bill has strong bipartisan support and has the votes to pass in the House if it comes for a vote. The legislation already has 200 cosponsors, including three Republican cosponsors.

The United States, Mr. Speaker, has rightfully earned its reputation as the land of opportunity. We need to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4899, LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4923, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 641 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 641

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-50. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted.

Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a) At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived.

(b) During consideration of the bill for amendment—

(1) each amendment, other than amendments provided for in paragraph (2), shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in paragraph (2);

(2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate; and

(3) the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

(c) When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from June 27, 2014, through July 7, 2014—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. It shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider concurrent resolutions providing for adjournment during the month of July.

SEC. 6. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, 2014, file privileged reports to accom-

pany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days during which they may revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel An America That Works Act of 2014. It makes 10 amendments in order—four Republican and six Democrat—and the rule provides 1 hour of general debate, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2015, under a modified open rule and provides for other technical and clerical purposes.

Mr. Speaker, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act is a bipartisan measure that provides for the essential funding of several Federal agencies during the next fiscal year, including the Department of Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

This measure would also fund important Federal science research in the fields of energy, high-performance computing systems, and next-generation energy sources. It is appropriate that this measure providing for the Nation's energy needs also be included with this rule.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand before the House today and speak in support of this rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel An America That Works Act of 2014.

American families, Mr. Speaker, are hurting. Every time you pull up to the gas pump, you have to wonder whether there will ever be any relief to the family budget for these ever-increasing gasoline prices.

It means simply—whether you support or like the guy or not—that before President Obama took office in 2009, the average national price for a gallon of unleaded regular gas was under \$2 a

gallon. Today, it has nearly doubled to around \$4 a gallon. And the prices keep rising almost every day.

This administration touts its growth in energy production, not recognizing that that production increase has all come on private and State-owned property. If we are to have sustained growth of our economy, if we are not having peaks and valleys, if we are not having boom and bust, it is important that the resources that we have in great abundance that are on Federal lands also be included so there can be a sustained growth to our economy.

Unfortunately, since President Obama took office, total Federal oil production has dropped 6 percent, total Federal national gas production has dropped an astounding 28 percent, and, at the same time, offshore oil production is down 15 percent and offshore gas production is down 47 percent.

Unfortunately, 87 percent of all the area that is allowed offshore of acreage of potential development is currently off limits to oil and natural gas production.

We have policies that are really harming our progress forward, and they need to be changed. This act that will be put before us, if we pass this rule, does indeed do that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman, my friend from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

Mr. Speaker, I join my good friends on the Energy and Water Committee, Representatives LOWEY and KAPTUR, in applauding the chairman's concerted effort to compose H.R. 4923 in an inclusive manner.

□ 1245

I appreciate the bipartisan nature of the bill and am supportive of many of the provisions contained within it. However, I am not without my concerns. All of these phrases that my friends on the other side of the aisle bandy about—"increase over this," "funding above last year's levels"—sound great, but as always, we need to see what is lurking in the shadows.

For example, H.R. 4923 is completely uninspired when it comes to renewable energy. Its approach, in my view, is a myopic one—one that, if we follow it too far, leaves us trying to play catch-up with our competitors, like the Chinese and many other countries, that have turned their attention to renewable energy. As China continues its now decade-long trend of increasing investment in its renewable energy sector—a footnote here: it invested \$56 billion just last year—we take the truly uninspired step of cutting funding for renewable energy by 6.4 percent.

I am aware of the studies that conclude that our Nation will be able to meet 97 percent of its energy needs through domestic production by 2035, and I consider that to be great. This Nation has spent \$2.3 trillion on importing foreign oil since 2003. This is a serious national security vulnerability, and I think we can all agree that lessening this dependence is a desirable goal.

I also know that, for many in this day of Twitter and Facebook and Instagram, 2035 seems like a long way off. Those of us in this Chamber do not have the luxury of thinking that way. We have a responsibility to look past 2035, and we have a responsibility to leave our children and grandchildren with an energy portfolio that will keep them in good stead for the years after 2035. We abdicate this responsibility when we underfund research and development in the renewable energy sector. We abdicate this responsibility when we skew applied energy programs at the Department of Energy too heavily toward nuclear energy and fossil fuels. An increased investment in renewable energy makes good economic sense; it makes good environmental sense; and it makes good national security sense. The time to make this investment is now.

We need to be careful even where we see funding increases. Though these funding increases may seem impressive and prudent, we need to be reminded that all that glitters is not gold. They merely mask a continuation of the status quo for my friends from across the aisle. They would have you believe they are increasing funding for environmental protection while reducing spending on defense, but alas, in my view, this is an illusion. In reality, this bill represents business as usual for the Republican Party—slashing funding for research in renewable resources while doling out more handouts to dirty energy and environmental polluters. It seems like every other week we are voting to drill off our shores, in our parks, or on Federal lands.

To that end, H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014—we are the greatest naming people in the world here in Congress—is just a greatest hits record, rehashing two measures the House has already voted on, one of which itself was already cobbled together from a number of separate bills. Like all greatest hits albums, it, too, is stuck in the past. Those past attempts rightly died in the Senate, and there is no reason to expect a different result this time around. Yet here we are again, tossing legislation into the void while our country's very real problems fester.

My friends across the aisle have no ideas, evidently, for energy independence and security beyond more drilling. They would rather score political

points than propose real solutions. I am sure they will go home to their districts next week for one of the biggest driving weekends of the year. Yesterday, in the Rules Committee, I commented that the oil industry manipulates us. Every year in the summer, prices go up on gasoline, and I just don't think that is coincidental when gas prices historically tend to be high. Yet they are going to point to these votes as evidence that they tried to lower gasoline prices. While it may make for a good feel-good story, that is all it is. Putting more oil out there won't move prices. Domestic production is already at a 25-year high in this country, up 60 percent since 2008. Imports are at 29-year lows.

Despite my friend's claims, onshore oil production from Federal lands has gone up 30 percent since 2008. I can never pass up an opportunity to say that I will continue to resist offshore drilling off the coast of Florida beyond the accommodations that have already been made by this body. Yet gas prices remain unchanged. The U.S. holds only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves. Even tripling current offshore drilling capabilities by the year 2030 would lower gasoline prices only 5 cents per gallon more than if we would continue at the rate we are going; or if we would increase oil production all the way to 50 percent—which is more than drilling in the Arctic, increasing public lands and offshore drilling, and the pipelines would provide—prices would decrease by only 10 percent at most.

Oil is priced on the global market, which is far more complicated than my friends let on. RECORD demand for fossil fuels in this country and in places like India and China and Singapore and Japan have far more impact on the price of gasoline than anything my friends here hope to do. The liquid natural gas export bill the House passed yesterday shows they understand the nature of the market. They just choose to ignore it whenever it is convenient.

My friends across the aisle have no plans for addressing the demand for the kinds of policies that actually could help reduce energy costs, like increasing our energy efficiency, improving the fuel mileage of our cars, and developing renewable energy resources. I was visited by one of our college presidents, John Kelly, who is new at Florida Atlantic University. He visited with me today, and that university has a new grant dealing with currents, which may very well at some point add to our understanding with reference to renewable energy resources. So it won't be the American people who benefit from more drilling. It will be the bottom lines of the companies that own the wells. Hardworking Americans will be left to bear the risk.

This "drill everywhere, all the time" plan isn't a serious energy strategy; it is a cash grab by the fossil fuel indus-

try. It is not a path to energy independence and security; it is a road to environmental and economic collapse. This isn't a game. The threat is real, Mr. Speaker. We haven't enacted any safety or environmental reforms in response to the BP Deepwater Horizon spill. Let me repeat that. We haven't enacted any safety or environmental reforms in response to the BP Deepwater Horizon spill. A footnote here: BP has not paid for all of the damage that they did in that area, and I defy anybody to show me how it is that they did. I ask anybody who is getting ready to eat seafood that comes out of that bay to look at the damage that was done and at the continuing sediment that continues to rise from that area that was polluted.

What happens to all of those Floridians whose livelihoods depend upon our oceans and beaches?

If you want to know, ask the oyster people what happens. Ask the shrimpers who go out into the gulf what their product looks like nowadays, including the deformed product that they are seeing from this awful disaster.

Florida's GDP from its living resources, which includes fishing, hatcheries, aquaculture, seafood processing, and seafood markets, is worth nearly \$300 million. Additionally, the State's GDP from ocean-based tourism and recreation is nearly \$16.5 billion. On top of that, Florida generates millions of dollars in commercial fishing, including shrimp, mackerel, blue crab, swordfish, and stone crabs, which we are finding are diminishing in numbers. We have 350,000 jobs in tourism and recreation and nearly 120,000 direct jobs in recreational and commercial fishing.

But you can't eat contaminated fish, and who wants to spend one's hard-earned dollars and vacation time lounging on a beach that is covered in tar balls?

When I lifted up on Monday in the US Air plane and looked down at the shore of Florida, I saw what amounts to about a mile-long oil slick. I saw people walking, and I knew that, in a matter of time, they would be walking on tar balls.

How bad does the next spill have to be?

Climate change is not even pending anymore. It is here, and its effects are conspicuous. Downtown Miami, for example, floods whenever it rains, and so does Hollywood, Florida, and areas that I live around. People can't get to work, businesses can't open, and historic droughts have now ravaged the West, and my friends say that there is nothing to concern ourselves about as it pertains to climate change.

The Risky Business report just released by President George W. Bush's former Treasury Secretary—Henry Paulson—and Mayor Bloomberg and

Tom Steyer and other former Cabinet officers, lawmakers, corporate leaders, and scientists says climate change could cost the country billions of dollars over the next two decades.

This bill fully ignores the reality of the world we live in, but I do want to say one thing.

In yesterday's Rules Committee, my friend who is managing this rule, Mr. BISHOP from Utah, did make to me a compelling argument regarding education in the State of Utah and the fact that, on some of the Federal lands in Utah, if they had an opportunity to do further oil exploration, it could have an impact on Utah's economy. I think that, in many respects, a lot of that is reasonable. I am hopeful that at some point some of his views in that regard will prevail, but I hope, for the most part, that his overall views do not prevail.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), my good friend.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this rule and the underlying bill.

H.R. 4899 is yet another example of the majority's backward energy policy that doubles down on dirty fossil fuels instead of investing in a clean energy future. The bill also specifically targets my congressional district, requiring new oil drilling leases off the central coast of California.

□ 1300

This is the fourth time in as many years that the House leadership has tried to override the will of my constituents and California voters who overwhelmingly oppose new offshore drilling.

Even if drilling in these waters could start tomorrow, it would certainly have no impact on gas prices.

Why is that? Because the low-quality oil off the central coast of California can't be used to make gasoline. It is used to make asphalt.

While I certainly support investing more in our Nation's roads and bridges, this is certainly not the way to do it, so I find it incredibly disingenuous for my colleagues to pretend that this bill would lower gas prices for consumers when, in reality, it is just another big giveaway to Big Oil.

I also oppose this rule because it blocks consideration of two important amendments that I had filed. One of those amendments simply required a study on the environmental impacts of offshore fracking.

We depend on our oceans for such varied needs and values that the least

we can do is understand how they are impacted by these offshore activities. Our constituents sent us here to get things done, not to stifle debate, but this rule won't even allow us to discuss this important issue.

The rule also blocks a vote on my amendment to protect the central coast from additional offshore drilling.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. CAPPS. This amendment is identical to one which was made in order to be considered on the floor last year, when the House last considered this redundant legislation.

Perhaps the majority believes it is a waste of time to consider something that has already been voted upon. I only wish they would apply this logic to bills that they bring to the floor because, if they did, we wouldn't be here wasting our time with a bill the House already voted on last year.

Stapling two old bills together doesn't make it a new idea. H.R. 4899 is still a bad idea, and it is still a waste of time.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and to oppose the underlying bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 1426, the Big Oil Welfare Repeal Act of 2013, Representative TIM BISHOP's bill, to end the billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies given to the largest, most profitable oil companies each year.

To discuss our proposal, I am pleased, at this time, to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), my good friend.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise to urge defeat of the previous question to allow consideration of my legislation, the Big Oil Welfare Repeal Act, which would finally end middle class subsidies to big oil companies.

For too long, this Congress has perpetuated corporate welfare, saying job creators need incentives to continue growing this country, but last year, the largest oil companies reported a bottom-line profit of \$93 billion—let me say that again, \$93 billion—and yet, this Republican-led Congress continues to lavish subsidies and tax breaks on these highly-profitable companies.

We can not overlook that cuts to good programs continue during this second year of sequestration and, as we face the ever-present imperative to cut the deficit, Congress should rethink preferential treatment for Big Oil that burdens millions of hardworking Americans and small businesses which foot the bill for these subsidies.

For instance, we can save \$9.2 billion over 10 years by repealing the outdated

section 199 tax break, which designates oil production as a manufacturing activity, and gives Big Oil a 6 percent deduction from their income. This could be much better spent on real efforts to create jobs, increase revenue, and support local economies.

We could direct that funding towards infrastructure construction or education or keep it in the energy sector, to further incentivize renewable energy technology development, rather than perpetuate our reliance on fossil fuels.

These are real job creation efforts that Congress has supported in the past and are still needed to ignite economic growth; or we could use the savings from the bill to help fill the immediate need to pay for the shortfall in the highway trust fund, which will run out of money only weeks from now.

This means the House could leave this week without a solution to this impending crisis threatening to freeze construction projects and lay off workers, further imperiling our Nation's economic recovery.

There is no shortage of solutions Congress needs to reach this year, and many of them have steep price tags. By supporting the previous question, my colleagues can use a source of funds that oil companies won't miss to offset our to-do list.

With no signs from the majority about whether the House will ever move to consider tax reform, it remains unclear, when—if ever—the opportunity will arise again to reform the Tax Code, so that it reflects the needs and aspirations of working families and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me in better prioritizing taxpayers' funds by defeating the previous question.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would advise at this time and ask if you would learn from my colleague if he is ready to close. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared at this time to close.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. The gentleman has only from me yet to hear.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that these bills just leave us spinning our wheels, while we could be making actual progress in helping hardworking Americans all across this Nation.

It is outrageous that 3 million Americans have lost their emergency unemployment insurance since it expired in December 2013. I might add that we learned yesterday that 300,000 of that 3 million are American veterans.

We have also had, along with the expiration of tax extender provisions that help individuals that have expired, they help families and small businesses invest.

Republicans and Democrats should be working together to move our Nation forward on comprehensive immigration reform, and I might add that I agree

with everybody that says that the border needs to be secure, and one good way to do that is to do comprehensive immigration reform and tax reform.

We need to raise the minimum wage in this country, and we need to protect voting rights and secure equal pay.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, before I will urge my colleagues to vote "no," I just want to make it very clear that the measures that we are considering today have already been voted on by the House and did not go further to become law. The likelihood of this measure reaching that same fate is very strong.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question.

Vote "no" on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am an old history teacher, and one of the things I have always claimed for my students is you should actually try to look to the past, to see how you can plan for the future.

When Ronald Reagan became President of the United States, this country was faced with the crisis of double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment, and double-digit interest rates; and as President, after so many years of a Congress that tried to have the policy of spending ourselves into economic growth that failed, his issue was: Which of those do you attack first?

I think it is interesting to realize—to grab hold of each of those issues, his first action was to increase the supply of affordable energy. That became the basis of growing an economy in which he could then attack each of those problems of unemployment and inflation and interest rates which were plaguing this country.

We have to realize now that a strong foundation of affordable energy is extremely significant, from whatever source, but especially from what will be workable now.

High gasoline prices—and the price that is increasing in every form of energy we have today—hurts the middle class, and it especially hurts the working poor, many of whom have to decide, every time they go to the pump, whether they are going to put food on the table or fill up the minivan.

We have to deal with something. Now, in my area of the west where we live and the part of the country where the distances between communities are

extremely large, as opposed to back here in the east, where everything is so lumped closely together, the increase in fuel costs hits home with a real inflicting pain.

I am sorry. The policies of the past that we had that made the desert bloom are being reversed by the policies of the present. Whether you are at the pump realizing the pain that is inflicted or whether your concern is what kind of energy cost it will take when you go into the room and flip on the light or you decide to cook food, we have to realize these are real problems facing middle America, as well as the working poor of America.

We can either come up with policies that move us forward, or we can implement policies that allow us to freeze in the dark, and so far, we have done a good job on the latter and not the first.

Republicans in the House of Representatives have passed several bills over the past few years—and this year as well—aimed at increasing U.S. domestic fuel production, only to have those bills sidelined in the deliberative body on the other side of this building.

It reminds me of a great quote, when Thomas Brackett Reed, the old Speaker of the House, went over to the Senate to watch them in debate and came back and announced to the body:

Thank heavens we are not a deliberative body.

There are problems that we have that can be solved. We have those places, too, and I appreciate the fact the gentleman from Florida did mention that China and others are putting money into alternative energy programs.

They are also going around the world and gobbling up whatever kinds of oil and coal resources they can get their hands on, to support and sustain a growing economy over there, while our administration is taking the United States in the opposite direction by self-inflicted artificial limits, policies that have actually hurt our economy, killed high-paying jobs, and increased the cost of consumer goods for all, including the middle class.

There are reasons why, Mr. Speaker, in the last 6 years, our economy is simply limping along, and we should learn the lessons of the past to recognize what we can do from that. Our economic malaise can be attributed to a lack of attention to a commonsense energy program on Federal lands.

So what would this bill, H.R. 4899, actually do? It would establish and demand a new 5-year plan for the leases of those areas, with the concept of going after where the resources actually are. We can talk about all the lands that are leased, but it is totally unimportant if there are no resources there.

Have a plan that focuses on where the resources are. Produce a revenue-sharing plan with the coastal States. Come up with three distinct agencies

which would replace the new structure that has been put upon since the oil spill and make them actually functioning. That is the problem.

I agree with some of the things you have said. We haven't done much in reform, but we have done a whole lot in regulatory reform on the administrative level, and I agree with you, that that hasn't worked as well.

To establish a policy that the NPR-A is for the purpose of providing oil as a resource to the United States and to establish some kind of Internet-based auctions for these programs—look, we are not talking about taking over everything and drilling everywhere.

This Federal Government owns somewhere around 400 to 450 million acres of land. Of that, 350, roughly, are already in a conservation status that can never be touched.

There are 50 million acres, at the most, that have development potential, and those are the areas in which policies of this administration are strangling the ability to move them forward.

I will—because I hadn't planned on it, so I don't have my wonderful charts here. I appreciate the gentleman from Florida talking about education because I want to finish off with that in just one second.

I appreciate his sentiment that, some day, my position can prevail, but unless we change the overall Federal position, I can't get that moving forward, and that is why it becomes extremely important.

We are not just talking about gas at the pump and the cost of electricity and the cost of cooking your food. There are also those tradeoff effects which specifically deal with education.

If one looks at a map of the States, there is overwhelming control by the Federal Government of ownership of the land, the public land States of the Midwest and the west coast, and you look at the States which have the hardest time increasing their funding for public education.

It is an amazing correlation between the two, which means that, over the past 20 years, those who do not live in public land States, those areas east of Denver, which average about 4 percent of their States being controlled by the Federal Government, have grown their educational funding by 68 percent.

□ 1315

Those of us who average over 50 percent of our land controlled by the Federal Government in these public lands States have grown our education budget by 35 percent.

It is simply a matter that my State cannot improve its education funding alone unless we are allowed to develop some of the resources we have in huge abundance but are tied up in the policies of the Federal Government.

So, yes, it is true. We are growing petroleum activities in this country. We

are growing our exploration. We are growing what we are developing, what we are exporting. But it is all coming from private lands and State lands that are not part of the West. And if you want to keep that growth on a continuous basis and not have spikes, then you have to go after the resources that we have on the public lands.

And if you were allowed to do that, not only would we get royalties coming back in from those resources, but it would spin off all sorts of jobs that would then generate the income tax we need and the sales tax revenue and the royalties to replace the fact that we are not getting property tax from lands that are controlled by the Federal Government and were promised to us a long time ago when we became States.

This bill provides a plan on how to do this. This bill is something that is desperately needed if we are going to move forward. If enacted into law, it would encourage greater oil and gas development on Federal onshore and offshore lands with a plan of how you actually accomplish it and how you do it. And it may actually give my kids a chance at a fairer shot for an education, because they desperately need it, and the status quo is not providing it. And that has to stop.

Mr. Speaker, I would only urge Members to support this rule. It is a fair rule. It is a good rule. And then I would hope, afterwards, they would support the underlying bills which provide for our Nation's critical energy needs and would help promote jobs at the same time, as well as funding for my schools in Utah.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 641 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1426) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow the deduction for income attributable to domestic production activities with respect to oil and gas activities of major integrated oil companies. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without in-

structions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1426.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment

or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND
GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 636 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1318

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, with Mr. POE of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, June 24, 2014, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-48. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 6

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act”.

SEC. 2. ACTION ON APPLICATIONS.

(a) **DECISION DEADLINE.**—The Department of Energy shall issue a decision on any application for authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) not later than 90 days after the later of—

(1) the end of the comment period for such decision as set forth in the applicable notice published in the Federal Register; or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **JUDICIAL ACTION.**—(1) The United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the export facility will be located pursuant to an application described in subsection (a) shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of—

(A) an order issued by the Department of Energy with respect to such application; or

(B) the Department of Energy’s failure to issue a decision on such application.

(2) If the Court in a civil action described in paragraph (1) finds that the Department of Energy has failed to issue a decision on the application as required under subsection (a), the Court shall order the Department of Energy to issue such decision not later than 30 days after the Court’s order.

(3) The Court shall set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited consideration and shall set the matter on the docket as soon as practical after the filing date of the initial pleading.

SEC. 3. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EXPORT DESTINATIONS.

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF LNG EXPORT DESTINATIONS.**—As a condition for approval of any authorization to export LNG, the Secretary of Energy shall require the applicant to publicly disclose the specific destination or destinations of any such authorized LNG exports.”.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 113–492. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GARDNER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 113–492.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Redesignate subsection (b) of section 2 as subsection (c).

Strike subsection (a) of section 2 and insert the following:

(a) **DECISION DEADLINE.**—For proposals that must also obtain authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the United States Maritime Administration to site, construct, expand, or operate LNG export facilities, the Department of Energy

shall issue a final decision on any application for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) not later than 30 days after the later of—

(1) the conclusion of the review to site, construct, expand, or operate the LNG facilities required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **CONCLUSION OF REVIEW.**—For purposes of subsection (a), review required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 shall be considered concluded—

(1) for a project requiring an Environmental Impact Statement, 30 days after publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement;

(2) for a project for which an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, 30 days after publication by the Department of Energy of a Finding of No Significant Impact; and

(3) upon a determination by the lead agency that an application is eligible for a categorical exclusion pursuant National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 implementing regulations.

In subsection (c) of section 2, as so redesignated, by inserting “final” before “decision” each place it appears.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I thank you again for the opportunity to debate H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. It is something that, in this Congress, we don’t do that often, a bill to address both job creation here at home and also to provide our trading partners and our allies with energy security abroad.

The amendment before the desk right now is a manager’s amendment, brought to this Chamber in a bipartisan fashion with the gentleman from Texas, Representative GENE GREEN, who has been gracious and patient in this effort to work through this process to make sure that we have as broad-based support as possible for this legislation.

It recognizes that, despite some of the concerns our side has with the recent DOE changes to their process, including the expanding scope of DOE’s public interest analysis to include elements unrelated to DOE’s primary authorities, it is still vitally important to send as strong a message as possible to our allies that the U.S. is prepared to answer their call and enter the market as a major exporting nation.

It is equally important that we send a message that we are bringing certainty to the applicants and the jobs currently waiting in limbo at DOE, and that DOE will, indeed, be held accountable to do its job once FERC finishes their facility review and the NEPA process.

Again, this legislation has the potential to lift 45,000 people off of the unem-

ployment rolls. Daniel Yergin testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee that we could move from 1.7 million jobs in this country to 3 million jobs in this country in energy by 2020. And H.R. 6 and this amendment help advance that job creation.

But because DOE’s recent changes did not put a final deadline for the Department to act on applications, this amendment requires that the Department must issue a decision on pending applications within 30 days after FERC completes the NEPA review for the project. We are doing this because some of these applications have been languishing for more than 2 years, and it is time to insert accountability back into the process, especially when DOE’s own analysis concludes: Increasing natural gas exports are net positive to our economy.

This issue is too important to domestic job creation and to increasing the United States’ role in international energy diplomacy to continue to squander and delay our opportunities.

This amendment also addresses many of the concerns that those on the other side have voiced with previous versions of this legislation, including completing full environmental reviews and maintaining DOE’s role in the public interest test. I hope this will help H.R. 6 garner even broader support.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) and, again, thank him for his support.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague and fellow committee member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the manager’s amendment. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. The amendment we offer today is the result of hard, bipartisan work.

The original text of H.R. 6 worked to fix a problem at the Department of Energy. The problem was delay. The Department of Energy is responsible for permitting exports to non-free trade agreement countries.

Since 2011, the Department has received approximately 35 permit applications to export liquefied natural gas. Since 2011, only one project has received final approval.

EIA estimates that by 2035, the United States will produce 5 trillion cubic feet more than we can consume of natural gas. But in order to export the gas, rather than flare it and harm the environment, projects need permits.

The process is not working well. Why has only one project received final approval after 3 years? Why did DOE, just this month, propose changing the process? It is because the process is not working.

The manager's amendment that I co-authored with my colleague from Colorado acknowledges that DOE's proposed changes are a step in the right direction.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Unfortunately, after 3 years of delay, we need to ensure DOE issues timely decisions. The manager's amendment places a 30-day timeframe on DOE after the completion of the environmental review process.

This amendment is an example of the cooperation and bipartisanship from our committee. And, again, I urge Members to adopt the manager's amendment.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, Chris Smith, told a Senate panel last week that he is "confident that whatever the law requires, the department will be able to accomplish."

DOE will issue public interest determinations 12-to-18 months after they receive the application.

I am confident that: after 3 years of delay, 12-to-18 months of environmental review, a 30 day public comment period; and an additional 30 days to review the application that DOE can issue a sound public interest determination.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the gentleman from Colorado, Congressman GARDNER, is proposing some changes in an effort to address some of the problems with his bill.

The base bill would require the Department of Energy to make final decisions on almost all of the pending energy export applications in 90 days, without the benefit of complete environmental reviews. Now they look at their bill, and they appear to understand that this would be bad policy.

The amendment would establish a different deadline. Now DOE must issue a final decision on an application within 30 days of completion of the NEPA environmental review. That is an improvement because it at least ensures that major LNG export projects are not approved without an environmental review. However, if this amendment is adopted, the bill will remain unnecessary and problematic.

The bill is unnecessary because DOE already is approving huge volumes of LNG exports without any legislative action. They have proposed to further streamline their review at DOE so that it prioritizes review of the projects that have completed environmental reviews. That is already happening without this bill.

So if we adopt this amendment, the bill will still be unnecessary because it truncates DOE's public interest review. We should give DOE the time it needs to weigh the pros and cons of granting an application. Instead, the bill sets a 30-day deadline that would rush that process. To me, that doesn't make sense, especially since rushing DOE isn't going to get LNG exported any faster. LNG can't be exported without a terminal, and nothing in this bill gets terminals permitted or built any faster.

I am not going to oppose this amendment because it is probably better than the base bill, but it doesn't solve all of the problems with the bill. It illustrates how this bill, which is being touted as bringing about domestic prosperity and global freedom, is being worked on the go. I think it hasn't been thought through. This makes it a little better, but I don't see how the bill lives up to its title. I won't oppose the amendment, but I still think the bill is not worthy of passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank Ranking Member WAXMAN for his support of the amendment but would remind him that an Ambassador from Hungary, ambassador-at-large for energy security, said it is simply not true that lifting the natural gas export ban today would not have an immediate effect in Europe. It would immediately change the business calculus of infrastructure investment and send an extremely important message of strategic reassurance to the region, which currently feels more threatened than at any time since the cold war.

Passage of this bill would send an immediate signal to our allies and our enemies that the United States is serious about energy security and aiding our friends most in need of energy security.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I know that the Ambassador from Hungary and other countries that are looking at the possible aggression of the Russians are concerned about not having to rely on Russia alone for their natural gas supplies, and they are desperate. And we need to help them as best we can.

But let's not fool anybody. Even if this bill were passed, it will probably not allow for us to get LNG to some of those countries until 2017, 2018. And if we allow the export of LNG, exporters here in the United States are going to send it primarily to those who will pay the highest prices. And they are not in Europe. They are in Asia.

□ 1330

I wouldn't want the people to be under any illusions that this will help them immediately. I think the statement by that Ambassador shows more desperation than anything else and hope that we send a signal that we are going to do the best we can to get LNG

to them as soon as possible, maybe they can withstand a possible Russian action.

On the other hand, the Ambassador from Hungary knows that Hungary is part of NATO, and if Hungary is attacked by the Russians, we have an obligation to help them under our NATO agreement, so I think that is their base security, not this legislation.

They have high hopes, especially when they hear that this is a bill that will bring about domestic prosperity to the United States. They would presumably like for us to have prosperity, and so would I, and it is called not only Domestic Prosperity, but Global Freedom, and they certainly are hoping that we will do what we can for global freedom.

I certainly want to do everything we can for global freedom, and voting against this bill does not mean voting against global freedom.

Mr. HOLT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAXMAN. I would be happy to yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Colorado says that this would send a signal to European countries, and as my friend from California makes clear, it would not be a signal that help is on the way any time soon. The natural gas would not come soon, but the signal that would be heard loud and clear by manufacturers and homeowners is the price of gas would be going up.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I would just point out that here is an article that states that: "Centrica buys U.S. LNG in 20-year deal as U.K. output wanes." Selling U.S. LNG to Europe, Italy is close to 20-year LNG deal with Cheniere; another article, "Cheniere and Endesa sign 20-year LNG sale and purchase agreement."

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of the amendment to H.R. 6.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 113-492.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 5, strike "The Department" and insert "Except as provided in section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Natural Gas Act, as added by section 4 of this Act, the Department".

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS.

Section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting before "After six months from the date on which" the following: "(1) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE IMPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS.—";

(2) by striking "export any natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or";

(3) by striking "exportation or"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(2) AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS.—

"(A) PROHIBITION.—No person may export any natural gas from the United States to a foreign country without first having secured an order of the Secretary of Energy authorizing such person to do so.

"(B) ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.—The Secretary of Energy may issue an order authorizing a person to export natural gas from the United States to a foreign country, upon application, if the Secretary determines that the proposed exportation will be consistent with the public interest, in accordance with the regulations issued under paragraph (3)(B). The Secretary may by order grant such application, in whole or in part, with such modification and upon such terms and conditions as the Secretary may find necessary or appropriate.

"(C) TIMING.—No order may be issued by the Secretary of Energy under this paragraph prior to the date on which the Secretary issues final regulations under paragraph (3)(B).

"(3) PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.—

"(A) NEPA REVIEW.—The Secretary of Energy shall issue a detailed statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) of the environmental impact of the issuance of orders under paragraph (2), including by conducting an analysis of the impacts of extraction of exported natural gas on the environment in communities where the natural gas is extracted.

"(B) REGULATIONS.—

"(i) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of Energy shall issue final regulations, after notice and public comment, for determining whether an export of natural gas from the United States to a foreign country is in the public interest for purposes of issuing an order under paragraph (2).

"(ii) CONTENTS.—Regulations issued under this paragraph shall require the Secretary of Energy to determine, with respect to each application for export of natural gas from the United States to a foreign country, whether such export is in the public interest through—

"(I) use of the latest available data on current and projected United States natural gas demands, production, and price;

"(II) consideration of the effects of such natural gas exports on—

"(aa) household and business energy expenditures by electricity and natural gas consumers in the United States;

"(bb) the United States economy, jobs, and manufacturing, including such effects on wages, investment, and energy intensive and trade exposed industries, as determined by the Secretary;

"(cc) the energy security of the United States, including the ability of the United States to reduce its reliance on imported oil;

"(dd) the conservation of domestic natural gas supplies to meet the future energy needs of the United States;

"(ee) the potential for natural gas use in the transportation, industrial, and electricity sectors of the United States;

"(ff) the ability of the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

"(gg) the volume of natural gas produced on public lands in the United States, and where such natural gas is consumed;

"(hh) domestic natural gas supply and availability, including such effects on pipelines and other infrastructure;

"(ii) the balance of trade of the United States; and

"(jj) other issues determined relevant by the Secretary; and

"(III) consideration of the detailed statement issued under subparagraph (A).

"(4) EXEMPTIONS.—Paragraph (2) does not apply with respect to any order authorizing the exportation of natural gas if the natural gas that would be exported as a result of the order is exported solely to meet a requirement imposed pursuant to section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702), section 5(b) of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 5(b)), or part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.). In such cases, the Secretary of Energy may issue such order upon application without modification or delay."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment that I am offering, along with Mr. QUIGLEY of Illinois.

The effects of the natural gas boom have been felt throughout our economy, but before we hurry to ship our energy advantage overseas, we should ensure that we are not exporting our ability to create jobs, keep energy prices low, and to fuel a resurgence in American manufacturing that is so badly needed.

The Holt-Quigley amendment will ensure that the Department of Energy—before approving additional LNG exports—adheres to unambiguous congressional guidance in consideration of how such exports will affect our economy, our communities, and our environment.

H.R. 6 would essentially approve all pending LNG applications, in addition to those that have already been approved. All approved and pending export facilities add up to an ability to export 36 billion cubic feet of liquefied natural gas per day.

Thirty-six billion cubic feet per day is about 40 percent of U.S. peak daily consumption during this past winter—a winter, I should note, with volatility in the domestic natural gas market resulting in shortages in some areas—while, elsewhere, prices spiked, resulting in up to a 250 percent increase in natural gas prices from the previous year.

Now, we know that exporting more LNG will raise prices, but what we don't know is by how much. We know that higher prices will create problems

for U.S. manufacturing and homeowner heating, but we don't know how badly.

We should take the time to consider what greater volumes of LNG exports will mean for energy prices, jobs, manufacturing, the environment, and the economy.

As with all the bills on the floor this week, H.R. 6 is about supporting oil and gas interest at the expense of American manufacturing, American families, and the environment.

Our amendment has the support of both America's Energy Advantage and the Industrial Energy Consumers of America.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Holt amendment is a virtual rewrite of the entire Natural Gas Act that has been drafted without the benefit of the full debate of this Chamber or committee in regular order of this process.

The amendment would reverse the rebuttable presumption that proposed exports are consistent with the public interest. The amendment would also require the Department of Energy to undertake a new rulemaking and issue new regulations to determine whether an export of natural gas from the U.S. to a foreign country is in the public interest.

The moratorium on processing applications resulting from the Holt amendment could last years. The DOE has already spent more than 3 years—3 years—establishing the process for reviewing the public interest.

The DOE's public interest analysis is already well informed by numerous economic and environmental studies; and in prior decisions, DOE has looked at a number of factors, including economic impacts, international considerations, U.S. energy security, and environmental considerations, already among other things.

To conduct its reviews, DOE looks to the record of evidence developed in the application proceeding. Applicants and intervenors are free to raise new issues or concerns relevant to the public interest that may not have been addressed in prior cases.

Even though the DOE has repeatedly rejected the same reoccurring arguments lodged by the same Washington, D.C.-based special interest groups, they are delaying decisions on new export applications.

The Department of Energy has continually stated that the public interest generally favors authorizing proposals to export natural gas that have been shown to lead to net benefits on the

U.S. economy, and I believe the Holt amendment would disrupt the process that DOE has developed and result in even further delays.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the current amendment to H.R. 6.

The Holt-Quigley amendment requires the Secretary of Energy to consider how proposed natural gas exports will affect the domestic natural gas prices, jobs, and manufacturing when making a public interest determination.

I rise in opposition to the amendment because it codifies requirements that are already existing in the public interest determination. That is what the Department of Energy, under current law, is supposed to do, and we expect them to do their job.

When conducting a public interest determination, the Department of Energy considers economic, geopolitical, national security, and a variety of other issues. The public interest determination is a robust review of all the impacts associated with LNG exports. It would be redundant to require DOE to look at issues they are already considering.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment. I thank my colleague for the time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), a coproposer and coauthor of this amendment.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, the debate about our Nation's energy policy is happening here in Congress and around the country.

We are debating the merits of natural gas extraction, with many of us arguing for much stronger regulations to prevent the contamination of our drinking water and the pollution of our air.

We are debating the building of the Keystone pipeline, with many of us arguing that its approval would harm our environment and jeopardize the health and well-being of our communities. In each of these debates, the argument on each side may be contrary, but both sides are focused on one important question: Is this in the national interest?

It is essential that today's debate about the exportation of natural gas be framed in the same light. The amendment I am offering with my friend from New Jersey is based on a central premise. Before hurrying to export as much as 36 billion cubic feet of LNG per day, we should take time to consider what this will mean for energy prices, jobs, manufacturing, the environment, and our economy.

Current law simply assumes it is always in our natural interest to export

natural gas, even though studies confirm that exporting our natural gas would increase the price domestically.

We are providing a rubberstamp review process that expedites LNG exports without considering its potential effects. Our amendment would simply flip this assumption and require, by law, that DOE take into consideration exports' impact on consumers, the economy, and energy security before making its decision.

By passing this amendment, we can ensure that true beneficiaries of the natural gas boom are our consumers and our economy, while protecting our environment at the same time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just add that the National Association of Manufacturers, on April 9—which claims to be the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 States—supports H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

So the largest organization of manufacturers supports H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

Mr. Chairman, I would also point out the risks if we do not have an outlet for American energy production.

The result of shut-in wells and less production, indeed, will lead to increased prices for consumers, but the fact is that DOE studies have already stated that exporting natural gas has been shown to lead to net benefits to the U.S. economy, adding billions of dollars to our GDP, adding tens of thousands of jobs to our Nation's workforce, and removing people from the unemployment rolls.

This is something this Congress ought to adopt today, a way to move forward on energy security, and a way to move forward on jobs that are ready to put people to work. Let's pass this bill today.

I oppose the gentleman's amendment for the simple fact that it is unworkable and rewrites the law without adequate discussion and debate amongst this body.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Groups representing a diverse group of businesses and manufacturers support this amendment—groups that believe we should proceed with caution when making decisions about vast quantities of domestic energy resources.

The Department of Energy has already approved LNG facilities that are capable of exporting 9.3 billion cubic

feet per day, and before we irresponsibly and hurriedly expedite the approval of up to 36 billion cubic feet—nearly four times as much of LNG exports per day—I believe we should consider the effect this will have across our economy.

Mr. GARDNER says this amendment of ours might slow exports. Well, it might because the idea is not to do it as quickly as we can, but to do it as wisely as we can. Our responsibility is not just to look after the oil and gas interests. Our responsibility is also to look after American workers, American manufacturers, American consumers, and homeowners.

No one in this Chamber should want our domestic natural gas prices to increase on a par with those in Europe or Asia, and a vote in support of the Holt-Quigley amendment will ensure that that is not the case.

I urge support for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield the remaining time to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I represent an area that is a combination of both the customers of the natural gas boom that we have, but also the export opportunities in the States of Texas and Louisiana.

We are concerned about running up the price of natural gas because I want it to be used more for electricity production. I have a chemical industry that is in the eastern part of my district that I want to make sure we keep adding those jobs like we are doing so much.

I also know that we need to keep those folks drilling in the field, and in south Texas, we are flaring natural gas right now. In North Dakota, we are flaring natural gas. It is not good for the environment, but we need to have consumers for that, and so that is why this legislation is needed, and we will be able to have customers for that.

I know, yesterday, I used it in the bill on pipelines. In Texas, we love Blue Bell ice cream. I know the Chairman does, too. Their ads are saying, "We eat all we can, and we sell the rest."

Let's use all our natural gas we can in our country at a reasonable price, but what we can't use, let's not waste it. Let's sell it to someone else, and I thank the colleague for the time.

Mr. GARDNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 113-492.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 22, insert “and publically disclose the applicant’s intention to use eminent domain for any construction necessary for such authorized LNG exports” after “authorized LNG exports”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 636, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

□ 1345

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We just had a debate over the potential impact of export of LNG on domestic prices. There is no arguing that the low domestic prices for natural gas have been a boon for our country. Some manufacturers are actually moving operations back from overseas. Others here are being advantaged in the international markets, much to the concern of some of our competitors in Europe and elsewhere. So we can say that is good. We are not going to settle that issue in my amendment. I am going to bring up another issue.

But the reason natural gas companies want to export is to realize higher prices, and some of these terminals will require new pipelines to connect to domestic natural gas supplies, particularly some of the new supplies.

Here is the problem. In 2005, Congress passed the Bush-Cheney energy plan, which gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—a group of nameless, faceless, obscure bureaucrats—the authority to grant eminent domain to pipeline companies. That means companies have eminent domain authority generally reserved for the greater public interest to build pipelines to export natural gas.

Now I had three amendments. This one simply requires disclosure. I just want to bring a bit more focus during the expedited—should this bill become law—application and approval process for persons in the area, whether or not there is a prospect that a natural gas pipeline will exert eminent domain over their property. Now, it is just disclosure, because, as I say, my other amendments weren’t allowed, if eminent domain is going to be used to export natural gas to a pipeline terminal.

Now, earlier this year I voted with, as I have every year, every single Republican in favor of H.R. 1944. That is legislation to overturn the Supreme Court’s decision in 2005, *Kelo v. City of New London*, where the city of New London was found to have the authority to use eminent domain on behalf of private development interests. The Republicans, as I mentioned earlier, brought up a bill to overturn that deci-

sion, the Private Property Rights Protection Act, which passed with every Republican vote and a number of Democrats on our side of the aisle.

The same principle applies here. I am not challenging—because that is not allowed—the issue of eminent domain for a private pipeline for the export of natural gas, but I am saying that at least persons who are in proximity to that, or actually in line with that proposed pipeline, should have the opportunity when the company applies to know that it may be used so they can address their point of view during the application process.

Now, there are some industry talking points saying wait a minute, wait a minute, this eminent domain isn’t in section 3. They are right. I agree with them. They are absolutely right. However, section 7 regulates pipelines, and pipelines in some instances will be required and will be used to access these natural gas terminals, and I am simply saying that persons in those areas should know that eminent domain is intended to be used.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I have spent a great deal of my time, both here in this Chamber and actually working in the State legislature as well, to protect people’s property rights, particularly private property rights. In the State legislature, I remember the decision coming down from the Supreme Court, making sure that we could do everything we could to prevent any abuse of eminent domain. But it is that State legislative experience that taught me that the legal process of eminent domain is largely a State and local issue which should have no bearing on the Department of Energy’s public interest determination—again, this is about the public interest determination—for the export of LNG to non-free trade countries.

By law, the Secretary of Energy plays no part in approving the construction of LNG export facilities or the pipelines connecting the gas to the facility. By law, the Secretary of Energy plays no part in the pipeline or construction of the facilities.

This bill only addresses the Department of Energy’s process, and this amendment would expand the role of DOE into an area where the DOE is not currently involved and has no expertise.

The purpose of H.R. 6 is to expedite liquefied natural gas export applications which have been stuck in limbo awaiting a decision for far too long—in some cases, for more than 2 years. This amendment would unfairly put new re-

quirements on these already pending applications, and I believe we should oppose the amendment because it is something, again, that is left to the States and local determination factors. With that, I would ask for a “no” vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, unfortunately, it isn’t left to the States. The gentleman is wrong. The Bush-Cheney energy act preempted the States—preempted the State authority. It gives a faceless, nameless Federal bureaucracy, which on every other day is opposed by the other side of the aisle, the authority to grant eminent domain for a private company, for private profit, for the export of natural gas, which may well drive up the gas prices of the property owners adjacent to or who have been penetrated by that line.

This amendment doesn’t delay anything. It doesn’t give any significant new authority. It just requires the simple disclosure that if this terminal is built, a new pipeline is going to be required, and that pipeline, under section 3, with the faceless, nameless Federal bureaucrats behind it, is going to be granted eminent domain authority to take people’s property. That is the bottom line. You can try and dance around it and say, well, I am against Kelo because that was another kind of development, but no, I am against this amendment because we wouldn’t want people to know that they were going to lose their property rights to eminent domain because of faceless, nameless Federal bureaucrats.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding to me again.

That 2005 energy bill may have been called Bush-Cheney, but it came out of our Energy and Commerce Committee, and it had 77 Democratic votes when we passed that bill on the House floor.

Mr. DEFAZIO’s amendment, with all due respect, requires an applicant to disclose any intention to use eminent domain on any construction necessary to support the LNG export project. I rise in opposition because it looks like an attempt to unnecessarily complicate LNG exports.

LNG facilities require pipelines. However, pipeline construction and operation is a whole separate issue. Yesterday in the House, we had a pipeline bill. Unfortunately, my colleague submitted LNG amendments to the pipeline bill yesterday. If H.R. 6 were a pipeline bill, then perhaps we could be honest about the debate. The fact of the matter is that we need more pipelines in our country. Right now in North Dakota and south Texas, we are flaring natural gas. But H.R. 6 is not a pipeline bill, and it is not the legislation to address the issue of eminent domain, which is predominantly under

State law, and I am proud of our State law in Texas. I ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I would just add again that there is no eminent domain authority for an LNG facility. That is what H.R. 6 is addressing, the export permits for LNG facilities. There is no eminent domain authority for an LNG facility. Mr. Chairman, I urge opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 4 will not be offered.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY) having assumed the chair, Mr. POE of Texas, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 641, and adopting House Resolution 641, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining

electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4899, LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4923, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 641) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 238, nays 180, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 355]

YEAS—238

Aderholt	Conaway	Gosar
Amash	Cook	Gowdy
Amodi	Costa	Granger
Bachmann	Cotton	Graves (GA)
Bachus	Cramer	Graves (MO)
Barletta	Crawford	Green, Al
Barr	Crenshaw	Green, Gene
Barrow (GA)	Cuellar	Griffin (AR)
Barton	Culberson	Griffith (VA)
Benishek	Daines	Grimm
Bentivolio	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Denham	Hall
Bishop (UT)	Dent	Harper
Black	DeSantis	Harris
Blackburn	DesJarlais	Hastings (WA)
Boustany	Diaz-Balart	Heck (NV)
Brady (TX)	Duffy	Hensarling
Bridenstine	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (TN)	Hinojosa
Brooks (IN)	Ellmers	Holding
Broun (GA)	Farenthold	Hudson
Buchanan	Fincher	Huelskamp
Bucshon	Fitzpatrick	Huizenga (MI)
Burgess	Fleischmann	Hultgren
Byrne	Fleming	Hunter
Calvert	Flores	Hurt
Camp	Forbes	Issa
Campbell	Fortenberry	Jackson Lee
Cantor	Fox	Jenkins
Capito	Franks (AZ)	Johnson (OH)
Carter	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, Sam
Cassidy	Gallego	Jolly
Chabot	Gardner	Jones
Chaffetz	Garrett	Jordan
Coble	Gerlach	Joyce
Coffman	Gibbs	Kelly (PA)
Cole	Gibson	King (IA)
Collins (GA)	Gohmert	King (NY)
Collins (NY)	Goodlatte	Kingston

Kinzinger (IL)	Paulsen	Shimkus
Kline	Pearce	Shuster
Labrador	Perry	Simpson
LaMalfa	Peterson	Smith (MO)
Lamborn	Petri	Smith (NE)
Lance	Pittenger	Smith (NJ)
Latham	Pitts	Smith (TX)
Latta	Poe (TX)	Southerland
LoBiondo	Pompeo	Stewart
Long	Posey	Stivers
Lucas	Price (GA)	Stockman
Luetkemeyer	Reichert	Stutzman
Lummis	Renacci	Terry
Marchant	Ribble	Thornberry
Marino	Rice (SC)	Tiberi
Massie	Richmond	Tipton
Matheson	Rigell	Turner
McAllister	Roby	Upton
McCarthy (CA)	Roe (TN)	Valadao
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Vasey
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Vela
McHenry	Rogers (MI)	Wagner
McKeon	Rohrabacher	Walberg
McKinley	Rokita	Walden
McMorris	Rooney	Walorski
Rodgers	Ros-Lehtinen	Weber (TX)
Meadows	Roskam	Webster (FL)
Meehan	Ross	Wenstrup
Messer	Rothfus	Westmoreland
Mica	Royce	Whitfield
Miller (FL)	Runyan	Williams
Miller (MI)	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (SC)
Miller, Gary	Salmon	Wittman
Mullin	Sanford	Wolf
Mulvaney	Scalise	Womack
Murphy (PA)	Schock	Woodall
Neugebauer	Schweikert	Yoder
Nugent	Scott, Austin	Yoho
Nunes	Sensenbrenner	Young (AK)
Olson	Sessions	Young (IN)
Palazzo	Sherman	

NAYS—180

Barber	Enyart	Maffei
Bass	Eshoo	Maloney,
Beatty	Esty	Carolyn
Becerra	Farr	Maloney, Sean
Bera (CA)	Fattah	Matsui
Bishop (GA)	Foster	McCarthy (NY)
Bishop (NY)	Frankel (FL)	McCollum
Blumenauer	Fudge	McDermott
Bonamici	Gabbard	McGovern
Brady (PA)	Garamendi	McIntyre
Braley (IA)	Garcia	McNerney
Brown (FL)	Grayson	Meeks
Brownley (CA)	Grijalva	Meng
Bustos	Gutiérrez	Michaud
Butterfield	Hahn	Miller, George
Capps	Hanabusa	Moore
Capuano	Hastings (FL)	Moran
Cárdenas	Heck (WA)	Murphy (FL)
Carney	Higgins	Nadler
Carson (IN)	Himes	Neal
Cartwright	Holt	Negrete McLeod
Castor (FL)	Honda	Nolan
Castro (TX)	Horsford	O'Rourke
Chu	Hoyer	Owens
Cicilline	Huffman	Pallone
Clark (MA)	Israel	Pascarell
Clarke (NY)	Jeffries	Pastor (AZ)
Clay	Johnson (GA)	Payne
Cleaver	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi
Clyburn	Kaptur	Perlmutter
Cohen	Keating	Peters (CA)
Connolly	Kelly (IL)	Peters (MI)
Conyers	Kennedy	Pingree (ME)
Cooper	Kildee	Pocan
Courtney	Kind	Price (NC)
Crowley	Kuster	Quigley
Cummings	Langevin	Rahall
Davis (CA)	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard
Davis, Danny	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
DeFazio	Lee (CA)	Ruppersberger
DeGette	Levin	Rush
Delaney	Lewis	Ryan (OH)
DeLauro	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda
DelBene	Loebach	T.
Deutch	Lofgren	Sanchez, Loretta
Dingell	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Doggett	Lowey	Schakowsky
Doyle	Lujan Grisham	Schiff
Duckworth	(NM)	Schneider
Edwards	Lujan, Ben Ray	Schrader
Ellison	(NM)	Schwartz
Engel	Lynch	Scott (VA)

Scott, David	Takano	Visclosky
Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Walz
Sewell (AL)	Thompson (MS)	Wasserman
Shea-Porter	Tierney	Schultz
Sinema	Titus	Waters
Sires	Tonko	Waxman
Slaughter	Tsongas	Welch
Smith (WA)	Van Hollen	Wilson (FL)
Speier	Vargas	Yarmuth
Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez	

NOT VOTING—13

Gingrey (GA)	Lankford	Rangel
Hanna	Napolitano	Reed
Hartzler	Noem	Thompson (PA)
Kilmer	Nunnelee	
Kirkpatrick	Polis	

□ 1601

Messrs. JEFFRIES and CARNEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. GALLEGO, COLLINS of New York, PETERSON, CUELLAR, BARROW of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Messrs. AL GREEN of Texas and RICHMOND changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Ms. Maria Matthews, Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State of Florida, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held June 24, 2014, the Honorable Curt Clawson was elected Representative to Congress for the Nineteenth Congressional District, State of Florida.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS,
Tallahassee, Florida, June 25, 2014.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the preliminary results reported on the night of June 24, 2014, for the special election for the Nineteenth Congressional District of Florida, reflected the following preliminary returns (which includes all early voting and Election Day results except write-in ballots, provisional ballots, and the overseas absentee ballots which could be received within 10 days after the election):

Curt Clawson, REP, 66,889, 66.95%.
April Freeman, DEM, 29,294, 29.32%.
Ray Netherwood, LPF, 3,724, 3.73%.
Timothy Rissano, WRI, 0, 0%.

The first set of unofficial results are not due to be reported until noon, June 28, 2014.

It is only when the first set of unofficial results are reported that we will know if a recount actually becomes necessary. Florida law requires a recount when a candidate is defeated by ½ of a percent or less of the votes cast. To the best of our knowledge, there is no contest to this election; however, a contest may be filed at any time within 10 days after the state's Election Canvassing Commission certifies the election, which is scheduled to occur on July 8, 2014.

As soon as the official results are certified by the state's Election Canvassing Commission, an official certificate of election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

MARIA I. MATTHEWS,
Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE CURT CLAWSON, OF FLORIDA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Florida, the Honorable CURT CLAWSON, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Florida delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. CLAWSON appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 113th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE CURT CLAWSON TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Florida delegation, it is a great honor to welcome our newest Member of this proud body, Congressman CURT CLAWSON.

Like all of us here, the Congressman believes in a bright economic future for all of America, and I am sure that with his extensive background as a former

CEO this will help us in our pursuit to make that future a reality.

CURT, from the basketball court to Capitol Hill, you have proven that no obstacle is too great and that with your dedication and your skills you will be able to accomplish whatever you set out to do.

Your journey to get to this point has been a long, storied, and successful one, gathering knowledge and understanding of our State and our Nation's needs and developing a clear vision along the way.

I am confident that together, along with the entire bipartisan Florida congressional delegation, you will be able to represent our great State to the highest degree and join us in a constructive, insightful debate to lead our Nation to domestic and international prosperity.

Last night was surely a joyous night for you, for your family, and for your community. It was a culmination of months, years, and a lifetime of hard work. We hope that you continue your efforts for the good of the people who shared your vision with you last night and for our entire State and country.

Before I yield to my distinguished colleague, I would like to once again welcome Congressman CLAWSON as our newest addition to the Florida delegation familia.

Congratulations, CURT, and welcome.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON. Mr. Speaker, it appears that there are too many point guards in this Hall.

I start by bowing in humility to my God, hoping for wisdom and inspiration on a responsibility so big on my shoulders that we all share of course.

My second point today is that I am committed to represent those in my district, and not only those that voted for me, but those that did not: the young and old, male and female, White, African American, or those that speak Spanish, too—los que hablan español, también. I am committed to representing all of my constituents in a fair way.

My grandfather was a gardener in his spare time, and he had a long, dark closet. At the end of that closet was a picture of a judge in long, flowing robes. At the bottom of that picture was written the following words: “We call him ‘Your Honor’ to remember our own.”

I have always felt that my father and grandfather didn't need that reminder very often, but I come to you today hoping to bring just a small measure of honor to this Chamber and hoping that we can honor our constituents and honor each other by the way we treat each other.

I am so humbled and grateful to be here and ask for your support. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Florida, the whole number of the House is now 433.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4899, LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4923, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The question is on adoption of House Resolution 641.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 228, noes 189, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 356]

AYES—228

Aderholt	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Amash	Daines	Holding
Amodei	Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Bachus	Denham	Huelskamp
Barletta	Dent	Huizenga (MI)
Barr	DeSantis	Hultgren
Barton	DesJarlais	Hunter
Benishke	Diaz-Balart	Hurt
Bentivolio	Duffy	Issa
Bilirakis	Duncan (SC)	Jackson Lee
Bishop (UT)	Duncan (TN)	Jenkins
Black	Ellmers	Johnson (OH)
Blackburn	Farenthold	Johnson, Sam
Boustany	Fincher	Jolly
Brady (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Jones
Bridenstine	Fleischmann	Jordan
Brooks (AL)	Fleming	Joyce
Brooks (IN)	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Broun (GA)	Forbes	King (IA)
Buchanan	Fortenberry	King (NY)
Bucshon	Fox	Kingston
Burgess	Franks (AZ)	Kinzing (IL)
Byrne	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Calvert	Gardner	Labrador
Camp	Garrett	LaMalfa
Campbell	Gerlach	Lamborn
Cantor	Gibbs	Lance
Capito	Gibson	Latham
Carter	Gohmert	Latta
Cassidy	Goodlatte	LoBiondo
Chabot	Gosar	Long
Chaffetz	Gowdy	Lucas
Clawson (FL)	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Coble	Graves (GA)	Lummis
Coffman	Graves (MO)	Marchant
Cole	Griffin (AR)	Marino
Collins (GA)	Griffith (VA)	Massie
Collins (NY)	Grimm	McAllister
Conaway	Guthrie	McCarthy (CA)
Cook	Hall	McCauley
Costa	Harper	McClintock
Cotton	Harris	McHenry
Cramer	Hastings (WA)	McIntyre
Crawford	Heck (NV)	McKeon
Crenshaw	Hensarling	McKinley

McMorris	Rigell
Rodgers	Roby
Meadows	Roe (TN)
Meehan	Rogers (AL)
Messer	Rogers (KY)
Mica	Rogers (MI)
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher
Miller (MI)	Rokita
Miller, Gary	Rooney
Mullin	Ros-Lehtinen
Mulvaney	Roskam
Murphy (PA)	Ross
Neugebauer	Rothfus
Nugent	Royce
Nunes	Runyan
Olson	Ryan (WI)
Owens	Salmon
Palazzo	Sanford
Paulsen	Scalise
Pearce	Schock
Perry	Schweikert
Peterson	Scott, Austin
Petri	Sensenbrenner
Pittenger	Sessions
Pitts	Shimkus
Poe (TX)	Shuster
Pompeo	Simpson
Posey	Smith (MO)
Price (GA)	Smith (NE)
Renacci	Smith (NJ)
Ribble	Smith (TX)
Rice (SC)	Southerland

NOES—189

Barber	Fudge
Barrow (GA)	Gabbard
Bass	Gallego
Beatty	Garamendi
Becerra	Garcia
Bera (CA)	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al
Bishop (NY)	Green, Gene
Blumenauer	Grijalva
Bonamici	Gutiérrez
Brady (PA)	Hahn
Braley (IA)	Hanabusa
Brown (FL)	Hastings (FL)
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)
Bustos	Higgins
Butterfield	Himes
Capps	Hinojosa
Capuano	Holt
Cárdenas	Honda
Carney	Horsford
Carson (IN)	Hoyer
Cartwright	Huffman
Castor (FL)	Israel
Castro (TX)	Jeffries
Chu	Johnson (GA)
Cicilline	Johnson, E. B.
Clark (MA)	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Keating
Clay	Kelly (IL)
Cleaver	Kennedy
Clyburn	Kildee
Cohen	Kind
Connolly	Kuster
Conyers	Langevin
Cooper	Larsen (WA)
Courtney	Larson (CT)
Crowley	Lee (CA)
Cuellar	Levin
Cummings	Lewis
Davis (CA)	Lipinski
Davis, Danny	Loeb sack
DeFazio	Lofgren
DeGette	Lowenthal
Delaney	Lowe
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham
DeBene	(NM)
Deutsch	Luján, Ben Ray
Dingell	(NM)
Doggett	Lynch
Doyle	Maffei
Duckworth	Maloney,
Edwards	Carolyn
Ellison	Maloney, Sean
Engel	Matheson
Enyart	Matsui
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)
Esty	McCollum
Farr	McDermott
Fattah	McGovern
Foster	McNerney
Frankel (FL)	Meeks

Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman

Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann	Kirkpatrick	Polis
Gingrey (GA)	Lankford	Rangel
Hanna	Napolitano	Reed
Hartzler	Noem	Reichert
Kilmer	Nunnelee	Thompson (PA)

□ 1615

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 356, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

DOMESTIC PROSPERITY AND
GLOBAL FREEDOM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to House Resolution 636 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 6.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) kindly take the chair.

□ 1617

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, with Mr. MEADOWS (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-492 offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. DEFazio

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 221, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 357]

AYES—196

Amash	Gosar	Negrete McLeod
Barber	Grayson	Nolan
Barrow (GA)	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Bass	Grijalva	Owens
Beatty	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Becerra	Hahn	Pascarell
Bera (CA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Herrera Beutler	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Higgins	Peters (CA)
Brady (PA)	Himes	Peters (MI)
Braley (IA)	Holt	Peterson
Broun (GA)	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Brown (FL)	Horsford	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Bustos	Huffman	Quigley
Butterfield	Israel	Rahall
Campbell	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Capps	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Carney	Jones	Rush
Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Cartwright	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	T.
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu	Kildee	Sanford
Cicilline	Kind	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kuster	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schiff
Clay	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Cohen	Levin	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Lewis	Scott, David
Conyers	Lipinski	Serrano
Cooper	Loebsock	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Crowley	Lowenthal	Sherman
Cummings	Lowe	Sinema
Davis (CA)	Lujan Grisham	Sires
Davis, Danny	(NM)	Slaughter
DeFazio	Luján, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
DeGette	(NM)	Speier
Delaney	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Maffei	Takano
DelBene	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Doggett	Massie	Titus
Duckworth	Matsui	Tonko
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Tsongas
Ellison	McClintock	Van Hollen
Engel	McCollum	Vargas
Enyart	McDermott	Veasey
Eshoo	McGovern	Velázquez
Esty	McNerney	Visclosky
Farr	Meeks	Walz
Fattah	Meng	Wasserman
Foster	Michaud	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Waters
Fudge	Moore	Waxman
Gabbard	Moran	Welch
Garamendi	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Garcia	Nadler	Woodall
Gibson	Neal	Yarmuth

NOES—221

Aderholt	Camp	Davis, Rodney
Amodei	Cantor	Denham
Bachmann	Capito	Dent
Bachus	Carter	DeSantis
Barletta	Cassidy	DesJarlais
Barr	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Barton	Chaffetz	Doyle
Benishek	Clawson (FL)	Duffy
Bentivolio	Coble	Duncan (SC)
Bilirakis	Coffman	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Ellmers
Black	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Blackburn	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Boustany	Conaway	Fitzpatrick
Brady (TX)	Cook	Fleischmann
Bridenstine	Costa	Fleming
Brooks (AL)	Cotton	Flores
Brooks (IN)	Cramer	Forbes
Buchanan	Crawford	Fortenberry
Bucshon	Crenshaw	Foxx
Burgess	Cuellar	Franks (AZ)
Byrne	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Calvert	Daines	Galleo

Gardner	Lummis	Ros-Lehtinen
Garrett	Marchant	Roskam
Gerlach	Marino	Ross
Gibbs	Matheson	Rothfus
Gohmert	McAllister	Royce
Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)	Runyan
Gowdy	McCaul	Ryan (WI)
Granger	McHenry	Salmon
Graves (GA)	McIntyre	Scalise
Graves (MO)	McKeon	Schock
Green, Gene	McKinley	Schweikert
Griffin (AR)	McMorris	Scott, Austin
Griffith (VA)	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Grimm	Meadows	Sessions
Guthrie	Meehan	Shimkus
Hall	Messer	Shuster
Harper	Mica	Simpson
Harris	Miller (FL)	Smith (MO)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
Heck (NV)	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Hensarling	Mullin	Southerland
Hinojosa	Mulvaney	Stewart
Holding	Murphy (PA)	Stivers
Hudson	Neugebauer	Stockman
Huelskamp	Nugent	Stutzman
Huizenga (MI)	Nunes	Terry
Hultgren	Olson	Thornberry
Hunter	Palazzo	Tiberi
Hurt	Paulsen	Tipton
Issa	Pearce	Turner
Jenkins	Perry	Upton
Johnson (OH)	Petri	Valadao
Johnson, Sam	Pittenger	Vela
Jolly	Pitts	Wagner
Jordan	Poe (TX)	Walberg
Joyce	Pompeo	Walden
Kelly (PA)	Posey	Walorski
King (IA)	Price (GA)	Weber (TX)
King (NY)	Reichert	Webster (FL)
Kingston	Renacci	Wenstrup
Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble	Westmoreland
Kline	Rice (SC)	Whitfield
Labrador	Rigell	Williams
Lamborn	Roby	Wilson (SC)
Lance	Roe (TN)	Wittman
Latham	Rogers (AL)	Wolf
Latta	Rogers (KY)	Womack
LoBiondo	Rogers (MI)	Yoder
Long	Rohrabacher	Yoho
Lucas	Rokita	Young (AK)
Luetkemeyer	Rooney	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Gingrey (GA)	LaMalfa	Polis
Hanna	Lankford	Rangel
Hart	Napolitano	Reed
Kilmer	Noem	Smith (TX)
Kirkpatrick	Nunnelee	Thompson (PA)

□ 1621

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, I was absent during roll-call vote No. 357 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Representative PETER DEFazio (OR) Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. MEADOWS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolu-

tion 636, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I am opposed to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Garamendi moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 6, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 2, after line 22, insert the following new section:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITING HIGHER NATURAL GAS PRICES FOR UNITED STATES CONSUMERS AND PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

In reviewing an application for authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b), the Department of Energy—

(1) shall deny such application if—

(A) the export would increase the price of natural gas, electricity, or home heating for American seniors on fixed incomes; or

(B) the natural gas would be exported to any nation that is a state sponsor of terrorism or otherwise threatens America's national security, or to any nation or corporation that steals America's military technology or intellectual property through cyber-attacks; and

(2) shall require, as a condition for approval of any such authorization, the applicant to ensure that United States-flagged ships and shipping containers are used to export the LNG.

Mr. GARDNER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill,

which will not kill the bill or send it back to the committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

My colleagues, America is blessed with many, many resources—all of you, for example. America is blessed with great natural resources, among them natural gas.

We have seen a terrific increase in the availability of natural gas, and it has provided this Nation with the opportunity to have the lowest price energy among the industrial nations, an incredible advantage that we have received as a result of God's gift of natural gas.

The question for all of us to ponder for a moment is: How will we use that natural gas and to whose benefit will it inure?

This bill will provide for the protection of Americans who have, from these number of years, enjoyed a reasonable price for their energy, but if this bill moves forward as presently written, we will be talking about seniors who will see higher prices in their natural gas and in their energy.

If this bill moves forward as it is currently written, we will be seeing our natural resource, this strategic asset, wind up in the hands of countries who support terrorists or countries who are engaged in industrial espionage through cyber attacks on our industry and on our government.

If this bill moves forward as it is presently written, we will not see American ships under our flag with our sailors taking this natural resource, this strategic asset, across the oceans.

However, ladies and gentlemen, if we approve this amendment, we will be protecting our seniors from higher energy prices because this bill says that, in determining the public interest, we will make sure our seniors are protected.

If we adopt this amendment, we will see that none of our natural resource—natural gas, a strategic asset—will wind up in the hands of countries who have supported terrorists.

□ 1630

We will find that no country that allows people in their country to engage in cyber attacks against our industries or against our government will have our precious natural resource, and we will see American ships with American sailors and American flags on the ocean exporting this strategic national asset.

The question, therefore, for each and every one of us is this: With whom do you stand? The gas companies, who will have billions and billions of dollars of profits exporting? Or, do you stand with our seniors?

Who do you stand with? Countries that are engaged in cyberattacks against America, and who are supporting terrorists?

Who do you stand with? Do you stand with American sailors and shipbuilders?

That is the question. That is what this amendment is all about. It is about protecting America.

I ask for your “aye” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that motions to recommit are procedural motions that are not substantive legislative proposals. They are offered by the minority party, whether Republican or Democrat, with the goal of undermining or stopping the underlying legislation on the floor.

The Department of Energy's public interest consideration already looks at the concerns that you raise in this procedural motion. They already look at the factors that you talk about in this procedural motion.

No liquefied natural gas can go to countries which we have sanctions on or are otherwise restricted in law.

This administration has already said this will provide a net benefit to our economy. This administration has said U.S. natural gas prices will not rise to world prices. This administration has said that studies consistently demonstrate net economic benefits across all scenarios and export volumes. This administration has said the U.S. manufacturing renaissance is unlikely to be harmed by LNG exports.

If you stand for this bill you stand for jobs, you stand for economic opportunity, and you stand against delays. Let's pass this bill and defeat the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, let's oppose the motion to recommit and do what is right for America, creating jobs for us and our allies, answering the call for freedom at home.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute motion on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 225, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 358]

AYES—192

Barber	Garcia	Negrete McLeod
Barrow (GA)	Grayson	Nolan
Bass	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Gene	Owens
Becerra	Grijalva	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bonamici	Higgins	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Himes	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Hinojosa	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Holt	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Horsford	Pocan
Butterfield	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Capps	Huffman	Quigley
Capuano	Israel	Rahall
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Carney	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Jones	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Chu	Keating	T.
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clay	Kind	Schiff
Cleaver	Kuster	Schneider
Clyburn	Langevin	Schrader
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Cooper	Levin	Serrano
Courtney	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
Crowley	Lipinski	Shea-Porter
Cuellar	Loeback	Sherman
Cummings	Lofgren	Sinema
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sires
Davis, Danny	Lowe	Slaughter
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Smith (WA)
DeGette	(NM)	Speier
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	(NM)	Takano
DelBene	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	Maffei	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	Maloney,	Tierney
Doggett	Carolyn	Titus
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
Duckworth	Matsui	Tsongas
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (NY)	Van Hollen
Edwards	McCollum	Vargas
Ellison	McDermott	Veasey
Engel	McGovern	Vela
Enyart	McIntyre	Velázquez
Eshoo	McNerney	Visclosky
Esty	Meeks	Walz
Farr	Meng	Wasserman
Fattah	Michaud	Schultz
Foster	Miller, George	Waters
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Waxman
Fudge	Moran	Welch
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Galleo	Nadler	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Neal	

NOES—225

Aderholt	Calvert	Denham
Amash	Camp	Dent
Amdel	Campbell	DeSantis
Bachmann	Cantor	DesJarlais
Bachus	Capito	Diaz-Balart
Barletta	Carter	Duffy
Barr	Cassidy	Duncan (SC)
Barton	Chabot	Ellmers
Benishek	Chaffetz	Farenthold
Bentivolio	Clawson (FL)	Fincher
Bilirakis	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Fleischmann
Black	Cole	Fleming
Blackburn	Collins (GA)	Flores
Boustany	Collins (NY)	Forbes
Brady (TX)	Conaway	Fortenberry
Bridenstine	Cook	Fox
Brooks (AL)	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Brooks (IN)	Cotton	Frelinghuysen
Broun (GA)	Cramer	Gardner
Buchanan	Crawford	Garrett
Bucshon	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Burgess	Culberson	Gibbs
Byrne	Daines	Gibson

Gohmert Matheson
Goodlatte McAllister
Gosar McCarthy (CA)
Gowdy McCaul
Granger McClintock
Graves (GA) McHenry
Graves (MO) McKeon
Griffin (AR) McKinley
Griffith (VA) McMorris
Grimm Rodgers
Guthrie Meadows
Hall Meehan
Harper Messer
Harris Mica
Hastings (WA) Miller (FL)
Heck (NV) Miller (MI)
Hensarling Miller, Gary
Herrera Beutler Mullin
Holding Mulvaney
Hudson Murphy (PA)
Huelskamp Neugebauer
Huizenga (MI) Nugent
Hultgren Nunes
Hunter Olson
Hurt Palazzo
Issa Paulsen
Jenkins Pearce
Johnson (OH) Perry
Johnson, Sam Petri
Jolly Pittenger
Jordan Pitts
Joyce Poe (TX)
Kelly (PA) Pompeo
King (IA) Posey
King (NY) Price (GA)
Kingston Reichert
Kinzinger (IL) Renacci
Kline Ribble
Labrador Rice (SC)
LaMalfa Rigell
Lamborn Roby
Lance Roe (TN)
Latham Rogers (AL)
Latta Rogers (KY)
LoBiondo Rogers (MI)
Long Rohrabacher
Lucas Rokita
Luetkemeyer Rooney
Lummis Ros-Lehtinen
Marchant Roskam
Marino Ross
Massie Rothfus

NOT VOTING—15

Davis, Rodney Kilmer
Gingrey (GA) Kirkpatrick
Gutiérrez Lankford
Hanna Napolitano
Hartzler Noem

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1639

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 358 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 6—Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 266, nays 150, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 359]

YEAS—266

Aderholt Gosar
Amash Neugebauer
Amodei Granger
Bachmann Graves (GA)
Bachus Graves (MO)
Barber Green, Al
Barletta Green, Gene
Barr Griffin (AR)
Barton Griffith (VA)
Benishek Grimm
Bera (CA) Guthrie
Bilirakis Hall
Bishop (GA) Harper
Bishop (UT) Harris
Black Hastings (WA)
Blackburn Heck (NV)
Boustany Heck (WA)
Brady (TX) Hensarling
Bridenstine Herrera Beutler
Brooks (IN) Himes
Broun (GA) Hinojosa
Buchanan Holding
Bucshon Hoyer
Burgess Hudson
Byrne Huelskamp
Calvert Huizenga (MI)
Camp Hultgren
Campbell Hunter
Cantor Weber (TX)
Capito Webster (FL)
Cardenas Wenstrup
Carter Westmoreland
Cassidy Whitfield
Castro (TX) Williams
Chabot Wilson (SC)
Chaffetz Wittman
Clawson (FL) Wolf
Coble Womack
Coffman Woodall
Cole King (NY)
Collins (GA) Kingston
Collins (NY) Kinzinger (IL)
Conaway Kline
Connolly Labrador
Cook LaMalfa
Cooper Lamborn
Costa Lance
Cotton Larsen (WA)
Cramer Latham
Crawford Latta
Crenshaw Lipinski
Cuellar LoBiondo
Culberson Long
Daines Lucas
Davis, Rodney Luetkemeyer
Delaney Lujan Grisham
DelBene (NM)
Denham Luján, Ben Ray
Dent (NM)
DeSantis Lummis
DesJarlais Maloney
Diaz-Balart Carolyn
Doyle Maloney, Sean
Duffy Marchant
Duncan (SC) Marino
Duncan (TN) Massie
Elmers Matheson
Engel McAllister
Enyart McCarthy (CA)
Farenthold McCaul
Fincher McClintock
Fitzpatrick McHenry
Fleischmann McIntyre
Fleming McKeon
Flores McKinley
Forbes McMorris
Fortenberry Rodgers
Foxy Meadows
Franks (AZ) Meehan
Frelinghuysen Messer
Gallego Mica
Garcia Miller (FL)
Gardner Miller (MI)
Garrett Miller, Gary
Gerlach Moran
Gibbs Mullin
Gohmert Mulvaney
Goodlatte Murphy (FL)

Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NAYS—150

Barrow (GA) Gibson
Bass Grayson
Beatty Grijalva
Becerra Gutiérrez
Bishop (NY) Hahn
Blumenauer Hanabusa
Bonamici Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA) Higgins
Braley (IA) Holt
Brown (FL) Honda
Brownley (CA) Horsford
Bustos Huffman
Butterfield Jackson Lee
Capps Jeffries
Capuano Johnson (GA)
Carney Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN) Jones
Cartwright Kaptur
Castor (FL) Keating
Chu Kelly (IL)
Ciocilline Kennedy
Clark (MA) Kildee
Clarke (NY) Kind
Clay Kuster
Cleaver Langevin
Clyburn Larson (CT)
Cohen Lee (CA)
Conyers Levin
Courtney Lewis
Crowley Loebsock
Cummings Lofgren
Davis (CA) Lowenthal
Davis, Danny Lowey
DeFazio Lynch
DeGette Maffei
DeLauro Matsui
Deutch McCarthy (NY)
Dingell McCollum
Doggett McDermott
Duckworth McGovern
Edwards McNeerney
Ellison Meeks
Eshoo Meng
Esty Michaud
Farr Miller, George
Fattah Moore
Foster Nadler
Frankel (FL) Neal
Fudge Negrete McLeod
Gabbard Nolan
Garamendi O'Rourke

NOT VOTING—16

Bentivolio Kirkpatrick
Brooks (AL) Lankford
Gingrey (GA) Napolitano
Hanna Noem
Hartzler Nunnelee
Kilmer Pollis

□ 1647

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 359 on final passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, my vote was incorrectly recorded as “no.” I intended to vote “yes.”

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 359, I was unavoidably detained during passage of H.R. 6. An important discussion on matters pertaining to U.S. Marine held prisoner in Mexico. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25th, 2014, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 359 due to a medical emergency in my family. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on final passage of H.R. 6—Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 355 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 641, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 356 on adoption of H. Res. 641, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 357 on the DeFazio Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 358 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, offered by Mr. GARAMENDI of California, I am not recorded due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 359 on final passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, I am not recorded due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

 HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

 LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4899.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1649

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting

and administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Americans are all too familiar with the economic hardships caused by \$4 a gallon gasoline prices. I routinely hear from families in my central Washington district whose budgets are already being stretched thin and who can't afford the rising prices at the pump. Commuting to work, running the kids to after-school activities, and putting food on the table are all becoming increasingly difficult to afford. Yet the pain is not only being felt during trips to the gas station—high gasoline prices are a drain on our entire economy. That means that school districts juggle to operate bus routes, that cities grapple with the cost of sending police cars on patrol, and that businesses adjust budgets that can affect the hiring of new employees.

The good news is that \$4 gasoline does not have to be our reality. The U.S. is blessed with an abundance of oil and natural gas resources that can lower energy prices and grow our economy. H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act, is commonsense legislation to responsibly harness the American energy resources that we have right here at home.

Mr. Chairman, the Obama administration has spent the last 5½ years placing our energy resources on Federal lands and waters under tight lock and key. Offshore areas have been placed off limits. Scheduled exploration off Virginia was canceled, and over half of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, or NPR-A, has been closed to energy production. That is why it is no surprise that, since President Obama took office, total Federal oil production has dropped 6 percent and total natural gas production has dropped 28 percent. That is on Federal lands, Mr. Chairman. Meanwhile, gasoline prices have doubled during this Presidency. H.R. 4899 would reverse this trend and unlock our American energy.

The bill would implement a drill smart plan that would expand offshore energy production and safely open new areas that contain the most oil and natural gas resources, such as the mid-Atlantic, the southern Pacific, and the Arctic. It would require the Secretary to conduct specific oil and natural gas lease sales, including offshore Virginia,

which was delayed and then canceled by the Obama administration. The bill would also establish fair and equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States and improve safety by reorganizing the Interior Department's offshore energy agencies.

In addition to increased offshore energy production, the bill would help expand onshore oil and natural gas production on Federal lands. It would reform the leasing and streamline the permitting process, encourage the development of U.S. oil shale resources, expand the production of the NPR-A, and much more.

While these policies will help lower gasoline prices, they will also create over 1.2 million new American jobs and generate over \$1.7 billion in new revenue. In other words, Mr. Chairman, this bill is a win for our economy and a win for jobs.

It is also important for our national security. The current turmoil in Iraq has already caused the price of gasoline to increase, and it serves as an important reminder of why we need to increase production here at home. The best way to protect ourselves from price spikes caused by international conflicts is to increase the production of American energy resources.

As The Wall Street Journal reported last week, the recent energy boom here in the U.S. is "putting slack in the global oil market." A senior petroleum analyst noted in regard to the recent conflict in Iraq: "If this were 2005, we would have seen a 20-30 cent jump in gas prices, but it's lower today because domestic energy production is much higher."

However, all of the increase in U.S. energy production is happening on State and private lands. Mr. Chairman, let me repeat that. All of the increase in U.S. energy production is happening on State and private lands. As I previously noted, oil and natural gas production on Federal lands has declined under President Obama. We can and we should be doing so much more when it comes to American-produced energy, and doing so will further strengthen our energy security and reduce our reliance on foreign imports and on OPEC.

Finally, we need to take action now because the Obama administration just announced the start of work on the next 5-year offshore drilling plan. With this bill that we are considering today, Congress can advance a responsible plan for developing America's resources. The President's plan, on the other hand, closes over 85 percent of offshore areas to energy production and includes the lowest number of lease sales ever offered in a 5-year plan. The administration's restrictive policies should not continue for another 5 years. That is why there needs to be a new plan, as outlined in this bill on the floor, that opens new areas and helps to put more than a million Americans back to work.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4899 will ease the pain at the pump for American families and small businesses and eliminate Federal Government hurdles that keep American energy locked up. It is good for our economy; it is good for jobs; and it strengthens our national security. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have before us two bills which have previously passed the House but that have been merged into one bill and that will again pass with a Republican majority.

It mandates offshore oil drilling from Maine to the southeast coast. It mandates offshore oil drilling off of South Carolina. This would all be done under expedited or potentially nonexistent environmental reviews if they didn't meet extraordinarily brief timelines, and they would not be allowed to evaluate any options that did not include drilling. As the Republicans are extremely fiscally conservative, this would double the revenue sharing for offshore oil drilling, creating a \$30 billion loss for the Federal Government and benefiting a few southeast States.

As for the onshore portion of the bill, every permit for drilling on Federal lands in the United States would have to be issued within 60 days, and the concept of multiple use, which is hunting, fishing, recreating, mountain biking, horseback riding—go on down the list—and other activities, are all subsumed to energy development, which becomes the big—oh, wait. What? I mean, really. This is my June 2013 speech. I mean, this is last year's speech. Who gave me last year's speech? Really. Oh, guess what? It really doesn't matter, because this is the same bill from last year—two bills into one. Exactly the same bills passed the House last year and the year before that and the year before that. Every year since the Republicans have taken over, when gas prices spike up, they pass imaginary legislation and pretend they are doing something about high gas prices instead of tackling the real causes, which I will get to in a moment.

□ 1700

So many people have heard about Christmas in July. We now have a new tradition here, which is Groundhog Day in June for energy bills, in a faux sort of attempt to pretend we really care about the extortionate prices that people are paying because of Big Oil in the United States and speculation on Wall Street.

God forbid we should take on either of those very powerful and generous forces, generous to some, not to others. Does anybody believe this?

I guess there are a few people who believe anything, but since they first

brought this bill to the floor in 2011, U.S. oil production has gone from 5.6 million barrels a day to 8.4 million barrels a day—not shabby, basically a 50 percent increase.

Let's look at another chart. Exports—we are talking about—now, we have a new theory. This isn't about lowering prices in America; it is about avoiding even higher prices in America because we are stabilizing the world markets.

Well, I have had a lot of complaints from truckers. Look at how much diesel we are exporting. Since the Republicans started this campaign, the combined exports of refined gasoline—remember the shortages, that is why we are paying higher prices, supply and demand—have gone from 700 million barrels a day to 1.5 billion. We have doubled our export of refined product, and the truckers are really getting stuck here.

Look at this line. You want to know why diesel prices are up? Because diesel exports are up phenomenally—phenomenally. So we can blather on about: Gee, all we need is more production, more production—so we can export more?

In fact, now, the oil industry is pushing to end our ban on the export of crude oil. Now—right now, at least—we get some value added, and we get a few more jobs by exporting refined products.

Now, the industry wants us to lift the ban and say that we will export crude oil from the United States of America, I guess, so that we can prevent bigger price spikes if there are future crises because this is the new theory promulgated by The Wall Street Journal.

We hear a lot about the President. Here is a reality check on that issue: Federal onshore production is up 30 percent under President Obama. In fact, President Obama is providing over record production levels and plummeting imports, while the exact opposite happened under the Bush-Cheney energy policy, which actually was designed to make us more dependent upon foreign oil, and that did happen in spades during the Bush-Cheney administration.

The Energy Information Administration, they are right, there was a blip in our production offshore. It had to do with a little oil spill called Deepwater Horizon, and there was a temporary suspension of drilling and new permits. That is history now, but that does make your average look lower over time.

The Energy Information Administration says that offshore production will reach record levels—that is, all Federal offshore oil production will reach record levels by 2016; but that is reality that doesn't matter.

Now, we have a really nifty title, and that is something that they spend lots of money on consultants around here—

both parties do—to come up with nifty little sayings. The nifty title is Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

Well, since we started this argument with the Republicans on this issue about increased oil production leading to lower gas prices—well, 2008, when we had drill, baby, drill, in order to lower gas prices that were \$3.50 to \$4 a gallon—and guess what?

They haven't gone down, so that argument kind of doesn't work anymore, but now, they are saying: well, they would have been higher if we weren't producing more oil.

If we produce just more, they might not have been even more higher, or maybe they would be lower because that is what we said for the last 4 years, that they would be lower.

Since we are exporting a whole heck of a lot of it, they are not because we are paying a world price for oil, and now, they want us to pay a world price for natural gas, one place where we do have an advantage, so the prices don't go down.

There is such an abundance of oil, as I mentioned earlier, the American Petroleum Institute wants to lift the ban on the export of crude oil from the United States. Wouldn't that be great?

The U.S. can export crude oil to China. China can use it to run their electrical generating facilities, which supply their manufacturing facilities, which will produce value-added products, things that we formerly used to make here in the United States, and they will sell them back to us.

We get to sell them a raw material, kind of like a colony, and they sell us back sophisticated materials. That is kind of like something we fought a revolution over a couple of hundred years ago, but now, that is okay with some on the other side.

This is both coasts and Alaska and tremendous degradation of environmental protections on the inland areas, as I mentioned earlier. This will really do away with multiple use.

Now, we heard from the chairman, who is an esteemed colleague, that the spike in Iraq would have been worse if we weren't producing so much and exporting so much.

Actually, I just saw the statistics yesterday. Oil production hasn't dropped at all. The other OPEC companies are putting more oil out, and Iraq is at 95 percent of where they were before this, so actually, there has been no reduction anywhere, but somehow, prices are up about 20 cents a gallon at the pump.

Now, if we just produced more oil, that wouldn't happen. No, that is not true. We are producing more oil.

If we just exported more refined oil and diesel and gasoline, that wouldn't happen. Well, no, because we are. What happened?

Wall Street is speculating on the price of oil. We had sworn testimony

from the CEO of ExxonMobil 2½ years ago, before the United States Senate, when gas was getting to 4 bucks a gallon, and he said, hey, don't blame me, this isn't ExxonMobil doing this, it is Wall Street—because of the deregulation of Wall Street, the fact that we haven't yet implemented position limits on speculators, on commodities, as we were supposed to do under Dodd-Frank, which they want to repeal.

He said 60 cents a gallon. Drive up to the pump, and you are sending 60 cents a gallon to Wall Street speculators.

So if they wanted to do something today or tomorrow or yesterday or last year—or maybe next June—about spiking oil prices, it would be to go after the speculators on Wall Street. That is the quickest relief that we could provide.

Mandate position limits—or even better—repeal the provisions of the Commodity Futures Trading Modernization Act—which I voted against, which was a Clinton-era Republican bill—that actually allowed massive new speculation by nonconsumers, nonproducers, something that we never had, never needed, and don't need today.

So next time you go to the pump, say, oh, well, if we just drill right here off of Maine or right here off of Massachusetts or right here, I would pay less; or think, wow, if they wanted to really give me relief, they would take on the big oil companies, they would take on Wall Street—but they won't do that.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to first thank Chairman HASTINGS for his work on H.R. 4899, a bill that actually will ease the pain at the pump for moms and dads. There is no doubt about it.

Just since President Obama has taken office, gasoline prices have more than doubled, and I am not telling the American people anything they don't know because, when they reach in their wallet and take out money to pay for that gas—just to go back and forth to work or take the children to their sporting events or to school—they realize that more of their discretionary income is going to pay the fuel that runs the cars and the trucks that they drive.

I drive a diesel truck. I am paying—what—\$3.69 a gallon, most recently. I took this picture at a pump there in South Carolina, \$3.69 a gallon for on-road diesel fuel. Now, on that on-road diesel fuel is factored in all the highway taxes, but there was another pump right beside that one. It was for off-road diesel fuel.

Now, historically, off-road diesel fuel is a lot less than on-road diesel fuel. Why? Because there are no Federal

taxes involved. It is not going to run on the road, so they are not going to collect taxes for that.

Where is that fuel used? It is used on farms. If you look at the price, it is \$3.54 and 9/10 cents a gallon. What does that mean? Well, that means farmers that are just finishing putting their crops in the ground across this Nation paid \$3.54 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel. Their input costs have gone up.

What does that mean? If this remains the same at harvest time, guess what? The commodity prices in this country will go up. We are already seeing historically high milk prices, historically high beef prices.

You can try to blame the commodity prices in the fall on the drought in California. Some of that will be the fact, but I can tell you that the input cost for fertilizer and for diesel fuel to put the crops in the ground and harvest those are definitely a factor.

Moms and dads know what is going on. We can increase production in this country offshore and onshore through this bill. The President takes credit for increased production onshore, and I will give him this: production has increased onshore, but it has nothing to do with the policies of this administration.

It has everything to do with the private and State-owned land in South Dakota and places like Eagle Ford, Texas, where production is up. That State and private land has nothing to do with the administration's policies over the last 6 years.

Him taking credit for increased production is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise every morning. Moms and dads in this country know you are spending more money for fuel costs.

The other side seems out of touch with America, about as out of touch as Hillary Clinton is, the pain you are feeling when you go to the pump to fill up your tank to provide for your family, going back and forth.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Chairman, as a Nation, we must work together if we are ever going to get a realistic energy policy that will provide clean, reliable energy for all America, that will reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources and preserve the beauty of our land.

We need a comprehensive energy plan for a country that includes not only the conventional resources like oil and gas, but also takes advantage of the new and renewable resources such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy.

At the end of the day, I don't believe we can simply afford to take any of these energy resources off the table. I, for one, am a firm believer that using all the energy tools in our energy tool box is the way that we must go forward.

In the San Joaquin Valley of California that I represent, we have shown that we can take an all-of-the-above approach. We have oil production taking place just down the road from our solar fields and our wind farms; yet, of course, we are all concerned about the rise of gas prices, but as the gentleman from Oregon said, there are multiple factors that are causing those rising gas prices.

I represent one of the newest University of California campuses in Merced, and it is blazing a trail for energy efficiency, crafting technology necessary for the next generation of solar energy production.

Conventional energy, together with renewable resources and a strategy for energy conservation—which we do quite well in California—I think will best serve our long-term energy needs. That is why I have cosponsored the American energy opportunity act of 2014.

We must create a viable energy policy that not only acknowledges our short-term challenges, but our medium and our long-term challenges as well. We must enhance our path toward energy independence—which we have made remarkable progress in the last 4 years—from over 60 percent of importing our energy needs, now down to less than almost 40 percent.

We can do more. Expanding responsible domestic energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf, advancing alternative energy, including wind, solar, biomass, wave, geothermal, and other clean alternatives.

Developing clean coal technology, developing additional nuclear energy technology, expanding the energy of efficient products and alternative fuel vehicles, and restoring and protecting our Nation's wildlife refuges and national parks and lakes and waterways are not mutually exclusive with a good energy policy; and if we do this, we can also pay off our national debt.

Again, that is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4956. This bill does all of those things. It could do them in different ways, though, because clean energy is a critical component of our future.

Before we debate any energy legislation, I think we must acknowledge that a green energy supply is not happening as fast as we might like it to.

However, this transition must happen in order to address the continuing impacts brought on by climate change—yes, climate change—and regardless of whether or not one acknowledges the human contributions of climate change, it is a fact.

As a matter of fact, it has been changing for millions of years.

□ 1715

A combination of increasing our own domestic supply of natural gas and oil as well as reducing demand will lower energy costs, create jobs, and allow us to transition to cleaner fuels.

It also has another important factor. As we know, our European allies are focusing and refocusing after the events of Ukraine and Russia, which seems to be here and there about focusing as a responsible energy supplier.

H.R. 4899 is an important measure that we are discussing. I agree with my colleague from Washington, Representative DOC HASTINGS, when he said that the “best way to create jobs and help address rising prices is to develop the American energy resources we have right here at home.”

And there are beneficial provisions within this bill, such as expanding domestic energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf, expanding domestic energy production on our Federal lands, directing the administration to complete an energy strategy every 4 years, and reducing the Federal debt, which are all good, commonsense public policies.

Unfortunately, this bill is not perfect. No bill ever is. The bill prioritizes—and I am concerned about this—extractive energy policies and fails to take into account the need to diversify our energy portfolio.

I voted in favor of both the offshore and onshore provisions of this bill because I think we need to expand their utilization for domestic use.

But it is clear that this bill will not become law as it is, as my colleague from Oregon has indicated. We have previously voted on these measures before in other bills in this Congress, and the United States Senate has failed to take them up, nor will they take this bill up.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. COSTA. So if the Senate is not going to take up this bill and our constituents are counting on us to create legislation that, in fact, will solve problems and, therefore, truly make a positive impact in their lives, then we cannot continue to push talking points over well-crafted, thoughtful public policy. The only way to accomplish that is for us to start working together and stop talking past one another, which is what we must do.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), a subcommittee chairman on the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the chairman for his great leadership on energy in the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

The offshore and onshore provisions in this bill will create American jobs, contribute to economic growth, and increase revenue to both State and Fed-

eral Governments. This legislation takes steps to move our country forward on a path towards energy independence.

This legislation will streamline the onshore permitting process and ensure that energy projects can be permitted in a timely fashion. It will instill regulatory certainty into the leasing process by ensuring that BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, leases a minimum number of acres annually, and it will allow energy developers to move forward with energy production.

It also requires the Secretary to develop a 4-year plan for energy development, opens up the national petroleum reserve in Alaska for production, and modernizes the leasing process by allowing BLM to conduct lease sales through the Internet.

The Obama administration has made energy production on Federal lands so burdensome that companies are avoiding Federal land in favor of State and private lands. Both oil and gas production on Federal land are down under Barack Obama, by 6 percent and 28 percent respectively. In a State like my home State of Colorado, with a significant amount of Federal land, this is a problem because less energy production means less jobs and less growth.

This bill injects much-needed certainty into nearly every step of the energy production process. It will ensure timely permit approvals, ensure that BLM field offices have the funds they need to process permits, prohibits the Secretary from changing lease terms, and ensure that our Nation has a plan for an energy future.

I urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I have no further requests for time and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), another member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. TIPTON. I thank the gentleman from Washington, Chairman HASTINGS, for yielding time and for his leadership on this critical matter. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to work closely with him on this legislation and am pleased my Planning for American Energy Act was incorporated as part of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

Mr. Chair, this final commonsense package seeks to put in place a responsible energy plan that reduces gas prices and other energy costs for consumers, while also spurring economic growth and job creation.

Unlocking our vast natural resources right here at home will lead us closer to energy independence. The legislation before us today would unleash the potential for thousands of new jobs and establish a reliable, affordable, and secure source of American energy through responsible production.

As Americans make plans to celebrate our Nation's independence next week and prepare for summer trips, they are noticing that gasoline prices are rising. Many people are facing gas prices above \$3.50 a gallon to \$4 a gallon at the pump. These rising fuel costs have a ripple effect across our economy. But, sadly, this upward trend has been steady for the last several years. Fortunately, this doesn't have to be the case.

Nature and entrepreneurial ingenuity have created the potential to allow America to take complete control of its energy future. This legislation will enhance the value of our energy reserves by removing overly burdensome, redundant bureaucratic barriers that stand in the way of responsibly developing our Nation's energy production infrastructure.

Incorporated in this vital legislative package, my Planning for American Energy Act seeks to establish commonsense steps to create an all-of-the-above American energy plan for using Federal lands to meet America's energy needs. Under title II of this legislation, the nonpartisan Energy Information Administration would be required to provide the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture the projected energy needs of the United States for the next 30 years. The Secretaries would use this information to establish environmentally responsible 4-year energy production plans.

The bill allows for energy development on public lands in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States, in accordance with the multiple-use management standard established by the Federal Land Policy Management Act. It requires that all energy resources, including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, oil, natural gas, coal, oil shale, and minerals needed for energy development, be included in the plan. These goals would be accomplished responsibly, without repealing a single environmental regulation or review process.

Since President Obama took office, energy production on Federal lands has declined significantly. Additionally, the drastic increase of burdensome Federal regulations imposed by this administration is having a detrimental effect on small businesses, jobs, and consumer prices across the board. A recent study showed that the regulatory burden on Americans is costing our economy about \$1.8 trillion annually.

Colorado and our Western neighbors are home to vast energy reserves that, if tapped and developed responsibly, could fuel our Nation's economic recovery and ensure the United States remains competitive in the world market. By promoting a commonsense regulatory framework, embracing domestic energy research and development, and applying environmental and safety

standards already on the books, rather than adding costly new mandates, we can help meet America's energy needs right here at home, providing energy and economic security that will benefit American families.

America's energy capabilities are being strangled, and rising gas prices is one of the consequences. This doesn't have to be. A true all-of-the-above energy strategy that unleashes our abundant resources will lead to affordable energy for our families and small businesses for years to come. Our nature and the future prosperity of our citizens requires a true all-of-the-above domestic energy plan that responsibly increases production on Federal lands while streamlining efficiencies and reducing red tape.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TIPTON. That is exactly what H.R. 4899 will accomplish. This legislation puts people to work, putting people in America first, keeping energy costs low for families and businesses, and strengthening our national security.

I urge immediate passage of this bill. Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, nothing I have heard has refuted the points I made earlier.

In fact, the gentleman from South Carolina made the point about high diesel prices. Well, if he was harking back to a time when diesel was actually cheaper than gasoline, well, back then, we didn't export much refined diesel. Now we are exporting in the vicinity of 1 million barrels a day of diesel. So the price of diesel is up because we are paying the so-called world price. And if we exported 2 million barrels a day, the world price wouldn't go down.

And then you have the issue with the speculators on Wall Street, as I mentioned earlier. According to the head of ExxonMobil, 60 cents a gallon—and that would be diesel and gasoline—goes directly to speculators on Wall Street, those high-frequency traders who are so vital to our economy.

We do have a few statistics just to keep it straight. Gasoline production was at a record high in May, but unfortunately, gas prices were pretty darn high. This is from the Energy Information Administration, and they quote the American Petroleum Institute, which is the group that wants to begin to export crude oil. So if we produce more crude oil, we will put it in the world market or sell it to China so they can refine it. And that will somehow insulate us against price spikes because we will be flooding the world oil market with oil that is produced more cheaply here but sold more expensively over there. But unfortunately, that means that we pay the same price here that gets paid over there. That is another problem.

But anyway, the chief economist for API, John Felmy, said: "We've developed a good export market for distillates. So we produce more gasoline than demand warrants." Yet the price is up. Go figure.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will make a couple points here, Mr. Chairman. My good friend, the gentleman from Oregon, was right, that we have debated these issues on the floor before. We passed the bills—the offshore bill and the onshore bill, two separate bills—with bipartisan support. But there seems to be a pattern in this Congress that we are trying to break because we know that any legislation cannot become law until the House acts on it and the Senate acts on it. And those bills are over there awaiting action in the Senate. So hope springs eternal. Maybe if we put these things together and then have some reforms on the offshore regulation, maybe, just maybe, the Senate will come to some sort of epiphany and say, we will pass these bills together. So that is the hope that we have here, and hopefully that will happen.

Now, I want to make a couple of other points that have not really been made here in the debate today. We need to understand that crude oil is a global product and, therefore, is subject to global price pressures. But there is also one other factor that is rarely mentioned, and that is that the global market is largely controlled by one cartel, and that is OPEC. The last figures I have is that they control roughly 40 to 45 percent of the world market.

Now, we know from basic economics, where you are talking about other commodities where there is a cartel holding prices up, the best way to beat cartels is to out-supply the cartels. When you out-supply the cartels, you have less speculation in the marketplace, as has been proven over time. And the point that we are making here with the potential resources we have in America, we have the opportunity to start the process of out-supplying cartels. That is what is so important in this debate. And that is why we should act on these bills, and that is why the Senate should act on these bills.

And finally, the last point: when we do have leases in this country, it takes a long time, from the standpoint of when the lease is let, until you produce oil or produce any product whatsoever.

At the start of this administration, back in 2009, this administration had the benefit of the lease sales that went into place under the Bush administration. So this administration had the benefit of high production on Federal lands because of the work of the Bush administration for the 8 years before that.

But as I mentioned in my opening remarks, lease sales have gone down now, production has gone down, the fact that this 5-year plan that was just introduced by the President will probably take more time. I think we are going to see more of a decrease in production on Federal lands. That is why this bill is needed so much.

□ 1730

So, Mr. Chairman, this is legislation that the House has faced in the past and has passed with bipartisan support. We need to do it again because, with rising gas prices, this is an answer to the long-term rising gas prices and energy prices in this country.

So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this bill.

The legislation before us today is hardly worth debating, not because these issues are unimportant, but because these are the same tired pro-big oil and gas bills that we have debated over-and-over again.

H.R. 4899 is a combination H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act and H.R. 1965, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013.

Both these bills have already been passed by the House in the First Session, over my objections, and in the 112th Congress we similarly considered nearly identical bills.

The White House threatens to veto these bills, the Senate will never bring them up, but here we are again, on the week before the July recess, in another attempt to score political points by pushing policies that harm our environment and ignore the threat of climate change.

I know my friends on the other side of the aisle wouldn't consider themselves environmentalists, but I'm glad to know that at the very least they support recycling.

I think this has been said before but there are three Rs to recycling and one of them is reuse.

However, another recycling-R is to reduce but we certainly are not making an effort to limit how many times we can bring the same bill to the floor. And the bill before us absolutely does not recognize that our domestic demand for oil has decreased in recent years even as production has continued to rise.

I'm opposed to H.R. 4899 for the same reasons I have opposed H.R. 2231 and H.R. 1965.

This bill would require a new outer continental shelf leasing plan, even though the Department of Interior has already begun the process of writing a new plan. It would require leases of offshore areas that have been excluded from leasing previously because of lack of infrastructure and environmental concerns.

The bill cost the federal government money by providing more offshore revenue to a handful of coastal states.

The bill prevents coordination of agencies with coastal management responsibilities by prohibiting the National Ocean Policy. This will create more offshore conflicts and likely limit the ability of energy companies to operate safely and effectively in coastal areas.

And all of that is just offshore.

Onshore H.R. 4899 irresponsibility and unnecessarily would expedite the approval of drilling, while limiting judicial review.

The bill would also require a plan to lease an ever increasing amount of area onshore, in part by requiring a plan to cover the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska with a spider web of roads and pipelines.

In closing, oil and gas production is up, thanks in part to the policies of the Obama administration, and as a result energy imports are down.

This bill will not lower energy prices, and it will not help us develop new sources of clean energy. These are the same policies and the same talking points we have heard again-and-again.

And again, I am strongly opposed to this bill and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4899.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, to move the process forward and support U.S. energy independence and security, although I remain strongly opposed to one provision included in this bill.

This concerning provision was drawn from an amendment to H.R. 1965, the Federal Lands, Jobs, and Energy Security Act, which I opposed, and would call for the Secretary of the Interior to develop plans to allow for the construction of new power lines "across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need." Some may consider this to be noncontroversial, but I have fought the impact of similar language for a number of years. I am privileged to represent Virginia's "hallowed grounds," where so many important events and battles in American history took place, and I simply cannot support efforts to construct new power lines through our area—particularly power lines that would ship energy to other parts of the country. That's why I opposed PATH and why I opposed TrAIL. Cedar Creek and Bell Grove National Historic Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park are just a few areas in our region that could be impacted by this provision.

While my vote reflects my support for the other elements in this energy security bill, I will not be able to support any conferenced final bill if it contains this troubling provision.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, in the absence of fresh ideas for the American people, the Republican majority is turning back to old ones and repackaging legislation that has already passed the House for another vote. It may have a nice name, but this bill contains the same unnecessary, irresponsible giveaways to Big Oil at the expense of American taxpayers.

Today's bill would dramatically expand drilling on public lands and offshore, limiting public input into those lease sales and prioritizing drilling above all other uses, including hunting, fishing, and recreation. It undermines the existing procedures that ensure safe and responsible operations, effectively giving oil companies a blank check without appropriate safeguards.

This bill is unnecessary. Oil production in the United States is already at a 25-year high and net oil imports are at a 29-year low. We

are already the world's top natural gas producer. This bill will not reduce energy prices or increase energy security. We should not give away our taxpayer-owned natural resources to already-profitable big oil companies. I urge a no vote.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIP-TON) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today on behalf of both the Progressive Caucus and the Equality Caucus, as we are here today to talk about June being national Pride Month—Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month—as we celebrate every June.

This year has been an especially significant year. We have had a lot of victories. One year ago Thursday—tomorrow—is the year anniversary of the Supreme Court decision that ensured that people could have their marriages recognized by the Federal Government.

We have also had a number of States in the last year—bringing us up to 19 States and the District of Columbia—where you can legally be married in this country and several others that have approved it, but are currently in the legal status, including my home State of Wisconsin. We have had a big year, in that Michael Sam was the first openly gay person to be drafted into the NFL.

So we have had a lot of successes in the last year since our last Pride. We are here today to talk about that and what an important contribution to this country we have from our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens, but as much we have had all these successes, we have also had a number of projects that we still have to get done.

Until everyone has access to full equality in this country, we have not provided equal treatment under the law to each and every person as we would expect.

Mr. Speaker, we still have a number of States where you can be fired simply for being gay or lesbian. Michael Sam, as much as he has finally made it into the NFL, could be fired in a number of States in this country under the current law.

We still have too many students and too many youth who attempt suicide who are bullied in school. We have to make sure they have equal access to a quality education, and we still have too much uneven treatment, depending on what State you live in, whether or not your family is recognized. Whether you are in Wisconsin or Massachusetts, the law is different, certainly, in the State level.

We are here today to talk about the many successes we have had and the challenges we still yet have. I am very happy to be joined by a number of colleagues today, and I would like to yield, if I could, right off the bat, to one of my colleagues who has been an outspoken advocate for equality, Representative AL GREEN from the great State of Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I greatly appreciate your yielding the time, and I greatly appreciate your work in the Congress of the United States of America to bring equality to all persons, regardless of who they are, where they are from, or where they happen to be at a given point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that one God created all of humanity to live in harmony, regardless of sexuality. I believe that human rights are not conferred by a State. I don't think they are accorded by a constitution. I think that human rights are birthrights, and these are rights that one acquires simply by being born a child of God.

As such, I believe that all human beings deserve dignity and respect and that all human beings deserve equality under the law, regardless of who you are, regardless of your race, creed, color, national origin, familial status, or sexuality.

I believe that we, who hold ourselves out as people of goodwill, should do all that we can to make sure that every person on the planet Earth is treated fairly and with a great degree of dignity.

To this end, I am proud to have filed in the Congress of the United States of America H. Res. 416, which recognizes the month of June and celebrates it as LGBT Pride Month.

I am proud to say that this resolution has been cosponsored by 25 Members of Congress, including all seven cochairmen of the Equality Caucus. I am also proud to tell you that the Honorable Barney Frank, who was an openly gay Member of Congress and chaired the Financial Services Committee, is an honorary sponsor of this legislation.

I would like to, if I may, my dear friend and brother, I would like to just give some indication as to what the

resolution does, so that persons who may not be familiar, who may not have an opportunity to peruse certain records and documents, will at least hear some of what it does.

This resolution specifically recognizes the protesters who stood for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn, on June 28, 1968, as some of the pioneers of the movement.

It celebrates the creation of gay rights organizations in major cities in the aftermath of the Stonewall uprising. It highlights the importance of the American Psychiatric Association removing homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in December of 1973.

It recognizes Elaine Noble as the first LGBT candidate elected to a State legislature in 1974 and Barney Frank as the first Representative to come out as an openly gay Member of Congress in 1987.

It highlights the importance of the Civil Service Commission eliminating the ban on hiring gay persons in most Federal jobs in 1975.

It celebrates Harvey Milk making national news when he was sworn in as an openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on January 8, 1978.

It praises the thousands of activists who participated in the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights to demand equal civil rights in 1979 and the National March on Washington to demand that President Reagan address the AIDS crisis in 1987.

It highlights the importance of the 1980 Democratic National Convention, where Democrats took a stance in support of gay rights. It highlights the importance of the Supreme Court ruling in *Romer v. Evans*, in May of 1996, which found a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing the enactment of protection for gays and lesbians unconstitutional.

It celebrates Vermont becoming the first State to legally recognize civil unions between gay and lesbian couples in 2000.

It highlights the importance of the Supreme Court ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, in June of 2003, which found that, under the 14th Amendment, States could not criminalize the private, intimate relations of same-sex couples.

It goes on to do many other things, but I want to focus now on something that I think the resolution should do. It is my hope that I will live to see the day that this resolution will not only be spoken of in Congress in the month of June, but that it will actually come to the floor of the Congress of the United States of America and that it will pass the Congress of the United States of America because, on that day, we will have taken one more step toward equality for all of humanity.

Mr. Speaker, on that day, we will have taken another step toward mak-

ing real the great and noble American ideal of liberty and justice for all.

On that day, we will have taken a step toward making real the concept that all persons are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

On that day, when we pass this resolution in the Congress of the United States of America, we will have said to the world that the United States of America understands and recognizes the human rights of persons, regardless of their sexuality.

I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to give these expressions, and I pray to live to see the day that this resolution will pass the Congress of the United States of America.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, Representative GREEN, not only because you have been a veteran fighter for civil rights for everyone in this country, but I believe that is the first time that that resolution has been introduced in the body of Congress to recognize this month as Pride Month. We appreciate all the hard work you have done to make sure that happens.

I agree with you. I look forward to the day that we actually get a chance to vote on that in the month of June and make sure we recognize everyone in this country, so thank you so much for your contributions.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I thank you very much, and I look forward to working with you and other Members of Congress to give us the opportunity to have a vote on the resolution.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that, when the gentleman talked about the historical aspect of why this month is so important, he mentioned the Stonewall riots.

In fact, this Saturday—June 28—will mark the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, which is often seen as the real birth of the movement for equality for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities.

The gentleman mentioned Harvey Milk from California, who just this year was recognized on a stamp by the U.S. Government, the U.S. Postal Service, so we can recognize the many contributions that Harvey Milk made for this country, so that so many people could be out and run for office.

Mr. Speaker, I like to remind people that, in my home State of Wisconsin, one of the things we talk about each coast and the many things that have been done on our coasts for people for equality who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered.

My State of Wisconsin—we were the State that sent the first person who ran out for Congress, TAMMY BALDWIN, to the U.S. House, the first person elected to the U.S. Senate, in TAMMY BALDWIN.

With my election, TAMMY BALDWIN's, and a Republican's—Steve Gunderson,

who came out while he was in office—we have sent more openly gay and lesbian people to Congress than any other State in the country—and that is from the heartland, the State of Wisconsin.

So we are really proud of this entire country, from coast to coast and especially in the heartland. We are trying to do everything we can to make sure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity and they have the liberty to live their lives to the fullest, and that is exactly what this month is about.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to another one of my colleagues who has been a hardworking fighter on behalf of equality for every single person. In fact, I think he may have the distinction of being the first person to fly a rainbow flag outside of his office here in Washington, DC, have it outside of his door in his office.

He has been a tremendous fighter from the Long Beach area of California and a very good friend of mine. I would like to yield to my colleague from the great State of California, Representative ALAN LOWENTHAL.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Thank you, Congressman. It is an honor to be here. It is an honor to work with you on LGBT issues and all issues before the Congress, but as you point out, this is a historic time that we are living through.

This month, as you point out, marks LGBT Pride Month, a time for all of us to come together and remember the struggles for inclusion and the steps we are taking together to promote equality today, tomorrow, and generations to come.

Also, as you pointed out, it marks the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York. The riots in June of 1969 were a turning point for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and also for all its allies, friends, and family.

This is a moment when the community came together and stood up and said no—no to intolerance, no to homophobia, and no to homophobic public policies.

□ 1745

So much has changed since that night at the Stonewall Inn. Today, the egregious Defense of Marriage Act has been overturned by the United States Supreme Court, and marriage equality has come to 20 States, including my home State of California.

I am pleased to say two weekends ago I had the honor of being an affiant in the marriage of a loving couple of the LGBT community. The momentum for marriage equality is continuing, and we are living through a time when change is before us.

As you pointed out, I was listening to the discussions before the United States Supreme Court on DOMA and on Proposition 8, and I was so caught up

and offended by people not wanting to provide equality when they would testify before it that I said that I would fly the pride flag from that day forward until equality is attained by all people, and especially the LGBT community. And that flag still flies today. Although there have been great strides, equality is still not here.

For example, there is no Federal law that explicitly protects the LGBT individuals from employment discrimination. Congress now has a unique opportunity to change that and make history. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, also known as ENDA, has 205 bipartisan cosponsors and will ban all workplace discrimination against the LGBT community. This bill is the next important step on the inevitable march towards equality, and it will change the way in which we deal with all of our brothers and sisters, and it will provide the dignity that the LGBT community deserves.

I was pleased to hear that President Obama has indicated that he is soon to issue an executive order regarding LGBT discrimination, that he will ban all Federal Government contractors from discriminating against employees based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. Since taking office, the President has added critical protections to the Violence Against Women Act that protects the LGBT community and repeals the decades-old military policy of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

These are great steps, and we are living through a time of great change, but now it is Congress' turn to act so we can finally close this chapter of inequality. We must pass ENDA during the 113th Congress so we can take the next step towards ending discrimination now and forever.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL). You have been an outstanding advocate for every single one of your constituents, including the LGBT community, and I can't thank you enough for all of the work you do.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I thank you very much.

Mr. POCAN. As Representative LOWENTHAL mentioned, one of the things we need to get done yet is a bill called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, or ENDA. In 29 States in this country, you can still be fired simply because of your sexual orientation, and in 33 States based on your gender identity. This is 2014. Our country has moved far beyond the fact that you can be fired simply because of who you love. In fact, most people assume this is already the law of the land, yet it is not the law of the land, and depending upon what States you live in depends on whether or not you can have discrimination against you. That is simply wrong.

The ENDA bill has the support of virtually every Democrat in the House.

Eight Republican Members have officially signed on as sponsors. And if that bill were to come to this floor, Mr. Speaker, there would be the votes to pass this bill. The problem is getting it to the floor of Congress.

Right now we are not able to do that. The Republican majority has not allowed that bill to come to the floor, but we know and we feel confident that there are the votes to pass that in this House if we can only get it on the floor. We can join the 90 percent of Fortune 500 companies that provide for equal treatment for their employees. And the fact that 82 percent of the U.S. public supports this, it is far past due to make sure that we protect each and every person with these protections.

Another thing that Representative LOWENTHAL said that deserves extra recognition is that the Obama administration, President Obama and Vice President BIDEN, have been outspoken advocates for equal treatment under the law for each and every single person.

In fact, when I think about 1 year ago tomorrow when that Supreme Court decision came out, I was outside the Supreme Court when the decision was declared. I remember going back to my office, and that day we were on the phone with the President and his administration telling us how they were going to make sure that the Supreme Court decision would be implemented in law as quickly as humanly possible. I can tell you, that has certainly happened. In fact, just last week, the Obama administration released a report on the implementation of the Windsor decision detailing exactly how Federal agencies have moved to implement the law, and we have had tremendous progress in virtually every area.

While we still have some areas to move forward, specifically in Social Security and in veterans benefits, we are moving forward with that law, making sure that the Supreme Court's decision is implemented in the laws of the land in this country so that everyone is treated equally. I tell you, that President Obama and Vice President BIDEN have made it such a priority that everyone is treated with dignity and respect in this country has been amazing, and it is part of why we have the progress that we have. If only this Congress could get an employee non-discrimination bill on the floor, I know this Congress would pass in a bipartisan way the very protections that we need. In fact, the President just within the last 2 weeks made sure that some of those protections are in place.

The LGBT Equality Caucus has long asked the President could we possibly do an executive order to make sure that anyone who does business as a Federal contractor provides these protections to their gay and lesbian employees, just as should happen under the law. If this Congress can't act, it

doesn't mean nothing should happen. If this Congress can't act, something has to happen to fill that vacuum. The White House says they will be drafting an executive order to make sure that any Federal contractor does not discriminate based on their sexual orientation. That is a tremendous step forward, but we still have to make sure that each and every one of those States that doesn't provide these protections does provide those protections under the law.

Another area within the Federal Government where we need to do more is specifically on a number of bills that have been introduced by a number of Members from across this country to make sure that everyone is respected under that court decision—no matter what you do for a living, that you have that respect and dignity.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) has introduced the Respect For Marriage Act to ensure that those who live in States that aren't recognized can be recognized.

For example, in the State of Wisconsin, my husband and I were married in 2006 in Toronto. My State still has hate in its constitution. By Federal law, we are recognized for the thousand rights and responsibilities that are afforded to marriage, but the 213 under State law are still in limbo. Despite the fact that a Federal judge recently ruled our marriage ban as unconstitutional, it is still back in legal limbo. Until that decision gets made, people who have been married, which is in the hundreds in Wisconsin who just got married, and before that hundreds and hundreds more, can still have recognition of their benefits so we have consistency in the law.

There are other bills that I am going to talk about as we go through this hour, but I would like to yield to another one of my colleagues, someone who has been an outstanding Representative from the State of Rhode Island. First he served as the mayor of Providence, and he is an outstanding advocate for equality for each and every single person of this country, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order hour.

We certainly have a lot to celebrate in terms of progress toward full equality for the LGBT community, and a lot to be proud of. We are now living in a country where, in 19 States and the District of Columbia, individuals are afforded full marriage equality. We have work to do here, as you were just mentioning, by passing the Respect For Marriage Act, to be sure that we repeal DOMA, and legislatively doing what the Windsor case requires.

We have work to do in terms of passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to ensure that no qualified

worker in America loses his or her job because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

I want to compliment the President on his executive order that will ensure that this kind of employment discrimination does not occur in the Federal workplace. This President has provided extraordinary leadership on our collective effort to bring full equality to our community.

I also want to talk about LGBT rights internationally because this is an issue in many places around the world where members of our community are subjected to imprisonment, physical violence, sometimes imposition of death sentences for certain criminal provisions, solely because they are gay or lesbian. So I think one of the things that we need to continue to do is promote the principle of equality around the world and ensure that no one is persecuted or imprisoned or beaten because of who they are. We are seeing in places around the world like Russia and other places in the world really an uptick in anti-LGBT legislation, anti-LGBT activities.

So while we celebrate pride here in our country and the accomplishments of members of our community, we have to recognize that it is not the case for many of our brothers and sisters around the world.

We have made extraordinary progress, as you know. You are a member of the Equality Caucus. I just want to mention that we now have seven openly gay Members of Congress here in the United States, one Member in the United States Senate, so eight in total. We have for the first time in our history an executive director and a paid staff member who is responsible for helping to promote our agenda for equality for our community, to educate our colleagues about legislation important to our community, and who has really professionalized the Equality Caucus. That is historic progress. That would not have happened but for the work of a lot of individuals, a lot of great organizations, like the Human Rights Campaign, the Victory Fund, and others who have helped to ensure that members of our community are elected to public office and that the great Congress of the United States reflects the great diversity of our community.

You are an important cochair of the Equality Caucus, and I would say to the gentleman that you take on more than your share of the responsibility of advocating for equality for our community and taking a leadership role in events such as this Special Order hour. So thank you for the work you do in representing your constituents, and also bringing equality for our community.

I think we all come here with our first responsibility to our constituents, and do everything we can to represent

the people who sent us to Washington. At the same time, we come here with our characteristics and traits and our life experiences, and we all work hard to ensure that in America everyone is treated fairly and that we have access to the same responsibilities and privileges as everyone, and that is what the Equality Caucus does. I think this is a year for great celebration.

I want to end by again thanking our President, who has, more than any President in the history of our country, helped to advance the equality of LGBT individuals in the workplace, internationally, and in the conduct of marriage by implementing the Windsor case in an aggressive way, and by advancing and supporting efforts to reduce bullying and promote respect for our community, ensuring that the LGBT community is reflected throughout his administration in important positions of responsibility. I think there is no question that President Obama will go down in history as the President who has done more than any previous President to advance full equality to our community. We should always be mindful of that, and I thank him for his leadership.

With that, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. POCAN. I thank Representative CICILLINE. You are seen on so many issues as the point person in this Congress; specifically, making sure that we respect those who may be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender in other countries. I think I heard a statistic this year that one out of six people who previously had rights lost them this year because of countries like Russia, India, and other countries across our globe. It is a real concern. While we are having progress here, it is leaving a lot of other people behind around the world. Thank you for all of your advocacy around that.

In fact, one of those countries that is a country that has not gone forward in the area of equal treatment of their citizens is the country of Brunei. Brunei is a country that is currently part of the negotiations that we are having with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal that is generally offered to countries that we have something in common with, that we want to be able to not only have increased trade with, but you actually want to make sure that they somehow reflect your values.

□ 1800

And unfortunately Brunei just recently implemented shari'a law, which includes the stoning of gays and lesbians, the stoning to death for gays and lesbians in their country. This is something that we have great concern about.

There was a bipartisan letter recently signed by 119 Members of this body that went to both Secretary

Kerry and the U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Froman specifically saying why are we rewarding something that is considered such a prize, to have status in trading with us as one of the countries that we are going to put into a trade agreement, when they have such terrible human rights conditions? 119 people, in a bipartisan way in this body, sent that letter.

So we are hoping that—as Representative CICILLINE said, we are seeing us go backwards in Russia, and it looks like we may be going backwards in India and some other countries. Certainly, they have advocated the stoning of gays and lesbians. That is truly a backward idea and something that this country needs to do everything we can to change. I am glad that so many of our colleagues, in a bipartisan way, did that.

Some of the other bills that Members of Congress have introduced to try to address some of the issues that we need to move forward on, Representative TITUS from Nevada has introduced the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act, specifically getting at some of the complexities that we haven't gotten to yet within the Veterans Administration to make sure that everyone has their family relationship recognized and that that treatment is extended to their spouses.

Representative WALZ also has Protecting the Freedoms and Benefits for All Veterans Act; Representative ADAM SMITH has Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act—all trying to make sure that if you serve this country and you are a gay or lesbian citizen, you have the same benefits and rights offered to your family as offered to the other members of the military.

There is also a bill Representative RON KIND from Wisconsin has introduced, the Social Security and Marriage Equality Act, trying to address the other problem that we have within Social Security, to make sure that everyone has those benefits offered to their life partners, their husbands or wives in same sex-sex relationships. Right now that has not happened yet since that Windsor decision, and it needs to happen and we are moving forward on that.

There is a bill that I have introduced that specifically is looking to—the Restore Honor to Servicemembers Act. One of the, I think, uglier parts of our Nation's history when it comes to treatment of folks who may be gay or lesbian has been the fact that we had for so long a policy—and previous to that, outright discrimination—against gays and lesbians who choose to serve this country in the military. Under President Clinton we implemented Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but that still didn't fix it so that you could serve openly in the military.

And finally, when Don't Ask, Don't Tell was repealed and anyone was able

to serve in the military regardless of sexual orientation, we found that 114,000 people since World War II in this country were discharged with something different than the honorable discharge they should have received for their service to this country because we so often let people go previously out of the military because they are gay or lesbian with a either dishonorable discharge, other than honorable, or some other status.

Don't forget, a dishonorable discharge in some States is the same as a felony. It can take away your ability to vote; it takes away your ability to have veterans' benefits even though you served this country well.

There is a process now that people can get that status changed to the honorable status they should have received, but it is a complicated process. While it is in place under this current President, a future President could change it because it is not actually in statute. Often people have to go and hire a lawyer because it is a complicated process.

We have introduced a bill to make sure that we really treat all those veterans with the respect and honor they deserve for treating this country in the way they did by putting their life on the line to do everything they could to make sure that we have the liberty that we all have, that they should now have the liberty that they deserve and have that record changed. That is a bill that we are also trying to get done that we think is very important in moving forward.

This is a historic month. When we have Pride Month, we try to recognize the many areas that not only have we moved forward on, but also what we still need to improve. I think by talking about some of the bills that still have to move forward to make sure that everyone has that equal treatment under the law—again, those things include equal treatment for employment, which is why we have the Employee Nondiscrimination Act. In 29 States in this country you can still be fired simply because of whom you love.

We have too many students who are still being bullied in school, and the suicide rate among LGBT youth is much higher than youth in general, and we have to help restore that.

It shouldn't matter what State you live in whether or not your family is recognized. So, if you live in Wisconsin that unfortunately still has hate in our State constitution, the fact that I live there with my husband doesn't mean I should be treated any differently than if I lived in Illinois or Minnesota or Iowa, neighboring States that all recognize the relationships regardless of whom you love.

Those are all things we still have to get done in this country. We need to do that in this body, Mr. Speaker, in this Congress. We need to get these bills to

the floor and pass them and move on from what I think at one point in this history was a certain way to get out certain voters. There is a certain constituency that was built around hate. We need to move beyond that. I think many people have. While the Democratic Party certainly, I think, has been a party of inclusion and moved in a positive way, I think I am seeing that happen among Republicans, but we need to have the leadership of this House also moving.

We had a Republican Member just yesterday who has been a strong supporter of equality for all people just win his Republican primary. That is important because he has been an outspoken voice for equality. Representative HANNA, I am glad you won your primary. You stood up for your values, and your constituents supported you.

I think it is time that more of our colleagues, especially on the Republican side of the aisle, need to also stand up for what is right, because we all have colleagues and we all have constituents who are gay and lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. We can't pick and choose who we represent. You support and you represent every single person in your district, and when you don't support full equality, you are really not standing up for each and every constituent, and that is truly unfortunate.

To end, I really want to focus again on those successes. We have had a tremendous year. We have had so much progress from the Supreme Court decision exactly 1 year ago tomorrow, where we have now had a number of States just in the last year move towards full marriage equality, where we have had a country where Michael Sam could finally be the first openly gay person drafted into the NFL.

We have been able to move forward in so many areas. This is because society has moved. A majority of people in this country support marriage equality. I believe the last I saw was 58 percent of the people. Even more important, 81 percent of people 30 and under support marriage equality. That is where this country is going. We want to treat everyone with respect and dignity and allow them the liberty to live their lives. Until we do that for every single citizen, we have not reached the goal of treating everyone with equality and equal treatment under the law.

With this time that we have had, the Progressive Caucus and the Equality Caucus, I wanted to share some time with our members so we could make sure we celebrate this Pride Month and all of our constituents who may be gay or lesbian, bisexual or transgendered and say thank you for all you do. We are going to continue to fight for your equality, not only in this body in Congress, but throughout society.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING THE YARNELL HILL FIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1-year anniversary of the tragic Yarnell Hill Fire, which claimed the lives of 19 elite Granite Mountain Hotshot firefighters in late June of 2013.

The Yarnell fire began when lightning struck approximately 30 miles southwest of Prescott, Arizona, off of Highway 89 on June 28, 2013. The blaze burned approximately 8,400 acres and damaged more than 1,000 structures over a 15-day period.

During the disaster, 19 firefighters from the Granite Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew lost their lives battling the fire, the sixth deadliest American firefighter disaster overall and the deadliest wildfire ever in Arizona. Indeed, this dark day yielded the largest loss of firefighter life since September 11, 2001.

To this day, words cannot express my sadness and the depth of my condolences to the families of these brave 19 first responders who gave their lives protecting our community. I will certainly remember this horrible tragedy for the rest of my life, as well as the public memorial service that was attended by more than 1,200 members of our community. These brave men made the ultimate sacrifice fighting to protect our citizens, and for that we will be eternally grateful.

Even though a year has passed, please continue to keep the families of these Hotshot firefighters in your prayers. Furthermore, I ask that the Federal agencies responsible for actively managing our forests not forget this tragedy and take the steps to prevent similar catastrophic wildfires from re-occurring.

The citizens of Yarnell, Arizona, and the surrounding communities know all too well the importance of proactive wildfire management. While the wildfire that claimed the lives of 19 brave souls was one of the worst tragedies in the history of Arizona, millions more across the country are also impacted by these disasters.

Looking back over the past year, it is important to highlight what progress has been made in finding commonsense solutions to preventing wildfires while still acknowledging the reality that more must and can be done. We owe it to our local heroes who risk everything in order to protect our lives, our communities, and our homes.

Congress still needs to consider additional legislation that will work to get the executive branch out of the way when action must be taken swiftly. This problem can be mitigated by empowering the private sector to create

rural jobs and resurrecting the timber industry as loggers thin millions of acres of badly overgrown Arizona forests. Although we are never going to prevent all forest fires, these legislative efforts will help make fires less frequent, less intense when they do occur.

I remain optimistic that, above all else, the heroic actions of the Granite Mountain Hotshots will continue to inspire our leaders to make the necessary changes to prevent future devastation and destruction. We owe nothing less to these heroes. More importantly, I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that their legacies live on and yield substantial forest management changes.

I would like to conclude my remarks by reading the names and ages of these 19 firefighters in tribute to their service:

Andrew Ashcraft, age 29; Robert Caldwell, age 23; Travis Carter, age 31; Dustin Deford, age 24; Christopher MacKenzie, age 30; Eric Marsh, age 43; Grant McKee, age 21; Sean Misner, age 26; Scott Norris, age 28; Wade Parker, age 22; John Percin, age 24; Anthony Rose, age 23; Jesse Steed, age 36; Joe Thurston, age 32; Travis Turbyfill, age 27; William Warneke, age 25; Clayton Whitted, age 28; Kevin Woyjeck, age 21; Garret Zuppiger, age 27.

All these brave men were taken from us way too young leaving behind families and friends. Let us never forget their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

TELLING OUR CONSTITUENTS THE TRUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Arizona who actually has an amazing district and was actually an amazing leader when we lost 19 of our firefighters this time last year, I appreciate him putting that into the RECORD for all of those in Arizona.

I wanted to do something a little different tonight. A few months ago, we came to the floor here and sort of walked through what was really going on in the math. One of the things that sort of enrages me is so much of the debate we have here in Congress is the noise. We talk about this issue or that issue when we have the 10,000 pound gorilla in front of us, and that is what is happening to us fiscally.

Right now, and I am going to be using a lot of numbers tonight, and we are going to try to put up as many of these on our Facebook page and on our Web site so folks can actually see these charts. First off, if this were 1 year

ago, we were having discussions of what was the fiscal year 2014 deficit going to be, and we had some folks making these optimistic projections that we were only going to be in the \$400-some billion shortfall that year.

□ 1815

It is still a stunning amount of money. It has only gotten worse though. Remember, we were supposed to be on the way out. Employment was getting better; income was getting better. Taxes are up dramatically in this country. Remember, we have just hit the alltime high revenues ever for the United States.

So what could possibly be wrong? Because then, this last April, the projection of the deficit for this fiscal year was \$492 billion, then in May, it was \$648 billion; and with today's news that the first quarter GDP was down—was negative, went down—our growth and our economy went down 2.9 percent, that is a stunning amount of GDP to lose.

We were going to be giddy if we were over 2 percent, and we had a negative GDP in the first quarter of 2.9 percent.

I am going to make you a projection and a prediction that, when we end the 2014 fiscal year, we are not going to be much different than we were last year. So all these discussions of, well, it is getting better, and the spending and with all these new taxes, the future fiscal burden we are about to dump on our kids and our grandkids is going to get better—it is not in the math. It is not showing up.

This is important. I wanted to actually walk through a little reality check here and to show you how disappointed I am on so much of the discussion that you will hear here in Washington.

You see the chart next to me. If I came to you right now and said: tell me what you think the debt and unfunded liabilities are for the country—now, we can all go to these Web sites where it is the debt clock, and if you look at it right now, it is going to say: well, the unfunded liabilities and the debt for the United States are about \$127 trillion.

Well, there was a study done—it was done over at George Mason's Mercatus Center, and it was done at the beginning of the year. The number is \$205 trillion that we are about to dump on the heads of our kids and our grandkids.

What should terrify you about this number—well, let's find a way to talk about this. If I said our unfunded liabilities—our debt and the promises we have made in this government—are at \$205 trillion, go on a search engine right now and search for: What is the entire wealth of the world?

Mr. Speaker, you are going to pull up estimates that it could be \$167 trillion. I saw one that was \$180 trillion.

So process this: what we have promised in benefits, promised in spending,

what we have already borrowed is greater than the wealth of the world today. Process that. If you, right now, grabbed every penny of the wealth of the world, it would not put enough money in the bank to cover the promises we have already made as a government.

You have got to understand this. This should be the discussion of our times, and yet it is uncomfortable. Look, I am in my second term, and let's have a moment of brutal honesty here: What do most elected officials—what do we often focus on? Being re-elected.

When you stand up in front of a room, the pollsters and the political consultants often tell us: well, happy talk or talk about something that is easy because big numbers scare people and, besides that, they are so negative, you would lose votes.

If you talk about what is happening in the entitlements, if you talk about \$205 trillion being the debt and unfunded liabilities of your country, SCHWEIKERT, you are likely to get unelected.

We have got to step up and start telling the public, telling our voters, telling our constituents the truth: the single biggest issue facing your government is the debt and the explosion of the entitlements.

I am going to spend a little time here talking about what is really driving this. Just how do you get to this? Part of this is this is what it would look like if you used honest GAAP accounting.

Now, what is GAAP accounting? So let's put this in perspective. If I came to you right now, today, and said: all right, the country, we already know if you go on the debt clocks on the Web, you will see we are about \$17.5 trillion of borrowed money.

About \$4 trillion to \$5 trillion of that, we borrowed from ourselves, which we steal out of Social Security, we steal it out of Medicare, but the \$17.5 trillion—but then I come to you, and let's do something that is simple math.

The Social Security trust fund, with the benefits we have promised right now, is about \$23 trillion underfunded. Okay. So my \$17.5 trillion of hard debt right now and the \$23 trillion we owe—and if we were doing GAAP accounting, if we were doing honest mathematical accounting—like we all learned in, hopefully, accounting classes—you are looking at \$40 trillion that you would put onto this number because that would be honest.

That \$23 trillion that we owe to Social Security beneficiaries, that we do not have the money, we just pretend, yeah, we owe it, but we are not going to tell the public about it because it will make them nervous.

That is the GAAP accounting, so when we start doing the honest accounting—like every business, every

charity would have to do—that is how you get to real numbers and understand the real situation that the government, that the people, the beneficiaries, and those in Congress should be dealing with today.

Mr. Speaker, why is this not working? Why the problem? Let's actually go to the next chart, and maybe this will sort of help because we have had so many discussions.

Do you remember all the rhetoric that was around this place before the 2012 Presidential race and the election, the discussion of how much better everything was getting, how much better the job situation was about to get, these debts and deficits will start becoming under control?

Well, it just wasn't true. The political class, probably for reelection—heaven knows the President did—we misled the people. We didn't tell them the truth about basic math.

So what is wrong here? We are going to walk through what is really going on in these charts, but think about just the last year or two. What has happened out there when even we have succeeded at getting good legislation—bipartisan legislation—passed through the House, getting our brothers and sisters in the Senate to actually work with us, and getting the President's signature? Something like the JOBS Act, passed it 3 years ago.

Think about this: little things that were going to help the individual entrepreneur, like crowdfunding, the reg A, some of the mechanics in there where we were just trying to help capital formation for the little guys, for the startup businesses—what happened? They got lost in the bureaucracy.

Some activists on the left said: oh, we are scared of this, and we took away the optionality for everyone out there to grow that business out of their house, out of their garage.

It breaks my heart—something as simple as crowdfunding has now had so many rules and regs, and it still is in reg writing, even though we were supposed to have the rules 2 years ago.

Think about it. Even when Congress has gotten it right, this President and the bureaucracies he controls—he is appointed to—continue to destroy the optionality that we were trying to give to the American people to get this government out of their way and start growing this economy.

Let's take a quick look at this chart—and I am sorry, I know how hard it is for those folks who might be watching on television or sitting in the back row or galleries, these are hard to read—but what is important about this is the blue line here was our projection a year ago.

We were actually projecting that the deficits and debt were actually going to get better. Then when we actually had to start doing our recalculations and realizing the economy is not growing,

it is not producing the economic expansion, the economic wealth that we need in this country to cover the promises we have made, that became the red line.

Now, we need to do the next part of the discussion of what really goes on in government math. You do realize that government math, the budget projections, the debt projections that are put out—I am going to be fairly harsh here—border on fraud.

Here is simply why: this red line is based on current law. Well, you do realize in current law—something we call the SGR, you will often hear it as the doc fix—that in about 10-12 years, we expect doctors to accept 73 percent less to see a Medicare patient. That is the current law, so that is why this line goes this direction—because we have these things in law where we expect these fantasies to take place.

Now, the reality of it is: How many of you think a doctor is going to see a Medicare patient for 73 percent less? It is just not happening.

So we will run here to the floor and say: oh, heavens, we have got to make sure that our seniors have access to their doctors, we have got to make sure doctors are at least covering their costs, and we will come in here, and we will raise that doc fix, that SGR, another year.

One of the reasons it does not happen around this place for the 10 years out or the 20 years—our permanent fix—is because, all of a sudden, the math changes again, so we get the benefit of fake math. We know we made the promise that there is going to be this health care within Medicare.

We put out these fancy charts, and I see some of my brothers and sisters speechifying with the numbers they are handed. When you start to grind into what is underlying underneath those numbers we are often given by the Congressional Budget Office, you start to realize: well, they say this is based on current law.

You have got to understand, inside that current law are things that are implausible. Actually, go look at the Medicare actuaries report and go to the very last 2 or 3 pages, and even the head Medicare actuary makes it very clear that the projections in the report—because the projections in the report are based on current law—are implausible.

The head actuary actually uses the word—year after year, when they do their Medicare actuary report—that it is “implausible.” Why is that not the headline? Is it because it comes with big numbers?

Here is what happens. There is something also that our Congressional Budget Office does, which is referred to as the alternative scenario, when you actually take out the things that are in current law and put them into what actually is more likely to happen: we

will do doc fix and other things that are current law that hit the wall that are unfunded in the future, and we will step up because of the political pressure and adjust them and raise that spending.

Well, what happens when we do that? You get a curve, this green line. I know it is hard to see, but just understand that what this means is, if we hit this alternative scenario, in about 14 years—actually, slightly less—your country hits 100 percent of debt to GDP.

Okay. That is debt to GDP where, actually, that is just what we are booking. Remember, we started the conversation with we tell everyone here is the money we are borrowing, so here is our debt to GDP.

This would not even have—that 100 percent to GDP in 14 years would not actually have GAAP accounting. It would not have the real numbers because you do understand, that number we did before, saying if you just take Social Security and our current debt, add those together, it is approaching \$40 trillion, you do realize that is double your country's GDP right now.

We are already not at 100 percent of GDP. If we actually had honest accounting—just those two are 200 percent of GDP, yet how often do you hear us talk about it?

This is the issue of our time. If we don't step up and start dealing with it, I have no idea, I have no idea what happens in the future when we hit the wall—and we will hit the wall.

Oh, by the way, understand, if you just add up the debt we have and the unfunded liability in Social Security, we are far beyond where Greece is. I think Greece was \$1.7 trillion, so 100 percent debt to GDP. If you just add up those, we are at 200.

□ 1830

We need to have some folks actually start to learn some calculus, and that was actually one of my running jokes for my first year here. I started to realize many of my constituents thought the problem in D.C. was Republicans versus Democrats, and I have grown to believe it is those that own calculators and those that don't.

A question I will actually give—and we have had this discussion with a lot of Members both on the right and the left—is: Why do we seem to fight so much? Seriously. Why do we seem to fuss with each other so much? And I am going to make you the argument it is about the money.

In the next couple of charts, I am going to try to walk through what is really happening with the money so you understand if you are tired with Congress fighting with each other about the money, it isn't going away. It is about to get—and will continue to get—dramatically worse.

Another chart, probably almost unreadable from a distance, but understand here is what you are looking at.

Do you see the red lines there? The red lines are what we call discretionary. That is what I get to come to the floor and debate over and work on these appropriations bills where we are trying to move money here, take it away from here, try to save here. That red line is discretionary. That red line is your military. It is your parks. It is the FBI. It is things that are not mandatory spending, things that are not entitlements.

Here is where we are right now. We used 2013.

In 9 fiscal years—2024—do you notice something in the pattern on this chart? Do you notice that what we vote on here in Congress, the discretionary, is pretty much the same? Nine years from now, 10 years from now, it is basically the same.

But what we call mandatory, which is mostly entitlements—and I will get phone calls tomorrow from folks that are enraged that I used the word “entitlements.” That is what it is. It is an earned entitlement, but it is still a promise. It is a social contract we made as a government with our people. We just forgot to tell them we didn’t have the money to pay it.

So understand from here, from 2013 to 2014, that increase, we will now be sitting at a \$2.29 trillion increase on mandatory spending—and that is in 9 fiscal years. They are huge numbers, but you have just got to follow the chart.

Let’s say you are someone who is passionate about drug research, passionate about the national parks, passionate about securing our borders, passionate about the military. That is in this red line. It is being consumed by mandatory spending.

So understand, the simplest way I can phrase this is your government is very quickly becoming a health insurer and an entitlement provider with a shrinking army.

Process that for a moment. That is where we are at. That is what is going on around us in our lives.

We will have these charts up hopefully in the next couple of days on our Facebook page and our Web site so you can vet them yourselves. It is important. If you want to understand public policy in the United States, if you want to understand public policy that is happening here in Congress, everything is about the mandatory spending.

Do you remember the first board we put up where I was showing you the \$205 trillion of unfunded liability and debt? It is important to understand that half that is Medicare. Medicare right now represents close to \$100 trillion of promises we as a government have made, and there isn’t money to pay for it. And those are in today’s dollars.

We are going to come back and forth to a couple of these so that we better understand them.

This is actually the 2013. You will notice the red. That is what we all come here and we debate over and we fight over and work through and come up with ideas. That is the discretionary. It is 32 percent of all of our spending.

We have Social Security and Medicare. We don’t have the Obama subsidies in here yet, but that is one of our newest entitlements. Remember, we were almost promised that this ultimately was going to be a savings. It wasn’t the truth.

Medicare, income security. These are food stamps and other types of programs that are entitlements because of where you sit income-wise—veterans’ benefits, other mandatory certain pensions, certain other requirements we have to meet, mostly on the retirement side, and interest on the debt.

I want you to pay attention if you can see this. Six percent of what we spent in 2013 was interest.

I am going to be rotating back and forth so this is going to get a little awkward with these boards, but it is important to see.

So where will we be in 9 fiscal years? Now, this is important. Remember, you just saw discretionary spending. This is your military. This is your drug research. This is the FBI. This is the border. It is 32 percent of all our spending. In 9 fiscal years, it is 22 percent of all of our fiscal spending. Social Security becomes 24 percent of all of our spending. Medicare becomes 17 percent of our spending. Best guess—and this becomes a moving target right now—the ObamaCare subsidies in about 9 years will be about 2 percent of our Federal spending. A little different than we were told a couple of years ago; right? Medicaid, 9 percent of your entire Federal budget; income security, 8 percent; veterans, 3 percent; other mandatory, 1 percent.

And this is the most dangerous part of this chart. Do you see interest?

Remember, in the previous chart we were saying interest is 6 percent in 2013. How many of you believe today’s interest rates are normal, are real? What happens when we go back to normal interest rates? Well, this projection is that 9 years from now we will be back in normal interest rates. At that point, 14 percent of your entire Federal Government spending is interest.

Understand how fragile that makes all future discretionary spending if we had an interest rate spike. What happens if we were in the early eighties, late seventies type of interest rates? This number explodes, and it would consume what is sitting in the discretionary budget. As we continue to borrow, as we continue to add to programs and make promises and not set aside money for them, we are squandering our future.

On occasion, I get to sit down with an audience where I will see parents and grandparents and the grandkids and

you will turn to them and say to the parents, “How many of you love your kids?” and most of the hands go up. And then you will turn to the grandparents and say, “How many of you love your grandkids?” and all the hands go up. Then you start to show them these charts, and you turn to the parents and the grandparents and say, “Do you understand what you have done to your children, what we have done to our grandchildren, and what we have done to a generation that is not even born yet?”

The math right now, just to cover the promises that are already done—this is baked in the cake; this is done—your kids, your grandkids, your unborn children are going to have a 60 percent mean tax rate. And that is not for those with a high income; that is everyone. Sixty percent of your income will have to go just to cover this spending. And that is not your State, your local, and your FICA; that is just 60 percent of your income. You will have a 60 percent income tax just to cover the promises that are already made. And that doesn’t pay anything off. That just maintains where we are, because you start to have externalities like the net interest that you have got to pay. And what happens when interest rates move again?

So for those of you, once again, who care a lot about the military, care a lot about protecting the border, care about drug research, care about education, care about all these things, if you really do care, every time you speak to an elected official, every time you speak to someone with election ambitions, every time you speak to a policymaker, every time you speak to someone from the press, please ask the question: What are you willing to do about mandatory spending, because the mandatory spending, the entitlements, are consuming us as a people. And they are consuming your Republic’s future.

One more time. Basically, this is 9 fiscal years from now. So take a look. Here is what actual was for 2013. These are the actual numbers. We had 32 percent of our budget go to discretionary. That means not Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, ObamaCare. Those are the mandates. This actually crashes to 22 percent. This is in 9 fiscal years.

So what is the solution? The solution actually is pretty obvious, and it is really tough. We need the American people to understand maybe not the math but what it means.

It is hard to get in front of an audience and say a trillion this and trillion that. How many folks even understand what a trillion is, the thousand billion and a million. So many of our brothers and sisters do not understand what these numbers mean, but they need to understand what it means to their future and that what we are doing today isn’t working.

These numbers continue to get worse and worse month by month because we

have policy from this administration and we have policy coming from the U.S. Senate where they won't take the pieces of legislation that we put out of this House that would actually help us to start to grow the GDP.

So let me give you how simple and how tough the solution is.

Number one, we are going to have to step up and tell the truth and do something about mandatory spending.

How many politicians, how many consultants out there will say: If you talk about Medicare, you are going to get unelected? Wouldn't it be amazing if the public started to understand this and say: If you don't talk about Medicare, you get unelected?

The other thing is you have two things that potentially start to really grow our economy. The energy renaissance—let me walk through this because this is sort of a stream of consciousness, but it is really important.

If I had come to you a decade ago, when you would pick up the newspaper, when you would pick up the magazine, when you would go online, whatever you read, there was this term called "peak oil"? Do you all remember that 10, 12 years ago? It is very simple. The next incremental barrel of oil was going to be less than we had the day before. The world was running out of energy.

How many of you out there can tell me what is wrong with that? Seriously.

The fact is that it was absolutely wrong. We are not running out of energy. As a matter of fact, as of today, we have more known fossil fuels than any known time in history. We have been blessed, substantially through technology. And be prepared, there is another wave of technology coming, particularly for natural gas, between now and the end of the decade that may even make it better and more accessible and, hopefully, even cheaper. You have an energy renaissance happening in your country.

How do I keep Congress, the bureaucrats, the control freaks here in Washington from destroying this energy renaissance?

□ 1845

The second thing that is happening is even more complicated to talk about. I have grown to believe there is an economic renaissance around us, but it is unlike anything we have ever experienced. Let me see if I can find a way to make this work.

I believe we are entering the age of the hyperefficient economy. Who here has ever used a ride-sharing service? I guess the big ones are the things like Sidecar. How many of you have ever used something like Uber? Okay. You have this little computer in your hand that, on occasion, works as a phone. What about the other things that it is doing in business? If I came to you right now and said, "In the country,

who is the largest pet groomer in the United States? I think it is PetSmart. Who is the second largest one in the United States?" It is an app on your phone, where you hit it, and that is how you access your pet groomer. Think about that. Then at the rate of growth, in a couple of years, it becomes the biggest. If I came to you right now and if you were a policymaker in New York City or were a hotel owner, would you consider something like Airbnb an existential threat to your business? Remember the discussions coming out of New York about what it is doing to the bed tax.

So, when you start to worry about incumbents coming to their politicians and saying, "You need to stop this new economy," the incumbents aren't always the businesses. It is also the tax system that is built on the way it is, not on the way it is becoming.

We had a presentation from one company. I think it was out of Michigan. It had this idea—I think it was 1000 Tools—where you could go online, and instead of going down to your favorite hardware store and buying the \$1,200 compound miter saw with laser sighting—and if my wife is listening, that is actually what I want for my birthday—you now hit the button on your phone, and you rent it from your neighbor. Think about that. That is a change in the economy. The sale no longer happened at the hardware store, and the manufacturer didn't get to sell a new compound miter saw with laser sighting, but you as the consumer—you, as the renter of this equipment—now probably have, not the \$1,200 you would have spent, but the \$1,140—because you spent \$60 on the rent—still in your pocket. Do you go and spend it on other things? Do you spend it on investments? Do you spend it on your family?

There is this rotation happening all around us of things that you and I have not even thought of. Will the bureaucracies and will the incumbent businesses show up in legislative bodies and courts around the country and do everything they can to stop that new hyperefficient, highly optional economy that is around us right now? Will they try to put the Ubers out of business? Will they try to put the Airbnbs out of business? Will they try to put the 1000 Tools—and who knows what else is out there?—out of business? Every day, entrepreneurs in this country are coming up with ideas, but those ideas are restructuring the economy, so let's walk through some of the options we have.

We have an energy renaissance. Every week in our office, we have people coming to us, saying, "Oh, DAVID, we really want you to regulate hydraulic fracturing because—oh, yeah—we worry about it, but it is also ruining our investments because we invested in alternative energies, and when there is

\$4.50 long-term futures in natural gas, it is screwing up our investments over here." Remember the family rule: money, power, vanity. It is about the money. You would be shocked to know how much of the public policy that so many Americans think is Republican and Democrat is about the money.

Will this Congress do everything in its power to maximize this future of the energy renaissance and the revenues that it produces—both inbound, outbound? Will it be like some of the discussions we even saw earlier tonight of: let's come up with ways to regulate or let's come up with ways to minimize what we are able to sell when we are bringing in revenues from both our own country and from around the world?

Be prepared and think it through.

It is so often about: well, the people who support it are I and my political party, who are invested on the other side, so we need to stop this because it is hurting their investments. Then remember the number one thing most elected officials care about—their re-elections. Forgive me. I know I am trying to be brutally honest here.

The second half is, today, here in D.C., the taxicab industry spent an hour blocking the roads and honking. My understanding is a substantial portion of that was the disdain for the competition from rideshare applications, from things like Uber—another optionality. It is a changing economy. There is going to be displacement in it, but with that also comes opportunity, and with that comes the new efficiencies that give us a chance to grow this economy.

Remember the first board here. We are \$205 trillion upside down. If we don't get amazing growth, we are never going to provide the promises that we have made to 76 million baby boomers who now have begun to retire. As just a bit of trivia, why is that so important? Average baby boomers—my math may be about a year out of date—will have put about \$100,000 into Medicare. My understanding is they are going to take out about \$320,000 to \$330,000. If you take that shortfall and multiply it times 76 million of our brothers and sisters who are baby boomers, then just in that one program, you start to see some of the demographic and math problems we have.

How do we start to grow the economy?

The last part of this is the regulatory zeal that has come from this administration.

Please, President Obama, turn to your folks. It is time to rethink this. How many more bad GDP numbers do you need? How many more misses do you need on the projections of: "Oh, the economy is getting better. No, it is crashing the other way. Oh, we are going to be this much better in our deficit. Oh, dear heaven. We are a year later, and it is still the same even with

all of these new, higher taxes"? Regulatory overreach on things like waters of the U.S. and on so many other programs out there that are coming out of the bureaucracy are crushing the expansion of this economy.

My closing is pretty simple here. If you have someone out there who is asking for your vote or if you really care about the future, have the conversation, and be willing to open your mind up and understand the math—even though it is uncomfortable—that the mandatory spending is consuming everything in its path. If we don't deal with that and, at the same time, if we don't do everything we can to grow this economy absolutely vigorously, it could be a very dark day in the future. Yet I am incredibly optimistic that, if we embrace the new hyperefficient economy, if we embrace the energy renaissance, if we start to understand the regulatory crushing that has been going on right in front of us—if we deal with those and deal with them honestly—I think we actually have an amazing future, and we are going to make it through this.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

IRS "LOST DATA" SCANDAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 15 minutes.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned the IRS—the most powerful and intimidating Federal agency in existence and the agency now working to monitor our health care—has "lost" over 2 years of emails from at least six employees.

In a master stroke of unluckiness, the IRS claims that the only computer systems impacted are those belonging to top senior officials connected to the targeting of Americans who held conservative political beliefs—beliefs like the notion that the First Amendment should always be protected in order to have a lasting, free democracy.

Nothing is ever this convenient.

Mr. Speaker, are we to believe the same entity that can turn the lives of Americans upside down and that can demand 7 years of financial and personal records just "lost" 2 years of data from its own employees?

Mr. Speaker, what would happen to your constituents, to my constituents or to any of our constituents—Democrats, Republicans or Independents—if they were investigated by the IRS and "lost" 2 years of data? Do you think the IRS would simply say, "That's okay. I am sure it was an accident. These things happen. We will drop our investigation now"? Of course not. Yet that is what the IRS is telling Congress. "Oh, sorry. We lost our data. Oh, well. Let's move on."

Mr. Speaker, how can we as Representatives tell our constituents to cooperate with an entity that refuses to cooperate with Congress? How can I tell my constituents to hand over personal information about their lives to the IRS when the IRS won't do the same?

I will conclude with a simple question to my friends across the aisle: Have you no shame? Your entire political outlook is based on the idea that government can work in an unbiased and effective way. Yet, when it becomes fairly clear that something isn't quite proper at the most powerful agency in the United States, you simply obscure the investigation instead of joining us in the call for a special prosecutor.

When it becomes clear that ordinary citizens who are engaging in their natural rights were targeted by a major officer at the IRS and when that official tries to take the Fifth Amendment to put up roadblocks to an investigation, you simply play politics. You are worried about poll numbers rather than the Republic.

I recently asked the current IRS Commissioner whether or not he believed that IRS workers could remain objective towards a group of American citizens who believes that the IRS should be disbanded. He was confounded by the question before answering that they were professionals. I have no doubt that the people at the IRS are professionals. The way they attacked conservative groups could only have been done by professionals.

Let me open my question to all of my friends from across the aisle: As members of the party of government, do you believe that any person can sustain objectivity towards someone one perceives as a threat to one's livelihood?

If you believe the answer is "yes," then join me in calling for a special prosecutor to help us find the truth. Prove your beliefs with action. Defend your ideas that government can be involved in most aspects of our lives by proving that nothing criminal happened at the IRS. Show the American people that bureaucrats can remain objective in the face of someone's telling them that their jobs shouldn't exist.

Mr. Speaker, our number one job here in Congress is to protect the rights of the people, not to take them away. It is time for everyone in this Chamber to remember that.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 12 p.m. and for the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a family emergency.

Mr. KILMER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 26 on account of a family emergency.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 26 on account of a family obligation.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 25, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 316. To reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 9 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 113th Congress,

pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

CURT CLAWSON,
Nineteenth District of Florida.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6143. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "2013 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

6144. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the annual report of the Maritime Administration (MARAD) for Fiscal Year 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6145. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0365] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6146. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Microbiology Devices; Reclassification of Nucleic Acid-Based Systems for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Complex in Respiratory Specimens [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0544] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6147. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the interim report to Congress on the "Community First Choice (CFC) Option"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6148. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans — Maricopa County PM-10 Nonattainment Area; Five Percent Plan for Attainment of the 24-Hour PM-10 Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0762; FRL-9912-01-Region 9] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6149. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0311; FRL-9110-90-Region 4] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6150. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Tennessee; Knoxville; Fine Particulate Matter 2008 Base Year Emissions Inventory [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0738; FRL-9911-97-Region 4] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6151. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities; New

York; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R02-OAR-2014-0127; FRL-9912-05-Region 2] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6152. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0413; FRL-9912-03-Region 9] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6153. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tricyclazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0903; FRL-9910-39] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6154. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — [alpha]-alkyl-[omega]-hydroxypoly (oxypropylene) and/or poly (oxyethylene) polymers where the alkyl chain contains a minimum of six carbons, [alpha]-alkyl-[omega]-hydroxypoly (oxypropylene) and/or poly (oxyethylene) polymers where the alkyl chain contains a minimum of six carbons and a minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 1,100; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0210; FRL-9910-87] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6155. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation (CALM) Act [MB Docket No.: 11-93] received June 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-039, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6157. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, and continued by the President each year, most recently on November 7, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6158. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the sixty-eighth Semiannual Report to Congress of the Office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6159. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the fiftieth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up, covering the six month period ending March 31, 2014 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6160. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2013;

to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6161. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6162. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on the system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6163. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification and Establishment of Restricted Areas; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0729; Airspace Docket No.: 13-AEA-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6164. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate previously held by Eurocopter France) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0306; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-046-AD; Amendment 39-17850; AD 2014-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6165. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1103; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-131-AD; Amendment 39-17842; AD 2014-09-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6166. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0618; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-355-AD; Amendment 39-17844; AD 2014-06-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6167. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30956; Amdt. No. 3589] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6168. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30957; Amdt. No. 3590] received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6169. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4957. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 4958. A bill to provide monetary awards to any individual who provides information pertaining to the electronic communications sent by Lois Lerner during her employment at the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 4959. A bill to direct the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to maintain up-to-date information on its website regarding charges and actions brought by the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNES, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. NEAL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KIND, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. RENACCI):

H.R. 4960. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the substantiation rules for the donation of vehicles valued between \$500 and \$5,000 dollars; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 4961. A bill to prevent organized human smuggling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. YOHIO, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 4962. A bill to provide for enhanced border security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 4963. A bill to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to provide protections to borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4964. A bill to direct the Commissioner of Social Security to continue to make Social Security number printouts and benefit verification letters available at field offices of the Social Security Administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 4965. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to improve childhood care and education for local governments and local educational agencies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 4966. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act to provide that meat, poultry, and egg products containing certain pathogens or contaminants are adulterated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. SALMON, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 4967. A bill to provide congressional review of nuclear agreements with Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MESSER, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 4968. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Maya Angelou in recognition of her achievements and contributions to American culture and the civil rights movement; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 4969. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 4970. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HORSFORD,

Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 4971. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4972. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Althea Gibson, in recognition of her groundbreaking achievements in athletics and her commitment to ending racial discrimination and prejudice within the world of athletics; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 4973. A bill to amend the rural and low-income program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to include professional development in STEM education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER (for herself, Mr. LOEBACK, and Mr. TIERNY):

H.R. 4974. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the repayment of higher education loans for certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 4975. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H. Con. Res. 104. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Vietnam Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 642. A resolution calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the three kidnapped teenagers held captive in the West Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H. Res. 643. A resolution calling for further defense against the People's Republic of China's state-sponsored cyber-enabled theft of trade secrets, including by the People's Liberation Army; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. RAHALL):

H. Res. 644. A resolution condemning and disapproving of the Obama administration's failure to comply with the lawful statutory requirement to notify Congress before releasing individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and expressing national security concerns over the release of five Taliban leaders and the repercussions of negotiating with terrorists; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 645. A resolution requesting that the President of the United States transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Executive Office of the President that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 646. A resolution directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Justice that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 647. A resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 648. A resolution directing the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Commission that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 649. A resolution directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. WALZ):

H. Res. 650. A resolution congratulating the American Motorcyclist Association on their 90th Anniversary; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

225. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 319 urging the Congress to oppose the Department of Defense's budget proposal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

226. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Illinois, relative to Senate Resolution No. 1124 urging the Congress and the President to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 4957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. FLORES:

H.R. 4958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 4959.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 4960.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 4961.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; Article I, section 8, clause 4; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 4962.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Clause 1, which reads: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 4963.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 4964.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 4965.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by

this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4966.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 4967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the US Constitution

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 4968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause land Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:

H.R. 4969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1 [Rights Guaranteed]; ...the means employed to effect its exercise may be neither arbitrary nor oppressive but must bear a real and substantial relation to an end that is public, specifically, the public health, safety, or morals, or some other aspect of the general welfare.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 4970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 4972.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1; and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 4973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 4974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 4975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Clause I of Section 8 or Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 36: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 543: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 621: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 732: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 792: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 842: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 920: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 1015: Mr. MCALLISTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1020: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1070: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1074: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1127: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1225: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1507: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1518: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 1563: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 1666: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1761: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1795: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1812: Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 1844: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 1893: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1924: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2220: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2283: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2291: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2324: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2453: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. HARPER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2485: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2500: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 2536: Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2689: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2772: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2852: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2914: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3351: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3398: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. HOLT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3431: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 3485: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 3486: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
H.R. 3505: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3516: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3536: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3680: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3681: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 3714: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3829: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 3851: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 3877: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3899: Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BARBER, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESTY, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ENYART, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MOORE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLEAVER,

Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MENG, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CHU, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KIND, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3902: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3954: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3971: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3978: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3991: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 3992: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4010: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4035: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 4077: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4150: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4162: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4187: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4251: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4301: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4303: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4321: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4325: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4347: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4351: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4365: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 4383: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 4385: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4406: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 4411: Ms. BASS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LABRADOR, Ms. CHU, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DENT, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4427: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4432: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 4440: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4450: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4461: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4510: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 4515: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4541: Mr. POCAN and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4566: Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 4629: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4651: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. HALL, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4653: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4674: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4701: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4711: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4716: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4717: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4771: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 4772: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4781: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4783: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4792: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 4802: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4808: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4826: Mr. CROWLEY and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4828: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4833: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4837: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4878: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 4879: Mr. ENYART, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4893: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4906: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 4909: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 4920: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4934: Ms. FOX, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 4935: Mr. REED.
H.R. 4942: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 4948: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.J. Res. 56: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H. Con. Res. 69: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FARR, and Mr. McDERMOTT.
H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H. Res. 19: Mr. NOLAN.
H. Res. 109: Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 153: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 188: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H. Res. 435: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 456: Mr. HALL and Ms. ESTY.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HIMES and Mr. DOYLE.
H. Res. 549: Mr. CRAMER.
H. Res. 562: Mr. MORAN.
H. Res. 588: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LATHAM, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BACHUS.
H. Res. 601: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. PERRY.
H. Res. 606: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 631: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BURGESS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

84. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The City of Pleasantville, NJ, relative to Resolution No. 67-2014 urging the House of Representatives and the President to pass and sign the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014; to the Committee on Financial Services.

85. Also, a petition of the City Council of Cincinnati, Ohio, relative to Resolution No. 38-2014 recognizing the importance of a unified Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

86. Also, a petition of Ontario County Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution No. 265-2014 urging the adoption of H.R. 543; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

200 YEARS OF SERBIAN-AMERICANS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this weekend there will be a great gathering in Philadelphia to commemorate 200 years of Serbians in the United States.

As co-chair of the Congressional Serbian Caucus, we make sure that the voices of Serbian-Americans and our allies in the Serbian people are heard in Congress. Serbians are a lot like Texans. There's a certain spunk in us. It makes perfect sense that the first Serbian in the U.S., Dorde Sagić or George Fisher, spent time in Texas, and Houston at that, serving as a justice of the peace and in the Texas militia.

For more than 130 years, we have had a close relationship with the Serbian people. Our friendship with the Serbians is based on our shared belief in democracy and standing up for liberty. During both World War I and World War II, our two countries fought on the same battlefield and our people shared and shed blood together. Because of that brotherhood, we have a special relationship.

Serbian-Americans that have immigrated to the United States have brought so much to our country. George Dudich was a Serbian who immigrated to the U.S. in 1947 after World War II. He and his family fled communism under Tito. His daughter was my Chief of Staff when I was in Judge in Texas. During World War II, George worked with the Serbian resistance and rescued downed American flyers. When he came to the U.S. he spent much of his life locating those downed flyers.

I am proud to chair the Serbian Caucus with Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER from Missouri. And am grateful for recognition of the Caucus with the Ruth Mitchell Friendship Award. Serbian-Americans should be proud of their heritage and contribution to both of our great countries.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the young people from my state of Minnesota who joined nearly 3,000 students from all over the world to participate in the annual "National History Day Contest" in Washington, DC.

This year, Minnesota was proud to send Sarah Merkling, Jenna Olawsky, and Elizabeth

Rumreich, from Elk River, MN, to represent our state. They won first place in the Junior Division (middle school) in the Performance Category. These three girls just completed 6th grade, which is the first year of eligibility for the competition. By winning first at the state level, they outperformed over 300 other 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teams from around the state.

Their performance, "Canoes & Controversy: Paddling Through the Environmental Movement in Minnesota," addressed the different sentiments surrounding the Boundary Waters Canoe Area as seen through the eyes of an environmentalist, a businessman, and a news reporter from 1927 through today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring Sarah, Jenna, and Elizabeth for representing Minnesota's rich history and heritage, and for setting such a great academic example.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE OF COLONEL A. DERRICK DYKES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hawkinsville, Georgia's own Colonel A. Derrick Dykes, United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Colonel Dykes will soon retire from his present assignment as the Assistant Deputy Director of Requirements, Air Combat Command, United States Air Force, Langley Air Force Base, Langley, Virginia and return to the great state of Georgia.

Colonel Dykes was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the United States Air Force upon graduation from the United States Air Force Academy in 1989. He is a command instructor and evaluator pilot with over 5,200 hours flying United States Air Force aircraft, of which nearly 1,200 are combat or combat support hours.

Colonel Dykes has served in a variety of command and leadership positions, all with distinction. He was Commander, 330th Combat Training Squadron; Deputy Commander, 116th Operations Group; and Acting Vice Wing Commander, 116th Air Control Wing, Robins AFB, GA. Colonel Dykes served as the Chief, Command and Control Weapons System Teams Requirement Division; and Chief, Command & Control, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Requirements Division, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, VA. He served as the Director of Staff and Host Nation Liaison Officer, 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, Southwest Asia as well as

Chief, 116th Operations Group Standards and Evaluations and Chief Wing Readiness and Inspections, 116th Air Control Wing; Assistant Director of Operations, 128th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, GA; Chief C2ISR Assignments and Deputy Chief Mobility/C2ISR/SOF/HELO/CEA Assignments Branch, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX. Colonel Dykes was the Chief of Squadron Safety for the 12th Airborne Command and Control Squadron, Robins AFB, GA, and the 964th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, OK, as well as a Replacement Training Unit instructor/evaluator pilot for the 966th Airborne Air Control Squadron, Tinker AFB, OK. Colonel Dykes is currently the Assistant Deputy Director of Requirements, Air Combat Command, United States Air Force.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Colonel Dykes' long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Colonel Dykes for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Colonel Dykes' wife Lisa and his sons, Caleb, Tanner, and Justin, as well as his parents Vickie and Alton, all who have sacrificed and supported this American hero. We are a nation truly indebted to Colonel Dykes and his family, as well as to all who have served and continue to serve and give so much to defend our American values and liberties. I extend my best wishes to Colonel Dykes and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN NORTH KOREA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I recently held a hearing on an issue that deserves the world's attention: the systematic abuses of human rights in North Korea, which amount to crimes against humanity by perhaps the world's most repressive totalitarian regime—and totalitarian, not authoritarian, is the right word. As so very correctly stated in the United Nations Commission of Inquiry report on North Korea, such a regime is "a state that does not content itself with ensuring the authoritarian rule of a small group of people, but seeks to dominate every aspect of its citizens' lives and terrorizes them from within."

For in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we see a State that seeks to control all aspects of the lives of its citizens, not only their political lives, but also that innermost sanctuary we call conscience as well.

The term "hermit kingdom" is applied to any nation that willfully cuts itself off from the rest

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the world—either metaphorically or physically. This term was applied to Korea as long ago as the late nineteenth century, but it continues to be applicable to North Korea today. This is why the terrible human rights violations in North Korea are little noticed outside foreign policy circles. We must see that the crimes of the North Korean regime are more widely known than they are now.

The first step toward that is to listen to experts who have presented testimony on the horrific situation in North Korea, where political prisoners serve as virtual slaves, where starvation is used as a political weapon, and where religious believers—Christians in particular—are imprisoned, tortured and killed with such ferocity that some say it amounts to genocide.

Unfortunately, however, today the world's attention is distracted by manifold crises which seem almost to overwhelm us. To enumerate just a few, there is the: breathtaking collapse-in-progress of the Maliki regime in Iraq, which we had supported at the cost of so much American blood and treasure; various humanitarian catastrophes in Africa, most notably in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, but also the presence of violent Islamist movements such as Boko Haram and al-Shabaab in the major nations of Nigeria and Kenya; the ongoing tensions in Ukraine, as a restive Russia seeks to reassert its imperial hegemony over neighboring states; and clashes in the South China Sea as an increasingly-belligerent China makes a gambit to become a maritime power and fill a perceived vacuum.

We have always lived in a wounded world, but today the tourniquets required to stop all the bleeding the world over would tax even the most compassionate of souls.

Yet it is precisely this exhaustion of compassion that we must fight against, and we must summon the necessary conviction to address the sufferings of the people of North Korea.

At last week's hearing, we had an eyewitness to the barbarity of North Korea's cruel regime—a defector from North Korea who was born in a "total-control zone" political prison camp in the North, and who gave us an unsettling first-hand account of what he experienced. The torture he endured—and not simply physical torture, as horrific as that was—was a psychological barbarity of such ruthlessness that once you have heard what he underwent, your imaginations will forever be affected.

We heard stories of starvation by design—how the denial of food is used as an instrument of wide scale torture.

We also heard about a North Korean nuclear program that goes beyond the headlines. Yes, we do know that North Korea, in its quest for nuclear weapons, threatens to destabilize the world, but what many of us did not know, is the extent to which the North Korean nuclear program is built upon the cadavers of its own people. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry report, as important as it was, never explored the full extent to which workers in uranium mines are exposed to high levels of radiation, and how even the most basic concern for the safety needs of workers are routinely ignored.

Finally, I want to call attention to H.R. 1771, the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act. It

is my hope that Congress—both the House and Senate—will take to heart the testimony that was presented, and, with a renewed focus on North Korea's human rights record, pass this important legislation, which takes a step toward holding this rouge regime accountable for the sins committed against its own people.

TRIBUTE TO THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the Illinois National Baptist State Convention (INBSC) on the occasion of the celebration of their 100th year Centennial Anniversary.

The state affiliate of the National Baptist Convention of America, International, INBSC has been formally structured and rooted in the Baptist Doctrine since its inception. INBSC has a longstanding commitment to the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth through the teachings of Jesus the Christ. Their dedication to Christian education, evangelism, and home and foreign missions has been the strength of their ministry.

We are encouraged and uplifted by their efforts to help grow and develop church ministries and are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in his Ephesian writing: "and he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Mr. Speaker, the Illinois National Baptist State Convention has been a strong beacon of light in the State of Illinois and indeed the nation. I salute their State President, the Reverend Dr. Joel D. Taylor, the Convention officers, Member churches and Pastors and pray that they remain steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain in the Lord. I am honored to pay tribute to their historic 100th anniversary celebration and am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

ROD DOWNEY CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Downey, a mail carrier from Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Downey has been awarded the United States Postal Services' inaugural Postal Hero Award for going above and beyond in his service to his county and its citizens.

On January 10, Mr. Downey was delivering mail when he heard the cries of Louise

Grebenc. Ms. Grebenc, who was 81 at the time of the incident, had fallen on her porch the day before and could not get up. She called for help throughout the night as the temperature dropped below freezing. She had given up until Mr. Downey arrived. He quickly assessed the situation and called 911, staying with Ms. Grebenc until an ambulance came. Mr. Downey's actions saved her life.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Downey's exemplary performance and dedication are an example to us all. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County and the United States Postal Service in thanking Mr. Downey for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 350 regarding the "Pallone of New Jersey Part B Amendment No. 1" (H.R. 3301). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,535,731,914,061.53. We've added \$6,908,854,865,148.45 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING DEBBIE A. JOHNS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie A. Johns who has been a valuable asset to the Office of the Crystal City Clerk for over 38 years. Debbie has shown her dedication to the Office of the Clerk by continuing to obtain certifications in Computer Management, Grant Applicant Processing, Grant Administration, Department of Transportation Management Training, NID Certification in Emergency Management Training-Corps of Engineers and the Municipal City Clerk Certification (MOCCFOA.)

Debbie has shown outstanding dedication to the Office of the Clerk throughout her 38-year career while progressing through many positions therein; Water Clerk, Administrative Assistant, City Collector, Budget Officer, Finance Officer and City Clerk. Throughout her distinguished career Debbie has shown excellence

in her handling of many responsibilities: Managing city investments, monitoring all leave taken and accrued by city employees, managing and organizing drug screening and testing of city employees, emergency management policy, grant coordination, and as the first line of contact for concerns by citizens and public interests of Crystal City.

It is with the utmost respect and deepest gratitude that I recognize and thank Debbie A. Johns for her 38 years of service to the Office of the Crystal City Clerk. I wish her health and happiness in her retirement beginning July 1, 2014. I am grateful that we have such caring members of the Crystal City community; it is my pleasure to recognize her achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DANNY HUMPHRESS AND ENRIQUE DE LA TORRE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Danny Humphress and Enrique de la Torre.

Business owners and philanthropists, Danny Humphress and Enrique de la Torre are longtime supporters of LGBT equality in Greater Orlando and across the State, providing financial support, volunteering their time, and opening their home to host events benefitting the LGBT community. Danny has served on numerous committees, including chairing events that have raised more than \$400,000 for LGBT equality. During important news events, such as 2013's United States v. Windsor Supreme Court decision, they have acted as spokesmen telling their personal story and the larger story of the continuing LGBT struggle for equality to the media.

A devoted couple since 1989, Danny and Enrique were thrilled to have their relationship finally legally recognized in 2010, when they were married in Washington, DC. Both continue to fight to have that basic right afforded to everyone in their home state of Florida and across the United States. Recognizing that the struggle for equality doesn't end with marriage rights, they are dedicated to continuing their service to the community until true equality is achieved for all.

I am happy to honor Danny Humphress and Enrique de la Torre, during LGBT Pride Month, for their efforts to further LGBT equality.

HONORING THOMAS HART BENTON

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, a famous Missouri artist will be on display in August in a national outdoor show called Art Everywhere US.

Missouri's Thomas Hart Benton, 1889–1975, is a well-known artist and quintessential painter of the American experience.

Benton was born in Neosho, Mo., into a family of lawyer-politicians who, in Benton's words, "drank heavily, ate heartily and talked long over fat cigars." His great-uncle had been a United States Senator; his father was a Congressman.

As a teenager, Benton was a cartoonist for the Joplin American newspaper.

In 1934, Benton was featured on one of the earliest color covers of Time magazine, which praised him as one of a gifted trio of regional painters—including Grant Wood and John Steuart Curry—in touch with the spirit of America.

One of Benton's greatest works is his mural at the Missouri State Capitol: "A Social History of Missouri." When Benton published his autobiography in 1937, writer Sinclair Lewis noted, "Here's a rare thing, a painter who can write."

In August, Benton's "Poker Night" will be displayed nationwide via Art Everywhere US. Completed in 1948, this painting was based on a scene from the play "A Streetcar Named Desire," which was made into a movie.

Art Everywhere US is a collaboration between leading museums and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America. Earlier this year, leading museums identified 100 great American artworks and submitted that list for online public voting. On June 21, the museums announced the 58 artworks—paintings and photography—that will appear in August on donated advertising spaces in airports, malls, and movie theaters, as well as billboards and buses.

The Art Everywhere US portfolio spans American history, from John Singleton Copley's 1778 painting "Watson and the Shark" to contemporary art.

Among the top vote-getters was Grant Wood's "American Gothic," inspired by the artist's visit to a small town in Iowa in 1930. Other artists in this national show include Edward Hopper, Mary Cassatt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, James Whistler, and Andy Warhol.

Missouri is honored that Neosho-born artist Thomas Hart Benton is part of this stellar group and that millions of Americans will be able to see his work this summer, along with other masterpieces.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24, 2014, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 339 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1044), "Yes" on rollcall vote No. 340 (on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 316), "No" on rollcall vote No. 341 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 636),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 342 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 636),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 343 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 4413), "Yes" on rollcall vote No. 344 (on agreeing to the Waters amendment to H.R. 4413),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 345 (on agreeing to the Moore amendment to H.R. 4413),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 346 (on agreeing to the Jackson Lee amendment to H.R. 4413),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 347 (on agreeing to the Garrett amendment to H.R. 4413),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 348 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 4413 with instructions),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 349 (on passage of H.R. 4413),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 350 (on agreeing to the Pallone amendment to H.R. 3301),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 351 (on agreeing to the Waxman amendment to H.R. 3301),

"Yes" on rollcall vote No. 352 (on agreeing to the Welch amendment to H.R. 3301),

"No" on rollcall vote No. 353 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3301 with instructions), and

"No" on rollcall vote No. 354 (on passage of H.R. 3301).

A HERO AMONG US—RICHMOND, TEXAS POLICE OFFICER RAMON MORALES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, we all know that heroes live among us. One hero who lives among the people of Texas' Congressional District 22 is Ramon Morales.

Ramon is a rookie police officer in Richmond, Texas. At 1 a.m. on Sunday, June 22nd, Ramon was sent to investigate a report of a woman sitting on the railroad tracks in Richmond.

Ramon drove up to the location where the woman was sitting on the railroad tracks, the red lights came on and the crossing arms came swooping down—a train was speeding down the tracks!

The dash camera in Ramon's patrol car showed a hero coming to life. He jumped out of the cruiser and dashed onto the tracks. As he began to pull the woman off the tracks, she screamed and resisted Ramon's efforts to save her. Undaunted, Ramon kept pulling and got the woman off the tracks as the train roared by.

That all happened in brief 12 seconds.

The Texans who call Richmond home sleep well at night knowing that Officer Ramon Morales, a true, life-saving hero, is on patrol.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY AND SAM HOUSTON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Francis Scott Key is best known for being the author of our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." During the second American revolution, the War of 1812, the British invaded

the United States, captured Washington, DC, burned this building, the White House and most of this city.

The English Fleet then set sail for nearby Baltimore and were determined to take the city, but Fort McHenry was blocking and protecting Baltimore Harbor. Key, a lawyer, had boldly gone on board a British ship to seek release of a captured United States citizen. The Royal Navy held both Key and his client and refused to release either until after the British naval attack on the fort was completed. During the night, the British bombarded the fort with hundreds of shells and rockets, but at "dawn's early light," the outnumbered American defenders still held the fort, refusing to surrender, and a massive 30 foot by 40 foot American flag still flew defiantly over Fort McHenry. The unsuccessful British sailed away for good. Francis Scott Key, upon seeing the flag, wrote our national anthem that is sung on the 4th of July throughout the prairies and plains of America.

But, Key also has a Texas connection. Before Sam Houston made his way to Texas, he served with Andrew Jackson in the Indian wars and was elected United States Congressman for Tennessee for two terms and served as Governor of Tennessee.

After his governorship, Houston spent time in Washington, DC, during the 1830s advocating on behalf of the Cherokee Indians and denouncing the corruption in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In 1832, Congressman William Stanbery from Ohio made slanderous accusations about Houston and the Cherokees on the floor of Congress. One morning, Houston was leaving a boarding house on Pennsylvania Avenue and saw Stanbery walking down the street. A confrontation occurred between the two men over Stanbery's statement. A street brawl resulted. Sam Houston thrashed and viciously beat Congressman Stanbery with his hickory walking cane for Stanbery's derogatory remarks on this House floor. Stanbery then pulled a pistol and put it to the chest of Houston, but the pistol misfired. Houston, now really mad, continued the trashing of Stanbery. Fate saved Sam Houston's life.

The United States Congress ordered the arrest of Sam Houston, charging him with assault and demeaning a Member of Congress. Houston was tried before Congress. The trial lasted a month.

Houston spent one full day on this House floor in boisterous oratory stating his positions, that he was defending his honor; Stanbery was the aggressor; and anyway, Stanbery deserved the severe caning.

So what does Francis Scott Key have to do with any of this? Francis Scott Key was Sam Houston's defense lawyer. He did an admirable job in the defense of this later Texas hero, but after the trial was over, Houston was found guilty, publically reprimanded and ordered to pay a \$500 fine. Houston refused to pay the fine and, rather than face more problems with Congress, left Washington that same year and began a new life and political career in—Texas.

After defeating Dictator Santa Anna on the marshy plains of San Jacinto, Houston became the first president of the Republic of Texas.

After Texas was admitted to the United States in 1845, he was a United States Senator and then Governor of the State. Houston is the only person to serve as Governor and Member of Congress from two different States.

Sam Houston's troubles with the legislative bodies continued, however. When Texas voted to leave the Union in 1861, the Governor, Houston, refused to take the oath to support the Confederacy. So the Texas legislature removed General Sam from the office of Governor.

Too bad. Maybe if Francis Scott Key had been Sam Houston's lawyer before the Texas legislature, the outcome might have been different.

And the rest, they say, is Texas history.

And that's just the way it is.

NATIONAL TURKEY FEDERATION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY LOVERS' MONTH

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the National Turkey Federation's 25th anniversary of Turkey Lovers' Month this June.

In the 1780's, Ben Franklin wrote a letter to his daughter, extolling the virtues of the turkey. In this letter Franklin said the bird's roots are grounded in America and its courage, when in the farm yard, is without contest. For this reason, and many more, it is fitting to remind Americans that June is Turkey Lovers' Month. Turkey consumption in the United States has increased 110 percent since 1970. At that time, 50 percent of all turkey consumed was during the holidays. Today, more turkey is consumed year round, with just 31 percent of all turkey being consumed during the holiday season. Over the years, turkey producers and processors have diversified their product lines to include ground turkey, breakfast sausage, tenderloin, turkey leg, breast, and fresh-sliced deli meat.

The average American consumer enjoys 16 pounds of turkey annually. Residents of the great State of California eat more turkey than any other state, exceeding more than 600 million pounds per year. In fact, California's per capita consumption of turkey meat is 21 pounds, five pounds higher than the national average. In 2012, California turkey producers raised over 15.5 million birds, ranking our state among the top 10 highest turkey producing states and home to household names such as Foster Farms, Zacky Farms, Willie Bird Turkeys, and Pitman Farms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of Turkey Lovers' Month.

HONORING LITTLE RIVER-ACADEMY, TEXAS POLICE CHIEF LEE DIXON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life and service of Little River-Academy, TX Police Chief Lee Dixon who was tragically killed in the line of duty last week. His loss is a sobering reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of our nation's law enforcement officers.

Chief Dixon grew up in Olney, TX and lived throughout the Lone Star State before settling down in his beloved Little River-Academy. At his post for just one month, he was the only full-time police officer in this small town nestled in the heart of Bell County. Chief Dixon, who dedicated his life to public service, was a beloved and essential part of this close-knit community.

As a former judge, I know firsthand the essential role police officers play in maintaining law and order and the risks they face every time they report for duty. These brave men and women awake each day uncertain of what dangers await. Yet they carry on, strengthened by their resolve to protect and serve. Police officers, be they big city beat cops or small town sheriffs, help preserve our way of life and are the shields that guard us from those lost souls who wish harm to others.

While Chief Lee Dixon's watch has ended, his legacy and the commitment of all who wear the badge live on. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, friends, and the Little River-Academy community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NADINE SMITH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Nadine Smith. Smith is the co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida, the state's largest organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In 1986, Smith served on the founding board of the International Gay and Lesbian Organization. Smith has been recognized as a national leader by organizations including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights Task Force of Florida, National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), and the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum.

A former award-winning journalist, Smith has written syndicated columns for various gay and mainstream publications. Smith was also an award-winning investigative journalist for WUSF, a National Public Radio affiliate in Tampa, and later became a reporter for the Tampa Tribune.

In 1993, Smith was part of the historic oval office meeting between then incumbent President Bill Clinton and LGBT leaders. Smith was

co-chair of the 1993 March on Washington, coordinating national and international media. She also served four terms as co-chair of the Federation of Statewide LGBT Advocacy Organizations.

Smith attended the U.S. Air Force Academy after graduating High School in Panama City. She left after the passage of Don't Ask Don't Tell in 1993. She earned a Masters in Communication from the University of South Florida.

In 1995, Smith served as campaign manager for Citizens for a Fair Tampa, a successful effort to prevent the repeal of the city's human rights ordinance, which included sexual orientation. Smith has been an outspoken advocate for hate crimes and anti-bullying legislation. In 2008, Equality Florida's efforts resulted in the passage of a statewide anti-bullying law that has spurred school districts across the state to include sexual orientation and gender identity in their anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies.

From 2006 to 2009, Smith served on the Board for Fairness for All Families, a grassroots effort to protect LGBT families in the face of a ballot measure that banned recognition of marriage between same sex couples. The measure, which passed with approximately 62 percent of the vote, also banned protections that are the "substantial equivalent of marriage".

Smith has served as a spokesperson for Equality Florida denouncing the ban on adoptions by LGBT individuals. In particular, Smith challenged the state for using huge sums of taxpayer dollars to fund a discredited anti-gay activist as their star witness for the ban.

In 2013, Smith was named one of the state's "Most Powerful and Influential Women" by the Florida Diversity Council. She was also given the League of Women Voter's Woman of Distinction Award earlier this year. She lives in St. Petersburg with her wife Andrea and son Logan.

I am happy to honor Nadine Smith, during LGBT Pride Month, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the LGBT community nationwide and in Florida.

CONGRATULATING ALEC PALEN

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rogersville High School senior Alec Palen on his Class 3 State Championship Golf title and for being named to the Missouri All-State Team.

Alec shot a two-day score of 145 to win the championship. His final putt was an uphill 8 footer on the 18th hole to clinch the victory for him.

With his help, Rogersville High School finished second overall, a best in school history. The team shot a combined score of 640, only 3 behind first place Pembroke Hill.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the team's head coach and father of Alec, Brett Palen, and Athletic Director Rod Gorman for their dedication and leadership.

I am honored to recognize Alec Palen for his Class 3 State Golf Championship and being named to the All-State Team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit clarification regarding my recorded vote for rollcall No. 320, offered by my colleague Mr. NADLER of New York, to H.R. 4870 on Thursday June 18, 2014. My recorded vote was "no," which was done in error. I would like to clarify that my intended vote on rollcall No. 320 was a "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, due to obligations in my district, I was unavoidably detained in Massachusetts on June 19, 2014. I was therefore unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 318 through 326. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

"No" on rollcall 318.

"Yea" on rollcall 319.

"Yea" on rollcall 320.

"No" on rollcall 321.

"Yea" on rollcall 322.

"No" on rollcall 323.

"Yea" on rollcall 324.

"Yea" on rollcall 325.

"Yea" on rollcall 326.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. SAMUEL HOWARD SMITH ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS SENIOR PASTOR OF THE MOUNT HOREB MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent and longtime friend Reverend Dr. Samuel Howard Smith on his 50th anniversary as the Senior pastor of the Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Smith is a father, grandfather, great grandfather, and a loving husband. He received Christ at the age of 22 and answered the call to the ministry at the youthful age of 27 in October of 1957. Due to a strong belief in God and an outstanding delivery of the Good News of Christ, Dr. Smith was led to Pastor the Morning Star Baptist Church of Houston, Texas in 1959. This uncompromising man later became the Pastor of Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, also in Houston, Texas in 1964 where he has remained God's servant for 47 years.

Dr. Smith is a well known and respected teacher, preacher, and evangelist. His commitment to serving the community has taken the Gospel beyond the walls of the church and into the streets. He is known as "God's Street Man," where no one on the streets is a stranger nor is anyone off limits to him. He believes that where every man is, so is his soul, and that each man must choose where he wants to spend eternity.

Dr. Smith is a Korean War veteran and has held leadership positions on the Evangelical Board of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gregory Lincoln Educational Center's "I Have A Dream", is a national instructor for the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America, a member of Houston's Baptist Ministers' Alliance, Houston Baptist Pastors and Ministers Fellowship and Ministers Against Crime.

Dr. Smith is a prolific man of God with a passion for street ministry and winning souls. He is the author of "Taking IT to the Streets," a book on Christian Evangelism that emphasizes the importance of street evangelism in Christian Outreach ministry. Dr. Smith is an inspiration to all by setting remarkable standards for others to follow.

I take great pride in recognizing and honoring the Senior Pastor of the Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Samuel Howard Smith on the occasion of his 50th Pastoral Anniversary. Dr. Smith continues to shine to let God's glory shine through his solid leadership in the community. His tireless efforts to impact our world, and inspire others to do the same is deserving of the respect, admiration and commendation of the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to unexpected flight delays, I was detained from voting on Monday, June 23 and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 339 and rollcall vote No. 340. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both. I was also detained by a meeting with constituents on the evening of June 24 and was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 350. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the thousands of mixed status families in Houston and Harris County, Texas who have needlessly been torn apart by our nation's broken immigration laws and call for this House to pass comprehensive immigration reform in 2014.

Nearly one year ago today, the United States Senate passed bipartisan immigration reform, S. 744, that would strengthen border protection and deter unauthorized crossings while providing a pathway to normalization and citizenship for those who have resided in our country for many years and met several requirements, including learn English, pay back taxes, and not commit any serious crimes.

This is not, as some opponents of reform have claimed, amnesty. This is earned normalization—earned through a long and documented commitment to becoming an American. The requirements and length of time necessary to obtain a green card in the Senate bill and its House companion, H.R. 15, are far more stringent than those set in the 1986 immigration reform that was signed into law by President Reagan.

Our district office in Houston handles hundreds of heart-wrenching immigration cases a year, including stories of high school valedictorians and military service veterans deported because they have no recourse and the system does not provide any discretion to consider their value to our society.

Comprehensive immigration reform, Mr. Speaker, is not only pro-family. It is also pro-jobs and pro-deficit reduction. The Congressional Budget Office found that enactment of CIR would reduce the deficit by nearly a trillion dollars and increase economic growth by 3.3 percent in 2023 and 5.4 percent in 2033. CIR would also add several years to the funds available in the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds.

These findings verify what immigration reform experts have said for years—that reform would help grow the economy and create jobs for all Americans, native born and naturalized.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with American families, American businesses, and our nation's cherished history as a land open to immigrants, and call for a floor vote on immigration reform this year.

AMERICA'S PREMIER YOUTH BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, Spirit of America is a not for profit public service organization established in 1995, in Mentor, Ohio. Spirit of America exists primarily to serve our nation's youth with America's Premier Youth Boating Safety Education Program.

Spirit of America combines the resources of traditional and non-traditional education activities to provide a place and a way for students to learn, react, and develop lifelong learning skills and ambitions. They empower our youth to develop responsibility, confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and safe boating practices.

Furthermore this organization proves that advancing community boating where Spirit of America programs are located spurs other economic and social benefits, while continuing to provide a resource for the marine industry.

FUTURE BOATERS = FUTURE BUSINESS

The Spirit of America Foundation has placed and graduated tens of thousands of young people over the past 19 years. In recognition of their efforts and to promote awareness, Spirit of America has coined and created the "National Take Our Youth Boating Week"®. This special event will be held/celebrated annually the second week in July, beginning this July 4th–12th. There will be a great deal of promotion amongst their partners including the United States Coast Guard (USCG), manufacturers of the marine industry, and other educational non-profit organizations whose mission is similar to theirs. The Spirit of America Foundation would like to have the event recognized on the national level by July 2015 but appreciates our acknowledgment for 2014 in the mean time.

The plan is that all interested parties will participate in the mission of getting more youth on the water.

NO CHILD (WILL BE) LEFT ON THE DOCK

Education and safety are of the utmost importance and Spirit of America is changing the way that the world views boating, in particular with young people. In 2013 the lowest number of fatalities were recorded since the USCG has been recording data. They plan to have this program available in all 50 states in the future. Please get involved by visiting the website for a location to participate, or contact them directly for information about opening a program in your area.
www.SpiritofAmerica95.org

JULIE GEISER CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Geiser of Alamosa, Colorado. After 18 years of service as the Director of the Alamosa Public Health Department, Ms. Geiser is retiring to spend time with her family and friends.

Ms. Geiser has had an exemplary career, leading her department with vision and passion. Under her guidance, the Alamosa Public Health Department has doubled in size, while continuing to maintain a standard of excellence that meets the needs of her community. In 2008 Ms. Geiser provided crucial leadership during a salmonella outbreak, prioritizing public safety by ensuring that the public remained informed. During this tenuous time she worked with local officials to locate and terminate the source of the outbreak and limit its spread. Instances like this demonstrate the important role Ms. Geiser has had in ensuring the health and vitality of her community. Ms. Geiser was recognized by the Nightingale Luminaries in 2014 for demonstrating outstanding leadership, advocacy, and innovation in her community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Geiser's hard work and dedication to serving her community are commendable. I stand with the residents of Alamosa County in thanking Ms. Geiser and congratulating her on a lifetime of service. Al-

though she is retiring from her current post, I am confident she remain a valuable part of her community, and I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING GUNNAR ALLISON

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rogersville High School sophomore Gunnar Allison for winning the Class 3 Discus State Championship.

Gunnar threw 167' 11" to clinch his first state championship. Gunnar also won second place in the shot put competition.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Gunnar's Head Coach Doug Smith and Athletic Director Rod Gorman for their dedication and leadership.

I wish Gunnar the best in the rest of his track and field career. I am honored to recognize Gunnar Allison for his Class 3 State Championship.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALAN RAY JORDAN

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize Alan Ray Jordan. Alan was a bright light whose flame was extinguished far too early. Born and raised in Georgia, Alan moved to Orlando later in life.

Soon after Alan moved to Orlando, he met Billy Manes. Alan and Billy knew, almost immediately, that they had found someone special in each other. Billy described Alan as "a charmer who looked like a black-and-white film star and talked like John Wayne."

In 2003, Billy was asked to run for interim Mayor of Orlando. Alan was Billy's biggest supporter, becoming his campaign treasurer and coach. Alan was the rock behind Orlando's first openly-gay candidate for Mayor. Billy's candidacy, with Alan's help and support, would change Orlando's political landscape.

Alan's friends recognized his selfless commitment to Billy through his celebration of Billy's accomplishments. He was Billy's partner in helping to highlight the inequalities that gay couples faced in making lives together.

Alan's health began declining in 2006, forcing him to go on long-term disability. With the help of Billy, Alan was able to stay active and take care of his family despite his ailing health. Billy and Alan decided that they needed to protect themselves in a state that refused to recognize their union.

In 2007, Alan joined Billy in testing the legal limits in gaining rights as a same-sex couple. Alan allowed his life with Billy to be detailed in an Orlando Weekly article in an effort to examine the injustice faced by gay couples

seeking marriage equality. Alan's courage in helping to reveal the struggle that same-sex couples face, helped to give fuel to the marriage equality movement in Florida.

Alan's health took a turn for the worse in 2011, and despite Billy's heroic efforts to stop his decline Alan would ultimately take his own life in the spring of 2012.

Alan Ray Jordan was a gift to our community. His support of one of Orlando's foremost advocates for equality, peace, and justice and his own voice and struggle for the community have made the world a better place.

I am honored to recognize Alan's commitment and sacrifices for our community and lament the fact that he is no longer with us. Alan Jordan's legacy will be one that inspires generations to come and helps to remind all of us of the human toll that inequality and prejudice will take if not corrected.

On behalf of Billy Manes and the Central Florida community, I am proud to honor Alan Ray Jordan, during LGBT Pride Month.

HONORING LEROY MCGINNIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leroy McGinnis from Cuba, Missouri for his achievements and years of service at McGinnis Wood Products. I also would like to congratulate him, and the rest of the staff at McGinnis Wood Products on receiving the SHARP Safety and Health Recognition Program award.

In 1968 with only one stave mill on 16 acres of land, Leroy McGinnis started McGinnis Wood Products. Now, 46 years later, McGinnis Wood Products operates with four stave mills on 56 acres, employing over 150 people.

McGinnis Wood Products is a perfect example of a family operation. Leroy married Ovia Marie 64 years ago, and they now have six children together. Leroy now has not only children, but grandchildren working with the family business.

Leroy not only serves as the CEO of McGinnis Wood Products, but also serves his community in many ways. Mr. McGinnis is a member of Cuba's Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of Missouri's Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of Missouri Enterprise, Associated Cooperage Industries of America, Missouri Forest Products Association, and Associated Industries of Missouri. In 1992, Mr. McGinnis co-founded the Missouri Wood Industries Insurance Trust. Leroy was also the recipient of the Cuba Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Award in 2010. It is my pleasure to recognize his achievement before the House of Representatives.

H. RES. 109

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Committee on Foreign Affairs approved House Resolution 109 condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights. The resolution received wide bipartisan support in the Committee.

This resolution is of particular interest to me. The Baha'i people practice a religion entirely of peace that strives to create a society of global unity and oneness. The City of Cincinnati, Ohio is greatly enriched by the presence of the Baha'i Community. Their place of worship in Cincinnati is located about a mile away from my home. As a neighbor to the community, I have been witness to the gentleness and compassion of the Baha'i people.

The Iranian regime continues to persecute those of the Baha'i faith by charging, imprisoning, abusing, and murdering individuals on trumped up charges including alleged "propaganda against the state." Human Rights Watch says, "These transparently political charges make it painfully clear that authorities have targeted the Baha'i people not for any crime, but because of their religious beliefs."

The followers of the Baha'i faith are denied the constitutional rights that others of the Iranian society are granted. In Iran, the Baha'i do not have the freedom to practice their religion, and their marriages are not recognized by the Iranian government. The rights of the Baha'i community are continually being violated in Iran.

The Baha'i faith is truly a religion of peace. The Baha'i is the youngest of the independent world religions, founded by Bahá'u'lláh in 19th century Iran. At the heart of Bahá'u'lláh's teaching, is the unification of all mankind and the building of a peaceful, global community. Bahá'u'lláh once said, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens." The practice of the Baha'i encourages the dedication of one's life for humanity and the friendship with followers of all religions. The Baha'i seeks to establish equality of women and men and to eliminate prejudices.

Since the beginning of its existence, the Baha'i community has carried out the peaceful teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, and has strived to create a wholesome and inclusive society for all people. They have worked to enable individuals to contribute to the betterment of humanity by practicing acceptance and harmony. I would like to extend my recognition and appreciation to the Baha'i people of Cincinnati for their contribution to society. My hope is that the adoption of the House Resolution 109, will increase awareness of ongoing major human rights abuses in Iran.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a sys-

tem for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 8

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Children and Families

To hold hearings to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private re-homing.

SD-430

JULY 9

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2442, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, S. 2465, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, S. 2479, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, S. 2480, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and S. 2503, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

SD-628

JULY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, Admiral William E.

Gortney, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Northern Command, and Commander, Northern American Aerospace Defense Command, General John F. Campbell, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and Commander, United States Forces, Afghanistan, and Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special

Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

JULY 16

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program.

SD-628

JULY 23

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years.

SD-628

JULY 30

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine responses to natural disasters in Indian country.

SD-628

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, June 26, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause in Your presence, and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Enable them, O God, to act on what they believe to be right and just, and to do so in ways that show respect for those with whom they disagree. In this, may they grow to be models and good examples in a time when so many in our world are unable to engage gracefully with those with whom they are at odds.

As we approach this next recess, and the celebration of the birth of our Nation, bless our great Nation, and keep it faithful to its ideals, its hopes, and its promise of freedom in our world.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. YODER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK LETTER

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share a letter from a 10-year-old, Stephanie Santilli of Philippi, West Virginia. She wrote:

Seven-and-a-half years ago on October 4, 2007, my Uncle Jim passed away due to pancreatic cancer. His cancer was found too late because of being misdiagnosed too many times, and a CT scan finally found the cancer. His son Isaac was only 9 when his father died. He is missed by so many. I hope that some day a cure is found so other families don't have to go through the same pain we have.

Her story is just one of many across the Nation. For every 100 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, only six survive.

Madam Speaker, by funding the research to develop a cure, we honor Stephanie's uncle and those we have lost to pancreatic cancer.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST TERRY J. HURNE

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in honor of the life of Terry J. Hurne, United States Army Specialist, who died on June 9, 2014. Terry made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the United States in the Logar province of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Hurne was raised in Atwater, California, graduated from Atwater High School, and joined the military in 2007. During his time in the Army, Terry served two tours in Afghanistan, and for the past 5 years, he served as a generator mechanic and a builder. He was assigned to Company B, 710 Brigade Support Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, stationed in Fort Drum, New York.

His family and friends will hold memories of Terry in their hearts forever. His smile, his laughter, his kindness to everyone will never, ever be forgotten; his fondness for sports, and a big lover of animals, especially his dog Trinity. He will be remembered as a hero who fought for our freedoms.

Terry is survived by his wife, Natalie, as well as his father, his mother, stepmother, three sisters, and a brother.

It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the life of our fallen soldier, Army Specialist Terry Hurne, an American patriot who did extraordinary things.

God bless him.

CELEBRATING EDNA YODER'S 103RD BIRTHDAY

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating my grandmother Edna Yoder's birthday.

Born on June 28, 1911, my grandmother will turn 103 on Saturday, and I couldn't be prouder of her. She and my grandfather, Orrie Yoder, spent their lives working on a farm and raising their four children, including my father, Wayne Yoder. She is a very principled and humble woman who believes strongly in her family and her faith.

Over the past 103 years she has lived through the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and two world wars, to name a few. She has seen a lot, and to this day tells great stories, has a wonderful and cheery sense of humor, and, of course, dispenses plenty of advice.

Each day when I get up in a nation of prosperity and freedom, I think of my grandmother and people of her generation who worked themselves to the bone, who helped build this great country so that their children and children's children would have the opportunity to realize their dreams.

Today, my grandmother spends her time working puzzles, playing games, playing in the bell choir, and, of course, keeping up with her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-great-grandchildren.

Grandma, happy 103rd birthday to you.

VOTING RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Voting Rights Amendment Act. This is a critical piece of bipartisan legislation in response to the Supreme Court's ruling, *Shelby County v. Holder*, that was handed down exactly 1 year ago this week.

This decision undid critical voting protections that have proven effective over the years and that Congress has reauthorized as early as 2006. The Voting Rights Amendment will do several things, among them: enhance the power of Federal courts to stop discriminatory voting changes from being implemented, create new nationwide transparency requirements that help keep communities informed about voting changes in their community, and continue the Federal observer program that combats racial discrimination at the polls.

Voter discrimination is not just a problem of the past but is very much alive today. In fact, since the 2013 decision, there have been 10 voting changes across the country that have raised concerns about voting discrimination.

As Representatives in a democratic government, we have a duty to prevent voter discrimination and make sure that every citizen's voice is heard.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Ms. DUCKWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam Speaker, last summer more than 100 businesses attended a forum I held in Schaumburg, Illinois, to learn more about the benefits of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Since then, businesses in my district have told me time and again how the bank's services keep them competitive in the global marketplace and create good-paying American jobs. They know we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank now.

For decades, the Export-Import Bank has helped American exporters sell their products overseas. It provides their financing, credit, and insurance to grow their businesses abroad when other options are simply not available. Last year, these investments led to \$37.4 billion in exports that created more than 200,000 jobs right here in America.

This week, a USA Today editorial stated:

One of the most vexing economic developments in recent decades has been the decline in manufacturing jobs. An industry that employed nearly 25 percent of the workforce in the 1970s today accounts for only 7.8 percent . . . The loss of these jobs has reduced opportunities for people without a college degree to move into the middle class.

Madam Speaker, we can't abandon the American manufacturing and the American middle class. Bring up the bill I helped introduce, H.R. 4950, and let's reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, now is not the time for the Trans-Pacific Partnership or fast track legislation. Five years into our economic recovery, high unemployment and stagnant incomes continue to keep consumer spending down. American families still cannot make ends meet. For too many people, that is the reality. Meanwhile, we are being asked to pass fast track legislation for TPP, and I think it is a threat to American jobs.

How do we know? We have already tried this 20 years ago when we passed NAFTA. Similar to TPP, NAFTA promised to create jobs, 200,000 Americans jobs every year, but they didn't materialize. Instead, the United States lost more than a million jobs. In Minnesota, more than 13,000 workers were displaced.

We don't want to see this happen again. It is time to pass a trade bill that lifts labor standards around the world, not encourages a race to the bottom. We cannot afford to offshore any more of our jobs. Let's pass a good trade bill.

RECOGNIZING MR. HERSCHEL LUCKINBILL FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herschel Luckinbill of Montgomery, Illinois, as the Illinois Veteran of the Month for June 2014. The title of Veteran of the Month is bestowed upon individuals who have been exceptionally dedicated to honoring veterans and improving our community.

A Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, Mr. Luckinbill has taken great effort to continue his service beyond Active Duty. As a member of the Aurora Veterans Advisory Council, Mr. Luckinbill represents the interests of veterans in our community. Mr. Luckinbill organized efforts to bring The Vietnam Moving Wall to Aurora in 2013, giving the community and the next generation the opportunity to honor the fallen. Working as part of the organization Honor Flight Chicago, Mr. Luckinbill has helped World War II veterans fly to Washington to view the monuments that were erected in their honor.

We can never fully repay those who have risked and given their lives in

service to our country, but because of the tireless efforts of advocates like Herschel Luckinbill, their sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Herschel Luckinbill for his service to our country and to veterans in our community.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4899.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, with Ms. FOXX (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-50. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4899

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is the following:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS**Subtitle A—Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program Reforms**

Sec. 10101. Outer Continental Shelf leasing program reforms.

Sec. 10102. Domestic oil and natural gas production goal.

Sec. 10103. Development and submittal of new 5-year oil and gas leasing program.

Sec. 10104. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—Directing the President To Conduct New OCS Sales

Sec. 10201. Requirement to conduct proposed oil and gas Lease Sale 220 on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore Virginia.

Sec. 10202. South Carolina lease sale.

Sec. 10203. Southern California existing infrastructure lease sale.

Sec. 10204. Environmental impact statement requirement.

Sec. 10205. National defense.

Sec. 10206. Eastern Gulf of Mexico not included.

Subtitle C—Equitable Sharing of Outer Continental Shelf Revenues

Sec. 10301. Disposition of Outer Continental Shelf revenues to coastal States.

Subtitle D—Reorganization of Minerals Management Agencies of the Department of the Interior

Sec. 10401. Establishment of Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals and Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

Sec. 10402. Bureau of Ocean Energy.

Sec. 10403. Ocean Energy Safety Service.

Sec. 10404. Office of Natural Resources revenue.

Sec. 10405. Ethics and drug testing.

Sec. 10406. Abolishment of Minerals Management Service.

Sec. 10407. Conforming amendments to Executive Schedule pay rates.

Sec. 10408. Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory Board.

Sec. 10409. Outer Continental Shelf inspection fees.

Sec. 10410. Prohibition on action based on National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547.

Subtitle E—United States Territories

Sec. 10501. Application of Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act with respect to territories of the United States.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 10601. Rules regarding distribution of revenues under Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.

Sec. 10602. Amount of distributed qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues.

Subtitle G—Judicial Review

Sec. 10701. Time for filing complaint.

Sec. 10702. District court deadline.

Sec. 10703. Ability to seek appellate review.

Sec. 10704. Limitation on scope of review and relief.

Sec. 10705. Legal fees.

Sec. 10706. Exclusion.

Sec. 10707. Definitions.

TITLE II—ONSHORE FEDERAL LANDS AND ENERGY SECURITY**Subtitle A—Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security**

Sec. 21001. Short title.

Sec. 21002. Policies regarding buying, building, and working for America.

CHAPTER 1—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMIT STREAMLINING

Sec. 21101. Short title.

SUBCHAPTER A—APPLICATION FOR PERMITS TO DRILL PROCESS REFORM

Sec. 21111. Permit to drill application timeline.

SUBCHAPTER B—ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM

Sec. 21121. Administrative protest documentation reform.

SUBCHAPTER C—PERMIT STREAMLINING

Sec. 21131. Making pilot offices permanent to improve energy permitting on Federal lands.

Sec. 21132. Administration of current law.

SUBCHAPTER D—JUDICIAL REVIEW

Sec. 21141. Definitions.

Sec. 21142. Exclusive venue for certain civil actions relating to covered energy projects.

Sec. 21143. Timely filing.

Sec. 21144. Expedition in hearing and determining the action.

Sec. 21145. Standard of review.

Sec. 21146. Limitation on injunction and prospective relief.

Sec. 21147. Limitation on attorneys' fees.

Sec. 21148. Legal standing.

SUBCHAPTER E—KNOWING AMERICA'S OIL AND GAS RESOURCES

Sec. 21151. Funding oil and gas resource assessments.

CHAPTER 2—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

Sec. 21201. Short title.

Sec. 21202. Minimum acreage requirement for onshore lease sales.

Sec. 21203. Leasing certainty.

Sec. 21204. Leasing consistency.

Sec. 21205. Reduce redundant policies.

Sec. 21206. Streamlined congressional notification.

CHAPTER 3—OIL SHALE

Sec. 21301. Short title.

Sec. 21302. Effectiveness of oil shale regulations, amendments to resource management plans, and record of decision.

Sec. 21303. Oil shale leasing.

CHAPTER 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 21401. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—Planning for American Energy

Sec. 22001. Short title.

Sec. 22002. Onshore domestic energy production strategic plan.

Subtitle C—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Access

Sec. 23001. Short title.

Sec. 23002. Sense of Congress and reaffirming national policy for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Sec. 23003. National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska: lease sales.

Sec. 23004. National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska: planning and permitting pipeline and road construction.

Sec. 23005. Issuance of a new integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement.

Sec. 23006. Departmental accountability for development.

Sec. 23007. Deadlines under new proposed integrated activity plan.

Sec. 23008. Updated resource assessment.

Subtitle D—BLM Live Internet Auctions

Sec. 24001. Short title.

Sec. 24002. Internet-based onshore oil and gas lease sales.

TITLE I—OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS**Subtitle A—Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program Reforms****SEC. 10101. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING PROGRAM REFORMS.**

Section 18(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) In each oil and gas leasing program under this section, the Secretary shall make available for leasing and conduct lease sales including at least 50 percent of the available unleased acreage within each outer Continental Shelf planning area considered to have the largest undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources (on a total btu basis) based upon the most recent national geologic assessment of the outer Continental Shelf, with an emphasis on offering the most geologically prospective parts of the planning area.

“(B) The Secretary shall include in each proposed oil and gas leasing program under this section any State subdivision of an outer Continental Shelf planning area that the Governor of the State that represents that subdivision requests be made available for leasing. The Secretary may not remove such a subdivision from the program until publication of the final program, and shall include and consider all such subdivisions in any environmental review conducted and statement prepared for such program under section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

“(C) In this paragraph the term ‘available unleased acreage’ means that portion of the outer Continental Shelf that is not under lease at the time of a proposed lease sale, and that has not otherwise been made unavailable for leasing by law.

“(6)(A) In the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the Secretary shall make available for leasing any outer Continental Shelf planning areas that—

“(i) are estimated to contain more than 2,500,000,000 barrels of oil; or

“(ii) are estimated to contain more than 7,500,000,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas.

“(B) To determine the planning areas described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall use the document entitled ‘Minerals Management Service Assessment of Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Oil and Gas Resources of the Nation’s Outer Continental Shelf, 2006’.”

SEC. 10102. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.

Section 18(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In developing a 5-year oil and gas leasing program, and subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production goal for the development of oil and natural gas as a result of that program. Such goal shall be—

“(A) the best estimate of the possible increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the outer Continental Shelf;

“(B) focused on meeting domestic demand for oil and natural gas and reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy; and

“(C) focused on the production increases achieved by the leasing program at the end of the 15-year period beginning on the effective date of the program.

“(2) PROGRAM GOAL.—For purposes of the 5-year oil and gas leasing program, the production goal referred to in paragraph (1) shall be an increase by 2032 of—

“(A) no less than 3,000,000 barrels in the amount of oil produced per day; and

“(B) no less than 10,000,000,000 cubic feet in the amount of natural gas produced per day.

“(3) **REPORTING.**—The Secretary shall report annually, beginning at the end of the 5-year period for which the program applies, to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of the program in meeting the production goal. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and any problems with leasing, permitting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal.”.

SEC. 10103. DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMITTAL OF NEW 5-YEAR OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) by not later than July 15, 2015, publish and submit to Congress a new proposed oil and gas leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) for the 5-year period beginning on such date and ending July 15, 2021; and

(2) by not later than July 15, 2016, approve a final oil and gas leasing program under such section for such period.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF ALL AREAS.**—In preparing such program the Secretary shall include consideration of areas of the Continental Shelf off the coasts of all States (as such term is defined in section 2 of that Act, as amended by this title), that are subject to leasing under this title.

(c) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 18(d)(3) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(d)(3)) is amended by striking “or after eighteen months following the date of enactment of this section, whichever first occurs,”.

SEC. 10104. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

Subtitle B—Directing the President To Conduct New OCS Sales

SEC. 10201. REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 220 ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE VIRGINIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the exclusion of Lease Sale 220 in the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) as soon as practicable, but not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO MAKE REPLACEMENT LEASE BLOCKS AVAILABLE.**—For each lease block in a proposed lease sale under this section for which the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, under the Memorandum of Agreement referred to in section 10205(b), issues a statement proposing

deferral from a lease offering due to defense-related activities that are irreconcilable with mineral exploration and development, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall make available in the same lease sale one other lease block in the Virginia lease sale planning area that is acceptable for oil and gas exploration and production in order to mitigate conflict.

(c) **BALANCING MILITARY AND ENERGY PRODUCTION GOALS.**—In recognition that the Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing program and the domestic energy resources produced therefrom are integral to national security, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense shall work jointly in implementing this section in order to ensure achievement of the following common goals:

(1) Preserving the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to maintain an optimum state of readiness through their continued use of the Outer Continental Shelf.

(2) Allowing effective exploration, development, and production of our Nation’s oil, gas, and renewable energy resources.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **LEASE SALE 220.**—The term “Lease Sale 220” means such lease sale referred to in the Request for Comments on the Draft Proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010–2015 and Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed 5-Year Program published January 21, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 3631).

(2) **VIRGINIA LEASE SALE PLANNING AREA.**—The term “Virginia lease sale planning area” means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as that term is defined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (33 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.)) that is bounded by—

(A) a northern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the northernmost point of Virginia’s seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 37 degrees 17 minutes 1 second North latitude, 71 degrees 5 minutes 16 seconds West longitude; and

(B) a southern boundary consisting of a straight line extending from the southernmost point of Virginia’s seaward boundary to the point on the seaward boundary of the United States exclusive economic zone located at 36 degrees 31 minutes 58 seconds North latitude, 71 degrees 30 minutes 1 second West longitude.

SEC. 10202. SOUTH CAROLINA LEASE SALE.

Notwithstanding exclusion of the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area from the Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program 2012–2017, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a lease sale not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act for areas off the coast of South Carolina determined by the Secretary to have the most geologically promising hydrocarbon resources and constituting not less than 25 percent of the leasable area within the South Carolina offshore administrative boundaries depicted in the notice entitled “Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Administrative Boundaries Extending from the Submerged Lands Act Boundary seaward to the Limit of the United States Outer Continental Shelf”, published January 3, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 127).

SEC. 10203. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE LEASE SALE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall offer for sale leases of tracts in the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara/Ventura Basins of the Southern California OCS Planning Area as soon as practicable, but not later than December 31, 2015.

(b) **USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES OR ON-SHORE-BASED DRILLING.**—The Secretary of the

Interior shall include in leases offered for sale under this lease sale such terms and conditions as are necessary to require that development and production may occur only from offshore infrastructure in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act or from onshore-based, extended-reach drilling.

SEC. 10204. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIREMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of this title, the Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a multisale environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) for all lease sales required under this subtitle.

(b) **ACTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.**—Notwithstanding section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332), in such statement—

(1) the Secretary is not required to identify nonleasing alternative courses of action or to analyze the environmental effects of such alternative courses of action; and

(2) the Secretary shall only—

(A) identify a preferred action for leasing and not more than one alternative leasing proposal; and

(B) analyze the environmental effects and potential mitigation measures for such preferred action and such alternative leasing proposal.

SEC. 10205. NATIONAL DEFENSE.

(a) **NATIONAL DEFENSE AREAS.**—This title does not affect the existing authority of the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, to designate national defense areas on the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

(b) **PROHIBITION ON CONFLICTS WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.**—No person may engage in any exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf under a lease issued under this title that would conflict with any military operation, as determined in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior on Mutual Concerns on the Outer Continental Shelf signed July 20, 1983, and any revision or replacement for that agreement that is agreed to by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior after that date but before the date of issuance of the lease under which such exploration, development, or production is conducted.

SEC. 10206. EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO NOT INCLUDED.

Nothing in this title affects restrictions on oil and gas leasing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109–432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

Subtitle C—Equitable Sharing of Outer Continental Shelf Revenues

SEC. 10301. DISPOSITION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) is amended—

(1) in the existing text—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “All rentals,” and inserting the following:

“(c) **DISPOSITION OF REVENUE UNDER OLD LEASES.**—All rentals,”; and

(B) in subsection (c) (as designated by the amendment made by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph), by striking “for the period from June 5, 1950, to date, and thereafter” and inserting “in the period beginning June 5, 1950, and ending on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014”;

(2) by adding after subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) COASTAL STATE.—The term ‘coastal State’ includes a territory of the United States.

“(2) NEW LEASING REVENUES.—The term ‘new leasing revenues’—

“(A) means amounts received by the United States as bonuses, rents, and royalties under leases for oil and gas, wind, tidal, or other energy exploration, development, and production on new areas of the outer Continental Shelf that are authorized to be made available for leasing as a result of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014 and leasing under that Act; and

“(B) does not include amounts received by the United States under any lease of an area located in the boundaries of the Central Gulf of Mexico and Western Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas on the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, including a lease issued before, on, or after such date of enactment.”; and

(3) by inserting before subsection (c) (as so designated) the following:

“(a) PAYMENT OF NEW LEASING REVENUES TO COASTAL STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), of the amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States each fiscal year, 37.5 percent shall be allocated and paid in accordance with subsection (b) to coastal States that are affected States with respect to the leases under which those revenues are received by the United States.

“(2) PHASE-IN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), paragraph (1) shall be applied—

“(i) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the first leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting ‘12.5 percent’ for ‘37.5 percent’; and

“(ii) with respect to new leasing revenues under leases awarded under the second leasing program under section 18(a) that takes effect after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, by substituting ‘25 percent’ for ‘37.5 percent’.

“(B) EXEMPTED LEASE SALES.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any lease issued under subtitle B of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

“(b) ALLOCATION OF PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of new leasing revenues received by the United States with respect to a leased tract that are required to be paid to coastal States in accordance with this subsection each fiscal year shall be allocated among and paid to coastal States that are within 200 miles of the leased tract, in amounts that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each such State that is closest to the geographic center of the lease tract, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM ALLOCATION.—The amount allocated to a coastal State under paragraph (1) each fiscal year with respect to a leased tract shall be—

“(A) in the case of a coastal State that is the nearest State to the geographic center of the leased tract, not less than 25 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract;

“(B) in the case of any other coastal State, not less than 10 percent, and not more than 15 percent, of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract; and

“(C) in the case of a coastal State that is the only coastal State within 200 miles of a leased

tract, 100 percent of the total amounts allocated with respect to the leased tract.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Amounts allocated to a coastal State under this subsection—

“(A) shall be available to the coastal State without further appropriation;

“(B) shall remain available until expended;

“(C) shall be in addition to any other amounts available to the coastal State under this Act; and

“(D) shall be distributed in the fiscal year following receipt.

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a coastal State may use funds allocated and paid to it under this subsection for any purpose as determined by the laws of that State.

“(B) RESTRICTION ON USE FOR MATCHING.—Funds allocated and paid to a coastal State under this subsection may not be used as matching funds for any other Federal program.”.

(b) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall not affect the application of section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109-432; (43 U.S.C. 1331 note)), as in effect before the enactment of this Act, with respect to revenues received by the United States under oil and gas leases issued for tracts located in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas, including such leases issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Reorganization of Minerals Management Agencies of the Department of the Interior

SEC. 10401. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF OCEAN ENERGY AND SAFETY.

There shall be in the Department of the Interior—

(1) an Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Secretary of the Interior or, if directed by the Secretary, to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level III of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for—

(i) the safe and responsible development of our energy and mineral resources on Federal lands in appropriate accordance with United States energy demands; and

(ii) ensuring multiple-use missions of the Department of the Interior that promote the safe and sustained development of energy and minerals resources on public lands (as that term is defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

(2) an Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States; and

(3) an Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate;

(B) report to the Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals;

(C) be paid at the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule; and

(D) be responsible for ensuring safe and efficient development of energy and minerals on public lands and other Federal onshore lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, including implementation of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and administration of the Office of Surface Mining.

SEC. 10402. BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the “Bureau”), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Ocean Energy (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Bureau all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of a comprehensive program of offshore mineral and renewable energy resources management.

(2) SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.—The Director shall promulgate and implement regulations—

(A) for the proper issuance of leases for the exploration, development, and production of nonrenewable and renewable energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf;

(B) relating to resource identification, access, evaluation, and utilization;

(C) for development of leasing plans, lease sales, and issuance of leases for such resources; and

(D) regarding issuance of environmental impact statements related to leasing and post leasing activities including exploration, development, and production, and the use of third party contracting for necessary environmental analysis for the development of such resources.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Bureau any function, power, or duty that is—

(A) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service; or

(B) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section shall affect the authorities of the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or of the Forest Service under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-588).

SEC. 10403. OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY SERVICE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Ocean Energy Safety Service (referred to in this section as the “Service”), which shall—

(1) be headed by a Director of Energy Safety (referred to in this section as the “Director”); and

(2) be administered under the direction of the Assistant Secretary of Ocean Energy and Safety.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out through the Service all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary relating to the administration of safety and environmental enforcement activities related to offshore mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations to ensure the safe and sound exploration, development, and production of mineral and renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a timely fashion.

(2) *SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.*—The Director shall be responsible for all safety activities related to exploration and development of renewable and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, including—

(A) exploration, development, production, and ongoing inspections of infrastructure;

(B) the suspending or prohibiting, on a temporary basis, any operation or activity, including production under leases held on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(1));

(C) cancelling any lease, permit, or right-of-way on the Outer Continental Shelf, in accordance with section 5(a)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1334(a)(2));

(D) compelling compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations relating to worker safety and other matters;

(E) requiring comprehensive safety and environmental management programs for persons engaged in activities connected with the exploration, development, and production of mineral or renewable energy resources;

(F) developing and implementing regulations for Federal employees to carry out any inspection or investigation to ascertain compliance with applicable regulations, including health, safety, or environmental regulations;

(G) implementing the Offshore Technology Research and Risk Assessment Program under section 21 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1347);

(H) summoning witnesses and directing the production of evidence;

(I) levying fines and penalties and disqualifying operators;

(J) carrying out any safety, response, and removal preparedness functions; and

(K) the processing of permits, exploration plans, development plans.

(d) EMPLOYEES.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall ensure that the inspection force of the Bureau consists of qualified, trained employees who meet qualification requirements and adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards.

(2) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—The qualification requirements referred to in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be determined by the Secretary, subject to subparagraph (B); and

(B) shall include—

(i) 3 years of practical experience in oil and gas exploration, development, or production; or

(ii) a degree in an appropriate field of engineering from an accredited institution of higher learning.

(3) *ASSIGNMENT.*—In assigning oil and gas inspectors to the inspection and investigation of individual operations, the Secretary shall give due consideration to the extent possible to their previous experience in the particular type of oil and gas operation in which such inspections are to be made.

(4) *BACKGROUND CHECKS.*—The Director shall require that an individual to be hired as an inspection officer undergo an employment investigation (including a criminal history record check).

(5) *LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.*—Individuals hired as inspectors must be able to read, speak, and write English well enough to—

(A) carry out written and oral instructions regarding the proper performance of inspection duties; and

(B) write inspection reports and statements and log entries in the English language.

(6) *VETERANS PREFERENCE.*—The Director shall provide a preference for the hiring of an individual as an inspection officer if the individual is a member or former member of the Armed Forces and is entitled, under statute, to retired, retirement, or retainer pay on account of service as a member of the Armed Forces.

(7) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.—

(A) *ANNUAL PROFICIENCY REVIEW.*—The Director shall provide that an annual evaluation of each individual assigned inspection duties is conducted and documented.

(B) *CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.*—An individual employed as an inspector may not continue to be employed in that capacity unless the evaluation demonstrates that the individual—

(i) continues to meet all qualifications and standards;

(ii) has a satisfactory record of performance and attention to duty based on the standards and requirements in the inspection program; and

(iii) demonstrates the current knowledge and skills necessary to courteously, vigilantly, and effectively perform inspection functions.

(8) *LIMITATION ON RIGHT TO STRIKE.*—Any individual that conducts permitting or inspections under this section may not participate in a strike, or assert the right to strike.

(9) *PERSONNEL AUTHORITY.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director may employ, appoint, discipline and terminate for cause, and fix the compensation, terms, and conditions of employment of Federal service for individuals as the employees of the Service in order to restore and maintain the trust of the people of the United States in the accountability of the management of our Nation's energy safety program.

(10) TRAINING ACADEMY.—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish and maintain a National Offshore Energy Safety Academy (referred to in this paragraph as the “Academy”) as an agency of the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

(B) *FUNCTIONS OF ACADEMY.*—The Secretary, through the Academy, shall be responsible for—

(i) the initial and continued training of both newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors in all aspects of health, safety, environmental, and operational inspections;

(ii) the training of technical support personnel of the Bureau;

(iii) any other training programs for offshore oil and gas inspectors, Bureau personnel, Department personnel, or other persons as the Secretary shall designate; and

(iv) certification of the successful completion of training programs for newly hired and experienced offshore oil and gas inspectors.

(C) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) *IN GENERAL.*—In performing functions under this paragraph, and subject to clause (ii), the Secretary may enter into cooperative educational and training agreements with educational institutions, related Federal academies, other Federal agencies, State governments, safety training firms, and oil and gas operators and related industries.

(ii) *TRAINING REQUIREMENT.*—Such training shall be conducted by the Academy in accordance with curriculum needs and assignment of instructional personnel established by the Secretary.

(11) *USE OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.*—In performing functions under this subsection, the

Secretary shall use, to the extent practicable, the facilities and personnel of the Department of the Interior. The Secretary may appoint or assign to the Academy such officers and employees as the Secretary considers necessary for the performance of the duties and functions of the Academy.

(12) ADDITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall work with appropriate educational institutions, operators, and representatives of oil and gas workers to develop and maintain adequate programs with educational institutions and oil and gas operators that are designed—

(i) to enable persons to qualify for positions in the administration of this title; and

(ii) to provide for the continuing education of inspectors or other appropriate Department of the Interior personnel.

(B) *FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—The Secretary may provide financial and technical assistance to educational institutions in carrying out this paragraph.

(e) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Service any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10404 to be carried out through the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

SEC. 10404. OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established in the Department of the Interior an Office of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the “Office”) to be headed by a Director of Natural Resources Revenue (referred to in this section as the “Director”).

(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) *COMPENSATION.*—The Director shall be compensated at the rate provided for Level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties vested in the Secretary and relating to the administration of offshore royalty and revenue management functions.

(2) *SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.*—The Secretary shall carry out, through the Office, all functions, powers, and duties previously assigned to the Minerals Management Service (including the authority to develop, promulgate, and enforce regulations) regarding offshore royalty and revenue collection; royalty and revenue distribution; auditing and compliance; investigation and enforcement of royalty and revenue regulations; and asset management for onshore and offshore activities.

(d) *LIMITATION.*—The Secretary shall not carry out through the Office any function, power, or duty that is—

(1) required by section 10402 to be carried out through Bureau of Ocean Energy; or

(2) required by section 10403 to be carried out through the Ocean Energy Safety Service.

SEC. 10405. ETHICS AND DRUG TESTING.

(a) *CERTIFICATION.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall certify annually that all Department of the Interior officers and employees having regular, direct contact with lessees, contractors, concessionaires, and other businesses interested before the Government as a function of their official duties, or conducting investigations, issuing permits, or responsible for oversight of energy programs, are in full compliance with all Federal employee ethics laws and regulations under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) and part 2635 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, and all guidance issued under subsection (c).

(b) **DRUG TESTING.**—The Secretary shall conduct a random drug testing program of all Department of the Interior personnel referred to in subsection (a).

(c) **GUIDANCE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue supplementary ethics and drug testing guidance for the employees for which certification is required under subsection (a). The Secretary shall update the supplementary ethics guidance not less than once every 3 years thereafter.

SEC. 10406. ABOLISHMENT OF MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE.

(a) **ABOLISHMENT.**—The Minerals Management Service is abolished.

(b) **COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Completed administrative actions of the Minerals Management Service shall not be affected by the enactment of this Act, but shall continue in effect according to their terms until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) **COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION DEFINED.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “completed administrative action” includes orders, determinations, memoranda of understanding, memoranda of agreements, rules, regulations, personnel actions, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, and privileges.

(c) **PENDING PROCEEDINGS.**—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the officers of the Department of the Interior under this title—

(1) pending proceedings in the Minerals Management Service, including notices of proposed rulemaking, and applications for licenses, permits, certificates, grants, and financial assistance, shall continue, notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or the vesting of functions of the Service in another agency, unless discontinued or modified under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such discontinuance or modification could have occurred if this title had not been enacted; and

(2) orders issued in such proceedings, and appeals therefrom, and payments made pursuant to such orders, shall issue in the same manner and on the same terms as if this title had not been enacted, and any such orders shall continue in effect until amended, modified, superseded, terminated, set aside, or revoked by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(d) **PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.**—Subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior or any officer of the Department of the Interior under this title, pending civil actions shall continue notwithstanding the enactment of this Act, and in such civil actions, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered and enforced in the same manner and with the same effect as if such enactment had not occurred.

(e) **REFERENCES.**—References relating to the Minerals Management Service in statutes, Executive orders, rules, regulations, directives, or delegations of authority that precede the effective date of this Act are deemed to refer, as appropriate, to the Department, to its officers, employees, or agents, or to its corresponding organizational units or functions. Statutory reporting requirements that applied in relation to the Minerals Management Service immediately before the effective date of this title shall continue to apply.

SEC. 10407. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE PAY RATES.

(a) **UNDER SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, LANDS, AND MINERALS.**—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the

item relating to “Under Secretaries of the Treasury (3),” the following:

“Under Secretary for Energy, Lands, and Minerals, Department of the Interior.”.

(b) **ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.**—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Assistant Secretaries of the Interior (6).” and inserting the following:

“Assistant Secretaries, Department of the Interior (7).”.

(c) **DIRECTORS.**—Section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Director, Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior.” and inserting the following new items:

“Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy, Department of the Interior.

“Director, Ocean Energy Safety Service, Department of the Interior.

“Director, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior.”.

SEC. 10408. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ENERGY SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, an Outer Continental Shelf Energy Safety Advisory Board (referred to in this section as the “Board”)—

(1) to provide the Secretary and the Directors established by this title with independent scientific and technical advice on safe, responsible, and timely mineral and renewable energy exploration, development, and production activities; and

(2) to review operations of the National Offshore Energy Health and Safety Academy established under section 10403(d), including submitting to the Secretary recommendations of curriculum to ensure training scientific and technical advancements.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **SIZE.**—The Board shall consist of not more than 11 members, who—

(A) shall be appointed by the Secretary based on their expertise in oil and gas drilling, well design, operations, well containment and oil spill response; and

(B) must have significant scientific, engineering, management, and other credentials and a history of working in the field related to safe energy exploration, development, and production activities.

(2) **CONSULTATION AND NOMINATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering to identify potential candidates for the Board and shall take nominations from the public.

(3) **TERM.**—The Secretary shall appoint Board members to staggered terms of not more than 4 years, and shall not appoint a member for more than 2 consecutive terms.

(4) **BALANCE.**—In appointing members to the Board, the Secretary shall ensure a balanced representation of industry and research interests.

(c) **CHAIR.**—The Secretary shall appoint the Chair for the Board from among its members.

(d) **MEETINGS.**—The Board shall meet not less than 3 times per year and shall host, at least once per year, a public forum to review and assess the overall energy safety performance of Outer Continental Shelf mineral and renewable energy resource activities.

(e) **OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—As part of its duties under this section, the Board shall, by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section and every 5 years thereafter, submit to the Secretary a report that—

(1) assesses offshore oil and gas well control technologies, practices, voluntary standards, and regulations in the United States and elsewhere; and

(2) as appropriate, recommends modifications to the regulations issued under this title to en-

sure adequate protection of safety and the environment, including recommendations on how to reduce regulations and administrative actions that are duplicative or unnecessary.

(f) **REPORTS.**—Reports of the Board shall be submitted by the Board to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House or Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and made available to the public in electronically accessible form.

(g) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Members of the Board, other than full-time employees of the Federal Government, while attending meeting of the Board or while otherwise serving at the request of the Secretary or the Director while serving away from their homes or regular places of business, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals in the Government serving without pay.

SEC. 10409. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF INSPECTION FEES.

Section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1348) is amended by adding at the end of the section the following:

“(g) **INSPECTION FEES.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall collect from the operators of facilities subject to inspection under subsection (c) non-refundable fees for such inspections—

“(A) at an aggregate level equal to the amount necessary to offset the annual expenses of inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) by the Department of the Interior; and

“(B) using a schedule that reflects the differences in complexity among the classes of facilities to be inspected.

“(2) **OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY FUND.**—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ‘Ocean Energy Enforcement Fund’ (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’), into which shall be deposited all amounts collected as fees under paragraph (1) and which shall be available as provided under paragraph (3).

“(3) **AVAILABILITY OF FEES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, all amounts deposited in the Fund—

“(i) shall be credited as offsetting collections;

“(ii) shall be available for expenditure for purposes of carrying out inspections of outer Continental Shelf facilities (including mobile offshore drilling units) and the administration of the inspection program under this section;

“(iii) shall be available only to the extent provided for in advance in an appropriations Act; and

“(iv) shall remain available until expended.

“(B) **USE FOR FIELD OFFICES.**—Not less than 75 percent of amounts in the Fund may be appropriated for use only for the respective Department of the Interior field offices where the amounts were originally assessed as fees.

“(4) **INITIAL FEES.**—Fees shall be established under this subsection for the fiscal year in which this subsection takes effect and the subsequent 10 years, and shall not be raised without advise and consent of the Congress, except as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate as an adjustment equal to the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year preceding the adjustment exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year in which the claim was determined or last adjusted.

“(5) **ANNUAL FEES.**—Annual fees shall be collected under this subsection for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2013 shall be—

“(A) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;

“(B) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and

“(C) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.

“(6) FEES FOR DRILLING RIGS.—Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed under this subsection for all inspections completed in fiscal years 2015 through 2024. Fees for fiscal year 2015 shall be—

“(A) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 1,000 feet or more; and

“(B) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 1,000 feet.

“(7) BILLING.—The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (5) within 60 days after the date of the inspection, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill designated operators under paragraph (6) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days after billing.

“(8) SUNSET.—No fee may be collected under this subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2024.

“(9) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the operation of the Fund during the fiscal year.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by the report, the following:

“(i) A statement of the amounts deposited into the Fund.

“(ii) A description of the expenditures made from the Fund for the fiscal year, including the purpose of the expenditures and the additional hiring of personnel.

“(iii) A statement of the balance remaining in the Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

“(iv) An accounting of pace of permit approvals.

“(v) If fee increases are proposed after the initial 10-year period referred to in paragraph (5), a proper accounting of the potential adverse economic impacts such fee increases will have on offshore economic activity and overall production, conducted by the Secretary.

“(vi) Recommendations to increase the efficiency and efficiency of offshore inspections.

“(vii) Any corrective actions levied upon offshore inspectors as a result of any form of misconduct.”.

SEC. 10410. PROHIBITION ON ACTION BASED ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13547.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service may not develop, propose, finalize, administer, or implement, any limitation on activities under their jurisdiction as a result of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547.

(b) REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate identifying all Federal expenditures in fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy and the Ocean Energy Safety Service and their predecessor agencies, by agency, account, and any pertinent subaccounts, for the development, administration, or implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning component of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547, including staff time, travel, and other related expenses.

Subtitle E—United States Territories

SEC. 10501. APPLICATION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT WITH RESPECT TO TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (a), by inserting after “control” the following: “or lying within the United States exclusive economic zone and the Continental Shelf adjacent to any territory of the United States”;

(2) in paragraph (p), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(3) in paragraph (q), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following: “(r) The term ‘State’ includes each territory of the United States.”.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 10601. RULES REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES UNDER GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue rules to provide more clarity, certainty, and stability to the revenue streams contemplated by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note).

(b) CONTENTS.—The rules shall include clarification of the timing and methods of disbursements of funds under section 105(b)(2) of such Act.

SEC. 10602. AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTED QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.

Section 105(f)(1) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109-432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note) shall be applied by substituting “2024, and shall not exceed \$999,999,999 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2055” for “2055”.

Subtitle G—Judicial Review

SEC. 10701. TIME FOR FILING COMPLAINT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any cause of action that arises from a covered energy decision must be filed not later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the covered energy decision. Any cause of action not filed within this time period shall be barred.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a cause of action brought by a party to a covered energy lease.

SEC. 10702. DISTRICT COURT DEADLINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All proceedings that are subject to section 10701—

(1) shall be brought in the United States district court for the district in which the Federal property for which a covered energy lease is issued is located or the United States District Court of the District of Columbia;

(2) shall be resolved as expeditiously as possible, and in any event not more than 180 days after such cause or claim is filed; and

(3) shall take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court.

(b) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH DEADLINE.—If an interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order has not been issued by the district court by the deadline described under this section, the cause or claim shall be dismissed with prejudice and all rights relating to such cause or claim shall be terminated.

SEC. 10703. ABILITY TO SEEK APPELLATE REVIEW.

An interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court in a proceeding that is subject to section 10701 may be reviewed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The D.C. Circuit shall resolve any such appeal as expeditiously as possible and, in any event, not more than 180 days after such interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the district court was issued.

SEC. 10704. LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF REVIEW AND RELIEF.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS.—In any judicial review of any Federal action under this subtitle, any administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action shall be presumed to be correct unless shown otherwise by clear and convincing evidence contained in the administrative record.

(b) LIMITATION ON PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.—In any judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle, the Court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the Court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a Federal law requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation concerned.

SEC. 10705. LEGAL FEES.

Any person filing a petition seeking judicial review of any action, or failure to act, under this subtitle who is not a prevailing party shall pay to the prevailing parties (including intervening parties), other than the United States, fees and other expenses incurred by that party in connection with the judicial review, unless the Court finds that the position of the person was substantially justified or that special circumstances make an award unjust.

SEC. 10706. EXCLUSION.

This subtitle shall not apply with respect to disputes between the parties to a lease issued pursuant to an authorizing leasing statute regarding the obligations of such lease or the alleged breach thereof.

SEC. 10707. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

(1) COVERED ENERGY DECISION.—The term “covered energy decision” means any action or decision by a Federal official regarding the issuance of a covered energy lease.

(2) COVERED ENERGY LEASE.—The term “covered energy lease” means any lease under this title or under an oil and gas leasing program under this title.

TITLE II—ONSHORE FEDERAL LANDS AND ENERGY SECURITY

Subtitle A—Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security

SEC. 21001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act”.

SEC. 21002. POLICIES REGARDING BUYING, BUILDING, AND WORKING FOR AMERICA.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—It is the intent of the Congress that—

(1) this subtitle will support a healthy and growing United States domestic energy sector that, in turn, helps to reinvigorate American manufacturing, transportation, and service sectors by employing the vast talents of United States workers to assist in the development of energy from domestic sources;

(2) to ensure a robust onshore energy production industry and ensure that the benefits of development support local communities, under this subtitle, the Secretary shall make every effort to promote the development of onshore American energy, and shall take into consideration the socioeconomic impacts, infrastructure requirements, and fiscal stability for local communities located within areas containing onshore energy resources; and

(3) the Congress will monitor the deployment of personnel and material onshore to encourage the development of American manufacturing to enable United States workers to benefit from this subtitle through good jobs and careers, as well as the establishment of important industrial facilities to support expanded access to American resources.

(b) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall when possible, and practicable, encourage the use of United States workers and equipment manufactured in the United States in all construction related to mineral resource development under this subtitle.

CHAPTER 1—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PERMIT STREAMLINING

SEC. 21101. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Streamlining Permitting of American Energy Act of 2014”.

Subchapter A—Application for Permits to Drill Process Reform

SEC. 21111. PERMIT TO DRILL APPLICATION TIMELINE.

Section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)) is amended to read as follows: “(2) **APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL REFORM AND PROCESS.**—

“(A) **TIMELINE.**—The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit to drill within 30 days after receiving an application for the permit. The Secretary may extend such period for up to 2 periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant. The notice shall be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, and shall include the names and titles of the persons processing the application, the specific reasons for the delay, and a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

“(B) **NOTICE OF REASONS FOR DENIAL.**—If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

“(i) in writing, clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

“(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

“(C) **APPLICATION DEEMED APPROVED.**—If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application is deemed approved, except in cases in which existing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are incomplete.

“(D) **DENIAL OF PERMIT.**—If the Secretary decides not to issue a permit to drill in accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide to the applicant a description of the reasons for the denial of the permit;

“(ii) allow the applicant to resubmit an application for a permit to drill during the 10-day period beginning on the date the applicant receives the description of the denial from the Secretary; and

“(iii) issue or deny any resubmitted application not later than 10 days after the date the application is submitted to the Secretary.

“(E) **FEE.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall collect a single \$6,500 permit processing fee per application from each applicant at the time the final decision is made whether to issue a permit under subparagraph (A). This fee shall not apply to any resubmitted application.

“(ii) **TREATMENT OF PERMIT PROCESSING FEE.**—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall be transferred to the field office where they are collected and used to process protests, leases, and permits under this Act subject to appropriation.”.

Subchapter B—Administrative Protest Documentation Reform

SEC. 21121. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST DOCUMENTATION REFORM.

Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **PROTEST FEE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall collect a \$5,000 documentation fee to accompany each protest for a lease, right of way, or application for permit to drill.

“(B) **TREATMENT OF FEES.**—Of all fees collected under this paragraph, 50 percent shall remain in the field office where they are collected and used to process protests subject to appropriation.”.

Subchapter C—Permit Streamlining

SEC. 21131. MAKING PILOT OFFICES PERMANENT TO IMPROVE ENERGY PERMITTING ON FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish a Federal Permit Streamlining Project (referred to in this section as the “Project”) in every Bureau of Land Management field office with responsibility for permitting energy projects on Federal land.

(b) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for purposes of this section with—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(C) the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(2) **STATE PARTICIPATION.**—The Secretary may request that the Governor of any State with energy projects on Federal lands to be a signatory to the memorandum of understanding.

(c) **DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the signing of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (b), all Federal signatory parties shall, if appropriate, assign to each of the Bureau of Land Management field offices an employee who has expertise in the regulatory issues relating to the office in which the employee is employed, including, as applicable, particular expertise in—

(A) the consultations and the preparation of biological opinions under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536);

(B) permits under section 404 of Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344);

(C) regulatory matters under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(D) planning under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a et seq.); and

(E) the preparation of analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) **DUTIES.**—Each employee assigned under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of assignment, report to the Bureau of Land Management Field Managers in the office to which the employee is assigned;

(B) be responsible for all issues relating to the energy projects that arise under the authorities of the employee’s home agency; and

(C) participate as part of the team of personnel working on proposed energy projects, planning, and environmental analyses on Federal lands.

(d) **ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary shall assign to each Bureau of Land Management field office identified in subsection (a) any additional personnel that are necessary to ensure the effective approval and implementation of energy projects administered by the Bureau of Land Management field offices, including inspection and enforcement relating to energy development on Federal land, in accordance with the multiple use mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(e) **FUNDING.**—Funding for the additional personnel shall come from the Department of the Interior reforms identified in sections 21111 and 21121.

(f) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) the operation of any Federal or State law; or

(2) any delegation of authority made by the head of a Federal agency whose employees are participating in the Project.

(g) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section the term “energy projects” includes oil, natural gas, and other energy projects as defined by the Secretary.

SEC. 21132. ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT LAW.

Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary of the Interior shall not require a finding of extraordinary circumstances in administering section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942).

Subchapter D—Judicial Review

SEC. 21141. DEFINITIONS.

In this subchapter—

(1) the term “covered civil action” means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project on Federal lands of the United States; and

(2) the term “covered energy project” means the leasing of Federal lands of the United States for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, or any other source of energy, and any action under such a lease, except that the term does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under such lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 21142. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS.

Venue for any covered civil action shall lie in the district court where the project or leases exist or are proposed.

SEC. 21143. TIMELY FILING.

To ensure timely redress by the courts, a covered civil action must be filed no later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which it relates.

SEC. 21144. EXPEDITION IN HEARING AND DETERMINING THE ACTION.

The court shall endeavor to hear and determine any covered civil action as expeditiously as possible.

SEC. 21145. STANDARD OF REVIEW.

In any judicial review of a covered civil action, administrative findings and conclusions relating to the challenged Federal action or decision shall be presumed to be correct, and the presumption may be rebutted only by the preponderance of the evidence contained in the administrative record.

SEC. 21146. LIMITATION ON INJUNCTION AND PROSPECTIVE RELIEF.

In a covered civil action, the court shall not grant or approve any prospective relief unless the court finds that such relief is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of a legal requirement, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct that violation. In addition, courts shall limit the duration of preliminary injunctions to halt covered energy projects to no more than 60 days, unless the court finds clear reasons to extend the injunction. In such cases of extensions, such extensions shall only be in 30-day increments and shall require action by the court to renew the injunction.

SEC. 21147. LIMITATION ON ATTORNEYS’ FEES.

Sections 504 of title 5, United States Code, and 2412 of title 28, United States Code, (together commonly called the Equal Access to Justice Act) do not apply to a covered civil action, nor shall any party in such a covered civil action receive payment from the Federal Government for

their attorneys' fees, expenses, and other court costs.

SEC. 21148. LEGAL STANDING.

Challengers filing appeals with the Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals shall meet the same standing requirements as challengers before a United States district court.

Subchapter E—Knowing America's Oil and Gas Resources

SEC. 21151. FUNDING OIL AND GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide matching funding for joint projects with States to conduct oil and gas resource assessments on Federal lands with significant oil and gas potential.

(b) **COST SHARING.**—The Federal share of the cost of activities under this section shall not exceed 50 percent.

(c) **RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.**—Any resource assessment under this section shall be conducted by a State, in consultation with the United States Geological Survey.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section a total of \$50,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2018.

CHAPTER 2—OIL AND GAS LEASING CERTAINTY

SEC. 21201. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act of 2014”.

SEC. 21202. MINIMUM ACREAGE REQUIREMENT FOR ONSHORE LEASE SALES.

In conducting lease sales as required by section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)), each year the Secretary of the Interior shall perform the following:

(1) The Secretary shall offer for sale no less than 25 percent of the annual nominated acreage not previously made available for lease. Acreage offered for lease pursuant to this paragraph shall not be subject to protest and shall be eligible for categorical exclusions under section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942), except that it shall not be subject to the test of extraordinary circumstances.

(2) In administering this section, the Secretary shall only consider leasing of Federal lands that are available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

SEC. 21203. LEASING CERTAINTY.

Section 17(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(a)) is amended by inserting “(1)” before “All lands”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall not withdraw any covered energy project issued under this Act without finding a violation of the terms of the lease by the lessee.

“(B) The Secretary shall not infringe upon lease rights under leases issued under this Act by indefinitely delaying issuance of project approvals, drilling and seismic permits, and rights of way for activities under such a lease.

“(C) No later than 18 months after an area is designated as open under the current land use plan the Secretary shall make available nominated areas for lease under the criteria in section 2.

“(D) Notwithstanding any other law, the Secretary shall issue all leases sold no later than 60 days after the last payment is made.

“(E) The Secretary shall not cancel or withdraw any lease parcel after a competitive lease sale has occurred and a winning bidder has submitted the last payment for the parcel.

“(F) Not later than 60 days after a lease sale held under this Act, the Secretary shall adjudicate any lease protests filed following a lease sale. If after 60 days any protest is left unsettled, said protest is automatically denied and appeal rights of the protestor begin.

“(G) No additional lease stipulations may be added after the parcel is sold without consultation and agreement of the lessee, unless the Secretary deems such stipulations as emergency actions to conserve the resources of the United States.”.

SEC. 21204. LEASING CONSISTENCY.

Federal land managers must follow existing resource management plans and continue to actively lease in areas designated as open when resource management plans are being amended or revised, until such time as a new record of decision is signed.

SEC. 21205. REDUCE REDUNDANT POLICIES.

Bureau of Land Management Instruction Memorandum 2010–117 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 21206. STREAMLINED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.

Section 31(e) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)) is amended in the matter following paragraph (4) by striking “at least thirty days in advance of the reinstatement” and inserting “in an annual report”.

CHAPTER 3—OIL SHALE

SEC. 21301. SHORT TITLE.

This chapter may be cited as the “Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security Act” or the “PIONEERS Act”.

SEC. 21302. EFFECTIVENESS OF OIL SHALE REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS, AND RECORD OF DECISION.

(a) **REGULATIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the final regulations regarding oil shale management published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 18, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 69,414) are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement those regulations, including the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations, without any other administrative action necessary.

(b) **AMENDMENTS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND RECORD OF DECISION.**—Notwithstanding any other law or regulation to the contrary, the November 17, 2008 U.S. Bureau of Land Management Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision for Oil Shale and Tar Sands Resources to Address Land Use Allocations in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming and Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement are deemed to satisfy all legal and procedural requirements under any law, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior shall implement the oil shale leasing program authorized by the regulations referred to in subsection (a) in those areas covered by the resource management plans amended by such amendments, and covered by such record of decision, without any other administrative action necessary.

SEC. 21303. OIL SHALE LEASING.

(a) **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LEASE SALES.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall hold a lease sale within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act offering an additional 10 parcels for lease for research, development, and demonstration of oil shale resources, under the terms offered in the solicitation of bids for such leases published on January 15, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 10).

(b) **COMMERCIAL LEASE SALES.**—No later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold no less than 5 separate commercial lease sales in areas considered to have the most potential for oil shale development, as determined by the Secretary, in areas nominated through public comment. Each lease sale shall be for an area of not less than 25,000 acres, and in multiple lease blocs.

CHAPTER 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 21401. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the issuance of a lease under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) to any person designated for the imposition of sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestiture Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.), section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a), or the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(2) Executive Order No. 13622 (July 30, 2012), Executive Order No. 13628 (October 9, 2012), or Executive Order No. 13645 (June 3, 2013);

(3) Executive Order No. 13224 (September 23, 2001) or Executive Order No. 13338 (May 11, 2004); or

(4) the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

Subtitle B—Planning for American Energy

SEC. 22001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Planning for American Energy Act of 2014”.

SEC. 22002. ONSHORE DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44 as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

“SEC. 44. QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC FEDERAL ONSHORE ENERGY PRODUCTION STRATEGY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as ‘Secretary’), in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture with regard to lands administered by the Forest Service, shall develop and publish every 4 years a Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy. This Strategy shall direct Federal land energy development and department resource allocation in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States in accordance with Bureau of Land Management’s mission of promoting the multiple use of Federal lands as set forth in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

“(2) In developing this Strategy, the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration on the projected energy demands of the United States for the next 30-year period, and how energy derived from Federal onshore lands can put the United States on a trajectory to meet that demand during the next 4-year period. The Secretary shall consider how Federal lands will contribute to ensuring national energy security, with a goal for increasing energy independence and production, during the next 4-year period.

“(3) The Secretary shall determine a domestic strategic production objective for the development of energy resources from Federal onshore lands. Such objective shall be—

“(A) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in

domestic production of oil and natural gas from the Federal onshore mineral estate, with a focus on lands held by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(B) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic coal production from Federal lands;

“(C) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of strategic and critical energy minerals from the Federal onshore mineral estate;

“(D) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in megawatts for electricity production from each of the following sources: wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, and geothermal energy produced on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service;

“(E) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in unconventional energy production, such as oil shale;

“(F) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of oil, natural gas, coal, and other renewable sources from tribal lands for any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in facilitating energy production on its lands;

“(G) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in production of helium on Federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service; and

“(H) the best estimate, based upon commercial and scientific data, of the expected increase in domestic production of geothermal, solar, wind, or other renewable energy sources from ‘available lands’ (as such term is defined in section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108 et seq.), and including any other lands deemed by the Territory or State of Hawaii, as the case may be, to be included within that definition) that the agency or department of the government of the State of Hawaii that is responsible for the administration of such lands selects to be used for such energy production.

“(4) The Secretary shall consult with the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration regarding the methodology used to arrive at its estimates for purposes of this section.

“(5) The Secretary has the authority to expand the energy development plan to include other energy production technology sources or advancements in energy on Federal lands.

“(6) The Secretary shall include in the Strategy a plan for addressing new demands for transmission lines and pipelines for distribution of oil and gas across Federal lands to ensure that energy produced can be distributed to areas of need.

“(b) TRIBAL OBJECTIVES.—It is the sense of Congress that federally recognized Indian tribes may elect to set their own production objectives as part of the Strategy under this section. The Secretary shall work in cooperation with any federally recognized Indian tribe that elects to participate in achieving its own strategic energy objectives designated under this subsection.

“(c) EXECUTION OF THE STRATEGY.—The relevant Secretary shall have all necessary authority to make determinations regarding which additional lands will be made available in order to meet the production objectives established by strategies under this section. The Secretary shall also take all necessary actions to achieve these production objectives unless the President determines that it is not in the national security and economic interests of the United States to increase Federal domestic energy production and to further decrease dependence upon foreign sources of energy. In administering this

section, the relevant Secretary shall only consider leasing Federal lands available for leasing at the time the lease sale occurs.

“(d) STATE, FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC INPUT.—In developing each strategy, the Secretary shall solicit the input of affected States, federally recognized Indian tribes, local governments, and the public.

“(e) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on the progress of meeting the production goals set forth in the strategy. The Secretary shall identify in the report projections for production and capacity installations and any problems with leasing, permitting, siting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal. In addition, the Secretary shall make suggestions to help meet any shortfalls in meeting the production goals.

“(f) PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)), the Secretary shall complete a programmatic environmental impact statement. This programmatic environmental impact statement will be deemed sufficient to comply with all requirements under that Act for all necessary resource management and land use plans associated with the implementation of the strategy.

“(g) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—At least 60 days prior to publishing a proposed strategy under this section, the Secretary shall submit it to the President and the Congress, together with any comments received from States, federally recognized Indian tribes, and local governments. Such submission shall indicate why any specific recommendation of a State, federally recognized Indian tribe, or local government was not accepted.

“(h) STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL ENERGY MINERALS DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘strategic and critical energy minerals’ means those that are necessary for the Nation’s energy infrastructure including pipelines, refining capacity, electrical power generation and transmission, and renewable energy production and those that are necessary to support domestic manufacturing, including but not limited to, materials used in energy generation, production, and transportation.”

(b) FIRST QUADRENNIAL STRATEGY.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress the first Quadrennial Federal Onshore Energy Production Strategy under the amendment made by subsection (a).

Subtitle C—National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Access

SEC. 23001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Access Act”.

SEC. 23002. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska remains explicitly designated, both in name and legal status, for purposes of providing oil and natural gas resources to the United States; and

(2) accordingly, the national policy is to actively advance oil and gas development within the Reserve by facilitating the expeditious exploration, production, and transportation of oil and natural gas from and through the Reserve.

SEC. 23003. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: LEASE SALES.

Section 107(a) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6506a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct an expeditious program of competitive leasing of oil and gas in the reserve in accordance with this Act. Such program shall include at least one lease sale annually in those areas of the reserve most likely to produce commercial quantities of oil and natural gas each year in the period 2014 through 2024.”

SEC. 23004. NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA: PLANNING AND PERMITTING PIPELINE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall facilitate and ensure permits, in a timely and environmentally responsible manner, for all surface development activities, including for the construction of pipelines and roads, necessary to—

(1) develop and bring into production any areas within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska that are subject to oil and gas leases; and

(2) transport oil and gas from and through the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska in the most direct manner possible to existing transportation or processing infrastructure on the North Slope of Alaska.

(b) TIMELINE.—The Secretary shall ensure that any Federal permitting agency shall issue permits in accordance with the following timeline:

(1) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under existing Federal oil and gas leases with respect to which the Secretary has issued a permit to drill shall be approved within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) Permits for such construction for transportation of oil and natural gas produced under Federal oil and gas leases shall be approved within 6 months after the submission to the Secretary of a request for a permit to drill.

(c) PLAN.—To ensure timely future development of the Reserve, within 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a plan for approved rights-of-way for a plan for pipeline, road, and any other surface infrastructure that may be necessary infrastructure that will ensure that all leaseable tracts in the Reserve are within 25 miles of an approved road and pipeline right-of-way that can serve future development of the Reserve.

SEC. 23005. ISSUANCE OF A NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.—The Secretary of the Interior shall, within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue—

(1) a new proposed integrated activity plan from among the non-adopted alternatives in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013; and

(2) an environmental impact statement under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) for issuance of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to promote efficient and maximum development of oil and natural gas resources of such reserve.

(b) NULLIFICATION OF EXISTING RECORD OF DECISION, IAP, AND EIS.—Except as provided in subsection (a), the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated February 21, 2013, including the integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement referred to in that record of decision, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 23006. DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of the Interior shall issue regulations not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that establish clear requirements to ensure that the Department of the Interior is supporting development of oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

SEC. 23007. DEADLINES UNDER NEW PROPOSED INTEGRATED ACTIVITY PLAN.

At a minimum, the new proposed integrated activity plan issued under section 23005(a)(1) shall—

(1) require the Department of the Interior to respond within 5 business days to a person who submits an application for a permit for development of oil and natural gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska acknowledging receipt of such application; and

(2) establish a timeline for the processing of each such application, that—

(A) specifies deadlines for decisions and actions on permit applications; and

(B) provide that the period for issuing each permit after submission of such an application shall not exceed 60 days without the concurrence of the applicant.

SEC. 23008. UPDATED RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall complete a comprehensive assessment of all technically recoverable fossil fuel resources within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including all conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas.

(b) **COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.**—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation and consultation with the State of Alaska and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

(c) **TIMING.**—The resource assessment required by subsection (a) shall be completed within 24 months of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **FUNDING.**—The United States Geological Survey may, in carrying out the duties under this section, cooperatively use resources and funds provided by the State of Alaska.

Subtitle D—BLM Live Internet Auctions**SEC. 24001. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “BLM Live Internet Auctions Act”.

SEC. 24002. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Section 17(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the third sentence, by inserting “, except as provided in subparagraph (C)” after “by oral bidding”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) In order to diversify and expand the Nation’s onshore leasing program to ensure the best return to the Federal taxpayer, reduce fraud, and secure the leasing process, the Secretary may conduct onshore lease sales through Internet-based bidding methods. Each individual Internet-based lease sale shall conclude within 7 days.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the tenth Internet-based lease sale conducted under the amendment made by subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall analyze the first 10 such lease sales and report to Congress the findings of the analysis. The report shall include—

(1) estimates on increases or decreases in such lease sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding, in—

(A) the number of bidders;

(B) the average amount of bid;

(C) the highest amount bid; and

(D) the lowest bid;

(2) an estimate on the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of

such sales, compared to sales conducted by oral bidding; and

(3) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales which may provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation, ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers, minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion, and ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113-493. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. ____ . ADDITION OF LEASE SALES AFTER FINALIZATION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.

Section 18(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “After” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (4), after”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The Secretary may add to the areas included in an approved leasing program additional areas to be made available for leasing under the program, if all review and documents required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) have been completed with respect to leasing of each such additional area within the 5-year period preceding such addition.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Under current law, the Secretary of the Interior is not able to add any additional lease sales to a finalized 5-year plan, even if that area has been included in a draft plan and then withdrawn, so even if the work has been done to look at areas to include, he can’t consider that in the final plan.

This amendment is pretty simple. It provides the Secretary of the Interior the ability to add a lease sale to a finalized plan, as long as all of the NEPA requirements have been met on that specific area within the last 5 years.

This is especially applicable to the case of Virginia Lease Sale 220 which, as I stated, was studied and included in the environmental impact statement, though it was later postponed and canceled.

I want to make sure that the Secretary has the ability to add that back into the plan, since all the work has already been done to look at the environmental impacts; and, again, it was included originally in the plan. The flexibility should be there for that to happen.

Should this administration finalize the next 5-year plan early, that would mean the ensuing administration would not have any ability to add lease sales.

This amendment ensures that already studied lease sales can be added to a 5-year plan, as long as existing environmental requirements are met.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and, Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Now, we have the idea of a 5-year planning process, a 5-year plan, and then, you can just add things to it, so really, it is kind of not really a 5-year plan anymore. It is meaningless.

There is an urgent, urgent need for more leases offshore in sensitive areas, there really is—southern California, Virginia, Maine, areas that are incredibly productive in terms of their fisheries, that are heavily recreated, and have other uses.

There is an urgent need to plow down some oil wells there because we have only exported 1.7 million barrels of oil and gasoline yesterday—refined. There is a shortage, and that is why prices are high. If we just produced more in the most sensitive areas, without any environmental review, then the price would drop.

Well, no, actually, production has doubled since the Republicans first passed this bill, its fifth year in a row—it is Groundhog Day in June.

Now, they are still pretending. Actually, we heard a new argument yesterday: prices would be higher if we weren’t exporting all of that diesel and gasoline, and the American Petroleum Institute hopes we will start soon acting like a colony and export crude oil to our friends in China and elsewhere, so they can make manufactured goods and sell them to us. Now, this is a great plan, and we are going to make it even better by not planning anymore.

There are 36.1 million acres of land under lease onshore. We had an argument about that yesterday—that is half the bill—and 23.5 million are not in production, but we need to lease more. Offshore, 220 million acres are available under the current leasing plan, 33.2 million acres have been leased, and 28.1 million of those 33.2—that is a pretty high percentage—

aren't producing, and that is about 85 percent.

We need to lease more. We need to lease it now, so the oil companies can sit on it until they drive the price to \$200 or \$300 a barrel, which they will because we pay the royal price—we produce oil more cheaply here, but we pay the royal price.

We are exporting gasoline and diesel and paying extortionate prices, and the oil companies are making obscene prices, and only if we didn't have a planning process and we leased in some more sensitive areas, price wouldn't go down.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for offering this amendment.

In many ways, Madam Chairman, this is indicative of the bureaucratic hoops that people have to jump through. Now, keep in mind, this lease sale in Virginia went through all of the environmental hoops and then was taken off the roles, if you will.

Under current law, you have to jump through the same environmental hoops again, notwithstanding the fact that all of the work has been done. I say this is indicative of what goes on with the bureaucracy in a great many ways throughout our country, but this is especially, I think, troubling to the people of Virginia because not only has their Governor and their legislature spoken very loudly that they would like to have an opportunity to drill offshore, to deny them that opportunity because of what I would call a bureaucratic morass of having to jump through hoops doesn't make any sense at all.

I think the gentleman's amendment makes immensely good sense, and I think it is something we should look at in a broader scale in a lot of other areas.

I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, I believe I have the right to close, so I would reserve until the other side has concluded.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the chairman expressed, he is exactly correct. Virginia is interested in being able to develop Lease Sale 220, and it is a bipartisan interest. It is both of our Senators from Virginia, it is our Governor from Virginia, it is our general assembly from Virginia.

There is broad bipartisan support in moving forward with offshore energy production. Virginia has the potential to be a leader in oil and gas development on the east coast.

I, along with many in Virginia, was disappointed when the Department of Interior announced that Virginia would not be included in the 2012-2017 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. It was in the plan originally.

When the final plan came out, Lease Sale 220 was taken out and for no good apparent reason. We want the ability to be able to add it back because all the work has been done to have it there. We want to make sure the flexibility is there for the administration to do that.

The Department's exclusion of Virginia from consideration essentially prevents the creation of thousands of great-paying jobs and around \$19.5 billion in Federal, State, and local revenue.

This amendment is a step forward for responsible offshore energy development and assures that decisions can be made in a timely way, especially when all of the environmental evaluation has already been done. We are not asking for any of that to be skipped.

We are asking for the ability to add this into a plan outside of the 5-year window. If this was removed from the plan for a reason, it ought to have the same opportunity to be included into the plan for a reason. That is what we are asking here, is for that to happen in a reasonable, thoughtful, and concerted way.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and, Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, we had extensive debate yesterday, and it is really not worth revisiting today. We had the same debate last year. This bill passed and has languished in the Senate and will not go anywhere in the Senate. We had the same the year before, the year before, and the year before.

You can pretend that you care about high oil prices at the same time while protecting the unbelievably obscene profits of the oil industry. You can pretend that the fact that they are sitting on 28.1 million acres of leases offshore that they have yet to develop doesn't exist and they need to lease more acreage.

They basically sit on these leases for years and watch the value of their asset, which is the oil underneath, rise. They have no incentive, actually, to drill in many of these areas because they pay a de minimus—a few bucks an acre kind of lease on an annual basis—and, hey, what a great activity.

Meanwhile, the speculators on Wall Street, according to the head of ExxonMobil—who is a pretty good authority—have jacked up the price because of speculation about 60 cents a gallon at the pump.

So every American should know every time they go to the pump, they can thank speculators on Wall Street, and inaction on the Republican side of

the aisle either attempts to delay any minimal regulation or reforms of wild speculation of flash trading in the commodities market.

Instead, they are going to pretend, if we let more leases that the oil companies can sit on, that somehow the price will begin magically to come down, even though all the development in the last few years and the doubling of exports of oil of gasoline and diesel has not brought down the price. It is a so-called world market.

We produce it more cheaply here, but we pay the same price as the most expensively produced North Sea oil, so it is all kind of meaningless.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 49, beginning at line 7, strike section 10410.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, my district provides a perfect example of the need for ocean coordination and information sharing between local, State, and Federal governments, including our offshore energy management agencies, the military, our ports, our ocean carriers, our energy developers, recreational users, and other stakeholders.

Let me explain. The Port of Long Beach is the second busiest port in the United States, moving \$140 billion in goods, supporting 1.4 million jobs in the United States.

Offshore oil platforms extract crude oil in San Pedro Bay, less than a mile from my front door. San Clemente Island, in my district, has a Navy training ground and a ship-to-shore firing range. Nearby waters are home to seabirds, fisheries, and migrating whales.

Sea-level rise and extreme weather threaten neighborhoods and businesses

all along my district and the entire coast of California.

□ 0930

These are all major, interwoven uses of our oceans, and it doesn't make sense to address them on a case-by-case basis without all the stakeholders participating. We need smart ocean planning and coordination.

For those reasons, my amendment would strike the misguided and counterproductive language in H.R. 4899 that prohibits coastal and marine spatial planning coordination. We need our Federal offshore energy management agencies to include the consideration of other stakeholders, not exclude them from the offshore leasing and the drilling process.

We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our ports and our shipbuilders, not restrict coordination. We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our fishermen and our fishery councils, not to restrict coordination. We should all want BOEM and BSEE to coordinate with our States and local governments, not to restrict coordination.

The country, and my district, needs a comprehensive approach to our ocean resources, which is what the National Ocean Policy provides.

At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), a lifelong advocate for our oceans.

Mr. FARR. Thank you for yielding.

Madam Chair, this bill has in its title "America That Works." It is not going to work with this provision in it, and that is why the bill fails. I think year after year of failing and failing is a policy of upward failure.

It makes no sense not to allow all the Federal agencies to coordinate. We do that in the military. This would be like restricting the ability of the military to coordinate between services.

So we do it with shipping lanes, we do it with wildlife, we do it with habitat protection. It is just smart.

The spatial planning in the National Ocean Policy, for the first time, saves a lot of money because all these Federal agencies now sit down and talk about how they can carry out the policies that they are responsible for. You wipe all that. No dialogue, no communication, no ability to reach agreements in a way by this crazy restrictive language.

Without this amendment, this bill proves that America can't work.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, section 10410 of the bill prohibits offshore energy agencies from engaging in coastal and marine spatial planning, or ocean zoning, under the National Ocean Pol-

icy established by President Obama's Executive Order 13547.

The House is on record six times in opposition to language such as that proposed by the gentleman, each time with bipartisan support against this type of language and also in support of efforts to oppose the Obama administration's attempt to zone the oceans under this unconstitutional executive order.

Just as a little background: Executive Order 13547 was signed in 2010, and it requires that numerous Federal bureaucracies essentially zone the ocean and the sources thereof. This actually means that a drop of rain that falls on your house could be subject to this overreaching policy because that drop of rain will ultimately wind up in the ocean.

As someone who worked on the ocean for 17 years, I know something about this particular issue.

There are concerns that have been raised that the National Ocean Policy may not only restrict ocean and inland activities, but it may also be flawed because it has not been given any specific appropriations by this Congress, nor does it have any statutory authority from any Congress for this initiative.

This administration was also directed by the fiscal 2014 omnibus appropriations bill to submit a spending report to the Appropriations Committee by March of 2014, and yet they have failed to do so.

So, on this ocean zoning activity, the administration has not been transparent with respect to this executive order.

Let me say this. You have heard from the other side—and you are going to continue to hear from the other side—that planning is good. Yes, planning may be good. Planning with the intent to regulate or backdoor regulation or backdoor rulemaking is not, because here is what the executive order says on its face. It says:

All executive departments, agencies, and offices that are members of the council and any other executive department, agency, or office whose action affects the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes shall, to the fullest extent consistent with the applicable law . . . comply with council certified coastal and marine spatial plans.

That sounds like regulation and rulemaking to me. That means all these folks are going to have something to say on how we move forward, and that is why section 10410 is so important to the bill we are talking about today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I would like to point out that the opposition said that six times the House is on record for striking out the National Ocean Policy.

I would like to remind him that all six times that has been put back in by the U.S. Senate.

I want to point out that ocean coordination—as he points out, the plan-

ning is good, but not now—has been supported by a broad array of stakeholders, including commercial fishing, engineering and consulting, recreation tourism, the renewable energy industries, as well as academics, tribes, faith-based groups, and NGOs.

In fact, 117 of those organizations across 20 States wrote a letter to Congress saying:

We urge you to reject any provisions that would undermine continued progress on coordinated ocean planning or seek to undermine the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Madam Chair, I will insert that letter in the RECORD, as well as a letter from the North Atlantic Ports Association that represents ports and port-related interests from Virginia to Canada.

The Ports Association says:

We strongly oppose these amendments to any legislation, which undermine our ability to engage in planning for future ocean uses, impede the integration of the marine highway system, and create uncertainty for our businesses.

MAY 16, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Office of the Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. NITA M. LOWEY,
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: We are writing to express our strong support for coordinated ocean planning. In recent years, provisions attempting to undermine and defund ocean planning and coordination work among states, tribes, and federal agencies have been repeatedly inserted in a variety of legislation, particularly appropriation bills. The sole purpose of these provisions is to halt vital cross-jurisdictional coordination and ocean planning that benefits coastal communities, ocean-based businesses, and helps to protect, maintain and restore the health of our ocean's wildlife and ecosystems. We strongly object to these provisions and urge you to oppose inclusion of any such language in legislation moving through the House of Representatives.

Cross-jurisdictional coordination and smart ocean planning allow coastal communities to take a pragmatic approach to changing ocean economies and environments. This approach puts ocean management decisions closer to the people, industries, and jobs that will be impacted by ocean management decisions, allowing communities to help guide their own future and make smart choices that will provide balanced use, good governance, and long-term sustainability. In contrast to misleading rhetoric from those who oppose the National Ocean Policy and the improved coordination and leveraging of limited resources it supports, efforts to better coordinate and plan for ocean uses have emerged from the ground up, with their roots in state-sponsored regional partnerships.

Comprehensive, science-based coordination efforts are already underway in several regions—engaging stakeholders who use the ocean, developing region-specific data, building resiliency from large storms and creating a regional ocean plan to address current and future ocean uses. These partnerships allow local, state, tribal, and federal institutions to work together toward solutions for ocean and coastal health and improved economies. In addition to these regional efforts, several individual states are also currently using smart-ocean planning as a management tool for their state waters, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Washington, and Oregon.

Attempts to prohibit key coastal and ocean management agencies from coordinating with coastal states, other federal agencies and the public, or to undermine the National Ocean Policy are severely misguided. Dismantling coordination efforts results in overspending at the state and federal level, duplicative and potentially conflicting processes among agencies, and creates uncertainty among ocean-based businesses and industries. Coordination at a regional scale through Regional Ocean Partnerships and Regional Planning Bodies provides a seat at the table for all ocean users to address current and emerging ocean uses and conflicts. Provisions attempting to impose arbitrary restrictions on coordinated planning undermine these ongoing state and regional efforts and threaten the progress already being made to enhance ocean and coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems. Accordingly, we oppose any effort to obstruct funding for regional coordination and planning, or to undermine participation by any relevant agency in regional coordination and planning efforts.

Congress should be enhancing our ocean and coastal economies by supporting coordinated ocean planning, not creating arbitrary barriers for this ongoing work at the local, state, and regional level. We urge you to reject any provisions that would undermine continued progress on coordinated ocean planning or seek to undermine the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL

American Littoral Society; Blue Frontier; Friends of the National Ocean Policy; Greenpeace; GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.; Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature; International Federation of Fly Fishers; League of Conservation Voters; Mangrove Action Project (MAP); National Audubon Society; National Marine Mammal Foundation; Natural Resources Defense Council; Nature Abounds; Ocean Champions; Ocean Conservancy; Ocean Conservation Research; Oceana; Save Our Shores; Shark Stewards; Surfrider Foundation; The Wilderness Society; WATERWATCH International; Wild Heritage Planners.

REGIONAL

Anacostia Watershed Society; Center for Chesapeake Communities; Conservation Law Foundation; Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System; Gulf Restoration Network; Markian Melnyk, President, Atlantic Grid Development LLC; New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance; Northwest Watershed Institute; Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association.

CALIFORNIA

Endangered Habitats League; Environmental Defense Center; Monterey Coastkeeper; Ocean Defenders Alliance; The Otter Project; Ayana Elizabeth Johnson,

Ph.D., Executive Director, Waitt Institute; Dawn Wright, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands, CA; Jacob A. James, Managing Director, Waitt Foundation; Jennifer Harrower, Ph.D., Student, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz; Marc Shargel, Sea Life Photographer and Author, Living Sea Images, Santa Cruz County, California; Marilyn O'Neill, Founder & CEO, Nautilus Environmental; Zdravka Tzankova, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz.

COLORADO

Colorado Ocean Coalition.

CONNECTICUT

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut; Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

DELAWARE

Delaware Nature Society; Dr. Alina M. Szmant, Professor of Marine Biology, Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina Wilmington.

FLORIDA

Florida Wildlife Federation; Indian Riverkeeper; Fly & Light Tackle Angler, Stuart, FL; Just-In-Time Charters; Palm Beach County Reef Rescue; Drew Martin, Conservation Chair, Loxhatchee Group; Sierra Club; Dr. Ed Schwerin, Professor of Public Policy, Florida Atlantic University; Kristen Hoss, President, Tanawha Presents LLC; Dr. Rozalind Jester, Professor of Marine Science, Edison State College, Fort Myers, FL.

LOUISIANA

Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe.

MAINE

F/V Sea Keeper; Great Harbor Maritime Museum; Island Institute; Maine Wind Industry Initiative; Sea Keeper Fishery Consulting LLC; Richard C. Nelson, Captain F/V Pescadero, Maine Regional Ocean Planning Advisory Group, Friendship, Maine; Ryan Beaumont, P.E., Principal Engineer, R.M. Beaumont Corp., Brunswick, Maine.

MARYLAND

1000 Friends of Maryland; Maryland Academy of Sciences; Maryland Coastal Bays Program; National Aquarium; Daniel Trott, Owner, Maritime Sector Solutions, LLC, Fort Washington, MD; Drew J. Koslow, Choptank Riverkeeper, Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy; John H. Dunnigan, Sailor and Grandpa.

MASSACHUSETTS

Alewives Anonymous; Peter Phippen, Coastal Coordinator, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, Eight Towns and the Great Marsh Committee; Richard F. Delaney, President & C.E.O., Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA; Robert Stoddard, Executive Vice President, GWAVE LLC, Boston, MA; Tedd Saunders, CSO, The Saunders Hotel Group, Boston, MA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation; Seacoast Science Center; Noah J. Elwood, PE, Appledore Marine Engineering.

NEW JERSEY

Environment New Jersey; SandyHook SeaLife Foundation; Margo Pellegrino, Founder, Miami2Maine; Michael L. Pisauro, Jr. Legislative Affairs Director, New Jersey Environmental Lobby.

NEW YORK

Blue Ocean Institute; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Empire State Con-

sumer Project; Friends of the Bay; Group for the East End; Operation SPLASH; Arthur H. Kopelman, Ph.D., President, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island; Harald Duell, Senior Vice President, Ardour Capital Investments, LLC, The Empire State Building, New York, NY; Jackie Quillen, The Garden Club of East Hampton.

OREGON

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition; Oregon Wave Energy Trust; Port Orford Ocean Resource Team; Chares Steinback, Director, Point 97; Ruby Gate, CEO, Point 97.

PENNSYLVANIA

Captain Joel S. Fogel, The Explorers Club, First World Ambassador.

RHODE ISLAND

The Ocean Project; Bill McElroy, Captain/Owner, FV Ellen June; Jeff Grybowski, CEO, Deepwater Wind; Michael C. Tuttle, Manager Marine Services Division, HRA Gray & Pape, LLC, Providence, RI.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League; Waccamaw Riverkeeper; Paul M. Rosenblum Ph.D., Faculty Advisor to the Honor Committee, Professor of Biology, The Citadel.

TEXAS

Texas Coastal Partners; Ann E. Jochens, Research Scientist, Retired, Texas A&M University, College Station.

VIRGINIA

TerraScapes Environmental; Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center; Eileen Levandoski, Assistant Director, Virginia Chapter Sierra Club; W. Mark Swingle, Director of Research & Conservation, Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center, Virginia Beach, VA.

WASHINGTON

FOGH (Friends of Grays Harbor); Taylor Shellfish Farms; Wild Fish Conservancy; Kathleen Sayce, Shoalwater Botanical, Nahcotta, WA; Norman T. Baker, Ph.D., Executive Committee, North Olympic Group of the Sierra Club.

WEST VIRGINIA

Christians for the Mountains.

NORTH ATLANTIC PORTS

ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED,

Portland, ME, June 14, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,

Speaker, House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Office of the Democratic Leader, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAROLD ROGERS,

Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. NITA M. LOWEY,

Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER PELOSI, CHAIRMAN ROGERS AND RANKING MEMBER LOWEY: The North Atlantic Ports Association Inc., founded in 1949, is one of the oldest and most active trade associations of commercial seaports. Our goal is to promote ocean commerce in a responsible manner in order to strengthen the national economy and help our communities to prosper.

Our members are connected to seaports and ocean commerce in some way: terminal operators, stevedores, port authorities, governmental agencies, non-profits, consultants,

academics, maritime lawyers, ships' agents and are all located between Virginia and the Canadian Maritimes. Our member ports, in the United States, are Portland, Portsmouth, Gloucester, Boston, New Bedford, Providence, Davisville, New London, New Haven, Bridgeport, New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Baltimore, and Norfolk. We are interested in expanding trade among nations and in helping our local communities to prosper through growth in ocean commerce. As the economy becomes ever more global, our role in the world-wide supply chain has increased in importance. Ocean activity across the nation is growing. We have witnessed the competition for space amongst the numerous ocean-based business sectors either currently operating or planning to operate in our ocean and ports. Coordinated planning is critical to ensure the current and future needs of our businesses are considered and accommodated as the ocean and ports become more crowded.

We, the members of the North Atlantic Ports Association, resolved during our last semi-annual meeting to ask our leaders in Washington "to utilize existing federal programs in support of the rapid development of the Marine Highway System to ease roadway corridor congestion, reduce infrastructure costs, provide for improved safety and security, and to have a positive environmental impact to the benefit of the general public." Further, the resolution calls for the development of a National Ports Strategy to better integrate the marine highway system into our national surface transportation strategy, network and policies. We believe that the resources necessary to achieve these objectives exist within the budget of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Regional Ocean Partnerships like the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, provide a unique forum for the states and federal agencies to work across jurisdictional boundaries on ocean and coastal challenges. This venue offers our businesses a clear way to have a seat at the decision-making table, rather than on an ad hoc basis trying to track and respond to the huge array of new ocean activities that affect our businesses. This type of planning approach ensures that we are able to inform future decisions by providing input on the needs of our industry.

It is important to us that Regional Ocean Partnerships have the funding necessary to continue this regional ocean coordination and planning work, and that federal legislation does not interfere with the process. We believe that the resources necessary to achieve these objectives exist within the budget of the various agencies. Unfortunately, a number of amendments have been repeatedly inserted into the recent legislation, in an attempt to prohibit key coastal and ocean management agencies from coordinating with coastal states, other federal agencies, and the public.

We strongly oppose these amendments to any legislation, which undermine our ability to engage in planning for future ocean uses, impede the integration of the marine highway system and create uncertainty for our businesses.

We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

CAPT. F. BRADLEY WELLOCK,

President.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to States and tribes having a seat at the

table for Federal oceans decisions and vote "yes" on the Lowenthal amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I just want to make this point, which the gentleman from Texas pointed out.

What we are saying, essentially, in the underlying bill is that we are not going to fund an executive order. Now let's think about that. It is an executive order that has no statutory authority.

In many ways, this is one of the examples of this administration, I think, far overstepping its ability to faithfully execute the laws of the land. This may be one of those examples that the Speaker was alluding to yesterday when he suggested there may be a lawsuit coming from the U.S. House. Because there is no statutory authority for the National Ocean Policy.

What I find so interesting is that my friends on the other side of the aisle argue about how important the National Ocean Policy is, but when they controlled the House, the Senate, and the Presidency the first two years of this President's term, they did nothing with the National Ocean Policy. Why? Because there is a lot to be looked at in that.

So I think that opposition to this is something that we have done over and over and over again, and I congratulate the gentleman from Texas for taking the lead on ocean policy.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I have to concur wholeheartedly with the chairman's remarks when he said that the President's executive order has never been statutorily authorized by Congress. Four Congresses attempted to do so, under Democratic control, and four times this has not happened. Four times, Congress has looked at this issue and has said "no" to the President's activity.

Also, Congress has never specifically authorized one penny for this activity. It doesn't make any difference how many people want this. It is whether or not Congress authorizes this activity. Congress specifically did not authorize this activity. The executive order is unconstitutional, and it should not be supported by approving the gentleman's amendment.

First of all, let me say this. I would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS for his support and the Natural Resources Committee's oversight efforts to protect both our ocean and our inland economies by stopping this Federal overreach.

Again, I urge a "no" vote on the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Chair, I support this amendment offered by my col-

league from California, which would strike the anti-National Ocean Policy language contained in H.R. 4899.

The National Ocean Policy seeks to improve the coordinated management of our oceans and coasts, and to address the most pressing issues facing our oceans, resources, and coastal communities. In fact, right now, there are over a hundred different ocean users meeting in Massachusetts to help develop New England's ocean plan. Lobstermen from Maine, science educators from New Hampshire, fishermen from Massachusetts, clean energy company representatives from Rhode Island, and recreational fishermen from Connecticut are meeting with federal and state agencies to talk about how to improve their options for their local businesses, build resiliency for coastal communities in the face of extreme weather events, and maintain the health of the ocean that provides us with the goods and services we need and enjoy.

The work and research conducted under the National Ocean Policy supports tens of millions of jobs, which in turn generate billions of dollars for our coastal communities. The National Ocean Policy improves government efficiency and decision outcomes by bringing a variety of government agencies together at a single table. The planning and coordination done according to this policy involves stakeholders in the policy-making process, helping to produce relevant policies supported across sectors. This policy also balances the needs of a variety of interests, ensuring that the fishing industry and working waterfronts are preserved while new energy businesses and other economic sectors are developed.

The National Ocean Policy helps to ensure that our resources, our culture, our history, and the economic vitality of our communities are fully considered in decisions concerning our oceans.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the wise stewardship of the oceans and our ocean economy by supporting the Lowenthal amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 51, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SOUTH ATLANTIC OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF PLANNING AREA DEFINED.

For the purposes of this Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), and any regulations or 5-year plan issued under that Act, the term "South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area" means the area of the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)) that is located between the northern lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Virginia and the southernmost lateral seaward administrative boundary of the State of Georgia.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Chairman, several coastal States, including my home State of South Carolina, as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia, have long advocated for responsible offshore energy development for our shores. This resource development starts with seismic surveying and goes all the way to production.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration has blocked this exploration and development every step of the way, from tying up the seismic permitting process in bureaucratic delays to excluding several Atlantic States from the current 5-year plan.

As we move forward to plan for a more secure energy future, opening access to new areas of our Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS, is a no-brainer. We must do it to stay competitive and to generate American energy and American jobs.

When BOEM conducts their 5-year planning process, they use administrative boundaries to divide up areas for leasing. This amendment simply tells them to consider Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia as one area.

Our amendment is simple; it unifies four pro-offshore drilling States as one administrative area for offshore leasing planning purposes. It also ensures that the South Atlantic meets the underlying threshold in H.R. 4899—and I want to commend Chairman Doc HASTINGS for his leadership on this—so that sales in this area will be included in future 5-year plans under this legislation.

Our amendment does not have any effect on revenue-sharing and it does not hold back other Atlantic areas from seeking to develop energy off their shores.

I will give a shout-out to Senator TIM SCOTT, who has also taken the initiative on the Senate side for this very issue.

Madam Chairman, I came to Washington as a Congressman to focus on jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers. H.R. 4899 focuses on job creation.

Energy production is a segue to job creation in this country.

If you look at North Dakota, Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, these are energy-producing States that have very, very low unemployment. North Dakota has a 3 percent unemployment rate—or less. In fact, you can get a finder's fee if you get somebody to work at a McDonald's in North Dakota.

We can have economic development in this country if we allow energy production onshore and offshore. My State of South Carolina wants to see those energy jobs along our coast.

These are not just the oily guys in the hard hats out on the rigs turning the drill. These are folks onshore supporting the offshore industry. These are the widgetmakers, the pipefitters, the welders, auto body mechanics, and the waitresses at the restaurants that receive the tips from all these workers, the churches that receive the tithes, the chambers of commerce and United Ways that receive our contributions.

Energy jobs have a tremendous trickle-down effect on the economy. The first domino is to actually open up these areas, and I think that is what South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia want to see.

They want to see our areas offshore at least included in the next 5 years plan, so guess what? Maybe we can go out there and drive some seismic. Maybe we can get beyond this 30-year old technology that we are using to see if there are any resources off our coast. Maybe we can actually use 21st century technology like 3-D and 4-D technology that will actually see down into the Earth and see what recoverable resources may or may not be there.

□ 0945

Let's allow these areas in the next 5-year plan to help create jobs in our States—jobs, energy, our Founding Fathers, and a return to more states' rights issues.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. I think it is a very good amendment. That part of the South Atlantic needs to be treated, I think, as one entity just because of the nature of how the State lines are. I think the gentleman's amendment makes immensely good sense. I support it, and I thank the gentleman for offering it.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership on this.

Madam Chairman, the folks in Florida were concerned, but guess what? This area stops at the Florida-Georgia line. They can deal with their own waters. These are the waters of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia that we are talking about.

I spoke yesterday and had a graph of disease fuel prices in this country—I drive a diesel truck—and of the disparity between off-road and on-road diesel fuel. Let me tell you this: if we, through our policies, could lower the price of diesel fuel by \$1 from that \$3.69 a gallon for America's truckers down to \$2.69—there is a 300-gallon tank on every 18-wheeler. If we could lower the price by \$1, we would save every trucker \$300 per fill-up. Think about how that trickles down to the price of the commodities when you shop all across America.

I support this amendment, and I ask everyone to support this simple, administrative change.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 51, after line 21, insert the following:
SEC. ____ . ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.

Section 11 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i) ENHANCING GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE.—

"(1) The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, shall facilitate and support the practical study of geology and geophysics to better understand the oil, gas, and other hydrocarbon potential in the South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area by entering into partnerships to conduct geological and geophysical activities on the outer Continental Shelf.

"(2)(A) No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014, the Governors of the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia may each nominate for participation in the partnerships—

"(i) one institution of higher education located within the Governor's State; and

"(ii) one institution of higher education within the Governor's State that is a historically black college or university, as defined in section 631(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a)).

"(B) In making nominations, the Governors shall give preference to those institutions of higher education that demonstrate a vigorous rate of admission of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

"(3) The Secretary shall only select as a partner a nominee that the Secretary determines demonstrates excellence in geophysical sciences curriculum, engineering curriculum, or information technology or other technical studies relating to seismic research (including data processing).

“(4) Notwithstanding subsection (d), nominees selected as partners by the Secretary may conduct geological and geophysical activities under this section after filing a notice with the Secretary 30-days prior to commencement of the activity without any further authorization by the Secretary except those activities that use solid or liquid explosives shall require a permit. The Secretary may not charge any fee for the provision of data or other information collected under this authority, other than the cost of duplicating any data or information provided. Nominees selected as partners under this section shall provide to the Secretary any data or other information collected under this subsection within 60 days after completion of an initial analysis of the data or other information collected, if so requested by the Secretary.

“(5) Data or other information produced as a result of activities conducted by nominees selected as partners under this subsection shall not be used or shared for commercial purposes by the nominee, may not be produced for proprietary use or sale, and shall be made available by the Secretary to the public.

“(6) The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate reports on the data or other information produced under the partnerships under this section. Such reports shall be made no less frequently than every 180 days following the conduct of the first geological and geophysical activities under this section.

“(7) In this subsection the term ‘geological and geophysical activities’ means any oil- or gas-related investigation conducted on the outer Continental Shelf, including geophysical surveys where magnetic, gravity, seismic, or other systems are used to detect or imply the presence of oil or gas.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, today, in order to maintain our Nation's competitive edge, to generate millions in much-needed revenue and to create millions of new jobs, we simply must move forward with offshore energy development. It just makes sense. There are new areas in our Nation today in which we are not developing that energy, specifically the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf—the mid-Atlantic area.

Just as Mr. DUNCAN mentioned, it is incumbent upon us to make sure that we are doing the science to determine the extent of those resources. I believe it is a national obligation to develop the resources that we have. Allowing seismic surveying in the Atlantic is an important step toward achieving this goal.

My amendment builds on that effort by promoting offshore seismic surveying through institutions of higher education, especially those that have done so much for our veterans. Specifically, this amendment would allow the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

to partner with colleges and universities in the South Atlantic region, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, to promote geological and geophysical educational opportunities. The amendment language specifically gives preference to higher education institutions that admit and educate our Nation's returning veterans.

This is a win-win, folks. It helps develop our Nation's energy resources, and it helps our veterans. The time is now.

These partner schools would be able to conduct offshore geological and geophysical surveys for research purposes. Any data collected would be shared with the government, and it is prohibited from being used for commercial purposes. This language is modeled after existing regulations for seismic surveying that are already in place at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

This amendment promotes STEM educational opportunities and prepares students in the South Atlantic States of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia for the cutting-edge, high-paying jobs of America's energy renaissance. Just as Mr. DUNCAN spoke about, the time is now for that opportunity.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for the time and for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Chairman, I am wearing a Clemson Tiger Paw and an orange tie today in support of Clemson University, but I will tell you that the University of South Carolina has a leading program on geology and seismic testing. Dr. James Knapp testified before this committee about what they can do in looking at 3-D and 4-D 21st century technology to find the resources, to pinpoint those resources, and to maximize the production of those resources. That is what we want—to partner with the universities as Mr. WITTMAN mentioned—in order to help shape the minds and opportunities and the potential of future leaders within the energy realm.

So I commend him. I support this amendment, and I hope my colleagues will.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WITTMAN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment.

I think, once again, the combination of what you and the gentleman from South Carolina said about the new technologies that will help us in the long run to develop our own energy resources makes immensely good sense, and I think this amendment adds to

that process. I commend the gentleman, and I support the amendment.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chairman, in closing, this is about American jobs; it is about developing our energy; it is about educational opportunities; it is about promoting STEM within our colleges and universities; it is about providing opportunities in Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout the United States; and it is about providing opportunities for our veterans.

This is a win-win for our Nation. It is an amendment that should be adopted and that should be voted on in favor by every Member of this body.

With that, Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. CAPPS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In title I, at the end of subtitle F (page 51, after line 21) add the following:

SEC. ____ . NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF ANY APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT THAT WOULD ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF ANY OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS WELL STIMULATION ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary of the Interior shall notify all relevant State and local regulatory agencies and publish a notice in the Federal Register, within 30 days after receiving any application for a permit that would allow the conduct of any offshore oil and gas well stimulation activities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Capps-Brownley-Huffman-Lowenthal amendment. This commonsense amendment simply ensures that the American public and State regulators are kept informed of offshore fracking activities in Federal waters.

Last year, a FOIA request revealed that at least 15 fracks have taken place in Federal waters off the coast of California during the last two decades, with several being approved as recently as last year. While we know little about the impacts of fracking onshore, we know even less about the impacts of offshore. Any leak, spill, or blowout offshore would be very difficult to detect and contain, especially considering how little is known about the chemicals being used. Exposure to

these chemicals could seriously harm the sensitive marine areas in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Santa Barbara Channel, which is where much of this activity is now occurring. Such exposure would not only harm the marine environment, it would also harm our local economy.

That is why I was disappointed that my amendment to simply study the impacts of offshore fracking was ruled out of order. Regardless of your views on offshore drilling, there should be bipartisan agreement that we need to fully understand the impacts of these activities, but the majority blocked debate on this amendment, so we can't even discuss it.

Madam Chair, it is bad enough that offshore fracking is happening without a proper understanding of its impacts, but it is even more troubling that no one even knew that it was happening in the first place. Federal regulators claim they knew about these activities but that they didn't think it was necessary to notify the California Coastal Commission, local officials, or the public. If a spill occurs, the oil and chemicals don't stop at the 3-mile mark where Federal waters end and State waters begin. Whether the spill is 10 miles offshore or 4 miles offshore, those chemicals will flow into State waters, and they will wash up onto our local beaches.

My constituents have a right to know what is happening in their backyards. That is why my amendment would simply ensure that the American public and State regulators, like the California Coastal Commission, are notified whenever a permit to allow offshore fracking is filed. It doesn't slow down or stop these permits from being considered. It simply ensures that all stakeholders know about it and can respond accordingly. If, as the oil companies claim, offshore fracking poses minimal risk, then what is the harm of notifying the public of where and when it is happening?

This is not a partisan idea. Transparency is something both Democrats and Republicans have supported in the past, so I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment to increase transparency in offshore fracking.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, the offshore leasing process is managed by the Federal Government because the Outer Continental Shelves are under Federal jurisdiction; therefore, you have that regulation from the Federal Government.

While there is always process, I suppose, with any regulation, this process

is transparent, and the Department is already required to publish a Federal notice prior to any lease sale. In fact, when creating a 5-year plan, the Department is also required to consult with States and localities, and this administration has just started its process right now for the time period of 2017–2022.

This amendment is really a red tape, paperwork nightmare. It would have an overwhelming burdensome effect on all existing offshore operations conducted today in the Outer Continental Shelf by adding an additional layer of bureaucracy and by requiring a notice for every permit application received. The amendment is so broad in its description of well enhancement activities that, essentially, every time a permit application would be received by the Bureau, it would then require a Federal notice.

Just think about that. Every time you have an action like that that requires a Federal notice, does it not logically suggest that that might be open to some sort of legal activity? Maybe that is, perhaps, what the sponsors of this amendment really want to do is to slow the paperwork down so much as to not have the activity of utilizing these resources. This amendment would inhibit offshore safety by turning the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement into a publishing behemoth rather than allowing them to focus on their mission of ensuring safe offshore operations to continue.

Finally, I would make this notation, Mr. Chairman, that all permit applications are made public on the Bureau's Web site—and I will just put it in as part of the RECORD—www.bsee.gov. Why add additional requirements to publish information that is already open and part of that Web site?

This amendment is unnecessary. As I say, I think it would add to the burdensome steps and hoops that one has to go through to utilize these resources that, I think, all Americans want. Keep in mind that the issue here is in the long term, utilizing our resources to become more energy independent and utilizing these resources in the long run to have a vibrant energy component of our national economy. You can't have a growing economy unless you have certainty in the energy sector. This amendment, from my point of view, would slow that process down, so I urge the rejection of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, having witnessed the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, I know firsthand the devastation a community can experience when something goes wrong on offshore oil rigs.

□ 1000

The marine ecosystem is devastated. Local businesses lose customers, and

they lay off workers. Fishing boats are left idle in the harbor.

Given this reality, we owe it to those who suffer the impacts of these spills, these mishaps, to make sure these activities are as safe as possible.

Increasing transparency will strengthen oversight. It will improve safety. This is a commonsense idea that should have bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chairman, again, I rise in opposition to this amendment because of the burdensome paperwork that I think that this would create, but the gentlewoman made an observation that needs to be addressed because she does live in the Santa Barbara area—and yes, they did experience a spill there many years ago.

I would remind my friend from California that also within this legislation is language that strengthens the oversight in a statutory way of activities in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Currently, that is done, not with statutory authority, but with regulatory authority going back to the Reagan administration, so if the gentlewoman really wants to make sure that there is some certainty, so that we won't have these devastating spills in the future, I would invite her to join us in supporting this legislation because we put into law—statutory law—how we should regulate the offshore.

Again, I rise in opposition to this amendment because I think that it is too much—burdensome—from a paperwork standpoint, when the issue is to have certainty in the long term in the energy sector.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOODALL). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 113–493.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 52, at line 14 insert “and” after the semicolon, at line 17 strike “; and” and insert a period, and strike lines 18 and 19.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, it is no surprise that I oppose H.R. 4899. However, my amendment is not an attempt to sabotage the bill. It is an honest attempt to fix a major drafting error within this legislation that could have drastic consequences on our Nation's district courts.

My amendment would strike section 10702(a)(3) of the bill, which mandates that cases involving oil and gas leases “take precedence over all other pending matters before the district court.”

I am grateful for the opportunity to explain the serious implications of this provision. The provision seems to be directed at concerns that individuals and communities, small businesses, other interests that are not party to the production of an oil and gas lease may file lawsuits to prevent or delay an oil and gas lease from moving forward.

Now, I believe that people have an important interest in the production of oil and gas leases that could impact public health, property, and environmental injuries in the area of release.

I don't support the principle of locking people out of the courtroom. In our Nation, where the courts protect and ensure that individual rights and private property rights are not violated, this provision eliminates court protections of these most basic rights.

The bill, as drafted, is so broad that it does so much more than that, and here is where I hope that opponents and supporters of this bill can come together to fix this error.

As drafted, this language requires cases involving oil and gas leases to skip ahead of “all other pending matters before the district court.” That means everything—all pending cases, even cases already on the dockets of each of the judges sitting on the district court.

Because it was so broadly drafted, it contains no language to ensure that the case involving the production of oil and gas leases only receives precedence over pending matters before the district court judge who has been assigned to the oil and gas case.

Is it really the intention of Congress to mandate that legal disputes over oil and gas leases take precedence over every single case already pending in our district courts, including national security cases and high-profile criminal and civil cases? Surely not.

H.R. 4899 already lets oil and gas companies choose between the local district court that oversees Federal property for the leases in question or

the District Court for the District of Columbia.

This section, therefore, allows oil and gas cases to bump some of the most important legal cases in the Nation off of the D.C. district court's dockets.

Do the oil and gas industries get to butt in line ahead of victims of massive Ponzi schemes? Do they get to bump ahead of litigation over drone strikes? Do oil and gas companies get to jump ahead of litigation, like the dispute between the House GOP and the Department of Justice over Fast and Furious?

Clearly, that is not what my friends on the other side intended.

Do oil and gas companies get to jump ahead of the prosecution of terrorists, like the mastermind of the appalling attack in Benghazi that claimed the lives of brave and dedicated Americans?

I just cannot fathom that that is the intent of my colleagues, and the implication of this poorly-drafted addition goes beyond the D.C. district court.

The Eastern District Court of Virginia's recent hearing in the case of the individual who plotted to bomb the U.S. Capitol should remind us that, across this country, there are district court hearings—important cases that shouldn't be put on hold because Congress wants to please Big Oil.

Even with my amendment, H.R. 4899 still includes language that requires cases involving oil and gas to be resolved as expeditiously as possible and not more than 180 days after the claim is filed. Isn't that enough?

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would strike this poorly-drafted provision from the bill. We shouldn't let oil and gas litigation skip ahead of some of the most important national security cases, civil cases, and criminal cases of our time.

At the very least, I would urge my friend, Chairman HASTINGS, to revisit this provision to ensure that it is consistent with the intent of the overall legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I obviously rise in opposition to this amendment, and let me talk about the underlying legislation.

The underlying legislation streamlines the judicial process to ensure that there are timely resolutions of lawsuits that seek to block and slow down American-made energy. That was what the whole idea was.

In fact, I referred to this in my comments on the previous amendment, where we have a lot of litigation slowing down the process, so the intent of

the underlying legislation was to make sure that there was a timely response to this, so that there can be, again, some certainty in the process.

Now, what I find interesting—I think the gentleman from Florida makes some valid points as to what, perhaps, the interpretation of the underlying legislation, but I would remind the gentleman that—when this legislation was on the floor as an individual amendment—exact language was in here, the Judiciary Committee—who has jurisdiction, obviously, over this—waived their jurisdiction and felt that the language was very good.

I would certainly be willing to—if the gentleman has a way to maybe fine-tune that, I think that is something that we should look at, but—and this is the important point here, Mr. Chairman, as we debate this amendment—his approach to this is like taking a sledge hammer to a fly.

I don't think that that is the proper way to go because he strikes the whole section dealing with giving priority and trying to get certainty in the judicial process, so I rise in opposition to the gentleman.

I will say to the gentleman, as this legislation moves forward and he has some suggestions—if and when the Senate, by the way, passes legislation and we can fine-tune this—to address, I think, some valid concerns that he has, while still making sure that energy-produced litigation is dealt with in a timely manner. I think there might be some common ground on that.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that his approach, by striking that whole section out of this legislation, is not the proper way to go.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, just to respond to a couple of points, the Judiciary Committee may have waived jurisdiction. As my friend knows, there was no vote to waive jurisdiction. Had there been, I would have raised this very issue then, as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Secondly, if the purpose of this legislation is to streamline lawsuits—and that was the whole idea behind the legislation—then having language that requires these to be heard as expeditiously as possible and not more than 180 days, that does that. That is in the bill, even after this amendment passes.

I can't believe that it was the intention of the drafters of this legislation to put these oil and gas disputes ahead of cases that involve plots to kill Americans, as is the case with the mastermind of the Benghazi attack, individuals who have important civil cases, important criminal cases.

I just can't imagine the dispute between the House GOP and the Justice

Department over Fast and Furious—clearly, it wasn't the intent to say that the oil and gas companies are more important than seeing that case through.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this amendment will pass. We don't need to fine-tune the bill. It is clear enough already. I ask my colleagues to support this.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I just want to point out, again, that the Judiciary Committee last year did waive jurisdiction on this, but I do think that the gentleman makes a valid point.

We all know that legislation is a work in progress, many times. As I acknowledge, I think the gentleman raises the point; but, again, Mr. Chairman, the reason why this amendment ought to be rejected is because it takes out the whole section, and now, you are left with a situation where there is not a certainty whatsoever in these lawsuits.

I don't think that is a proper way to go, especially with the volatility of the energy market worldwide. When we have an opportunity to use the resources we have in this country, whether you are talking about offshore or onshore, to ensure not only the safety, but to add certainty to a growing economy, we should take advantage of that.

I would urge rejection of this amendment because I think that what we put in the underlying legislation is valid for what it is attempting to do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 803. An act to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and

make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WOODALL). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I (page 54, after line 24) add the following:

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 25001. ELIGIBILITY FOR NEW LEASES AND THE TRANSFER OF LEASES.

(a) ISSUANCE OF NEW LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of the Interior shall not accept bids on any new leases offered pursuant to this title (including the amendments made by this title) from a person described in paragraph (2) unless the person has renegotiated each covered lease with respect to which the person is a lessee, to modify the payment responsibilities of the person to require the payment of royalties if the price of oil and natural gas is greater than or equal to the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(2) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(A) a person that is a lessee that—

(i) holds a covered lease on the date on which the Secretary considers the issuance of the new lease; or

(ii) was issued a covered lease before the date of enactment of this Act, but transferred the covered lease to another person or entity (including a subsidiary or affiliate of the lessee) after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) any other person that has any direct or indirect interest in, or that derives any benefit from, a covered lease.

(3) MULTIPLE LESSEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), if there are multiple lessees that own a share of a covered lease, the Secretary may implement separate agreements with any lessee with a share of the covered lease that modifies the payment responsibilities with respect to the share of the lessee to include price thresholds that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(B) TREATMENT OF SHARE AS COVERED LEASE.—Beginning on the effective date of an agreement under subparagraph (A), any share subject to the agreement shall not constitute a covered lease with respect to any lessees that entered into the agreement.

(b) TRANSFERS.—A lessee or any other person who has any direct or indirect interest in, or who derives a benefit from, a covered lease shall not be eligible to obtain by sale or other transfer (including through a swap,

spinoff, servicing, or other agreement) any new lease offered pursuant to this title (including the amendments made by this title) or the economic benefit of any such new lease, unless the lessee or other person has—

(1) renegotiated each covered lease with respect to which the lessee or person is a lessee, to modify the payment responsibilities of the lessee or person to include price thresholds that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)); or

(2) entered into an agreement with the Secretary to modify the terms of all covered leases of the lessee or other person to include limitations on royalty relief based on market prices that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LEASE.—The term “covered lease” means a lease for oil or gas production in the Gulf of Mexico that is—

(A) in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) issued by the Department of the Interior under section 304 of the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (43 U.S.C. 1337 note; Public Law 104-58); and

(C) not subject to limitations on royalty relief based on market price that are equal to or less than the price thresholds described in clauses (v) through (vii) of section 8(a)(3)(C) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(3)(C)).

(2) LESSEE.—The term “lessee” includes any person or other entity that controls, is controlled by, or is in or under common control with, a lessee.

(3) NEW LEASE.—The term “new lease” means a lease issued in a lease sale under this title or the amendments made by this title.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this is an old friend to the committee and the floor and my friend, Congressman HASTINGS, and we couldn't have him retire from Congress without doing this one more time.

By way of background for those who haven't walked through this before, in 1995, Congress—desiring to encourage bidding on leases in certain deepwater areas of the Gulf of Mexico—provided relief from the normal applicable royalties payable to the United States.

What we found, in the course of this, is it worked. People bid on the leases, they went in; but we found out that there was no provision for eliminating the royalty exemption if the market price of oil rose back up to reasonable levels.

According to some accounts, this omission might have been an administrative error. What we have found about the mismanagement of the Minerals Management Services—people literally in bed with the people that they

were supposed to regulate—it may not have been an administrative oversight, but whatever, it was wrong. It shouldn't have been there.

□ 1015

As a result, now with oil up to \$100 a barrel and higher, they are pumping this oil without paying anything to the Federal Government, far beyond what was ever contemplated.

Now my amendment is simple. It gives these companies a choice. They can either renegotiate and execute leases for this oil, which was obviously the intent—there was never any intent to make this permanent on an ongoing basis—and pay reasonable royalties to the United States, especially since a number of these companies are foreign companies, state-owned enterprises, or they simply wouldn't be able to bid for new leases. Their choice. No coercion. But the taxpayers stand to benefit \$15.5 billion over the next 10 years, and, in fact, over the life of these leases, \$31 billion or more. I respectfully suggest, it is time to approve this amendment.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment, and I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks. I guess my career would never be complete unless we did this one more time.

But this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is identical to an amendment that failed 2 years ago in this House, and, I might say, it failed by a broad bipartisan vote.

I will also remind my friend from Oregon that this issue has been repeatedly settled in the Nation's courts of law, with the courts determining that rewriting the terms of these leases to include price thresholds would be a direct violation of contract law. That is what the issue is here really with this.

Now it was during the Clinton administration that this happened. And I agree with the gentleman; it shouldn't have happened. But it happened. And the courts have spoken very clearly on this.

The U.S. Supreme Court found that the Department of the Interior did not have the authority to rewrite these contracts that were issued under the 1995 law. And I will remind the gentleman that the Department of the Interior has lost this issue in the district court, the appellate court, and the Supreme Court.

Ultimately, this amendment seeks to force U.S. companies to break a contract legally negotiated under government law, or else be denied the opportunity to do business in the U.S. The

amendment aims to back companies into a corner and attempts to force them to break legally binding contracts. And that, from my point of view, is essentially extorting these companies to undo these contracts.

Now, I want to, again, speak on this just a little bit broader. I would acknowledge that we have the right in this Congress to pass legislation to change that. After all, we are the body that makes the law. But there is a fundamental issue here that I think that we really have to address beyond this: Should Congress be passing legislation that breaks contract law when courts have said repeatedly that contract law should be inviolable? I think that is what the issue is here today.

I understand my friend from Oregon having perhaps some heartburn because this is dealing with oil and gas. I understand that. And frankly, I respect that. But I think that the larger issue here is that we should not be doing what we could do because I think that we should hold contracts, private sector contracts with government, in a higher area than probably some people think we should.

So with that, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, we are not seeking to break contracts. What we are doing is providing an opportunity for people to renegotiate these contracts, to stop making a profit by exploiting a loophole or a mistake that both of us agree was unintended and unfortunate.

This would be their choice. Contracts are renegotiated on an ongoing basis routinely with government and in the private sector. And I would respectfully suggest that this is a contract that is long overdue to be renegotiated.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close.

So at this point, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. How much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio), the ranking member.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Chairman, what we are talking about here is obscenely profitable oil companies getting a give-away while we are running massive deficits.

Now, everyone says that they want to run government like a business and lower deficits. The GAO has estimated that if this is allowed to run its course without any of these leases being renegotiated, it will be a \$50 billion windfall to the oil industry—not million, \$50 billion.

Now that would be a nice piece of change, both for revenue sharing for the States and for the Federal Treasury. We could apply it all to deficit reduction or other needs, maybe even fund the continuation of the national transportation system. Who knows.

The bottom line is, as the gentleman pointed out, it may or may not have been intentional on the part of people at the then-Minerals Management Service to give away these assets to the oil companies.

But for 3 years before they slept with them—or whatever happened—they did include it in the leases. And then what the Court found was that the law that the Republicans passed in 1995 didn't allow those sorts of conditions to be in the leases.

So this is a new approach. The Republican law was defective. The Clinton administration—at least some members of it—were corrupt. It is a bipartisan problem. Let's fix it in a bipartisan way.

This would just say, if the companies who got this windfall and won that Court case want new leases, we would condition new leases upon them negotiating and paying a fair return to the taxpayers on the old leases and, in that process, make the taxpayers whole.

It is a legal and simple way to fix a problem that was caused both by the law, as written, by the then-majority Republican party and the few corrupt members of the Clinton administration.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, there is an excellent report from the Congressional Research Service on this subject that makes clear that it is not illegal or in violation of contract law. The argument is very sustainable.

And it is not the oil company that gives me heartburn, to my dear friend. I would think any of us would have heartburn if the Federal Treasury, the taxpayers, were cheated out of \$25 billion to \$50 billion due to an error or an omission. That ought to give heartburn to anybody. This amendment will fix it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of the time.

The observation has been made that these maybe should be renegotiated. Listen, Mr. Chairman, any contract can be renegotiated, as long as both sides want to renegotiate. But that was the law at the time. And what concerns me with this piece of legislation is that it implies there has to be a renegotiation.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to some that they would say that this is the heavy hand of government forcing somebody to do something that they could do under law right now. In some areas, they call that extortion. They

may not use that strong of a word, but I am sure that would be implied by some people if they were subject to this.

Again, this amendment has been rejected on a bipartisan basis for the last couple of years. The courts have ruled against this. I think we should follow with that.

With that, I urge rejection of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I have a brilliant amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 69, after line 4, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly):

“(F) After the conclusion of the public comment period for a planned competitive lease sale, the Secretary shall not cancel, defer, or withdraw any lease parcel announced to be auctioned in the lease sale.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, so last night, I am watching the Cubs game. And the shortstop, who is on a tear right now as far as hitting, bounces off a foul tip that the replay clearly shows bounced onto the ground. The catcher trapped the ball, and then held it up as saying he had actually caught it. And the umpire, even though this violates the rules of the game, had the power to pick the catcher over the hitter, and he declared that the batter had struck out.

Now even though the Cubs manager went out there, claiming how unfair this was—and I was yelling at the TV screen for hours afterwards—history books will still say that Castro had a strikeout at this particular event.

Now, of course, the unfortunate thing is that our administration and the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management plays this

same game of picking catchers over hitters all the time, even though it violates some of the rules.

So, 77 leases were put up for bid in Utah. It took the BLM on the ground 7 years to go through the process. They checked all the boxes. They did the environmental analysis. And the Secretary of the Interior simply canceled them. His reason was, ‘cause.

Recently, 56 leases were also set out there for auction. Once again, all the boxes were checked. They got through the process. They did the environmental analysis. The environment assessment was done. Public comment was done. The protest period was finished. And 5 days—5 days—before the auction, a letter comes from a special interest group to the State director for the Bureau of Land Management, a group that had been silent through the entire process. They said nothing during the assessment. They said nothing during the public comment. During the protest period, they said nothing. Here, 2 months after the record was closed, 2 months after the decision had been done with no more access for public comments, the director of the BLM simply says, I am going to pick a special interest group over another interest group, and he canceled these leases.

Schools, the chance of jobs in my State went out, the chance of actually getting royalty payments that would help the kids of my State pay for their education. It was simply done on a whim.

The industry had spent \$500,000. Half a million dollars from their recreation and development funds were spent getting ready for this auction. And all of a sudden, a special interest group is given special treatment, and it is taken away.

Now, what government needs, especially out in the local areas, and what business needs is simply certainty. You tell us what the rules are, and they can play by those rules. It is a business necessity to have certainty and not have administrative officials simply change the rules on a whim at some particular time.

It is kind of like, to paraphrase the old Tom Cruise movie: You screwed up. You trusted me.

If we have a policy that is long and it is hard, it gives ample opportunity. But it is proven meaningless if, indeed, the Bureau of Land Management is able to fervently yield at the eleventh hour to the opinion of some special interest group. All we are asking them to do with this amendment is to simply follow the rules. Don't change things on a whim. Don't pick one group over the other. Don't pick the catcher or the hitter.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, first my condolences to the gentleman from Utah for being a Cubs fan. I am a Red Sox fan, and we have had some problems too. But that was an interesting moment and an interesting analogy made.

Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of the specifics of the instance of which he speaks. But I would say that this, as a remedy for a past action, would apply in the future, and it would not undo whatever took place in the past that the gentleman is referring to. And the principle here is fairly extraordinary. It kind of says, Federal bureaucrats never make mistakes.

So we have proposed leases in an area. We go through a public comment period. Local people comment. A hunting and fishing group comes in and says, you know, this is absolutely, like, the primo area for hunting or fishing or something else. Or it becomes apparent that this is, like, right in a main recreation corridor, something that the Federal bureaucrat overlooked in drawing up the lease boundaries.

But if this were adopted and became law in the future, at the end of the public comment period, it would be, We are the Federal Government. Thank you very much for pointing out that we really screwed that up, that we were just about to wipe out a prime habitat, that we were just about to block or really degrade a prime recreation corridor. We are bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. We didn't realize that. But we are sorry; public comment periods don't mean anything anymore. We cannot condition, withdraw, or change the lease. And that would be it.

□ 1030

I don't think that would be good. I really don't. So, there may have been—and, again, I am not aware of the circumstances to which the gentleman is referring in the specific, but I believe that this amendment, looking forward to whoever is in the White House and whoever is administering these programs, would really preclude any part of the public from having meaningful comment and getting a meaningful response from the Federal bureaucracy which has proposed leasing in their neighborhood.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, before I make a comment about the Red Sox, may I inquire about how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 1¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. With that, I would like to yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS), a Mariners fan—tough day down here—the chairman of the committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to make this point again. What does this amendment say? It prohibits the Secretary from canceling lease sales previously announced to be auctioned based on public comments received after the comment period was ended.

In other words, what the gentleman is simply saying is let's follow the law. I know he said that, but it is worth repeating. You have a comment period, then a decision is made. Once that decision is made, that should end the issue. Why? Because there is a great deal of capital that has been invested, and as the gentleman from Utah said, that is the certainty that our energy producers need.

Mr. Chairman, what was done in Utah with the canceling of those sales at that time I thought was totally wrong. It was wrong then, it is wrong now, and the court has found that.

Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I do have the right to close, so I will yield myself 90 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, as described, that might be an amendment that would be much more acceptable, but it actually doesn't say that. It says that, after the conclusion of the public comment period for a planned competitive lease sale, the Secretary shall not cancel, defer, or withdraw any lease parcel announced to be auctioned in a lease sale.

Now, what the gentleman described is not what this section F would do. This basically says we listen to people—we listened, we heard, it goes forward. Maybe that is not the intent, and if it isn't the intent, then it would need to be modified. So I believe that the public comment period for leases that are drawn up by bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., headquarters should be meaningfully commented upon through a process by people in the vicinity, and their comments should be given some weight in whether or not the lease is modified or goes forward, as I previously described, if it impedes upon prime habitat or particularly on a recreational corridor.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I assume the gentleman has no other speakers?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I do not.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Good. I will finish this. And I appreciate knowing the gentleman from Oregon is a Red Sox fan. That explains so, so much here.

Mr. Chairman, I have to admit that this is probably a needless amendment. One would assume that if you write a law or you write a rule, that is what you do. This amendment basically says that you abide by the rules. Even though you have great and awesome power—never mind the man behind the

curtain—you don't change the rules to pick winners and losers and one special interest group over another. You abide by the rule.

In the first 77 lease issue, they had 7 years to go through the process of finding out what it is. This is one of the concepts in which it simply says we are going to obey the law. We are going to abide by the rules so everyone knows what is there and everyone knows with certainty what they can do and for what they should plan, and you don't change it at the last minute because you want to favor one group over another group.

That is why we are doing this. It has happened in the past, it can happen in the future, and it should not.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, again, the sentiments expressed by the gentleman having to do with a particular experience in his State—perhaps his district—is one thing, but this is really clear in the statutory language. It says that we will hold the public comment period. When it closes, the lease goes forward, no matter what we heard.

What the gentleman is talking about is that there was a public comment period. The public comment period was closed, and he says that some time later, outside of the public comment period, someone submitted information which was used and overcame all of the other testimony and/or comments that were provided.

That is a whole different circumstance than what this is. This is very simple. It just says that there will be a public comment period; we will listen; and at the end of that, we don't care what we heard, it has to go forward as proposed.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 113-493.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE —MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 01. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF ENERGY EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall establish an Office of Energy Employment and Training, which shall oversee the hiring and training efforts of the Department of the Interior's energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies.

(b) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be under the direction of a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training, who shall report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Energy, Lands and Minerals Management, and shall be fully employed to carry out the functions of the Office.

(2) DUTIES.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Employment and Training shall perform the following functions:

(A) Develop and implement systems to track the Department's hiring of trained skilled workers in the energy permitting and inspection agencies.

(B) Design and recommend to the Secretary programs and policies aimed at expanding the Department's hiring of women, minorities, and veterans into the Department's workforce dealing with energy permitting and inspection programs. Such programs and policies shall include—

(i) recruiting at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(ii) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(iii) placing employment advertisements in newspapers and magazines oriented toward minorities, veterans, and women;

(iv) partnering with organizations that are focused on developing opportunities for minorities, veterans, and women to be placed in Departmental internships, summer employment, and full-time positions relating to energy;

(v) where feasible, partnering with inner-city high schools, girls' high schools, and high schools with majority minority populations to demonstrate career opportunities and the path to those opportunities available at the Department;

(vi) coordinating with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense in the hiring of veterans; and

(vii) any other mass media communications that the Deputy Assistant Secretary determines necessary to advertise, promote, or educate about opportunities at the Department.

(C) Develop standards for—

(i) equal employment opportunity and the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the workforce and senior management of the Department; and

(ii) increased participation of minority-owned, veteran-owned, and women-owned businesses in the programs and contracts with the Department.

(D) Review and propose for adoption the best practices of entities regulated by the Department with regards to hiring and diversity policies, and publish those best practices for public review.

(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report regarding the actions taken by the Department of the Interior agency and the Office pursuant to this section, which shall include—

(1) a statement of the total amounts paid by the Department to minority contractors;

(2) the successes achieved and challenges faced by the Department in operating minority, veteran or service-disabled veteran, and women outreach programs;

(3) the challenges the Department may face in hiring minority, veteran, and women employees and contracting with veteran or service-disabled veteran, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses; and

(4) any other information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative or Department action, as the Director determines appropriate.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **MINORITY.**—The term “minority” means United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American.

(2) **MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “minority-owned business” means a for-profit enterprise, regardless of size, physically located in the United States or its trust territories, that is owned, operated, and controlled by minority group members. “Minority group members” are United States citizens who are Asian Indian American, Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, or Native American (terminology in NMSDC categories). Ownership by minority individuals means the business is at least 51 percent owned by such individuals or, in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals. Further, the management and daily operations are controlled by those minority group members. For purposes of NMSDC’s program, a minority group member is an individual who is a United States citizen with at least 1/4 or 25 percent minimum (documentation to support claim of 25 percent required from applicant) of one or more of the following:

(A) Asian Indian American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh.

(B) Asian Pacific American, which is a United States citizen whose origins are from Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand, Samoa, Guam, the United States Trust Territories of the Pacific, or the Northern Marianas.

(C) Black American, which is a United States citizen having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

(D) Hispanic American, which is a United States citizen of true-born Hispanic heritage, from any of the Spanish-speaking areas of the following regions: Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Basin only.

(E) Native American, which means a U.S. citizen enrolled to a federally recognized tribe, or a Native as defined under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

(3) **NMSDC.**—The term “NMSDC” means the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

(4) **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “women-owned business” means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is women-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien. Evidence must indicate that—

(A) the contribution of capital or expertise by the woman business owner is real and substantial and in proportion to the interest owned;

(B) the woman business owner directs or causes the direction of management, policy, fiscal, and operational matters; and

(C) the woman business owner has the ability to perform in the area of specialty or expertise without reliance on either the finances or resources of a firm that is not owned by a woman.

(5) **SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN.**—The term “Service Disabled Veteran” must have a service-connected disability that has been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense. The SDVOSBC must be small under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the procurement; the SDV must unconditionally own 51 percent of the SDVOSBC; the SDVO must control the management and daily operations of the SDVOSBC; and the SDV must hold the highest officer position in the SDVOSBC.

(6) **VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS.**—The term “veteran-owned business” means a business that can verify through evidence documentation that 51 percent or more is veteran-owned, managed, and controlled. The business must be open for at least 6 months. The business owner must be a United States citizen or legal resident alien and honorably or service-connected disability discharged from service.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to set a standard for answering the call of 500,000 to 800,000 jobs being created by 2020 that addresses the work in our ongoing and growing energy industry.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Natural Resources Committee chairman, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their leadership on diversifying our employment base. I also want to wish the chairman well as he moves on to other endeavors. He will be missed on his insight.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 4899. The Congress has an affirmative duty to increase diversity in Federal Government as there is an undeniable lack of participation for veterans, women, and minorities in regards to employment, entrepreneurial, and ownership opportunity.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 4899 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish an office of energy employment and training to create economic opportunities that support the agency’s hiring and training of veterans, women, and underrepresented minorities. It sets the standard for the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, as a Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the Nation, I have always been mindful of the importance of having strongly advocated for national energy policies—really, all of the above—and to make our Nation energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our Nation’s economy strong.

The recent increase in production of unconventional oil and natural gas has provided a lift to the U.S. economy, and Americans are seeing the benefits not only because of the jobs created, but also because household incomes have gone up. It is up to us to have the regulatory structure that protects the environment but also provides the opportunity for growth and creates jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I did not point out that both the chairman and ranking member have been resolute in their pursuit of the expansion of opportunities in the energy industry. I share that commitment with them, and this amendment is an example of what happens when Members work in good faith across the aisle to find viable solutions.

In this amendment, veterans, minorities, and women recognize that they are significantly underrepresented in the oil and gas industries at all levels and severely underrepresented in the senior managerial, professional, board, and ownership ranks. U.S. competitiveness requires that this Nation increase the number of successful underrepresented minorities in STEM education and careers, which is more essential than ever.

A pipeline of qualified veterans looking for employment will play a key role as the energy industry seeks quality, highly skilled workers. I am committed to honoring our obligations to our Nation’s veterans and utilizing the talents of veterans to help the government meet today’s dynamic challenges.

Mr. Chairman, the Office of Energy Employment and Training will provide an opportunity to align military and utility job classifications, identify veterans with their desired basic skills, access military personnel during the off-boarding process, and hold training programs.

It is interesting to note that in 2013, the number of STEM jobs in North Dakota increased by 37.2 percent as a direct result of the oil and gas boom in that State.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is the product of a collaborative process between the gentlewoman from Texas and the Natural Resources Committee. For most of this year, the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources has held a series of hearings on

American energy jobs focusing on the tremendous job opportunities and demand for educated and skilled workers in the oil and gas industry. A number of those hearings focused directly on veterans, opportunities for veterans, opportunities for women, and opportunities for minorities, not only in the industry, but also within the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment builds on that work by establishing an office in the Department of the Interior to centralize and focus specifically on the dismal record of the Department in these areas. And why do I say that, Mr. Chairman? I say that because we have learned earlier this year from a GAO report that the Department of the Interior has trouble staffing these agencies and fails to utilize all of the tools at their disposal to hire, to train, and to retain staff in these particular areas. And so what this amendment does is centralize what DOE should already be doing, with the focus on veterans, women, and minorities.

So I am prepared to accept this amendment, and I look forward to working with the sponsor on this and other areas that we can agree upon.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman for his astute reflection on the work that we have done and I have done over the years. I introduced H.R. 70 and H.R. 3710 that dealt with coastal restoration and the utilization of training for our young people and our veterans.

So as I conclude and thank the chairman for his acknowledgment, along with the ranking member, of their work on the committee dealing with diversification, the Jackson Lee amendment will help prepare a diverse population of workers from across the country with diverse backgrounds to enter in exciting and rewarding careers in American energy jobs.

Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Centers of Excellence, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, and women colleges and universities will become engaged by a direct pipeline into the Department of the Interior that will foster collaboration, mentorships, and partnerships through effective job training that will yield employment opportunities. The Department of the Interior will be responsible for fostering diver-

sity in management, employment, and business activities. It will be the light at the end of the tunnel creating a pathway for the 800,000 jobs.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like to put into the RECORD the Employment Outlook for African Americans and Latinos In the Upstream Oil and Natural Gas Industry.

[An IHS Report, Nov. 2012]

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LATINOS IN THE UPSTREAM OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

(Prepared for the American Petroleum

Institute, API)

KEY FINDINGS

Oil and natural gas will remain as the main source of fuel for decades to come as other forms of energy also become commercially viable. In fact, in early November 2012, the International Energy Agency (IEA) projected that the United States will become the world's top oil producer by 2020 and that North America would be in a position to export more oil than it imports by 2030.

These findings underscore the critical importance of the analysis and findings of a new IHS report entitled Employment Outlook for African Americans and Latinos in the Upstream Oil and Natural Gas Industry (2012). Principal findings of the new IHS report include:

More than 500,000 jobs projected to be created by 2020 and over 800,000 jobs created by 2030 in the upstream oil and natural gas industry under pro-energy development policies.

Job growth would be geographically diverse. Over half of the job growth, 417 thousand jobs, is expected in the Gulf region. The East region is expected to contribute nearly 140 thousand job opportunities and the Rockies region nearly 116 thousand job opportunities. The West, Alaska, and Central regions will combine to contribute approximately 138 thousand job opportunities.

Central to this analysis is workforce training critical to the projected U.S. petroleum industry growth to keep the nation at a competitive advantage and to provide the energy the nation depends upon. African Americans and Hispanic Americans represent a critically vital and available talent pool to help meet the demands of the projected growth and expansion. For African Americans and Hispanics to be competitive for the 800,000 potential new jobs it will require:

Significant improvement in minority preparation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related disciplines at the primary and secondary school levels—a national priority;

Significant improvement in high school completion rates for Hispanics and African Americans;

Secondary and post-secondary staff (i.e., principals, deans, teachers, faculty, counselors) should be trained to inform their students on the workforce opportunities in the petroleum industry, specifically in the regions identified, and the training required;

An increase the labor force participation rates of African Americans and Hispanics;

Sixty-two percent of the job growth are estimated to be in blue collar jobs that would require a high school diploma and some additional training such as community college vocational degrees and certificates;

Twenty-one percent of the job growth will require training in engineering (petroleum, etc.), geoscience fields, management, business, and finance, and as technicians;

Partnerships between higher education and industry, especially at the community college level would yield near term positive results;

Hispanic and African American students with high school diplomas and some additional training at community colleges in skills related to the oil and gas industry are immediately competitive for current job opportunities;

African American and Hispanic students who successfully complete college degrees related to the oil and natural gas industry, e.g., petroleum engineering, would be highly competitive for workforce placement;

Wages in the upstream oil and natural gas industry, across many professions, far exceed the national average wage rate;

Some portion of the job opportunities would be in geographic locations away from segments of minority populations and may require relocation;

Employment in the oil and gas industry can provide a reliable means to a better than average quality of life for Hispanics and African Americans for decades to come.

Both challenges and opportunities exist going forward. Raising educational achievement for large segments of the upcoming generation is resource intensive and will take decades to achieve. However, the payoff of an increased skilled labor pool would be enormous to society in general and U.S. industry in particular. This report illustrates that there are significant opportunities for African Americans and Hispanics throughout the petroleum industry currently and well into the future at each level of education and training.

III. MINORITY AND FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN 2010

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The three segments of the U.S. oil and gas industry and the petrochemical industry together employed a total of 1.2 million people in 2010 (see Table III.1).

The upstream segment, with employment of 721 thousand, accounted for 60% of the total, followed by the downstream segment with 23%.

African American workers held 98 thousand jobs in these industries in 2010, accounting for 8.2% of total employment. Their share within the petrochemical industry was 11.2%.

Hispanic workers held 188 thousand jobs across all four industry segments—15.7% of the total. They accounted for a higher share of employment in the upstream segment than in the other segments.

Table III.1—AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BY SEGMENT: 2010 TOTAL

	Total	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream	Petro-chemicals
Total	1,198,590	720,911	42,079	279,162	156,438
African American	97,789	57,886	2,262	20,043	17,598
Hispanic	188,088	136,265	4,440	28,426	18,957
Minority Shares by Segment					
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
African American	8.2%	8.0%	5.4%	7.2%	11.2%
Hispanic	15.7%	18.9%	10.6%	10.2%	12.1%

Table III.1—AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BY SEGMENT: 2010 TOTAL—Continued

	Total	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream	Petro-chemicals
Shares by Segment in Each Occupation					
Total	100.0%	60.1%	3.5%	23.3%	13.1%
African American	100.0%	59.2%	2.3%	20.5%	18.0%
Hispanic	100.0%	72.4%	2.4%	15.1%	10.1%

EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER

Women accounted for 19% of total employment in the combined oil and gas and petrochemical industries. Their share is higher in the downstream and petrochemical segments

(25%) and lower in the upstream and midstream segments (15–16%). (See Table III.2.)

The female share of employment in these industries is much lower for the Hispanic population—only 13%.

The incidence of female employment for the African American population in the oil & gas industry generally mirrors the nationwide pattern for the industry, at a share of 19%. In the midstream industry there is a higher female share.

TABLE III.2—FEMALE EMPLOYMENT IN THE OIL & GAS AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BY SEGMENT: 2010

	Total	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream	Petro-Chemicals
Total	1,198,590	720,911	42,079	279,162	156,438
Female	225,687	110,350	6,840	69,140	39,357
Male	972,903	610,561	35,239	210,022	117,081
Percent Female	19%	15%	16%	25%	25%
African American	97,789	57,886	2,262	20,043	17,598
Female	18,953	9,239	594	4,806	4,314
Male	78,836	48,647	1,668	15,237	13,284
Percent Female	19%	16%	26%	24%	25%
Hispanic	188,088	136,265	4,440	28,426	18,957
Female	25,335	13,648	554	5,647	5,486
Male	162,753	122,617	3,886	22,779	13,471
Percent Female	13%	10%	12%	20%	29%

Ms. JACKSON LEE. So, in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me indicate that our task here is to create jobs. We understand that there are 300,000 vets that, in fact, may need unemployment insurance. We want them to have jobs, along with women and minorities, and so I would ask my colleagues to accept the Jackson Lee amendment, and I thank the committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their leadership and commitment.

I also wish the Chairman well as he moves on to other endeavors. He will be missed.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment #9 to H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act of 2014.

Congress has an affirmative duty to increase diversity in the federal government as there is an undeniable lack of participation for veterans, women and minorities in regards to employment, entrepreneurial and ownership opportunities.

The Jackson Lee Amendment #9 to H.R. 4899 directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Office of Energy Employment and Training to create economic opportunities that support the Agency's hiring and training of veterans, women and underrepresented minorities.

As the Member of Congress from Houston, the energy capital of the nation, I have always been mindful of the importance and have strongly advocated for national energy policies that will make our nation more energy independent, preserve and create jobs, and keep our nation's economy strong.

The recent increase in production of unconventional oil and natural gas has provided a lift to the U.S. economy and Americans are seeing the benefits not only because of the jobs created but also because household incomes

have seen an increase as a result of lower energy costs.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that both the Chairman and Ranking Member have been resolute in their pursuit of the expansion of opportunities in the energy industry. I share that commitment with them—and this amendment is an example of what happens when Members work in good-faith across the aisle to find viable solutions.

We all know that while government may not be able to solve all problems—it can be a bridge to solving some—and “the great mitigator” for others.

Veterans, minorities and women are significantly underrepresented in the oil and gas industries at all levels and severely underrepresented in the senior managerial, professional, board and ownership ranks. U.S. competitiveness requires that this nation increases the number of successful underrepresented minorities in STEM education and careers, is more essential than ever.

A pipeline of qualified veterans looking for employment could play a key role as the energy industry seeks quality, highly skilled workers. I am committed to honor our obligations to our Nation's veterans; utilize the talents of veterans to help the Government meet today's dynamic challenges; and create a program worthy of emulation by the private sector.

The Office of Energy Employment and Training will provide an opportunity to align military and utility job classifications, identify veterans with the desired basic skills, access military personnel during the off-boarding process and hold training programs specifically for targeted veteran cohorts.

Underrepresented minorities seeking STEM jobs cannot solely rely upon advanced degree programs, but must be able to pursue a number of routes to good paying STEM jobs. A highly focused area for STEM education and job opportunities can be found in the oil and gas industry.

For example, 2001–13 the number of STEM jobs in North Dakota increased by 37.2 percent as a direct result of the oil and gas boom in that state. North Dakota exceeded the nation in life, physical and social science technicians and the state is close to the national average for engineering technicians, physical scientists and life scientists.

Nationally, in 2010 there were 1.2 million people employed in the oil and gas industry of those persons only: 98,000 or 8.2% are African Americans; 188,000 or 15.7% are Hispanics; and 225,687 jobs or 19% are women.

The 2014 report prepared by the American Petroleum Institute states the oil and gas industry and petrochemical industry could create between 940,000 to 1.3 million employment opportunities between now and 2030.

Only a small fraction of these new jobs will come as a result of retirements.

The major factor for employment demands for the oil and gas industry is natural growth that will occur and investment by the industry and the influence of energy demand by a growing economy.

There a significantly larger number and variety of good paying jobs in the oil and gas industry. In 2011, the average oil field worker earned \$35,590, slightly higher than the national average; those working in natural gas distribution earned an average of \$38,870 per year. The states with the highest pay included Alaska, at \$48,370; Montana at \$45,870 per year; Wyoming, at \$41,130; and North Dakota, at \$40,340 per year.

Minorities comprise 26% of the oil and gas labor force in 2010 and that number is expected to grow to 325 by 2030. In 2010 women were 17% of the oil and gas labor force and their number is expected to drop to less than 15% in 2030.

The lower employment prospects for women are a direct consequence of the extreme level of underrepresentation in the energy sector.

A closer look at the employment prospects for minorities' reveals that African-Americans

like are projected to experience a decline in employment in the oil and gas industry due to underrepresentation of African Americans.

The level of underrepresentation of minorities and women is reflected in oil and gas industry senior and professional ranks. Minorities comprise 15% of management and professionals working in the oil and gas industry and are projected to comprise 17% by 2030.

When compared to all blue collar jobs 2 minorities make up 21% of the jobs, and in 2010 they comprised 38% of blue collar jobs.

Women do slightly better with a 24% in 2010, and are expected to hold this percentage of the blue collar job market to 2030.

Our booming energy sector has been one of the greatest American success stories in the last decade, and remains a bright spot in our economy as it continue to fuel job creation. To continue this success we need a diverse energy workforce that is equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities of our new energy landscape.

The Jackson Lee amendment will help prepare a diverse population of workers from across the country with diverse backgrounds to enter into exciting and rewarding careers in American energy jobs.

Our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Centers of excellence, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions and Women Colleges and Universities will become more engaged by a direct pipeline into the Department of Interior that will foster collaboration, mentorships and partnerships through effective job training that will yield employment opportunities.

In closing, I ask my colleagues, to support the Jackson Lee amendment that will address the ability and potential of people who are traditionally underrepresented in energy-production activities by creating an Office of Energy Employment and Training, which will oversee the hiring and training efforts of the Department of Interior's energy planning, permitting, and regulatory agencies.

The Department of the Interior will be responsible for fostering diversity in management, employment, and business activities.

Again, I thank Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their outstanding leadership.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 113-493.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 25001. CERTAIN REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS ACT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION TO LIMIT EXCESSIVE SPECULATION IN ENERGY MARKETS.

The Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by redesignating section 44

as section 45, and by inserting after section 43 the following:

“SEC. 44. REVENUES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TREASURY ACCOUNT.—The Secretary of the Treasury (in this section referred to as the ‘Secretary’) shall establish an account in the Treasury of the United States.

“(b) DEPOSIT INTO ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN REVENUES GENERATED BY THIS ACT.—The Secretary shall deposit into the account established under subsection (a) the first \$10,000,000 of the total of the amounts received by the United States under leases issued under this Act or any plan, strategy, or program under this Act.

“(c) AVAILABILITY AND USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amounts in the account established under subsection (a) shall be made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use its existing authorities to limit excessive speculation in energy markets.

“(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority provided in paragraph (1) may be exercised only to such extent, and with respect to such amounts, as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

□ 1045

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, the chief executive officer of ExxonMobil, under oath before the United States Senate, testified 3 years ago that the price of oil was \$30 to \$40 higher than it should have been, and the price at that time was about \$100 a barrel, a little less than it is today. So \$30 to \$40 of the cost of each barrel of oil didn't have to do with the company passing through exploratory costs or lease costs or anything else; 30 to 40 percent of the cost of every barrel of oil is due to speculation by commodities traders on Wall Street, flash traders, derivatives traders, and others.

This isn't your grandfather's swaps market or commodities market. It is not users hedging themselves against future inflation. It is not producers hedging themselves. No, it is rampant speculation by people who have no intention of ever accepting delivery of a barrel of oil, have no use for a barrel of oil, except to manipulate its price to make it more expensive to make money for themselves and the people they represent, which is a very small minority of Americans, less than 1 percent. Meanwhile, the other 99 percent of Americans pay more at the pump.

We should do something about this. Now, there are those who think the modest position limits in Dodd-Frank will be a horrible, onerous burden on these speculators, and that maybe they can only extract \$20 a barrel—maybe only \$10 a barrel out of us—so you would only be paying an extra 30 cents

at the pump to Wall Street. But as it stands today, after you take out other associated costs, about 60 cents a gallon that every American is paying at the pump today, no matter what the price is, where they live in the country, whether it is very high or very low, is going to Wall Street speculative interests.

We should do something about that. If we want to provide relief to the American people at the pump, we should do something about that.

This amendment is very simple. It establishes an account where money from lease sales would go to this account, and it would be made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission so they could upgrade their computers and do other things to better track and rein in speculators. Basically, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission has been choked to the point, in terms of personnel and equipment, I think they are still using Commodore 64s, and they are trying to chase supercomputers. We can do better, and we could do something real for the American people here today other than Groundhog Day on the fifth anniversary and repassage of this legislation that will not become law.

Now there are those who will say you are increasing the deficit or whatever. No, it just says those leasing moneys would be put into this account, and they would be subject to appropriation. We would then have to convince the Appropriations Committee that it would be a good thing to upgrade the Commodity Futures Trading Commission so they could crack down on some of the flash trading and speculation that creates volatility and higher prices for Americans. I think this would be a very good thing to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is another attempt to prove the unfounded position that speculation in energy markets is impacting energy prices. Last year the Massachusetts Institute of Technology released a study showing that:

Speculation had little, if any, effect on prices and volatility.

So this amendment then distracts from focusing really on future energy needs in our country and increasing our energy supply and production in our country.

The underlying legislation simply ensures that American energy production can move forward to create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign imports, therefore increasing revenues to the Federal treasury, and, of course, contribute to economic growth.

Instead, this amendment I think would waste millions of dollars to try to find proof that speculation increases energy prices—a fact that has been disproven.

I might add too, Mr. Chairman, that an amendment of this nature has repeatedly been defeated on a bipartisan vote in the committee, and not only in the committee but also in the full House of Representatives. I urge rejection of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have an article from Oil Daily in 2008, and it is on the subject of a 1-day increase of \$17.51 in the price of a barrel of oil, and they go on to say nothing in the world happened, that traders were astonished and horrified with the volatility, and this should really settle the argument whether this is speculation or fundamentals at work. There is massive speculation in this market.

Even the chairman of ExxonMobil says that a good deal of the price being paid at the pump has to do with speculation. We can whistle past the graveyard and continue to bow to Wall Street and defer to them, but this is the reality. I wish that we would do something about it, but I fear we won't because they are very generous in even-numbered years.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Since it was established in earlier debate that the gentleman from Oregon is a Red Sox fan, let me quote here from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which of course they are in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and probably most of them are Red Sox fans. I will conclude here again on the issue of speculation. They conclude with this sentence:

When we focus on four specific periods of price runups, we find that speculation may have decreased prices by about 1.4 percent on average.

In other words, what the gentleman is saying, in suggesting in his amendment that we should be studying speculation because it raises prices, here is a report from presumably a lot of Red Sox fans who believe that speculation might have driven prices down. Again, we have gone through this before not only in the committee but also in the House. It has been rejected. I urge we reject it one more time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOODALL, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1102

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.

LOWERING GASOLINE PRICES TO FUEL AN AMERICA THAT WORKS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4899.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) kindly assume the chair.

□ 1103

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 113-493 offered by the gentleman from

Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113-493 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California.

Amendment No. 5 by Mrs. CAPPS of California.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. DEUTCH of Florida.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113-493 by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 172, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 360]

AYES—244

Aderholt	Cassidy	Fitzpatrick
Amash	Chabot	Fleischmann
Amodei	Chaffetz	Fleming
Bachmann	Clawson (FL)	Flores
Bachus	Coble	Forbes
Barletta	Coffman	Fortenberry
Barr	Cole	Fox
Barrow (GA)	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Barton	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Benishek	Conaway	Gallego
Bentivolio	Cook	Garamendi
Bilirakis	Cooper	Gardner
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Garrett
Bishop (UT)	Cotton	Gerlach
Black	Cramer	Gibbs
Blackburn	Crawford	Gibson
Boustany	Crenshaw	Gingrey (GA)
Brady (TX)	Cuellar	Gohmert
Bridenstine	Culberson	Goodlatte
Brooks (AL)	Daines	Gosar
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Broun (GA)	Denham	Granger
Buchanan	Dent	Graves (GA)
Bucshon	DeSantis	Graves (MO)
Burgess	DesJarlais	Green, Al
Byrne	Diaz-Balart	Green, Gene
Calvert	Duffy	Griffin (AR)
Camp	Duncan (SC)	Griffith (VA)
Campbell	Duncan (TN)	Guthrie
Cantor	Ellmers	Hall
Capito	Farenthold	Harper
Carter	Fincher	Harris

Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley

NOES—172

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutch
Dingell

McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan

Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Richmond
Royal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider

Clarke (NY)
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna
Hartzler
Kilmer

Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)

NOT VOTING—16

Kirkpatrick
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano
Noem
Nunnelee

□ 1133

Messrs. PAYNE and DANNY DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. SHUSTER and MCINTYRE changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. DOYLE was allowed to speak out of order.)

53RD ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL BASEBALL GAME

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to start off by congratulating our Republican opponents for putting up a hard-fought game in last night's Congressional Roll Call game.

As you know, we broke two records. Last night, we broke an attendance record and a record for the amount of money raised for the charities. We raised over \$400,000 for three charities. They were the real winners last night.

I want to congratulate the Democratic baseball team. This is our sixth victory in a row, not that we are counting. Our guys played a hard-fought game.

I want to very quickly single out two people that I think really made a difference. They both played second base. One was RAUL RUIZ, our MVP, who made some outstanding plays; and second, our co-MVP, LINDA SÁNCHEZ, brought the crowd to its feet.

With that, I yield to my good friend and Republican manager, JOE BARTON.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman. I almost objected to unanimous consent, but I decided it is tradition.

Mr. Chairman, the Republicans wish to congratulate our friends on the minority side for their victory. It was well earned. We fought hard, but we ended up this year in second place—one game behind. That is not bad, but it is not first place.

We had some great players on our team. Our MVP, KEVIN BRADY, was two for three. He made CEDRIC sweat a little bit.

JEFF FLAKE, our Senator from Arizona, stepped on third on a hard smash and made a throw to Mr. ROONEY at first base for a double play. We threw a

man out at the plate. Mr. SHIMKUS came in as a relief pitcher and shut the Democrats down for several innings. So we had some bright spots.

The sixth victory in a row was well earned, but I will say that trophy is on loan. It is not permanently on that side of the aisle.

While you have won six games in a row, we have won about 60 votes in a row here on the House floor.

Mr. DOYLE. I will tell the gentleman that won't be permanent either.

Mr. BARTON. We are willing to bet some money on that for a little bit.

In any event, charity was the big winner. As you pointed out, we set a record for money raised for the Washington Literacy Center; the Boys and Girls Club of Washington, D.C.; and the Dream Foundation for the Nationals.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. DOYLE, and your team.

To my Republican players: I am very proud of you. Our guys played hard and practiced hard. I will say we graciously suffered being on the wrong end of the score once again.

Congratulations to MIKE DOYLE and the Democrats.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. YODER). Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 232, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 361]

AYES—179

Barber	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Bass	Cartwright	DeGette
Beatty	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Becerra	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Cicilline	DeBene
Bishop (NY)	Clark (MA)	Deutch
Blumenauer	Clay	Dingell
Bonamici	Cleaver	Doggett
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Doyle
Braley (IA)	Cohen	Duckworth
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Edwards
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Engel
Bustos	Cooper	Enyart
Butterfield	Courtney	Eshoo
Capps	Crowley	Esty
Capuano	Cummings	Farr
Cárdenas	Davis (CA)	Fattah
Carney	Davis, Danny	Fitzpatrick

Sánchez, Linda T.
Sánchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velazquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

□ 1142

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 227, not voting 22, as follows:

AYES—183

Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson

Aderholt
Amash
Amodi
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bushman
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney

Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foss
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa

Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson

NOES—232

Aderholt	Daines
Amash	Davis, Rodney
Amodei	Denham
Bachmann	Dent
Bachus	DeSantis
Barletta	DesJarlais
Barr	Diaz-Balart
Barrow (GA)	Duffy
Barton	Duncan (SC)
Benishek	Duncan (TN)
Bentivolio	Ellmers
Bilirakis	Farenthold
Bishop (GA)	Fincher
Bishop (UT)	Fleischmann
Black	Fleming
Blackburn	Flores
Boustany	Forbes
Brady (TX)	Fortenberry
Bridenstine	Foxo
Brooks (AL)	Franks (AZ)
Brooks (IN)	Frelinghuysen
Broun (GA)	Gardner
Buchanan	Garrett
Bucshon	Gerlach
Burgess	Gibbs
Byrne	Gibson
Calvert	Gingrey (GA)
Camp	Gohmert
Campbell	Goodlatte
Cantor	Gosar
Capito	Gowdy
Carter	Granger
Cassidy	Graves (GA)
Chabot	Graves (MO)
Chaffetz	Griffin (AR)
Clawson (FL)	Griffith (VA)
Coffman	Guthrie
Cole	Hall
Collins (GA)	Harper
Collins (NY)	Harris
Conaway	Hastings (WA)
Cook	Heck (NV)
Costa	Hensarling
Cotton	Herrera Beutler
Cramer	Holding
Crawford	Hudson
Crenshaw	Huelskamp
Cuellar	Huizenga (MI)
Culberson	Hultgren

Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary

Palazzo	Ros-Lehtinen	Terry	Grijalva	Maloney,	Sanchez, Loretta	Perry	Rothfus	Tiberi
Paulsen	Roskam	Thornberry	Hahn	Carolyn	Sanford	Petri	Royce	Tipton
Pearce	Ross	Tiberi	Hanabusa	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes	Pittenger	Runyan	Turner
Perry	Rothfus	Tipton	Hastings (FL)	Matheson	Schakowsky	Pitts	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Peterson	Royce	Turner	Heck (NV)	Matsui	Schiff	Poe (TX)	Salmon	Valadao
Petri	Runyan	Upton	Heck (WA)	McCarthy (NY)	Schneider	Pompeo	Scalise	Wagner
Pittenger	Ryan (WI)	Valadao	Higgins	McDermott	Schrader	Posey	Schock	Walberg
Pitts	Salmon	Wagner	Himes	McGovern	Schwartz	Price (GA)	Schweikert	Walden
Poe (TX)	Sanford	Walberg	Holt	McNerney	Scott (VA)	Reed	Scott, Austin	Walorski
Pompeo	Scalise	Walenski	Honda	Meeks	Scott, David	Reichert	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Posey	Schock	Walorski	Horsford	Meng	Serrano	Renacci	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Price (GA)	Schweikert	Weber (TX)	Hoyer	Michaud	Sewell (AL)	Ribble	Shimkus	Wenstrup
Reed	Scott, Austin	Webster (FL)	Huffman	Moore	Shea-Porter	Rice (SC)	Shuster	Westmoreland
Reichert	Sensenbrenner	Wenstrup	Israel	Moran	Sherman	Rigell	Simpson	Whitfield
Renacci	Sessions	Westmoreland	Jackson Lee	Murphy (FL)	Sinema	Roby	Smith (MO)	Whitfield
Ribble	Shimkus	Whitfield	Jeffries	Nadler	Sinema	Roe (TN)	Smith (NE)	Williams
Rice (SC)	Shuster	Williams	Johnson (GA)	Neal	Sires	Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (SC)
Rigell	Simpson	Wilson (SC)	Johnson, E. B.	Negrete McLeod	Slaughter	Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Wittman
Roby	Smith (MO)	Wittman	Jolly	Nolan	Smith (WA)	Rogers (MI)	Southerland	Wolf
Roe (TN)	Smith (NE)	Wolf	Jones	O'Rourke	Speier	Rohrabacher	Stewart	Womack
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Womack	Kaptur	Owens	Swalwell (CA)	Rokita	Stivers	Woodall
Rogers (KY)	Southerland	Woodall	Keating	Pallone	Takano	Rooney	Stockman	Yoder
Rogers (MI)	Stewart	Yoder	Kelly (IL)	Pascrell	Thompson (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Yoho
Rohrabacher	Stivers	Yoho	Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (MS)	Roskam	Terry	Young (AK)
Rokita	Stockman	Young (AK)	Kildee	Payne	Tierney	Ross	Thornberry	Young (IN)
Rooney	Stutzman	Young (IN)	Kind	Pelosi	Titus			

NOT VOTING—22

Becerra	Hartzler	Noem
Chu	Hinojosa	Nunnelee
Clarke (NY)	Hoyer	Pelosi
Coble	Kilmer	Polis
DeFazio	Kirkpatrick	Rangel
Ellison	McCollum	Thompson (PA)
Grimm	Miller, George	
Hanna	Napolitano	

□ 1146

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 223, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 363]

AYES—188

Amash	Castro (TX)	Deutch
Barber	Cicilline	Dingell
Barrow (GA)	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bass	Clay	Doyle
Beatty	Cleaver	Duckworth
Bera (CA)	Clyburn	Edwards
Bishop (GA)	Cohen	Engel
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Enyart
Blumenauer	Conyers	Eshoo
Bonamici	Cooper	Esty
Brady (PA)	Costa	Farr
Braley (IA)	Courtney	Fattah
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Foster
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Cummings	Gabard
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Galleo
Capps	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Capuano	DeFazio	Garcia
Carney	DeGette	Grayson
Carson (IN)	Delaney	Green, Al
Cartwright	DeLauro	Green, Gene
Castor (FL)	DelBene	

Aderholt	DesJarlais	Joyce
Amodei	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Bachmann	Duffy	King (IA)
Bachus	Duncan (SC)	King (NY)
Barletta	Duncan (TN)	Kingston
Barr	Ellmers	Kinzinger (IL)
Barton	Farenthold	Kline
Benish	Fincher	Labrador
Bentivoglio	Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Bilirakis	Fleischmann	Lamborn
Bishop (UT)	Fleming	Lance
Black	Flores	Lankford
Blackburn	Forbes	Latham
Boustany	Fortenberry	Latta
Brady (TX)	Fox	LoBiondo
Bridenstine	Franks (AZ)	Long
Brooks (AL)	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Brooks (IN)	Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Broun (GA)	Garrett	Lummis
Buchanan	Gerlach	Lynch
Bucshon	Gibbs	Marchant
Burgess	Gibson	Marino
Byrne	Gingrey (GA)	Massie
Calvert	Goodlatte	McAllister
Camp	Gosar	McCarthy (CA)
Campbell	Gowdy	McCaul
Cantor	Granger	McClintock
Capito	Graves (GA)	McHenry
Cardenas	Graves (MO)	McIntyre
Carter	Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Cassidy	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Chabot	Guthrie	McMorris
Chaffetz	Hall	Rodgers
Clawson (FL)	Harper	Meadows
Coffman	Harris	Meehan
Cole	Hastings (WA)	Messer
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Mica
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Conaway	Holding	Miller (MI)
Cook	Hudson	Miller, Gary
Cotton	Huelskamp	Mullin
Cramer	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney
Crawford	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Crenshaw	Hunter	Neugebauer
Culberson	Hurt	Nugent
Daines	Issa	Nunes
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins	Olson
Delham	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
DeSantis	Jordan	Pearce

NOES—223

DesJarlais	Joyce
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Duffy	King (IA)
Duncan (SC)	King (NY)
Duncan (TN)	Kingston
Ellmers	Kinzinger (IL)
Farenthold	Kline
Fincher	Labrador
Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Fleischmann	Lamborn
Fleming	Lance
Flores	Lankford
Forbes	Latham
Fortenberry	Latta
Fox	LoBiondo
Franks (AZ)	Long
Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Garrett	Lummis
Gerlach	Lynch
Gibbs	Marchant
Gibson	Marino
Gingrey (GA)	Massie
Goodlatte	McAllister
Gosar	McCarthy (CA)
Gowdy	McCaul
Granger	McClintock
Graves (GA)	McHenry
Graves (MO)	McIntyre
Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Guthrie	McMorris
Hall	Rodgers
Harper	Meadows
Harris	Meehan
Hastings (WA)	Messer
Hensarling	Mica
Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)
Holding	Miller (MI)
Hudson	Miller, Gary
Huelskamp	Mullin
Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney
Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Hunter	Neugebauer
Hurt	Nugent
Issa	Nunes
Jenkins	Olson
Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Jordan	Pearce

NOT VOTING—21

Becerra	Gutiérrez	Miller, George
Chu	Hanna	Napolitano
Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	Noem
Coble	Hinojosa	Nunnelee
Ellison	Kilmer	Polis
Gohmert	Kirkpatrick	Rangel
Grimm	McCollum	Thompson (PA)

□ 1150

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 229, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 364]

AYES—179

Bass	Cleaver	Enyart
Beatty	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bera (CA)	Cohen	Esty
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Farr
Blumenauer	Conyers	Fattah
Bonamici	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Brady (PA)	Courtney	Foster
Braley (IA)	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Brown (FL)	Cummings	Fudge
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Gabard
Bustos	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Butterfield	DeFazio	Gibson
Capps	DeGette	Grayson
Capuano	Delaney	Green, Al
Cárdenas	DeLauro	Grijalva
Carney	DelBene	Gutiérrez
Carson (IN)	Deutch	Hahn
Cartwright	Dingell	Hanabusa
Castor (FL)	Doggett	Hastings (FL)
Castro (TX)	Doyle	Heck (WA)
Cicilline	Duckworth	Higgins
Clark (MA)	Edwards	Himes
Clay	Engel	Holt

Honda	McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky	Price (GA)	Sanford	Valadao	Davis, Rodney	Kingston	Rogers (AL)
Horsford	McDermott	Schiff	Reed	Scalise	Veasey	Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Hoyer	McGovern	Schneider	Reichert	Schock	Vela	Dent	Kline	Rogers (MI)
Huffman	McIntyre	Schrader	Renacci	Schweikert	Wagner	DeSantis	Labrador	Rohrabacher
Israel	McNerney	Ribble	Rice (SC)	Scott, Austin	Walberg	DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Rokita
Jackson Lee	Meeks	Scott (VA)	Rigell	Sensenbrenner	Walden	Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rooney
Jeffries	Meng	Scott, David	Roby	Sessions	Walorski	Duffy	Lance	Ros-Lehtinen
Johnson (GA)	Michaud	Serrano	Roe (TN)	Shimkus	Weber (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Roskam
Johnson, E. B.	Moore	Sewell (AL)	Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Webster (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Latham	Ross
Jones	Moran	Shea-Porter	Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Wenstrup	Ellmers	Latta	Rothfus
Kaptur	Murphy (FL)	Sherman	Rogers (MI)	Smith (MO)	Westmoreland	Farenthold	LoBiondo	Royce
Keating	Nadler	Sinema	Rohrabacher	Smith (NE)	Whitfield	Fincher	Long	Runyan
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Sires	Rokita	Smith (TX)	Williams	Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Ryan (WI)
Kennedy	Negrete McLeod	Slaughter	Rooney	Southerland	Wilson (SC)	Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Kildee	Nolan	Stewart	Ros-Lehtinen	Stockman	Wittman	Fleming	Marchant	Sanchez, Loretta
Kind	O'Rourke	Stutzman	Roskam	Stutzman	Wolf	Flores	Marino	Sanford
Kuster	Pallone	Terry	Ross	Tornberry	Womack	Forbes	Massie	Scalise
Langevin	Pascrell	Tiberi	Rothfus	Turner	Woodall	Fortenberry	Matheson	Schock
Larsen (WA)	Pastor (AZ)	Tipton	Royce	Upton	Yoder	Fox	McAllister	Schweikert
Larson (CT)	Payne	Turner	Runyan		Yoho	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy (CA)	Scott, Austin
Lee (CA)	Pelosi		Thompson (CA)		Young (AK)	Frelinghuysen	McCaul	Sensenbrenner
Levin	Perlmutter		Thompson (MS)		Young (IN)	Gallego	McClintock	Sessions
Lewis	Peters (CA)		Tierney			Gardner	McHenry	Shimkus
Lipinski	Peters (MI)		Titus			Garrett	McIntyre	Shuster
LoBiondo	Pingree (ME)		Tonko			Gerlach	McKeon	Simpson
Loebach	Pocan		Tsongas			Gibbs	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Lofgren	Price (NC)		Van Hollen			Gingrey (GA)	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Lowenthal	Quigley		Vargas			Gohmert	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)
Lowe	Rahall		Velázquez			Goodlatte	Meadows	Smith (TX)
Lujan Grisham	Richmond		Visclosky			Gosar	Meehan	Southerland
(NM)	Roybal-Allard		Walz			Gowdy	Messer	Speier
Luján, Ben Ray	Ruiz		Wasserman			Granger	Mica	Stewart
(NM)	Ruppersberger		Schultz			Graves (GA)	Miller (FL)	Stivers
Lynch	Rush		Waters			Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)	Stockman
Maffei	Ryan (OH)		Waxman			Green, Gene	Miller, Gary	Stutzman
Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda		Welch			Griffin (AR)	Mullin	Terry
Carolyn	T.		Wilson (FL)			Griffith (VA)	Mulvaney	Thornberry
Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta		Yarmuth			Guthrie	Murphy (PA)	Tiberi
Matsui	Sarbanes					Hall	Neugebauer	Tipton

NOES—229

Aderholt	DeSantis	Kelly (PA)
Amash	DesJarlais	King (IA)
Amodel	Diaz-Balart	King (NY)
Bachmann	Duffy	Kingston
Bachus	Duncan (SC)	Kinzing (IL)
Barber	Duncan (TN)	Kline
Barletta	Ellmers	Labrador
Barr	Farenthold	LaMalfa
Barrow (GA)	Fincher	Lamborn
Barton	Fleischmann	Lance
Benishak	Fleming	Lankford
Bentivolio	Flores	Latham
Bilirakis	Forbes	Latta
Bishop (GA)	Fox	Long
Bishop (UT)	Franks (AZ)	Lucas
Black	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer
Blackburn	Gallego	Lummis
Boustany	Gardner	Marchant
Brady (TX)	Garrett	Marino
Bridenstine	Gerlach	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Gibbs	Matheson
Brooks (IN)	Gingrey (GA)	McAllister
Broun (GA)	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Goodlatte	McCaul
Bucshon	Gosar	McClintock
Burgess	Gowdy	McHenry
Byrne	Granger	McKeon
Calvert	Graves (GA)	McKinley
Camp	Graves (MO)	McMorris
Campbell	Green, Gene	Rodgers
Cantor	Griffin (AR)	Meadows
Capito	Griffith (VA)	Meehan
Carter	Guthrie	Messer
Cassidy	Hall	Mica
Chabot	Harper	Miller (FL)
Chaffetz	Harris	Miller (MI)
Clawson (FL)	Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary
Coffman	Heck (NV)	Mullin
Cole	Hensarling	Mulvaney
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)
Collins (NY)	Holding	Neugebauer
Conaway	Hudson	Nugent
Cook	Huelskamp	Nunes
Costa	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Cotton	Hultgren	Owens
Cramer	Hunter	Palazzo
Crawford	Hurt	Paulsen
Crenshaw	Issa	Pearce
Cuellar	Jenkins	Perry
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Peterson
Daines	Johnson, Sam	Petri
Davis, Rodney	Jolly	Pittenger
Denham	Jordan	Pitts
Dent	Joyce	Pompeo

NOT VOTING—24

Becerra	Hanna	Noem
Chu	Hartzler	Nunnelee
Clarke (NY)	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)
Coble	Kilmer	Polis
Ellison	Kirkpatrick	Posey
Fortenberry	McCollum	Rangel
Garcia	Miller, George	Stivers
Grimm	Napolitano	Thompson (PA)

□ 1153

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chair, on rollcall Nos. 361, 362, 363, and 364, had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on all four (4) amendments.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF UTAH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 173, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 365]

AYES—241

Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Chabot
Amash	Bridenstine	Chaffetz
Amodel	Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)
Bachmann	Brooks (IN)	Coffman
Bachus	Broun (GA)	Cole
Barletta	Buchanan	Collins (GA)
Barr	Bucshon	Collins (NY)
Barrow (GA)	Burgess	Conaway
Barton	Byrne	Cook
Benishak	Calvert	Costa
Bentivolio	Camp	Cotton
Bilirakis	Campbell	Cramer
Bishop (GA)	Cantor	Crawford
Bishop (UT)	Capito	Crenshaw
Black	Carter	Cuellar
Blackburn	Cassidy	Culberson
Boustany	Castro (TX)	Daines

NOES—173

Barber	Courtney	Grayson
Bass	Crowley	Green, Al
Beatty	Cummings	Grijalva
Bera (CA)	Davis (CA)	Gutiérrez
Bishop (NY)	Davis, Danny	Hahn
Blumenauer	DeFazio	Hanabusa
Bonamici	DeGette	Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Heck (WA)
Braley (IA)	DeLauro	Higgins
Brown (FL)	DelBene	Hinojosa
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Holt
Bustos	Dingell	Honda
Butterfield	Doggett	Horsford
Capps	Doyle	Hoyer
Capuano	Duckworth	Huffman
Cárdenas	Edwards	Israel
Carney	Engel	Jackson Lee
Carson (IN)	Enyart	Jeffries
Cartwright	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Esty	Johnson, E. B.
Cicilline	Farr	Kaptur
Clark (MA)	Fattah	Keating
Clay	Foster	Kelly (IL)
Cleaver	Frankel (FL)	Kennedy
Clyburn	Fudge	Kildee
Cohen	Gabbard	Kind
Connolly	Garamendi	Kuster
Conyers	Garcia	Langevin
Cooper	Gibson	Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT) Neal
 Lee (CA) Negrete McLeod
 Levin Nolan
 Lewis O'Rourke
 Lipinski Pallone
 Loeback Pascrell
 Lofgren Pastor (AZ)
 Lowenthal Payne
 Lowey Pelosi
 Lujan Grisham Perlmutter
 (NM) Peters (CA)
 Luján, Ben Ray Peters (MI)
 (NM) Pingree (ME)
 Lummis Pocan
 Lynch Price (NC)
 Maffei Quigley
 Maloney, Carolyn Tsongas
 Maloney, Sean Roybal-Allard
 Matsui Ruiz
 McCarthy (NY) Ruppersberger
 McDermott Rush
 McGovern Ryan (OH)
 McNerney Sánchez, Linda
 Meeks T.
 Meng Sarbanes
 Michaud Schakowsky
 Moore Schiff
 Moran Schneider
 Murphy (FL) Schrader
 Nadler Schwartz
 Scott (VA) Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Becerra Hanna
 Chu Hartzler
 Clarke (NY) Kilmer
 Coble Kirkpatrick
 Ellison McCollum
 Grimm Miller, George

□ 1157

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 365, I inadvertently cast a “no” vote on Mr. BISHOP of Utah’s Amendment #8. I intended to vote “yes” on the amendment, which prohibits the Administration from retroactively canceling energy development leases based on information never considered during the public comment process.

Stated against:

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, during rollcall vote No. 365 on H.R. 4899, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. DEFazio

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 189, noes 223, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 366]

AYES—189

Barber
 Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cárdenas
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Doyle
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fattah
 Fitzpatrick
 Fortenberry
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia

Gibson
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva
 Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanabusa
 Hastings (FL)
 Heck (WA)
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jackson Lee
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kind
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lipinski
 Loeback
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lujan Grisham
 (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray
 (NM)
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney,
 Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matsui
 McCarthy (NY)
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McIntyre
 McNerney
 Meeks
 Meng
 Michaud
 Moore
 Moran
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod

O'Rourke
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Richmond
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth

NOES—223

Aderholt
 Amash
 Amodei
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Benishek
 Bentivoglio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Brown (GA)
 Buchanan
 Buchon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert

Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clawson (FL)
 Coffman
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cooper
 Cotton
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent

DeSantis
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Farenthold
 Fincher
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Gardner
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Gowdy

Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Harper
 Harris
 Hastings (WA)
 Heck (NV)
 Hensarling
 Herrera Beutler
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jordan
 Joyce
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Lankford
 Latham
 Latta
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 Matheson
 McAllister

McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 Meadows
 Meehan
 Messer
 Mica
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Perry
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross

Rothfus
 Royce
 Runyan
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schock
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tipton
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Becerra
 Clarke (NY)
 Coble
 Ellison
 Grimm
 Hanna
 Hartzler

Kilmer
 Kirkpatrick
 Lowey
 McCollum
 Miller, George
 Napolitano
 Noem

Nolan
 Nunnelee
 Polis
 Rangel
 Stivers
 Thompson (PA)

□ 1200

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. YODER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4899) to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 641, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Bishop of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4899 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 59, at line 18 strike the closing quotation marks and the second period, and after line 18 insert the following:

“(F) ENSURING A FAIR RETURN FOR TAXPAYERS.—Subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) shall apply with respect to a permit application submitted by a major integrated oil company (as defined in section 167(h)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) only if the company enters into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior under which the company is prohibited from claiming the domestic production activities deduction under section 199 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to activities conducted under any permit issued pursuant to the application.”.

Add at the end the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS **SEC. 30001. PROTECTING AMERICAN CONSUMERS** **FROM HIGH ENERGY PRICES.**

Any lease issued pursuant to this Act shall specify that crude oil and natural gas produced under such lease may be exported only if the Secretary of the Interior determines that exporting such crude oil or natural gas, respectively, will not increase the price of gasoline or home heating oil for consumers in the United States.

Mr. BISHOP of New York (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a motion to recommit. This is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately be amended and proceed to final passage.

The bill before us does not represent a substantive effort to empower America's middle class to move up the ladder of success or put Americans back to work. Though creatively titled, it

instead represents another effort by the majority to look out for special interests already doing well from a Tax Code stacked against millions of our hardworking constituents.

Under the guise of attempting to lower gasoline prices, Republicans are using this bill as a vehicle to steer control of our Nation's precious natural resources to companies that accounted for nearly \$100 billion in profits in 2013. It is a textbook example of corporate welfare run amok.

My final amendment will add two critical components to the underlying bill. First, none of the big five oil companies will be granted a new lease to drill on Federal lands without first foregoing the massive subsidies that they receive from American taxpayers.

This would result in nearly \$10 billion of savings that could be put towards the pressing national priorities that need our attention, but are being ignored by this House—education, the highway trust fund, unemployment insurance, or a permanent Medicare reimbursement fix.

Second, oil companies will not be permitted to export U.S. oil or natural gas, if doing so will increase domestic prices of gasoline or home heating oil. In other words, if the government is going to make drilling easier for the big oil companies, let's make sure the benefits are passed on to the American people, rather than the corporate bottom line or foreign consumers.

We all want lower gas prices. In my district on Long Island, gas prices just went over \$4 a gallon. That is almost a half a buck increase in the last 4 months. Democrat or Republican, all of us recognize that lower gas prices are desirable for American families.

Let us also remember that the price of oil results from a combination of both supply and demand. As more and more Chinese nationals purchase cars, increased demand on the global gasoline marketplace will lead to higher gas prices, regardless of U.S. or international oil production.

In fact, since 2010, China alone has consumed about half of the extra oil that has been produced during this current oil production boom. This bill will do nothing to actually lower prices at the pump.

Claiming this bill is a panacea to fix the problem of sky-high prices is just plain wrong. Without the protections contained within this motion to recommit, the underlying bill could very well result in lower prices at the pump in China and higher prices here at home. This is unacceptable and—I am sure—not what my friends across the aisle have in mind.

American energy independence is more achievable than ever. In fact, domestic oil production is at a 25-year high, while net imports are at a 29-year low. Let's support the American middle class by adding these vital consumer

protections to the underlying bill. I urge passage of this motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is one more procedural motion, and it seems to me we see a pattern here of procedural motions that distinguish the difference in philosophies between the two parties here. This is a good case in point.

It seems like the Democrats' response to higher gas prices is to what? Tax, tax, tax. Our response to higher gas prices is to create an American energy system that creates jobs, jobs, jobs.

Let's be clear. If you want to lower gas prices in this country, you produce more gasoline here. If you want to stop OPEC's influence in an international market, you produce more here, and if you want to create a growing economy that can sustain itself over time, you produce more energy here.

This is a MTR that does none of that. Vote against the MTR and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 177, yeas 235, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 367]

AYES—177

Barber	Cartwright	DeGette
Bass	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bera (CA)	Chu	DeBene
Bishop (GA)	Cicilline	Deutch
Bishop (NY)	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Blumenauer	Clay	Doyle
Bonamici	Cleaver	Duckworth
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Edwards
Braley (IA)	Cohen	Engel
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Enyart
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Eshoo
Bustos	Cooper	Esty
Butterfield	Courtney	Farr
Capps	Crowley	Fattah
Capuano	Cummings	Foster
Cárdenas	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)
Carney	Davis, Danny	Fudge
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Gabbard

Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)

NOES—235

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham

Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Shakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swaikwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Shea-Porter
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher

Becerra
Clarke (NY)
Coble
Dingell
Ellison
Grimm
Hanna

NOT VOTING—20

Hartzler
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Larsen (WA)
McCollum
Miller, George
Napolitano

□ 1215

Mr. HINOJOSA changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 229, noes 185, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 368]

AYES—229

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert

Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais

Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul

McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen

NOES—185

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch

Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating

Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Pastor (AZ)	Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)
Payne	Schakowsky	Tierney
Pelosi	Schiff	Titus
Perlmutter	Schneider	Tonko
Peters (CA)	Schrader	Tsongas
Peters (MI)	Schwartz	Van Hollen
Pingree (ME)	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Pocan	Scott, David	Veasey
Price (NC)	Serrano	Vela
Quigley	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez
Richmond	Shea-Porter	Visclosky
Roybal-Allard	Sherman	Walz
Ruiz	Sinema	Wasserman
Runyan	Sires	Schultz
Ruppersberger	Slaughter	Waters
Rush	Smith (NJ)	Waxman
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Welch
Sánchez, Linda	Speier	Wilson (FL)
T.	Swalwell (CA)	Yarmuth
Sanchez, Loretta	Takano	
Sanford	Thompson (CA)	

NOT VOTING—18

Clarke (NY)	Hartzler	Napolitano
Coble	Kilmer	Noem
Cole	Kirkpatrick	Nunnelee
Ellison	Larsen (WA)	Polis
Grimm	McCollum	Rangel
Hanna	Miller, George	Thompson (PA)

□ 1226

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATION RECOVERS 168 JUVENILES

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the FBI, local and State law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for successfully conducting a weeklong operation to address commercial child sex trafficking in the United States.

During this operation, more than 168 juveniles being exploited through commercial child sex trafficking were rescued by law enforcement. The youngest of these victims was just 11 years old, and some of the victims had never even been reported as missing. The operation spanned across 106 different cities and resulted in 281 pimps being arrested who were recruiting minors off the streets and online.

While the operation was a success, it absolutely underscores the need for action to combat child sex trafficking. The House has passed five different bipartisan bills to protect and help victims, go after the pimps and the johns,

and also end international sex trafficking. We need the Senate to take action as well, Mr. Speaker.

These are children. And by working together with law enforcement and victims' groups, we will save lives.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our future is clouded by ocean acidification. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, ocean waters have seen a 30 percent increase in acidity. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by the end of this century, the waters of the ocean could be nearly 150 percent more acidic, resulting in a pH that the oceans haven't seen for more than 20 million years.

This will have a dramatic and devastating effect on many marine creatures. It disrupts the calcification process of many species, including oysters, clams, corals, and plankton, putting the entire food chain at risk.

This will damage California's \$24 billion fishing industry, which supports 145,000 jobs; and California's \$25 million-a-year shellfish industry could also disappear.

We need to take action to prevent the effects of climate change from getting worse. We cannot stand by as we see our environment continue to deteriorate. The cost of inaction is too great. I call on this Congress to act to protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

□ 1230

JOBS

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, President Obama was in my home State of Pennsylvania recently to tour a business and talk about the importance of American manufacturing.

If the President is serious, let me give him a few suggestions on things he can do right now—call for the quick passage of the Made in America Act to establish an official American-made standard; announce his support for a bipartisan plan to address the skills gap; use his pen to approve the Keystone XL pipeline; and truly take steps towards an all-of-the-above American energy policy that drives down energy costs for everyone; and increase pressure on the Senate to move on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills that will grow our economy, increase stability, and empower businesses and employees.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, Americans are tired of talk. Now is the time for bold action to help manufacturers, working families, and our Nation—politics aside.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago tomorrow, the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass a bill that is good for our economy, strengthens our security, and recognizes the contributions that immigrants make to our country.

This bill represents a good faith compromise by our Senate colleagues to find common ground. Over the past year, House Republicans failed to even bring an immigration bill up for a vote.

Earlier this year, Republican leadership outlined their principles for immigration reform, yet failed to introduce a bill based on these principles. They have claimed they want to pass reform, but their actions fail to match the rhetoric.

Instead of bringing up comprehensive legislation that spurs economic growth and lowers the deficit, we have seen attacks on DREAMers and excuses for inaction.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have acted. Democrats in the House support reform and have also introduced a bill. A broad coalition—from the high-tech sector to law enforcement, the faith community to agriculture—backs reform.

The American people overwhelmingly favor a comprehensive bill. The only ones standing in the way are House Republicans. It is time to do what is right for our country and bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a vote now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF RYAN SEKERSKI OF COCHRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ORDINARY AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from back in my district, Ryan Sekerski, a 28-year veteran of a volunteer fire department.

Now, this is a picture of Mr. Sekerski with his family. We celebrated his act of heroism. I have no idea how he is registered or how he votes, but I do know where his heart is.

What you are looking at is a tanker truck. Now, Mr. Sekerski, on his way home from work, heard on a radio that a gas tanker truck had swerved to

avoid being in a collision, had hit a utility pole, was on its side, and seeping gas out that was on fire.

When he arrived at the scene, his question was: Is the driver okay? Nobody knew the answer.

When he found out the driver was still inside this truck, he went to his trunk, got on his volunteer fireman's gear, went inside this burning inferno, with no regard for his own life and his own safety, but more regard for the person trapped inside—what a remarkable act of heroism.

At a time when our country is looking for strong Americans, people like Ryan Sekerski are ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day.

Why? Because they are truly Americans—especially on the weekend we have coming up, we celebrate these types of people and what they have done.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDSOR RULING

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today is the 1-year anniversary of the historic decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act. We celebrate the progress we have made for LGBT equality; but, more importantly, we must recommit to ending the injustice that remains.

An announcement last week by the administration regarding ongoing efforts to extend Federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples in the wake of that Windsor decision clarifies what I have long suspected.

Unless Congress acts, legally married same-sex servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses will continue to face discrimination when accessing their benefits from the VA.

That is why, nearly a year ago, I introduced H.R. 2529, the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that no veterans or their families are denied benefits they deserve, regardless of where they live.

Members of the military do not serve in defense of the rights and freedoms of a particular State, but rather of the United States.

My colleagues have a choice to stand with our veterans and their families or stand silent while they continue to face discrimination by the very government they fought to defend.

EPA DEEMS OWNERSHIP OF AMERICA'S WATERWAYS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, they are at it again. It is another over-

reach by this administration. This time, the U.S. EPA is reaching not only what you might term navigable waterways, but all waterways of the United States they want to deem as theirs.

This would mean mud puddles, and this would mean irrigation ditches and drainage ditches. They want to have jurisdiction over everything, so they can regulate it, tax it, and what-have-you.

It goes way beyond anything that has ever been legislated in this body and is a complete overreach. The U.S. EPA needs to withdraw this proposed rule. It is outside of the law.

It is outside of the ability of our people to have private property rights and to have an economy, especially in rural America, where farming, ranching, and timber operations can all be affected by a vast overreach by the U.S. EPA.

They need to withdraw this rule. We need to hear from the American people how this is going to affect them in their jobs in their local economies.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 73 days ago, 200 Nigerian girls were kidnapped by the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram. This story tugged at hearts around the world and led to an international outcry for these girls' rescue, but 73 days later, we cannot allow this story to fade from the headlines. The violence of Boko Haram increases by the day.

Mr. Speaker, instead of focusing on rescuing these girls, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan's attention is on his next election. He spent \$1.2 million to improve his image by hiring a Washington PR firm.

President Jonathan needs to rearrange his priorities. I can think of quite a few things he can do with the \$1.2 million. The first thing he should do is find those girls.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we cannot let up the pressure. I urge you to join our Twitter war to keep the world's attention on the kidnapping of these children. Tweet #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson every day, 9 a.m. to noon.

We will not be silenced. We will not be stopped. We will get our girls back. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

CHERISHING OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise the attention of my colleagues to several moments.

First, I would like to celebrate the passage of my amendment that just

passed in legislation H.R. 4899, to create a job training and employment department or section in the Department of the Interior for veterans, minorities, and women. With 800,000 jobs on the horizon in the energy industry, this is an American job creator. I am excited about that amendment.

With sadness, Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague, Congresswoman WILSON. We joined each other in a delegation to Nigeria, meeting with girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, and in the backdrop of the tragedy of the bombing of a mall and killing more people, it is time for Boko Haram to be stopped and the girls to be brought back.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I go down to the valley in Texas to address the question of those desperate children—this humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children—we introduced legislation today to create 70 more immigration judges, so that they can be addressed. This is a crisis which America is dealing with, and we should recognize it as a humanitarian crisis.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, bring the girls back in Nigeria. Help the children that are coming across our border. Let us have a heart when it comes to children.

PRESERVING THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time.

I don't know if you have seen the headlines yet, Mr. Speaker, you have been busy with votes all day long, but the Supreme Court, in a 9-0 decision, today struck down the National Labor Relations Board so-called recess appointments that the President made there over the Christmas season in 2011-2012—9-0.

I hear a lot about the Supreme Court being a divided body, Mr. Speaker. 9-0, the Supreme Court said that the President of the United States had absolutely no constitutional authority to name members of the National Labor Relations Board without Senate approval.

They said that the recess appointment power that is provided the President in the Constitution of the United States is not there, so that the President of the United States can avoid Senate approval.

It is there, so that the Nation can continue to run in the absence of the Senate being in session, in order to give its approval.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I bring that up is because that was yet another decision—in a long line of decisions the

President has made—to ignore this body, to ignore the United States Senate, and, in fact, to ignore all of article 1 of the Constitution; and that is not just a Republican from the State of Georgia saying that, Mr. Speaker.

That is nine Supreme Court justices. Every single Supreme Court justice—the most liberal of the Supreme Court justices—said the President vastly overstepped his authority and his actions were unconstitutional.

Now, that is not news to anybody who has been following that case, Mr. Speaker. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals made that same decision and said that the President overstepped those bounds, and that was way back in 2012.

I have a quote here from President George Washington's farewell address in 1796, Mr. Speaker. George Washington said:

It is important that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration.

That is us, Mr. Speaker. That is representatives in government. That is the White House, that is the courts, and that is the Congress.

Should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another.

In his farewell address, George Washington said:

In order for this country to succeed, these individual branches of government, the checks and balances created in the Constitution, the men and women entrusted with those responsibilities must resist encroaching on one another.

Against that backdrop, Mr. Speaker, against the backdrop of our Nation's first President and against the backdrop of—well, he is standing right out in a painting out here in the hallway, Mr. Speaker, George Washington presiding over the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787—this man entrusted with the birthing of our country, with the understanding of the consent of the governed and how we can preserve our freedoms while administering our governmental responsibilities said:

Resist the opportunity to encroach on the powers of competing branches of government.

□ 1245

What I have on this sheet, and you can't see it, Mr. Speaker, but it is quotes from President Barack Obama, and not quotes from 20 years ago and not quotes from 10 years ago, but quotes from just the 3 years that I have been serving here in this body, just the 3 years that I have been entrusted with some responsibilities. Here on article 1 the President says that, and this was at a speech at North Carolina State in January of this year, he said:

Where I can act on my own without Congress, I am going to do so.

The President says, if I can do it without these other branches of government, I am just going to do it. I am just going to do it. President Washington says avoid encroaching on one another. The Supreme Court says, Mr. President, when you step outside of your lane, 9-0 we are going to declare your actions unconstitutional. Those were actions taken back in 2012, Mr. Speaker. Even this year, the President continues down that path.

At the State of the Union Address this year, Mr. Speaker, the President said:

America does not stand still, and neither will I. So whenever I can take steps without legislation, that is what I am going to do.

There is no confusion at the White House, Mr. Speaker. It is not an accident at the White House. When the President made those recess appointments that today the Supreme Court said in a unanimous decision were entirely unconstitutional, he wasn't confused about what he was doing. He didn't misunderstand what the Constitution said. He wasn't confused about what state the Senate was in. He knew they were not in recess. He decided that he would define what recess was. He decided that he would do it anyway. He decided he did not care if he encroached on the Senate's lane, that article II came and trumped article I.

In the February, 2013, State of the Union Address, the President said:

I urge this Congress to get together and pursue a bipartisan, market-based solution to carbon change. But if Congress won't act soon to protect future generations, I will.

Climate change. I can't go into a high school in my district, Mr. Speaker, without young people wanting to talk to me about the environment, wanting to talk to me about climate change. This is an issue of national concern. This isn't just the President's concern; it is an issue of national concern, and obviously, international concern. But the President in his State of the Union Address doesn't say, I am going to take this concern and I am going to win the hearts and minds of the American people, and I am going to move legislation through Congress to enact my goals. He says, I hope Congress does what I want them to do; but if they don't, I am going to do it anyway. That is exactly what he said with his recess appointments, Mr. Speaker, which today the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 was an unconstitutional action by this White House.

Mr. Speaker, August of 2013, we were in the midst of the President proposing changes to ObamaCare. During that summer, he said in a normal political environment, it would have been easier for me to simply call the Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER, and say, You know what? This is a tweak that doesn't go to the essence of the law. It has nothing to do with—for example, where we

are able to simplify the attestation of employers who are already providing health insurance, it looks like there might be some better ways to do this. Let's make a technical change.

The President says, ordinarily what I would do is I would call the Speaker of the House. Ordinarily, I would call the Congress and I would say, Hey, I have got this little bitty idea, this little bitty tweak that I would like to make. Would you all work with me on legislation to do so? That would be the normal thing, the President says, that I would prefer to do. But we are not in a normal atmosphere around here when it comes to ObamaCare. We have executive authority to do so, and we did so.

So here is what the President said: He said, I know what the right thing to do is. I know that what the Constitution requires is, if I have an idea, that I contact the Congress, that Congress moves that idea through, that I put my signature on it, and it becomes the law of the land. I know that is the ordinary course of events, but these are not ordinary times, so I am going to ignore those constitutional mandates and I am just going to do it myself.

He said that about the enforcement of ObamaCare. He said that about his actions on climate change. He said that about his appointments to the National Labor Relations Board. And the Supreme Court said, as did the district courts, that is unconstitutional; you can't do that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we all have an agenda we would like to pursue. I would like to believe we are all focused on the improvement of this country, we are all interested in opportunity for all American citizens. I would like to believe we are all interested in growing jobs and the economy and in protecting freedom. And the debate we have is about how to get to that place, and when the one branch of government, Mr. Speaker, decides they are going to ignore the others and do it their way, the entire system breaks down. The court today spoke directly to that.

Now, I want to contrast that, Mr. Speaker, because you might just think hey, Congressman WOODALL, you are a relatively new Member from the great State of Georgia, and you are just bitter because you are a Republican and there is a Democrat in the White House. Well, that is nonsense. That is nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take you back to what previous Presidents have said. You have heard what this President has said, and that is not what previous Presidents have said. Bill Clinton, December 1994—and remember back, Mr. Speaker, December 1994. Republicans had just taken over the U.S. House for the first time in 60 years. For the first time in 60 years, we had a Republican majority in the House. President Clinton is only 2 years into his term, and he is looking at this brand new Congress, and he says, not if Congress

doesn't do what I tell them to do, I am just going to roll over top of them; not if Congress doesn't do what I tell them, I am just going to do it my way; not I have a pen and I have a phone, but he says this:

I hope and believe we can cooperate with this new Congress.

He goes on, and he is talking about the same environmental issues that President Obama is talking about, and he says:

The most significant environmental gains in the last 30 years were made under a Democratic Congress and a Republican President, Richard Nixon. We can work together again.

And we did, Mr. Speaker: the biggest tax reform bill in my life time, 1997, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich; the biggest welfare reform bill in my lifetime, 1996, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich; biggest Medicare reforms in my lifetime, 1997, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich. That is what this country does, Mr. Speaker. We work together. We all have common goals, and we have different ways of getting there, but we work together.

Our Founders feared an all-powerful Executive, Mr. Speaker, who would roll over the Congress and roll over the will of the people; feared it, and set up the Constitution to prevent it. Other Presidents have understood that. Ronald Reagan, he wasn't working with a friendly Congress, he was working with a Congress of the other party, and he said this:

There were also pessimistic predictions about the relationship between our administration and this Congress. It was said that we could never work together. Well, those predictions were wrong. Together, we not only cut the increase in government spending nearly in half, we brought about the largest tax reductions and the most sweeping changes in our tax structure since the beginning of this century.

That was Ronald Reagan's State of the Union Address in 1982. He had been in office just over a year. And he worked with a Democratic Congress, a Republican President, and he did some of the most sweeping changes that this Nation has seen in the past century. That is what we do. That is who we are as a people.

President Kennedy, 1961:

The answers are by no means clear. All of us together, this administration, this Congress, this Nation, must forge those answers. Members of the Congress, the Constitution makes us not rivals for power but partners for progress.

I want you to hear the tone of those different statements. President John F. Kennedy to the Congress:

We are not rivals, but we are partners.

President Reagan to the Congress:

They said we could never work together, but they were wrong. We brought the most sweeping changes since the beginning of this century.

President Clinton:

The most sweeping changes in the last 30 years were made with Demo-

crats in Congress, Republicans in the White House working together.

President Barack Obama:

If Congress doesn't do what I tell them to do, I am going to do it myself.

The Supreme Court today, a 9-0 decision: What President Obama is doing is unconstitutional. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, when folks are doing things that are unconstitutional, it threatens the very fabric of the freedoms that bind this country together.

Mr. Speaker, it just so happens that the Supreme Court ruled on yet another unconstitutional action of the White House today. I hadn't actually anticipated that decision happening today. I came down to talk about the President's new environmental initiative. He wants to reduce carbon emissions, CO₂ emissions, carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent. He announced this policy from the White House, and the media covered it expansively.

Here is Bloomberg:

President Obama's views addressing the problem of climate change as a key part of his legacy.

Reuters:

Climate change is becoming a major legacy issue for Obama.

USA Today:

Obama clearly hopes to make this an important part of his legacy.

These are all articles from the last 30 days, Mr. Speaker. The Chicago Tribune, the President's hometown newspaper:

Experts note this rule will spur the growth of the cap-and-trade marketplace in the States. In that sense, it may be remembered as a rare moment when Obama worked around the opposition in Congress to implement one of his top goals.

Politico:

If finalized next year and put into place, it would be one of Obama's largest legacy achievements.

The New York Times:

It would be the strongest action ever taken by an American President to tackle climate change, and become one of the defining elements of Mr. Obama's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, you may be asking, Congressman WOODALL, for Pete's sake, you are talking about this being a major legacy issue. From Reuters: An important part of the legacy. From USA Today: Remembered as a rare moment of success. From the Chicago Tribune and Politico: Largest legacy achievement in Obama's administration. So you may be asking, Mr. Speaker, so where is the legislation on Capitol Hill?

The largest legacy achievement in the Obama administration, and this is the administration that brought you ObamaCare, this is the administration that brought you a complete re-regulation of the financial services industry. This administration that brought you all of these sweeping changes, the media says this next proposed change may be the largest yet, and there is not

a single piece of legislation moving across this body to implement it because the President says, even though this is the biggest initiative of his career, even though this is the biggest change ever proposed, he does not need the approval of Congress to do it. He is going to do it on his own.

Mr. Speaker, that is frightening. It is frightening. And the only way that he is allowed to do these things is if we can't work together in Congress to stop him. It seems to have become the pattern in my adult lifetime that Republican Congresses protect Republican Presidents and Democratic Congresses protect Democratic Presidents, instead of article I, protecting the powers of the people, while article II tries to implement those authorities.

Again, the President is not confused about what is happening here, Mr. Speaker. This is from the White House's Director of the Office of Science and Technology just last month, regarding a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions. He says:

Clearly the President regards this as part of his legacy to really turn the country around on climate change, and he aims to get that done.

I want you to think about this, again, Mr. Speaker. The biggest initiative of the President's administration, his Director of the Office of Science and Technology says that the President aims to get this done. It has been covered by every media outlet in America, and there is not one piece of legislation on this floor to implement that because the President believes that the right way to do it is without winning the hearts and minds of the people, without winning the hearts and minds of Congress, but just doing it and letting the chips fall where they may. He has tried that over and over and over again. It is a pattern in this administration, a pattern that the Supreme Court unanimously finds unconstitutional.

I want to take you to part of that Supreme Court decision, Mr. Speaker. From page 40 of that decision:

The recess appointments clause is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction, it simply provides a subsidiary method for approving officials when the Senate is away during a recess.

Here is another context:

Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.

Hear this, Mr. Speaker: the President has announced the largest environmental initiative of his agenda, arguably the largest initiative of his entire Presidency, and he says I don't care what Congress says, I am going to do it by myself. This in the same month when the Supreme Court unanimously says, Mr. President, friction? Friction is not only natural in Congress and the White House, it is anticipated by the Constitution. And no, you cannot use

your phone and your pen to avoid friction. We must work together. We must come together on an idea. We cannot operate independently.

The recess appointments clause is not designed to overcome institutional friction. Friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of shots I hear from this very same well where I gave a very similar speech almost 2 years ago where we talked about these very same issues as the President embarked on those original actions that led to this Noel Canning decision today. Mr. Speaker, those words went unheeded. Those words went unheeded.

The American people want to trust their President. The American people want to believe in their President. I want to trust my President. I want to believe in my President. But we cannot—we cannot—sacrifice constitutional principles in the name of expediency so that any one person can pursue their agenda. Working together has always been essential in the fabric of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years from now, we cannot wake up as we did 2 years from the day that I gave this speech, where we knew the Constitution was at risk, where we knew rather than winning the hearts and minds of the American people in the Congress the President just did it his own way, where we knew that there was a better pathway forward but so many in this Chamber said nothing. So many across the hall in the Capitol in the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker, said nothing. So many, in the name of supporting their party, were complicit in undermining their Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day that we can reset that clock. We are in the midst of a major policy initiative, this 30 percent reduction in carbon, that the President owes it to all of us to go out and win the hearts and minds of the people, win the commitment of Congress to make that the law of the land.

George Washington: avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The very fabric of the Constitution, the very fabric of the beginning of our country, Mr. Speaker, who we are as a people necessitates friction between the branches and cooperation to wield the people's power.

The President said he was doing the right thing for the right reasons 2½ years ago, Mr. Speaker, when he made those recess appointments. The appellate court of the United States of America said: You are doing the wrong things; they are unconstitutional. The President said: I don't believe you; take it to the Supreme Court. I have got friends there. The Supreme Court

said, 9-0: You are violating the Constitution when you use your phone and your pen to get this work done instead of seeking the approval of Congress.

We can throw our hands up, Mr. Speaker, and say the ends justify the means. We can say it is just too hard to work together; we might as well just do our own thing. George Washington cautioned us in his farewell address that that would be where human nature would lead us, but this is an institution that is full of conscientious men and women who took an oath to serve their constituency and to serve this Nation and to serve this Constitution.

We have an opportunity today, Mr. Speaker, not a partisan opportunity, not a House or Senate opportunity, but an opportunity given to us by the Supreme Court of the United States, to reset the clock on this relationship. For those of us who have always known these actions were unconstitutional, I confess it is a bit of a validation. For those who might have been defending this dictatorial action as something that was perhaps permitted in some small way under this Constitution, they now have the certainty that they need. Not a 5-4 majority, not a 4-4-1 plurality, but a 9-0 unanimous decision that if we are to move forward in this country, we are to move forward together, with article I, Congress passing the law, and article II, the White House enforcing the law.

We can do this, Mr. Speaker, and we owe it to the American people to do exactly that.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) is recognized for 36 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and then submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, next week, on the Fourth of July, we celebrate our Nation's birthday. The Declaration of Independence, signed 238 years ago, laid the groundwork for the greatest Nation in history. The Founders, in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, created a novel system of government, one of the people, by the people, and for the people, that recognizes God-given unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit

of happiness. Although the Declaration was written over two centuries ago, our Founders' sage words are just as relevant and just as important today, especially those who work in public service.

As a Pennsylvanian, I am proud that the Declaration was signed in Philadelphia. It is truly humbling to read these important words on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I thank my colleagues for joining me this afternoon:

In Congress, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the 13 United States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the Earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records,

for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States, for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners, refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments.

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

I am privileged to be joined here with a colleague from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Congressman ANDY BARR, from Kentucky's Sixth District, who will continue with the recitation of the Declaration.

Mr. BARR. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and to continue the reading of the Declaration of Independence:

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Joining me is my colleague from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who will continue with the recitation of the Declaration, Congressman SCOTT PERRY.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am on the House floor, privileged to continue with the recitation.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the

circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

□ 1315

Mr. ROTHFUS. Thank you, Congressman PERRY.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their help in reviewing and reading the words of the Declaration of Independence, the words that birthed our Nation.

As families gather next week to celebrate our Nation's birthday, let us not forget these words, and let us not forget those who gave all for freedom, those in our military, especially those who are deployed today in harm's way.

May God bless and protect them, and may God bless and protect the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to direct attention to a robocall that was made on behalf of one of our Republican colleagues down the hall. I really hope that he had nothing to do with it because it was dishonest, reprehensible, played the race card, and attempted to divide people, and, in fact, apparently was conspiring to try to get people who were going to vote for the Democrat in November to vote for the Republican in the Republican primary runoff, which, under their State's law, is not lawful—not legal.

I certainly hope Senator COCHRAN had nothing to do with it, but it sounds

like it helped him win his election. This is exactly the kind of thing that people in the House or the Senate should not be involved in, trying to mislead individual voters, trying to trick them into voting for themselves—because one thing is absolutely clear: if it requires trickery, deception, dishonesty, manipulation—unfair manipulation of people in another party to violate the law and vote for a particular candidate, then, very clearly, that candidate is not worthy of being elected to anything.

This past weekend, I was down on our border between the United States and Mexico along the Rio Grande Valley and along the Rio Grande River itself.

I had the impression, from the way some stories were written and some talk was going, that we actually had a situation on our border where people would come rushing across the Rio Grande River—even if there were law enforcement officers, Border Patrol officers—that it didn't matter. People were just rushing across, so anxious to get here.

Having spent the weekend on the border, what I learned was that, yes, people are very anxious to come into this country, but the coyotes that are bringing them—from what we learned apparently—paid by drug cartels to bring people across, those coyotes don't want to bring people across if they are going to get caught because one thing our Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety does very well is, if they catch a coyote transporting people illegally across our border, for example, in a raft—which is apparently the most frequently used method of getting larger numbers of people across—then they take the raft, and they destroy it—normally right there in front of the coyote—and help destroy his current illegal business.

The coyotes don't want to lose their rafts, their Jet Skis, or whatever they are using to get people illegally across the border, so they wait, even into the wee hours of the morning, which I was there to see firsthand. They don't want to be caught. They will wait until they feel like they have got time to get across and get back.

I have also heard plenty of times, from friends across the aisle, from people outside of Congress, who continue to say the same thing—and I know they don't mean to be dishonest, they are very honest people—but they keep saying they are trying to get away from the horrible murders, rapes, and terrible situations in their home countries.

The thing is, if you look at the crime rates in those countries from which they come—in Central America, for example—you don't see a tremendous dramatic rise in the amount of crime. There is not a dramatic increase in areas where so many of these people are coming from, to come illegally into the United States.

So the question keeps arising: Well, then if the murder rate is deplorable or horrible as the situation is, if the violence has not dramatically increased, then why has there been such a dramatic increase in the number of people coming across our border illegally?

The answer that this administration apparently refuses to acknowledge is that it is not because of a dramatic increase in violence in Central or South America, it is because the word has gone out in Central and South America that, if you can get to America, you will not be sent back.

In the wee hours Sunday night, Monday morning, there was one group of adult women—three adult women, some small children. These were very honest people. They spoke Spanish. They didn't speak any English.

Some say: well, I bet they are coming from Mexico, and they are being coached to say they are from El Salvador, Guatemala, South America, or other places.

These kids could not have been coached at their age to say what they did. They are very honest people.

When asked why did they come, the immediate answer was: well, we wanted these little children to get a good education.

Well, most everybody in the world—there are 6 to 7 billion people in the world—most want their children to get good educations; yet, if we have an influx of even 1 billion people into the United States, our country as we knew it will be gone.

It will no longer be a country where there is a rule of law, where capital investment feels safe, because you can't maintain a country unless you have the rule of law enforced. You can't just magically, one day, say: okay, now, today, we start enforcing the law as it is.

It doesn't work that way. If you have raised a generation or immigrated in a generation who believes that you just ignore the law when it is inconvenient, then you are not, all of a sudden, going to have a country that follows the law and attempts to enforce it across the board. It doesn't happen.

I have been told before that, gee, there may be a billion, billion and a half people in the world that would love to come to America. Well, when you have just over 300 million people in America and you are increasing the numbers here by giving out over a million visas a year—more than any other country in the world, even though you have India or China with several times more people than we have in America, nobody is giving out more visas than we are.

Even though you have a country like Mexico that condemns the United States for our treatment of people coming in even illegally—and even those legally—what they don't bother to notice in their massive hypocrisy is

the way they treat people that legally or illegally come into Mexico.

If we began treating Mexican nationals coming in illegally into the United States the way Mexico treats American citizens, they would be screaming, going crazy every day; but it is because we are a more fair nation than Mexico is.

Of course, it doesn't really help Mexico when we have an administration, as this one, and a Justice Department, as the one run by Attorney General Eric Holder, which not only has an effort to get 2,000 or so weapons—guns—into the hands of criminals in Mexico with drug cartels, but then also engages in covering up evidence of exactly what happened during that horrible, horrible project by the Justice Department that actually put a couple thousand guns or so in the hands of criminals, resulting in deaths that would not have occurred otherwise, and yet, still, they cover it up.

Clearly, it is not, under Attorney General Eric Holder, a Department of Justice. It has become a department of, number one, injustice; and a department of, number two, just us.

Oh, sure, as long as the Internal Revenue Service is only going after conservative groups or Christian groups or religious groups, that is fine. As long as it is only going after groups that vote Republican, that is fine. It is okay.

Oh, and you want to try to catch us? Well, our hard drives crash, and our emails disappear, and, gee, we have no idea where they went. Why? Because we are in a country where the Department of Justice becomes a department of injustice and a department of just us, where as long as you support “just us,” you are good. Violate the law, it is fine; we will make sure you are not prosecuted—but it is perfectly fine to go after people who vote Republican, perfectly fine to go after groups that may not support the President's position on things.

Now, right down the hall, in the Senate of the United States, we actually have United States Senators who are wanting to destroy First Amendment freedom of speech rights.

There are United States Senators, all from the Democratic Party, those that are pushing this, that are actually pushing an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that will allow Congress to take away people's right to make speeches.

It is incredible that they don't even realize that, if the amendment to the Constitution—a bridge to take away freedom of speech rights, if it were to become part of the Constitution, and the American people got so mad at those Democrats pushing it that they gave the Republicans the majority in the House and the Senate and even gave them a veto-proof number, then you could actually have Republicans

saying Hillary Clinton can't publish her book anymore.

I was just talking about this with my good friend, Senator TED CRUZ, and he was talking about some of the language that is being pushed in the Senate.

□ 1330

Senator CRUZ made the point that if this gets passed, you could have Congress—if there were enough Republicans in there—say that Hillary Clinton's book is illegal, it is contraband, and she can't do it anymore.

NBC and “Saturday Night Live” like to do satire about political officials, and some of them are pretty funny. But, actually, under the amendment that we have United States Senators of the Democratic Party pushing, Congress could actually tell NBC, the National Broadcasting Company, that they can't do political satire anymore.

Why would senators who like our Constitution think it was a good idea to take away free speech rights? I think they don't mean harm. They don't mean to harm our Republic.

It is because we have now gotten into an environment here in Washington, D.C., where the IRS can go after people they disagree with politically. And heaven help some candidate or some Republican that stands up and says, We have got to eliminate the IRS, because you can pretty well count on them coming right after him or her. If you say those kind of things, the IRS is about self-preservation. They will come after you if you say negative things about them. Because, like the Justice Department, it is “just us.”

We have got to protect ourselves.

So it is serious business. The environment is such here in Washington where some Democratic Senators have actually come to the idea that it would really be nice if we take away freedom of speech rights and give Congress the ability to say, You can't publish that book. You can't do that political satire on TV. No, you can't do that film because we don't like it.

These are people that are supposed to be enlightened and be against censorship, and yet they are pushing an amendment that will allow Congress to basically go back to Orwellian ideas or all of those that have been written about in history when Big Brother gets so big, have book burnings. It seemed like that happened in the 1930s and 1940s.

It has become dangerous here in Washington, where you have educated people that haven't thought through their constitutional amendment they have signed onto enough to realize just how dangerous it is to the idea of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

They have bought in to a Justice Department that is “just us,” a Senate that is “just us,” an administration

that says, Hey, if Congress doesn't do what we want them to, forget Congress. I will write my own laws and we will just ignore Congress.

That is a dangerous concept if we are going to continue what the Founders referred to as "this little experiment in democracy." It is a dangerous time.

And then we have questions that were asked by PETE KING of Secretary Johnson about what is going on at the border. He is asking:

If you're a parent in Central America, in effect, this can look like a free pass because you're making the situation more humanitarian, you're making more facilities available, as Mr. Fugate said, you're providing foster families, all of which is understandable. That's our obligation as human beings.

But on the other hand, if you're a family in Guatemala or El Salvador, this, in a way, is a free pass.

Well, Secretary Johnson ends up saying:

Well, a couple of things. First, I'm convinced that the principle reason these kids—from everything I've heard, everything I've seen, and from my own conversation with these kids, the principle reason they're leaving is the push factor from the country they're leaving.

This is Secretary Johnson with Homeland Security saying this.

He says:

The conditions in Honduras, for example, are horrible. It's the murder capital of the world. There is this disinformation out there that this is *permisos*. That's what we're hearing. *Permisos*, free pass, like you get a piece of paper that says, Welcome to the United States. You're free.

"That's not the case. When you're apprehended at the border"—he says "irregardless of age." My late mother, an English teacher, would have jumped on that and pointed out for Secretary Johnson that irregardless is not an appropriate word. It is either regardless or it is not.

Anyway, our Secretary didn't have an English teacher for a mother. It is a common mistake.

He says:

Irregardless of age, you're a priority for removal. So they're given a notice to appear in a deportation proceeding.

The way the law works, the 2008 law, we are required to give that child to HHS, and HHS is required to act in the best interest of the child, which most often means placing that child with a parent who is here in the United States. But there is a pending deportation proceeding against that child.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, parenthetically, he references the 2008 law which requires the Department of Homeland Security to give the child or children to Health and Human Services.

We were in a hearing yesterday where I was told I was wrong about that. I was just quoting Secretary Johnson in my comments, as well as other people in this administration, who said, Look, we don't have a choice because the law from 2008 requires us to immediately provide the children to HHS.

Anyway, Mr. KING comes back and says:

But if I were a parent in Guatemala, wouldn't I see that as being a free pass? I mean a child, a 5-year-old child getting an order to show up in immigration court, you know, are you going to actually deport that child?

To me, it's a free pass, from their perspective.

Then, these astounding words from Secretary Johnson. He says:

Congressman, I don't see it as a free pass, particularly given the danger of migrating over a thousand miles through Mexico into the United States, especially now in the months of July and August that we're facing. A lot of these kids stow away on top of freight trains, which is exceedingly dangerous.

I spoke to one kid who was about 12 or 13 who spent days climbing on top of a freight train, a box car, and these kids sometimes they fall off because they fall asleep. They can't hold on any longer. It is exceedingly dangerous.

Well, Secretary Johnson is saying that because it is dangerous to come through Mexico, then it is not a free pass that he is handing out to people when they get to America.

Having been on the border in the wee hours, let me tell you, to those little children, to the adults bringing them, it is a free pass. That is why they came. And this is open territory. Anybody can be standing there. Because once these the coyotes get them across the river, then they go looking for somebody to turn themselves in to.

I was there when there were different groups being processed out there in the open air; daytime, nighttime. So they are asking them questions, as their job requires, such as, Where are you from? You have got to get their names. They don't have any identification on them. They are strictly taking their names as they give it to them.

One adult woman who had a couple of little girls with her said, Well, I'm not the mother, but I'm the cousin of the mother. Well, where's the mother? She's got a good job in Miami.

She came in illegally some time back and she has been working in Miami. So since they can now come and stay here, this was the time to start bringing the kids in.

The other two women were mothers of the other children there and they were explaining that the fathers of those children were working. They had good jobs in North Carolina. And since all they had to do was get into the United States and Homeland Security or Health and Human Services would transport them—our government is now becoming human traffickers—they have become the human traffickers and take them to North Carolina, where the fathers have good jobs working illegally over there. But, again, since they saw it as a free pass, then this is the time to try to hurry into the United States.

What was particularly telling, Mr. Speaker—I don't have it with me here

on the floor today—is that there was a request, a solicitation from the Obama administration back at the end of January that actually says that we anticipate in the next short months that we may have 65,000 children come across our border.

Now why would they think that? Because there were only a fraction of that many the year before, and then a fraction of that many the year before that. So why would they think all of a sudden there are going to be over 60,000 children coming in in the months ahead?

Well, they knew. The word is out in Central America and South America that if you just get to this country, the Obama administration is giving you a free pass.

The women in the last group that the Border Patrol were talking to out there after they had turned themselves in, they had not heard the word "*permisos*," but they knew they got a free pass. They knew they got to stay. And they said, We're here because we want these children to get a good education.

And since we know they can stay—in effect, that is what they are saying—now is the time they come and get a good education.

Well, we want everybody to get a good education. Unfortunately, if we in this country take tax dollars from Americans who are working and tried to pay for the education of every single child in the entire world—which I would love to do—but if we do that, it bankrupts this country and no child gets any kind of education.

It is a dangerous time. It is a dangerous situation for these children to be coming across our border. In those areas the bush is thick, the river is swift. It is deep there where so many of them were crossing.

And yet because this administration has the word out and it is being sent out by drug cartels—being advertised, is what we keep hearing—the drug cartels have the best of all business worlds. They actually will charge \$5,000. One lady got a real deal. She got two kids and herself for \$5,000. For others, it is generally \$5,000 a person. For some, it is \$8,000.

The drug cartels charge people to bring them up across Mexico into United States. And if they find an attractive girl, they may pull her off into sex slavery and make money off of her. Having three daughters myself, that idea is just abominable.

Then, because of the masses of people that are coming across in greater and greater numbers, we have Border Patrol and ICE that are pulled away from their regular jobs. They are not out there looking for the drugs.

So you have got drug cartels making money by charging people to bring them into America, and then that causes a problem for us to enforce our

border against drugs, and they can get more drugs in.

There is a war against the United States being staged by the drug cartels, and this administration better wake up and better start doing its job. I know my friends here on the Republican side, if the administration will start enforcing the law and enforcing our border and protecting us from the massive amount of drugs that are coming in, and enforce the border, we will get an immigration reform bill done so fast, people will be amazed how quickly we get it done.

□ 1345

There is no sense at all doing an immigration reform bill right now when the President is ignoring the enforcement of the law the way it is. The President needs to enforce the law as it is. Once he does that, then we can talk about amending it.

In the meantime, very quickly here, I had a quote from the President on June 11. He was saying:

I mean, the truth of the matter is, that for all the challenges we face and for all the problems we have, if you had to choose a moment to be born in human history, not knowing what your position was going to be or who you were going to be, you would choose this time. The world is less violent than it has ever been. It is healthier than it has ever been. It is more tolerant than it has ever been. It is better than it has ever been. It is more educated than it has ever been.

Then I thought about this cartoon, Mr. Speaker, and I will finish with this. In effect, we borrowed the cartoon here, but it is like the President has gone off a cliff, and all of the way down, he is able to say, "We are doing all right so far."

The day is coming when the country will not do all right—when there will be a crash—because we failed to recognize the dangers on the way down.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOWARD BAKER, A LIFE WELL LIVED

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I have unfortunate news. We have lost a great American and a great Tennessean, Senator Howard Baker, Jr.

Senator Baker passed away today. Howard Baker served this country well, and he served it in a fashion that was worthy of admiration from both parties and all people because he was an American first, a Tennessean second, and a Republican third.

He served three terms in the United States Senate. He served as majority leader and minority leader. He served as the United States Ambassador to Japan, and he served as Chief of Staff to President Ronald Reagan. He was a

private practicing attorney as well, at the firm Baker Donelson, which was a firm his grandfather started, and he practiced law at one time with his father, who served in this House as a United States Representative from Tennessee.

Howard Baker had been recognized since his retirement from the Senate on many occasions. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and had received other awards.

His was a life well lived and a life to be demonstrated to others as a role for legislators to work with both sides of the aisle and to work for America first. A life well lived, Howard Baker.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't intend to take that much time, but in a few short minutes, we are going to break for the July Fourth recess, and I just wanted to come forward on behalf of the veterans of the United States and make the commitment to them that the House and the Senate are going to continue to work to resolve the issues that we have heard so much about.

I would like to share, if I could, before we go, two stories from veterans of their wait times and neglect that my office has worked to try to help resolve.

I am hopeful, when we come back, we are able to get to a resolution for these men and women who fought for and died for this country, so that we can have that July Fourth Independence Day.

The following stories come from my district. They are stories that we have worked on in our office. They haven't made national headlines, but they are very similar to others that have made national headlines.

The first is of the gentleman, Mr. Michael Whitley, from Ocilla. He was a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran with cancer. He was unable to receive that cancer treatment at the VA medical center where he received his primary care, so he had to travel about three-and-a-half hours to a different facility, even though there was an outstanding cancer treatment facility just 30 minutes away from his home.

As his condition worsened and as it became more difficult for him to travel, Mr. Whitley's primary care facility promised to approve fee-based treatment, which would be closer to home. Unfortunately, Mr. Whitley died before this care that was closer to home was approved.

The second story comes from a 12-page letter—a very heart-wrenching

letter—of a 3-year-long case that our office has been working on to resolve. It is of Mr. Willis McCarty, from Moultrie, Georgia.

He visited his VA primary care provider in February of 2009 for an aortic abdominal aneurysm. His doctor found that the aneurysm measured 7.8 centimeters, requiring immediate surgery. To quote Mr. McCarty, "He told me I was a walking time bomb and that I needed immediate surgery."

Mr. McCarty was referred for a surgery consultation at another VA facility, and he went to the appointment under the impression that he would be admitted for that surgery.

The vascular surgeon, instead, sent him home and rescheduled the surgery for a later date. Mr. McCarty writes that the doctor said, "We do not see any immediate danger. We think your doctor overreacted, and we are going to send you home for 10 days."

Upon returning home, the aneurysm ruptured. Mr. McCarty was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery, where he remained hospitalized for 2 months due to complications.

To quote Mr. McCarty, "Before they took me into surgery, they had to use the paddles on me two times. My heart stopped for over 2 minutes. While in surgery, a ventilator was placed down into my lungs to breathe for me. I was in surgery for 6 hours. After the surgery was completed and I was rolled into the ICU, the surgeon told the nurses, 'This is a miracle boy, and I want to keep it that way.' I was in ICU for about 3 weeks with the ventilator in my lungs the entire time. While in ICU, one of my lungs collapsed, and I developed pneumonia. I was going through hell and didn't even know I was in this world. I was in the hospital about 6 weeks."

After his stay, Mr. McCarty received a phone call from the chief of staff at the hospital and from a VA representative, apologizing and admitting guilt on behalf of the VA, assuring him his expenses would be paid and that "the doctor should have never sent me back home."

They advised him to file a tort claim, and they even mailed him the forms to use in filing the claim.

Mr. McCarty writes, "Just the hospital bill was about \$125,000. That is not including the bill from the two surgeons, pathology, x-ray, et cetera."

Mr. McCarty has been paying these bills out of pocket, monthly, since 2009, for 5 years. The VA continues to deny his claims, and to this date, the VA has paid nothing. They also continue to deny Mr. McCarty's disability claims, and Mr. McCarty's appeal process will likely take another 3 years. Mr. McCarty is 77.

In his letter, Mr. McCarty writes, "I feel like the VA is giving me the run-around," and "I served my country. I've done my duty and was proud and honored to do it."

In return for Mr. McCarty's 8 years of service, he has spent 5 years dealing with this medical trauma and now expects to spend another 3 years in appeals. Every month, he pays the surgeons and the hospital for a surgery and complications that the VA is responsible for.

Mr. Speaker, most of the time, when we are working with these veterans, they ask us to fix this for one simple reason: fix it so the next soldier doesn't have to go through this—not for me—but so that the next soldier doesn't have to go through this.

We need to resolve these issues for our veterans, and we need to resolve them now. They deserve better.

I want to thank our House VA Committee, under the leadership of Chairman JEFF MILLER, as well as the Democrats and the Republicans on that committee, for the work they have done and are doing to make that system better.

Before we break for the July Fourth Independence Day holiday, I want to make the commitment on behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives that, while we will be gone from Washington for a week, we will continue to work on these issues in order to help resolve them for our veterans.

I wish each and every one of you a happy Independence Day. Whether you fly the flag in your yard or wear the patch on your shoulder or just keep it in your heart, thank you, and God bless America.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Robert B. Aderholt, Rodney Alexander*, Justin Amash, Mark E. Amodei, Robert E. Andrews*, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Ron Barber, Lou Barletta, Garland "Andy" Barr, John Barrow, Joe Barton, Karen Bass, Joyce Beatty, Xavier Becerra, Dan Benishek, Kerry L. Bentivolio, Ami Bera, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, John A. Boehner, Suzanne Bonamici, Jo Bonner*, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Jim Bridenstine, Mo Brooks, Susan W. Brooks, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Julia Brownley, Vern Buchanan, Larry Bucshon, Michael C. Burgess, Cheri Bustos, G. K. Butterfield, Bradley

Byrne, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Tony Cardenas, John C. Carney, Jr., André Carson, John R. Carter, Matt Cartwright, Bill Cassidy, Kathy Castor, Joaquin Castro, Steve Chabot, Jason Chaffetz, Donna M. Christensen, Judy Chu, David N. Cicilline, Katherine M. Clark, Yvette D. Clarke, Curt Clawson, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Mike Coffman, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, Chris Collins, Doug Collins, K. Michael Conaway, Gerald E. Connolly, John Conyers, Jr., Paul Cook, Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Tom Cotton, Joe Courtney, Kevin Cramer, Eric A. "Rick" Crawford, Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Steve Daines, Danny K. Davis, Rodney Davis, Susan A. Davis, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, John K. Delaney, Rosa L. DeLauro, Suzan K. DelBene, Jeff Denham, Charles W. Dent, Ron DeSantis, Scott DesJarlais, Theodore E. Deutch, Mario Diaz-Balart, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Michael F. Doyle, Tammy Duckworth, Sean P. Duffy, Jeff Duncan, John J. Duncan, Jr., Donna F. Edwards, Keith Ellison, Renee L. Ellmers, Jo Ann Emerson*, Elliot L. Engel, William L. Enyart, Anna G. Eshoo, Elizabeth H. Esty, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega, Blake Farenthold, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Stephen Lee Fincher, Michael G. Fitzpatrick, Charles J. "Chuck" Fleischmann, John Fleming, Bill Flores, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Bill Foster, Virginia Foxx, Lois Frankel, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Tulsi Gabbard, Pete P. Gallego, John Garamendi, Joe Garcia, Cory Gardner, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Bob Gibbs, Christopher P. Gibson, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Bob Goodlatte, Paul A. Gosar, Trey Gowdy, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Tom Graves, Alan Grayson, Al Green, Gene Green, Tim Griffin, H. Morgan Griffith, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael G. Grimm, Brett Guthrie, Luis V. Gutiérrez, Janice Hahn, Ralph M. Hall, Colleen W. Hanabusa, Richard L. Hanna, Gregg Harper, Andy Harris, Vicky Hartzler, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Denny Heck, Joseph J. Heck, Jeb Hensarling, Jaime Herrera Beutler, Brian Higgins, James A. Himes, Rubén Hinojosa, George Holding, Rush Holt, Michael M. Honda, Steven A. Horsford, Steny H. Hoyer, Richard Hudson, Tim Huelskamp, Jared Huffman, Bill Huizenga, Randy Hultgren, Duncan Hunter, Robert Hurt, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Sheila Jackson Lee, Hakeem S. Jeffries, Lynn Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, David W. Jolly, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, David P. Joyce, Marcy Kaptur, William R. Keating, Mike Kelly, Robin L. Kelly, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Daniel T. Kildee, Derek Kilmer, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Adam Kinzinger, Ann Kirkpatrick, John Kline, Ann M. Kuster, Raúl R. Labrador, Doug LaMalfa, Doug Lamborn, Leonard Lance, James R. Langevin, James Lankford, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, John Lewis, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Billy Long, Alan S. Lowenthal, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Ben Ray Lujan, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Stephen F. Lynch, Daniel B. Maffei, Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean Patrick Maloney, Kenny Marchant, Tom Marino, Edward J. Markey*, Thomas Massie, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Vance M. McAllister, Carolyn McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Michael T.

McCaul, Tom McClintock, Betty McCollum, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, David B. McKinley, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Mark Meadows, Patrick Meehan, Gregory W. Meeks, Grace Meng, Luke Messer, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Markwayne Mullin, Mick Mulvaney, Patrick Murphy, Tim Murphy, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Randy Neugebauer, Kristi L. Noem, Richard M. Nolan, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Richard B. Nugent, Devin Nunes, Alan Nunnelee, Pete Olson, Beto O'Rourke, William L. Owens, Steven M. Palazzo, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Erik Paulsen, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Ed Perlmutter, Scott Perry, Gary C. Peters, Scott H. Peters, Collin C. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Pedro R. Pierluisi, Chellie Pingree, Robert Pittenger, Joseph R. Pitts, Mark Pocan, Ted Poe, Jared Polis, Mike Pompeo, Bill Posey, David E. Price, Tom Price, Mike Quigley, Trey Radel*, Nick J. Rahall II, Charles B. Rangel, Tom Reed, David G. Reichert, James B. Renacci, Reid J. Ribble, Tom Rice, Cedric L. Richmond, E. Scott Rigell, Martha Roby, David P. Roe, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Todd Rokita, Thomas J. Rooney, Peter J. Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Dennis A. Ross, Keith J. Rothfus, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, Raul Ruiz, Jon Runyan, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Matt Salmon, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, Mark Sanford, John P. Sarbanes, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Bradley S. Schneider, Aaron Schock, Kurt Schrader, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Schweikert, Austin Scott, David Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Terri A. Sewell, Carol Shea-Porter, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Kyrsten Sinema, Albio Sires, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Jason T. Smith, Lamar Smith, Steve Southerland II, Jackie Speier, Chris Stewart, Steve Stivers, Steve Stockman, Marlin A. Stutzman, Eric Swalwell, Mark Takano, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Glenn Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Scott R. Tipton, Dina Titus, Paul Tonko, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Fred Upton, David G. Valadao, Chris Van Hollen, Juan Vargas, Marc A. Veasey, Filemon Vela, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Ann Wagner, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, Jackie Walorski, Timothy J. Walz, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Melvin L. Watt*, Henry A. Waxman, Randy K. Weber, Sr., Daniel Webster, Peter Welch, Brad R. Wenstrup, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Ed Whitfield, Roger Williams, Frederica S. Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Steve Womack, Rob Woodall, John A. Yarmuth, Kevin Yoder, Ted S. Yoho, C. W. Bill Young*, Don Young, Todd C. Young.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6170. A letter from the USDA/FSA Regulatory Review Group Director, Department

of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Continuation of Certain Benefit and Loan Programs, Acreage Reporting, Average Adjusted Gross Income, and Payment Limit received June 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6171. A letter from the Management Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Scales; Accurate Weights, Repairs, Adjustments or Replacements After Inspection received June 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6172. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Tier 1/Tier 2 Framework (RIN: 3052-AC81) received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6173. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the Army's priorities and requirements of its network modernization plans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6174. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the report identifying, for each of the Armed Forces (other than the Coast Guard) and each Defense Agency, the percentage of funds that were expended during the preceding fiscal year for performance of depot-level maintenance and repair workloads by the public and private sectors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6175. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6176. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed position in the Army's 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6177. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer Among Members of the Armed Forces Serving on Active Duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6178. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Definition of "Congressional Defense Committees" (DFARS Case 2013-D027) (RIN: 0750-AI23) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6179. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Private Sector Notification Requirements of In-Sourcing Actions (DFARS Case 2012-D036) (RIN: 0750-AI05) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6180. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers

[ED-2014-OSERS-0025] [CFDA Number: 84.133E-5.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6181. A letter from the Program Analyst, Financial Operations, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules (GEN Docket No.: 86-285) received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6182. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support [WC Docket No.: 10-90] [WC Docket No.: 05-337] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6183. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the February 15, 2014–April 15, 2014 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6184. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 07-14 informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Kingdom of the Netherlands and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6185. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of further measure in response to the situation in Iraq; (H. Doc. No. 113-125); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6186. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-354, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6187. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-355, "Educator Evaluation Data Collection Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6188. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-356, "Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2014", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6189. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-357, "Special Event Waste Diversion Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6190. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6191. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending March 31, 2014 and the OIG's Compendium of Unimplemented Recommendations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6192. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Department of Commerce, transmitting the 2013 Report to Congress on the Disclosure of Financial Interest and Recusal Requirements for Regional Fishery Management Councils and Scientific and Statistical Committees; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6193. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a piece of draft legislation entitled, "Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Amendments of 2014"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6194. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on compliance within the time limitations established for deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions under Title I of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6195. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Bush River, Perryman, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0972] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6196. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0095] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6197. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0007] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6198. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Atlantic Ocean; Virginia Beach, VA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0111] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6199. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 52nd annual report of activities for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6200. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Alternative Simplified Credit Election [TD 9666] (RIN: 1545-BL79) received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6201. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Requirements for Taxpayers Filing Form 5472 [TD 9667] (RIN: 1545-BK00) received June 10,

2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6202. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Mid-Year Amendments to Safe Harbor Plans Pursuant to Notice 2014-19 with Respect to the Windsor Decision [Notice 2014-37] received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6203. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a report on the actuarial status of the railroad retirement system, including any recommendations for financing changes, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f-1; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

6204. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's 2014 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 369; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2807. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions; with an amendment (Rept. 113-494). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3134. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable contributions made by an individual after the close of the taxable year, but before the tax return due date, to be treated as made in such taxable year; with an amendment (Rept. 113-495). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4619. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-496). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4691. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax rate for excise tax on investment income of private foundations; with an amendment (Rept. 113-497). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory; with an amendment (Rept. 113-498). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HURT (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr.

LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 4976. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to minimize infringement on the exercise and enjoyment of property rights in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 4977. A bill to establish a commission to examine the evidence-based therapy treatment model used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for treating mental illnesses of veterans and the potential benefits of incorporating complementary alternative treatments available in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities within the community; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of NC (for herself, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. NUGENT):

H.R. 4978. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require bottled water manufacturers and distributors to disclose bottled water quality information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H.R. 4979. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 4980. A bill to prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr.

BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COLE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 4981. A bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KLINE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 4982. A bill to simplify the application used for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility for postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FOX (for herself, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 4983. A bill to simplify and streamline the information regarding institutions of higher education made publicly available by the Secretary of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. KLINE):

H.R. 4984. A bill to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr.

LEVIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LANDEVIN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. SIREN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 4985. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations and to transfer the resulting revenues to the Highway Trust Fund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4986. A bill to amend certain banking statutes in response to Operation Choke Point; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4987. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4988. A bill to amend the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906 to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Ms. BASS, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 4989. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of any treatment or research in which a ward of the State is subjected to greater than minimal risk to the individual's health with no or minimal prospect of direct benefit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VELA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 4990. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional immigration judges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4991. A bill to redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. LOEBACK):

H.R. 4992. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the adequacy of motor vehicle refueling assistance to individuals with disabilities, to promulgate regulations in accordance with the results of such study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 4993. A bill to clarify the effect of State statutes of repose on the required commencement date for actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KIND, Mr. TIBERI, and Mrs. BLACK):

H.R. 4994. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. McKEON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 4995. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "Marilyn Monroe Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4996. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 4997. A bill to provide assistance to sub-Saharan Africa to combat obstetric fistula; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4998. A bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BASS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. WALZ):

H.R. 4999. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and expand the membership of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include veterans who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual and veterans who are transgender; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ENYART, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MENG, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CHU, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BASS, Ms. HAHN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H.R. 5000. A bill to provide for child care services for families with infants or toddlers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5001. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to pro-

vide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 5002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the credit for nonbusiness energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 5003. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5004. A bill to improve the energy efficiency of multifamily housing in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DAVIS of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. BASS, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5005. A bill to end the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5006. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5007. A bill to assess staffing shortages at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5008. A bill to prohibit United States voluntary contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5009. A bill to require the payment of the full amount of separation pay otherwise due to former members of the Armed Forces who were separated under the former Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy of the Department of Defense and were only paid a portion of the full amount; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 5010. A bill to provide greater clarity in the regulation of electronic nicotine delivery systems, including electronic cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, and hookahs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5011. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit authorized committees of candidates for election for Federal office and leadership PACs

from employing immediate family members of the candidates, to amend such Act to limit the rate of interest an authorized committee of a candidate may pay on loans made to the committee by the candidate, to amend such Act to apply the prohibition against the conversion of contributions to personal use to contributions to political committees, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require registered lobbyists to identify relatives who are covered officials and disclose lobbying contacts with relatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 5012. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. PETRI, Mr. YOHIO, Mrs. ELLMERS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DELAuro, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H. Res. 651. A resolution expressing support for the network of experienced and accredited wildlife rehabilitation centers across the United States and honoring their important work in protecting native wildlife; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HALL, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H. Res. 652. A resolution condemning the President of the United States and the executive branch of Government for continuous actions that violate the laws and Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NADLER:

H. Res. 653. A resolution recognizing the 45th anniversary of Stonewall; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HURT:

H.R. 4976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 4977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause XII–XIV of the Constitution of the United States, which gives Congress the authority to:

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 4978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power “to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 4979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 4980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to “provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4981.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution; (2) to make all laws necessary and proper for executing powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUCHON:

H.R. 4982.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. FOX:

H.R. 4983.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4984.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 4985.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4986.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution, and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which grants Congress the ability to make laws necessary to carry out that power. Additionally, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 9 grants Congress authority over federal courts and therefore implicitly allows Congress to require Judicial Branch review of Executive Branch actions. Finally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be made law; and therefore it implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4987.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 10

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND:

H.R. 4988.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

SUCH AS

Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 4989.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress Clause 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4990.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4991.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Commerce Clause

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 4992.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4993.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 4994.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8.

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 4995.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. DELAuro:

H.R. 4996.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4997.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4998.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 4999.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FRANKEL of Florida:

H.R. 5000.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Constitution of the United States of America

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5001.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 5002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia:

H.R. 5003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

H.R. 5005.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 223: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 318: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 411: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 515: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 543: Mr. MARINO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 610: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 689: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 787: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 988: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1015: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1020: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1136: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1146: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 1331: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 1354: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 1466: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 1507: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1553: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 1750: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1830: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 1835: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 2064: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 2170: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2450: Mr. McDERMOTT and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2453: Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2500: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2529: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2536: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 2607: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2647: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2737: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2807: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 2959: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. GALLEGOS.
H.R. 2981: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3054: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3077: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3116: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3367: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 3383: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3543: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3566: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3698: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 3775: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 3852: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 3856: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 3899: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico.
H.R. 3929: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4012: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 4041: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4060: Mr. HALL and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 4119: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4136: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4188: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4227: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 4257: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 4418: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4432: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 4450: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 4462: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4466: Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 4489: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4504: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4507: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4510: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4526: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4577: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4578: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BASS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4579: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4589: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4619: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 4625: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4626: Mr. BARR, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4653: Mr. FORBES and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4678: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4680: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4690: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4703: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. POSEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4792: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. NUNES, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 4798: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4813: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4843: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4864: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4871: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROSS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. HALL, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4874: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 4878: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 4888: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4904: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4930: Mr. ROSS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 4936: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4948: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 4950: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 4957: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 4959: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4964: Mr. ENYART and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4965: Mr. GARCIA.

H.J. Res. 41: Mr. POMPEO.
H. Res. 190: Mr. AMODEI.
H. Res. 231: Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 254: Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 281: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HALL, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 456: Mr. HARPER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. RUNYAN.
H. Res. 570: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 588: Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 607: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 621: Mr. LANKFORD.
H. Res. 626: Mr. LEVIN.
H. Res. 633: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H. Res. 644: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HURT, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COOK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SALMON, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. FORBES, Mr. PERRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 650: Mr. PETERSON.

SENATE—Thursday, June 26, 2014

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of night and day to whose will all the stars are obedient, we submit to Your sovereignty and might. Remind our lawmakers that You are often closest to us when we feel far from You. Give our Senators confidence in the triumph of Your eternal purposes. May they strive each day to do something that will strengthen their hold upon the world unseen. Impart to them the wisdom to release Earth's fleeting things, as they seek to conform to the life of the world to come.

And, Lord, please bless our faithful Senate pages who will be leaving us soon.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan Sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order with respect to the Krause nomination be modified so that the Senate will proceed to executive session at 11:45 a.m. and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Krause nomination, with all previous provisions remaining in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. At 11:45 a.m., the Senate will vote on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause to be U.S. circuit judge, and that will be a cloture vote. She has been nominated by the President for the Third Circuit.

At 1:45 p.m., we will confirm several additional nominations, but we expect to have only one rollcall vote at that time.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3301, I am told, is due for a second reading; is that true?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3301) to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any other proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the late comedian Leslie Nielsen said: "Doing

nothing is very hard to do . . . you never know when you're finished." Perhaps that is the case with the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. They just don't know when to finish doing nothing on immigration reform.

Today marks the 365th day that the tea party-driven House of Representatives has sat on their hands refusing to fix our broken immigration system. The Senate was able to pass immigration reform 52 weeks ago because both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate understood the urgent need to amend our Nation's immigration laws. Yet for 12 months—52 weeks—radical Republicans in the House have refused to address the real issues affecting the American immigration system. Instead of obsessing over the President's deportation policies, they should pass this legislation. They have made it clear they will not act on immigration reform until they can trust the President—whatever that means—to enforce the law.

The bill that passed the Senate 52 weeks ago has the most stringent border security measures in the history of the world. What we have agreed to do with the border is unbelievable. So any complaint about border security is just not well taken.

It appears to me the Republicans want more deportations and more families torn apart. Do they also want more debt? Immigration reform will reduce the debt by \$1 trillion. Is the immigration platform by the extremists in the Republican Party to deport first and find solutions later or never? I guess that is what it is.

Recently, Republican Congressman DARRELL ISSA circulated a letter demanding that President Obama end a program that prevents young people with longstanding ties to America from being deported. He offers no plan to solve our Nation's immigration quandary or to keep families together—just more deportations.

There is not anyone who believes this country can fiscally or physically deport 11 million people. The bill Congress passed many years ago in 1985—I guess is when it was—didn't work. It allowed people to come here without proper documentation. We tried a program, and it simply hasn't worked—employer sanctions. It doesn't matter how we got to where we are; we have to change things. We must have comprehensive immigration reform. Again, Congressman ISSA offers no plan to solve our Nation's immigration quandary or keep families together—just more deportations. They are running

out of excuses. Congressman ISSA and Republicans have gone so far as to turn a humanitarian crisis at our Nation's southern border into a political game.

The people coming from Central America to America are trying to escape a war-torn and poverty-ridden country. Yesterday, the Republicans reached a new low by accusing these kids—some of them 3 years old—of lying about the reason they have come to the United States. They are fleeing violence, extreme poverty, and they are coming because they are scared. They are afraid. These children are vulnerable and need to be reunited with their parents, and that is what we are trying to do.

Our Nation cannot deport our way out of this problem. Immigration reform is about families, and we are not the Republican-dominated House of Representatives. We, as a nation, value families and see the family structure as a cornerstone of our communities.

Undocumented immigrants, regardless of how they got here and why they lack the proper documentation, are our neighbors and our classmates. As I have just explained, there are 11 million people, and they play a crucial part in our economy and the communities where they live. I don't know why the House Republicans don't realize that. If they did, they would be working to fix our immigration system.

Waiting 52 weeks? They have done nothing for 365 days. They claim to be working on jobs bills and legislation to reduce the debt. If that is the case, why don't they do something about raising the minimum wage? Why don't they do something about extended unemployment benefits? Why don't they do something about making it so my daughter, my wife, and daughters and wives and mothers all over America get paid for doing the same work men do? That would be good for the economy. How about student debt. Why don't they do something about the debt students have—\$1.3 trillion.

Yesterday or the day before Senator DURBIN spoke about a company that went bankrupt. They have one school in Nevada. It is a for-profit school that has been ripping off young men and women—some not so young—for years. Senator DURBIN said more than 90 percent of all the income that institution got came from Federal loans, and the default rate is extremely high. Why don't we do something about student debt?

The fact is the Senate-passed immigration bill reduces the deficit and spurs the economy more than all the House bills currently awaiting Senate action combined.

I urge my Republican friends and the Republican leadership in the House to stop doing nothing and bring immigration reform to a vote.

As the comedian said: "Doing nothing is very hard to do . . . you never

know when you're finished." Maybe that is the problem with them. Perhaps now is the time for newly appointed House majority leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, who comes from Bakersfield, in the State of California, where comprehensive immigration reform is certainly necessary, to take a position on immigration reform. Will he bring the Senate-passed bill to a vote? If not, what does he propose?

Republicans in the House have a choice of allowing a vote on common-sense immigration reform in July or certainly be the ones to blame for not doing it. There is certainly a lot of blame to go around, and it is all focused in one direction.

The Republicans in the House have wasted enough time already. Bring this legislation before the House for a vote. It would pass overwhelmingly. I would bet we could get a majority of the Republican votes, and of course it would get 90 percent of the Democratic votes over there. It has enough bipartisan support to pass. So let it come up for consideration. This is a democracy. Let them have a vote. Americans want us to fix this Nation's broken immigration system. So let's do it and do it now.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

MIDDLE-CLASS JOBS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yesterday I talked about how supposedly moderate Senate Democrats are supposedly incapable of advancing important policies they claim to support, policies such as approving the Keystone Pipeline. These Senate Democrats just can't stop talking about how much they love Keystone. Yet they will not stop enabling their own Democratic leadership to block approval of this shovel-ready, job-creation project. They have been doing so for years now. So it is hard to take what they say very seriously.

That is true when it comes to the Obama administration's war on coal jobs too. Some of our friends on the other side want their constituents to think they will stand up to this elitist war on middle-class jobs. These Senators want everyone to believe they are opposed to this administration's waves of job-killing energy regulations.

The truth is it is just the opposite. These Democratic Senators say they are ready to stand and fight, but when push comes to shove we can't find them anywhere. Instead, we continually see them supporting the majority leader and the Democratic Senate leadership that dutifully does the bidding of President Obama and the far left.

On this issue the Democratic leadership has gotten ever more extreme in its defense of the war-on-coal jobs. Multiple times I have tried to offer legislation that would ease the pain for Kentucky's coal families—hard-work-

ing Americans who just want to work and put food on the table.

I pushed for Senate approval of commonsense bills, such as the Saving Coal Jobs Act and the Coal Country Protection Act, but the majority leader blocks those efforts at every turn, and none of the so-called moderate Senate Democrats ever come to the floor to assist me in my efforts. Every time they choose to follow a party line instead—the party line of the majority leader they support.

The most troubling is the majority leader whom these Democrats support is so determined to stamp out opposition to the President's job-killing regulations he has taken to shutting down the legislative process altogether. His efforts have even begun to affect our committee work.

Case in point. Just last week Senate Democratic leadership pulled the Energy and Water appropriations bill from committee consideration because it feared a procoal jobs amendment I wanted to offer that might actually pass. We saw yet another example of that this week when Senate Democrats pulled the Financial Services appropriations bill from committee consideration for the same reason. The Senate Democratic leadership apparently doesn't want Members of the Senate, even in committee—even in committee—to have any real say in the contours of the President's energy regulations—regulations that will affect millions of our constituents in profound ways.

Appropriations bills are exactly what the Senate should be voting on. Our constituents sent us here to debate big issues, to amend and improve policies that work, and to repeal the ones that don't. That is our job description. But the Democratic majority won't allow us to fulfill it.

The extremism here is really worrying. But the majority leader couldn't get away with it if the Democrats in his conference who claim to be "moderate" would actually stand up to him for once. The so-called moderates could stand up to him when he tries to shut down the legislative process, but they don't. The so-called moderates could stand up to him when he blocks every reform of the President's job-killing regulations or when he blocks every effort to approve the Keystone Pipeline, but they don't. They won't even stand up to President Obama when he jets off to speak to partisan groups and friendly audiences that rarely have the best interests of coal country at heart.

I know the President will also be trying out a new PR campaign today to see what life is really like for the middle class—for those beyond the White House gates. But he won't see the consequences of his EPA regulations at a political rally. He won't see what his IRS has done to grassroots organizations. He won't hear from the families

of veterans who died while waiting for a bureaucrat to hand out a doctor appointment. And he won't see the damage ObamaCare has caused for working families.

Well, if he is actually serious about this initiative, then he will come to Kentucky to see the tragic effects of his policies firsthand. I invite him to visit with local coal families in my State and hear the other side of the story they won't hear from California billionaires. I invite him to meet with the veterans I hear from every day, and I invite him to meet with families such as the Whitehead family from Allen County, who write to me about the damage his ObamaCare law has already done to them. But I doubt he will, and I doubt the so-called moderate Senators will push him to do so anyway.

So perhaps it is time these Senators stop referring to themselves as moderate at all. If they are not willing to stand up to the majority leader or the President when it counts, then they are just another party-line Democrat. It is really too bad, because we Republicans on this side of the aisle want to come to bipartisan solutions on the issues affecting so many of our constituents. We want to pass common-sense energy legislation that can create well-paying jobs, increase North American energy independence, and lower utility prices for struggling middle class families. We want to give Congress a say on extreme policies from the administration that take aim at middle class jobs in each of our States. But we can't do any of that without dance partners on the Democratic side. And there is hardly a true moderate in sight anymore. I can remember when we used to have moderates over on the Democratic side, but we can't find them today. It is a shame for our country.

I and my party are going to keep fighting for the middle class either way, even if we have to continue carrying on the battle for sensible, commonsense solutions all by ourselves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SANDERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2548

are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SANDERS. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

KRAUSE NOMINATION

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak on the nomination of Cheryl Krause to serve as a judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Cheryl Krause was nominated by the President on February 6, 2014.

I want to start with a few thank yous for where we are in this process. First, Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY. I appreciate their expediting the consideration of Cheryl Krause through committee. They moved that process along very quickly.

I thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for agreeing to bring Ms. Krause's nomination to the Senate floor so quickly. In fact, later this morning my understanding is we have a cloture vote on consideration of her nomination.

From my point of view, this is part of an ongoing effort I have with Senator CASEY, my colleague from Pennsylvania—a bipartisan collaboration to make sure we are filling vacancies as they occur, as quickly as we responsibly can, to make sure we have as close to a full complement of Federal judges as we possibly can.

So thus far, in the 3½ years I have been in the Senate, Senator CASEY and I have worked closely, and we have had 10 people who have gone through the entire process—from the application process, the vetting process, the consideration, the recommendation by Senator CASEY and myself jointly to the White House, the nomination, and through the confirmation process—10 people who have successfully gone through that process already. There are four additional candidates, recently nominated by the President at the recommendation of Senator CASEY and myself, and I am very hopeful the Senate will confirm all four of them later this year.

We still have remaining vacancies, and we are working on filling those vacancies as well, but we are making progress, and it is in this spirit of bipartisan cooperation in filling vacancies on the Federal court that Senator CASEY and I are both enthusiastically supporting the nomination of Ms. Krause to the Third Circuit.

I certainly hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today will vote to support her confirmation.

Cheryl Krause is an extremely qualified individual. There is no question about that. She has a wealth of legal experience in both public service and in private practice. In fact, her background is so impressive that the ABA

gave her a unanimous well-qualified rating.

She has excellent educational credentials. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated summa cum laude. She went on to Stanford Law School, where she graduated with highest honors. She clerked for Justice Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court.

She has been a U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she served for 5 years. She has taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Deckert LLP.

So she has a wealth of experience—it is relevant experience—and a terrific background. She has been both on the prosecution side and on the defense side, so she understands both perspectives, both of which need to be understood to have a properly balanced perspective on the court.

In addition to a very strong legal record, Cheryl Krause has demonstrated a commitment to serving her community. She served as counsel to the Philadelphia Board of Ethics. She has represented children with disabilities. She has led Deckert's partnership with Penn Law School in a project that supervises law students representing indigent defendants.

She comes from a family of public service. Her husband has a distinguished career in the United States military.

So, to conclude, I am confident Ms. Krause will serve as an excellent Federal appellate judge. She has the crucial qualities we look for in a candidate for such an important post: intelligence, integrity, experience, a commitment to public service, and an understanding of and respect for the limited role the judiciary plays in our constitutional system.

The Senate Judiciary Committee apparently shares my confidence in Cheryl Krause. They unanimously reported her out of committee, unanimously supporting her confirmation.

So I am pleased to speak on behalf of this highly qualified nominee, and I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the Supreme Court's decision to strike down President Obama's illegal recess appointments. Article II, section 2 of the Constitution provides for only two ways in which Presidents may appoint certain officers:

First, it provides that the President nominates and, by and with the advice of the Senate, appoints various officers.

Second, it permits the President to make temporary appointments when a vacancy in one of those offices happens when the Senate is in recess.

On January 4, 2012, the President made four appointments. They were purportedly based on the recess appointments clause. He took this action even though they were not made, in the words of the Constitution, “during the recess of the Senate.” These appointments were blatantly unconstitutional. They were not made with the advice and consent of the Senate, and they were not made “during the recess of the Senate.” In December and January of 2011 and 2012, the Senate held sessions every 3 days. It did so precisely to prevent the President from making recess appointments. It followed the very same procedure as it had during the term of President Bush, and that was done at the insistence of Majority Leader REID. President Bush then declined to make recess appointments during these periods, thus respecting the desire of the Senate and the Constitution that we were in session. But President Obama chose to attempt to make recess appointments despite the existence of the Senate being in session.

The Supreme Court said today:

[F]or purposes of the Recess Appointments Clause, the Senate is in session when it says it is, provided that, under its own rules, it retains the capacity to transact Senate business.

That is a quote from the decision.

No President in history had ever attempted to make recess appointments when the Senate said it was in session. And I am a little surprised, since President Obama had served in the Senate, that he would not know how this had been respected in the past by Presidents.

President Obama failed to act “consistent with the Constitution’s broad delegation of authority to the Senate to ‘determine the Rules of its Proceedings,’” as the Constitution states.

These illegal appointments represent just one of the many important areas where President Obama has disregarded the laws with his philosophy of the ends justify the means.

We should all be thankful the Supreme Court has reined in this kind of lawlessness on the part of this administration, and it should also bring some confidence that at least from time to time—maybe not as often as our constituents think—the checks and balances of government do work.

The Supreme Court was called upon to decide whether President Obama could make recess appointments even when the Senate was in pro forma session. Fortunately for the sake of the Constitution and the protection of individual liberty, the Supreme Court said he could not. This is a very significant decision. It is the Supreme Court’s biggest rebuke of any Presi-

dent—because this was a unanimous decision—since 1974 when it ordered President Nixon to produce the Watergate tapes. The unanimous decision included both Justices whom even this President appointed to the Supreme Court.

That shows the disregard in which the President held this body and the Constitution when he made these appointments. Remember, as I just said, I am a little surprised because at one time he was Senator Barack Obama.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, the use of recess appointments will now be made only in accordance with the views of the writers of the Constitution, our Founding Fathers.

It is worth keeping in mind what the President, the Justice Department, and the Senate said at the time of these appointments. The President said his nominees were pending and he would not wait for the Senate to take action if that meant important business would be done. So the President stated in another way that “I have a pen and a phone, and if Congress won’t, I will.” But the Supreme Court has made clear that failure to confirm does not create Presidential appointment power.

The appointments were so blatantly unconstitutional that originally there was speculation that the Justice Department had not approved their legality. But, in fact, the Department’s Office of Legal Counsel had provided a legal opinion that claimed to justify the appointments—in other words, justify the unconstitutional action of the President. The Department’s Office of Legal Counsel’s reasoning was preposterous, and this unanimous decision backs that up. That office defined the same word—“recess”—that appears in the Constitution in two different places differently and without justification. It claimed that the Senate was not available to do business, so that it was in recess when the President signed legislation that the Congress passed during those pro forma sessions. The Department allowed the President, rather than the Congress, to decide whether the Senate was in session.

As today’s Supreme Court unanimous decision makes clear, the Office of Legal Counsel opinion was an embarrassment, reflecting very poorly on its author. She had told us in her confirmation hearing that she would not let her loyalty to the President overcome her loyalty to the law. This Office of Legal Counsel opinion proved otherwise. It said the President had a power he did not have. He did not have that power, as expressed today by that unanimous decision of the Supreme Court.

Those partisans in that office who defended that opinion and its author should be humbled and should take back their misplaced praise—not that I expect them to do so.

The Office of Legal Counsel opinion furthered a trend for that office from

one which gave the President objective advice about his authority to one which provided legal justification for whatever action he had already decided he wanted to take. Perhaps now that the office has been so thoroughly humiliated, it will hopefully conclude that the Department and the President will be better served by returning to the former role of that office as a servant of the law and not a servant of the President.

The other statements to keep in mind were from Senators. No Senator of the President’s party criticized President Obama for making these clearly unconstitutional appointments, even though they felt we ought to protect against President Bush doing that. Rather than protect the constitutional powers of the Senate and the separation of powers, they protected their party’s President.

Those were not the Senate’s best moments. This underscores again the need to change the operation of the Senate. Appointment powers and the separation of powers are not simply constitutional concepts, they are the rule for how the American people are protected from abuse by government officials. They exist not so much to protect the branches of government but to safeguard individual liberty.

I often quote from Federalist Papers, this time from 51. Madison wrote that the “separate and distinct exercise of different powers of government” is “essential to the preservation of liberty.”

President Obama’s unconstitutional recess appointments are part of a pattern in which he thinks that if he cannot otherwise advance his agenda, he can unilaterally thwart the law. That is a pretty authoritarian approach to governing. Whether it is with respect to drugs, immigration, recess appointments, health care, and a number of other areas, President Obama has concluded he can take unilateral action regardless of the law. And, of course, as we see in the case of these appointments, the Justice Department has aided and abetted him.

Praise today to the Supreme Court for forcing the President to confront the errors of his ways, for enforcing the constitutional structure that protects our freedom, and maybe cause him to modify that statement he made earlier this year that:

“When Congress won’t, I will, because I’ve got a pen . . . and I’ve got a telephone . . .”

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as we all know, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, is in shambles. Two national reports this week have highlighted the fact that bureaucratic ineptitude and incompetence seem to be

the norm there. Unfortunately, reports that surfaced out of Phoenix which led to the resignation of Secretary Shinseki do not seem limited to Arizona.

I wish to talk about where we are nationally with this scandal, and also specific instances that have come out of Louisiana I have learned about working directly with whistleblowers and working directly with families of veterans whom I am very concerned about who are examples of this same sort of abuse.

On Monday, the head of the agency that investigates whistleblower complaints in the Federal Government, Carolyn Lerner, sent a blistering letter to President Obama stating that the VA Office of the Medical Inspector has repeatedly undermined legitimate whistleblowers by confirming their allegations of wrongdoing but dismissing them as having no impact on patient care.

Lerner's letter lists numerous cases where whistleblowers reported numerous failings at the VA, including examples where drinking water at the VA facility at Grand Junction, CO, was tainted with elevated levels of *Legionella* bacteria, which can cause a form of pneumonia, and standard maintenance and cleaning procedures not being performed at the facility.

Also, in Montgomery, AL, a VA pulmonologist portrayed past test readings as current results in more than 1,200 patient files, "likely resulting in inaccurate patient health information being recorded."

In these cases, among many others, VA whistleblowers brought the information to the special counsel, an independent Federal entity charged with enforcing whistleblower protection laws. The special counsel passed it along to the Office of the Medical Inspector, but that VA medical inspector concluded the hospital's failings, while accurately reported by the whistleblowers, didn't threaten veterans health or safety, even when the VA inspector general had concluded that similar faults compromised care in other cases.

This is deeply troubling and severely cripples any belief that the VA is in any way capable of fixing its deep-seated problems on its own.

My colleague, Senator COBURN of Oklahoma, whom I have worked with closely in dealing with many of these VA problems, also released his oversight report on the Department entitled "Friendly Fire: Death, Delay, and Dismay at the VA." To say his report is troubling is quite an understatement. Some of the key findings I found most troubling in the report were these: the fact that there seems to be a perverse culture, his report said, within the Department where veterans are not always the priority and data and employees are manipulated to maintain an appearance that all is well.

In many cases it also seems bad employees are rewarded with bonuses and paid leave, while whistleblowers, health care providers, even veterans and their families are subjected to bullying, sexual harassment, abuse, and neglect.

Senator COBURN's report also highlights criminal activity by VA employees, vast amounts of waste at the VA, the fact that the VA actually made waiting lists worse, and the VA Committee, led by BERNIE SANDERS, largely ignored these warnings and delay. That committee, under Senator SANDERS, has only held two oversight hearings in the last 4 years.

As I said, this is a national scandal. These are national problems. The two reports I alluded to are national reports. But I know from my work in Louisiana that they have consequences, and that similar cases exist in Louisiana. I have been deeply involved in a couple that I wish to highlight.

First, the Overton Brooks scandal in Shreveport, LA. A whistleblower came forward to my office with very troubling information regarding the VA hospital in Shreveport called Overton Brooks. The whistleblower is a licensed clinical social worker there, and he accused that VA facility of the following: maintaining a secret wait list and manipulating the official electronic wait list; using gaming strategies to manipulate reported wait times—for example, holding appointments without scheduling them until capacity opens or entering into the system that the patient requested an out-of-date appointment when that just wasn't true; providing group therapy appointments to mental health patients, and counting these group sessions as an appointment with a primary care provider, which they were clearly not.

These aren't just allegations. I have also personally seen emails the whistleblower provided, and that has shown that this secret list could contain up to 2,700 veterans. It also seems to confirm that, while waiting for appointments, 37 of those veterans died.

Since hearing these allegations, I have sent a letter demanding a full investigation into Overton Brooks to the inspector general of the VA, and I have confirmed that that is happening. That absolutely is moving forward.

No veteran who served this country should be put on any secret waiting list. At a time when we are learning more and more about rampant mismanagement at the VA across the country, any internal allegations such as that should be taken very seriously and clearly investigated.

That brings me to the second case I have personally dealt with and learned about in Louisiana, this case out of the New Orleans area.

Gwen Moity Nolan was the daughter of a distinguished veteran. She came to

one of my recent townhall meetings in New Orleans, and she explained to me personally that her dad passed away in 2011 while a patient at the VA hospital in New Orleans, allegedly in part due to delayed and poor care at the facility.

She described the medical treatment there as poor, and that her father's doctor had a terrible attitude and regularly refused to show up at the hospital in key situations.

She requested that information from the VA, including information regarding a supposed investigation into the case of her father, be given to her.

Her dad had passed. What she most wanted was to be sure the VA got it—to be sure the VA in New Orleans took some remedial action to correct the situation. Her case was done. Her case was done in two ways: First of all, tragically, her father was dead. Her father was passed. Secondly, she brought a legal action against the VA, and that was settled for a substantial sum of money which she received, and she is not disputing that or reopening that. That is done. But she wanted to know that these problems have been addressed.

On June 3 I sent a letter to the Acting Secretary of the VA, Sloan Gibson, demanding this information and the steps the VA has taken to correct what went wrong.

After the New Orleans VA responded by saying "patient privacy laws prohibit us from discussing specific patient information," I sent another letter with the pertinent constituent's privacy release form. The patient is dead. The daughter will sign any release form they want. This was clearly stonewalling to avoid giving us appropriate information.

Unfortunately, the VA responded that they cannot share this information with my office unless very specific criteria are met. Guess what. They didn't think it was relevant to list the specific criteria we need to meet. Again, more pure stonewalling.

This information is extremely important, and I am continuing to fight to get my constituents and myself this information about if and how the New Orleans VA fixed these problems. I will be demanding a meeting as soon as possible with the head of the New Orleans VA hospital so I can answer those questions directly, and that person had better not stonewall me to my face. That will have very negative consequences. We are setting up that meeting. That meeting will happen, and I will be following up on this New Orleans case.

Similarly, I am following up on the Shreveport case that came to light because of the whistleblower. I will be in Shreveport tomorrow, meeting with two significant people directly involved in these issues—one an official at the VA; the second, someone who has come with additional information

to confirm the fears, claims, and concerns of the original whistleblower. So I will be having those meetings in Shreveport tomorrow.

Again, these Louisiana cases that I have been personally involved in underscore the serious scandal at the VA. Every community has these cases. Every State has these cases. Every Senator—Republican, Democrat, Independent—has these cases. We need to fix these to properly honor our veterans. We need to ensure that this sort of abuse—in some cases, fraud and dishonesty—to the great detriment of our veterans never happens again.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, almost exactly 1 year ago to this day, all of the Members of this Senate came to this Chamber for what each of us understood was a historic vote because after years and even decades of debate and discussion, a small group of bipartisan Senators—Members from different backgrounds, different States, and certainly different philosophies—came together to reach an agreement on landmark legislation, a bill that would truly change the lives of millions of Americans. They had reached a deal that would significantly boost our economy, make every one of our communities fundamentally safer, and help millions of men and women pursue the American dream. But most of all, it was a deal that showed the United States was still capable of adapting, improving, and striving for perfection.

Still, the deal was not perfect. After all, it was a compromise, and once it was reached, it had to survive incredible scrutiny throughout the committee process and then during the floor consideration. But somehow it made it through.

So 1 year ago this week when each Member of the Senate came to the Chamber, we did something we don't normally do: We honored an old Senate tradition and actually cast our votes from our desks. That night, we finally passed comprehensive immigration reform through the Senate. I well remember the optimism we all shared that night. After years of trying, we had finally passed—with votes from both Republicans and Democrats—legislation that would finally start to fix our broken immigration system. It would strengthen our borders, support

our businesses and, most importantly, provide a real path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are forced to live in the shadows as Americans in all but name. The Congressional Budget Office even estimated that the Senate bill would grow our economy and reduce the deficit by nearly \$1 trillion over the next 2 decades.

We sent the bill to the House of Representatives knowing the path forward there might not be easy, but we heard from Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER, majority leader ERIC CANTOR, and dozens of other Members from both sides of the aisle that they also knew immigration reform had to happen this Congress.

Well, since then we have watched and we have waited as the Speaker and House Republicans simply refuse week after week, month after month to take up the Senate bill and move this process forward. For a full year we have witnessed exactly what it looks like when Congress simply fails to do its job for the American people.

Our broken immigration system is not a hypothetical problem. This isn't an obscure, philosophical disagreement over the role of government. This is an issue that has real, tangible consequences for millions of Americans. While America has watched House Republicans fail to act for a full year, we have seen some of those consequences up close.

Since the Senate passed immigration reform, tens of thousands of people—many of them women and children—have been senselessly deported from this country and separated from their families for no reason other than their undocumented status.

Businesses large and small have begged Members of the House to pass reform, including tech companies that need to hire the best and brightest from around the world and agricultural businesses that desperately need a stable workforce.

Now we are seeing hundreds of unaccompanied young children along our country's southern border. Many of these children are fleeing horrific gang violence in their home countries. They are desperately seeking safety and a new life in the United States. But because of our broken immigration laws, we are nearly helpless to respond and live up to our Nation's global reputation as a place of safety and fairness and freedom. Although these children broke our immigration laws, they are not criminals. They are simply coming to our country to escape violence at home and strive for a better life in America.

It is not only along our southern border where our immigration system is hurting families and hurting communities. In my home State of Washington I have heard from hundreds of families and businesses that have been

directly impacted by this broken system, businesses such as West Sound Lumber Company on Orcas Island. It is a small sawmill that has been owned by the Helsell family for more than four decades. West Sound Lumber is only able to keep its doors open because of one young man—Benjamin Nunez-Marquez. He goes by “Ben.” Ben is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico, and he arrived on Orcas Island more than a decade ago. He has become a cherished member of that community and an expert sawyer. The Helsells will tell you that they would have to close down if they lost Ben, and that possibility nearly became a reality when Ben was randomly stopped by an immigration official while he was taking an elderly neighbor to a doctor's appointment out of town. Although he posed no danger to his community, the Department of Homeland Security scheduled him for deportation, which was only narrowly avoided this year after I took his case directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Seattle Times told Ben's story on its front page.

We should not be kicking people like Ben Nunez-Marquez out of this country. We should welcome him, treat him as a human being, and give him an opportunity to become a citizen in the country he loves—our country.

Senseless deportations are not the only symptom of our broken immigration laws. Just this year local headlines and television reports in Washington State have revealed very concerning treatment of undocumented detainees at the Northwest Detention Center. That treatment led to a widely publicized hunger strike and protest in communities across my State.

This is simply unacceptable. We must demand better than an immigration system that leaves men and women whose only crime is pursuit of the American dream to be locked up, abused, and discarded over the border. These problems are not new, and they are not going away.

Throughout this year we have heard that House Republicans will have a window of opportunity to act on immigration reform. Well, we are in that window now. Republican primaries are behind us and the general election is months away, but that window is quickly closing. The pressure is on House Republicans, and millions of Americans across the country are hoping they do the right thing. The time to act is now.

I think it is time to hope for the best but also plan for the worst. President Obama has made it clear that he is willing to take administrative action if the House refuses to pass comprehensive immigration reform. I am on the floor of the Senate today to lay out my principles of what that action should look like and what I will urge the President to do if the worst happens

and Republicans in the House do nothing.

First of all, the administration should make changes to ensure that while we are being tough on those who are a threat to our public safety or our national security, we are also enforcing our immigration laws in a smart, humane way for the millions of undocumented immigrants who are American in all but name. Frankly, that means changing our priorities. It means focusing our immigration enforcement efforts, including deportations, on actual criminals who are a danger to our communities, not innocent people such as Ben who randomly cross paths with an immigration official and not undocumented immigrants who live in our communities, attend church alongside us, and whose crime is seeking a better life in the United States of America.

It also means we should stop relying on detention centers to lock away undocumented immigrants who pose no public safety risk, are already in our country, and are contributing members of their community. Rather than simply locking them up under terrible conditions and then sending them away, we should take advantage of more humane, more cost-effective methods of enforcement, such as weekly check-ins with our immigration officials.

Secondly, we need to reestablish in our immigration system the most basic of American principles: due process of law. For example, if you are in our country, absolutely no one should be deported or turned away from the United States without a hearing before an immigration judge. Part of making that a reality is providing the funding for immigration judges and access to legal information for undocumented immigrants.

The policies at every single Federal agency that deals with undocumented immigrants, including ICE, Border Patrol, and any other agency, should be reformed so they are consistent, transparent, and fair. For far too long the rules have been different from one Federal agency to another and the policies have been so convoluted and illogical that innocent families are being torn apart.

We should also discontinue the use of unconstitutional ICE detainees when there is no probable cause, as many counties have bravely done in the Pacific Northwest, because not only is holding someone without probable cause a violation of our constitutional rights, it is expensive to local sheriffs and diverts precious law enforcement resources away from policing and protecting communities.

We should reduce the 100-mile enforcement radius for Border Patrol agents and make sure there is not 1 inch of land in this country that can be called a Constitution-free zone.

Finally, we must expand prosecutorial discretion and decide that before

we deport someone such as Ben Nunez-Marquez out of this country, we should take a second to use our common sense first. We should build on the great success the administration has had with DACA—the deferred action for childhood arrivals policy—and ensure that Federal agencies are focusing their efforts on actual criminals, not families trying to make a life in the United States.

None of these actions can solve the underlying problem of a broken immigration system. Only legislation from Congress can do that. If the inaction of the House Republicans continues—and I hope it doesn't—we could be left without a choice.

Since that historic vote 1 year ago, we have all watched as more and more of our friends and neighbors fall victim to immigration laws that were designed for criminals, not families or our economy. We have seen Members of the House of Representatives choose politics over good policy and completely ignore a full-blown crisis that we have the power to change.

I look forward to working with President Obama, along with Republicans and Democrats alike in Congress, to make sure our immigration system works. I know so many people here and around the country join me in hoping the House Republicans step up and do the job the American people expect them to do.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPREME COURT DECISION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome the Supreme Court's decision in the Noel Canning case. It represents a clear rebuke to the President's brazen power grab—a power grab I was proud to lead the effort against. Today's decision was clear, and it was a unanimous—unanimous—rebuke of the President of the United States.

As my Republican colleagues and I have said all along, President Obama's so-called recess appointments to the NLRB in 2012 were a wholly unprecedented act of lawlessness. The President defied the Senate's determination that it was meeting regularly, and the Supreme Court unanimously—unanimously—agreed with us.

Today's ruling is a victory for the Senate, for the American people, and for our Constitution.

The Court reaffirmed the Senate's clear and constitutional authority to prescribe its own rules, including the right to determine for itself when it is in session. And the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the President's completely unprecedented assertion of a unilateral appointment power—a power the Framers deliberately withheld from his office.

Our counsel, Miguel Estrada, did an outstanding job defending the Senate and its uniquely important place in our constitutional system. By contrast, our Democratic colleagues shirked their institutional duty to defend the Senate. They failed, yet again, to stand up to the President. Although they failed to defend the Senate when it mattered most, they, their successors, and their constituents will benefit from today's ruling.

The principle at stake in this case should extend well beyond narrow partisanship. It should be about more than just one President or one political party.

In closing, the administration's tendency to abide only by the laws it likes represents a disturbing and dangerous threat to the rule of law. That is true whether we are talking about recess appointments or ObamaCare.

So I hope the Obama administration will take away the appropriate lessons because the Court's decision today is a clear rebuke of this behavior.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL ANN KRAUSE TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, we will vote to defeat the filibuster against the nomination of Cheryl Krause to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Her nomination has the strong bipartisan support of Pennsylvania Senators, Senator BOB CASEY and Senator PATRICK TOOMEY. The American Bar Association has unanimously given her their highest rating of "well qualified." The Senate Judiciary Committee reported her unanimously by voice vote to the full Senate this past April, nearly 3 months ago.

Ms. Krause should already have been confirmed and be at work for the American people. Instead, Senate Republicans continue to filibuster qualified, uncontroversial nominees who in previous years would have been confirmed without any delay. This is deeply unfair to all Americans seeking access to justice and to the judicial nominees who, like Cheryl Krause, have had distinguished careers in the law. Of the 54 judicial nominees filibustered this year, 30 have been confirmed unanimously, without a single vote against them. These filibusters are undeserved, and should stop.

Ms. Krause has worked in private practice for over a decade, including as a partner at Dechert LLP and a shareholder at Hangley, Aronchick Segal, & Pudlin. Her work has focused on complex criminal defense matters in securities fraud, antitrust, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She has also taught courses on appellate advocacy, cyber crime, and judicial decision-making at University of Pennsylvania Law School and Stanford Law School. Professors from both universities have written in strong support for her nomination, and I ask consent that these letters be included in the RECORD.

From 1997 to 2002, Ms. Krause served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she distinguished herself as the lead prosecutor in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Before becoming a prosecutor, she worked as an associate at the prestigious firm of Davis, Polk, & Wardwell and as a law clerk at Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe LLP. After graduating with honors from Stanford Law School, she

served as a law clerk to Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1993 to 1994 and to Justice Anthony Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1994 to 1995.

Her commitment both to the practice of law and to her community in Philadelphia has been admirable. In 2011, as part of partnership between Dechert LLP and the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, Ms. Krause brought a class action lawsuit in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on behalf of over 1,000 autistic students within the school district of Pennsylvania challenging the school district's transfer of these students from school to school without adequate notice to parents. After 2 years of litigation, Ms. Krause was successful, and the district court required the school district to redevelop its policy. Ms. Krause has also helped to launch the Philadelphia Project, a program that provides legal services to families of children with disabilities in the school district of Philadelphia.

She is well qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Her record of accomplishments is unquestionable, as is her dedication to the rule of law and the Constitution. I urge my colleagues to vote to defeat the filibuster against this excellent nominee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL,
Stanford, CA, March 10, 2014.

Subject: Nomination of Cheryl A. Krause to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: We write as the three former deans and the current dean of Stanford Law School to express our enthusiastic support for Cheryl A. Krause, who has been nominated for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Cheryl Krause graduated at the top of her class at Stanford Law School in 1993. She was first in her class after her first year of law school, and she and her partner were the champions of the school-wide Kirkwood Moot Court Competition. Ms. Krause herself was selected as the best oral advocate in that final round. Following her graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Kozinski, now the Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy. Following her clerkships, she has pursued a wonderfully varied career—as a law teacher, law firm lawyer and partner, and an Assistant United States attorney. She has been repeatedly recognized as one of the finest lawyers in the United States. Along the way, she has somehow found time to perform an enormous amount of pro bono legal representation and has been repeatedly recognized for those contributions as well.

We write to tell you about Ms. Krause's reputation at Stanford. That reputation can

only be captured through a series of adjectives that faculty use to describe their impression of her: exceptional, stellar, admirable, brilliant, incomparable. She is remembered as an academic stand-out in and out of the classroom, a student leader, a superb young lawyer, and a student who, faculty predicted, would always combine a challenging legal practice with pro bono and public service throughout her career.

Faculty members describe her as "brilliant," "among the small handful of top students I have ever taught," "the best student oral advocate I have ever seen," "truly possessing a judicial temperament," and "ideally qualified temperamentally and intellectually suited" to be a judge. Ms. Krause's career after law school has fulfilled these impressions and predictions and more. She has forged a remarkable path as a lawyer, and it is one that has prepared her well for a career on the bench.

We hope that you will give her your most serious consideration. We are optimistic that you will find her record as impressive as that of her former teachers and mentors at Stanford Law School.

Sincerely,

PAUL BREST,
Professor Emeritus
and former Dean,
Stanford Law
School.

KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN,
Partner, Quinn Emanuel
Urquhart & Sullivan,
(former Dean,
Stanford Law
School).

LARRY KRAMER,
President, William and
Flora Hewlett Founda-
tion,
(former Dean, Stanford Law
School).

M. ELIZABETH MAGILL,
Dean and Richard E.
Lang Professor of
Law, Stanford Law
School.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
LAW SCHOOL,
Philadelphia, PA, March 7, 2014.

Re Cheryl Ann Krause.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: As faculty members at the University of Pennsylvania Law School who have had the privilege of working with Cheryl Ann Krause, we write to express our enthusiastic support of her nomination to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Since she was first appointed a Lecturer in Law in 2003, Cheryl has taught Penn Law courses in cybercrime, evidence, and appellate advocacy, and has guest-lectured in three courses taught by other faculty. As a partner at the Dechert firm, Cheryl has been the lead person teaching our Federal Appellate Litigation Externship, in which Penn Law students are assigned to litigation teams at Dechert working on pro bono cases pending before the Third Circuit. In the early 2000s, Cheryl was a Barrister member of the University of Pennsylvania Law School American Inn of Court (an organization that seeks to promote ethics and professionalism by bringing together law students,

practitioners, and judges for periodic discussions on legal issues), and she participated in presenting three Inn of Court programs on different topics.

In her teaching and mentoring at the Law School, Cheryl has demonstrated the talents that will make her a first-rate judge. Not only does Cheryl bring to her tasks a powerful analytical capacity, but also she has consistently displayed fair-mindedness and intellectual curiosity. Her knack for providing students and young lawyers with rigorous yet constructive feedback signals that she would show respect to the lawyers who appear before the Court while subjecting their contentions to penetrating scrutiny. Cheryl possesses excellent judgment and high integrity, and her interpersonal skills would make her a valued and collegial member of the Court.

In sum, we believe that Cheryl's legal acumen, temperament, and experience make her a superb candidate for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and we heartily support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Stephanos Bibas, Professor of Law and Criminology, Director, Supreme Court Clinic; Jill E. Fisch, Perry Golkin Professor of Law, Co-Director, Institute for Law and Economics; Paul M. George, Associate Dean for Curriculum, Development and Biddle Law Library; Kermit Roosevelt, Professor of Law; Theodore Ruger, Professor of Law, Deputy Dean; Catherine T. Struve, Professor of Law; Christopher S. Yoo, John H. Chestnut Professor of Law, Communication, and Computer & Information Science, Director, Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition; Stephen B. Burbank, David Berger Professor for the Administration of Justice; Michael A. Fitts, Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law; Seth F. Kreimer, Kenneth W. Gemmill Professor of Law; David Rudovsky, Senior Fellow; Louis S. Rulli, Practice Professor of Law and Clinical Director; Amy L. Wax, Robert Mundheim Professor of Law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Ayotte	Harkin	Murray
Baldwin	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Cooms	Markey	Toomey
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Walsh
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—39

Alexander	Flake	McConnell
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heller	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Corker	Isakson	Scott
Cornyn	Johanns	Sessions
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cruz	Kirk	Thune
Enzi	Lee	Vitter
Fischer	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Begich	Cochran
Coburn	Udall (CO)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 57, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

The Republican whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to spend a few moments this morning talking about realistic solutions to the ongoing crisis along America's southern border.

Obviously, I come from a border State where we have 1,200 miles of common border with the nation of Mexico—which, of course, has been the gateway now to this humanitarian wave of unaccompanied children coming from Central America into the United States. I will talk more about that in detail, but I first want to comment on something the majority leader said this morning in his opening remarks.

With what has now become his trademark hyperbole and frequent disregard for the facts, the majority leader suggested that the Republican platform was: Deport first, find solutions later—or never.

I find that offensive, and it is certainly not true. I can just assume that the majority leader has had other things that have taken his attention and he has ignored completely the concrete solutions I and others have been promoting, some of which I will talk about here in a moment.

The last thing I would say specifically to this offensive and untrue comment of the majority leader this morning is: If you are truly concerned about this issue, Senator REID, you might want to focus on Members of your own

party. After all, no less than Vice President JOE BIDEN has said of the unaccompanied minors flooding across from the U.S.-Mexican border:

It is necessary to put them back in the hands of a parent in the country from which they came.

He went on to say:

Once an individual's case is fully heard, and if he or she does not qualify for asylum, he or she will be removed from the United States and returned home.

That is Vice President BIDEN. Perhaps the majority leader should talk to him or he could talk to our former Senate colleague Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State, who said this about these unaccompanied children:

[They] should be sent back as soon as it can be determined who the responsible adults in their families are.

That is former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and, in all likelihood, the Democratic Party's nominee for the President of the United States in 2016. Perhaps the majority leader should talk to her or he could talk to the Secretary of Homeland Security under whose purview this issue falls most directly, who said that:

Under current U.S. laws and policies, anyone who is apprehended crossing our border illegally is a priority for deportation, regardless of age.

Perhaps the majority leader should pick up the phone and talk to him.

So rather than make offensive, politically motivated allegations, perhaps the majority leader should get his facts straight, talk to leaders of his own political party, and then work with us on this side of the aisle to try to find some realistic solutions.

As the insurgency rages in Iraq and the border between Syria and Iraq has collapsed and attention here in Washington has turned to other parts of the globe, I can say, without a doubt, the attention of my constituents in Texas is still very much focused on what is happening on our southwestern border and this surge of unaccompanied minor children who are making a dangerous and treacherous journey from Central America through Mexico and ending up on our doorstep.

First of all, though, when the facts began to unfold the administration said that human smuggling operations are responsible for creating a misinformation campaign, and that is why we are seeing this surge of unaccompanied minors.

There may actually be an element of truth to that if we think about it, because if the human smuggling operations—the drug cartels, organizations such as the Zetas and the associated gangs that work with them—make money on each and every migrant who passes through these corridors of human trafficking and human smuggling, then they probably are making money—more money the more people who come. They probably make more

money with children and women and other migrants whom they kidnap and hold for ransom. So there is some element of that.

But then we have been told by the administration that the surge is entirely the result of gang violence and poverty in Central America, and that it has nothing to do with President Obama's policies or his perceived commitment to our immigration laws, including the enforcement that only the executive branch can do.

A few days ago, however, Secretary of Homeland Security Johnson published what he called "an open letter to the parents of children crossing our Southwest border," in which he implicitly acknowledged that the President's immigration policies or the perception that he was less than committed to enforcing those policies has indeed become a magnet for illegal border crossings.

Referring to the so-called deferred action program President Obama announced in June of 2012—remember the President said, "I have a pen and I have a phone"? Basically saying: I am going to go it alone, I am not going to work with Congress anymore? That was a product of the mentality and approach by the President.

But referring to the so-called deferred action program that President Obama announced in June of 2012, Secretary Johnson felt compelled in this open letter to inform his readers that:

The U.S. Government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also called "DACA," does not apply to a child who crosses the U.S. border illegally today, tomorrow or yesterday.

It doesn't apply. Secretary Johnson reiterated this point in the very next paragraph when he said:

There is no path to deferred action or citizenship, or one being contemplated by Congress, for a child who crosses our border illegally today.

If the sole driver of the border crisis was in fact Central American violence and poverty, or smuggling organizations, then there is no reason to believe that Secretary Johnson needed to clarify the details of U.S. immigration policy. After all, if the migrant surge has nothing to do with U.S. policy, as the White House initially insisted, then clarifying what that policy is won't affect it at all. But it has become simply undeniable that President Obama's policies—including his unilateral deferred action program, as well as the perception that he less than seriously committed to enforcing current law and in fact has ordered Secretary Johnson to investigate and recommend a further relaxation of his enforcement policies—all of this has played a huge role in creating the perception to tens of thousands of unaccompanied children that you should risk your life and travel unaccompanied in the hands of the cartels to the United States, be-

cause there won't be any consequences associated with it.

It is that perception that the President continues to create by his silence that is the magnet for this illegal immigration.

Don't take my word for it. According to an internal Department of Homeland Security memo:

The main reason the subjects chose this particular time to migrate to the United States was to take advantage of the "new" U.S. "Law" that grants a "free pass" or permit . . .

In other words, they came because of a widespread perception that unaccompanied minors and women traveling with children would be allowed to stay, even after crossing the border illegally.

I think there is more to this story. In fact, what we have learned is that women traveling with children are frequently given a notice to appear once they are processed by the Border Patrol—a notice to appear for a hearing in a court that would then determine any claims of asylum or then determine whether they can stay in the United States or they would have to return to their country of origin. This is called a notice to appear.

Strangely enough, the vast majority of immigrants who get a notice to appear never show up. It makes one wonder about the ones who do show up, because there is absolutely no follow-through.

This is what is perceived, has been this "permission" or "free pass" or "permiso" in Spanish.

Meanwhile, a study by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Science and Technology Directorate concluded that the unaccompanied minors:

. . . are aware of the relative lack of consequences they will receive when apprehended at the U.S. border.

Relative lack of consequences. In other words, nothing happens to them. If you make it here, you will be able to stay. That is the perception.

Again, it is puzzling to me that even though the administration's own documents show a clear reason for the surge, they initially continue to offer the public a shifting narrative.

There is no doubt that drug- and gang-related violence in Central America is bad. It is a matter of tremendous concern for U.S. policymakers. It is terrible, it is heartbreaking, and it is something I propose we try to address. I had a great conversation, for example, on the floor a couple days ago with the senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, who said: Maybe there is something we can do, as we have done in the past, in countries such as Colombia, countries such as Mexico, or elsewhere, where we have worked with our partners there to try to help them restore security and the rule of law. That certainly is a conversation I look forward to continuing.

But the fact is the violence in Central America didn't just begin a couple years ago. As a matter of fact, the murder rates in Guatemala and El Salvador were higher in 2009 than they were in 2012 and 2013. But the massive spike in illegal immigration by unaccompanied minors didn't start until 2012—the very same year, not coincidentally, when the President announced his unilateral deferred action program, again creating the perception that if you came here, you would be able to stay. Thus, there is no wonder that people felt as though the floodgates had opened, creating the humanitarian crisis and overwhelming the capacity of local, State, and Federal authorities to deal with all of these children.

By fiscal year 2013, the number of unaccompanied minors detained on our southern border had grown to nearly 25,000—up from 6,500 2 years earlier. From 6,500 to 25,000 in 2 years' time.

According to the New York Times:

From October to June 15th, 52,000 unaccompanied minors were caught at the American border with Mexico, twice the number for the same period in the previous year.

There are estimates that could turn out to be 60,000 or more this year and could double next year. One begins to wonder: Where does this end? How does this end?

So between the President's refusal to enforce our immigration laws and his ever-shifting explanation as to the source of the ongoing crisis, it is no wonder that the President has lost so much credibility on this issue.

Indeed, if the President wants to know why he hasn't been able to pass immigration reform in the House and the Senate, all he has to do is look at the fact that people have lost confidence in his willingness to enforce the law.

I know the senior Senator from New York has suggested: Well, we should pass an immigration law and postpone its effective date until after President Obama leaves office. I would say that is a shocking statement, it seems to me, which has been reiterated by the majority leader Senator REID.

There is an enormous amount of distrust about the Federal Government's commitment to enforce the law. So I don't care what the law might ultimately be; if the American people don't believe the President and the Attorney General and the executive branch will enforce the law, we have lost their confidence entirely, and we will never be able to improve and fix our broken immigration system, something I am committed to do.

Given all the different narratives coming out of the White House concerning the surge of unaccompanied minors, I think it would be good for the President to directly address the issue.

He has sent Vice President BIDEN to Central America. That is a positive

step. I know Secretary Johnson has visited the Rio Grande Valley and some of these detention centers for unaccompanied minors. That is a positive step. And he has written this open letter to the parents of children in Central America discouraging them from sending their children on this long, perilous journey from Central America to the United States through these drug-smuggling and human-smuggling corridors controlled by the Zetas and other cartels.

Yesterday I submitted a resolution with my friend the junior Senator from Florida, Mr. RUBIO, that calls on the President to do five things:

No. 1, it calls on the President to publicly declare that the deferred action program he unilaterally announced in June 2012 will not apply to the recent waves of children who have been illegally crossing our southwestern border.

That is the same thing that Secretary Johnson and others have been saying, but it is different coming from the President of the United States. It will be covered by the press. It will be communicated to parents in Central America: Don't send your children to the United States, making them an additional part of this humanitarian crisis, and subject them to all the perils I have talked about repeatedly of that treacherous trip from Central America to the United States.

Secondly, this resolution calls on the President to publicly discourage parents in Central America and Mexico and elsewhere from sending their kids on one of the most dangerous migration journeys in the world.

Third, it calls on the President to fully and faithfully enforce U.S. immigration laws.

I don't know what the facts are, but I do know some of the Members of the House of Representatives—LUIS GUTIÉRREZ has very recently said that if we can't pass immigration reform that suits him, he wants the President to take further unilateral action declining to enforce our immigration laws. That just contributes to the impression that is causing this wave of humanity to come to the United States and creating the humanitarian crisis. It doesn't fix it. It makes it worse.

I hope the President is watching and listening and decides that he needs to be the one to make the statement, because only the President has the bully pulpit necessary to deal with this.

Fourth, our resolution calls on the President to ensure that States such as Texas—and I see my colleague from Arizona; I would include Arizona, California, and other border States—have the resources we need to handle the crisis and to guarantee humane treatment of unaccompanied migrant children.

Some of my colleagues from Texas visited the facility in Lackland Air

Force Base on Monday, including Senator CRUZ and others, and they reported back conditions which, frankly, are very disturbing.

Fifth, this resolution calls on the President to work closely with Mexico and Central American officials to improve security at Mexico's southern border. Mexico has a 500-mile southern border with Guatemala which is insecure and porous, through which all of the unaccompanied minors from Central America come.

I realize how controversial and polarizing the whole discussion about immigration can be, but I suggest we need to try to work together on a bipartisan basis to deal with it. Hopefully, by making this above partisan politics and doing our job, we can help resolve this immediate crisis, but then we can help regain the public's confidence so they will allow us to take the reasonable steps we know we need to take moving forward to fix our broken immigration laws.

I believe passing this resolution would send a powerful message about our commitment and the President's commitment to the rule of law, our commitment to resolving the current border crisis, and our commitment to saving these young children from unimaginably treacherous journeys through Mexico which I previously described.

I urge all of our colleagues to work together with us to send that message, and encourage the President to use the bully pulpit to send the message I have outlined.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. MCCAIN. First, I thank him for the resolution.

On behalf of myself and others, I appreciate the representation of the people of Texas who are literally experiencing a crisis on the southern border of our States—of the Senator's State as well as mine.

I note the presence of the Senator from Illinois. There is no greater advocate for the DREAMers, the children who were brought here, not willfully, and I believe that in our immigration reform bill we address that issue in a humane and compassionate fashion.

But I ask my colleague now: Isn't it terribly inhumane to see these children taken from these countries by some of the most unspeakable people on Earth—these coyotes? And their trip along the way these hundreds of miles is so cruel and inhumane to many of these children that it is chilling. These coyotes are terrible people. They commit crimes to these people and on these young children. They do terrible things. They sometimes ride on the top of a train where the safety is—obviously, their lives are literally in jeopardy.

Again, I appreciate the work that has been done on behalf of the DREAMers.

But shouldn't we care a great deal about these children, even if they are not in the United States, for what they are undergoing now? And isn't it a humanitarian issue of the highest order, and wouldn't we be better served if we told these children and the people who are motivating them and making a lot of money bringing them here—wouldn't it be better for us to say: Look, anybody who shows up at our border is not going to be allowed to stay in this country. But if you go to our consulate, if you go to our embassy in the country in which you reside and make a case that your life is being threatened, you are being persecuted—whatever the conditions are for asylum in our country—then those cases can be judged, and then if it is a humanitarian case that warrants it, we can bring them into the United States of America.

But say: If you come to our border, you cross those—how many miles is it from the Guatemalan border?

Mr. CORNYN. It is 1200 miles.

Mr. MCCAIN. Don't subject yourself to a 1,200-mile trip, which is hazardous to your life and terrible things can happen to you.

Why don't we send a message: If you think you deserve asylum, then go to the consulate, go to the embassy, and we will have sufficient personnel there to take up your case. And if your case is compelling and meets our standards for asylum, then we are going to give it to you. But whatever you do, don't risk your life and your well-being to travel 1,200 miles in the hands of a coyote.

I would say to the Senator from Texas, sometimes when we say we have to have a secure border and the things we need to do, we are viewed sometimes as inhumane.

My question is: What is more inhumane than what is happening to these children now? Some of them are only 4, 5, 6 years old. What is more inhumane than what is happening to them as we speak?

Shouldn't the President of the United States do as the Secretary of Homeland Security did yesterday and say: You cannot stay in our country even if you show up on the border, but you can apply for humanitarian asylum in the United States of America?

Mr. CORNYN. I appreciate the question. I would say there is nobody in this Chamber who has been more involved in trying to fix our broken immigration laws than the senior Senator from Arizona. And certainly the senior Senator from Illinois has been very much involved. Both of them are members of the so-called Gang of 8 who were the primary authors of the Senate-passed immigration bill.

But I would point out that not even under that bill would these children be covered, because they wouldn't qualify for the so-called DREAM Act provisions authored by the senior Senator from Illinois.

That is the point the Secretary of Homeland Security has been trying to make—this is not a green light to anybody and everybody who wants to come to the United States.

For their protection, for the protection and safety of the American people, and in the interest of an orderly immigration flow and the rule of law, we need people to play by the rules, and it is the perception that there are no rules and that if you make it here, you will be able to stay regardless of whether you qualify under the law that created this flood of humanity. The second thing I would say, the Senator is exactly right. I think people underestimate the horror inflicted on migrants who are transported from Central America through Mexico up into the United States at the hands of transnational criminal organizations. The “coyotes” as we always called them are the human smugglers. They now have to pay the cartels for protection or they cannot travel through the corridors up through Mexico and the United States. These migrants in the process of being transported here, riding on the train the Senator alluded to called The Beast, are prone to accidents. They could lose their life, leg or limb, be kidnapped, held for ransom. Women will be raped and assaulted. It is horrific.

Who in their right mind would subject their family to those sorts of horrors only to end up in the United States when our laws do not permit their entry into this country? Somehow the President or the Secretary of Homeland Security are the only ones who have the bully pulpit who can send that message in a way none of us can to convince them we are going to enforce our law.

Mr. McCAIN. The only way we are going to stop this right now is to convince these people not to listen to the coyotes who are advertising on regular television in these countries and to convince these people that trip will not lead to the result of being able to stay in the United States of America. Until that happens, they are going to believe that if they can get here, they can stay here.

All of our hearts and sympathies go out to people who live in these countries in terrible conditions. We understand why they want to come to the United States of America, but they are on a fool's errand. Meanwhile, they are putting their very lives at risk by taking that arduous journey to Texas from Honduras, Guatemala, or some other Central American country.

I see my friend—and there is no greater advocate for the DREAMers than Senator DURBIN—on the floor. He was one of the earliest and most outspoken on this issue. I hope he will join us in recognizing that the only way we can stop this is to make sure people know there is no pot of gold at the end of this terrible trip they are on.

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the senior Senator from Arizona and the senior Senator from Illinois—and I will turn the floor over to Senator DURBIN in a moment—that there are two big problems: This wave of children is coming and not allowed to legally stay in the United States and thus subject to being returned to their country of origin. Both Vice President BIDEN and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that is the law of the land.

If the President doesn't step up and use his bully pulpit to send this message in a way that none of us can because people pay attention to him and not as much to us—I think that is a fair statement—then this wave is going to continue, and it is going to get worse and worse.

I ask through the Chair to the senior Senator from Arizona and the senior Senator from Illinois—both of whom I know care passionately and are committed to fixing our broken immigration laws, although we have had our differences—how will the American people let us do this if they have lost confidence in the executive branch's willingness to enforce the current law? I think it makes it much, much harder.

In fact, as I alluded to a moment ago, the majority leader and the senior Senator from New York said: Let's pass immigration reform but delay its implementation until after President Obama leaves office.

That sounds like an embarrassing proposal.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will yield in a moment.

That has to be embarrassing. It shows a lack of confidence in the President's commitment to enforce the rule of law. I think it is a problem. I think the President can help mitigate that problem and help restore the impression that you are not going to get a free pass if you make it to our southern border.

I will gladly turn the floor over to my colleague.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I would like to ask the Senator from Texas a question. He said repeatedly that the President is not enforcing the existing law. We all acknowledge that there is a humanitarian crisis on our border, and I think we agree more than we disagree, but I do want to question the Senator's premise. Will the Senator from Texas tell me which existing law the President is not enforcing that has created this crisis?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to my friend from Illinois that I tried to make clear that the current law bars the entry of these children and people across the border because they would not even meet the terms of the President's Executive order, that is, if you believe the President's Executive order has the effect of law, which I don't.

There are a couple of issues. It is both the impression that the President is not committed to enforcing the law and the fact that now when these adults are detained and children are placed with relatives in the country, virtually none of them show up for their hearing. So the perception—because we don't have a comprehensive system to enforce our immigration laws even after people come to our country—and reality of how that works tells them that if they make it here, they will never have to leave.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. CORNYN. Sure.

Mr. DURBIN. Does the Senator know the origin of the law which requires that an unaccompanied child be turned over within 72 hours by the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Office of Refugee Resettlement? Does the Senator from Texas know who introduced that bill and who signed it into law?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the distinguished Senator through the Chair that I don't know who introduced the bill, but I do know who signed it into law, and that was President George W. Bush.

Mr. DURBIN. I say through the Presiding Officer that the bill was introduced by the Senator's former colleague from Texas, Richard Armey, and signed into law by President George W. Bush, which required what is currently taking place—that within 72 hours, unaccompanied children need to be taken out of the Department of Homeland Security—a law enforcement agency—and placed, through the Department of Health and Human Services, into some protective situation. The President is enforcing a law signed by President Bush and authored by the Congressman from Texas, Congressman Armey.

I ask the Senator from Texas through the Chair, on what basis is he saying the President is not enforcing the law?

Mr. CORNYN. I say to the Senator from Illinois, here is how it works—I don't think we disagree about the law or the origin of the law but how it works in application. These children are now being placed with family members who may not be documented. They may have entered the country in violation of the immigration law, but because it is perceived as a relatively safe place for them to temporarily reside pending further court proceedings, they place the children with a family member in the United States. Absent a family member, I presume they will be placed with a legal guardian or foster family or the like while the legal proceedings go forward.

Here is the practical problem: Once they make it here to the United States, if they never return to the court in response to their notice to appear, then

they are lost forever to the immigration enforcement system and they become a part of the great American melting pot, never to be heard from or seen again unless they commit some other crime. That is how the press reports it in Central America and elsewhere. At least that is the report we hear from migrants themselves. They refer to it as a permiso, which is a notice to appear. At that point they think they are home free and never have to show up for their court hearing, and that it is as good as permission to enter the country. I believe that is what actually is happening.

Mr. DURBIN. If the Senator would yield for a question.

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. DURBIN. If I understand what he said, the law governing this situation is a law that was authored by a Republican Congressman from Texas, signed into law by a Republican President, George W. Bush, and is currently enforced by this President. And what the Senator from Texas is suggesting is that the law in and of itself has at least a loophole or an opening that if the person doesn't appear in court—the young child or the parent with the child—then they could be lost in our system. The Senator from Texas seems to be suggesting we need to change the law or at least address the law.

I have two questions. Will the Senator concede the fact that President Obama is enforcing the law as it is written? Secondly, what would the Senator do with these children once they show up in the United States?

Let's assume you had a 12-year-old child—which is a case I heard last night—on top of a freight train for 4 days; finally made it into the United States, possibly at the hands of a coyote or smuggler—I make no excuse for them—pushed across the river, or Rio Grande, in a raft and told to report to the first person in uniform? What would the Senator have us do with the child at that point?

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would respond to my friend from Illinois and say I would have them enforce the law, which is as the Senator has just described. Once the Border Patrol processes the child or migrant, then they turn them over to Health and Human Services, where they can be placed in humanitarian and hopefully clean conditions so their interests can be looked after while their legal case proceeds.

The problem is not just the fact that there are no consequences once these children or others are released on a notice to appear, which is never enforced, it is also the perception that people—for example, this morning Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ said that he was so frustrated by our inability to pass immigration reform, that the President needs to withhold any deportations or radically, essentially, refuse to enforce the law even further.

America is the most generous country in the world when it comes to our legal immigration system. We naturalize about 800,000 people a year. It has been up to as many as 1 million people. We are very generous. But it is not too much to insist that people do it through legal means for their protection and ours.

The statements the President has been making and the unilateral actions he continues to take give the perception he doesn't care what Congress says; he is going to go it alone. As a matter of fact, this morning the Supreme Court rebuked the President on an illegal recess appointment—unconstitutional recess appointment.

I think it is not just the law as it is written on the books, it is also how the law is actually implemented. It is also the further perception that the President is going to continue to basically refuse to repatriate people who enter the country illegally.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I went to the White House last night. The President invited Democratic Members of the Senate, and we met with Cabinet and staff members. One of the President's close advisers I met with described what she had seen in McCallum, TX, and there were tears in her eyes when she told heartbreaking stories of babies, children, and infants who are coming to this country. Many of them are in the hands of smugglers and coyotes who have gotten money from their parents or family to transport them to the border of the United States.

She told me the story of a 12-year-old boy, whom I mentioned earlier, from Guatemala. He was put on the top of a freight train and told to hang on for 4 days. For 4 days this 12-year-old boy, scared to death, was on top of this freight train as it barreled through Central America on its way to the United States. He had with him the name of a relative in the United States, and that is it. He was told that as soon as he got across the border, look for somebody in a uniform, don't show any resistance, and present yourself, which he did. He now sits in a facility in Texas.

This is a horrible humanitarian situation. The numbers that are involved here—I will give for the record the numbers that have been reported, which are worth noting. Some people may think we are talking about hundreds of children. This year, and this year alone, as of June 15, unaccompanied children apprehended by the Border Patrol: Honduras, 15,000; Guatemala, 12,000; El Salvador, 11,000; and Mexico, 12,000. Almost 80 percent of these kids come from the countries Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Why are they coming here? They are coming here for a number of reasons:

No. 1, there is this criminal network that gets money to transport children. They promise the families they will get them to the border. God only knows what will happen to those kids on their way. Some of them will die, some of the girls will be raped, and their lives may never be the same. It is a desperate, awful, tragic situation, and there is no getting around the fact that it is occurring.

Why are the families doing this? Why would you turn a fourth or fifth grader in your household loose to make that awful, deadly journey? Well, part of the reason is those three countries—Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala—are virtually lawless. They are three of the top five countries in the world when it comes to murder rates. There is a fear that the gangs in these countries will kill their kids anyway.

A young girl from one of these countries said: I ran. I didn't know what else to do because I was told one of the members of the gang wanted to take me on as a girlfriend. I know what happens to girls who become girlfriends. They are raped, killed, and left in a plastic bag on the side of the road.

Sadly, that is the reality of life for those children in some of these countries.

The United States is at the end of this journey and trying to decide the humane thing to do when an infant, a toddler, a 10-year-old, or a 12-year-old, shows up.

There is no easy answer.

The one point I wish to make and clarify—and I hope I did it in the course of my colloquy with my friend and colleague from Texas—this is not a question about whether President Obama has dreamed up a new law or is not enforcing an existing law. The President is enforcing the existing law in America, and here is what it says: When an unaccompanied child shows up on our border and our Border Patrol takes this child into custody, within 72 hours—we give them some time because it is not easy—we need to put this child in a different place outside of a law enforcement agency. Technically, we need to take them out of the police station part of the world and put them in some part of the world that is best for a child. That is what they are required to do under a law introduced by a Republican Texas Congressman, Dick Armey, and signed into law by a Republican President, George W. Bush. What President Obama is doing is enforcing a law which President Bush signed and was supported by Republicans.

So, please, for a second, can we stop the partisanship on this? Let's view this not as a political crisis but a humanitarian crisis, and let's acknowledge the obvious. The President has tried in his capacity to deal with the immigration issue. He has done more than he wanted to do as President.

Last night at a gathering the President said: Does anyone think I believe Executive orders are the best way to govern America? No. It is better to do it by law. But let me tell my colleagues why he is forced into Executive orders.

It was 365 days ago, on the floor of this Senate, that we passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It was one of my prouder moments as a Senator. There were eight of us who wrote the bill and it took us months: four Republicans, including JOHN MCCAIN, who was just on the floor, my friend MARCO RUBIO of Florida, JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, and—I am thinking for a second; I blanked on it, but I will think of the other one in just a second—LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina. So the four Republicans, and on our side of the table we had CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, myself, BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado.

We went at it for months and we wrote the bill. We brought the bill to the floor, and we covered virtually every aspect of our broken immigration system, start to finish. It wasn't easy, but we covered it all. The bill passed on the floor of the Senate. It got 68 votes. We had 14 Republicans joining the Democrats in passing the bill. It was supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It was supported by the labor unions, the faith community. Grover Norquist, one of the most conservative Republicans in our country, supported it publicly and said it was a good idea, and we passed it.

We sent it to the House of Representatives 1 year ago. What has happened to comprehensive immigration reform since we sent it 1 year ago to the House of Representatives? Nothing. Nothing. They refuse to call up the bill for consideration.

So when Members come to the floor and talk about how broken our immigration system is, I agree. Many of us tried to fix it, and we did it the way we should have—in a bipartisan fashion, give and take, compromise.

We are sending, under this new bill, more enforcement to the border between Texas and Mexico than we have ever seen before. I said somewhat jokingly that the people at the border can reach out and touch hands, there will be so many of them—figuratively—at our border. That was the price the Republicans insisted on: border enforcement. All right. What we insisted on was to take the 11 million undocumented in America today, and if they have been here for at least 2 years, give them a chance. Let them come forward, register with the United States who they are, where they live, where they work, who is in their household. Let them pay their taxes, let them pay a fine, and let them learn English. If they do those things, we will do a criminal background check to make sure they are no threat to anyone in

this country, and we will watch them. We will watch them for 13 years—13 years. Then they have a chance at legalization.

That is what our bill says. They go to the back of the line and they wait 13 years while they pay their fines. It is tough. Some of them will not make it to the end of the road, but it is there. It gives them a chance.

So when Members come to the floor and criticize our current immigration system, I say to them, there was a repair to that system, there was a fix to that system. It passed the Senate 1 year ago and Speaker BOEHNER refuses to call it to the floor of the House. I don't know why.

Well, I do know why: Because it would pass. There would be enough Republicans joining Democrats to pass it and we would finally have done something on the issue of immigration.

Now we have before us a resolution by the senior Senator from Texas and he suggests we should take it up. The first part of the resolution says the President has to make it clear the DACA Executive order does not apply to the new people coming across the border. Well, that is a fact. Those who are coming across the border today can't qualify to become legal in the United States—not under any existing Executive order or under the proposed comprehensive immigration reform we passed in the Senate. They can't become citizens. The President saying it personally? I am sure the President would say it personally because he sent the Vice President out to Central America to visit the countries and tell the leaders there: There is a mistake if your people believe they can stay in this country legally. They cannot.

Secondly, he said we have to discourage this migration. I am for that. Who isn't for that? We need to discourage the exploitation of these children and their families and do it in every manner possible. So there is nothing in that suggestion that I think isn't already being done.

The third thing is to fully enforce existing law. The point I tried to make to the Senator from Texas is the President is fully enforcing existing laws. If people want to change the laws, let's have that debate, but to argue the President is not enforcing existing laws is not correct. He is. Those laws may need to be changed or addressed, but he is dealing with them.

I wish to say a word, if I can, about an issue which has come up on the floor and one that is near and dear to my heart. It was 13 years ago when I got a call to my Chicago office. There was a Korean-American mother who had an 18-year-old daughter who was a musical prodigy. She played classical piano in high school and she had been offered a scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music. Her family was a poor immigrant family and this was the

chance of a lifetime. When the mother and daughter sat down to fill out the application to go to the Manhattan School of Music, there was a question which asked, What is your citizenship? She turned to her mother and asked, What do I put there? And her mother said, I don't know. We brought you here under a visitor's visa when you were 2 years old and we never filed any papers. The daughter said, What are we going to do? The mother said, We will call DURBIN. So they called our office.

We looked into the law and the law was clear. The law was clear. This 18-year-old girl under our law had to leave the United States for 10 years and then apply to come back in. Where was she going to go? Her family was here. So the mother said to me, What can we do? I told her, Under the law, almost nothing. So that is when I introduced the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act says if a person is brought here as a child, an infant, under the age of 16, and they completed high school and had no criminal record of any substance at all, if they served in our military or went 2 years to college, they had a chance to become an American citizen. That was the DREAM Act. I introduced it 13 years ago—13 years ago. It has passed the House, but it didn't pass the Senate that year. It has passed the Senate as part of comprehensive immigration reform, but it hasn't passed the House.

So several years ago I wrote to the President. I said to the President, with 22 other Senators, Would you consider issuing an Executive order saying you will not deport these DREAM children, these DREAMers—because they are eligible under bills that have passed both the House and Senate—give them a suspension of deportation and allow them to stay in the United States without fear of being deported? He signed the Executive order. So almost 600,000 have stepped forward and they have agreed they will submit the information to our government and, in turn, they will be spared deportation.

They are getting on with their lives. They are going to school and getting jobs. Amazing things are happening for them. There are great stories, and I come to the floor and tell them all the time, but we still don't have the final law. We have the President's Executive order which gives them a break now, but we still don't have the final law to resolve it.

I wish to tell a story about one of those DREAMers today. This is Marie Gonzalez Deel and her parents Marvin and Marina Gonzalez. Marvin and Marina brought Marie from Costa Rica to the United States in 1991 when Maria was 5 years old. They came to the United States legally on temporary visas and settled in Jefferson City, MO. A lawyer said to them, Put down roots, get a job, and you have a chance to become a citizen.

The Gonzalez family bought a house, paid their taxes, and were active members of their church. Marvin was a mail courier for the Missouri Governor. Marina taught Spanish at a local school, and Maria was at the top of her high school class. They thought they had done everything right, but then Maria's family was placed in deportation proceedings. The community of Jefferson City was angry that a good family such as this who was part of their community was facing deportation. They rallied around them.

I first met Marie in 2005. She was one of the first DREAMers to tell her story publicly. Back then it was a pretty courageous thing to do. It still is. At my request, the Department of Homeland Security granted her a stay of deportation, but 9 years ago Maria's parents were deported back to Costa Rica.

In 2008, Marie graduated from Westminster College in Missouri with a degree in political science and business, but her parents couldn't be there to see her. They had been deported back to Costa Rica. In 2009, Marie married her college sweetheart and planned a second ceremony in Costa Rica so her parents could be a part of it. On Thanksgiving, 2010, she and her husband flew to Costa Rica. As my colleagues can see from this picture, they were elated to see one another for the first time in 5 years.

Just a few hours later, Marvin, her father, who had prostate cancer, collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital. He passed away later that same day—the day this photograph was taken. Luckily, they got to see him before he passed away. The family held a funeral the next day and carried on with the Costa Rica wedding the following day with an empty chair at the head of the table where Marie's father would have been seated.

Today Marie is the proud mother of an 11-month-old baby girl, Araceli. In March 2014, Marie became a citizen of the United States. Here is what she wrote to me in a letter:

I was very blessed and thankful to get the opportunity to stay in the United States on a temporary visa to be able to finish my education, get a job, find my soul mate, and eventually become a citizen, though at the cost of not spending that time with my family and feeling alone for so long. My family was torn apart when I was 18 and will never be able to be reunited. My immigration struggle continues until the day I can once again have my mom at my side. I hope other families don't have to endure this pain.

There are 11 million stories in America, many of them just like this. Hard-working men and women, law-abiding families, viable parts of our churches and our communities, who had the courage to leave everything behind and come to this great Nation. Those of us who are immigrants to this country, which includes the Presiding Officer and myself—at least my mother—thank our lucky stars we were given

this chance. My mother was an immigrant to this country and her son is a U.S. Senator from Illinois. She was brought here at the age of 2. Her naturalization certificate is in my office upstairs. I am very proud of it. It is a reminder to me and a reminder to anyone who visits me that this is a nation of immigrants. We are a nation that thrives with the diversity of our immigration and the energy they bring, the courage they bring, leaving everything behind to come to this country. That is the family of the Presiding Officer, and that was my family. That is our story, but that is America's story. That is who we are.

Have we reached the point where we cannot even discuss future immigration in the House of Representatives? Have we reached a point where we cannot even bring the matter to the floor for a vote? Are we going to ignore what that means to this family and millions just like them, what it means to the thousands of kids presenting themselves at the border?

We are better than that. America is better than that. When we embrace our diversity, when we embrace immigration as part of who we are in America, we will be stronger for it and not just in the creation of new businesses and jobs. These immigrants are some of the hardest working people in America. They take the toughest jobs that a lot of Americans would not touch, but they know that is what an immigrant does.

What is their dream? That their babies, their sons and daughters, are going to have a better life. Thank goodness that story has been repeated over and over and over. That defines who we are in America.

Now—1 year later—the House of Representatives is about to throw up its hands and walk away from even addressing immigration issues. What a heartbreaking situation. What an abdication of responsibility.

I know there is a partisan difference between the House and the Senate, but I honestly believe that if the Speaker had the political courage to call the comprehensive immigration bill—the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate—we would find enough Republican House Members who would stand and vote with the Democrats and pass it. Sure, there will be critics of the Speaker—he shouldn't have done it—but that is what leadership calls for, for the Speaker to have that courage and get it done. I hope he will.

One year is long time to wait—and for these families, years and years, some of them with broken dreams that will never be fulfilled, families who have been split up and try to survive. But that is our responsibility, not just for DREAMers but for our country, to make sure we renew this commitment to our diversity and to immigration.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is with great sadness that I announce the passing of one of the Senate's most towering figures, Senator Howard Baker.

The Senate sends its sincere condolences to the family of Senator Baker. In particular, we want to pass along our deep sympathies to his wife Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker. Many of us served alongside Nancy in the Senate, and we know this must be a difficult moment for her.

Senator Baker was a true pathbreaker. He served as Tennessee's first popularly elected Republican Senator since Reconstruction. He served as America's first Republican majority leader since the time of Eisenhower. He served his Nation with distinction as a member of the U.S. Navy, as Chief of Staff to President Reagan, and as our country's Ambassador to Japan.

Senator Baker truly earned his nickname, the "Great Conciliator." I know he will be remembered with fondness by Members of both political parties.

Again, let me express the Senate's sympathies to the Baker family. He will be missed by the Senate and by his country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, as the distinguished Republican leader has said, this body—the U.S. Senate—has lost a member of its family, Tennesseean Howard Baker.

We know of his long and distinguished career. He served three terms in the Senate. He served as minority leader and ended his career as majority leader. He was an earnest man and worked with any and all Members of this body in passing legislation for the good of America.

As the Republican leader has mentioned, he worked under the direction of President George W. Bush as Ambassador to Japan. He was President Reagan's Chief of Staff. He was someone who could do everything.

He was well liked by Democrats and Republicans. He was a fine man. I did not know him as well as my colleague the Republican leader or of course the two sitting Tennessee Senators.

He enjoyed an illustrious career in public service and it was accomplished, everyone said, by his hard work. He loved foreign affairs and did a great job. He was motivated by his heartfelt desire to do good in the world. Our thoughts go to his family and his wife, whom I had the good fortune to serve with.

I do say this: The two fine men who now serve in the Senate from Tennessee, I am confident, learned a lot from Howard Baker because the senior Senator from Tennessee is also a person who wants to try to work things out. The junior Senator from Tennessee and I have had many conversations. I believe he also wants to be someone who works things out.

So my sympathy goes to Senator Baker's family and friends, especially the two Senators from Tennessee, who I am sure are heartbroken as a result of the loss of their mentor, friend, one of the great people to come out of Tennessee, and there have been plenty.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to speak very briefly this afternoon to acknowledge a hero. I come to the floor just after the announcement has been made about a leader in the Senate, Senator Baker. While I did not have the privilege of serving at the same time as he, my father did. They were close friends, not only Senator Baker but Senator Kassebaum. My heart, my thoughts go out to the family. The contributions clearly from Senator Baker on so many different levels are so greatly appreciated.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT ROGER D. SPARKS

Madam President, I would like to spend just about 5 minutes this afternoon speaking of another hero, and this is a man who has demonstrated above and beyond his commitment, his service to the United States. I would like to speak about MSgt Roger D. Sparks.

It is my duty as a Pararescueman to save lives and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. The things I do, that others may live.

"The things I do, that others may live"—this is the solemn oath by which all pararescue airmen pledge their allegiance and dedicate their service to our country. It is the sacred creed of a most honorable profession.

Alaskans are extremely proud of the exceptionally heroic achievements of the Combat Search and Rescue Airmen assigned to the 176th Wing in the Alaska Air National Guard. These airmen embody the core values of the Air Force—integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all they do—and are undoubtedly the best our country has to offer.

The National Guard Bureau recently confirmed that the rescue squadrons of

the 176th Wing comprise the busiest Combat Search and Rescue unit in the entire U.S. Air Force. This of course brings great pride to us as Alaskans. These brave men and women risk their lives every day so others may live, and I am honored to thank them for their service and recognize the extraordinary bravery of one of their own.

I am pleased to honor one of these heroic pararescue airmen, specifically a parajumper—or a PJ—one MSgt Roger D. Sparks from the 212th Rescue Squadron out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. In the near future, the Air Force will award Sergeant Sparks with the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in combat during a daring, lifesaving rescue in the face of extreme danger in Afghanistan on November 14, 2010.

On that day, Sergeant Sparks—pictured here; the gentleman in the background; there he is with his pararescue team—responded to cries of help from an Army platoon pinned down on all sides by a fierce and coordinated Taliban assault.

What started as a relatively routine rescue mission—and routine by their standards is still extremely heroic by any normal standard—this rescue mission quickly broke down into a dire situation that claimed the lives of five U.S. soldiers but could have been an absolutely catastrophic loss of life had it not been for the bravery and selfless actions of Sergeant Sparks and his team.

At the time of this rescue, the PJ team had been providing dedicated medical evacuation support for the 101st Airborne unit during Operation Bulldog Bite. This was a coalition offensive which was aimed at driving the enemy out of the Watapur Valley in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan near its eastern border with Pakistan.

Throughout the 5-day operation, the team rescued 49 casualties and executed 30 hoist operations, most of which were done while they were exposed to enemy fire. The most significant of all these missions though took place on November 14.

To paraphrase the account from Sergeant Sparks' team commander, Capt. Koa Bailey, what began as a relatively routine rescue operation for two wounded and one deceased soldier quickly turned into anything but routine. As the rescue team approached the battle zone and took on fire, they quickly realized the situation was rapidly deteriorating for the U.S. soldiers on the ground.

According to Captain Bailey, a different operator came on the radio, indicating that the first operator was hit. You could hear the fear in the guy's voice. While we were listening it went from two to six wounded. So with complete disregard for their own safety, Captain Bailey and Sergeant Sparks were lowered into the battle amidst a hail of enemy fire.

It was later determined that the hoist line used to lower them into combat was actually even struck by several rounds. As soon as their boots hit the ground, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded less than 20 feet away, knocking both airmen to the ground. Quickly gathering themselves, Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey took charge of the beleaguered platoon who were trapped in a furious, chaotic fight.

Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey were on their own to handle the situation the best they could, with extremely limited first aid equipment and no ground artillery support. Over the next 5 hours, as bombs hammered enemy positions and bullets spattered against the rocks, Sergeant Sparks abandoned cover to locate, consolidate, and treat the wounded.

According to his team commander, Sergeant Sparks selflessly exposed himself to destructive enemy fire, in order to save American lives, competently handling the treatment of nine patients during the worst possible mass casualty situation.

Taken from the narrative:

When Sergeant Sparks exhausted his medical supplies, he improvised using belts, T-shirts or boot strings in a desperate attempt to keep his patients alive. After assembling all the casualties in a central location, Sergeant Sparks gathered body armor and positioned it around the helpless soldiers to protect and shield them from enemy fire. Repeatedly returning to the most critically wounded, Sergeant Sparks performed vital medical procedures in a deliberate process to ensure that each of the soldiers received continued care and attention until airlift arrived.

He feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist-sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs, and arterial bleeders with extremely limited medical supplies and only the light of the moon piercing the darkness of the remote mountaintop. Upon return of evacuation aircraft, Sergeant Sparks directed the hoisting of the most critically injured and briefed the crews on each casualty's injuries and medical requirements, choosing to remain behind until the last man departed.

Sergeant Spark's quick and composed actions ensured nine soldiers received medical care as quickly as possible amidst constant enemy fire and despite extremely limited resources. Sergeant Sparks' leadership and courageous actions saved lives and allowed the remainder of the infantry platoon to continue with their assigned mission. His extraordinary efforts under direct fire and in immediate danger to his own life resulted in saving four American lives and one host nation civilian as well as returning four soldiers killed in action to their families.

Tragically, the fierce battle ultimately claimed the lives of five soldiers that day. All told, only eight soldiers of the platoon involved in the 6-hour battle were left with no visible wounds. However, if it were not for the courage and selfless action of Sergeant Sparks, Captain Bailey, and the entire rescue

team, the loss of life would have been much higher.

I would like to take this opportunity to honor Sergeant Sparks' brave teammates, who also disregarded their own personal safety throughout their support of Operation Bulldog Bite so that others might live. These men are: SSgt Aaron Parcha, SSgt Jimmy Settle, SSgt Ted Sierocinski, TSgt Brandon Hill, MSgt Brandon Stuemke, SMSgt Christopher "Doug" Widener, Capt. Marcus Maris, and Capt. Koaalii Bailey.

There were many heroes on that day, including these pararescuemen and the soldiers that were engaged in battle. But I am particularly honored to congratulate MSgt Roger Sparks on the award of the Silver Star and thank him and his family for their dedicated and selfless service to our Nation.

As with all the members of the 176th Wing, I am absolutely in awe of his achievement, eternally grateful for his service, and sincerely proud to have him serving in the great State of Alaska.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of Master Sergeant Sparks' Silver Star Medal citation be printed in the RECORD.

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
SILVER STAR TO ROGER D. SPARKS

Master Sergeant Roger D. Sparks distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States as a Pararescue Jumper assigned to the 212th Rescue Squadron in the Watapur Valley, Afghanistan on 14 November 2010. On that date, Sergeant Sparks responded to a call in support of Operation BULLDOG BITE and the Army's 101st Airborne Division. While in the air, circling the objective, the ground situation grew extremely hostile and the number of casualties increased from two to six. As a result of the increased fighting in the area, Sergeant Sparks' team took the lead position for the evacuation mission. With limited information regarding the ground situation, Sergeant Sparks and Captain Bailey began their 40 foot descent from the helicopter via a hoist to the ground and immediately began taking enemy fire. Bullets flew by the two pararescuers and the lowering cable was hit three times while they dangled in the air. They yelled for rapid descent and the flight engineer lowered them to the ground with enemy rounds flying all around. Upon reaching the ground, the pair was assaulted with a rocket propelled grenade. Exploding just 20 feet away, the blast knocked them both off their feet. As the gunner engaged the enemy with danger close rounds, Sergeant Sparks ran approximately 70 yards uphill, to take cover. As he approached the tree, it was blown to pieces by another enemy fired rocket propelled grenade. Still under intense enemy fire, with bombs hammering danger close enemy positions, Sergeant Sparks abandoned cover to provide aid to the wounded. Despite continued enemy fire and with no concern for his personal safety, Sergeant Sparks immediately performed lifesaving measures for nine wounded Soldiers. He feverishly triaged chest wounds, punctured lungs, shattered hips, fist sized blast holes, eviscerated stomachs, and arterial bleeders with limited medical supplies

and only the light of the moon. Upon return of evacuation aircraft, Sergeant Sparks directed evacuation of the injured while briefing crews on each casualty's injuries and medical needs; choosing to remain behind until the last man departed. His extraordinary efforts under direct, immediate danger to his own life resulted in saving four American lives, one Host Nation civilian and returning four Soldiers killed in action to their families. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Sparks has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to speak about the missing girls from Nigeria who on the 73rd day are still held in captivity. But before I do, as a Senator I would like to express my sorrow to hear about the passing of one of the great Senators, Howard Baker of Tennessee.

Many Senators will come to the floor to extol what a great Senator he was, what a great leader he was. I also want to take a moment to express my sympathy to his widow, another Senator, Senator Nancy Kassebaum. When I came to the Senate, there was only one other woman, and that was Senator Nancy Kassebaum, then representing the great State of Kansas. She was a great friend to me. We served on the HELP Committee. We worked together over many years. Then Senator Kassebaum retired.

She thought she was going back to Kansas, but she found herself in the arms of Howard Baker. We watched a love story unfold that was so endearing to many of us. Senator Ted Kennedy and I were invited to the wedding of Howard Baker and Nancy Kassebaum. After the vows there was a beautiful reception and they played the music. Howard and Nancy twirled and whirled around the floor. Then they turned to the crowd. Ted Kennedy and I rushed out. I grabbed Howard, he grabbed Nancy, and we did the bipartisan boogie through the night.

Those were the days that one remembers. That is the kind of spirit the Senate had. That is the kind of spirit that Senator Howard Baker had—that you could argue, you could debate, and so on, but deep down the Senate should be the saucer that cools irrational passions of the time. He was a great leader. He created this atmosphere of being able to come together and solve problems. So whether it was on the Senate floor or whether it was on the dance floor, he really spoke about the need for bipartisanship. Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker is exactly the same way.

So remembering with such fondness, we want to express our condolences about him and certainly to her as just one woman to another.

NIGERIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

I also come to the floor today to talk about another sadness, the sadness

about the fact that the Nigerian school girls who were abducted by Boko Haram continue to be held in captivity. I come to the floor to say that just because it is not in the headline does not mean that these girls are not still in danger for what has happened to them.

We need to continue to speak up and speak out. That is not to minimize Iraq. That is not to minimize Iran. This is not to minimize all of the other problems facing the world. But we all had Web sites and hashtags and so on saying: Bring our girls back home. I am here today saying to Boko Haram: We have not forgotten. We are proud that our President sent 80 troops to Chad to assist in the effort to locate these kidnapped girls.

We understand that there continues to be the search effort. We do not want it to be a recovery effort. We need it to be a rescue effort. These girls were kidnapped. It is despicable. It is unacceptable. They are threatening to sell these girls into trafficking. Now after holding them for 73 days, I have no idea what they have had to endure.

It goes on. They are continuing to kidnap children. They are kidnapping girls, some as young as 3 and 4. That was the other day. They are also kidnapping little boys. What kind of organization is this? Now, in response to the violence there, I know we, the women of the Senate, signed a letter to President Obama asking for international sanctions against Boko Haram, and that they be added to the U.N. Al Qaeda sanctions list. The United Nations actually acted. They actually acted promptly. So now they are on the terrorist list. We need to take all of the appropriate actions that support the sanctions that go with it.

I am hopeful we can find these girls. But we cannot stop our advocacy for them, for close to 100 girls, and now for the new children that have been kidnapped—boys as well as girls.

We need to be able to take all necessary international steps that are legal to be able to rescue them and bring them home. Now this terrible, terrible situation has also generated the conversation about the education of children around the world, particularly girls. For some reason, there are those around the world who do not want to see girls get a basic education. Malala, who wrote her book about it, took a bullet wound in her brain because she wanted to go to school, because she wanted to learn to read. As she said: One child, one book at a time, we can change the world.

We have put money in the Federal checkbook in foreign ops to really help with the education of the children around the world. Right now there are 62 million girls throughout the world who are not in school. They are not in school for two reasons. They are not in school because of the lack of capacity, like books and teachers, and they are

not in school because of the bigotry against them.

We need to do something. I know that we are moving towards a vote. I say to Boko Haram: Let these girls go. Let's bring them back home. I say for those who are searching for them: Do not lose heart. We have got to deal with that. But we also have to come to grips with the fact that we cannot let millions of girls around the world not have access to education. Education is as important as water. We need water to live. You need education to make a life for yourself.

We look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle. We hope to move the foreign ops bill that has money in the Federal checkbook to do this. When we return from the break I will have more to say. I hope it will be: Thank God we found them and we brought them back to their mothers and fathers.

Millions of these girls who fight for their right to attend school are risking their lives. Facing harassment, threats, and even violence to get an education and have the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

Additionally girls who are in school often do not have access to adequate supplies needed to do their work, lack basic bathroom facilities, and that provide them security and safety.

They lack trained teachers and adequate learning environments.

This is unacceptable. We must make a real effort to address this far-reaching global crisis.

This kidnapping of the Nigerian school girls also illustrates the horrifying reality of human trafficking.

Over 20 million people throughout the world are victims of human trafficking.

This is something that we cannot accept.

The U.S. Government is committed to addressing this problem.

I am happy that the State Department has announced that USAID will be launching a new program called "Let Girls Learn".

"Let Girls Learn" provides \$231.6 million for new programs to support primary and secondary education and safe learning:

In Nigeria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Jordan, and Guatemala.

Making sure that girls receive an education needs to be a priority for all of us.

When girls are educated their families and communities are better off.

Girls who receive basic education are three times less likely to contract HIV.

Education helps women increase their income, allowing them to better support their families and contribute to their nation's economy and overall success.

The United States must continue to be a leader in the fight to make sure girls across the world are able to re-

ceive an education in a safe environment.

I also call on all nations to make this a priority and to put their words of support into action, and for governments around the world to make every effort to ensure that children can receive an education in a safe environment.

Education is a basic human right that should not be deprived regardless of where you live or where you come from.

Making sure that all boys and girls have access to basic education is something I have always fought for and something I will continue to fight for.

NOMINATION OF STUART E. JONES, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

NOMINATION OF ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

NOMINATION OF KAREN DYNAN TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

NOMINATION OF ESTHER PUAKELA KIA'AINA TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

NOMINATION OF VINCENT G. LOGAN TO BE SPECIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NOMINATION OF JO EMILY HANDELSMAN TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United

States of America to the Republic of Iraq; Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt; Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior; and Jo Emily Handelsman, of Connecticut, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

VOTE ON JONES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the Jones nomination.

Mr. CORKER. I yield back all time.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Stuart E. Jones, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iraq?

Mr. CORKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 216 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Ayotte	Boozman	Chambliss
Baldwin	Boxer	Coats
Barrasso	Brown	Collins
Bennet	Cantwell	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Corker
Blunt	Carper	Cornyn
Booker	Casey	Crapo

Cruz	Kaine	Reid
Donnelly	King	Risch
Durbin	Kirk	Roberts
Enzi	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Feinstein	Landrieu	Rubio
Fischer	Leahy	Sanders
Flake	Lee	Schatz
Franken	Levin	Schumer
Gillibrand	Manchin	Scott
Graham	Markey	Sessions
Grassley	McCain	Shaheen
Hagan	McCaskey	Shelby
Harkin	McConnell	Stabenow
Hatch	Menendez	Tester
Heinrich	Merkley	Thune
Heitkamp	Mikulski	Toomey
Heller	Murkowski	Udall (NM)
Hirono	Murphy	Vitter
Hoeven	Murray	Walsh
Inhofe	Nelson	Warner
Isakson	Paul	Warren
Johanns	Portman	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Pryor	Wicker
Johnson (WI)	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Coburn	Udall (CO)
Begich	Cochran	
Burr	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BEECROFT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Beecroft nomination.

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert Stephen Beecroft, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON DYNAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Dynan nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Karen Dynan, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON KIA'AINA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Kia'aina nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LOGAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 min-

utes of debate prior to a vote on the Logan nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HANDELSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Handelsman nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jo Emily Handelsman, of Connecticut, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to unavoidable family commitments, I was unable to cast votes relative to rollcall vote No. 215 on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit and rollcall vote No. 216 on the confirmation of Stuart E. Jones to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq. Had I been present, I would have voted yea in each instance.●

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. RES. 487

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the facts regarding the ongoing IRS scandal that the Obama administration refuses to investigate, refuses to prosecute, refuses to address with honesty and integrity. I want to talk about the facts we know and the facts we don't know, and how we as the Senate can demonstrate fidelity to law and the integrity of the U.S. Government.

Let's talk about what we know.

We know that more than 1 year ago on May 14, 2013, the inspector general

of the Treasury Department said that beginning in 2010 the IRS had improperly targeted conservative citizen groups, tea party groups, pro-Israel groups, and pro-life groups. The day the inspector general's report was made public, President Obama had described what occurred as "intolerable and inexcusable." As President Obama put it: "Americans have a right to be angry about it, and I am angry about it."

Well, if President Obama was speaking the truth when he said over a year ago that Americans have a right to be angry about this, then today after over a year of obstruction of justice, of refusing to investigate or prosecute what happened under President Obama's own standard, the Americans have a right to be far more than angry about it.

Likewise, the very same day the inspector general report came out, Attorney General Eric Holder said the IRS targeting the conservative groups was "outrageous and unacceptable." That was more than a year ago.

What has happened in the year and 2 months that have passed since then? Although both the President and the Attorney General profess outrage and anger, not a single person has been indicted—not a single person. Although both the President and the Attorney General said they would investigate this matter, it has been publicly reported that no indictments are planned. In fact, President Obama went on national television during the Super Bowl and categorically stated, "There was not even a smidgen of corruption to be found at the IRS."

How far we had come from the day the scandal broke when he said he was angry and the American people had a right to be angry. Fast forward a few months later and he goes on television and says there is not a smidgen of corruption.

That is a remarkable statement for the President to have made, because Attorney General Eric Holder 4 days earlier had told the Senate Judiciary Committee that there was an ongoing investigation being conducted at the IRS.

President Obama's comments and Eric Holder's comments are facially inconsistent. Either Eric Holder was telling the truth, that there is, in fact, a meaningful ongoing investigation, or President Obama was telling the truth when he said conclusively there is not a smidgen of corruption. One or the other was not telling the truth or perhaps President Obama was simply prejudging the investigation. Perhaps President Obama was simply attempting to influence its outcome, making clear that the outcome desired from the White House is that there is not a smidgen of corruption. What happened to the American people having a right to be angry? Now the President is instead telling investigators the conclusion they should reach.

Regardless, it is beyond dispute that the Obama administration, the Justice Department, has not held anyone accountable for this gross abuse of power.

In a hearing in January of this year, Attorney General Eric Holder refused to answer whether even a single victim of the wrongful targeting has been interviewed.

Let me repeat that. The victims who were targeted wrongly by the IRS—the citizens—for exercising their political free speech rights, the Attorney General refused to answer if they had even bothered to interview any of those citizens.

We also note some of the emails that have been made public give the appearance that the Department of Justice may have been directly involved in the illegal targeting of citizen groups based on their political views.

Most stunningly, we know that the lead attorney investigating this matter is a major Democratic donor and a major donor to President Obama. Indeed, she has given over \$6,000 to President Obama and Democrats in recent years.

No reasonable person would trust John Mitchell to investigate Richard Nixon. Yet the Obama administration is telling the American people the investigation into the wrongful targeting of conservatives will be led by a major Obama Democratic donor. That is contemptuous. It is contemptuous of the law; it is contemptuous of the American people. One would think that if you appoint a major Obama donor to lead the investigation, it is likely that the victims would not be interviewed, that no one would be indicted. And, wonder of wonders, what has happened? The victims have not been interviewed and no one has been indicted.

But that is not all. We have seen Lois Lerner, the head of the IRS office that illegally targeted conservative citizens, go before Congress and repeatedly plead the Fifth. When a senior government official takes the Fifth, that is an action that should be taken very seriously. Yet it seems in this town partisan politics trumps fidelity to law. What Lois Lerner said in the House of Representatives by pleading the Fifth is effectively standing there saying, “If I answer your question, I may well implicate myself in criminal conduct.” That is chilling.

Let me note with sadness that the Democratic Members of this Chamber seem to have no concern about a senior IRS official pleading the Fifth repeatedly because truthfully answering the questions could implicate her in criminal conduct.

Throughout it all Americans have been told that the Obama administration would find out what happened and would take the necessary actions.

Indeed, the new head of the IRS, Commissioner John Koskinen, promised as much. Now we find out that this

new Commissioner is also a major donor to President Obama and Democratic causes. This new Commissioner of the IRS has given nearly \$100,000 to the Democratic Party, including \$7,300 to President Obama. What fairminded person would entrust not one but two major Obama donors to investigate how the IRS used political power to go after the enemies of President Obama? Not one but two—the lead lawyers in the Department of Justice heading up the noninvestigation that is not interviewing the victims, that is not indicting anyone, and the head of the IRS giving nearly \$100,000 to Democratic causes.

We received even more striking news, that Commissioner Koskinen tells us the IRS lost Lois Lerner's emails. Oops, sorry. The dog ate my homework.

Madam President, if you or I tried that in our IRS returns, they wouldn't accept that excuse from a citizen. We are told the hard drive crashed and the documents are irretrievable under any circumstances. We also know the IRS didn't follow the law when it failed to report the hard drive crash that we are told occurred. But make no mistake, these emails haven't just been lost. These emails have been deleted, taped over, and the hard drive physically destroyed according to public news reports. This is Rosemary Woods, when you have Federal Government officials destroying evidence. In the ordinary parlance that is called obstruction of justice. The hard drive magically collapses, magically crashes, and is physically destroyed right after the investigation begins and, I would remind you, the investigation that has resulted in Lois Lerner pleading the Fifth twice.

We are supposed to believe that the emails from the IRS officials in charge of the division that illegally targeted political organizations and has repeatedly pleaded the Fifth to avoid incriminating herself, that her emails have simply vanished innocuously. It happens. It happens to people in the middle of illegal acts. Their records magically disappear right when the investigators are seeking to discover them.

This is an outrage. This is a scandal. This is an insult to anyone concerned about the rule of law, and no one in the Senate, regardless of political party, should stand by and accept this.

But it doesn't end there.

On Wednesday it was reported that Lois Lerner flagged a speaking invitation for Republican Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY for examination. Senator GRASSLEY is the highest ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee who has been a strong and powerful voice for accountability at the Department of Justice. It is curious that she would be so eager to subject Senator GRASSLEY for extra scrutiny based on a speaking invitation.

Right now, today, the White House is in control of Democrats. There will come a time when Democrats no longer control the White House and the administration. I would ask every Democratic Member of this body, how comfortable are you with the precedent that the IRS can single out Democratic Senators who might disagree with the President's political position? The targeting of CHUCK GRASSLEY, the singling out of CHUCK GRASSLEY, ought to trouble every single Member of this body.

On Tuesday it was reported that the IRS agreed to pay \$50,000 in damages to the National Organization for Marriage because the IRS admittedly unlawfully released confidential information of members of that group to its political opposition.

Let me repeat that. IRS officials have publicly admitted—this is not inference, this is not suggestion, this is what they have admitted—that they leaked personal tax information for the purpose of intimidating a conservative group to the political opposition of that group. That is textbook abuse of power. And I would note the \$50,000 fine—which, by the way, has been paid by U.S. taxpayers—the \$50,000 fine does nothing to address the partisan political corruption at the IRS, the abuse of power, or the coverup. A fine does not signal the problem has been fixed.

I would note, by the way, where are the Democratic Members of this body standing and saying it is wrong for the IRS to illegally hand over personal information from individual taxpayers for partisan purposes to their political opponents?

I want to underscore that the IRS has admitted they did this and paid a \$50,000 fine and the Democratic Members of this body are apparently not troubled at all. If they are troubled, they keep their troubles very quiet and to themselves.

Americans need a guarantee that the IRS will never be used again to target an administration's political enemy.

When a Republican President, Richard Nixon, attempted to use the IRS to target his political enemies, it was wrong. It was an abuse of power, and he was rightfully condemned on both sides of the aisle. Both Democrats and Republicans stood up to President Nixon when he attempted to use the IRS to target his political enemies and said: This is wrong.

The Obama administration didn't just attempt to do so, it succeeded. It carried out a concerted effort and targeted those who were perceived to be political enemies of the President and targeted those individual citizens. The administration then put two major Democratic donors in charge of the investigation and covered up the truth, including conveniently losing emails from the central player in this figure who has twice pleaded the Fifth.

It was wrong when Richard Nixon tried to use the IRS to target his political enemies, and it was wrong when the Obama administration tried and succeeded to do the same. The difference is when Richard Nixon did so, Republicans had the courage to stand up to Members of their own party. It saddens me that there is not a single Democratic Member of this body who has had the courage to stand up to their own party and say: This abuse of power—using the IRS to target citizens for political beliefs—is wrong.

We need a special prosecutor with meaningful independence to make sure justice is served and that our constitutional rights to free speech, to assembly, and to privacy are protected.

It saddens me to say that the U.S. Department of Justice, under Attorney General Eric Holder, has become the most partisan Department of Justice in the history of our country. I say this as a former associate deputy attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice. I can tell you there are Democratic alumni across this country who are saddened and heartbroken to see the Department of Justice becoming effectively an arm of the Democratic National Committee.

IRS officials have stonewalled at every turn, and we should not wait a single minute to put an end to the intimidation and bullying of the American people. These are not the actions of a government that respects its citizens. We need to restore that respect, that government officials work for the people and not the other way around.

The Department of Justice has a storied history. There is a history of attorneys general standing up to political pressure, even against the Presidents who have appointed them. Listen, political pressure in this town is nothing new and attorneys general throughout history have had a special mettle of being willing to look into the eyes of the President who appointed them and willing to say: I care more about the rule of law than any partisan allegiance I might have.

When President Richard Nixon faced charges of abusing government power for partisan ends, his attorney general Elliot Richardson, a Republican, appointed Archibald Cox as special prosecutor. Likewise, when President Bill Clinton faced charges of ethical impropriety, his attorney general Janet Reno, a Democrat, appointed Robert Fiske as independent counsel. Sadly, the current attorney general has refused to live up to that bipartisan tradition of independence, of integrity, and of fidelity to law.

I have repeatedly called on Attorney General Eric Holder to remove the investigation from the hands of a major Obama donor and put it instead in the hands of a special prosecutor with meaningful independence who, at a minimum, is not a major Democratic

donor. Even the very slightest respect for the rule of law would suggest that the attorney general should not be part and parcel of the political and partisan coverup.

Therefore, in a few moments I intend to ask for unanimous consent to call up a Senate resolution expressing the opinion of the Senate that the Attorney General should appoint a special prosecutor to investigate and prosecute—if the facts support—the IRS targeting of Americans and its potential coverup of those actions.

When I asked the Attorney General whether the Department of Justice investigated the direct involvement of political appointees at the White House—up to and including the President—Attorney General Holder refused to answer that question. That is always the hardest thing for an attorney general to do: Ask the question that raises partisan peril. That is why attorneys general are supposed to be nonpartisan and owe their fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of this United States and to the American people.

The House of Representatives has passed a similar resolution to the one I am submitting. It was sponsored by Congressman JIM JORDAN of Ohio on May 7, 2014. The resolution passed in the House 250 to 168. Twenty-six Democrats voted in favor of the resolution.

Why is it that Democrats in the House of Representatives can muster up the courage to stand up to the partisan pressure from the White House. Yet in the Senate we hear crickets chirping. This used to be the body praised for its independence and for its ability to stand up to abuse of power.

Just today the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reversed the Obama administration for the 12th time in the last 2 years in its assertion of overbroad executive authority. This time it asserted that the President unconstitutionally attempted to circumvent the checks and balances of the Constitution by unilaterally appointing recess appointments while the Senate was not in recess.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously, by a vote of 9 to 0, said the President's actions were unconstitutional in that case, and once again, as with the IRS, my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle were silent. How is it there is no longer a Robert Byrd, that there is no longer a Ted Kennedy, that there are no longer any Democrats who will defend the institutional integrity of the Senate? How is it when the Supreme Court concludes unanimously that the President's intrusion on the Senate's constitutional authority is unconstitutional not a single Senate Democrat has the courage to stand up to this President? How is it in the face of a senior IRS official repeatedly pleading the Fifth, how is it in the face of the IRS admitting it wrongfully handed over private personal IRS tax

data to the political opponents of a citizens group and paid a \$50,000 fine for it, how is it that not a single Democratic Senator does not have the courage to speak up? At what point does it become too much? At what point does it become embarrassing?

Constitutional law professor Jonathan Turley, whom I might note is a liberal and voted for President Obama in 2008, said that President Obama has become the embodiment of the imperial President. He described how Barack Obama has become the President Richard Nixon always wished he could be. I am sorry to say that he has done so with the active aiding and abetting of 55 Democratic Members of this Senate because when Democratic Members of this Senate or any Member of this Senate stands by and allows the President to trample on the rule of law, then any one of us who remains silent is explicit in undermining the Constitution.

This resolution should be unanimous. If the tables were turned and this were a Republican President and a Republican Attorney General had appointed a major Republican donor to lead the investigation into the wrongful targeting of Democrats and destroyed emails and hard drives and publicly admitted to leaking private citizen information to the political opponents of Democrats, the Democratic side of this Chamber would rightly be lighting their hair on fire.

If this were a Republican administration, every media outlet would have banner headlines every single day. I can assure you that at least some Republican Senators would be standing up and saying this abuse of power is wrong.

This resolution should be unanimous because everyone should agree that an investigation should be beyond reproach and should not be handed over to major Democratic donors.

If the allegation—which the report of the inspector general of Treasury has already confirmed in significant respect—is of abuse of government power of the IRS to target citizens for their political beliefs, then you cannot entrust the investigation to someone who is partisan and has a political interest in protecting the party in power. If Attorney General Eric Holder continues to refuse to appoint a special prosecutor, he should be impeached.

When an attorney general refuses to enforce the rule of law, mocks the rule of law, and corrupts the Department of Justice by conducting a nakedly partisan investigation to cover up political wrongdoing, that conduct, by any reasonable measure, constitutes high crimes and misdemeanors.

Attorney General Eric Holder has the opportunity to do the right thing. He can appoint a special prosecutor with meaningful independence who is not a major Obama donor. Yet every time

the Attorney General has been called on to do this, he has defiantly said no. In fact, he said in writing in his discretion, no. If Attorney General Eric Holder continues to refuse to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the abuse of power by the IRS against the American people, he should be impeached.

I agree with President Obama when he said on the day this scandal broke, the American people have a right to be angry. If the American people had a right to be angry over a year ago when the scandal broke, the fact that it has now been covered up and the fact that a partisan investigation has refused to begin to scratch the surface of what happened should make the American people more than angry. It should move them to action. It should move them to accountability. It should move them to hold the officials of our government responsible.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 487. I further ask consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, as the chairman of the Finance Committee, which oversees the IRS, I have a question as to whether bringing in a special prosecutor would be a good use of taxpayer money in this case. I am going to spend a few minutes laying out what is actually going on with respect to this matter.

There are already five IRS investigations that have either concluded or are ongoing. There was the original Treasury inspector general audit, in addition to ongoing investigations by four congressional committees, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

The Senate Finance Committee, the committee I chair, has been conducting a bipartisan investigation for more than a year. I repeat: This is a bipartisan investigation. In fact, the committee's report was essentially ready to be released last week when the IRS informed us that some emails were missing because of a hard drive crash. So that colleagues understand just how bipartisan our effort has been, Senator HATCH and I have worked closely on this every step of the way since I had the honor of becoming the chair of the Finance Committee. When we heard of the hard drive problem, the two of us, a Democrat and a Republican, immediately

asked the IRS Commissioner to come to my office where we asked pointed questions of Commissioner Koskinen. We didn't wait 10 days. We didn't wait a week. The two of us, a Democrat and a Republican, felt it was an important part of our committee's bipartisan inquiry, so we had Mr. Koskinen come to our office. And this has just been one example—it happens to be very recent—of the bipartisan efforts that have been made looking into this matter.

The Finance Committee staff, Democrats and Republicans, have reviewed over 700,000 pages of documents and interviewed 30 IRS employees. Those interviews were done jointly. We had Democrats and Republicans doing them together. Now, as we continue to look at how this is going to unfold, the Treasury Department Inspector General—that is Mr. Russell George—has agreed to investigate the most recent matter, and he briefed our staff just yesterday on the work plan for getting their investigation done promptly. Once the committee determines what happened with the hard drive crashes, then the committee will, again on a bipartisan basis, move forward with releasing our report—the report that was almost ready to be released when the IRS informed us that the emails were missing because of a hard drive crash and when Senator HATCH and I together brought Mr. Koskinen immediately to my office.

I heard my colleague say that things would be different if this were a Republican administration. Well, I want it understood—I want every Senator to understand this. Senator HATCH and I would be doing exactly what we are doing now, with the same diligence, if it was a Republican administration. That, in my view, is the bottom line, because that is what bipartisanship is all about. That is the way an important inquiry ought to be handled.

There is nothing of value that a special prosecutor would bring to the table, and it certainly would involve significant cost to American taxpayers. In fact, many of us can remember special prosecutors abusing their power, spending millions of dollars of taxpayer money, and going on for years and years without concluding their investigations. Too often, special prosecutors have turned into lawyers' full employment programs. They ought to be reserved for when there is evidence of criminal wrongdoing inside the government. It would be premature to appoint a special prosecutor with the bipartisan Finance Committee report almost finished.

I will just close by saying I am a pretty bipartisan fellow. In fact, sometimes I get a fair amount of criticism for being too bipartisan. I want it understood this is a bipartisan inquiry that is being done by the book. Senator HATCH and I are looking at these mat-

ters together. We talk about it frequently. Those witnesses were interviewed together. We brought Mr. Koskinen in immediately. My view is that it would be premature to appoint a special prosecutor with the bipartisan Finance Committee report almost finished.

If we look at this in terms of what is at issue now, we can bring the facts to light with our own investigators and our own bipartisan inquiry and avoid the special prosecutor disasters of the past.

I object to the Senator's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I thank my friend from Oregon for his impassioned comments. I would note for the RECORD a few things he did not say. My friend from Oregon chose not to say a word about the fact that Lois Lerner, a senior IRS official, has twice pleaded the Fifth in front of the House of Representatives. To that he had not a single response.

My friend from Oregon chose to say not a word to the fact that the IRS singled out Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY for special scrutiny. To that, he said not a word.

My friend from Oregon chose to say not a word to the fact that the IRS has now admitted to illegally handing over private personal information from a citizen group to its political opponents for partisan political purposes, and has paid a \$50,000 fine. That is not an allegation. That is not a theory. That is what the IRS has admitted to and paid a \$50,000 fine for with taxpayer funds. Yet I am sorry to say my friend from Oregon had not a word to say about that abuse of power.

I mentioned before that from the Democratic Members of this Chamber, when it comes to the abuse of power by the Obama administration, there are crickets chirping.

Now, I am pleased that my friend from Oregon and the Finance Committee has engaged in an investigation of what occurred. We don't know what that investigation will conclude. But I find it interesting that he said it is premature for a special prosecutor. Fourteen months ago was when President Obama said: I am angry and the American people have a right to be angry—14 months ago. Fourteen months and not a single person has been indicted. Fourteen months and most of the victims haven't been interviewed. Fourteen months they have publicly announced they don't intend to indict anyone. Yet, it is premature. If the American people had a right to be angry 14 months ago, which is what President Obama told us, what should we feel 14 months later after partisan stonewalling and obstruction of justice? The American people had a right to be angry.

I would note a Senate committee is conducting an investigation and will issue a report, but the Senate committee can't indict anyone. The Senate committee can't prosecute anyone. My friend from Oregon says it is premature to have a special prosecutor because, apparently, holding people who break the laws, who commit criminal conduct to abuse IRS power to target individual citizens based on their political views—apparently, holding them accountable—is not a priority for a single Democratic member of this Chamber. That saddens me.

It saddens me that we don't have 100 Senators in this room saying, regardless of what party we are in, it is an embarrassment to have this "investigation"—and I put that word in quotes, because a real investigation involves interviewing the victims; a real investigation involves following the evidence where it leads. I would note my friend from Oregon, in describing the Senate committee's investigation, mentioned that they interviewed some IRS employees, but notably absent from whom he said they interviewed was anyone at the White House, anyone political. Apparently, they were not interviewed. We don't know. But he didn't mention them if they were.

It is an embarrassment that this so-called investigation is led by a partisan Democratic donor who has given over \$6,000 to President Obama and Democrats. It is an embarrassment that the IRS obstruction of justice is led by a major Democratic donor who has given nearly \$100,000. Every one of us takes an oath to the Constitution. Every one of us owes fidelity to rule of law. When we have the Department of Justice behaving like an arm of the DNC, protecting the political interests of the White House instead of upholding the law, it undermines the liberty of every American. I am saddened that Democratic Members of this Chamber will not stand up and say: I have a higher obligation to the Constitution and the rule of law and the American people than I have to my Democratic Party. That is a sad state of affairs, but it is also a state of affairs that is outraging the American people, that is waking up the American people.

President Obama had it right when he said 14 months ago the American people are right to be angry about this. He was correct. And when elected officials, when appointed officials of the Obama administration mock the rule of law, demonstrate contempt for Congress, and abuse their power against the individual citizenry, against we the people, the people have a natural and immediate remedy that is available in November every 2 years. This November, I am confident the American people will follow the President's advice and demonstrate that they are angry about the abuse of power and even angrier about the partisan coverup in

which all 55 Democratic Senators have actively aided and abetted.

If Attorney General Eric Holder is unwilling to appoint a special prosecutor, if he insists on keeping this prosecution in the control of a major Obama donor, then Attorney General Eric Holder should be impeached, because the rule of law matters more than any partisan political problem.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, first of all, let me thank the Senator from Texas for raising this issue of the IRS. I have commented over the last few days that if this was, in fact, a Republican administration that had been engaged in this issue, this would have led every newscast in America. It would have been leading every newscast in America for the last week. It would have been compared to Watergate. Instead, what we have seen is the American news media, by and large, has largely ignored it.

One of the commentators last night on television added up all the minutes they dedicated to a soccer player who bit some other competitor compared to the amount of time they have dedicated to the fact that one of the most powerful agencies of the U.S. Government not just destroyed records, potentially—but even now we have been given news they tried to target a U.S. Senator for an internal audit—and the soccer player won. He got a lot more attention. There was a lot more news coverage paid to the guy who bit somebody than to the issue of the IRS.

So I thank the Senator from Texas for raising it here today before we head to our respective States for the Fourth of July because it is an issue that deserves our attention.

WORLD CUP SOCCER

Mr. RUBIO. There is another issue that deserves our attention. By the way, on the subject of soccer, since I am on it, I will confess I am not an expert on soccer, nor have I, frankly, historically been an enormous fan. To me football means you wear a helmet and some shoulder pads and you run into each other pretty hard. But I have grown in admiration of the game given the following it has internationally and given the performance of our team, and I wish to congratulate Team USA. Despite losing today's game, they have achieved the honor of advancing into the round of 16 in the World Cup as we all watched and are excited about those prospects and are encouraged about the future of U.S. soccer and our prospects in the world cup.

So congratulations to them, to their families and to all fans of U.S. soccer all over the world and here in Washington cheering them on. If there is one thing that brought us together here this week, it is that, and we are grateful for it.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, there is a topic I would like to discuss before we leave for the Fourth of July recess and return to our States. One is an enormous story in my home State and, in particular, in my hometown of Miami, and that is the ongoing crisis in Venezuela. I have been talking about it for the better part of 3 months with regard to what is occurring there. It is pretty straightforward. There is an authoritarian government in Venezuela that has cracked down on the people in Venezuela, has crushed any sort of political dissent or tried to crush any form of political dissent. If a person is an outspoken critic of the Venezuelan government, they either wind up in jail or in exile.

In fact, the President of Venezuela, someone who won a fraudulent election just a year and a half ago, has now begun to turn on people in his own party when they dare to criticize him.

But the evidence is clear. First of all, the Venezuelan economy today is a disaster. The state of the Venezuela economy today is increasingly reminiscent of what is happening in Cuba: shortages of basic items, the inability to buy a bar of soap or toilet paper or toothpaste. The shortages are extraordinary.

We are talking about one of the richest countries in the hemisphere—a nation blessed with a talented and educated population and with natural resources, and particularly oil—and this guy in charge of that country has ruined Venezuela and its economy. That in and of itself is worthy of condemnation.

But what is even more apparent is how he has cracked down on political dissent in Venezuela. We have documented how over 40 people have now lost their lives in protests on Venezuela—by the way, protests that began when a student was sexually assaulted at a university. They protested the lack of security, and the security forces of Venezuela responded—not by going after the assailants but by going after the student protesters. Since then, opposition leaders have been jailed, Members of the opposition in the Parliament have been removed from their seats, and Venezuela continues to spiral out of control.

There have been gross human rights violations in Venezuela at the direction of the Venezuelan Government by organisms of the Venezuelan Government and extragovernmental organizations as well.

So in light of what is happening in Venezuela, and in light of the fact that so many people who live in Florida are impacted deeply by what is happening in Venezuela—because they are originally from there, because they have family there or because they conduct business there or because they care about what happens in our hemisphere—because of all of these things, not only have I been talking about this issue on the Senate floor but we began to take action.

The first thing we did was we passed a resolution from this Senate—and I thank my colleagues; it passed unanimously—condemning these human rights violations. I know sometimes we sit around here and wonder: What is the point of these resolutions?

They matter. I cannot tell you how many people are aware of what we have done here in the Senate, just speaking out and condemning these violations and making it very clear whose side we are on. We are on the side of the democratic aspirations and the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The second thing we did is we worked through the process here because unlike the way Maduro runs his government in Venezuela, here we have a republic and this Senate is an important part of that republic. We filed a bill to sanction individuals—not the government, not the country—individuals in the Venezuelan Government responsible for these human rights violations. In fact, in the committee I named 25 of them. That piece of legislation—that law—sanctioning the leaders in Venezuela passed the committee almost unanimously with bipartisan support.

Let me take a moment to thank Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman of that committee, for his leadership on this issue and my colleague from Florida BILL NELSON for his leadership on this issue, even though he is not on the committee. When we held a hearing on the issue of Venezuela, he went to the hearing and he attended an event we did in Miami with the Venezuelan community to talk about this reality.

That bill passed out of our committee. In addition to passing out of this committee, a very similar bill passed out of the House under the leadership of Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN. Both the Senate and the House—and they passed it off the floor of the House.

So the Venezuelan sanctions bill is ready for action here on the floor of the Senate. Knowing that it was a non-controversial issue, that there is almost unanimous support for it, I have attempted to pass this bill by something we call unanimous consent, which basically means that the cloakrooms call the respective offices and they ask all of the Members: We are going to try to pass this bill. Do you have an objection? The reason why we do it that way is so we can save time so

we have the time available to debate these other issues that are before us—especially on an issue that is not controversial. We pass a lot of law around here that way.

Unfortunately, there have been some objections—one from each side. I am happy to report that one of those two objections has been removed. It came from the Democratic side. The majority removed their objection. So it appears this bill is ready to move forward, but for the objection of one colleague of ours, who has the right to object, and who, quite frankly, has objections to it that he believes strongly about and we are respectful of.

What I am asking for at this point is—given that objection—when we come back from the recess, I am hoping that one way or another we will get a chance to vote. This is an issue that virtually every Member of the Senate but for one or two—at this point it appears one—is supportive of. I hope we can pass it because it is important. It will matter. This is not sanctions, for example, like the ones we have seen in the past on other countries. These are extremely targeted. These are targeted against individuals in the Venezuelan Government who have directed or carried out gross human rights violations.

They will be impactful because many of these people in the Venezuelan Government who are conducting these human rights violations actually spend their weekends in the United States. They fly on the private jets they bought with stolen money to the United States to stay in their fancy condominiums or their mansions. They shop at our stores. They parade up our streets. And then Monday morning they go back to work full time violating human rights.

So these sanctions will matter. These human rights violators in Venezuela have investments in the United States. In fact, when they steal money from Venezuela, often times they use straw companies and straw purchasers to invest that money in our economy—predominantly in Florida, but also in other places.

There is no reason in the world why they should not be sanctioned for what they have done. There is no reason in the world why we should not be going after these individuals for what they have done.

One of the cornerstones of our foreign policy must always be the protection of human rights anywhere in the world where they are challenged or oppressed. This gives us an opportunity to speak in a clear voice in a part of the world that, quite frankly, both parties have been guilty of neglecting. I have spent plenty of time around here talking about what is going on in Syria and what is going on in Iraq, and that is a very dangerous issue that is occurring there. The counterterrorism risks that are posed by ISIL in Iraq and

Syria are dramatic and deserve a lot of attention. We have spent time on the floor talking about what has happened in Ukraine and Russia's illegal actions with regard to Crimea, and they deserve attention. We have spent some time even talking about the Chinese ambitions in the Asian-Pacific region and their illegitimate territorial claims.

The only thing I am saying is that what happens in the Western Hemisphere matters too—that human rights violations in Venezuela are just as important as human rights violations in Africa or Europe or Asia or any other part of the world. Sometimes I feel as if they do not get the attention they deserve around here.

This is our opportunity to show that this hemisphere is important and that what happens in our hemisphere matters. I want you to know that the people of Venezuela—particularly those students and those who desire a democratic and respectful future—they are watching. Every single time we do something on Venezuela here, we hear it in phone calls, on Twitter, on Facebook, in visits to our office and in emails and in letters. They are watching, they are listening, and they are aware.

What I want people in the world to know and people in the hemisphere to know is that America does not simply care about stability; we also care about democracy and freedom and about human rights. This is our opportunity to put action where our words are.

So I sincerely hope that when we return here in about 8 or 9 days we can find a way forward to get a vote on this. If we are unable to do this through the unanimous consent process, which they call a hotline, my intentions are to come to this floor and offer it as what they call a live unanimous consent, where I will stand here and do what the Senator from Texas just did—or tried to do—with regard to the IRS issue.

I intend to come to this floor and propose this bill and ask for unanimous consent. If someone objects, then we will have a debate about that objection. Should that fail, then I hope we can have a vote scheduled. I promise it will not take any more than 15 minutes—or 10 if you want to limit the vote to 10 minutes. But let's get this done.

This is important. We have worked this the appropriate way. Often times, people come to the floor in the Senate and they pull a bill out of their pocket and say: Let's file it for messaging purposes. This is real. This is impactful. The House has already passed a version of this. Doesn't this issue at least deserve 10 minutes of the Senate's time?

So we are going to try to get this done one more time through unanimous approval. And we are going to work over the next 10 days to hopefully

get everyone's support. But if we cannot do it that way, I hope we can schedule a vote on the Senate floor on this bill so we can go after and sanction those criminals in Venezuela who are stealing the money of the Venezuelan people and using the strength and the power of that government to attack their own people. I hope that will be a priority for us when we return. It deserves that attention.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this issue today, and I wish for all my colleagues the next 10 days will be fruitful in your return to your home States, and I look forward to working with you on these issues when we return.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS BUFFER ZONE

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, since 1973, when the Supreme Court decided that a woman's right to choose was constitutionally protected, women's health clinics across the country have been targeted by violence and other criminal activities by extremists.

The crimes are alarming: harassment, arson, acid attacks, obstruction, violent threats, and even murder. Women's safety has been repeatedly put at risk simply for exercising a constitutional right.

In the past 10 years, there have been approximately 75,000 incidents of violence against abortion providers in the United States. That is unacceptable. We should always remember that each of these victims of violence has a name, a family, and a story.

In 1994, a gunman killed two people and wounded five others at two clinics in Massachusetts. One of these victims was 25-year-old Shannon Lowney, a daughter of public schoolteachers, a beloved sister, and a volunteer who worked domestically and internationally with poor families and children.

Shannon worked as a receptionist and Spanish translator at Planned Parenthood in Brookline, MA. She worked there not for the pay but because she fundamentally believed women had a right to affordable health care. She wanted to do her part to ensure that patients at a vulnerable and stressful time in life were greeted with a smile. Five days after Christmas in 1994 she was fatally shot in the neck at a Planned Parenthood clinic by an extremist protester.

Shannon's story is just one of the many tragedies caused by violence against women exercising their rights.

In 2007, after the laws on the books proved inadequate, Massachusetts ensured that there would be fair and balanced laws that created a buffer zone of 35 feet around the entry of reproductive health care facilities.

This law was intended to protect people such as Shannon and the thousands of women and staff who visit and work at clinics.

The buffer zone law worked. Massachusetts women could exercise their fundamental right to health care without running a gauntlet of abuse. According to a survey of reproductive health care centers across the country, a majority of facilities with buffer zones experienced a decrease in criminal activity after the buffer zone was instituted.

Today the Supreme Court of the United States took away those buffer zones of safety when it struck down the Massachusetts buffer zone law, effectively undoing the historic progress we have made in ensuring that women are protected when accessing reproductive health care and exercising their constitutional rights.

Today's Supreme Court ruling puts women at risk simply for exercising their constitutional rights. Shannon's brother Liam visited me on the day that this case was argued before the Supreme Court. Their family is representative of what has happened across this country in terms of the endangerment of women when they seek to exercise their constitutional rights.

So today is a sad day. It is not just a sad day for America but in particular for Shannon's family because they put a lot on the line to ensure that this case was brought before the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Court's decision makes it more difficult for States to guarantee women's reproductive rights and more likely that acts of violence and intimidation against women seeking reproductive health care will occur.

With reproductive rights under attack across the country like never before, it is imperative that we ensure the basic safety of all women and staff at Planned Parenthood and other health facilities.

We should be expanding access to safe reproductive health care for women, not restricting it. That is unfortunately what today is going to represent in the history of health care for women in our country.

The Presiding Officer is a national leader on these issues, fighting for the rights of women. I stand with her and with the other Members of the Senate but, more importantly, also with ordinary families across this country and Planned Parenthood and all the women in Massachusetts and this country who believe every woman seeking reproductive health care should be safe and protected.

I am proud that all Massachusetts law enforcement officials will continue to use every legal tool available to ensure the safety and privacy of women and clinic staff. Today is a historic day. Unfortunately, it is one of which our country should not be proud.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORIST THREATS

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, Senator MCCAIN and I have decided to come down before the Fourth of July break to talk about two issues that are very important to our national security.

The first issue I would like to discuss is the threat we face as a nation from terrorist safe havens in Syria and now Iraq.

The President has indicated in recent days that it is unacceptable to allow terrorist organizations such as ISIS to have safe havens from which to launch attacks against our country.

Mr. President, we agree. What are you doing about it? I understand Iraq is complicated. I understand you would need a new government in Iraq that Sunnis could buy into to probably turn Iraq around. That is a problem, but that is a separate problem from safe havens that can be used to launch attacks against the United States. Please do not turn over to the Iraqi politicians the timeline as to whether we will act to protect ourselves.

This is the FBI Director: "My concern is that people can go to Syria, develop new relationships, learn new techniques and become far more dangerous, and then flow back."

Americans are now in Syria. Some 7,500 foreign fighters from 50 countries have gone to Syria. They are now in Iraq. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was kicked out by Al Qaeda. These are the most extreme people on the planet. They have now gone into Iraq and taken large territories and up to \$500 million in resources. They had a \$30 million-a-year budget. They have more money than they ever dreamed of. Their desire to hit the homeland is growing. Last week the leader of this group said: We will be coming to America next.

Mr. President, do not use the political problems in Baghdad as an excuse not to act when it comes to denying safe havens to terrorists who have espoused attacking our country. Where is your plan to dislodge these people in Syria and Iraq? Where is your plan to deal with the safe haven issue? Where is your plan to hit a terrorist organization that is desirous of hitting us?

Mr. President, you cannot have it both ways. You cannot alert us as a nation that we are threatened by a safe haven in Iraq and Syria and do nothing

about it. I understand the political complexities that exist in Iraq, but I also understand the need to deal with the safe haven issue. What do you envision as a solution to the safe haven problem in Syria and Iraq? When are we going to act? Is there no military component available to the United States to hit a terrorist organization that is operating out in the open in Syria and Iraq, that represents a direct threat to our homeland?

Mr. President, now is the time for you to come up with a plan to deal with the safe havens. That issue is separate and apart from dealing with the political complications and the meltdown in Iraq. You have said and the Director of National Security Mr. Clapper has said that Syria is an apocalyptic state; it is in a very bad way; that the jihadists in Syria represent a direct threat to our homeland.

The same jihadists in Syria have moved now into Iraq. Three years ago when Senator McCAIN was urging airstrikes and that a safe zone be established, there were fewer than 1,000 foreign fighters in Syria. Today we think there are up to 26,000 ISIS types in Syria. Now they are moving to Iraq at lightning speed, taking town after town, amassing resources in terms of military hardware and money that will make them not just a terrorist organization but a terrorist army.

Mr. President, there is a terrorist army on the march in Iraq and Syria. They have indicated they want to hit our Nation. They want to strike us in the region, throughout the world, and here at home. You seem to have no plan. We want to help you. We understand this is complicated, but you, as Commander in Chief above all others, have a duty to come up with a solution to this problem. You have defined the problem well, but you have done nothing to solve the problem. We stand ready to help you solve that problem.

Now, as we try to figure out where to go in Iraq and what is the right strategy, the one thing that is important to me is not to rewrite history. I do not want to dwell on the past, but I am not going to sit on the sidelines and let this administration—which, as Senator Obama, Senator Clinton, and Senator Kerry, was all over the Bush administration for the mistakes they made. That is the way the political process works.

When the Iraq war was going poorly on President Bush's watch, Senator McCAIN called for the Republican-appointed Secretary of Defense to resign. I would argue that Senator McCAIN above all others has been consistent when it comes to Iraq. It does not matter who is making the mistake; if he believes one is being made, he will speak up.

The line that there were just a few dead-enders in Iraq was not true. The reason we knew it was not true is that

Senator McCAIN and I went to Iraq numerous times. The first time we went, we were in an SUV with a three-car convoy. We went down to Baghdad, had dinner, and went shopping. Every time thereafter, the security was tighter, our ability to leave the base was restricted, and the people on the ground who were fighting the war were telling us: This thing is not going well. Every time we would hear from the Bush administration that the media was misrepresenting the truth and that this was just a few dead-enders, we knew better. We spoke up.

Abu Ghraib was a direct result of being overwhelmed by circumstances on the ground. We thought that once the Iraqi Army disbanded and Saddam Hussein was displaced, we would be able to handle Iraq with a few thousand troops. The Bush administration was wrong in that calculation. Senator McCAIN spoke up, and the surge did work.

To President Bush's undying credit: You corrected the mistakes that happened on your watch. You kept an open mind. You changed strategy because the strategy you originally pursued had failed.

President Obama, your strategy has failed. The idea of abandoning Iraq, disengaging politically and militarily, has come home to haunt us as a nation.

Senator McCAIN and I said back in 2011: If we do not leave a residual force behind as an insurance policy for our own national security interests, we will regret it.

Madam President, 10,000 to 15,000 soldiers, well placed, would have given the capacity to the Iraqi Army to allow them to be more effective, and what we see on the ground today would have never happened. I am convinced that ISIS would never be in Iraq the way they are today if there had been an American military component—10,000 to 15,000—providing capacity and expertise to an Iraqi army that is literally falling apart.

I am convinced today that if we had continued to push the Iraqi political system to reconcile, we would not be where we are today. Dave Petraeus and Ryan Crocker—one general and one diplomat—spent hours every day of the week practically pushing the Sunnis, the Shias, and the Kurds to solve their problems with the political process. It was working.

In 2010 we made a fateful mistake. We allowed Syria to go bad. Syria became the supply center for Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was on its back. In 2010 the surge had worked. Al Qaeda in Iraq, which was the predecessor to ISIS, was completely devastated. They are back in the game for three reasons: Syria became a failed state. We had a chance to stop that and did not. They were being resupplied from Syria with equipment and fighters. We decided to disengage from Iraq politically. We had a hands-

off approach to the political problems in Baghdad. We withdrew our troops all from 2010 to 2011. Those three things became a perfect storm to lead us to where we are today.

We do want to look forward because looking backward does not solve the problem. But here is what we will not accept. We will not accept a rewriting of history. When this administration says the reason we have no troops in Iraq today is because of the Iraqis, that is an absolutely false statement.

In May of 2011 Senator McCAIN and I, at the request of Secretary Clinton, went to Iraq to talk about a follow-on agreement, a strategic partnership agreement that had in its making a military component that would give legal protections to our troops who were left behind.

I remember this as if it were yesterday. We were in a meeting with Prime Minister Malaki. We were talking about leaving troops behind and whether the Iraqis would give us the legal protections we needed because I told Prime Minister Malaki: No American politician is going to allow soldiers to be left behind in a foreign country without legal protection.

If a person was charged with a crime in Iraq, given the inventory in their legal system, I did not feel comfortable allowing that soldier to go into the Iraqi legal system. We would deal with disciplinary problems.

He turned to me and said: How many soldiers are you talking about?

I turned to Ambassador Jeffrey, the U.S. Ambassador, General Austin, the commander, and said: What is the answer?

They replied to me: We are still working on that.

The Prime Minister of Iraq laughed. This was in May of 2011. We could not tell the Prime Minister of Iraq how many troops we were talking about.

We went to the Kurdish portion of Iraq and talked to President Barzani. He would have accepted any amount of troops we wanted to leave behind. He was openly embracing the follow-on force.

We met with Mr. Allawi, one of the leaders of the Iraqiya Sunni bloc, who was very open minded to a follow-on force.

The day after we left Iraq, Prime Minister Malaki issued a statement saying that if the other parties would agree, he would agree to a follow-on force.

On November 15, 2011, we had a hearing with General Dempsey and Secretary Panetta in the Armed Services Committee. We asked the following question: Was it the Iraqis who rejected a follow-on force, originally envisioned to be 18,000 or 19,000?

The bottom-line number from the Pentagon was 10,000.

I asked the question. Was it the Iraqis who said: No, we do not want 18,000. That is too many.

The numbers kept going down to finally 3,000.

Senator MCCAIN asked the question.

The answer was: The reduction in numbers that we will be willing to offer to the Iraqis did not come from a rejection by Iraq but by a reduction of the numbers by the White House.

In other words, the cascading effect of the numbers from 18,000 to 3,000 was not because Iraq said no; it was because the White House kept changing the numbers to the point that the force envisioned would be ineffective and fail.

Those are the facts.

Senator MCCAIN will address the statements by the President before, during, and after, but I am here to tell you, without any doubt in my mind, the reason we don't have troops in Iraq after 2011 is because the Obama administration wanted to get to zero. They wanted to honor our campaign promise to get us out of Iraq.

They did so, and now they are trying to blame the Iraqis. They are trying to rewrite history. I can understand why they don't want to own what happened in Iraq. I can't understand why we would let them get away with it, and I am not going to let them get away with it.

Going forward, we have a mess on our hands, and I want to help the President where I can.

But, Mr. President, you were very good at questioning the policies of the Bush administration, and you held nothing back. I am here to tell you I know what you are saying about Iraq is not true.

On October 21, during a conference call with staff, Denis McDonough and Tony Blinken—former National Security Adviser to BIDEN and now National Security Council—briefing staff members about the problems with legal immunity was asked a question by Senator MCCAIN's staff person: If you could get a legal agreement that we felt was solid, would you leave any troops behind, and they said no.

So we are going to write them a letter. There are several of our staff who were on that phone call and we are going to ask Mr. McDonough and Mr. Blinken: Did you say that, and they can say whatever they want to, but I have people I know and I trust who were on that phone call and they know what was said.

With that, I will turn it over to Senator MCCAIN.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would ask my colleague one question before we go on; that is, in addition to this overwhelming information in which the Senator and I were deeply involved that proves conclusively that the President of the United States did not want to leave a single troop member behind in Iraq and succeeded in doing so, did the Senator from South Carolina ever hear the President of the

United States, either before the decision was made, during or after—did the Senator ever hear any record of him saying he wanted to leave a residual force behind?

Mr. GRAHAM. Quite the opposite. If we go back and look at the tape around this debate, the President basically said: We left Iraq and we are not going to be bogged down by Iraq.

There was no regret that I am so sorry we couldn't convince the Iraqis to leave a residual force behind because that would have been the best outcome for Iraq and the United States, and I regret that we could not get there and they will regret their decision.

None of that happened. It was all about the last combat soldier is out. We are done with Iraq. We have given them all the help we can give them. We are going to move on, and we are not going to be bogged down.

Now the place is going to hell. It is a direct threat to the United States, and they are trying to rewrite history—and I think it was October.

Mr. MCCAIN. The President of the United States, in the last couple of days—please correct me—it was the first time he said it was Iraqis who did not want to leave a force behind.

Mr. GRAHAM. The Iraqis did not want to leave a force behind.

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes; he was saying they did not.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following quotes, including October 2012.

I quote the President of the United States:

What I would not have done is left 10,000 troops in Iraq [as Candidate Romney proposed], that would tie us down. That certainly would not help us in the Middle East.

Jay Carney said on October 1, 2012:

When President Obama took office, the Iraq War had been going on for years and he had campaigned with a promise to end that war, and he has done that.

One of my favorites is December 2011:

In the coming days the last American soldiers will cross the border out of Iraq. . . . with honor and with their heads held high. After nearly nine years, our war in Iraq ends this month.

Anyway, the list goes on. In fact, the President campaigned for reelection in 2012 on the premise that he had gotten us out of Iraq.

The Senator from South Carolina and I predicted this would happen if we didn't leave a residual force behind. I say to my colleagues again, if we repeat this same total pullout of Afghanistan, we are going to see this same movie in Afghanistan.

So I plead with the President of the United States, please revisit your decision that every American troop be pulled out.

The Afghans do not have the capability, whether air assets, intel or other capabilities, to defend them-

selves against an enemy that has a sanctuary in Pakistan.

I plead with the President of the United States, do not make the same mistake in Afghanistan.

I point out again, at the end of the surge we had won the conflict in Iraq. The conflict was won, and instead obviously we blew it.

I would like to talk for a few minutes with my colleague from South Carolina because we need to understand what is happening in Iraq. In the last 3 to 4 weeks, this whole part of Iraq has been taken over by the forces of ISIS.

The second largest city in all of Iraq, Mosul, has been taken over, which triggered 500,000 refugees—500,000 refugees left Mosul.

Tal Afar—a major city, Kirkuk, where the Kurdish forces came in and took over Kirkuk and made it now part of the Kurdish part of Iraq.

What is most concerning, I say to my colleagues—and I know the Senator from South Carolina and I have been focusing on this—is the Jordanian-Iraq border. The border crossings from Iraq into Jordan have been taken over by ISIS.

As we know, Jordan is a small country. It is overburdened now with hundreds of thousands of refugees. It has significant problems on the Syrian side of its border. This can be a terribly destabilizing factor to our—probably outside of Israel—strongest and best ally in the entire Middle East.

Ramadi, Fallujah, every Iraq veteran will remember Ramadi and Fallujah. Every Iraq veteran will remember the second battle of Fallujah where we lost 96 brave soldiers and marines and over 600 wounded. Now the black flags of Al Qaeda fly over Ramadi and Fallujah. The border to Syria no longer exists, my friends.

If we look at Syria, all the way to Aleppo, all the way around, a part of the Middle East that is larger than the State of Indiana is now overtaken by the richest and most powerful terrorist organization in history; that is, ISIS.

We cannot address Iraq, if we do, without addressing Syria, as well as the movement of men and equipment back and forth. By the way, the Sunni don't like these people. They are the most radical form of Islam. They don't like them, but they prefer them to the government—the Shiite-run government by Maliki—which has been systematically discriminating against them.

So what do we need to do? As the Senator from South Carolina said, what we want is Maliki to be in a transition government that transitions him out of power, but we cannot wait until that happens.

By the way, they have also taken a place just north of Baghdad where the largest oil refinery is, Baiji, that provides energy to the 7 million people in Baghdad, and they have also come to a

place called Haditha, where a dam is that holds a water supply. If they get hold of both of those places, they basically have a stranglehold on Baghdad itself.

This is serious.

So what has the President of the United States and the administration decided to do? Send 90, 200 or 250 people over to Iraq and with the stated purpose of "assessing the situation."

Those of my friends and colleagues who have been to Iraq know it is a flat desert area, including very hot now. These people, these ISIS forces, are moving in convoys of 100, 200, 300 vehicles.

They can be taken out by air power. Right now the President of the United States has refused to do that, but they can be taken out by air power.

Air power does not determine conflicts, but air power has a profound psychological effect on your adversary. We have drones, and we have the air capability to take out a lot of these forces.

Remember, they are probably at a maximum of about 10,000, and as the Senator from South Carolina said, they started out with about 1,000, but don't forget they are moving back and forth between Syria and Iraq in this now huge area. They are moving on Baghdad.

I don't know exactly what is going on. I don't believe they can take Baghdad with a frontal assault. I do believe it is possible that they could cause assassinations, bombings, breakdowns in electricity, and breakdown in law and order. In other words, this place where we sacrificed roughly 4,450 American lives is now in the hands of the largest terrorist organization in history.

I say to the President of the United States: We can't wait. If the next 2 weeks that the administration says they are going to use to assess this situation is wasted in assessment, I don't know what is going to happen in Iraq. I don't know what is going to happen to Jordan. I don't know what is going to happen as far as the continued increasing influence of the Iranians.

Published reports today indicate there are Iranian forces, Iranian assistance all through Iran.

An article from the New York Times, "Iran Secretly Sending Drones and Supplies into Iraq, U.S. Officials Say," states:

Gen. Qassim Suleimani, the head of Iran's paramilitary Quds Force, has visited Iraq at least twice to help Iraqi military advisers plot strategy. And Iran has deployed about a dozen other Quds Force officers to advise Iraqi commanders, and help mobilize more than 2,000 Shiite militiamen from southern Iraq, American officials said.

Iranian transport planes have also been making two daily flights of military equipment and supplies to Baghdad—70 tons per flight—for Iraqi security forces.

While the United States is assessing, Iranians are exercising more and more influence.

I have also been told—and I cannot verify it—that the Russians are now offering to provide assistance to Maliki.

There has to be a transition government. There has to be a transition of Maliki out of government, but to wait until that happens, it may be too late.

I would ask my colleague from South Carolina, are you concerned about the Iranian influence and what do you believe is the situation that could evolve on the Jordanian border?

Mr. GRAHAM. If you listen to the people who are launching these attacks, they say they are going to Jordan. What are they trying to accomplish? Bizarre as it may sound to the average American, they have a very specific plan and it sort of goes like this: They want to purify their religion. They are Sunnis. They have a version of Islam, Sunni Islam that is beyond horrific, that is a woman's worst nightmare.

If you want to find a world of women, go to Syria, Iraq, and eventually Afghanistan, I am afraid. You would not believe what these people are capable of doing, what they will do to a person who smokes. They will chop your finger off. I mean, they will kill children in front of their parents.

These people represent the worst in humanity. My fear is, the President's fear, that the stronger they get over there the more exposed we are over here.

So, Mr. President, if you believe it is not in our national security interests to allow these folks to have a safe haven in Syria and now in Iraq, what are you doing about it? You have political problems in Iraq, I have got that, but why does that prevent us from attacking these people in Syria where their leadership resides and where their supply depots are? There has to come a time when this country is going to commit to defending itself.

My goal is to keep the war over there so it doesn't come back here.

Senator McCain, 3 years ago now almost, urged us to act in a way that would have allowed the moderate forces of the opposition to be empowered and to avoid where we are today. We chose not to act, at our own peril.

So I make this crystal clear, this area Senator McCain has described in Iraq represents a terrorist safe haven in the hands of people who want to attack us here at home.

I am not making that up. The Director of National Intelligence, the FBI Director, and Jeh Johnson, the head of Homeland Security, have all said Syria represents a threat to the homeland.

Well, if a Syrian enclave and safe haven represents a threat to the homeland, an Iraqi enclave bigger and richer surely represents a threat to the homeland, and the President admitted as much. So I don't want to hear any more discussions about we have to wait until Iraq gets its house in order until

we protect American national security interests.

As to Jordan, now is the time in a bipartisan fashion for the Congress to speak with one voice and tell the world and everyone in the region that we will defend Jordan. The King of Jordan is the last moderate voice in the Middle East surrounding Israel. The King of Jordan has been the most faithful ally to America. The King of Jordan has been effectively engaged with Israel. The King of Jordan represents the best hope in the Middle East.

If we allow a terrorist army—not an organization, now, an army of committed jihadists—to invade that country and put the King at risk, that will be one of the great tragedies in modern history. I think it is now time to let the terrorist army know: You are not going into Jordan, and say it in such a fashion as to not give Iraq away. But if we don't reinforce Jordan quickly, it would be a mistake.

I have high confidence in the Jordanian military, but let me say this: It is in our interests for the King to survive; it is in our interests for Jordan to flourish; it is in our interests for ISIS to be stopped in their tracks in Iraq; it is in our interests for them to be wiped off the face of the Earth to the extent possible; it is in our interests to go on the offensive before it is too late.

One thing I can say I have learned from 9/11 is thinking and believing if we ignore them they will ignore us is a very bad mistake. On September 10, 2001, the day before 9/11, we didn't have one soldier in Afghanistan, we didn't even have an ambassador, and we sent no money in terms of assistance to the Taliban. We were completely disengaged from Afghanistan. How well did that work?

Anytime you disengage from people that bloodthirsty and you believe it will not come back to haunt you, you are making a mistake. Anytime a group will kill women in a soccer stadium for sport and we think we are safe if we ignore them, we are making the mistake for the ages.

These people, the ISIS, represent a depraved form of humanity in the category of the Nazis. And what are we doing about it?

I am tired of ceding city after city, country after country to radical Islam. Now is the time to fight back—fight back as if it meant fighting for your home and your family, because it does—fight back over there so we don't have to fight them here. And they are coming here. If you don't believe me, ask them.

The best way to keep them from coming here is to align ourselves with people over there who do not want their agenda for their family and are willing to fight along our side. Right now, who feels comfortable fighting with America? Right now, our enemies are emboldened, our friends are afraid.

Now is the time to turn this around, Mr. President. You are waiting and waiting and thinking and thinking, and they are on the march. I know this is complicated, but the one thing that is not complicated is that the terrorist organization you said could not have safe haven has the largest safe haven in the history of the world. They are richer than they have ever been, they are more powerful than they have ever been, and you are doing nothing about it. You need to do something about it before it is too late, and we stand ready to help you.

Mr. McCAIN. I wish to emphasize with my colleague from South Carolina, continuously we hear from the President of the United States that those of us who are in strong disagreement with his strategy—well, there is none. The fact is there is no strategy.

We keep being accused of wanting to send “thousands of troops” on the ground in Syria or in Iraq. That is patently false. I know of no one who shares our concern who wants to send ground combat troops into Iraq. So I wish the President of the United States would stop saying that.

Second of all, what we do want is we want some people who can be forward air controllers, some of our special forces people, to direct these air strikes against what is movement of these hundreds of vehicles in convoy across open desert. It can be done.

The next thing I wish to emphasize is how dangerous it is becoming, particularly at the most holy Shiite shrines of Samarra and Karbala. Those two are the holiest shrines of the Shia. If ISIS comes into those holy sites and destroys them, we are going to see this thing explode even more.

There are many other things I would like to say, but I don't want to continue too much longer on this, but to point out again, this is not just an Iraq problem. This is the border which runs along between Syria and Iraq. We cannot address just the Iraqi side.

Lately, interestingly, Bashar Assad has been using his air power to attack ISIS. If the United States does not become involved, then people such as Bashar al-Assad, people such as the Iranians will fill that vacuum. It is time for us to act.

What do I mean by that?

First of all, why don't we send Ryan Crocker and David Petraeus back to Baghdad. They are the smartest people I have ever known, and everybody agrees with that: Send them back to Baghdad and sit down with Maliki. Also, send some military planning teams that can assess the situation and address the needs of the Iraqi military, those that can still function effectively. Go ahead and orchestrate the air strikes, and understand that the problem in Syria is going to have to be addressed as well. So there are concrete steps that every military leader I

know advocates as a way of turning this around.

There is no good option. Because of the situation we are in, there is no good option. But the worst option is what the administration is doing today, which is nothing, except sending a few advisers over to give some assessment of the situation.

No one wants to get back into any conflict. No American wants to do that. I am the last one who wants to do that. But we have to understand what our Director of National Intelligence has told us, what our Secretary of Homeland Security has told us, what our common sense and eyes will tell us: If you have a terrorist organization that has hundreds of millions of dollars, that has control of an area the size of the State of Indiana where they are consolidating power and they have promised they will attack us—the United States can't afford another 9/11. We can't afford to see these jihadists pouring out of Syria and Iraq into Europe and into the United States of America, because these extremists have flowed in from all of these countries.

The President of the United States can make the American people aware of this threat, and that we have to take action, without sending ground combat troops into the conflict. And I am confident—because the memory of 9/11 has not faded in the memory of the people of this country. We remember that tragedy graphically. All of us remember where we were that day. But this is a clear and present danger, and it is long time overdue for the United States to react as the strongest and most powerful Nation in the world.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from the Atlantic by Peter Beinart entitled “Obama's Disastrous Iraq Policy: An Autopsy.”

I further ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed by DENNIS ROSS, one of the most respected individuals on the entire Middle East, entitled “Op-ed: To contain ISIS, think Iraq—but also think Syria.”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Atlantic, June 25, 2014]

OBAMA'S DISASTROUS IRAQ POLICY: AN
AUTOPSY

(By Peter Beinart)

Yes, the Iraq War was a disaster of historic proportions. Yes, seeing its architects return to prime time to smugly slam President Obama while taking no responsibility for their own, far greater, failures is infuriating.

But sooner or later, honest liberals will have to admit that Obama's Iraq policy has been a disaster. Since the president took office, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has grown ever more tyrannical and ever more sectarian, driving his country's Sunnis toward revolt. Since Obama took office, Iraq watchers—including those within his own administration—have warned that unless the

United States pushed hard for inclusive government, the country would slide back into civil war. Yet the White House has been so eager to put Iraq in America's rearview mirror that, publicly at least, it has given Maliki an almost-free pass. Until now, when it may be too late.

Obama inherited an Iraq where better security had created an opportunity for better government. The Bush administration's troop “surge” did not solve the country's underlying divisions. But by retaking Sunni areas from insurgents, it gave Iraq's politicians the chance to forge a government inclusive enough to keep the country together.

The problem was that Maliki wasn't interested in such a government. Rather than integrate the Sunni Awakening fighters who had helped subdue al-Qaeda into Iraq's army, Maliki arrested them. In the run-up to his 2010 reelection bid, Maliki's Electoral Commission disqualified more than 500, mostly Sunni, candidates on charges that they had ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.

For the Obama administration, however, tangling with Maliki meant investing time and energy in Iraq, a country it desperately wanted to pivot away from. A few months before the 2010 elections, according to Dexter Filkins in *The New Yorker*, “American diplomats in Iraq sent a rare dissenting cable to Washington, complaining that the U.S., with its combination of support and indifference, was encouraging Maliki's authoritarian tendencies.”

When Iraqis went to the polls in March 2010, they gave a narrow plurality to the *Iraqiya* List, an alliance of parties that enjoyed significant Sunni support but was led by Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite. Under pressure from Maliki, however, an Iraqi judge allowed the prime minister's *Dawa* Party—which had finished a close second—to form a government instead. According to Emma Sky, chief political adviser to General Raymond Odierno, who commanded U.S. forces in Iraq, American officials knew this violated Iraq's constitution. But they never publicly challenged Maliki's power grab, which was backed by Iran, perhaps because they believed his claim that Iraq's Shiites would never accept a Sunni-aligned government. “The message” that America's acquiescence “sent to Iraq's people and politicians alike,” wrote the Brookings Institution's Kenneth Pollack, “was that the United States under the new Obama administration was no longer going to enforce the rules of the democratic road . . . [This] undermined the reform of Iraqi politics and resurrected the specter of the failed state and the civil war.” According to Filkins, one American diplomat in Iraq resigned in disgust.

By that fall, to its credit, the U.S. had helped craft an agreement in which Maliki remained prime minister but *Iraqiya* controlled key ministries. Yet as Ned Parker, the Reuters bureau chief in Baghdad, later detailed, “Washington quickly disengaged from actually ensuring that the provisions of the deal were implemented.” In his book, *The Dispensable Nation*, Vali Nasr, who worked at the State Department at the time, notes that the “fragile power-sharing arrangement . . . required close American management. But the Obama administration had no time or energy for that. Instead it anxiously eyed the exits, with its one thought to get out. It stopped protecting the political process just when talk of American withdrawal turned the heat back up under the long-simmering power struggle that pitted the Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds against one another.”

Under an agreement signed by George W. Bush, the U.S. was to withdraw forces from Iraq by the end of 2011. American military officials, fearful that Iraq might unravel without U.S. supervision, wanted to keep 20,000 to 25,000 troops in the country after that. Obama now claims that maintaining any residual force was impossible because Iraq's parliament would not give U.S. soldiers immunity from prosecution. Given how unpopular America's military presence was among ordinary Iraqis, that may well be true. But we can't fully know because Obama—eager to tout a full withdrawal from Iraq in his reelection campaign—didn't push hard to keep troops in the country. As a former senior White House official told Peter Baker of *The New York Times*, “We really didn't want to be there and [Maliki] really didn't want us there . . . [Y]ou had a president who was going to be running for reelection, and getting out of Iraq was going to be a big statement.”

In recent days, Republicans have slammed Obama for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq. But the real problem with America's military withdrawal was that it exacerbated a diplomatic withdrawal that had been underway since Obama took office.

The decline of U.S. leverage in Iraq simply reinforced the attitude Obama had held since 2009: Let Maliki do whatever he wants so long as he keeps Iraq off the front page.

On December 12, 2011, just days before the final U.S. troops departed Iraq, Maliki visited the White House. According to Nasr, he told Obama that Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, an Iraqiya leader and the highest-ranking Sunni in his government, supported terrorism. Maliki, argues Nasr, was testing Obama, probing to see how the U.S. would react if he began cleansing his government of Sunnis. Obama replied that it was a domestic Iraqi affair. After the meeting, Nasr claims, Maliki told aides, “See! The Americans don't care.”

In public remarks after the meeting, Obama praised Maliki for leading “Iraq's most inclusive government yet.” Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Saleh al-Mutlaq, another Sunni, told CNN he was “shocked” by the president's comments. “There will be a day,” he predicted, “whereby the Americans will realize that they were deceived by al-Maliki . . . and they will regret that.”

A week later, the Iraqi government issued a warrant for Hashimi's arrest. Thirteen of his bodyguards were arrested and tortured. Hashimi fled the country and, while in exile, was sentenced to death.

“Over the next 18 months,” writes Pollack, “many Sunni leaders were arrested or driven from politics, including some of the most non-sectarian, non-violent, practical and technocratic.” Enraged by Maliki's behavior, and emboldened by the prospect of a Sunni takeover in neighboring Syria, Iraqi Sunnis began reconnecting with their old jihadist allies. Yet, in public at least, the Obama administration still acted as if all was well.

In March 2013, Maliki sent troops to arrest Rafi Issawi, Iraq's former finance minister and a well-regarded Sunni moderate who had criticized the prime minister's growing authoritarianism. In a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed later that month, Iraq expert Henri Barkey called the move “another nail in the coffin for a unified Iraq.” Iraq, he warned, “is on its way to dissolution, and the United States is doing nothing to stop it” because “Washington seems petrified about crossing Maliki.”

That fall, Maliki prepared to visit the White House again. Three days before he ar-

rived, Emma Sky, the former adviser to General Odierno, co-authored a *New York Times* op-ed entitled “Maliki's Democratic Farce,” in which she argued that, “Too often, Mr. Maliki has misinterpreted American backing for his government as a carte blanche for uncompromising behavior.” The day before Maliki arrived, six senators—including Democrats Carl Levin and Robert Menendez—sent the White House a letter warning that, “by too often pursuing a sectarian and authoritarian agenda, Prime Minister Maliki and his allies are disenfranchising Sunni Iraqis . . . This failure of governance is driving many Sunni Iraqis into the arms of Al-Qaeda.”

Still, in his public remarks, Obama didn't even hint that Maliki was doing anything wrong. After meeting his Iraqi counterpart on November 1, Obama told the press that, “we appreciate Prime Minister Maliki's commitment to . . . ensuring a strong, prosperous, inclusive, and democratic Iraq,” and declared “that we were encouraged by the work that Prime Minister Maliki has done in the past to ensure that all people inside of Iraq—Sunni, Shia, and Kurd—feel that they have a voice in their government.” A former senior administration official told me that, privately, the administration pushed Maliki hard to be more inclusive. If so, it did not work. In late December, less than two months after Maliki's White House visit, Iraqi troops arrested yet another prominent Sunni critic, Ahmed al-Alwani, chairman of the Iraqi parliament's economics committee, killing five of Alwani's guards in the process.

By this January, jihadist rebels from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, or ISIL) had taken control of much of largely Sunni Anbar province. Vice President Biden—the administration's point man on Iraq—was now talking to Maliki frequently. But according to White House summaries of Biden's calls, he still spent more time praising the Iraqi leader than pressuring him. On January 8, the vice president “encouraged the Prime Minister to continue the Iraqi government's outreach to local, tribal, and national leaders.” On January 18, “The two leaders agreed on the importance of the Iraqi government's continued outreach to local and tribal leaders in Anbar province.” On January 26, “The Vice President commended the Government of Iraq's commitment to integrate tribal forces fighting AQ/ISIL into Iraqi security forces.” (The emphases are mine.) For his part, Obama has not spoken to Maliki since their meeting last November.

Finally, last Thursday, in what was widely interpreted as an invitation for Iraqis to push Maliki aside, Obama declared, “that whether he is prime minister or any other leader aspires to lead the country, that it has to be an agenda in which Sunni, Shia and Kurd all feel that they have the opportunity to advance their interest through the political process.” Obama also noted that, “The government in Baghdad has not sufficiently reached out to some of the [Sunni] tribes and been able to bring them into a process that, you know, gives them a sense of being part of—of a unity government or a single nation-state.”

That's certainly true. The problem is that it took Obama five years to publicly say so—or do anything about it—despite pleas from numerous Iraq experts, some close to his own administration. This inaction was abetted by American journalists. Many of us proved strikingly indifferent to a country about which we once claimed to care deeply.

In recent days, many liberals have rushed to Obama's defense simply because they are

so galled to hear people like Dick Cheney and Bill Kristol lecturing anyone on Iraq. That's a mistake. While far less egregious than George W. Bush's errors, Obama's have been egregious enough. By ignoring Iraq, and refusing to defend democratic principles there, he has helped spawn the disaster we see today. It's time people who aren't Republican operatives began saying so.

[From the *Los Angeles Times*, June 23, 2014]

TO CONTAIN ISIS, THINK IRAQ—BUT ALSO
THINK SYRIA

(By Dennis Ross)

The conflict in Iraq will not be settled any time soon. Although the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, and its Sunni allies may not be about to march on Baghdad, they are continuing to expand their control over much of northern and western Iraq. The military and diplomatic steps that President Obama has ordered reflect the U.S. need to prevent ISIS from embedding itself in more of Iraq. Whether they will work, however, is another matter.

Iraq is a mess today. The president is right to expect the Iraqi government to take the lead in its own defense. He is right to insist that Iraq's government must become more inclusive and less sectarian. And he is right to be wary of getting sucked into a sectarian conflict in which we take sides.

The same calculus has guided the United States in Syria. There, our fears of the costs of action—even limited military support for the opposition—led us to ignore the costs of inaction. We hoped that sanctions, a political process and humanitarian assistance would make it possible to affect the reality in Syria. It did not. Those who argued that the price would go up in human and strategic terms—and that we needed to affect the balance of power within the opposition and between it and the regime of President Bashar Assad—were right.

Today, the costs in terms of spillover in the region and the consequences of radical Islamists, particularly ISIS, coming to dominate the opposition are clear. Syria is a disaster, there is no border between Syria and Iraq, and the re-emergence of a terrible sectarian conflict in Iraq is inextricably linked to Syria. There will be no effective or enduring answer to the ISIS threat in Iraq without also taking steps in Syria to deny it a sanctuary and a recruiting base.

If nothing else, this should tell us that our response to the current crisis in Iraq must be guided by a broader strategy toward the region, one that has clear objectives in Iraq and Syria and takes into account that resisting ISIS cannot make it appear that we are suddenly partners with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. The fact that the Iranians also have reason to fear ISIS means we have converging but not identical interests.

The Iranians have used radical Shiite militias—Hezbollah, Kataib Hezbollah and Asaib Ahl al Haq—in Syria and Iraq. The latter two—armed, trained and funded by the Iranians—were responsible for killing hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq. We should be talking to Iraq's neighbors, including Iran, about what we and they can do to help stabilize Iraq and defeat ISIS.

But Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan will not be responsive if they think fighting ISIS means the U.S. is prepared to leave the Sunnis vulnerable to Iran and its Shiite-backed militias. If Iran wants stability in Iraq and not an ongoing sectarian war on its border, it will need to accept that although the Shiites will hold many of the levers of power, they must also be prepared to share them.

In Iraq, if the U.S. is to help blunt ISIS, the central government must give Sunnis and Kurds a sense of inclusion and a stake in working with Baghdad and the military. Prime Minister Nouri Maliki's conspiratorial, authoritarian approach has made that impossible. We should make any coordinated military action with the Iraqi government contingent on Maliki actually taking such steps, including appointing a government of national unity, empowering a Sunni defense minister and permitting the Kurds to export their oil. Absent that, we may still choose to target ISIS forces if there is a need, but without regard to what the Iraqi government may seek.

As for Syria, though we must deny ISIS sanctuary there, the U.S. cannot partner with the Assad regime. The simple fact is that so long as Assad remains in power, he will be a magnet for every jihadi worldwide to join the holy war against him. No country in the region is immune from the fallout of the conflict in Syria, and we all face the danger of those who go to fight in Syria returning to their home countries to foment violence.

Though President Obama has spoken about ramping up our support for the opposition in Syria, we are late to that effort. It is time for the United States to assume the responsibility of quarterbacking the entire assistance effort to ensure that more meaningful aid—lethal, training, intelligence, money and humanitarian—not only gets to those who are fighting both ISIS and the Assad regime but is fully coordinated and complementary.

The broader point is that Washington's actions toward ISIS now must be taken with both Iraq and Syria in mind and be guided by a strategy geared toward weakening those forces that threaten the U.S. and its regional friends. The more we take this approach and highlight the costs to Iran of its current posture, the more the Iranians may see that their interests could be served by a political outcome of greater balance in Syria and Iraq. There will be risks to acting, but by now we have seen the costs of inaction, and they are only likely to grow over time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I appreciate my dear friend Senator COONS' patience.

At this time I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. COONS. Madam President, something important, something unusual, something worth noting happened this week, happened yesterday in this Chamber that I don't want to let pass without a few moments of comment.

Yesterday a broad bipartisan majority of this Senate came together to pass the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

First, I congratulate Senators MURRAY, ISAKSON, HARKIN, and ALEXANDER who led so capably on this bill. Senators MURRAY, a Democrat of Washington, and ISAKSON, a Republican of Georgia, spent years working through the details, policy, and language, and months making sure that they got this bill to a point where the Senate and the House in a bipartisan, bicameral way could adopt legislation.

What is this about? It is about something simple, important, and powerful: investing in America's workforce so we can compete with anyone around the world in the 21st century.

This is an area I have focused on a lot here in the Senate which I believe is critical to our Nation, our competitiveness, to strengthening our middle class, and to growing good jobs.

In manufacturing, it is a core challenge for us to ensure that our workers have the training employers are looking for, and that our manufacturing companies are globally competitive. Manufacturing is important to America, to our future, to our middle class, to our communities, and to our families because it pays well, it drives innovation, it contributes greatly to other sectors in our economy and in communities.

That is why a few months ago I launched the Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative that has brought together dozens of Senators. We initially pulled together Democrats from across my caucus to introduce 34 bills, some of the best and broadest ideas we could bring to the table about how to accelerate America's recovery of employment and steady growth in manufacturing. Roughly half of these bills are bipartisan.

Part of the goal of this Manufacturing Jobs for America initiative was to put good ideas out on the floor and get them in the mix as we debate things going forward. So I wish to take a moment today and celebrate that the ideas of many of our partners in this campaign, ideas drawn from many of the bills that are part of this initiative, ended up being important parts of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that was passed this week.

Let me briefly touch on the five most important who contributed ideas that were embedded in this bill that passed.

First, the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act which was sponsored by Senators REED and BROWN. In our rapidly changing economy, ensuring we can train Americans of all ages for all jobs is critical. Senator REED's bill takes an important step in that direction by investing in adult education, expanding access to technology and digital literacy skills and improving the coordination of State and local programs.

A bill that was endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers is the AMERICA Works Act, sponsored by Senators HAGAN and HELLER.

Another challenge we face is ensuring employers can quickly recognize whether a worker has the skills they need. So Senator HAGAN's bill helped solve this by ensuring we prioritize programs that invest in training that delivers portable national and industry-recognized credentials. This encourages job training programs to match the skills of workers with the

needs of local employers, training individuals for the jobs currently available in their communities right now.

A third bill that contributed importantly to this bill that was enacted here yesterday, adopted by the Senate yesterday, was the Community College to Career Fund Act, sponsored by Senator FRANKEN and Senator BEGICH. Senator FRANKEN came to the floor yesterday and gave another passionate, important floor speech in support of these ideas. It is something that as I presided—and I have been with Senator FRANKEN in caucus and have heard him speak many times. It is about equipping workers with the skills they need by investing in partnerships between our community colleges and our employers. Senator FRANKEN, Senator BEGICH, myself and others have seen this work in our home communities. We have seen community colleges learn from manufacturers what today are the actual relevant modern manufacturing skills they need and then deliver customized training courses that make a difference in the skills, in the lives, in the college affordability and access of those who seek to join today's manufacturing workforce.

The fourth bill, the On-the-Job Training Act, cosponsored by Senators SHAHEEN and COCHRAN, contributes to the idea that we need to invest in on-the-job training. Because of Senator SHAHEEN's leadership on this bill, we will now make new and important investments so workers can learn what they need to do in the job that needs to be filled, rather than in an academic setting and then search the skills that may match the skills they learn. On-the-job training in this bill sponsored by SHAHEEN and COCHRAN is an important contribution to modernizing America's workplace skills.

The last, the SECTORS Act, cosponsored by Senators BROWN and COLLINS, is a provision that helps meet the fundamental challenge of connecting our schools with our businesses by requiring State and local workforce investment boards to establish sector-based partnerships.

With all of these bills there is an important and common theme. In the 21st century, rapid economic change is a given. In order to compete, in order to grow our economy and grow employment, in order to be productive and to have a successful and growing workforce, we need to be able to adapt as quickly as our economy does and we need to invest in modernizing the skills of the American worker.

With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act yesterday, we have made a strong statement that in a bipartisan way we are willing to invest in America's workers, the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow. This is just one of many encouraging moments here in the Senate that sometimes go without note or commentary in our communities at home,

but I thought it was important to bring to the floor today this range of five different bills, three of them bipartisan, all of them strong, whose ideas were part of the package adopted on the floor yesterday and that I am confident will be adopted by the House and signed into law by our President. This Senate can, will, should continue to make bipartisan progress in investing in American manufacturing.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I strongly support the bicameral, bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA. This long overdue reauthorization will help Americans to develop the skills necessary to participate in today's global economy. I would be remiss if I did not commend the leaders of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee—especially Senators HARKIN, ALEXANDER, MURRAY, and ISAKSON—for their hard work on crafting this important jobs bill which will benefit job seekers and their families, employers, and the economy. Their House counterparts—Representatives JOHN KLINE, GEORGE MILLER, VIRGINIA FOXX, and RUBÉN HINOJOSA of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—also deserve our praise and thanks.

Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act, WIA, in 1998. It expired in 2003, but Congress has relied on annual appropriations bills to extend WIA's authorization 1 year at a time. These appropriations bills often have made modest policy changes. Some of the policy changes have been retained in subsequent years but continuity isn't guaranteed. This patchwork approach to improving our workforce education and development system is far from ideal, especially as the labor market changes rapidly in response to the global economy.

As our Nation continues the long, arduous climb out of the worst recession since the Great Depression, effective education and workforce development opportunities are vital to sustaining a building and sustaining a vibrant middle class. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will allow local workforce investment boards to create a system which prepares workers for the 21st-century labor market and helps employers find the skilled labor needed to compete and create good jobs here in the United States.

Let me provide a report on the workforce development progress we have made in Maryland. The Workforce Investment Network for Maryland is comprised of Maryland's 12 workforce investment area/workforce investment boards. The network reports assisting more than 216,000 Marylanders with job placement assessment, job search workshops, resume preparation, and myriad other services from July 2012 to June 2013. Nearly 16,000 job seekers

completed job training programs, with several thousand receiving nationally recognized certificates and credentials. Through an aggressive outreach process, the Workforce Investment Network for Maryland engaged more than 7,700 businesses and was able to match nearly 44,000 jobs seekers with employers.

In Maryland, our local workforce investment boards know how to respond to the needs of the local community. The field of cyber security is projected to grow by 41 percent over the next 8 years, and jobs in this expanding field pay a median hourly wage of \$38 per hour. Maryland is a hotbed of activity in the cyber security field since it is home to the U.S. Cyber Command, the National Security Agency, the Defense Information Systems Agency, the Navy Fleet Cyber Command, and hundreds of Federal contractors and private technology companies. In an effort to address the lack skilled cyber security workers and increase the number of qualified workers in the pipeline, a three-way partnership—the Pathways to Cybersecurity Careers Consortium—was created to bring together the efforts of six workforce development agencies, three community colleges, and the local business community. The partnership, led by Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, was awarded a \$4.9 million community-based job training grant to create the Pathways to Cyber Security Program. The grant was intended to assist 1,000 new, dislocated, underemployed, recently separated veterans, and incumbent workers in obtaining cyber security certifications identified as critical industry shortages by regional businesses and government agencies. I am proud to report that nearly 1,150 workers have received training in the program, 755 program participants have received cyber security certifications, and 721 program graduates have been hired by an employer or improved their skills with an existing employer. Some of the graduates of the cyber security programs have begun to work with a number of Federal agencies in my home State.

As I have traveled across Maryland, I have seen firsthand the positive effect of effective programs in action. This past March, I had the opportunity to visit students at Chesapeake College's Continuing Education & Workforce Training Culinary Arts Program. The students in the culinary arts program learn the principles of food preparation, obtain a nationally recognized safe food handling certificate, and finish the program ready to enter the workforce in local area hotels and restaurants. Having tasted a number of dishes the students prepared, I can tell you their training is going well. I was impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the students. One of them travels more than 2 hours by bus, one

way, to attend class each day. I am confident these men and women will continue to hone their skills and enhance their employment prospects.

Our Nation's at-risk youth present special challenges we must overcome. Aaron Sierak, a resident of Aberdeen, MD, dropped out of high school during his junior year. After he became discouraged about his future and expressed a desire to change, he learned about the Reconnecting Youth dropout recovery program run by the Harford County Public Schools in partnership with the Susquehanna Workforce Network. The Susquehanna Workforce Network helped Aaron obtain his GED, enroll in Harford Community College, and obtain a Pell grant to help cover the cost of his first year of tuition. Aaron now plans to obtain an associate's degree and registered nursing certification so he can find work in a high-demand—and rewarding—occupation.

The Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act improves upon the existing youth services that helped put Aaron back on a path to economic mobility and a middle-class livelihood. WIOA places a priority on out-of-school youth by requiring that 75 percent of youth services funding at the State and local level be targeted to career pathways for youth, dropout recovery efforts, and education and training programs that lead to the attainment of a high school diploma and a recognized postsecondary credential.

The Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that will improve our workforce development system and help put Americans back to work, preparing workers for the 21st-century workforce and helping businesses find the skilled employees they need to compete and create even more domestic jobs. WIOA creates a streamlined workforce development system by eliminating 15 existing duplicative programs. It applies a single set of outcome metrics to every Federal workforce program under the act. It creates smaller, nimbler, and more strategic State and local workforce development boards. It integrates intake, case management, and reporting systems and strengthens program evaluations. And it eliminates the "sequence of services." Finally, WIOA empowers local boards to tailor services to their region's employment and workforce needs with on-the-job, incumbent worker, and customized training and pay-for-performance contracts.

According to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2022 the supply of United States workers with postsecondary education—including 6.8 million workers with bachelor's degrees and 4.3 million workers with a postsecondary vocational certificate, some college credits, or an associate's degree—will fall short of the demand for workers with

those credentials by 11 million. This mismatch will impede our economic growth and harm our international competitiveness. It also represents a huge lost opportunity for millions of hard-working Americans and their families. To maintain our position as the world's economic leader, we need to educate and train our workers to fill the skilled jobs of the knowledge-based economy. And the workforce development system needs to pivot from short-term crisis intervention to long-term human capital development. WIOA does that, and the substitute amendment the Senate has passed demonstrates that here in Congress, we can come together to work on legislation that will boost the economic recovery and help all Americans.

WIOA

Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, I am pleased the Senate voted this week to improve job training in the United States. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, WIOA, is the result of a commitment in both parties and both Chambers to modernize our workforce development system to ensure American competitiveness. The last time a Workforce Investment Act reauthorization was signed into law was in 1998, far too long ago, and the significant skills gap we face as a Nation is evidence that our fragmented system simply is not working.

Despite the billions of taxpayer dollars we invest annually on Federal job training programs, there are 4.5 million unfilled jobs and a staggering 10 million unemployed Americans. We need to bridge this gap, and WIOA helps get us there by reducing bureaucracy and providing American workers with a more flexible and effective workforce training system. Over the past year, I have heard from businesses, elected State and local leaders, and families back home about the critical need for reforms to our job training system, and I am glad to have had the chance to work on this bill and be a part of this process in the Senate.

This legislation incorporates many reforms contained in the SKILLS Act, which I introduced in the Senate earlier this year, including the elimination of 15 programs identified as duplicative or ineffective and countless Federal mandates on States and local boards. In addition, WIOA establishes common performance metrics and requires independent evaluations every 4 years of all workforce programs to ensure effectiveness and accountability to taxpayers. By reducing bureaucracy and enhancing flexibility, WIOA eliminates delays that hinder job seekers from immediately accessing job training services and reentering the workforce.

I appreciate my colleagues' work on this important issue and look forward

to swift passage of WIOA in both Chambers.

JUNETEENTH REMEMBRANCE

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, last Friday was Juneteenth, which marks four of the most important days in our Nation's long and continuing march toward racial justice and civil rights in this country.

First, on June 19, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation abolished slavery in all U.S. territories. Then 3 years later, a month after the end of our Civil War, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, TX, to free the last of our Nation's slaves. Nearly a century later on June 19, 1963, with Jim Crow laws still a stain on the moral fabric of our country, President John F. Kennedy sent his Civil Rights Act of 1963 to Congress. And the following year, as the Nation mourned JFK's loss, President Johnson shepherded the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to final passage.

As we mark these days in our Nation's history, from the end of our darkest period to some of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation passed, we know we still have farther to go.

It is appropriate that we do so this year especially, that we mark June 19 and these five moments across our Nation's history, because as a result of the Supreme Court's decision last year, the Shelby County case, a key piece of President Johnson's Voting Rights Act of 1965 stands in bad need of repair and revision; and, in fact, the Voting Rights Act itself is at risk of becoming a dead letter in the future of voting in our country.

Two years ago I had the opportunity to join many of my colleagues in the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, in returning to Selma to the site of Bloody Sunday, to the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Many Members of Congress got a chance to hear again from Congressman LEWIS about the events of that day, that day that was etched into the consciousness of this country and mobilized millions to speak out to their representatives and Senators and move this Congress finally to enact legislation that would unlock the key to the ballot box across the country.

I was so proud earlier this year to join with Chairman LEAHY of the Senate Judiciary Committee and with Senator DICK DURBIN, Congressman LEWIS, icon of the Civil Rights movement, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, and Republican Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, to introduce a bill that would restore the core protections made possible in the original Voting Rights Act.

The bill we introduced doesn't look at discrimination through the lens of the past. It focuses on modern-day violations, not the things that happened

50 years ago. It takes up the challenge laid down by the Supreme Court and comes up with a new formula and a new approach that makes voting rights and elections more transparent and has been carefully crafted to be both effective and to pass this Congress. It is a voting rights bill that is modern, to confront modern voting rights challenges.

As a country we have come a long way since 1965, but we are not where we need to be yet. As much as we don't want to admit it or confront it, racial discrimination in voting is not a relic of the past, but a tragic reality of today. Just yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on what to do to address the loss of a key part of the Voting Rights Act that is known as preclearance.

In 2013 the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act, a bill that each and every Senate Republican voted for in 2006. Let me be clear about that. Again, in 2006 this body unanimously reauthorized the Voting Rights Act. Yet in 2013 the Supreme Court struck down an essential provision of that very act.

The Voting Rights Act and leadership to address the challenges of civil rights in this country have long been bipartisan in nature. My own family and friends who are Republicans are justifiably proud of their party's leadership role in addressing the darkest days and the biggest challenges in civil rights in the last century in this country. But today we are struggling in this body to find a single Republican cosponsor for this important and necessary bill. I ask my friends: Is this because there is nothing that remains to be done? Is that 2006 act, unanimously passed by this body, so obsolete that there is no legislative response necessary to Shelby?

I think a response is necessary. A month after the Supreme Court's decision, North Carolina passed a restrictive, a deeply restrictive, voting law that in addition to a strict photo ID requirement reduces early voting and forbids local jurisdictions flexibility in setting hours for early voting, among other restrictions. After the Shelby County decision, in Pasadena, TX, that city's voters adopted a plan to reduce the number of single-member districts from eight to six, adding two at-large representatives, a change nearly certain to reduce Latino representation on their city council. Hours after the decision, the State of Texas announced plans to implement its photo ID law that had long been blocked under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Again and again, shortly following the Shelby County decision, jurisdictions moved to implement discriminatory voting changes that had previously been blocked under section 5. Something needs to be done. I would suggest to my

colleagues, if you don't like this proposal, please come forward with something you can support, with something that looks forward, not back; that has a formula that protects voting as the most sacred and foundational right of our Republic and allows us to come together. History will not look kindly on our inaction.

Two days ago we honored the memory of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King with a Congressional Gold Medal. What better way to honor their legacy than to come together and strengthen the rights they fought so hard to secure for every American?

Voting is fundamental, and ensuring that every American has the right to vote is at the core of what makes our democracy vibrant.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together and to find a way forward for us to put voting rights first and to restore the important legacy of June 19 from across so many incidents in so many years and to move us forward on a positive path.

Thank you.

Mr. President, could I ask my colleague's indulgence for one last 2-minute speech?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I was to be recognized before, but I will be glad to, but would like the 15 minutes or so I was allowed to have even though it may back up after me.

So, Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that Senator COONS be allowed an additional 2 minutes and I be allowed 15 minutes thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COONS. I object, and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, when we send American Ambassadors to nearly every country around the world, we are able to strengthen democracy and protect our national security. Ambassadors are voices for American values and the interests we share with other nations. Simply put, they are critical to promoting our foreign policy, our economic and security interests, and our leadership in the world. Yet when—because of partisan politics and gridlock at home—we fail to confirm ambassadors, we send a dangerous message about our lack of interest in the world and our lack of interest to diplomacy.

I have the privilege of chairing the African Affairs Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Through my work as chair, as well as time I spent earlier in my life in Africa, I have seen up close both the incredible opportunities in the continent of Africa as well as the stark challenges.

For instance, today, this decade, 7 of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. Yet right now 1 in 5 American embassies of the 54 countries on that continent lacks a confirmed ambassador. Africa faces serious security challenges. Boko Haram in Nigeria, which has recently kidnapped hundreds of girls and burned down churches and schools is just one example. Yet as the countries bordering that troubled area of Nigeria try to coordinate a response to ensure that conflict doesn't spill over borders, we lack confirmed ambassadors in the adjacent nations of Niger and Cameroon.

In Namibia, where we also don't have a confirmed ambassador, the United States is dedicating \$50 million to combat HIV and Aids. We need an ambassador to oversee those funds and make sure they are appropriately used.

I will briefly review some of the numbers and facts. Our nominees to the countries of Namibia, Cameroon, and Niger have waited for a vote for 330 days—almost a year. Our nominee to Sierra Leone has waited 352 days, our nominee to Mauritania has waited 289 days, and our nominee to Gabon has waited 287 days.

In the long absence of ambassadors, professional career Foreign Service officers, capable and competent Deputy Chiefs of Mission assume this role on an interim basis. I am deeply concerned that with the August turnover for Foreign Service officers quickly approaching, many of our embassies will also be left without a DCM at the helm.

This is inexcusable. It hurts our economy, our national security, and our leadership to leave these posts unfilled and the ambassadorial nominees unconfirmed for so long.

I have great hope for Africa's future. Across the continent there are emerging democracies, growing economies, and although there are some security challenges, I am optimistic we can meet them in partnership with Africa's leaders.

When we fail to send career public servants to serve as our ambassadors, we send the message that we are not serious about these challenges and are not willing to invest in these partnerships.

I urge my colleagues to work together across the aisle to devote ourselves to getting our ambassadorial nominees to Africa confirmed. This transcends partisanship, and it is a task we should turn to promptly.

I thank the Presiding Officer and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Alabama for allowing me to go ahead of him in cue.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, we say that America is a nation of immigrants, and, of course, that is true. There is no other country in the world for which immigration is so central to its history and its identity. Let's take a moment to reflect on what that really means.

Here is a photo. I am afraid it is not a very good quality. I took it myself. It is a photo that I took at a naturalization ceremony held for Active Duty servicemembers in Fort Carson, CO. The 13 soldiers and spouses who became U.S. citizens on that day represented 11 different countries of origin even though they are wearing our uniform.

They came from all over the world: Colombia, Haiti, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, China, the Philippines, South Korea, Togo, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. They all came for this pursuit of the American dream, and they all came to serve this country. They are going to be the people who help us determine our future.

The same is true with the refugees fleeing persecution from around the world. The parents seeking opportunity for their children and those stepping forward to serve and sacrifice for our shared values have made this country the America we love. But our existing immigration policies do not reflect this history or the values that shaped it. Instead, it is a mess of unintended consequences that hurts our businesses, rips families apart, and keeps us at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world.

Tomorrow marks 365 days—1 year—since the Senate acted to fix these problems and passed bipartisan immigration reform. Yet here we are still waiting for the House of Representatives to do the same. The House's inaction is costing our Nation. It has cost us, among other things, \$13.4 billion in lost revenue in this last year alone. With each additional day that passes, we lose another \$37 million of revenue.

What is most frustrating about this to me is that we agree—on both sides of the aisle—that our current immigration system is broken. We agree that our immigration system is critical for our economy and for our country.

In June of last year we passed a bill in this Chamber with strong bipartisan support. It won the support of a broad coalition of Republicans and Democrats. It also has the support of countless organizations, from migrant workers to farmers and ranchers, from law enforcement agencies to the faith community, Latino leaders across this country, and the Chamber of Commerce to labor unions.

Often I tell those who despair about the lack of leadership in Congress that there is a model we can learn from, and it is the bipartisan work that was done on this bill. I cannot say enough about the Republican Members of the Gang of 8 who negotiated a bill over seven or eight months, knowing what the base of their party might say about the fact that they were in that room but still willing to do it because it was right to do for their country and it was right to do for their party—in that order.

In this job I have had the opportunity to meet with a diverse cross section of Coloradans throughout the State, each struggling beneath the weight of a broken immigration system. I have spoken with peach growers on the Western Slope, vegetable growers in Brighton, and melon farmers in the San Luis Valley—farmers such as Philip Davis from Mesa Winds Farm and Winery in Western Colorado who cannot get the seasonal workers he needs. He will tell you how hard he and his family have had to work to fill these gaps, and how every single day they have to keep fighting to prevent their 36-acre farm from closing.

A legal, reliable, competent workforce for our Nation's farms and ranches is essential for Colorado's \$40 billion agricultural industry, and it is essential for our agricultural industry across the country. Maybe that is the reason why both the United Farm Workers union and the growers all across the United States of America endorsed this bill.

I have heard from Colorado's high-tech companies such as Full Contact, a tech startup in Boulder, CO, that acquired a company overseas. They have been unable to hire the talented engineers they need to grow their businesses and add jobs.

I have also heard from Colorado's dedicated teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to teach the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators—teachers such as Mary Edwin from Colorado Springs. Mary, a graduate of Johns Hopkins with a master's degree in education, will likely be forced to return home to Nigeria, leaving behind the children she works with at Turman Elementary School, all on account of our broken, outdated visa system.

This year on April 7, approximately 6 months before the 2015 fiscal year even begins, the government announced it had already reached its statutory cap on H-1B petitions for H-1B visas. It has also reached its exemption for 20,000 advanced-degree holders. These are exactly the type of workers our State and the national economy require.

I will paint a picture of what our country would look like if the Senate's immigration bill were actually enacted. First, millions of people who came to this country for a better life, including young people whose parents

brought them here as children, would have the opportunity to enter a tough but fair pathway to citizenship. With a path in place, we would see higher wages, greater consumption of goods and increased revenue. It would reduce our debt by nearly \$1 trillion—even in Washington that is real money—over 20 years, and increase our economic growth by roughly 5.4 percent over that period of time.

Next, our bill would put in place an efficient and flexible visa system that would enable us to compete in a changing 21st century global economy. Talented entrepreneurs and innovators from around the world would have the opportunity to stay here in order to create jobs and fuel our economy. High-skilled workers in math and science, and lower-skilled workers in industries such as hospitality and tourism would come into the country to fill jobs where there are no available U.S. workers.

We would provide stability for our agricultural industry with a new streamlined program for agricultural workers—one that is more usable for employers and protects our workers.

Our borders would be more secure. There is one border security bill that has passed the Congress, and that is the bill passed by the Senate. It allows for new fencing, doubling the number of border agents, and increased spending on new technology. We would have full situational awareness on the border in order to allow us to intercept threats rapidly and successfully. And with the mandatory employment verification system and more effective entry-exit system, we would prevent future waves of illegal immigration.

A huge number of people who are here entered the country legally; we just don't know where they are. We ought to have a system that tells us that. These are all changes that our Nation urgently needs.

In the time since the Senate passed the bill, we heard a litany of reasons why it can't pass the House. They say the Senate bill doesn't have support in the House. If Speaker BOEHNER put the bill on the floor tomorrow, it would pass. They say the Senate bill is too long, too big, too comprehensive. I, for one, am willing to consider looking at this bill in smaller pieces as long as all the problems with the system are addressed. But the House has not produced—never mind voted—on a single bill, much less a series of smaller bills.

They say they want more border security, but what do they know about the border that our Republican colleagues from Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN and JEFF FLAKE, don't know? What do they know about the border that Senator FLAKE and Senator MCCAIN don't know? We have 21,000 border agents, and we are putting another 21,000 on the border if this bill were passed. We spend more money on the border than

we do on all other Federal law enforcement combined, but they say there is not enough border security—not that they passed a border security bill. The only folks who have passed a border security bill are right here in the Senate. We should ask them how many more agents they need, and how many more billions of dollars we should spend.

If the House wants to secure the border first, which the Senate bill does, let's see their legislation. We are waiting. I, for one, would like to see them think about customs agents and trade instead of adding more billions of dollars at the border.

The most common excuse we have heard is that the House has not had time to pass a bill. The House was only scheduled to work 9 days last September. Ultimately, they came back for a few extra days to shut the government down.

In the year since the Senate passed the bill, the House has found the time to vote 17 times to repeal, delay or dismantle the health care bill—54 times in total in the last 4 years. They voted to name 20 post offices and an assortment of 20 other government buildings. They have held five separate House committee hearings. They produced three different public reports and passed one resolution on the topic of Benghazi—a topic that has never come up in most of our town hall meetings.

What I hear in Colorado over and over is we have to stop excuses, stop posturing, and pass a bill—a good bipartisan bill, and that is what the House of Representatives ought to be doing now. Fixing our broken immigration system is long overdue, and I believe that the bipartisan solution crafted in our Senate bill will fix it just fine. It is time for the House to act.

With that, I yield the floor, and I thank my colleague, again, for his patience and kindness in allowing me to go first.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MR. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague. I would note he didn't mention and wasn't mentioned in the effort to pass the Gang of 8 bill, which was dead on arrival in the House, the American worker. The numbers just came out yesterday, a revision of the economic numbers—our gross domestic product showed a decline in the first quarter of 2.9 percent, a GDP decline of 2.9 percent, which is the largest we have seen since the recession hit—those dramatic days.

We are not creating jobs in this country. Wages are not going up. We do not need to be surging the number of immigrants coming into the country. We don't need to be passing a law such as the Gang of 8 bill that would double the H-1B workers brought into America, increase by 50 percent the annual flow, add another 500,000 so-called backlog workers, in addition to legalizing some 11 million-plus, at a time

when Americans are having wages fall and jobs are very difficult to find.

For example, I would note that workforce participation levels have fallen to their lowest point since the 1970s. This is a dramatic decline in the number of people working and the numbers continue to slide. Since 2009, we have had a decline in median income for families in America of \$2,300.

They suggest repeatedly that this legislation we have brought to the floor was focused primarily on melon harvesters, but that is not so. About 80 percent of the people who would be given legal status and would be allowed to come to America to work under the guest worker program would not be on the farms. They would be taking jobs in plants and factories all over America, reducing the need for businesses to increase wages for a change and try to attract people into some of these more difficult jobs. It is not that people won't do this work; it is that the wages aren't sufficient to take care of them and their families.

We need wages to rise. We have a loose labor market, not a tight labor market. People are having a hard time finding jobs. We are talking about a dramatic increase in the number of workers at a time when the economy is struggling, workers are hurting, wages are down, and unemployment is up.

I just want to dispute that. I want to push back on it. That has been my analysis from the beginning.

Oh, we need more high-tech workers, they say, and businesses say that too. But what do the numbers show? Professor Harold Salzman at Rutgers did a report that said we are actually graduating about 500,000 STEM graduates—science, technology, engineering, mathematics—about 500,000 graduate a year, but we only have jobs for fewer than half of them. Most STEM graduates are not working in their fields. They haven't been able to find the kind of work for which they trained. One of the reasons is that a substantial number of those jobs are taken by H-1B workers who are brought in not to immigrate to America to create jobs, I say to my colleagues; they come in on the H-1B visa, which is a limited period of time, they work at lower wages, and they return to their country. They are not on a path to be permanent citizens. But it is a great asset to businesses that don't want to hire, perhaps—it seems—people and put them on a career path where they might be expected to get pay raises in the years to come.

So I will challenge even that fact. I talked to a business person recently about a factory they have. The work sounded pretty good to me. He wants to bring in foreign workers to Alabama. Well, we have unemployment in Alabama. We have people on unemployment insurance. We have people on welfare and food stamps and assistance who need to be taking those jobs.

So the first responsibility of a congress, a senate, when they consider an immigration bill is what is in the interests of the American people. I don't believe it is wrong to discuss that. We have to ask what is in our national interests, the interests of our people, and this is not a time to be doubling the H-1B workers into America. It is just not. And more and more scientific, peer-reviewed, excellent studies are coming out on that.

I see my colleague, Senator DURBIN. I know he is exceedingly busy. My intention is to make a unanimous consent request that we actually do something about the crisis we have on the border.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— S. 202 AND S. 91

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 202, the Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the measure; I ask further that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

For the information of all Senators, S. 202, introduced by Senator GRASSLEY and of which I am a cosponsor, amends the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to make an E-Verify program permanent. This is critical to protecting jobs and wages of American workers. It requires the government to at least run a cursory computer check to determine whether a person applied for a job is legally in this country.

I renew my unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Alabama?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, a year ago today on the floor of the Senate we passed the comprehensive immigration reform bill, and 68 Senators—14 Republicans and all of the Democrats—voted for it. We sent it to the House of Representatives. Included in that bill was a requirement that all employers use a mandatory electronic employment verification system to verify that all their employees were legal. Job applicants were required to show identifying documents, such as passport, driver's license, biometric work authorization card, including a photo ID. Any employer who continued to employ undocumented immigrants faced serious penalties. That would end the hiring of undocumented workers, which the Senator from Alabama has spoken to. E-Verify, though, has to be part of comprehensive immigration reform; otherwise, it would devastate the economy

and hurt innocent workers. This was included in the bill, and we said there would be no path to citizenship until we have established this as a nationwide standard to verify that workers truly were not undocumented.

That bill came to the floor a year ago. The Senator from Alabama voted against it. It passed. It went to the House of Representatives. It has languished for 1 solid year. House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER will not call that bill because he knows it will pass. We are not going to take that bill apart piece by piece, as the Senator from Alabama suggests.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the able Senator from Illinois for his articulate response. I would note that the E-Verify program should already have been fully implemented long ago. If it is so good, why don't we bring it up and pass it now? Why do we have to pass along with it a bill that will double the number of guest workers in the country and would increase immigration and also had many other flaws in it?

So I ask unanimous consent—and this will be my last unanimous consent request this evening—that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 91, the Child Tax Credit Integrity Preservation Act of 2013; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the measure; I ask further that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

For the information of all Senators, S. 91, introduced by Senator VITTER and which I cosponsored, would close a loophole in the law that permits illegal aliens to illegally and improperly receive cash tax credits from the Internal Revenue Service, according to the Treasury Department's own inspector general. The IRS sent illegal aliens \$4.2 billion in additional child tax credit payments in 2010. The cost has quadrupled in 5 years. In one instance, four illegal aliens fraudulently claimed benefits for 20 children they claimed lived with them in the same trailer and received from the IRS \$29,000 in refunds.

So I ask unanimous consent that this bill be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the circumstance is this: If a person is legally required to pay income taxes in America, a person is legally entitled to some deductions and credits. One of those credits which a person is entitled to is a child tax credit. If a person has a minor child, that person pays less in taxes in America.

What the Senator from Alabama and this bill try to do is restrict the availability of this child tax credit to some workers in America. I think they have gone too far. I want to make sure working families with small children have the helping hand of our Tax Code. I want to stop any fraud in any program in our Tax Code, but I don't believe this bill is a balanced approach to solving the problem, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Illinois. I would have to say that the inspector general of President Obama's own U.S. Treasury Department has said this is a clear abuse. They have written a detailed letter on why it ought to be closed. I am flabbergasted and amazed that we would sit by and allow \$4 billion in child tax credit payments to go out that are not justified. We have been told this. Why is it that we won't even respond to this little problem?

It is one reason I brought it up today—because I want the American people to know this Congress, this Democratic majority is not willing to take any steps to confront the problems we have with regard to immigration unless they get a massive increase that satisfies activist groups, business interests, and their own political interests.

It is not in the interests of the American people. We need to do the right thing for our country based on law, on principles, on fairness. That is what we need to do. People who come to the country illegally aren't entitled to get child tax credits. I would think certainly not for children who don't exist. Nobody is going out and checking to see if children are in the home. They are just claiming this. The numbers have surged in recent years. The inspector general expressed great concern about that—how it went from \$1 billion to \$4 billion. That is a lot of money, \$4 billion in 1 year, subsidizing, encouraging further illegal entry into America.

The first thing any country ought to do to control its borders, its sovereignty, its legal integrity, is not to provide financial benefit to people who violate the law and then give them benefits that are unlawful. That is beyond comprehension.

I want to say to my colleagues, the last few weeks it is becoming more and more clear that we have chaos at the border—all a direct result of the President and his administrative officials who have told the world we have no intention, basically, of deporting people who enter the country unlawfully, particularly the young people. And has that been heard? Have people around the world heard what has been said? Yes. And they are coming in unbelievable numbers, creating a humanitarian

crisis, creating a crisis of law for America, and creating a financial crisis. The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget request \$868 million for the Unaccompanied Alien Children program at HHS. Now that cost is expected to be \$2.28 billion, based on the numbers today. In 2011 there were 6,000 apprehended children trying to come into America illegally. This year they say it could reach 90,000 or higher. 90,000 from 6,000? It is a direct result of the unwillingness of President Obama to look the American people in the eye, tell the people throughout the entire world: We believe in immigration. We have a lawful system of immigration. Please apply. Wait your turn. If you qualify, you will be able to come to America, and we are going to do it fairly and objectively and treat everybody with respect, but do not come unlawfully. Do not give money to some smuggler. Do not attempt to sneak over our border across the desert and place your lives at risk because it is against our law, and we will apprehend you and we will promptly deport you and you will lose all the money you have invested in this effort. Just do not do it.

They refuse to say that with clarity. Secretary Johnson was before the Judiciary Committee and I asked him about it. He almost refused to say: Don't come to America because it is against our law. He said: Don't come because it is dangerous. That is not the kind of message we need to hear from our leaders. The first thing a law enforcement officer should do—and the President is the chief law enforcement officer—but the Secretary of Homeland Security has the Border Patrol, he has Immigration and Customs enforcement officers, he has the Citizenship and Immigration Service. That is who is supposed to be enforcing our immigration law. He will not say that with clarity and he will not communicate it with clarity.

Vice President BIDEN supposedly made a statement in Central America about it. It was weak. It just was not strong. What is it? Do they want the illegality to continue? Do they believe in open borders? This Congress, this Senate is about to recess having done not one thing about it, and the humanitarian crisis continues on the border.

These children, some of them are young. Some of them are 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and they claim to be 17. Who knows. They are not carrying birth certificates with them. It is creating an incredible crisis. One reporter said the Border Patrol, instead of enforcing the law, are changing diapers. This is a very dangerous situation. Our entire legal system is crumbling about us, and the chief law enforcement officer in America—the President—alone is the one who can bring order to it.

The Secretary of Homeland Security works for the President. If he does not get on it, he needs to be out of there.

The President needs to say: Get this thing under control. What are we paying you for?

What about the officers and agents? What do they think? Our officers and agents are stunned. There is report after report of senior officers saying they have never seen anything like this. It is a direct result of the inconsistent message we are sending. They are saying a message is only part of the solution. It has to be backed up with words.

So how is it happening today? A child and an adult cross the border. What are they doing today? They are going straight up—this is, I know, hard to believe—they go straight to the Border Patrol officer and turn themselves in. What does the Immigration officer do? He takes them into custody. If they have a child, the adult has to stay with the child, and then they put them in a shelter. Then they give them a hearing date. The hearing date is down the road. They have a backlog. So what do they do then? They release them. They allow them to go someplace where somebody will take them in, which is what they desire to begin with. Then they are told to appear at court at some given date in the future.

Nobody is going to investigate if they do not show up, or to see where they are, and there is nobody to investigate it. We are talking about a huge increase—by tens of thousands—of people coming into the country, in addition to the 11 million who are already here. So this is a guaranteed failure. That is what everybody has been telling us who knows anything about it.

The ICE officers, the Immigration and Customs enforcement officers—their association went so far two years ago to file a lawsuit in Federal court. What did they say? They said this administration is violating the laws of America and the Constitution by directing them not to enforce the laws they had sworn to uphold. The Federal judge was very sympathetic with them. He eventually ruled there was not standing for this lawsuit to proceed, but he was very sympathetic with the merits of their claim because that is exactly what has happened.

We have a situation where the President of the United States, based on the DREAM Act—the idea that we would provide legal status to everybody who was brought here under, I think, 18, that we would provide basically a legal status and a pathway to citizenship—that bill came up before the Senate and has been voted down three times by the Senate.

So what did the President do? He directed that the law not be enforced as to them, even though the law remains on the books. That is part of the message that was heard in Central America, and that is encouraging people to come unlawfully to America.

So we are not against immigration. We do need a certain number of farmworkers. We do need and will accept validated people who come with skills who are ready to go to work. We should do that, and we have a generous policy, but we should not be doubling it, as the Gang of 8 bill did. We just do not have the jobs for them. If we had low unemployment, rising wages, and a shortage of workers, I think we could justify a generous immigration policy perhaps but not now. Canada is not doing this. England is not doing this. They are reducing, right now, the number of people who are allowed into their countries. They feel an obligation to see that their people get the jobs first.

The whole matter is disturbing to me, that we are at a point where the law is not being enforced properly in this country.

RECESS APPOINTMENTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled against the President's unconstitutional recess appointments in a dramatic repudiation of the White House's position. Nine to zero they ruled. It was an obvious decision, in my opinion. It was breathtaking that the President of the United States would appoint members to the National Labor Relations Board who have to come before the Senate for confirmation under the Constitution—we have the advice and consent authority—and he did not want to do that, so he just appointed them and claimed we were in recess. We were not in recess. It was not a close question. He just did it. So it took over 2 years of a lawsuit, and finally the Supreme Court has now ruled. A lower court ruled against the President some months ago. The President clearly and deliberately violated article II of the Constitution in circumventing the advice and consent clause.

At the time of these appointments, the Senate had determined it was not in recess. We determined we were not in recess, and the Court affirmed that determination. The question of whether the Senate is in session is up to the Senate, not the President. So the President has to yield to the Senate's authority to determine its own rules and procedures. This is basic law, it seems to me.

Unfortunately, the President has made it clear that he will only follow the letter of the law when it is not an impediment to whatever agenda he has at the time.

Just today, the White House displayed again its lack of respect for our constitutional traditions. In a rather brazen display of candor, the new White House spokesman today explained the administration's rationale for moving unilaterally to rewrite America's immigration laws. Here is what Josh Earnest had to say. Hear

me, colleagues. This is a direct threat to the integrity of our constitutional separation of powers. It is not far different from what the President said before, but it was today.

[We're not just going to sit around and wait interminably for Congress. . . .

How about that: We are not going to sit around and wait on Congress. We do not have to fool with Congress.

We have been waiting 1 year already. The President has tasked his Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson with reviewing what options are available to the President, what is at his disposal using his Executive authority to try to address some of the problems that have been created by our broken immigration system.

So this is about as close as you can get to an open admission that the administration does not believe it has an obligation to follow the law. You cannot just eviscerate whole code sections of the law claiming that you have authority to decide what you want to prosecute and what you do not. Jonathan Turley, the great law professor, has hammered this idea. He is a liberal. He voted for President Obama in 2008. He has hammered this idea. This is an abuse of Executive power.

We are seeing the results of this on our borders right now. In 2011, we had 6,000 illegal immigrant youth from Central America apprehended. This year, we may hit more than 90,000. Next year, projections are as high as 130,000, costing billions of dollars to take care of them. That would be more than a 2,000-percent increase.

The President's policies are directly responsible for this crisis. They just are. He has acted unilaterally to suspend immigration enforcement and has sent the signal to the world that our borders are open and that if you get here unlawfully and burrow in, you will be able to stay here.

As former ICE Director John Sandweg said: "If you are a run-of-the-mill immigrant here illegally, your odds of getting deported are close to zero."

I asked Homeland Secretary Johnson about this during his testimony, to say clearly to the world: Do not come unlawfully. You must follow the laws of the country. If you come unlawfully, you will be sent back home. He refused to even say that in my presence with any clarity.

Here is what the New York Times reported on April 10:

With detention facilities, asylum offices and immigration courts overwhelmed, enough migrants have been released temporarily in the United States that back home in Central America people have heard that those who make it to American soil have a good chance of staying. "Word has gotten out that we're giving people permission and walking them out the door," said Chris Cabrera, a Border Patrol agent who is vice president of the local of the National Border Patrol Council, the agent's union. "So they're coming across in droves."

That is exactly what has happened. It is a national tragedy. It is a human tragedy for those children. It is costing them money, placing their lives at risk, and we are not able to handle them effectively.

Colleagues, I have a timeline over 17 pages long of the ways systematically this administration has ignored or simply suspended immigration law by issuing orders to the officers not to do their duty essentially.

So 1 week before the Fourth of July holiday, America cannot even protect its own borders, and what do our Democratic colleagues wish to do? They want to adjourn this Chamber, go home to their barbecues, work on their reelection campaigns, and promise while they are home they are fighting to end the lawlessness at the border, while doing nothing, while actually doing nothing but objecting to legislation that would make a real difference.

I see my colleague Senator SANDERS and I will wrap up.

I believe we were elected, colleagues, to protect this country and its people and the laws of our country. A critical component of national sovereignty is a control over your borders. We have passed immigration laws that are on the books and not being enforced. We on the Republican side have opposed immigration laws that would reduce the illegality that cannot even see the light of day on the floor of the Senate.

So I am asking my colleagues, we ought to stay here. Why do we not stay here and work on this crisis? I intend to request that we do so—and have done so—and offered unanimous consents to bring up legislation that would help improve the situation. But that has been objected to.

Our taxpayers are overstressed. If we want to get this country back on track, we need to control this border and enforce the Nation's laws in a fair and equitable way that allows generous immigration to America, that treats people fairly and decently, but is not an open border, where people can come by the tens of thousands unlawfully.

How can any of us relax at an Independence Day barbeque next week knowing at this very moment the Nation's sovereignty is being eroded? I think we have failed in our session. We have not responded to the crisis that is on our border. We could have made real progress. But there is a lack of will and a lack of willingness to act. I am disappointed to see that fact.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I would hope that every American understands that the cost of war does not end when the last

shots are fired or when the last missiles are launched. The cost of war continues until the last veteran receives the care and benefits he or she has earned on the battlefield.

War is an incredibly expensive proposition in terms of human life, human suffering, and in financial terms. In my very strong view, if we are not prepared to take care of those men and women who went to war, then we should not send them to war in the first place. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war, period.

In terms of Iraq and Afghanistan, the human cost of those wars is almost 7,000 dead. The cost of war is 530,000 veterans seeking care at the VA in 2013 for post-traumatic stress disorder, not to mention those struggling with traumatic brain injury.

The cost of war is too many servicemembers coming home with missing arms and legs, lost eyesight, or lost hearing. The cost of war includes veterans each day dying by suicide, high rates of divorce, wives trying to rebuild their lives after losing their husbands, kids growing up in one-parent homes, and a too high rate of unemployment for returning servicemembers. Those are some of the real costs of war that this Congress cannot ignore.

Several weeks ago, Senator McCain and I hammered out an agreement which I think goes a significant way to address many of the serious problems facing the VA. I am very proud that the Sanders-McCain bill passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, with a vote of 93 to 3. In terms of funding, very importantly, by a vote of 75 to 19, an overwhelming vote, the Senate made it crystal clear that the current crisis in the VA, the crisis facing veterans who are not getting health care in a timely manner, is an emergency and should be paid for through emergency funding. I am very proud that in a bipartisan way the Senate made that important vote.

In the last 4 years we have seen a significant increase in the number of veterans utilizing VA health care. In addition, many of our other veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam require a greater amount of care as they age.

Further, a recent VA audit revealed that more than 57,000 veterans are on too-long waiting lists in order to be scheduled for medical appointments.

In addition to that, there are many other veterans who were never put on a list in the first place, which is what this whole scandal is largely about.

Clearly, these waiting lists and veterans not getting care in a timely manner are unacceptable and must be dealt with immediately, not 6 months from now, not a year from now, not in a great debate about national priorities. This is a crisis which must be dealt with now. I could not agree with Senator JOHN MCCAIN more when he said on the Senate floor during this debate:

If there is a definition of emergency, I would say that this legislation fits that. It is an emergency. It is an emergency what is happening to our veterans and the men and women who have served this country. We need to pass this legislation and get it to conference with the House as soon as possible.

Senator MCCAIN is right. I concur with what he said. We need to get this legislation moving as soon as possible and get it to the President's desk. Veterans in this country must get quality care and they must get that health care in a timely manner. We need to provide the funding the VA needs to accomplish that goal and do it as quickly as we can.

The simple truth is that the VA needs more doctors, the VA needs more nurses, it needs more mental health providers, and in certain parts of this country more space for a growing patient population. That is the reality.

Does the Veterans' Administration need better management? You bet it does. Does it need to be more efficient, more accountable? Absolutely. But at the end of the day, if you do not have the doctors and the nurses and the medical staff you need, there will continue to be waiting lines unacceptably long and veterans will not get the care they need.

I received, as did the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, a letter on June 17 which was signed by virtually every major veterans organization. That is the American Legion, the DAV, the VFW, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, and many other organizations. They made a number of very important points in their letter talking about the kind of legislation we need to pass. I want to quote from one section of their letter, which they entitled "Protect and Preserve the VA Health Care System."

Any legislative, regulatory or administrative changes designed to respond to the VA health access crisis, whether temporary or permanent, must protect, preserve and strengthen the VA health care system so that it remains capable of providing a full continuum of high-quality, timely health care to all enrolled veterans. . . .

Then the letter continues:

Unless the legislation simultaneously sets VA on a path to intelligently strengthen health care delivery, expand access and capacity, reallocate resources and ensure that overall VA funding matches its mission, the current problems confronting VA and veterans will inevitably recur.

In other words, what they are saying is that unless we strengthen the VA, give them the staffing and the space they need, this problem of waiting periods of time will continue. In order to address the long waiting periods, the Senate legislation says to veterans around the country that if you cannot get into a VA facility in a timely manner, you will be able to get the care you need outside of the VA. That

means access to private doctors, community health centers, or Department of Defense or Indian Health Service facilities.

Furthermore, what the bill says is to veterans who live 40 miles or more from a VA facility, that if they choose, they also have the option of seeking care outside of the VA.

Just as the letter from the veterans service organizations articulated, it is critical to address the current waiting period crisis. But we also have to make sure that that crisis does not continue to occur. We do that by providing the VA the tools it needs to ensure sufficient capacity for veterans seeking care at VA medical facilities. Clearly, no medical program can work unless we have the necessary medical staff.

Today, the VA has thousands of vacancies for health care providers. These vacancies, along with an untold shortage of health care providers to meet the demands of veterans who want to get VA care, has a direct impact on the ability to get veterans in the door for appointments. To fill these positions, the Senate bill provides for the hiring of VA doctors and nurses, and it does so in an expedited fashion by ensuring VA's hiring efforts are not hamstrung by Federal bureaucracy.

During the discussion of VA health care, let us not forget that today alone some 230,000 veterans will walk in the doors of VA facilities for health care—230,000 veterans today, 6.5 million veterans in a year. While it is absolutely true that not every veteran is satisfied by the care he or she is getting, the overwhelming majority—well over 90 percent of them—believe they receive high quality care. Over and over, I hear from Vermont veterans and veterans across the country who say that once they get into the system the care is good.

That is just not my view, it is the view of virtually all of the major veterans organizations and a number of independent studies that have compared VA health care with that in the private sector. We owe it to these veterans, to our veterans, to fix the current problems and bolster the system to ensure that quality care is available in the VA for years and decades to come.

I have heard a lot of criticism of the VA. Much of that criticism is valid. But when we talk about VA health care, we must put it in the context of health care in the United States of America. Does anyone seriously believe the VA is the only health care institution in America that has problems? It is absolutely the case that not everybody outside of the VA gets timely, quality, affordable health care. That is just not the reality.

Today some 40 million Americans have no health insurance. According to a Harvard study of a few years ago, 45,000 Americans die each year because

they do not get to the doctor when they should. That is outside of the VA.

But it is more than that. Let me read you a few headlines from the last couple of weeks. I make this point not to argue the whole health care debate again but to say that anyone who thinks it is only the VA that has health care problems does not understand what is happening with health care in America.

Here is a quote from a few weeks ago.

A report released Monday by a respected think tank—

That is the Commonwealth Fund.

—ranks the United States dead last in the quality of its health care system when compared with ten other Western industrialized nations.

Then the report further tells us that the United States has maintained this dubious distinction while spending far more per capita on health care than any other country. We are spending far more on health care than any other country.

Let me read you another headline published September 20, 2013 by PIERCEHEALTHCARE. “Hospital Medical Errors Now the Third Leading Cause of Death in US.”

Medical errors leading to patient death are much higher than previously thought and may be as high as 400,000 deaths a year, according to a new study in the *Journal of Patient Safety*.

I mention all of this to make clear that the VA, of course, has its problems. Our job is to strengthen the VA, to provide better accountability, to make sure that incompetent and dishonest people are not working in the VA. But we also have to make sure the VA has the doctors, the nurses, and the other health care providers it needs in order to provide the quality of care our veterans deserve.

The last point I want to make. I hope very much the House will agree with the Senate that we are in an emergency.

It is absolutely imperative that we move as quickly as possible to get the funding we need so that all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system get quality care in a timely manner.

I hope very much that we don't once again have a major debate about whether we are going to cut food stamps or education or roads and bridges in order to fund the Veterans' Administration. When this Congress voted to go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan, it said that it was an emergency. Some of us disagreed with that, and I don't want to debate the Iraq war again, but when Congress said it is an emergency that we go to war, well, if it is an emergency that we go to war, it is more of an emergency that we take care of the men and women who fought in those wars. If you don't believe that is the case, don't send Americans off to war. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war.

I hope very much that we don't go back to the same old, same old of having a debate where some people say: Well, if you want to fund VA health care, you are going to have to cut education or cut Medicaid or cut Medicare or cut some other program. That is not the issue. This is an emergency. Our veterans have put their lives on the line. Now is the time for us to defend them, and we have to get this legislation moving.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Texas.

ISRAELI KIDNAPPING

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to talk about three young boys—three young boys who are now in the hands of terrorists. This should be on the front page of every paper in the United States because this is an issue that is as vital to us as it is to the nation of Israel.

On Thursday night, June 12, three Jewish teenagers—Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaar and Eyal Yifrah—were kidnapped. You can see all three of these boys in the photos beside me.

Today, Thursday June 26, marks the 14th day of their abduction. Just imagine if these were your children or any child you know. Just imagine if it were your child who was kidnapped for 14 days and you don't know where they are or even whether they are still alive.

These boys—all smart, hard-working, diligent students—were taken on their way home from school. They were waiting at the bus stop. They were only 5 minutes away from their school—one of the finest yeshivas in Israel. These boys weren't doing anything wrong. They are innocent schoolchildren.

Yet today it has been reported that Israel's Shin Bet identified two key suspects in the abduction. These two individuals are members of Hamas—a vicious terrorist organization that seeks Israel's destruction and has launched thousands of rockets into Israel, killing innocent civilians. These rockets have also killed dozens of Americans in Israel. Now they have kidnapped three school boys. Sadly, this is business as usual for Hamas. This is the same terrorist organization with which the Palestinian Authority recently joined in a so-called “unity” government.

Israel has been tirelessly looking for these two men since the kidnapping. They come from families who have broader ties to Hamas. In a telling statement to the *Times of Israel*, the mother of one of the two alleged terrorists claims she did not know of her son's actions, but she said she would be “proud of him and hoped he would continue to evade capture.” A mother, proud of her son for kidnapping three school boys.

Hamas leader Khaled Mashal spoke about the kidnappings on Monday, say-

ing, “I bless those who did it because it is a moral obligation to free prisoners from Israeli jails.” This is a leader of Hamas now parked effectively in the unity government of the Palestinian Authority blessing those who have kidnapped three school boys because this is the kind of activity that Hamas terrorists support, the kidnapping of innocent schoolchildren.

Since the kidnapping, there have been no pictures or videos made available of the kidnapped boys. Their families are in the dark without any knowledge of where their boys are or what conditions they are being held in.

Rachel Fraenkel, the mother of Naftali Fraenkel, spoke before the United Nations Human Rights Council on June 24. Rachel said:

My son texted me—said he's on his way home—and then he's gone. Every mother's nightmare is waiting and waiting endlessly for her child to come home.

She then pleaded for more action to be taken to find the boys, concluding:

We just want them back in our homes, in their beds. We just want to hug them . . .

All of us should stand with Rachel as she stands with her son who has been kidnapped.

I also want to tell the world about these three boys.

Rachel's son Naftali is 16 years old. His grandparents have lived in Brooklyn, and Brooklyn has been a second home to him. He is the oldest of seven children. He likes playing the guitar, basketball, and Ping-Pong. Indeed, there is even a video of him on YouTube playing Ping-Pong. I have to say he is pretty good. He is a talented and gifted student who is on track to take the biology matriculation exams. His teachers say Naftali is brilliant, one of the best they have ever had, and his mother said his personality is a delightful combination of both serious and fun.

Gilad Shaar, who was with Naftali that day—also coming home from school—was likewise abducted. Like Naftali, Gilad is 16 years old. “Gil” means happiness and “ad” means forever. His name literally means “happiness forever,” and he is a source of joy to those who meet him.

His aunt Leehy Shaar, whom I had the privilege of meeting and visiting earlier this week, said, “He has a smile that brings light to the world”—quite fitting for a boy named “happiness forever.” She said, “We want him home where he belongs, with his family, who so dearly loves him.”

Gilad has five sisters, and he is described by them as a caring and loving brother. He is the family's only son, and he has family in Los Angeles and in New York. Gilad is witty. He loves to read, watch movies, and recently he finished a scuba diving course, but he is also a talented cook. He enjoys baking his sisters cakes and pastries.

We don't know where Gilad is right now.

Then there is Eyal Yifrah, the third boy kidnapped that day. He is 19 years old and is the oldest of six children. He is a role model for their family, and he is loved by friends who say they would like to have him as a brother. He loves sports. He should be cheering the World Cup games today—like so many other teenagers—with his friends. A gregarious fellow, he likes to cook, travel, play guitar, and sing. Indeed, you can find videos of him on YouTube singing a song that he himself wrote. Eyal should be home singing again.

There can be no more illusions that Hamas has any role in any future government formed by the Palestinian Authority. They must not receive any further recognition or legitimization. Hamas is a violent terrorist organization ready and eager to brutalize the most innocent. Hamas is a terrorist organization that kidnapped three innocent school boys.

Hamas, give those boys back.

Hamas, give those boys back now.

The full weight of the world should bear down on Hamas to give them back safely and immediately. If they do not, we should use all available means to stand unequivocally with Israel for however long it takes to find these boys and to bring them home. These are teenagers who were targeted for who they are, who have done no wrong, who have done nothing that comes near to deserving what happened to them that day while waiting at the bus stop to go home from school.

It is easy for us to become desensitized to violence, desensitized to terrorism. It is easy for us to forget that these are three teenage boys whose families desperately want their boys back. I ask that all of us lift them up in prayer. I pray for their safe return. I pray they will soon be home with the families who so dearly love them and miss them, and I pray that God will cover them with a shield of heavenly protection. I pray that America will stand strong, will shine a light and do everything possible to apprehend the terrorists and bring these boys home.

Thank you, and God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business, and I appreciate the wonderful courtesy of my friend Senator CARL LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S.-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, next week I look forward to traveling to India, where I look forward to meeting with Prime Minister Modi, his national security team, and other Indian leaders. I am excited to be returning to New Delhi, and I am so hopeful about

what the Prime Minister's election could mean for the revitalization of India's economy, its rising power, and for the renewal of the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

National elections in India are always a remarkable affair. Over several weeks hundreds of millions of people peacefully elect their leaders—the largest exercise of democracy on the planet. But even by Indian standards, the recent election that brought to power Prime Minister Modi and his party, the BJP, was a landmark event. It was the first time in 30 years that one Indian political party won enough seats to govern without forming a coalition with another party. This gives the Prime Minister a historic mandate for change, which Indians clearly crave.

I want Prime Minister Modi to succeed because I want India to succeed. It is no secret that the past few years have been challenging ones for India—political gridlock, a flagging economy, financial difficulties, and more. It is not my place or that of any other American to tell India how to realize its full potential. That is for the Indians to decide. Our concern is simply that India does realize its full potential, for the United States has a stake in India's success. Indeed, a strong, confident, and future-oriented India is indispensable for a vibrant U.S.-India strategic partnership.

It is also no secret that India and the United States have not been reaching our full potential as strategic partners over the past few years, and there is plenty of blame to be shared on both sides for that. Too often recently we have slipped back into a transactional relationship, one defined more by competitive concession seeking than by achieving shared strategic goals.

We need to lift our sights again. To help us do so, I think we need to remind ourselves why the United States and India embarked on this partnership in the first place. It was never simply about the personalities involved, although the personal commitment of leaders in both countries has been indispensable at every turn. No, the real reason India and the United States have resolved to develop the strategic partnership is because each country has determined independently that doing so is in its national interests.

It is because we have been guided by our national interests that the progress of our partnership has consistently enjoyed bipartisan support in the United States and in India.

This endeavor began with closer cooperation between a Democratic administration in Washington and a BJP-led government in New Delhi. It deepened dramatically during the last decade under a Republican and a Congress-led government. It reached historic heights with the conclusion of our civil nuclear agreement—thanks to the bold leadership of President Bush and Prime

Minister Singh. This foundation of shared national interests has sustained our partnership under President Obama, and it is the common ground on which we can build for the future as a new prime minister takes office in New Delhi.

When it comes to the national interests of the United States, the logic of a strategic partnership with India is powerful. India will soon become the world's most populous nation. It has a young, increasingly skilled workforce that can lead India to become one of the world's largest economies. It is a nuclear power and possesses the world's second largest military, which is becoming even more capable and technologically sophisticated. It shares strategic interests with us on issues as diverse and vital as defeating terrorism and extremism, strengthening a rules-based international order in Asia, securing global energy supplies, and sustaining global economic growth.

India and the United States not only share common interests, we also share common values, the values of human rights, individual liberty, and democratic limits on state power, but also the values of our societies—creativity and critical thinking, risk-taking and entrepreneurialism and social mobility—values that continue to deepen the interdependence of our peoples across every field of human endeavor. It is because of these shared values we are confident that India's continued rise as a democratic great power—whether tomorrow or 25 years from now—will be peaceful and thus can advance critical U.S. national interests. That is why, contrary to the old dictates of realpolitik, we seek not to limit India's rise but to bolster and catalyze it—economically, geopolitically, and, yes, militarily.

It is my hope that Prime Minister Modi and his government will recognize how a deeper strategic partnership with the United States serves India's national interests, especially in light of current economic and geopolitical challenges.

For example, a top priority for India is the modernization of its armed forces. This is an area where U.S. defense capabilities, technologies, and cooperation—especially between our defense industries—can benefit India enormously. Similarly, greater bilateral trade and investment can be a key driver of economic growth in India, which seems to be what Indian citizens want most from their new government. Likewise, as India seeks to further its “Look East” policy and deepen its relationships with major like-minded powers in Asia—especially Japan, but also Australia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam. Those countries are often U.S. allies and partners as well, and our collective ability to work in concert can only magnify India's influence and advance its interests.

Put simply, I see three strategic interests that India and the United States clearly share, and these should be the priorities of a reinvigorated partnership:

First, to shape the development of South Asia as a region of sovereign democratic states that contribute to one another's security and prosperity; second, to create a preponderance of power in the Asia-Pacific region that favors free societies, free markets, free trade, and free comments; and, finally, to strengthen a liberal international order and an open global economy that safeguards human dignity and fosters peaceful development.

As we seek to take our strategic partnership with India to the next level, it is important for U.S. leaders to reach out personally to Prime Minister Modi, especially in light of recent history. That is largely why I am traveling to India next week, and that is why I am pleased President Obama invited the Prime Minister to visit Washington. I wish he had extended that invitation sooner, but it is positive nonetheless. When the Prime Minister comes to Washington, I urge our congressional leaders to invite him to address a joint session of Congress. I can imagine no more compelling scene than the elected leader of the world's largest democracy addressing the elected representatives of the world's oldest democracy.

Yet we must be clear-eyed about those issues that could weaken our strategic partnership. One is Afghanistan. Before it was a safe haven for the terrorists who attacked America on September 11, 2001, Afghanistan was a base of terrorists that targeted India. Our Indian friends remember this well, even if we do not. For this reason I am deeply concerned about the consequences of the President's plan to pull all of our troops out of Afghanistan by 2016, not only for U.S. national security but also for the national security of our friends in India.

If Afghanistan goes the way of Iraq in the absence of U.S. forces, it would leave India with a clear and present danger on its periphery. It would constrain India's rise and its ability to devote resources and attention to shared foreign policy challenges elsewhere in Asia and beyond. It could push India toward deeper cooperation with Russia and Iran in order to manage the threats posed by a deteriorating Afghanistan. And it would erode India's perception of the credibility and capability of U.S. power and America's reliability as a strategic partner.

The bottom line here is clear: India and the United States have a shared interest in working together to end the scourge of extremism and terrorism that threatens stability, freedom, and prosperity across South Asia and beyond. The President's current plan to disengage from Afghanistan is a step

backward from this goal, and thus does not serve the U.S.-India strategic partnership.

For all of these reasons and more, I hope the President will be open to re-evaluating and revising his withdrawal plan in light of conditions on the ground.

Another hurdle on which our partnership could stumble is our resolve to see it through amid domestic political concerns and short-term priorities that threaten to push our nations apart. For most of the last century, the logic of a U.S.-India partnership was compelling, but its achievements eluded us. We have finally begun to explore the real potential of this partnership over the past two decades, but we have barely scratched the surface, and the gains we have made remain fragile and reversible, as our largely stalled progress over the past few years can attest.

If India and the United States are to build a truly strategic partnership, we must each commit to it and defend it in equal measure. We must each build the public support needed to sustain our strategic priorities, and we must resist the domestic forces in each of our countries that would turn our strategic relationship into a transactional one—one defined not by the shared strategic goals we achieved together but by what parochial concessions we extract from one another. If we fail in these challenges, we will fall far short of our potential, as we have before.

It is this simple: If the 21st century is defined more by peace than war, more by prosperity than misery, and more by freedom than tyranny, I believe future historians will look back and point to the fact that a strategic partnership was consummated between the world's two preeminent democratic powers: India and the United States. If we keep this vision of our relationship always uppermost in our minds, there is no dispute we cannot resolve, no investment in each other's success we cannot make, and nothing we cannot accomplish together.

I thank my beloved friend from Michigan for allowing me to speak, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Arizona for not only his remarks but also the thoughtfulness of his remarks on the U.S.-India relationship. I listened to them carefully and am glad to join in and look forward to his report. We have had a historic relationship with India as the two preeminent democracies, and we have a great opportunity to build on this relationship. I know my friend from Arizona has contributed vitally to that effort.

IRAQ

Mr. LEVIN. Recent events in Iraq have created great concern. The terri-

torial gains by the ISIL, a violent extremist group, are not just a threat to Iraq's security but a security challenge to the entire region, and indeed to the United States. By its words and deeds, ISIL has made clear that it is deeply hostile to American interests and to universal values of freedom and human rights. That hostility can easily translate into plans and threats against us.

Faced by these developments, President Obama's decision to send a small number of U.S. military advisers is prudent. They will help assess the situation on the ground, they will support Iraqi efforts to defeat the Islamic militants Iraq faces, and help the Iraqis make best use of the intelligence support we are providing.

The President is right to say that U.S. troops will not return to ground combat in Iraq. The President is also right to say it is not our place to choose Iraq's leaders, because doing so is only likely to feed distrust and suspicion, and there is already too much of that in Iraq and in the Middle East.

What we can do is promote moves toward the political unity that is so essential for Iraq if it is going to weather the crisis and make progress toward a stable, democratic society. The problem in Iraq has not been a lack of direct U.S. military involvement but, rather, a lack of inclusiveness on the part of Iraqi leaders. That is why I believe we should not consider any direct action on our part, such as air strikes, unless three very specific conditions have been met:

First, that our military leaders tell us we have effective options that can help change the momentum on the ground in Iraq. In other words, only if our military leaders believe we can identify high-value targets—that striking them could have a measurable impact on the ability of the Iraqi security forces to stop and reverse the advances of the ISIL on the ground, and that we can strike them with minimal risk of civilian casualties and without dragging us further into the conflict.

Second, any additional military action on our part should come only with the clear public support of our friends and allies in the region—particularly moderate Arab leaders of neighboring countries. The United States has engaged in a comprehensive diplomatic effort to coordinate our response with Iraq's neighbors. If our strategy is to have the effect we want, it is essential that we have broad support in the region.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we should not act unless leaders of all elements of Iraqi society—Shia, Sunni, Kurds, and religious minorities—join together in a formal request for more direct support.

There is an obvious need for Iraqi leaders to form an inclusive unity government for their country's long-term success. But that process is likely to

take some time, weeks or even months. But a unified formal statement requesting our further military assistance would be an important signal that Iraq's leaders understand the need to come together.

It could not only be a sign that additional action on our part would be effective but also could be an important step toward creation of a national unity government.

So far, the signs that Iraqi leaders are prepared to take the steps they need to take are mixed at best. Prime Minister Maliki, who has too often governed in a sectarian and authoritarian manner, delivered a speech recently in which he said national unity is essential to confront ISIL—which is true—but then he signaled little willingness to reach out to other groups. A number of prominent Shia leaders portrayed the conflict in starkly sectarian terms, and Shia militias, including those under the control of Moktada al-Sadr, have marched through the streets of Baghdad. There is little doubt also that Iran is pursuing its own sectarian agenda in the region. Some Iraqi Sunni leaders too have made statements that promote sectarian interests over the common good, and there are also fears that the Kurdish minority may exploit the situation. But on the other hand there have also been some signs that the Iraqi leaders recognize the need to confront the ISIL threat not as Sunnis or Shia or Kurds but together as Iraqis.

Iraq's most influential Shia clerk, Ali Sistani, has called on all Iraqis "to exercise the highest degree of restraint and work on strengthening the bonds of love between each other, and to avoid any kind of sectarian behavior that may affect the unity of the Iraqi nation," spreading the message that "this army [the Iraqi Army] does not belong to the Shia. It belongs to all of Iraq. It is for the Shia, the Sunni, the Kurds and the Christians." That is the message from Ali Sistani—a very powerful message and a unifying message in contrast to the messages that should come, for instance, from Mr. Sadr.

The United States has national security interests in Iraq, but further military involvement there will not serve those interests unless Iraq begins to move toward the inclusiveness and unity that is necessary if our involvement is to have a positive impact. Put another way, we cannot save Iraqis from themselves. Only if Iraq's leaders begin to unify their nation can help from us really matter.

The ISIL is a vicious enemy. It is also the common enemy of all Iraqis—of all Iraqis and of Iraq's neighbors. If this vicious common enemy cannot unite Iraqis in a common cause, than our assistance, including airstrikes, won't matter. Only a unified Iraq governed by elected leaders who seek to rule in the interest of all their people can stand up to this threat.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, before I begin, I want to pay tribute to my friend and former colleague Howard Baker. I was honored to work with him in the Senate and later worked closely with him when he was President Reagan's White House Chief of Staff. He loved the Senate, and he built an impressive leadership role as majority leader. He was a skilled negotiator, an honest broker, an effective legislator, and a great steward of this institution.

I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker, an incredible woman, a dear friend, and a respected colleague as well. It was truly a privilege to learn from and serve alongside Howard, and I know I am far from alone among his many friends and colleagues in missing him deeply. We miss Nancy too. It was wonderful to see the two of them together. They cared a great deal for each other. He was a wonderful man, she is a wonderful woman, and I personally love both of them. We will miss him.

ADVICE AND CONSENT

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to commend the holding of the Supreme Court's decision this morning in *NLRB vs. Noel Canning*. The Court's decision is a critical victory for the principle that we are a nation of laws, not of men. It is a vindication of the fundamental notion that the Constitution binds us all, including even the President, and it is a triumph for the rightful prerogatives of this institution, the U.S. Senate, the authority of which has been under siege throughout the Obama years.

One of the most important powers endowed in this body by the Constitution is the requirement that nominations of principal officers receive the advice and consent of the Senate. The confirmation process provides Members of the Senate with a wide range of tools—up to and including outright refusal to confirm a nominee—in order to influence the proper execution of the laws we pass. When aggregated, these tools amount to a critical check on the workings of the executive branch.

The Senate's advice and consent rule did not rise from accident—far from it. As the Supreme Court has explained, quoting the famed historian Gordon Wood, "The manipulation of official appointments had long been one of the American revolutionary generation's greatest grievances against executive power, because the power of appointment to offices was deemed the most insidious and powerful weapon of 18th century despotism."

The Founders' worry about the dangers of the Executive appointment power should ring true today given many of the Obama administration's actions, including a radical set of National Labor Relations Board nominees who promised to tip the balance of the Board toward an extreme and divisive agenda, hurting both employers and employees, and a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director nominee poised to exercise unprecedented and unchecked power thanks to the dangerous provisions of Dodd-Frank—no checks on his removal, no congressional control over his budget, and no effective judicial review. These are exactly the sorts of circumstances that motivated the Founders' concerns about an unchecked appointment power in the Executive. They are the very reasons the Presidential nominees must obtain the Senate's consent before taking office.

The only exception to this body's power to decline its consent to a nomination is the President's power "to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session." But the President's power to make recess appointments is wholly contingent on what the Constitution terms "the Recess of the Senate" actually occurring, and the power to decide when that happens rests squarely with the legislative branch.

This is the obvious consequence of the Senate's constitutional power—conferred in article I, section 5—to determine the rules of its proceedings. And it is well supported by longstanding practice and precedent, acknowledged by the executive branch going as far back as 1790. Consider what would happen if the President could unilaterally determine when the recess of the Senate occurs. With no check on the President's discretion to declare the Senate in recess, he could employ the recess appointment power whenever the Senate refused to give immediate and unencumbered consent to his or her nominees. The advice-and-consent process would become a dead letter. The exception would swallow the rule, and the Senate would be deprived of a central tool our Nation's Founders specifically conferred to prevent Executive mischief.

The Founders realized the severity of this threat. They had fought royal abuses of the appointment power, asserting in the Declaration of Independence how the King's government had "erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance." As Hamilton explained in *Federalist* 69, "They deliberately chose not to give the President the King's often-abused power to discontinue a session of the legislature."

So concerned were the Framers with the legislature's power to control its

own sittings that the Constitution gave each House the power to prevent the other from adjourning for more than 3 days. In essence, the Senate and the House of Representatives both have the power to prevent the recess of the Senate and thereby avoid the activation of the President's recess appointment power.

So when the Senate was confronted by the prospect of an out-of-control National Labor Relations Board and an unchecked Consumer Financial Protection Bureau led by President Obama's appointees, we were facing threats that our Founders had themselves faced and for which they had specifically provided us with the tools to resist. When we refused to act as quickly as the administration wanted and merely rubberstamp these nominees, we acted exactly as the Constitution's Framers had intended. And the House of Representatives wisely refused to consent to a recess of the annual session of the Senate, thereby refusing to grant the President authority to make lawful recess appointments.

I don't relish rejecting nominees—quite the contrary. Over the past 38 years, I have voted for the vast majority of nominees from each of the six Presidents under whom I have served and with whom I have served alongside, including President Obama. But scrutinizing the President's nominees and occasionally withholding consent when circumstances warrant represents Congress fulfilling, not abdicating, its constitutional responsibilities.

So when faced with our legitimate and lawful use of the powers endowed in the legislative branch by the Constitution, what did the Obama administration do? Did it seek to accommodate our concerns about the unconstitutional structure and unprecedented powers of the CFPB? Did the President seek to help develop a compromise package of the NLRB nominees, as Ted Kennedy and I always did? Sadly, no. Instead, President Obama simply proclaimed that he “wouldn't take no for an answer” despite what the Constitution may say. He chose instead to use—or rather abuse—the recess appointment power to install these four nominees, including two who had been nominated only 2 weeks before—hardly long enough for the Senate to vet them thoroughly. But, of course, we were not in “the Recess of the Senate” that the Constitution requires to activate the recess appointment power. Even the Solicitor General admitted that a 3-day adjournment was too short to allow the President to bypass the Senate lawfully.

Instead, President Obama audaciously claimed the power to decide for himself when the Senate was in recess and determined that in his personal opinion, our so-called pro forma sessions during this period did not really count as sessions of the Senate, at

least for the purposes of the Constitution's requirements.

But during these sessions the Senate was fully capable of engaging in its business. Indeed, during a similar session the previous fall, the Senate twice passed legislation that President Obama himself signed. We have also used these sessions to appoint conferees, to read calendar bills, and to engage in other such activity characteristic of the Senate operating in session. While the Senate planned to conduct no subsequent business under a unanimous consent agreement, even the Obama administration admitted that there was a possibility that we might decide otherwise. Whether the Senate chooses to conduct business has no relevance here. Instead, it is the ability of the Senate to conduct business if it so chooses that matters.

Faced with this reality, the Obama administration even argued that the Senate, by refusing to adjourn for more than 3 days, could not deny the President his recess appointment power—as if he was owed the opportunity to use this power.

This argument turns basic structure of Presidential appointments on its head, as if our advice-and-consent role were merely an inconvenience to be avoided rather than the organizing principle of how the entire constitutional process is designed to work. The Constitution does not create in the President an endlessly flexible power to bypass Congress when he disagrees with us. In fact, it does exactly the opposite: It vests in Congress both the power and the responsibility to resist a President's ill-advised policies and Executive overreach.

The actions and arguments advanced by the Obama administration represent a direct assault on the Constitution's division of powers between the different branches. This brazen power grab takes President Obama's already audacious overreach to a new level.

I applaud the Supreme Court's willingness to fulfill its constitutional obligations and check this abuse of power by the White House. While I agree most with the reasoning of Justice Scalia's concurrence, which respects the fixed and discernible meaning of the Constitution's text and its controlling power, the unanimous nature of this decision reflects just how egregious the President's action was.

But those of us who care about checking the Obama administration's overreach cannot place our faith in the courts alone, although they must play an important role. Too often this administration has been crafty in implementing its breaches of the law to avoid judicial review, frequently structuring its overreach to prevent any plaintiff from having any legal standing to sue in court. This White House has even used its role in the legislative process to advance provisions that

eliminate the potential for judicial review, as it did in Dodd-Frank. And when the courts have found legitimate occasion to scrutinize President Obama's overreach, the administration has often fought to keep litigants out of court, as in the *Fast and Furious* litigation.

Perhaps most disturbing is what happened with the D.C. Circuit, the second most important court in the land that oversees our massive regulatory state, the court that originally held the President's appointments unconstitutional. When the D.C. Circuit tried to hold the Obama administration accountable to the law and the Constitution, President Obama and his allies sought—in their own words—to “switch the majority” on the court and to “fill up the D.C. Circuit one way or another.”

In the rush to eliminate any possible judicial obstacle to accountability by packing the D.C. Circuit, the Obama administration ran roughshod over the rules and traditions of this body by blowing up the filibuster. Whether through unilaterally changing the Senate rules or abusing the recess appointment power, the President and his allies have demonstrated a willingness to work untold and permanent damage to the institutions of this great body and to our constitutional system itself.

With such a powerful and aggressive President, no single institution can restore the constitutional checks on President Obama's often lawless exercise of power. Restoring constitutional government will require great effort by all of us: The courts, the Congress, and most importantly the voting public. That is why it is essential for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand and defend the institutional prerogatives of the Senate. That is every Senator's sworn duty under the Constitution.

Many of my colleagues—even those with whom I rarely agree—have the potential to be great Senators, worthy stewards of this institution, zealous guardians of its prerogatives and true defenders of its role in our constitutional system of government.

Sadly, whether blinded by partisan loyalty to the President or too inexperienced to understand the Senate from any other perspective than having a like-minded Senate majority and President, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have allowed—even facilitated—this administration's attempts to break down the constitutional checks on Executive power. Bob Byrd must be rolling over in his grave. He would never allow the Senate's power to be as diluted and dissipated as it has been during this Presidency. He would have stood up to them. He would have taken the Senate's prerogatives and made them very clear to this President and anybody else who tried to invade the Senate's prerogatives—

and I might add constitutional prerogatives at that.

We must all realize what is at stake. This is not some petty turf war. As Madison warned in Federalist 47, “The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.”

To disregard this central principle of constitutional government is to abolish the barriers protecting us from arbitrary government action and to undermine the rule of law.

We in the Congress should make no apology for protecting the legal prerogatives of the body in which we serve, for as Madison counseled in Federalist 51: “[t]he great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists of giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others.”

If this body—and constitutional government generally—are to maintain a meaningful role in preserving liberty, we must all realize the importance of connecting the President’s unlawful and illegitimate attempts to assert power. We must use the rightful and legitimate constitutional authorities that the Founders gave us to stand and fight back.

This is important. This is not just a battle between the two sides. This is not just an itty-bitty, little problem. This is one that has thwarted the intentions of the Founders to have three separated powers, each with its own duties and responsibilities, not infringed by the other powers that disregard the duties and responsibilities of the legislative branch.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING MEREDITH MELLODY

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is always rewarding to see people go on to bigger and better pursuits in their careers, unless, of course, we depend on them. And for almost my entire time as majority leader here in this body, one of the people I have depended on is Meredith Melody. Isn’t that a great name, Meredith Melody. She has been an important part of the Democratic floor staff for that entire time.

For 8 years she has been here in the Senate, working late hours on the floor, sending me, among other things,

the wrapup—she did that for a while—what happened during the day. It is tedious, but it is important, and we did it every day. She has been in the cloakroom making sure the wheels of this body continue turning. She comes from a political family. She comes, as I recall, from Scranton.

Anyway, I am grateful for her hard work and her dedication over the years. We all depend on her and have depended on her, and we are very thankful for her service.

She is leaving the Senate to pursue opportunities in the private sector, and that is important. But the main reason she is leaving—that I don’t question, anyway, recognizing this is very important to her, and it is probably one of the most important things she has ever done—if not the most important—she is going to get married. I have already congratulated her.

But it is really sad to see these people who have become a part of our family go. She is going to be successful in her future endeavors in the private sector.

I certainly wish you, Meredith, the best in the future. You are a wonderful person. You are kind, thoughtful, and considerate always. You are never rude to anyone. And the pressure that is on each of you to do this yesterday, do it right now, and do it sooner than you are capable of doing it—you have always been polite and never rude to anyone.

So I am grateful to you for your service to the Senate and, in doing that, your service to the country.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, one year ago tomorrow, the Senate came together to pass historic legislation to reform our broken immigration system. We did so with a strong bipartisan vote and after weeks of exhaustive work. The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act would unite families,

spur the economy, and help protect our borders. Above all else, this historic legislation would create an immigration system that is worthy of our American values.

Today, our system does not reflect the values we hold as a nation. It is devastating that after 1 year, the House has yet to pass desperately needed immigration reform. The cost of inaction is all around us, from the millions of workers who are forced to live in the shadows without fully contributing to our economy, to the foreign-born students who are taking their skills overseas when they graduate instead of investing their talents here, to the uncertainty that continues to plague our agricultural and dairy industries because of unstable work visa programs. Families are being torn apart by deportations, and visa applicants around the world find themselves stuck in limbo because of our lengthy visa backlogs. However, nowhere is the cost of inaction more evident than in the faces of the young children sleeping on cold floors in detention centers on our border.

The humanitarian crisis at the border is growing, and we have a moral duty to address it. I was glad this body came together last year to support my bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which included important new provisions to improve the treatment of unaccompanied children at our border. This vital legislation, signed into law as part of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 provides additional advocates and support for the unaccompanied youngsters who come to our border often fleeing violence and abuse in their country of origin. I was proud when the Republican-controlled House voted overwhelmingly to support these important protections for unaccompanied minors. But they address just one piece of a rapidly growing problem. To truly address the crisis we are seeing today, the Republican House must act to pass bipartisan and comprehensive immigration reform.

Those Republican critics who claim we must first secure our border before the House will vote on immigration reform should actually read the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act that the Senate passed last year. The bill would double the number of Border Patrol agents and authorize the completion of a 700-mile wall at the southern border. This language was a Republican demand during Senate consideration of the legislation. While I did not agree with it, I voted to authorize this so-called border surge because I supported the broader reform that would do so much for the families and DREAMers who contribute to the fabric of this Nation. Border security measures take up an entire title of the

legislation, allocating billions of dollars to border security in addition to the considerable expenditures already authorized by existing law. Those measures are reinforced by “triggers” that must be satisfied before undocumented individuals may apply for permanent residence under the bill. These issues were hard-fought in the Senate, and the result was legislation that dramatically reshaped the landscape for border enforcement. So I say again, those who claim we must secure our border before passing immigration reform should look at the bill this Senate passed with broad bipartisan support a year ago.

Americans have seen too much inaction in Washington. The issue before us is too important to simply put off for another time. Just as House Republican leaders set aside partisanship to do what is right by passing the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act, they should again recognize that a majority of the Chamber supports passing comprehensive immigration reform. Immigration reform should not be held back due to partisan caucus rules that say only legislation supported by the majority of Republicans can be considered. All Members, Democrats and Republicans, should have the courage to vote. House Republican leaders cast aside partisanship and showed their courage last year by bringing the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act to the floor. They should do so again today.

Legislating is about making tough choices. It is not about standing on the sidelines and complaining that this solution is not perfect. It is about supporting efforts that move this country forward. The bipartisan legislation we passed had the support of businesses, community and faith leaders. It received support from groups ranging from the chamber of commerce and Americans for Tax Reform to law enforcement, university presidents, civil rights groups, and community advocates. Voices from across the Nation and the political spectrum came together in support of enacting long-overdue reforms.

I have been privileged to serve in this great body for nearly four decades because of the trust of the people of Vermont. In my time here, I have rarely seen such commitment to an issue as I did last year to comprehensive immigration reform. What was initially a proposal from the so-called Gang of 8 went through an extensive committee and floor process to allow every Senator to offer their input. The result was an historic bill supported by 68 Senators from both sides of the aisle. I congratulate those Senators for their hard work to pass this historic legislation. They share my belief that the status quo is not an option. President Obama, who has called the crisis at the border an “urgent humanitarian situa-

tion,” knows that maintaining the system we have in place today is not an option. We need a long-term plan to address the many problems in our immigration system and to ensure that in the future we have the tools to address crises like the one we are seeing now. That solution lies in passing the Senate immigration bill.

There is still time this year to accomplish meaningful and historic reform. I urge Republican leaders in the House not to waste another day and to bring up the bipartisan Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

ECUADORAN AMAZON OIL DRILLING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I wish to call attention to a recent decision by the Ecuadoran Government to issue a permit for oil drilling in the Yasuni reserve in the Amazon region. This should raise alarm bells in the international community for a number of reasons.

It was not long ago that President Correa was supporting a lawsuit against Chevron, citing contamination that resulted from oil exploration by Texaco, the previous owner of the wells, in the Amazon region of Ecuador. That case, while fraught with allegations of corruption and ethical violations, shone a spotlight on the undeniable environmental damage, water contamination, and health problems associated with those oil wells, as well as on the rich biodiversity and indigenous populations in that region.

But the Correa administration has now backstepped, deciding to allow the state-run oil company Petroamazonas to begin exploratory drilling. Given the history, one can only be concerned about the threat this poses to one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world and the people who live there.

I am also disappointed by the circumstances leading up to the decision to begin oil production. Having failed in its far-fetched attempt to elicit contributions from the international community in exchange for halting plans to drill in the reserve, the Correa administration is moving ahead with this ill-conceived project. In other words, if someone else won't pay to prevent the Ecuadoran Government from potentially despoiling their own forests, they will drill there themselves despite the grave problems that occurred in the past.

Nobody questions Ecuador's need for energy. Nobody doubts Ecuador's right to drill for oil. But we all have a responsibility to protect areas especially rich in biodiversity for future generations. We also have a responsibility to respect vulnerable indigenous cultures. While no country, including the United States, can claim perfection in envi-

ronmental stewardship, we need to collectively learn from our mistakes and avoid repeating them.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to mark the 5-year anniversary of the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation was a landmark in the decades-long fight against the No. 1 cause of preventable death in the United States—tobacco use.

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act passed in 2009—15 years after Dr. Kessler, the FDA Commissioner, began trying to regulate tobacco and 45 years after the Surgeon General's landmark report on tobacco use and lung cancer. For the first time in history, this law gave the FDA the authority to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products.

One express aim of the law was to reduce rates of tobacco use among children. The law achieved this by restricting sales to minors, banning flavored cigarettes, banning tobacco-brand sponsorships of sport and entertainment events, banning free samples, restricting advertisements to children, and more.

The results speak for themselves. Just this month, the CDC reported that cigarette smoking among U.S. high school students has dropped to the lowest level in 22 years. According to the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the percentage of students who reported smoking a cigarette in the last 30 days fell from 27.5 percent in 1991 to 15.7 percent in 2013. In Illinois, the percentage of students who are current smokers dropped by more than half between 1993 and 2013.

The FDA's implementation of this law is incomplete, and it needs to act now to reverse worrying trends. The CDC reports that e-cigarette use among middle and high school students more than doubled in 1 year, from 2011 to 2012. The same study found that one in five middle school students who reported using e-cigarettes had never tried conventional cigarettes. E-cigarettes could be a gateway to nicotine addiction and smoking. A new study released in the JAMA Pediatrics goes even further. This study found that middle and high school students who used e-cigarettes were more likely to smoke traditional cigarettes and less likely to quit smoking. If current smoking trends continue, 5.6 million American kids will die prematurely from a smoking-related illness.

I commend FDA for its most recent efforts to bring e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and other forms of tobacco under its authority. However, FDA's proposed regulations remain dangerously silent on one of the most pressing questions of all—the marketing of these addictive products to children.

In April, ten of my congressional colleagues and I released a report documenting how leading e-cigarette manufacturers are marketing e-cigarettes to young people. The industry is deploying the same advertising techniques it used to hook previous generations of cigarette smokers. Many of these companies hired glamorous celebrities to push their brands through TV and radio ads, and sponsored events with heavy social media promotion. For example, NJOY advertised its products during the Super Bowl, the Academy Awards, and on ESPN—all programs with substantial children and teen viewership. In just 2 years, from 2012 to 2013, 6 of the surveyed companies sponsored or provided free samples at 348 events—many geared toward youth audiences.

These e-cigarette companies have even revived cartoon characters in a way that calls to mind Joe Camel—the deadliest cartoon of the 20th century. While many of these companies argue that they do not market to children, a robust analysis recently published in the journal *Pediatrics* suggests otherwise. Between 2011 and 2013, exposure to e-cigarette marketing by children aged 12 to 17 rose 256 percent. Mr. President, 24 million children saw these ads. Not only is the marketing and packaging intended to appeal to young people, so is the product itself. Let me read a list of e-cigarette flavors being marketed today—vivid vanilla, gummy bears, chocolate treat, and cherry crush. In the face of this mounting evidence, rather than accelerating its efforts, the FDA bowed to industry pressure last week and extended the comment period on its proposed regulations. Every day, 3,200 kids smoke their first cigarette. Every day that the FDA fails to take action costs lives.

As we move to protect kids from new threats like e-cigarettes, we also have to redouble our fight against tobacco use in the military. Nearly 30 years have passed since the first Department of Defense report on high rates of tobacco use among servicemembers and its devastating impact on readiness, productivity, and medical costs. While overall rates of use have declined significantly, smoking rates among servicemembers are nearly 20 percent higher than civilian rates. The use of smokeless tobacco is more than 450 percent higher for servicemembers than civilians. One in three military smokers began doing so after enlisting.

The Department of Defense spends more than \$1.6 billion every year on tobacco-related medical care and lost days of work, and the VA spends an additional \$5 billion a year to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, primarily caused by smoking.

In 1993, after reading about the dangers of secondhand smoke, CAPT Stanley W. Bryant, commander of the U.S.S. *Roosevelt*, declared that his ship

would be smoke-free. He said, “I’m the commanding officer of these kids and I can’t have them inhaling secondhand smoke. I wouldn’t put them in the line of fire. I’m not going to put them in the line of smoke.” Captain Bryant is one of many leaders in our Armed Forces who have tried to protect the men and women under their command from the dangers of tobacco, but at every turn, their efforts have come under fire from the tobacco industry and its allies. Even Bryant’s victory was short-lived. Within the year the tobacco industry forced in a new tobacco policy that stripped ships’ captains of their authority over ships’ stores and mandated that cigarettes be sold on ships.

One of the central problems is the widespread availability of cheap tobacco products on military installations and ships. The Department of Defense policy requires that exchanges set tobacco prices 5 percent below the lowest local competitor. In practice, these discounts are greater. A 19-year-old soldier walking into a PX can buy a pack of Marlboro cigarettes for 25 percent less, on average, than at the nearest Walmart, according to a recent study in *JAMA*. These discounts are deadly. Extensive research shows that raising tobacco prices is one of the most effective ways to reduce use. Efforts to end these discounts began in the late 1980s, but nearly every attempt has been blocked due to industry pressure.

This spring, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced that he is considering a ban on tobacco sales at all bases and ships. As the Department of Defense has acknowledged, our ultimate goal should be a tobacco-free military. When I asked about this last week at a hearing, I was heartened to hear that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel was conducting a Department-wide review of tobacco sale policies. I urge Secretaries Hagel and Mabus to set concrete goals, policies, and timelines—starting with an end to these discounts that cost lives just as surely as do wars.

The Tobacco Control Act is one of this administration’s greatest legacies. I urge the administration to continue its leadership by protecting children from e-cigarettes and our men and women in uniform from the harms of smoking.

CONGO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about what this Congress did to help one of the world’s most forgotten yet most deadly conflicts—that in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Former Kansas Senator Sam Brownback invited me to eastern Congo almost 10 years ago and later I returned with Senator SHERROD BROWN in 2010.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a nation of breathtaking natural beauty, rich in a vast array of resources. It is also a badly broken country, weak in governance and dominated by relentless poverty, warlords, pillaging soldiers, and horrific, almost incomprehensible, violence. A barbaric civil war spanning more than a decade in Congo is the most lethal conflict since World War II.

Eastern Congo is known as the “Rape Capital of the World.” In fact, according to the United Nations, regional war and rape leaves an estimated 1,000 or more women assaulted every day in the Congo. That is 12 percent of all Congolese women.

I will try to describe the city of Goma in eastern Congo to those who haven’t been there. It is almost impossible. Imagine one of the poorest places on Earth, where people are literally starving, where they are facing the scourge of disease, where malaria and AIDS cut short the lives of far too many. Imagine a nearby active volcano. Then superimpose over that the misfortune of ongoing war and unrest that has ravaged the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo for years and resulted in millions of deaths and unspeakable sexual violence. Armed militias, some left over from the genocide in Rwanda, continue to operate in the region, terrorizing civilians and inflicting horrific brutality.

The United Nations has a 20,000-member peacekeeping force in the area with an impressive new mandate to bring stability, but it can only do so much. The area is still very fragile, awash in weapons, warlords, and competing regional interests. It is also rich in valuable minerals that are found in our every-day electronics, jewelry, and other products.

It has been said that the Congo war contains “wars within wars”—and that is true. But fueling much of the violence is a bloody contest for control of these vast mineral resources.

Most people probably don’t realize that many of the products we use and wear every day, from automobiles to our cell phones and even our wedding rings, may use one of these minerals—and that there is a possibility it was mined using forced labor from an area of great violence.

We can not begin to solve the problems of eastern Congo without tackling a key source of funding for armed groups, which is the mining of conflict minerals, including tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold. We as a nation and as consumers, as well as industries that use these minerals, have a responsibility to ensure that our economic activity does not support such violence.

NGOs like the Enough Project have led the way in informing the American people about what goes into the jewelry, electronics, and manufacturing equipment they wear and use.

That is why I joined with Senators Brownback and Feingold and Congressman JIM McDERMOTT to support legislation that would help stem the flow of proceeds from illegally mined minerals into those perpetuating unspeakable violence. That law passed almost 4 years ago. Its requirement is simple: If a company registered in the United States uses any of a small list of key minerals from the Congo (tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold)—minerals known to be involved in the conflict areas—then such usage must be reported in that company's SEC disclosure. Companies can also include information showing steps taken to ensure the minerals are legitimately mined and sourced and that by responsibly sourcing these minerals, they are not contributing to the region's violence.

It is not a ban on using the materials or a requirement to source responsibly. Instead it was a reasonable step—a reporting requirement—to shed some light on the issue and to encourage companies using these minerals to source them responsibly.

It took some time for the Securities and Exchange Commission to thoughtfully craft the rule for this law. And disappointingly, as is increasingly too often the case with the rulemaking process, some tried to gut the law in court.

But the law was upheld repeatedly in court, moved forward as enacted by Congress. The first filing reports were submitted to the SEC early this month. This is a milestone.

A look at these filings shows us that some companies have been working for several years already to use their collective financial incentives to foster clean and legitimate supply chains out of eastern Congo. And I want to commend a few of these companies for taking such an early and responsible lead on this issue, including Apple, Intel, and electronics components manufacturer Kemet, which has a branch of its business in my home State of Illinois.

For example, Intel has created its first conflict-free computer chip, while still using responsibly sourced minerals from Congo, and took its reporting a step further by voluntarily submitting it to third-party audits. Under the Conflict-Free Smelter program, the number of international smelters operating free from conflict minerals continues to grow, with almost 90 smelters—40 percent of the world's total smelters—being certified as conflict-free and over 150 companies and industry associations participating in the program. After being refined, the origins of the material become difficult to track, as these smelters purchase materials from a variety of sources. The smelter or refiner therefore represents a critical point in the supply chain where we can look for assurances about whether or not the material has been purchased from conflict-free sources.

Apple has confirmed that its entire tantalum supply chain is conflict free.

Another leader in the electronics industry has been Motorola Solutions, headquartered in Schaumburg, IL. Motorola Solutions emerged early as a company dedicated to cleaning up its supply chain, and to do so, it helped establish Solutions for Hope, dedicated to developing a “closed-pipe” supply chain. In the Rubaya region of the North Kivu province in the DRC, it has done just that. Tantalum mines in Rubaya were directly funding the leader of the vicious M23 rebel group, Bosco Ntaganda. Through persistent effort, diligent monitoring and the banding together of other likeminded corporations, those 17 mines are now certified conflict-free, and most importantly, M23 has laid down its arms and Bosco Ntaganda stands before the International Criminal Court to face charges for the atrocities he and his comrades committed.

According to the Enough Project's recent report on the impact of this legislation, armed groups and the Congolese army are no longer present at two-thirds of tin, tantalum and tungsten mines surveyed in eastern Congo. And as you may have seen recently, Dutch smart phone manufacturer Fairphone is making its products with conflict-free raw materials. Fairphone has already sold 35,000 units and is hoping to expand production as more consumers embrace conflict-free electronics. Fairphone and others are leading by example, and proving that conflict-free is not only possible, but it can be profitable too.

This was the whole point of the legislation. And consumers will finally have an option to invest in and purchase from those companies that are making a good-faith effort to source from this war stricken area responsibly.

I thank my many colleagues here in the Congress on both sides of the aisle who helped make this bill a reality and the many responsible companies that are taking steps to help ensure their sourcing of minerals does not contribute to the horrific violence in mineral-rich Congo. The Congolese people have suffered entirely too much, and I sincerely believe that these efforts will be part of the long-term solution to the quest for stability and peace in their country.

RECESS APPOINTMENT DECISION

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I wish to applaud the Supreme Court's unanimous decision that the President's January 4, 2012 appointments to the NLRB were unconstitutional. As you know, I was the Ranking Member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in 2012, and when these appointments were made I expressed my concern with the administration's contempt for small busi-

nesses and the Senate's confirmation and vetting process. I was also proud to cosign an amicus brief led by our Republican leader against these proforma session appointments.

The Appointments Clause of our Constitution provides that “the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law.” Today the Supreme Court validated the Senate's important advice and consent role in the confirmation process.

These unconstitutional appointments are just one example of the executive branch overreach that Americans face every day under this administration. In his State of the Union address, President Obama said that since he is unable to rely on Congress to rubber stamp his agenda, he intends to use executive orders to avoid the legislative process altogether. This is certainly not a new practice for him: President Obama has issued more executive orders and economically significant rules and regulations than President George W. Bush, Clinton or Reagan. I hope today's Supreme Court decision will serve as the impetus that brings my colleagues together to say enough is enough.

One issue we need to stand up to the administration about is its war on coal. Earlier this month the EPA issued new regulations that try to force a backdoor cap and tax proposal on Americans that Congress has rejected. Senators on both sides of the aisle realized a couple of years ago that coal is one of our best sources of energy and that cap and tax was an extremely expensive and bad idea. I urge those Senators to come together again and make the President withdraw his cap and tax regulation.

Another issue we need to stand up to the President about is his attempt to control all our water. In March the EPA proposed a new rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property. We have already experienced that attempt at control in Wyoming, where the EPA tried to fine an individual up to \$75,000 per day for the pond he built on his private property. Mark Twain once said, “in the West, whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting over.” I urge my Western State colleagues to come together and make the President withdraw his waters of the United States regulation.

We do not have to wait for the Supreme Court to act on these examples

of executive overreach. The Congressional Review Act provides an expedited procedure for us to consider a resolution of disapproval of the President's rules. Under the CRA, before any final rule can become effective it must be filed with each House of Congress and GAO. Within 60 days after Congress receives an agency's rule, we can introduce a resolution of disapproval to nullify the rule. The CRA also guarantees us a vote because 30 of us can sign a petition to discharge the resolution from Committee, and the motion to proceed to the resolution is not subject to amendment, motion to postpone, or motion to proceed to other business. I hope I have 29 colleagues willing to join me in signing petitions to discharge resolutions of disapproval regarding both of these rules.

There are also areas where the administration is not acting when it should, and I hope my colleagues will push the administration to spend its time taking actions that help, not hurt, America.

Officials from the IRS, Treasury Department, and White House did not tell Congress when they realized IRS emails had been lost that were relevant to bipartisan committee investigations. The administration knew about those emails for at least 2 months before the Senate Finance Committee was informed. I urge my colleagues to come together and insist on full disclosure from the administration regarding allegations of political targeting by the IRS. A Finance Committee hearing about the lost IRS emails would be an excellent step in getting to the bottom of this issue.

The administration has not approved the Keystone Pipeline application that has been pending for more than 5 years. The State Department has done five reviews of the project and determined that the pipeline would cause no significant environmental impacts. The pipeline would create about 42,000 jobs. Our Energy Committee has passed legislation to build the pipeline. A bipartisan group of at least 55 Senators say they want to build the pipeline. I urge that group to come together and insist the President let the pipeline go forward.

These are not the only areas where the President has acted when he should not have, and has not acted when he should have. But they are important to Wyoming and America, and I urge my colleagues to stand up to the executive branch now rather than waiting for the Supreme Court on another issue.

STOPPING SCHOOL TRAGEDIES

Mr. LEVIN Mr. President, every morning around our Nation, as young people walk into their schools, they are reminded of our Nation's epidemic of gun violence. The sights and sounds of an American school day—lockers clos-

ing, the morning bell—now compete with more disconcerting scenes: metal detectors, security cameras, and armed guards. Students interrupt math and science lessons to participate in active shooter drills. Parents everywhere ask the same, legitimate question: Are my kids safe in their school?

They are right to be concerned. On June 10, a 15-year-old boy in Oregon brought a military-style assault rifle, nine magazines of ammunition, a handgun, and a knife to his high school. There, he murdered a classmate and exchanged gunfire with police before taking his own life. Several reports have counted this as the 74th instance of a shot being fired inside or near an American school since the tragic events of December 14, 2012, when a mentally deranged individual stole the lives of 27 people, 20 of them children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The only number of such instances that America should accept is zero.

It does not have to continue this way. The Newtown shooting, along with so many other horrific instances, created overwhelming consensus among Americans that Congress needs to act to stop this senseless gun violence. Polls now routinely show that more than 90 percent of the American public supports the passage of legislation to require simple background checks to be conducted on all gun sales. Recent reports have shown that 95 percent of internal medicine physicians in our Nation agree. And 76 percent of these physicians believe that gun safety legislation would "help to reduce the risk for gun-related injuries or death." Organizations outside of government have engaged in important work to reduce gun violence in our society, including a recent initiative spearheaded by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence that encourages parents to keep their kids safe by asking a simple question: "Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?"

But as long as Congress continues to ignore the American people, the fundamental problems remain. Today, in places all around our Nation, a convicted felon, a domestic abuser, a dangerously mentally ill individual, or a confused and angry teenager can still buy a firearm from an unlicensed dealer without undergoing any sort of background check. And at almost any time, a mentally ill young person can take their parent's military-style assault weapons, designed for no purpose other than murder, and commit an unspeakable atrocity, as happened that sad day in Newtown.

Our country is not a war zone. Our Founding Fathers did not set forth to create a nation where parents walk through school hallways wondering if the doors and windows are thick enough. Or where communities turn on their televisions to tragic news, day

after day, and have the same thought: "That could be us next time."

It is long past time for Congress to live up to our responsibility to protect the American people. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass urgently needed, commonsense legislation to reduce gun violence in our society. The American people deserve nothing less.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on June 7, 1776, Virginian Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in the Second Continental Congress to declare the 13 American colonies' independence from Great Britain. Four days later, Congress established a committee—the Committee of Five—to draft a statement proclaiming and justifying American independence. The Committee consisted of John Adams (Massachusetts), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Thomas Jefferson (Virginia), Robert Livingston (New York), and Roger Sherman (Connecticut) and assigned the duty of writing the first draft to Thomas Jefferson. The Committee left no minutes so we aren't sure how many iterations of the document were drafted before the Committee presented the final version to Congress on June 28, 1776—an action immortalized by the artist John Trumbull in a painting that hangs in the Capitol Rotunda.

On Monday, July 1, 1776, the Committee of the Whole debated the Lee Resolution. Jefferson wrote that they were "exhausted by a debate of nine hours, during which all the powers of the soul had been distended with the magnitude of the object." The Committee of the Whole voted 9-2 to adopt the Lee Resolution. The following day—July 2, 1776—Congress heard the report of the Committee of the Whole and declared the sovereign status of the American colonies. The Declaration of Independence was given its second reading before Congress adjourned for the day. On July 3, 1776, the Declaration received its third reading and final edits. The text's formal adoption was deferred until the following morning—July 4, 1776. That evening, the Committee of Five reconvened to prepare the final "fair copy" of the document, which was delivered to the 29-year-old Irish immigrant printer John Dunlap, with orders from John Hancock to print "broadside" copies. Dunlap worked into the night setting the type and running off 200 or so broadside sheets—now known as the Dunlap broadsides—which became the first published copies of the Declaration of Independence. Twenty-six of the original Dunlap broadsides—or fragments of them—are extant. Here in Washington, the Library of Congress has two and the National Archives has one. In January 1777, Congress commissioned publisher Mary Katherine Goddard to produce a new broadside of the

Declaration of Independence that listed the individuals who signed it.

And so, here we are 238 years later, preparing once again to celebrate the birth of our Nation and the document that proclaimed it. We will have appropriate celebrations from the National Mall to small towns across America. We will gather with families and friends in communities large and small to relax and refresh ourselves. And we will reflect on the blessings of liberty that have been bequeathed to us. We must never take those blessings for granted. Americans have fought and died to defend them and people around the world have fought and died to obtain them.

We cannot calculate what we owe to Thomas Jefferson and the Committee of Five. But, as Abraham Lincoln summoned all Americans in 1863 at Gettysburg, we can dedicate ourselves to the "great task remaining before us . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The stakes are high, for as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt remarked in his fireside chat on May 26, 1940, "We defend and build a way of life, not for America alone, but for all mankind." That is our unique and solemn responsibility as Americans, and our cherished privilege.

I wish all of my colleagues, my fellow Marylanders, and all Americans a happy and safe Fourth of July.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and to talk for a few minutes about how Senators can work together to make this a more perfect Union and guarantee equal justice under the law to all Americans.

Freedom Summer was a campaign in Mississippi to register Black voters during the summer of 1964. In 1964, most Black voters were disenfranchised by law or practice in Mississippi, notwithstanding the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in 1870. The 15th Amendment provides that "the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by . . . any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

On January 23, 1964, the States ratified the 24th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides that "the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other [Federal] election . . . shall not be denied or abridged . . . by any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax."

The Freedom Summer voting rights initiative was led by the Student Non-

violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, with the support of the Council of Federated Organizations, COFO, which included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality, referred to in this preamble as the CORE, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC.

Thousands of students and activists participated in 2-week orientation sessions in preparation for the voter registration drive in Mississippi. In 1962, at 6.7 percent of the State's Black population, Mississippi had one of the lowest percentages of Black registered voters in the country.

Tragically, three civil rights volunteers lost their lives in their attempts to secure voting rights for Blacks. Andrew Goodman was a White 20-year-old anthropology major from Queens College who volunteered for the Freedom Summer project. James Chaney was a 21-year-old Black man from Meridian, MS, who became a civil rights activist, joining the CORE in 1963 to work on voter registration and education. Michael "Mickey" Schwerner was a 24-year-old White man from Brooklyn, NY, who was a CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement.

On the morning of June 21, 1964, the three men left the CORE office in Meridian, MS, and set out for Longdale, MS, where they were to investigate the recent burning of the Mount Zion Methodist Church, a Black church that had been functioning as a freedom school to promote education and voter registration. The three civil rights workers were beaten, shot, and killed by members of the Ku Klux Klan, after being turned over by local police.

The national uproar in response to these brave men's deaths, which occurred shortly before enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, helped build the momentum and national consensus necessary to bring about passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

So as we celebrate the anniversaries of these landmarks pieces of civil rights legislation, we are reminded that there is more work to be done. As former Senator Ted Kennedy used to say, "Civil rights is the great unfinished business of America."

One year ago this week the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, invalidating the coverage formula that determines which jurisdictions are subject to the preclearance provisions of the act.

Congress must act to reverse the erroneous decision by the Supreme Court which overturned several important precedents in a fit of judicial activism. As much as we wish it wasn't so, racism has not disappeared from America and there continue to be individuals and groups who would use our voting

system to deliberately minimize the rights of minority voters. Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 after building an extensive record that made a compelling case for the continued need to protect minority voters from discrimination. I strongly agree with Justice Ginsburg's dissent that "in truth, the evolution of voting discrimination into more subtle second-generation barriers is powerful evidence that a remedy as effective as preclearance remains vital to protect minority voting rights and prevent backsliding." I am deeply disappointed that the Court put voting rights in jeopardy by ignoring reality and disregarding the power of Congress to enforce the 15th Amendment of the Constitution by appropriate legislation.

I am pleased that the Judiciary Committee held a hearing this week on potential legislative responses to the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, and I hope Congress can take up and pass a legislative fix before the midterm elections.

Congress should also take up and pass the Democracy Restoration Act, DRA, S. 2235, which I have introduced. The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in Federal elections to approximately 5.8 million citizens who have been released from prison and are back living in their communities.

After the Civil War, Congress enacted and the States ratified the 15th Amendment, which provides that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Unfortunately, many States passed laws during the Jim Crow period after the Civil War to make it more difficult for newly freed slaves to vote in elections. Such laws included poll taxes, literacy tests, and disenfranchisement measures.

Some disenfranchisement measures applied to misdemeanor convictions and in practice could result in lifetime disenfranchisement, even for individuals that successfully reintegrated into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

Shortly thereafter Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which swept away numerous State laws and procedures that had denied African Americans and other minorities their constitutional right to vote. For example, the act outlawed the use of literacy or history tests that voters had to pass before registering to vote or casting their ballot.

The act specifically prohibits States from imposing any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure . . . to

deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the act in 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. Congress is now working on legislation to revitalize the VRA after recent Supreme Court decisions curtailed its reach.

In 2014, I am concerned that there are still several areas where the legacy of Jim Crow laws and State disenfranchisement statutes lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, State laws governing the restoration of voting rights vary widely throughout the country, such that persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights, while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Second, these State disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. Third, this patchwork of State laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections, and leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on residence. Finally, studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to re-offend, and disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.

In 35 States, convicted individuals may not vote while they are on parole. In 11 States, a conviction can result in lifetime disenfranchisement. Several States require prisoners to seek discretionary pardons from Governors, or action by the parole or pardon board, in order to regain their right to vote. Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors. States are slowly moving to repeal or loosen many of these barriers to voting for ex-prisoners.

An estimated 5,850,000 citizens of the United States, or about 1 in 40 adults in the United States, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison. By contrast, 75 percent of the disenfranchised reside in their communities while on probation or parole after having completed their sentences. Approximately 2,600,000 citizens who have completed their sentences remain disenfranchised due to restrictive State laws. In six states—Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia—more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised.

Studies show that a growing number of African-American men, for example, will be disenfranchised at some point in their life, partly due to mandatory minimum sentencing laws that have a disproportionate impact on minorities. Latino citizens are disproportionately disenfranchised as well.

Congress has addressed part of this problem by enacting the Fair Sen-

tencing Act to partially reduce the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine convictions. Congress is now considering legislation that would more broadly revise mandatory sentencing procedures and create a fairer system of sentencing. While I welcome these steps, I believe that Congress should take stronger action now to remedy this particular problem.

The legislation would restore voting rights to prisoners after their release from incarceration. It requires that prisons receiving Federal funds notify people about their right to vote in Federal elections when they are leaving prison, sentenced to probation, or convicted of a misdemeanor.

The legislation is narrowly crafted to apply to Federal elections, and retains the States' authorities to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation is consistent with congressional authority under the Constitution and voting rights statutes.

I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by a large coalition of public interest organizations, including civil rights and reform organizations; religious and faith-based organizations; and law enforcement and criminal justice organizations.

In particular I want to thank the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP for their work on this legislation.

This legislation is designed to reduce recidivism rates and help reintegrate ex-prisoners back into society. When prisoners are released, they are expected to obey the law, get a job, and pay taxes as they are rehabilitated and reintegrated into their community. With these responsibilities and obligations of citizenship should also come the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, after overwhelming approval and strong bipartisan support in Congress. The legislation expanded the Prison Re-Entry Initiative, by providing job training, placement services, transitional housing, drug treatment, medical care, and faith-based mentoring.

At the signing ceremony, President Bush said: "We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who have paid for their crimes. We help them build new lives as productive members of our society."

The Democracy Restoration Act is fully consistent with the goals of the Second Chance Act, as Congress and the States seek to reduce recidivism rates, strengthen the quality of life in our communities and make them safer, and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

More recently, in a February 2014 speech, Attorney General Eric Holder

called on elected officials to reexamine disenfranchisement statutes and enact reforms to restore voting rights.

I urge Congress to continue the fight to protect and expand civil rights in this country, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as we strive to make this a more perfect union.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I wish to speak on behalf of our service men and women suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Tomorrow—June 27—is National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day, so designated by the U.S. Senate in a unanimous action 2 years ago. I am calling on all of my colleagues in this body to redouble our efforts to help veterans and servicemembers who are struggling with PTSD each and every day. I remain committed to provide all necessary assistance to people who have this problem as the result of their faithful military service because it is one of the solemn obligations we have as a nation. For this reason I supported Senator HEITKAMP's bi-partisan resolution designating June as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder—PTSD—Awareness Month.

With the military drawdown currently underway, I am concerned that our Nation will not adequately address the PTSD-related issues that many of our veterans and servicemembers face. I find it deeply troubling that, on average, 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Furthermore, veterans who have post-traumatic stress are at greater risk for drug abuse and alcoholism. The abuse of these substances often amounts to a form of a self-medication because the servicemember or veteran is unable or unwilling to seek help.

I strongly believe that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day is an important step in highlighting these issues. Our challenge is to help every veteran suffering from these invisible wounds seek help and cope with their very real injury. There is a perceived stigma that makes veterans reluctant to seek help and feeds negative perceptions which can cause employers not to hire veterans. Educating veterans and the public about this affliction and the support networks available will bring to light a very real and deadly epidemic among servicemembers. Too often we say "thank you" to servicemembers and veterans without really knowing what we are thanking them for, because we don't bother to understand their struggles. Addressing this disconnect would make a world of difference in helping this population mitigate the effects of post-traumatic stress.

The work being done today to address this issue proves that post-traumatic stress does not have to be a permanently disabling condition. Within my own State of Maryland, organizations such as Fort Detrick's Army Medical Research & Materiel Command are making amazing advances in developing post-traumatic stress treatments that were unimaginable just a few years ago. As for present treatments, the Warrior Canine Connection is an excellent example of an organization that is helping veterans here and now. This organization, located in Brookeville, provides therapeutic working dogs to veterans and servicemembers, and it also conducts research that strives to further improve upon the positive effects that these service animals have on the veterans and servicemembers. The Warrior Canine Connection has helped countless veterans relieve the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, enabling them to regain their status as healthy and productive members of our society.

I am not at all surprised that these servicemembers and veterans have bounced back wonderfully after being treated for their post-traumatic stress. If a soldier, sailor, airmen or Marine is able to excel on the battlefield, then I see no reason why that same person should not be able to excel in the classroom, in a hospital, or in the boardroom. I refuse to believe that our veterans and servicemembers are "damaged goods" because of their military service.

One only needs to look at our history to see that our society benefits greatly when we provide our veterans and servicemembers with the assistance they need to transition successfully to civilian life. During World War II, American servicemembers encountered some of the most difficult combat conditions in human history. Yet when World War II veterans returned home, did they become a burden to their nation because of those combat experiences? Not at all. Returning World War II veterans spearheaded the work that made our country more prosperous than it had ever been. Veterans can be the engine to a great economy that sustains a flourishing middle class. I believe World War II veterans were able to succeed in the civilian workforce because after the war, they returned to a society that understood and genuinely respected their military service.

This week I had the privilege of visiting the Veterans Health Care System in Baltimore, MD. America cannot break our promise to those who have sacrificed so much to protect our great Nation. We have seen bipartisan progress toward correcting the systemic problems facing our veterans' health care system, and I am encouraged by the additional staff and resources being deployed in Baltimore. Most Maryland veterans are receiving

quality health care at world-class facilities close to home. But the wounds inflicted by this national breach of trust will take more time to heal as we renew and fulfill our commitment to care for the health and well-being of our veterans.

I am continually in awe of the extraordinary men and women serving at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center who make it their daily mission to provide the highest level of support to our wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers and their families. A testament to their commitment is the Department of Defense Deployment Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD, which has developed an intensive, 3-week, multi-disciplinary treatment program called The Specialized Care Program. This program is designed for servicemembers experiencing PTSD or experiencing difficulties readjusting to life upon redeployment after serving in Operations IRAQ or ENDURING FREEDOM. This program is for patients who have had other treatments for PTSD, or perhaps depression, but who continue to experience symptoms that interfere with their ability to function.

In light of the upcoming July 4 holiday, providing assistance to veterans who have served our Nation so diligently must be a priority. As we celebrate our Independence Day, we must also address the needs of those who have defended our liberty and have allowed it to thrive. Without the men and women who fought for the United States' freedom in 1776 and those who bravely do so today, our country simply would not exist. With this in mind, we as Americans ought to support our veterans to the best of our abilities and present them with the necessary assistance and resources they may require. Whether we succeed in this endeavor will be a significant measure of our Nation's fidelity towards our veterans and its moral character. I am committed to making sure this population receives treatment for post-traumatic stress, should they need it. The United States is the strongest nation in the world because of our veterans and servicemembers. We owe it to bring them back home not just in body, but in mind and spirit, as well.

RWANDA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, rising from the ashes of the 1994 genocide, the Rwandan people can be proud of the progress their country has made over the past two decades. Through reconciliation and resilience, Rwanda has entered a new phase of economic growth and is working to protect civilians in other countries through its vital contributions to global peacekeeping missions. The world has cheered these successes, but today we have cause for concern.

To cement its legacy as a world leader and model for development, there is in Rwanda today a clear need to ensure space for a thriving civil society—a hallmark of any democracy. I am deeply troubled by reports of shrinking space for dissenting voices. Rwanda's domestic human rights movement has been profoundly constrained by a combination of intimidation and stigmatization, threats, harassment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, infiltration, and administrative obstacles. The government's actions to censor domestic and international human rights groups appear to be part of a broader pattern of intolerance of criticism.

In 2013, the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Nations Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, and Freedom House all expressed concern over the interference of the Rwandan Government in determining the leadership of the Rwandan League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, one of the last remaining independent advocacy organizations in the country. This has effectively curtailed domestic civil society initiatives to monitor human rights abuses.

In June of this year, the U.S. State Department cited its deep concern over the arrest and disappearance of dozens of Rwandan citizens over a period of 2 months, citing incommunicado detention and a lack of due process, as well as the threatening of journalists.

Also in June, Human Rights Watch, HRW, an organization that has worked on Rwanda for more than 20 years and documented the 1994 genocide, was accused by the Ministry of Justice of political bias and collaboration with the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, FDLR, some of whose members participated in the genocide and committed horrific human rights abuses in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC. These accusations come in the wake of a May HRW critique of the Rwandan Government's actions, including forced disappearances, and discount HRW's constant critique of the FDLR's egregious human rights record in the DRC. HRW, the last independent international organization based in Kigali speaking out against human rights abuses, appears at increasing risk of not being able to do its job, and perhaps even of being shut down.

Rwanda's past should not be used as an excuse to suppress free speech and independent reporting in Rwanda today. Dissent is an important tool for citizens in holding their elected leaders accountable. Peaceful, law-abiding individuals and organizations should not be labeled as conspirators or enemies of state because they question the government. Freedom of expression and due process are rights that should extend to all Rwandans and its visitors—including journalists, human rights advocates, opposition members, and everyday citizens alike.

Rwanda has made great strides, but there is still work to do. As Rwanda faces its newest challenges, the United States stands with its people and remains committed to their success.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DYLAN J. JOHNSON

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Dylan J. Johnson. Dylan died 3 years ago today, June 26, 2011, of injuries suffered from an improvised explosive device in Diyala Province, Iraq, in support of Operation New Dawn.

Dylan was born November 7, 1990, in Tulsa, OK. His father Jeff Johnson said Dylan "had aspired to military service for years and dressed as a soldier for Halloween 6 years running." After Dylan graduated from Jenks High School, he joined the military in August 2009, largely inspired by the men on both sides of his family who served with the military during World War II and Korea.

After completing basic training at Fort Knox, KY, Dylan was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX.

Specialist Johnson departed on Memorial Day 2011 for his first overseas deployment and arrived in Iraq June 2. On June 26, 2011, Dylan tragically died of injuries he sustained when insurgents attacked his armored vehicle with an improvised explosive device. One other soldier in the vehicle was killed alongside of Dylan.

"Dylan possessed a kind spirit and was a bit reserved in my world literature class," said teacher, Ron Acebo. "We all ache for the loss of this young life and grieve with his family. As teachers, we all hold hopes and dreams for our students. We do not know what he could have achieved but we are humbled that he had made the supreme sacrifice for his country. . . . and that is how he will be remembered."

A memorial service was held July 6, 2011, at Kirk of the Hills Church in Tulsa, OK and he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 9, 2011.

At a ceremony on his birthday in 2013, the State of Oklahoma dedicated to his memory the bridge on U.S. 75 across Polecat Creek, just south of Main Street in Jenks, OK. A sign reading "Specialist Dylan Johnson Memorial Bridge" was emplaced on the structure, and his father asked those gathered to remember Oklahoma's other fallen soldiers when they cross it.

Dylan's military honors include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Combat Service Star.

In addition to his father, Dylan is survived by his mother Joy Sehl; his stepmother Lynda Johnson; two sisters, Alexandra Johnson and Kathryn Sehl; and two stepsisters, Brittany Dinan and Brooke Dinan. All are of Tulsa, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Dylan J. Johnson, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JORDAN M. MORRIS

Madam President, I now wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Jordan M. Morris. Along with 4 other soldiers, Jordan died August 11, 2011 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Jordan was born in Elk City, OK on February 12, 1988, and later moved to Ripley, OK. While attending Ripley High School, he was a member of the baseball team, National Honor Society, 4-H, and served as Student Council president. He was concurrently enrolled and graduated from the Oklahoma School of Science and Math. As an active member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church, he was very involved with the youth group and enjoyed spending time serving others on various mission trips.

After graduating as class valedictorian from Ripley High School in 2006, he fulfilled a dream he had from the age of 8 as he was accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Jordan spent 4 years at West Point, majoring in mechanical engineering. Friend Caleb Eytcheson said Jordan "wanted to be the best, and he knew West Point is where they trained the best. He wanted to serve his country," he said.

Jordan joined the Army in January 2011, serving as an infantryman. After completing training at Fort Benning, GA he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. On May 5, 2011, Jordan deployed to Afghanistan.

Doug Scott, assistant principal of Ripley High School said Morris was intelligent, had a great sense of humor and was very popular in school. "He showed his unselfish side by going overseas," Scott said.

Jordan's baseball coach, Donnie Hoffman said: "The world is not as good a place, when you lose people with the character that he was. The legacy he leaves behind was the way he led his life, the character, the discipline, the dedication, the honor."

Jordan was buried August 20, 2011 at Palmer Marler Funeral Home in Stillwater, OK.

Jordan is survived by his parents Brett and Nita (Faber) Morris of Stillwater; two brothers Levi James and Jesse Isaac Morris of Stillwater; grandparents Wilma Faber, of Tulsa, James

and Patricia Morris, of Broken Arrow; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends, as well as his former West Point classmates and fellow soldiers in the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Today we remember Army SPC Jordan M. Morris, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JOSHUA M. SEALS

Madam President, I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Joshua M. Seals. Specialist Seals died August 16, 2011 of non-combat injuries at Forward Operating Base Lightening in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard.

Joshua was born April 10, 1990, in Glendale, AZ and later moved to Porter, OK. While attending Porter High School he played football, was an honor roll student and a member of the academic team. He was also active in Wagoner County 4-H and showed Dutch rabbits.

He joined the military as a truck driver in 2008 while still in high school. Aunt Trina Seals said "his mother and father served in the Army, and he felt it was just something he wanted to do."

"My thoughts and prayers go out to the Seals family and friends," said Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Oklahoma's adjutant general. "As we mourn his loss in the days ahead, we will be forever honored and proud that he chose to serve his country and the people of Oklahoma in the National Guard."

Principal Larry Shackelford described him as a great student and a wonderful young man with a bright outlook.

A memorial and burial service was held August 27, 2011 at Greenwood Cemetery in Porter, OK.

Specialist Seals is survived by his parents Rhonda and Stanley; wife Andrina; and siblings Jeremy, Sarah and James.

Today we remember Army SPC Joshua M. Seals, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST JAMES T. WICKLIFF-CHACIN

Madam President, I pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC James T. Wickliff-Chacin of Edmond, OK who died on September 20, 2013 serving our nation in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan. Specialist Wickliff-Chacin was assigned to 6th Squadron, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, GA.

James died at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX of injuries

sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol during combat operations in Pul-E-Alam, Afghanistan on August 12, 2013. He was 22 years old.

Born February 18, 1991 in Venezuela, James moved to Oklahoma with his family in 2006. He graduated from Edmond Santa Fe High School in 2010. After graduation, he enlisted as an infantryman in the Army in June 2010 and arrived at his unit in October 2010.

"He had a good future," his father said. "He had all the scores to go to whatever college he wanted." But James wanted to join the Army. Friends said he was proud of his service even before he graduated from high school.

"I remember him as a young man who very much wanted to go into the military," said his former high school principal Jason Brown. The following year, before graduation, James had asked ahead of time if the school was going to do anything to recognize students who would be serving in the military. "I told him he would have to wait but he was in for a surprise," Brown said. "During graduation we always asked for those individuals to stand up who wanted to go into the military. I distinctly remember looking for and finding him in the audience and he was smiling ear to ear."

This was his second deployment; he previously deployed to Iraq from March to June 2011.

In May 2013, James wrote on his Facebook page "I am proud to carry the legacy of my family. We are warriors at heart that fight against all odds to protect those who need us. There is nothing else that I would rather be doing with my life."

James was laid to rest at Fort Sill National Cemetery, Elgin, OK on October 3, 2013. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal of Valor.

Today we remember Army SPC James T. Wickliff-Chacin, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREA FOUBERG

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Andrea "Andi" Foubert, communications director in my Washington, DC office, for over 9 years of hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Andi is a native of Letcher, SD, and is a graduate of South Dakota State University, SDSU. During her time working in the Senate, Andi has worked as deputy State director, deputy communications director, and as communications director. On July 7, 2014 Andi will become the president and chief executive officer at the SDSU Alumni Association.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Andi for nearly a decade

of dedicated work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNITY, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I wish to honor the town of Unity, NH. This great American community is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, and I am proud to recognize this historic event.

Located in Sullivan County in the western part of the State, the town of Unity includes the villages of Unity, East and West Unity, and Quaker City. The origins of Unity date back to 1753 when the territory then known as Buckingham was chartered through a series of grants from New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth and the Massachusetts government. Unfortunately, this grew territorial tension among the local residents, so in 1764 the town of Unity was formally incorporated. Today Unity is home to approximately 1,700 New Hampshire residents who take great pride in living their lives as their town name intended them to, in unity.

The Unity Town Hall, which today serves as the official location for Unity Town Hall meetings, was constructed in 1831. It was originally a Baptist meeting house, but the town of Unity purchased the building for \$25.00 in 1877. It has since undergone renovation but still stands proudly today where in the bell tower hangs a famed Revere Bell which will ring forth in celebration of Unity on July 11, 2014.

Unity is an example of a quintessential New Hampshire town whose citizens embody everything that it means to be great Americans. So today we honor the 250th anniversary of Unity, NH. We commend its citizens and recognize their accomplishments, their love of country, and their spirit of independence. But more importantly, we look forward to the next 250 years and the great things this town will have to offer.●

RECOGNIZING WILD TOUCH TAXIDERMY

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, more and more small businesses across America have started to pursue opportunities outside of our borders by extending their markets globally. According to the Small Business Administration, almost 96 percent of consumers reside outside of the United States. The benefits to small businesses that export are compelling. According to a report by the Institute for International Economics, U.S. exporting firms grow 2 to 4 percent faster in employing than their nonexporting counterparts, offer better opportunities for

advancement, expand their annual total sales faster, and are nearly 8.5 percent less likely to go out of business.

Today, I would like to recognize one such U.S. small business that has experienced growth in revenues and employment because they have pursued exporting opportunities across the globe. Wild Touch Taxidermy in Meridian, ID, a small business dedicated to quality products, has achieved an outstanding reputation both domestically and overseas.

Licensed since 1985, Wild Touch Taxidermy specializes in custom taxidermy for customers who desire a unique and high-quality trophy. Family owned and operated by Kelly and Sharon Adams, Wild Touch Taxidermy lives up to their motto, "We Do It All." The small taxidermy business offers a high-quality way to preserve and display trophy animals of all sizes and from any country, including skull mounts, old mounts, tan hides, and clean skulls. Wild Touch Taxidermy operates in a federally approved facility with U.S. Department of Agriculture permission, allowing them to receive restricted and out-of-country imports and enabling them to expand their business internationally.

To bolster its success, Wild Touch Taxidermy took full advantage of export assistance through the Idaho Department of Commerce, which connected the business to Taiwanese buyers through its trade office in Taipei. The business's exposure to the Asian market allowed them to expand the business to China. Wild Touch Taxidermy was also provided grant funds through the Small Business Administration's State Trade and Export Promotion Program, which seeks to grow the number of U.S. small businesses that export their goods and services to foreign buyers. The additional aid for 2 years allowed the owners to attend several trade shows and trade missions in Taiwan and China, which resulted in a boost to the business's profitability and international presence. Utilizing STEP grants, Wild Touch Taxidermy's actual export sales for year one leveraged a return on investment of 15 to 1 and actual export sales for year two leveraged a return on investment of 74 to 1, with anticipation of more sales in the international market.

With 29 years of experience, Wild Touch Taxidermy has achieved a reputation of excellence both domestically and internationally. Wild Touch Taxidermy's dedication to quality, persistence in pursuing new opportunities, and their efficient use of export assistance have allowed their business to catapult to the next level. I congratulate Kelly and Sharon Adams and wish them an abundance of success in the future.●

JONES COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Jones County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Jones County worth over \$870,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$5.6 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's work to secure funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency for programs I fought for to mitigate and prepare for natural disasters and provide safety equipment and training for firefighters.

Among the highlights:

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical

support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Jones County has received over \$2.9 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. During the mid-to-late 1990's, cities in Jones County received \$311,465 in Community Oriented Policing Services grants. Also, since 2001, Jones County's fire departments have received over \$985,443 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Jones County has received \$750,273 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Jones County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$82,973.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Jones County has received more than \$687,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the

Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Jones County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Jones County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Jones County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WAYNE COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Wayne County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Wayne County worth over \$100,000 and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$23 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the great work that the Wayne County Public Health Department has done to secure wellness funding to improve the health and lives of its residents.

Among the highlights:

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Wayne County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$100,000 for community wellness activities.

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Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—

including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Wayne County has received more than \$20 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Wayne County's fire departments have received over \$850,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Wayne County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Wayne County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Wayne County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD

● **Mr. HELLER.** Madam President, today I wish to recognize the Nevada National Guard's 45th Detachment of the Operational Support Airlift Agency, DET 45 OSAA, located at Reno-Stead airport. On June 6th, this unit departed for Joint Base Bagram, Afghanistan, where they will be serving for the next 9 months.

While tensions continue to rise in the Middle East, I am both humbled and honored that these brave men and women are willing to go into harm's way to put the needs of our country before their own. We owe our respect and gratitude to these soldiers, who are sacrificing so much to defend our freedoms. The DET 45 OSAA unit has a flawless reputation for providing safely executed flight operations both nationally and internationally without any accidents for the past 20 years, which has earned them a spot among the top 10 units for the past 10 years. I, along with my fellow Nevadans are honored that the DET 45 OSAA Unit call Nevada home. We as a nation are fortunate to have men and women, like those in the DET 45 OSAA unit, to serve and protect us.

The Nevada National Guard's 45th Detachment plays an integral role within the Operational Support Airlift Agency's mission by providing high priority, short notice fixed wing air transport support to passengers and cargo for all components and members of the Department of Defense. DET 45 OSAA has supported many missions both nationally and abroad. From 2003 to 2010 the unit flew missions in Cuba in support of Special Forces operations, and were deployed to Iraq and Kuwait supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the United States Africa Command. The DET 45 OSAA unit has also supported ground forces by flying an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission with the King Air 300 series Medium Altitude Reconnaissance and Surveillance System aircraft. Most recently, the State of Nevada has contributed to a new intelligence mission by providing soldiers working as Aerial Electronic Sensor Operators to perform their newest intelligence mission.

I would like to thank the courageous men and women in DET 45 OSAA for their contributions to the United States of America and to freedom-loving nations around the world. Their service to our country and their bravery and dedication to their families and communities earn all of these heroes a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing and thanking these heroes for their selfless service both at home and abroad. May they have another successful mission and a safe return home.●

RECOGNIZING SQUADBAY

• Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a veterans volunteer program within Las Vegas known as Squadbay for their continued dedication to help their fellow servicemembers transition back from the battlefield to their communities. This unique program comprised of Marine Corps combat veterans provides recently discharged veterans with a mission, which uses newly acquired battlefield skills, and provides housing and other resources.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women who lay down their lives for our freedoms, but the founders and volunteers at Squadbay have developed a way to assist our Nation's veterans in need by affording them various ways to use their training to benefit others. I commend this organization's continued dedication to serving Marine combat veterans needing to process traumatic experiences while simultaneously affecting a positive change in the lives of those in need of humanitarian assistance. Squadbay was founded by Lu Lobello, a brave veteran living in Las Vegas who realized the importance of having a mission after returning home from combat in Baghdad. Lu serves as a shining example of putting one's community before oneself.

With its first mission in 2013 to the Philippines after Typhoon Yolanda, Squadbay's service extends far beyond our Nation's borders. By allowing veterans the ability to continue using their combat training in a new environment, with a new mission that mirrors the values of their military experience, Squadbay is working to create a seamless transition to civilian life for our veterans. By providing a safe and social space for combat veterans to come together and the opportunity to embark on humanitarian aid missions, they are affording these brave men and women an opportunity to work through any issues brought on by experiencing combat.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I know the struggles that our veterans face after returning home from the battlefield. Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals but to ensure they receive the quality care they have earned and deserve. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like Squadbay are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Squadbay, an organization whose mission is both noble and charitable. Their commitment to helping rehabilitate our veterans by giving them an outlet to embark on humanitarian aid mis-

sions in a positive life-changing scenario is admirable, and I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GEORGE

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on June 24, my hometown of Detroit and the State of Michigan lost a great friend and public servant. Indeed, the loss of Michael George at the age of 81 was a tremendous loss for all those who admire hard work, dedication, generosity, and commitment to making the world a better place.

The son of immigrants, Mike was best known to many through his successful business ventures. He built a small, family-owned dairy business into Melody Farms, one of the largest and most successful dairy producers and distributors in the country.

Had that been his only endeavor, we would have called Mike's life well-lived. But Mike was more than a businessman. He became a leader in Detroit's Chaldean community. Chaldeans—Catholics originating mainly from Iraq—settled in large numbers in Detroit along with other immigrants from the Middle East. Mike was deeply proud of his Chaldean heritage. He helped found the Chaldean Iraqi Association of Michigan, and chaired the Chaldean Federation of America. He helped hundreds of Chaldean-owned businesses to grow. And as religious minorities came under increasing persecution in the Middle East, he became a leader in helping to settle endangered Iraqi Christians in the United States.

Mike didn't just serve the Chaldean community. He was passionately committed to Detroit and its rebirth. He served on countless charitable foundation boards and supported a host of worthy causes.

Mike George was a walking, talking personification of the American Dream. He was a friend to the city of Detroit. He was a friend to me. Barbara and I join Mike's legion of friends in Michigan and around the country extending our condolences to his wife Najat, and his family and friends.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROY BAHR

• Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the service of a patriot and decorated Soldier, COL Roy W. Bahr. Roy joined the U.S. Army in 1950 after the onset of the Korean War. Shortly after graduating from Officer Candidate School, he deployed to Korea and served as an infantry platoon leader. Following his deployment, Colonel Bahr volunteered for U.S. Army Special Forces and went on to serve with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Vietnam. There, he was assigned as the commander of Forward Operating Base 3, Khe Sanh, leading

elements of Military Assistance Command Vietnam—Studies and Observations Group, MACVSOG.

MACVSOG was tasked with conducting highly classified operations throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. This highly decorated unit was responsible for gathering critical intelligence throughout the conflict and was so effective that the North Vietnamese had to divert tens of thousands of troops in an attempt to counter MACVSOG operations. Consequently, MACVSOG's casualty rates were higher than any American unit since the American Civil War.

Only the best and most highly skilled commanders were involved with MACVSOG. During Colonel Bahr's time with MACVSOG, he commanded forward operating bases at Phu Bai, Kontum, and Khe Sanh. Colonel Bahr was responsible for dozens of reconnaissance teams and special reaction forces that often worked clandestinely in enemy occupied territory with limited support. It is difficult to fully articulate the risk incurred by Colonel Bahr and his men, or the difficulty of their missions, as they heroically served our Nation.

Colonel Bahr commanded MACVSOG, FOB-3 during the height of the siege at Khe Sanh in 1968. Under constant bombardment, Colonel Bahr's reconnaissance teams were given full authority to operate outside the compound during what would become one of the largest battles of the Vietnam war. Colonel Bahr's unit, in concert with a large contingent of U.S. Marines, fought to prevent the North Vietnamese units from overrunning the combat base at Khe Sanh.

Later in the conflict, Colonel Bahr organized and led a force to relieve an American operating base at Da Nang after it came under assault by North Vietnamese sappers on August 22 and 23, 1968. The North Vietnamese attack on Da Nang was the single deadliest day for U.S. Army Special Forces during the war. Colonel Bahr's relief effort and subsequent pursuit of remaining enemy personnel was critical in gaining full control of the base and saving American lives.

In early 1961, while visiting Fort Bragg, President Kennedy stated, "The Green Beret is a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom." COL Roy W. Bahr's devotion to duty and professional leadership as a commander, a warrior and a Green Beret exemplifies this mark of distinction. Roy's life is testament to the highest attributes of American service, individual bravery, and patriotism, and I am glad to have this opportunity to thank him.●

TRIBUTE TO HUGH McVEY

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, I wish to congratulate Hugh McVey on

his retirement and to thank him for his many years of leadership and service to the field of labor. For over 40 years, Hugh has been a champion of workers' rights and has fought tirelessly to improve the lives of Missouri's workers and their families. It is my pleasure to honor him today.

A native of St. Louis, MO, Hugh comes from a working family of 11 children. His family's strong labor background encouraged him to get involved. His uncle Duke was president of the Missouri AFL-CIO for many years until Hugh succeeded him in 1999. Hugh considered his father and uncle his closest friends and respected their advice and support.

Hugh attended Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. While there, he became involved with the operating engineers and was the group steward and later chief steward for Local 148 out of Collinsville, IL. He then became the business agent and assistant business manager for the same local.

After his time with the operating engineers, McVey worked for Union Electric, now Ameren, for 23 years and joined Operating Engineers Local 1148 in 1974. In 1997, Hugh relocated to Jefferson City, when he was elected executive vice president of the Missouri AFL-CIO. In 1999, he was elected President, and served for 17 years before his retirement this July.

During Hugh's tenure as president of the Missouri AFL-CIO, the organization was instrumental in advocating for the union rights Executive order, the Affordable Care Act, and the "Made in Missouri" jobs package. Hugh's effective leadership shaped the Missouri AFL-CIO into the outstanding organization it is today. As president, Hugh continued to attend local meetings and listened to workers' concerns. He effectively recruited candidates for local offices and worked with legislators on pending legislation that would impact the worker. Hugh considers the labor movement his life's work, never a job. Hugh is completely dedicated to ensuring that workers get a fair day's pay and reasonable benefits. His passion to help working families is unparalleled.

Hugh and his wife Peggy have three daughters: Megan, Maureen, and Colleen. I know they will enjoy the opportunity to spend more time with him.

It is my pleasure to honor my friend Hugh McVey today. His dedicated leadership has improved the quality of the workplace for Missourians. He has touched the lives of many, and improved the quality of our community at large.

I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating and honoring Hugh McVey.●

REMEMBERING HERMAN DILLON, SR.

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I wish to honor Mr. Herman Dillon, Sr.,

who passed away on Friday, May 23, 2014. Mr. Dillon, Senior was the tribal council chairman of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in my home State of Washington and at the time of his passing had dedicated an astounding 35 years to the tribal council.

Mr. Dillon, Senior served his tribe and his country throughout his life. He joined the Navy Reserves at 17, at the tail end of World War II. Following 4 years in the Navy Reserves, he was drafted by the Army and served for 2 years guarding the port and prisoner of war camps in Pusan during the Korean war. Of course, his life of service did not end there, and he was first elected to the Puyallup Tribal Council in 1971. In the time since he was first elected to the tribal council, Mr. Dillon, Senior experienced a number of historical changes. He saw his fellow tribal members get arrested for exercising their treaty-protected right to fish in the Puyallup River, and on February 12, 1974, Judge Boldt of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a decision affirming the rights of Washington treaty tribes to take up to half of the harvestable fish in Washington State fishing waters. Of course, he also served on the tribal council as the tribe experienced a time of great economic development and diversification of their business interests in an effort to set themselves on a path to economic sustainability.

I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Dillon, Senior throughout my time in the Senate. I was always impressed by his leadership, integrity, and dedication to the Puyallup people. He was their champion on issues from health care to the construction of a new tribal justice center. He also led by example, earning his GED when he was 50 years old and fostering children in his home. Even into his ninth decade of life, Mr. Dillon, Senior continued to advocate for his tribal community and was dedicated to solutions that would help his Tribe better themselves.

Washington State and our country lost a great tribal leader in May, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Dillon, Senior and advocate on the Puyallup Tribe's behalf in Washington, DC. My thoughts are with Darlene Dillon, Mr. Dillon, Senior's, wife of over 40 years, his 12 children, the children whose lives he changed through fostering, his entire extended family, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. We are all better for having known him and will work to carry his legacy forward.●

TRIBUTE TO EMMA-SUE ISHOL

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Emma-Sue Ishol, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Emma is a graduate of St. Andrews Episcopal School in Potomac, MD. Cur-

rently, she is attending the Creighton University where she is majoring in accounting. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Emma for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KODY KYRISS

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kody Kyriess, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kody is a graduate of Menno High School in Menno, SD. This fall he will be attending law school at the University of South Dakota. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kody for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KELSEY LUCKHURST

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Kelsey Luckhurst, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kelsey is a graduate of Clark High School in Clark, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University, where she is majoring in political science and history. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kelsey for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXA MOELLER

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Alexa Moeller, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Alexa is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota where she is majoring in political science and criminal justice. She is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alexa for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DEREK OLSON

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Derek Olson, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Derek is a graduate of Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City, SD. Recently, Derek graduated from Iowa State University where he majored in political science. He is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Derek for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

WARRIORS AND QUIET WATERS FOUNDATION

● Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I wish to recognize the remarkable work of the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation.

Located in Bozeman, MT, the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation helps reintegrate combat-injured veterans and active servicemembers upon their return from deployment through fly fishing and other high-quality therapeutic recreation throughout Southwest Montana.

As the Senate's only Iraq war combat veteran, I know firsthand the cost of war. Men and women who were injured in combat pay a price for the rest of their lives. Our Nation must now heal a new generation of American heroes that carry with them wounds that are both visible and invisible.

As a nation, we took our citizens and turned them into the best warriors the world has ever seen. Now, it is time we take those warriors and turn them back into citizens.

In 2007, the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation left shore with 14 wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to drop a line in one of Montana's pristine rivers.

The goal was to build hope, facilitate camaraderie, and find serenity through fly fishing. That is exactly what they accomplished.

Commanded by retired Marine Col. Eric Hastings and Dr. Volney Steele, Warriors and Quiet Waters has provided over 300 veterans and their spouses a fly fishing experience complete with world-class guides on some of our Nation's blue ribbon streams.

But, the mission is not complete.

More than 50,000 American servicemembers have been injured in combat over the past 13 years, and thousands more suffer from post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries as a result of their service to our Nation.

The Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation has identified a model for the difficult reintegration process that so many of our young veterans will be going through as a result of a decade of war.

Their commitment to those who served so bravely on our behalf is more than commendable—it is inspiring and is a strong example of how we can fulfill our Nation's responsibility to those who have served.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 25, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:38 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6. An act to provide for expedited approval of exportation of natural gas to World Trade Organization countries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4899. An act to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4899. An act to lower gasoline prices for the American family by increasing domestic onshore and offshore energy exploration and production, to streamline and improve onshore and offshore energy permitting and administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3301. An act to require approval for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities at the national boundary of the United States for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 26, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1681. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6235. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization; Disclosure to Shareholders; Disclosure to Investors in System-wide and Consolidated Bank Debt Obligations of the Farm Credit System; Advisory Vote" (RIN3052-AD00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 19, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6236. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael R. Moeller, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6237. A communication from the Director, Facilities Services Directorate, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Facilities Services Directorate/Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office (PENREN) annual report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6238. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Regulations Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau" (RIN2501-AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6239. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Burmese Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 537) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6240. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, relative to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6241. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6242. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the competitiveness of the export financing services for the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6243. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6244. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reliability Assurance Program" (NRC-2013-0123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6245. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for the Northern Mexican Gartersnake and Narrow-headed Gartersnake" (RIN1018-AY23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6246. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for *Ivesia webberi*" (RIN1018-AZ12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6247. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Ivesia webberi*" (RIN1018-AZ57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6248. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9912-55-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6249. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Georgia: State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions" (FRL No. 9912-82-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6250. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Provisions of the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Rule" ((RIN2050-AG68) (FRL No. 9911-84-OSWER)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6251. A communication from the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual Eligibles: 2014 (OEI-05-14-00170)"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6252. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Scheduling and Appearing at Hearings" (RIN0960-AH37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semiannual report on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the 1974 Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: United States Munitions List Category XI (Military Electronics), and Other Changes" (RIN1400-AD25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6256. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-75, Introduction" (FAC 2005-75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6257. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administra-

tion, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; EPEAT Items" (RIN9000-AM71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6258. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contracting with Women-Owned Small Business Concerns" (RIN9000-AM59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6259. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-75, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6260. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Compensation Costs" (RIN9000-AM75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6261. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation" (RIN1210-AB61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6262. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities, Requirement, and Definitions; Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program" (CFDA No. 84.215G); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6263. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-6264. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2013 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6265. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral William H. McRaven, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6266. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6267. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System; Regulations to Certify and Integrate Regional Information Coordination Entities" (RIN0648-ZA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6268. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2534. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-198).

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-199).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2554. An original bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline (Rept. No. 113-200).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1104. A bill to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-201).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1448. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-202).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1933. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-203).

H.R. 3212. A bill to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-204).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2454. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Laura S. Wertheimer, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

*Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNES, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2533. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to include in any proposed rule that limits greenhouse gas emissions and imposes increased costs on other Federal agencies an offset from funds available to the Administrator for all projected increased costs that the proposed rule would impose on other Federal agencies; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2534. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 2535. A bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2536. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for enhanced criminal and civil remedies in the protection of children and other victims of commercial sexual exploitation and related crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2537. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2538. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program

for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2539. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2540. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to Patriot employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 2541. A bill to allow additional appointing authorities to select individuals from competitive service certificates; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. 2542. A bill to clarify the effect of State statutes of repose on the required commencement date for actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2543. A bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHANNES (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2544. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 2545. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 2546. A bill to repeal a requirement that new employees of certain employers be automatically enrolled in the employer's health benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2547. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2548. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain

emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2549. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2550. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of non-violent persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COATS):

S. 2551. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Innovative Approaches to Technology Transfer Grant Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2552. A bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2553. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2554. An original bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2555. A bill to require a report on military assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2556. A bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an assessment of cultural and historic resources in the waters of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2557. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2558. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to revise the definition of the term "colonia", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 2559. A bill to provide greater transparency, accountability, and safety authority to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (by request):

S. 2560. A bill to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek

compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2561. A bill to prevent organized human smuggling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America; read the first time.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2563. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway safety and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COATS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Res. 486. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that President Obama should take immediate action to mitigate the humanitarian crisis along the international border between the United States and Mexico involving unaccompanied migrant children and to prevent future crises; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Res. 487. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. should appoint a special counsel or prosecutor to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WALSH):

S. Res. 488. A resolution designating July 26, 2014, as "National Day of the American Cowboy"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. Res. 489. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Growth Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 490. A resolution commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 491. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Kings on winning the 2014 Stanley Cup Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 492. A resolution congratulating "A Prairie Home Companion" on its 40 years of

engaging, humorous, and quality radio programming; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 493. A resolution designating July 11, 2014, as "Collector Car Appreciation Day" and recognizing that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER,

Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 494. A resolution relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 719, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme

and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and make permanent certain tax provisions under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1027, a bill to improve, coordinate, and enhance rehabilitation research at the National Institutes of Health.

S. 1114

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1114, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to clarify the orphan drug exception to the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers.

S. 1184

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1184, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include information on the coverage of intensive behavioral therapy for obesity in the Medicare and You Handbook and to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1396

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1396, a bill to authorize the Federal

Emergency Management Agency to award mitigation financial assistance in certain areas affected by wildfire.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1688

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1688, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), collectively, in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

S. 1799

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1799, a bill to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws ad-

ministered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 2349

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2349, a bill to establish a grant program to enable States to promote participation in dual enrollment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the regulation of emissions of carbon dioxide from new or existing power plants under certain circumstances.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2496, a bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2507

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2507, a bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 2537. A bill to provide legal certainty to property owners along the Red River in Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2537

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Red River Private Property Protection Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) In 1923, the Supreme Court found the border between Texas and Oklahoma to be: "the water-washed and relatively permanent elevation or acclivity at the outer line of the river bed which separates the bed from the adjacent upland, whether valley or hill, and serves to confine the waters within the bed and to preserve the course of the river, and

that the boundary intended is on and along the bank at the average or mean level attained by the waters in the periods when they reach and wash the bank without overflowing it. When we speak of the bed, we include all of the area which is kept practically bare of vegetation by the wash of the waters of the river from year to year in their onward course, although parts of it are left dry for months at a time, and we exclude the lateral valleys, which have the characteristics of relatively fast land and usually are covered by upland grasses and vegetation, although temporarily overflowed in exceptional instances when the river is at flood."

(2) This would become known as the "gradient boundary".

(3) This decision makes clear that, absent water that is physically touching the bank, the high bluff or "ancient bank" along the southern edge of the Red River is not the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma.

(4) In 2000, Public Law 106-288 ratified the Red River Boundary Compact agreed to and signed into State law by Texas and Oklahoma that sets the boundary between the States to be the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River, except for the Texoma area where the boundary is established pursuant to procedures provided for in the Compact.

(5) Therefore, the Bureau of Land Management should have no claim to land that is either south of the "gradient boundary" established by the Supreme Court or south of the vegetation line on the southern bank of the Red River pursuant to Public Law 106-288 whereby landowners have proof of their right, title, and interest to the land and have been paying property taxes accordingly.

SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF QUIT CLAIM DEEDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall relinquish and shall transfer by quit claim deed all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to Red River lands to any claimant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that official county or State records indicate that the claimant holds all right, title, and interest to those lands.

(b) PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register and on official and appropriate Web sites the process to receive written and/or electronic submissions of the documents required under subsection (a). The Secretary shall treat all proper notifications received from the claimant as fulfilling the satisfaction requirements under subsection (a).

(c) STANDARD OF APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall accept all official county and State records as filed in the county on the date of submission proving right, title, and interest.

(d) TIME PERIOD FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF REQUEST.—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a request for a quit claim deed under subsection (a) not later than 120 days after the date on which the written request is received by the Secretary. If the Secretary fails to approve or disapprove such a request by the end of such 120-day period, the request shall be deemed to be approved.

SEC. 4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

The Secretary shall ensure that no parcels of Red River lands are treated as Federal land for the purpose of any resource management plan until the Secretary has ensured that such parcels are not subject to transfer under section 3.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Red River lands" means lands along the approximately 539-mile

stretch of the Red River between the States of Texas and Oklahoma; and

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of Bureau of Land Management.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2540. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to Patriot employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2540

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patriot Employer Tax Credit Act".

SEC. 2. PATRIOT EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 45S. PATRIOT EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT.

"(a) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the Patriot employer credit determined under this section with respect to any taxpayer who is a Patriot employer for any taxable year shall be equal to 10 percent of the qualified wages paid or incurred by the Patriot employer.

"(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of qualified wages which may be taken into account under paragraph (1) with respect to any employee for any taxable year shall not exceed \$15,000.

"(b) PATRIOT EMPLOYER.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term 'Patriot employer' means, with respect to any taxable year, any taxpayer—

"(A) which—

"(i) maintains its headquarters in the United States if the taxpayer (or any predecessor) has ever been headquartered in the United States, and

"(ii) is not (and no predecessor of which is) an expatriated entity (as defined in section 7874(a)(2)) for the taxable year or any preceding taxable year ending after March 4, 2003.

"(B) with respect to which no assessable payment has been imposed under section 4980H with respect to any month occurring during the taxable year, and

"(C) in the case of—

"(i) a taxpayer which employs an average of more than 50 employees on business days during the taxable year, which—

"(I) provides compensation for at least 90 percent of its employees for services provided by such employees during the taxable year at an hourly rate (or equivalent thereof) not less than an amount equal to 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for a family of three for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins divided by 2,080,

"(II) meets the retirement plan requirements of subsection (c) with respect to at least 90 percent of its employees providing

services during the taxable year who are not highly compensated employees, and

“(III) meets the additional requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2), or

“(ii) any other taxpayer, which meets the requirements of either subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) for the taxable year.

“(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE EMPLOYERS.—

“(A) UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT.—The requirements of this subparagraph are met for any taxable year if—

“(i) in any case in which the taxpayer increases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year outside the United States, the taxpayer either—

“(I) increases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services inside the United States by an amount not less than the increase in such number for employees outside the United States, or

“(II) has a percentage increase in such employees inside the United States which is not less than the percentage increase in such employees outside the United States,

“(ii) in any case in which the taxpayer decreases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year inside the United States, the taxpayer either—

“(I) decreases the number of employees performing substantially all of their services outside the United States by an amount not less than the decrease in such number for employees inside the United States, or

“(II) has a percentage decrease in employees outside the United States which is not less than the percentage decrease in such employees inside the United States, and

“(iii) there is not a decrease in the number of employees performing substantially all of their services for the taxable year inside the United States by reason of the taxpayer contracting out such services to persons who are not employees of the taxpayer.

“(B) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THE DISABLED.—The requirements of this subparagraph are met for any taxable year if—

“(i) the taxpayer provides differential wage payments (as defined in section 3401(h)(2)) to each employee described in section 3401(h)(2)(A) for any period during the taxable year in an amount not less than the difference between the wages which would have been received from the employer during such period and the amount of pay and allowances which the employee receives for service in the uniformed services during such period, and

“(ii) the taxpayer has in place at all times during the taxable year a written policy for the recruitment of employees who have served in the uniformed services or who are disabled.

“(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR APPLYING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND RETIREMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) MINIMUM WAGE.—In determining whether the minimum wage requirements of paragraph (1)(C)(i)(I) are met with respect to 90 percent of a taxpayer's employees for any taxable year—

“(i) a taxpayer may elect to exclude from such determination apprentices or learners that an employer may exclude under the regulations under section 14(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and

“(ii) if a taxpayer meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(B)(i) with respect to providing differential wage payments to any employee for any period (without regard to

whether such requirements apply to the taxpayer), the hourly rate (or equivalent thereof) for such payments shall be determined on the basis of the wages which would have been paid by the employer during such period if the employee had not been providing service in the uniformed services.

“(B) RETIREMENT PLAN.—In determining whether the retirement plan requirements of paragraph (1)(C)(i)(II) are met with respect to 90 percent of a taxpayer's employees for any taxable year, a taxpayer may elect to exclude from such determination—

“(i) employees not meeting the age or service requirements under section 410(a)(1) (or such lower age or service requirements as the employer provides), and

“(ii) employees described in section 410(b)(3).

“(c) RETIREMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this subsection are met for any taxable year with respect to an employee of the taxpayer who is not a highly compensated employee if the employee is eligible to participate in 1 or more applicable eligible retirement plans maintained by the employer for a plan year ending with or within the taxable year.

“(2) APPLICABLE ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘applicable eligible retirement plan’ means an eligible retirement plan which, with respect to the plan year described in paragraph (1), is either—

“(A) a defined contribution plan which—

“(i) requires the employer to make non-elective contributions of at least 5 percent of the compensation of the employee, or

“(ii) both—

“(I) includes an eligible automatic contribution arrangement (as defined in section 414(w)(3)) under which the uniform percentage described in section 414(w)(3)(B) is at least 5 percent, and

“(II) requires the employer to make matching contributions of 100 percent of the elective deferrals (as defined in section 414(u)(2)(C)) of the employee to the extent such deferrals do not exceed the percentage specified by the plan (not less than 5 percent) of the employee's compensation, or

“(B) a defined benefit plan—

“(i) with respect to which the accrued benefit of the employee derived from employer contributions, when expressed as an annual retirement benefit, is not less than the product of—

“(I) the lesser of 2 percent multiplied by the employee's years of service (determined under the rules of paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of section 411(a)) with the employer or 20 percent, multiplied by

“(II) the employee's final average pay, or

“(ii) which is an applicable defined benefit plan (as defined in section 411(a)(13)(B))—

“(I) which meets the interest credit requirements of section 411(b)(5)(B)(i) with respect to the plan year, and

“(II) under which the employee receives a pay credit for the plan year which is not less than 5 percent of compensation.

“(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The term ‘eligible retirement plan’ has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8)(B), except that in the case of an account or annuity described in clause (i) or (ii) thereof, such term shall only include an account or annuity which is a simplified employee pension (as defined in section 408(k)).

“(B) FINAL AVERAGE PAY.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), final average pay shall be determined using the period of con-

secutive years (not exceeding 5) during which the employee had the greatest compensation from the taxpayer.

“(C) ALTERNATIVE PLAN DESIGNS.—The Secretary may prescribe regulations for a taxpayer to meet the requirements of this subsection through a combination of defined contribution plans or defined benefit plans described in paragraph (1) or through a combination of both such types of plans.

“(D) PLANS MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SOCIAL SECURITY AND SIMILAR CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS.—A rule similar to the rule of section 416(e) shall apply.

“(d) QUALIFIED WAGES AND COMPENSATION.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified wages’ means wages (as defined in section 51(c), determined without regard to paragraph (4) thereof) paid or incurred by the Patriot employer during the taxable year to employees—

“(A) who perform substantially all of their services for such Patriot employer inside the United States, and

“(B) with respect to whom—

“(i) in the case of a Patriot employer which employs an average of more than 50 employees on business days during the taxable year, the requirements of subclauses (I) and (II) of subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) are met, and

“(ii) in the case of any other Patriot employer, the requirements of either subclause (I) or (II) of subsection (b)(1)(C)(i) are met.

“(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND RAILWAY LABOR.—Rules similar to the rules of section 51(h) shall apply.

“(3) COMPENSATION.—For purposes of subsections (b)(1)(C)(i)(I) and (c), the term ‘compensation’ has the same meaning as qualified wages, except that section 51(c)(2) shall be disregarded in determining the amount of such wages.

“(e) AGGREGATION RULES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52 shall be treated as a single taxpayer.

“(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of applying paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of subsection (b)—

“(A) the determination under subsections (a) and (b) of section 52 for purposes of paragraph (1) shall be made without regard to section 1563(b)(2)(C) (relating to exclusion of foreign corporations), and

“(B) if any person treated as a single taxpayer under this subsection (after application of subparagraph (A)), or any predecessor of such person, was an expatriated entity (as defined in section 7874(a)(2)) for any taxable year ending after March 4, 2003, then all persons treated as a single taxpayer with such person shall be treated as expatriated entities.

“(f) ELECTION TO HAVE CREDIT NOT APPLY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A taxpayer may elect to have this section not apply for any taxable year.

“(2) TIME FOR MAKING ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) for any taxable year may be made (or revoked) at any time before the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the last date prescribed by law for filing the return for such taxable year (determined without regard to extensions).

“(3) MANNER OF MAKING ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) (or revocation thereof) shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe.”

(b) ALLOWANCE AS GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue

Code of 1986 is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(37) in the case of a Patriot employer (as defined in section 45S(b)) for any taxable year, the Patriot employer credit determined under section 45S(a).”.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Subsection (a) of section 280C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “45S(a),” after “45P(a)”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 3. DEFER DEDUCTION OF INTEREST EXPENSE RELATED TO DEFERRED INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 163 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to deductions for interest expense) is amended by redesignating subsection (n) as subsection (o) and by inserting after subsection (m) the following new subsection:

“(n) DEFERRAL OF DEDUCTION FOR INTEREST EXPENSE RELATED TO DEFERRED INCOME.—

“(1) GENERAL RULE.—The amount of foreign-related interest expense of any taxpayer allowed as a deduction under this chapter for any taxable year shall not exceed an amount equal to the applicable percentage of the sum of—

“(A) the taxpayer’s foreign-related interest expense for the taxable year, plus

“(B) the taxpayer’s deferred foreign-related interest expense.

For purposes of the paragraph, the applicable percentage is the percentage equal to the current inclusion ratio.

“(2) TREATMENT OF DEFERRED DEDUCTIONS.—If, for any taxable year, the amount of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) exceeds the taxpayer’s foreign-related interest expense for the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a deduction for the taxable year an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(A) such excess, or

“(B) the taxpayer’s deferred foreign-related interest expense.

“(3) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) FOREIGN-RELATED INTEREST EXPENSE.—The term ‘foreign-related interest expense’ means, with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year, the amount which bears the same ratio to the amount of interest expense for such taxable year allocated and apportioned under sections 861, 864(e), and 864(f) to income from sources outside the United States as—

“(i) the value of all stock held by the taxpayer in all section 902 corporations with respect to which the taxpayer meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902, bears to

“(ii) the value of all assets of the taxpayer which generate gross income from sources outside the United States.

“(B) DEFERRED FOREIGN-RELATED INTEREST EXPENSE.—The term ‘deferred foreign-related interest expense’ means the excess, if any, of the aggregate foreign-related interest expense for all prior taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014, over the aggregate amount allowed as a deduction under paragraphs (1) and (2) for all such prior taxable years.

“(C) VALUE OF ASSETS.—Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the value of any asset shall be the amount with respect to such asset determined for purposes of allo-

cating and apportioning interest expense under sections 861, 864(e), and 864(f).

“(D) CURRENT INCLUSION RATIO.—The term ‘current inclusion ratio’ means, with respect to any domestic corporation which meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902 with respect to one or more section 902 corporations for any taxable year, the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of—

“(i) the sum of all dividends received by the domestic corporation from all such section 902 corporations during the taxable year plus amounts includible in gross income under section 951(a) from all such section 902 corporations, in each case computed without regard to section 78, divided by

“(ii) the aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings.

“(E) AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF POST-1986 UN-DISTRIBUTED EARNINGS.—The term ‘aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings’ means, with respect to any domestic corporation which meets the ownership requirements of subsection (a) or (b) of section 902 with respect to one or more section 902 corporations, the domestic corporation’s pro rata share of the post-1986 undistributed earnings (as defined in section 902(c)(1)) of all such section 902 corporations.

“(F) FOREIGN CURRENCY CONVERSION.—For purposes of determining the current inclusion ratio, and except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, the aggregate amount of post-1986 undistributed earnings for the taxable year shall be determined by translating each section 902 corporation’s post-1986 undistributed earnings into dollars using the average exchange rate for such year.

“(G) SECTION 902 CORPORATION.—The term ‘section 902 corporation’ has the meaning given to such term by section 909(d)(5).

“(4) TREATMENT OF AFFILIATED GROUPS.—The current inclusion ratio of each member of an affiliated group (as defined in section 864(e)(5)(A)) shall be determined as if all members of such group were a single corporation.

“(5) APPLICATION TO SEPARATE CATEGORIES OF INCOME.—This subsection shall be applied separately with respect to the categories of income specified in section 904(d)(1).

“(6) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations or other guidance as is necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including regulations or other guidance providing—

“(A) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to changes in ownership of a section 902 corporation,

“(B) that certain corporations that otherwise would not be members of the affiliated group will be treated as members of the affiliated group for purposes of this subsection,

“(C) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to the taxpayer’s share of a deficit in earnings and profits of a section 902 corporation,

“(D) for appropriate adjustments to the determination of the value of stock in any section 902 corporation for purposes of this subsection or to the foreign-related interest expense to account for income that is subject to tax under section 882(a)(1), and

“(E) for the proper application of this subsection with respect to interest expense that is directly allocable to income with respect to certain assets.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself
and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2547. A bill to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, on December 30, 2013, outside of Casselton, ND, a train carrying crude oil derailed setting off a series of explosions and fire. The first on the scene that day were our local first responders from the Casselton Fire Department, a small volunteer department.

Whether floods, tornados, accidents, or man-made incidents, our local first responders are on the front line and we need to make sure they are trained and prepared to handle anything that may come their way and that they have the equipment necessary to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. The incident in Casselton and others across the country have shined a bright light on the need to make sure our local first responders are prepared specifically for emerging threats and hazards.

Only a few short years ago, trains carried very little crude. And when crude was carried by rail, it was in relatively small amounts mixed in with a variety of other commodities and container shipments. Since that time, our country has experienced impressive economic growth in the oil industry, but with that important growth we have seen an exponential increase in shipments of crude by rail. According to the Association of American Railroads, the number of carloads carrying crude oil on major freight railroads in the U.S. grew by more than 6,000 percent between 2008 and 2013. Now, we are seeing entire trains of linked tanker cars carrying more than half a million barrels of crude to market.

As we witnessed in Casselton, had the first responders not had the training they did, this disaster could have been much worse. It’s important that our local first responders have access to training to prepare them for these emerging threats and hazards. Traffic continues to increase on our rail system, and we must make sure local first responders in our communities are equipped to respond quickly and appropriately.

To improve first responder training, I am introducing the RESPONSE Act to bring together relevant agencies, emergency responders, technical experts and the private sector under FEMA’s National Advisory Council to review the training, resources, best practices and unmet needs on emergency response to railroad hazmat incidents, including crude oil transport. This

group would be tasked with reviewing current training, funding, existing emergency response plans and providing recommendations on steps to enhance emergency responder training and improve the allocation of resources to meet the needs.

Our local first responders are on the front lines and will be the first to respond in an emergency. We need to make sure they are equipped with the knowledge and training to protect our communities. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2548. A bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as we are about to begin the Fourth of July district work period in my State and throughout this country, many people are going to be getting into their automobiles and they are going to be traveling. In general, people who live in rural States such as Vermont don't have the option of getting on a subway. They don't have the option of getting on a bus to get to work. They use their automobile. In Vermont and all across this country, people who are driving have noticed that the price of gasoline at the pump has soared and is today much higher than it used to be.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the national average retail price for regular unleaded gasoline is \$3.70 a gallon—the highest price for this time of year since 2008. According to the AAA, drivers in three States have paid over \$4 a gallon at the pump for more than a month, and those States are Hawaii, California, and Alaska. In my home State of Vermont, the current average for a gallon of gas is about \$3.73.

When the price of gasoline goes up, a lot of people get hurt and the economy gets impacted. But mostly it affects working people who have no other option but traveling by car, and many of these workers are making \$10, \$12, \$15 an hour; and many of these workers have seen declines in their wages in recent years. Yet, in order to get to work to make a living, they have to get in the car and they have no choice but to pay soaring gas prices.

While gas prices are soaring, people should not be shocked or will not be shocked to know that the big oil com-

panies, which have racked up \$1.2 trillion in profits since 2001, are now telling us that the reason gas prices are going up is because of the volatile situation in Iraq. That is why suddenly gas prices have gone up—because of the conflict in Iraq.

The American people are sick and tired of hearing from the big oil companies using every excuse they possibly can. If it is snowing, the price of gas goes up. If there is conflict in the Middle East, the price of gas goes up. If it is raining, if it is sunny, if it is somebody's birthday, the price of gas goes up. Interestingly enough, we don't see that same logic when the price of gas should be going down, but it always seems to be going up. Meanwhile, the five biggest oil companies in America—again, not too surprisingly—continue to make huge profits. During the first quarter of this year, ExxonMobil made a profit of \$9.1 billion—the first quarter; Shell made \$7.3 billion, Chevron made \$4.5 billion, and ConocoPhillips made \$2.1 billion. The price of gas at the pump soars and the major oil companies make huge profits.

Last year, these five major oil companies—ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, ConocoPhillips—made \$93 billion in profits. ExxonMobil alone made nearly \$33 billion in profits in 2013.

So in the State of Vermont and all over this country, working people are seeing, in many cases, declines in their wages. Yet they have to get to work. Meanwhile, the price of oil, the price of gas soars, and the oil companies make out like bandits.

Here is the interesting point: When I was in high school—and I suspect kids all over the country are still being taught this—we learned about a theory called supply and demand. What supply and demand is about is when there is a lot of supply and limited demand, prices go down. When there is limited supply and a lot of demand, prices go up.

Well, guess what. To nobody's surprise, that is not the way it works in the oil industry. Today, there is more supply and less demand for gasoline than there was 5 years ago when the average price of a gallon of gas was just \$2.69 a gallon. So let me repeat that. More supply, less demand, and today the price of a gallon of gas is \$3.70 a gallon, but 5 years ago it was \$2.69 a gallon. Where is the logic of supply and demand? Where is that process?

According to the EIA, there has been a 9 million barrel increase in the supply of gasoline over the past 5 years—a 9 million barrel increase. Since 2009, the United States has increased gasoline supplies by 4.3 percent. Supply has gone up. What about demand? According to the EIA, the United States is consuming 96,000 fewer barrels of gasoline than it did in 2009—a 1-percent drop in demand compared to 5 years ago. If the supply and demand theory

were true, gasoline prices would be a bit lower—a bit lower—than they were 5 years ago—somewhere perhaps in the neighborhood of \$2.69 a gallon. Instead, despite the increase in supply, despite the lowering of demand, the average price for a gallon of gas in the United States has gone up by nearly 38 percent over the last 5 years, from \$2.69 a gallon to \$3.70 a gallon. Let me repeat. Since 2009 the supply of gasoline has gone up by more than 4 percent and demand for gasoline has gone down by 1 percent. Yet prices at the pump are up by nearly 38 percent.

People say: We need more oil, we need more gas. It doesn't matter—supply up, demand down, prices of gas at the pump soaring.

The truth is the high gasoline prices have less to do with supply and demand and more to do with Wall Street speculators driving prices up in the energy futures market. Over a decade ago, speculators only controlled about 30 to 40 percent of the oil futures market. Today, Wall Street speculators control about 80 percent of this market. Let me repeat. Wall Street speculators control about 80 percent of the oil futures market, even though many of them will never use a drop of the oil. People think that when people own oil on the oil futures market, they actually own it because they are going to use it. Maybe it is the airline industry; maybe it is the trucking industry; maybe it is oil fuel dealers. Wrong. The oil futures market is controlled by speculators who never use the end product and whose only goal in life is to drive prices up to make a huge profit, and that is exactly what they do.

We, as the elected officials of this country, who are presumably representing working families around America, have a responsibility to do everything we can to make sure the price of gasoline at the pump is based on the fundamentals of supply and demand and not Wall Street greed. That is why I am introducing legislation today to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to use all of its authority, including its emergency powers, to eliminate excessive oil speculation.

This bill is cosponsored by Senators LEVIN, NELSON, BLUMENTHAL, MCCASKILL, FRANKEN, BROWN, CARDIN, BALDWIN, WHITEHOUSE, MARKEY, KLOBUCHAR, SHAHEEN, MERKLEY, and HIRONO. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO is introducing the companion bill in the House. I thank all of these Members for their support.

Our legislation, the Energy Markets Emergency Act, is identical to bipartisan legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 402 to 19 during a similar crisis in June of 2008.

Specifically, our bill directs the CFTC to do the following within 14 days of enactment:

No. 1: Immediately curb the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded.

No. 2: Eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent gasoline and oil prices from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand.

There is now a growing consensus—this is not just the opinion of BERNIE SANDERS—there is a growing consensus that excessive speculation on the oil futures market is significantly contributing to the high prices the American people are seeing at the pump.

ExxonMobil, Goldman Sachs, the IMF, the St. Louis Federal Reserve, the American Trucking Association, Delta Airlines, the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, the New England Fuel Institute, the Consumer Federation of America, and many other organizations have all agreed that excessive oil speculation has significantly increased oil and gas prices.

Just a few years ago, Goldman Sachs—perhaps the largest speculator on Wall Street—came out with a report indicating that excessive oil speculation is costing Americans 56 cents a gallon at the pump—56 cents a gallon. I personally think that is a conservative estimate, but it is interesting that it comes from Goldman Sachs itself.

The CEO—and what can we say—the CEO of ExxonMobil has testified in the past that he believes excessive speculation has contributed as much as 40 percent to the price of a barrel of oil.

So what you are hearing is some of the Wall Street people—in a rare moment of honesty—acknowledging the impact of speculation. You are hearing the head of the largest oil company in America acknowledging the impact of speculation on gas prices. I think we do not need a whole lot of evidence to suggest this is a serious problem.

Three years ago my office obtained confidential information about how much Wall Street speculators were trading in the oil futures market on just one day—and that day was June 30, 2008—when the price of oil was over \$140 a barrel and gas prices were over \$4 a gallon. Here is what some of the biggest oil speculators were doing back then, on just one day of trading: June 30, 2008. This goes on every day. One day: Goldman Sachs bought and sold over 863 million barrels of oil, Morgan Stanley bought and sold over 632 million barrels of oil, Bank of America bought and sold over 112 million barrels of oil, Lehman Brothers—obviously now bankrupt—bought and sold over 300 million barrels of oil, Merrill

Lynch—bought by Bank of America—bought and sold over 240 million barrels of oil.

The only reason these firms were betting on the price of oil was to speculate and to make money. Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, they do not use oil. Their only function in this process is speculation, driving up prices and making huge profits.

The rise in oil and gasoline prices was entirely avoidable. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required the CFTC to impose strict limits on the amount of oil that Wall Street speculators could trade in the energy futures market by January 17, 2011—over 3½ years ago.

Unfortunately, the CFTC has been unable to implement position limits due to opposition from Wall Street and a ruling by the D.C. Circuit Court. This is simply unacceptable. Millions and millions of Americans who are filling up their gas tanks today are disgusted. They know they are being ripped off, and they want us to protect their needs. The time is now to provide the American people relief at the gas pump before the situation gets even worse.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2557. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for State accountability in the provision of access to the core resources for learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Core Opportunity Resources for Equity and Excellence Act with my colleague Senator BROWN. I would also like to thank Representatives FUDGE, HINOJOSA, and FREDERICA WILSON for introducing companion legislation in the House of Representatives. Our accountability systems in education should help us measure our progress towards equity and excellence. The CORE Act will help advance that goal by requiring States to include fair and equitable access to the core resources for learning in their accountability systems.

Sixty years after the landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, one of the great challenges still facing this Nation is stemming the tide of rising inequality. We have seen the rich get richer while middle class and low-income families have lost ground. We see disparities in opportunity starting at birth and growing over a lifetime. With more than one in five school-aged children living in families in poverty, according to Department of Education statistics, we cannot afford nor should we tolerate a public education system that steers resources and opportunities away from the children who need them the most.

We should look to hold our education system accountable for results and resources. We know that resources matter. A recent study by scholars at Northwestern University and UC Berkeley found that increasing per pupil spending by 20 percent for low-income students over the course of their K-12 schooling results in greater high school completion, higher levels of educational attainment, increased lifetime earnings, and reduced adult poverty.

The recent Office of Civil Rights survey points to some gaps that we need to address, including that Black, Latino, American Indian, Native Alaskan students, and English learners attend schools with higher concentrations of inexperienced teachers; nationwide, one in five high schools lacks a school counselor; and between 10 and 25 percent of high schools across the nation do not offer more than one of the core courses in the typical sequence of high school math and science, such as Algebra I and II, geometry, biology, and chemistry.

The CORE Act will require State accountability plans and State and district report cards to include measures on how well the State and districts provide the core resources for learning to their students. These resources include: high quality instructional teams, including licensed and profession-ready teachers, principals, school librarians, counselors, and education support staff;

Rigorous academic standards and curricula that lead to college and career readiness by high school graduation and are accessible to all students, including students with disabilities and English learners; equitable and instructionally appropriate class sizes; up-to-date instructional materials, technology, and supplies; effective school library programs; school facilities and technology, including physically and environmentally sound buildings and well-equipped instructional space, including laboratories and libraries; specialized instructional support teams, such as counselors, social workers, nurses, and other qualified professionals; and effective family and community engagements programs.

These are things that parents in well-resourced communities expect and demand. We should do no less for children in economically disadvantaged communities. We should do no less for minority students or English learners or students with disabilities.

Under the CORE Act, states that fail to make progress on resource equity would not be eligible to apply for competitive grants authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. For school districts identified for improvement, the state would have to identify gaps in access to the core resources for learning and develop an action plan in partnership with the local school district to address those gaps.

The CORE Act is supported by a diverse group of organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, American Federation of Teachers, American Library Association, First Focus Campaign for Children, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Education Association, Opportunity Action, and the Coalition for Community Schools. Working with this strong group of advocates and my colleagues in the Senate and in the House, it is my hope that we can build the support to include the CORE Act in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this legislation.

By Mr. CARDIN (by request):

S. 2560. A bill to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill I am introducing that will provide the Department of Interior the necessary and appropriate authority to seek compensation from responsible parties who cause injury to public resources managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service like National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries, and other Service facilities. The proposal would allow the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, USFWS, to recover costs for assessing injury and to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources without further Congressional appropriations. The National Park Service, NPS, under the Park System Resource Protection Act PSRPA—16 U.S.C. 19jj, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, NMSA—16 U.S.C. 1431, currently have similar authorities and its time USFWS were afforded this authority as well.

The Service Resource Protection Act, RPA, would enhance the protection and restoration of USFWS resources found on National Wildlife Refuges, National Fish Hatcheries and other Service lands, should injury or harm occur. The RPA is a proposed statute that specifically protects all living and non-living resources within Service lands and waters. Any funds collected to compensate for injury or destruction of Service resources would be used to rectify that specific harm without further Congressional appropriation. Under this authority, damages could be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize resource loss; abate or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

Currently, USFWS Service manages more than 150 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands and 71 National Fish Hatcheries. The sum of USFWS's acres is greater than those lands and water resources managed by the NPS and NOAA combined. USFWS has significant land based management responsibilities that are quite different from NOAA, in addition to marine and estuarine areas USFWS manages. Compared to National Parks, Refuges allow for a broader range of activities—such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife dependent activities. The large size of the USFWS's resource portfolio and the unique and varied stressors on these resources makes it imperative that the USFWS have the appropriate authority to seek damages from responsible parties who degrade or destroy USFWS resources and property.

Unlike NPS and NOAA, USFWS does not have the authority to recover damages, e.g., monetary compensation, from responsible parties to assess and restore injured resources without prior Congressional appropriation. Today, when Service resources are damaged or destroyed, the costs for repair and restoration of these resources falls upon the appropriated budget for the affected Refuge, often at the expense of other Refuge programs. Competing priorities can leave Service resources languishing until the refuge obtains appropriations from Congress to address the injury. This may result in more intensive injuries, higher costs, and long-term degradation of publicly-owned Service resources.

When bad actors harm public resources managed by USFWS the responsibility for remedying the problems caused by bad actors should not fall to the taxpayer to solve. More over the fact that currently to repair damages to USFWS resources may require earmarks in the budget to ensure these problems are resolved is doubly unfair in that such budget requirements take resources away from other worthwhile projects that are unrelated to fixing the problems caused by irresponsible actors. It is patently unfair for taxpayers to shoulder the burden of solving the mistakes and negligence of others. The public expects that Refuge resources—and the broad range of activities they support—will be available for future generations. Our bill ensures that persons responsible for harm, not taxpayers, should pay for any injury they cause.

While the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program established under the Oil Pollution Act and CERCLA establishes a unique process for the USFWS to seek damages in limited circumstances involving oil spills and or the release of hazardous substances. These laws do not apply to situations when toxics materials and regular solid waste are dumped on or near a refuge that are not formally de-

fined as hazardous substances and the USFWS is not authorized to recover funds to address injury from the responsible party in these situations under existing statute. Additionally, for injuries caused by actions or mechanisms other than a 'spill' of oil or release of a hazardous substance, such as illegal cutting of vegetation, destruction or vandalism of real property and facilities, e.g., kiosks, visitor centers, fire and abandoned debris, the USFWS has no statutory mechanism to recover costs for assessing and restoring the public's resources. In contrast, NPS and NOAA have statutory authority to recover civil damages for these types of injuries, and the funds go to the agencies for assessment and restoration.

USFWS manages 556 National Wildlife Refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts, covering over 150 million acres, and accounting for 25 percent of public lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior. The agency is also responsible for 71 National Fish Hatcheries and a National Conservation Training Center, which would also be covered by the proposed legislation. Management of the Refuge System prioritizes wildlife conservation and habitat management, but encourages the American public to enjoy the benefits of these lands. In the organic legislation, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, activities such as hunting, fishing, photography, wildlife observation, environmental education and interpretation were identified as priority public uses on Refuges.

Found in every U.S. State and territory, and within an hour's drive of most metropolitan areas, National Wildlife Refuges: attract approximately 45 million visitors each year; protect clean air and safe drinking water for nearby communities; protect more than 700 bird species, 220 mammals, 250 reptiles and amphibians, and 1,000 fish species; offers hunting on 322 refuges and fishing on 272 refuges; and generates more than \$1.7 billion for local economies, creates nearly 27,000 U.S. jobs annually, provides \$543 million in employment income, and adds more than \$185 million in tax revenue.

The fiscal year 2014 appropriated budget for the Refuge System is approximately \$72 million dollars, but it is estimated that the current operations and maintenance, O&M, backlog tops \$3 billion dollars. The National Fish Hatchery System has a backlog in excess of \$300 million. Because the Service does not have statutory authority to pursue recovery of damages from responsible parties, the cost of replacing or restoring injured Refuge or Hatchery resources typically gets included in the O&M project list, and requires tax-payer funding to fix. This legislation would allow the Service to

recover damages directly from the person or persons that harmed the resource, thus removing this additional financial burden from taxpayers.

The legislation is not intended to generate revenue for the Service; instead, it aims to be budget neutral. Any funds collected to compensate for resource injuries will be used to rectify that specific injury without the need for Congressional appropriation. Under this authority, damages would be required to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize resource loss; abate or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects, and/or restore, replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

By way of example, NPS has recovered damages on cases ranging from \$125.00—\$10 million dollars for assessment and restoration of injuries to resources on their lands. However, a direct comparison between USFWS and NPS is of limited value, since the two agencies have dissimilar missions and allow for different activities on their lands. The Refuge and Hatchery systems also manage many more individual land units and twice the acreage of the NPS.

USFWS administers several laws, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, that provide for penalties and fees as part of civil or criminal proceedings. The RPA is a civil authority that would allow the Service to recover compensation in the form of monetary damages for costs associated with assessment and restoration of injured resources. It is intended to make the public whole; it is not meant to be punitive towards the person or persons who caused the injury. As part of the Annual Uniform Crime Report, AUCR, Service Law Enforcement has identified several categories of crimes in which they have prosecuted individuals for criminal violations and received associated fines. These fines are remitted to the U.S. Treasury and do not provide any means to assess injury or recover restoration costs associated with repairing or replacing resources. The Service has used Tort law to recover damages on occasion, but many of our cases do not meet the dollar threshold for pursuing a civil lawsuit by the Department of Justice. As a result, even though cases may be criminally prosecuted, most of them are not pursued as a potential civil claim.

However, if the Service had RPA authority, we could use a civil process to recover costs for assessment and restoration. The AUCR provides many examples of areas where the Service could use the civil authority under RPA in conjunction with other criminal procedures. In 2010, 39 arson offenses were reported on Service lands. Monetary loss to the government resulting from these cases totaled almost \$850,000, but neither restoration funds, nor repair of the public's resources re-

sulted from these prosecutions. Similarly, over 2,300 vandalism offenses, totaling \$314,000 in monetary loss were documented. Other reported offenses number in the thousands and could lead to recovery of damages for many field stations: These include, illegal off-road use (n = 2,234), trespass (n = 8,163), and other natural resource violations (n = 4,628). In these instances, the Service must choose between using tax-payer funded, appropriations to pay for assessing, repairing, replacing or restoring structures, habitat and other resources injured by the responsible party or for other important Refuge needs.

It is time to shed taxpayers' cost burden of repairs and restoration due to damage caused by the unlawful behavior of negligent individuals and give the USFWS the authority it need to collect damages from those responsible to do the work to right what's wrong. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2560

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DAMAGES.—The term "damages" means—

(A) compensation for—

(i)(I) the cost of replacing, restoring, or acquiring the equivalent of a system resource; and

(II) the value of any significant loss of use of a system resource, pending—

(aa) restoration or replacement of the system resource; or

(bb) the acquisition of an equivalent resource; or

(ii) the value of a system resource, if the system resource cannot be replaced or restored; and

(B) the cost of any relevant damage assessment carried out pursuant to section 4(c).

(2) RESPONSE COST.—The term "response cost" means the cost of any action carried out by the Secretary—

(A) to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource;

(B) to abate or minimize the imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury; or

(C) to monitor the ongoing effects of any incident causing such destruction, loss, or injury.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) SYSTEM RESOURCE.—The term "system resource" means any living, nonliving, historical, cultural, or archeological resource that is located within the boundaries of—

(A) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

(B) a unit of the National Fish Hatchery System; or

(C) any other land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, including any land managed cooperatively with any other Federal or State agency.

SEC. 3. LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), any individual or entity that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any system resource, or that causes the Secretary to carry out any action to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injuries or risk to, any system resource, shall be liable to the United States for any response costs or damages resulting from the destruction, loss, or injury.

(b) LIABILITY IN REM.—Any instrumentality (including a vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or other equipment or mechanism) that destroys, causes the loss of, or injures any system resource, or that causes the Secretary to carry out any action to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury or risk to, a system resource shall be liable in rem to the United States for any response costs or damages resulting from the destruction, loss, or injury, to the same extent that an individual or entity is liable under subsection (a).

(c) DEFENSES.—An individual or entity shall not be liable under this section, if the individual or entity can establish that—

(1) the destruction or loss of, or injury to, the system resource was caused solely by an act of God or an act of war; or

(2)(A) the individual or entity exercised due care; and

(B) the destruction or loss of, or injury to, the system resource was caused solely by an act or omission of a third party, other than an employee or agent of the individual or entity.

(d) SCOPE.—The liability established by this section shall be in addition to any other liability arising under Federal or State law.

SEC. 4. ACTIONS.

(a) CIVIL ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE COSTS AND DAMAGES.—The Attorney General, on request of the Secretary, may commence a civil action in the United States district court of appropriate jurisdiction against any individual, entity, or instrumentality that may be liable under section 3 for response costs or damages.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS FOR RESPONSE COSTS AND DAMAGES.—

(1) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary, after making a finding described in subparagraph (B), may consider, compromise, and settle a claim for response costs and damages if the claim has not been referred to the Attorney General under subsection (a).

(B) DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS.—A finding referred to in subparagraph (A) is a finding that—

(i) destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource has occurred; or

(ii) such destruction, loss, or injury would occur absent an action by the Secretary to prevent, minimize, or abate the destruction, loss, or injury.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In any case in which the total amount to be recovered in a civil action under subsection (a) may exceed \$500,000 (excluding interest), a claim may be compromised and settled under paragraph (1) only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General.

(c) RESPONSE ACTIONS, ASSESSMENTS OF DAMAGES, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out all necessary actions (including making a request to the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief)—

(A) to prevent, minimize, or abate destruction or loss of, or injury to, a system resource; or

(B) to abate or minimize the imminent risk of such destruction, loss, or injury.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may assess and monitor the destruction or loss of, or injury to, any system resource for purposes of paragraph (1).

(B) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any determination or assessment of damage to a system resource carried out under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to judicial review under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”), on the basis of the administrative record developed by the Secretary.

SEC. 5. USE OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An amount equal to the total amount of the response costs and damages recovered by the Secretary under this Act and any amounts recovered by the Federal Government under any provision of Federal, State, or local law (including regulations) or otherwise as a result of the destruction or loss of, or injury to, any system resource shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) USE.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under subsection (a) only, in accordance with applicable law—

(1) to reimburse response costs and damage assessments carried out pursuant to this Act by the Secretary or such other Federal agency as the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

(2) to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of a system resource that was destroyed, lost, or injured; or

(3) to monitor and study system resources.

SEC. 6. DONATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other authority to accept donations, the Secretary may accept donations of money or services for expenditure or use to meet expected, immediate, or ongoing response costs and damages.

(b) TIMING.—A donation described in subsection (a) may be expended or used at any time after acceptance of the donation, without further action by Congress.

SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION FUND.

The matter under the heading “NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION FUND” under the heading “UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE” of title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994 (43 U.S.C. 1474b-1), is amended by striking “*Provided, That*” and all that follows through “activities.” and inserting the following: “*Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated or credited during fiscal year 1992 or any fiscal year thereafter may be transferred to any account (including through a payment to any Federal or non-Federal trustee) to carry out a negotiated legal settlement or other legal action for a restoration activity under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), the Act of July 27, 1990 (16 U.S.C. 19jj et seq.), or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Resource Protection Act, or for any damage assessment activity: *Provided further, That sums provided by any indi-**

vidual or entity before or after the date of enactment of this Act shall remain available until expended and shall not be limited to monetary payments, but may include stocks, bonds, or other personal or real property, which may be retained, liquidated, or otherwise disposed of by the Secretary for the restoration of injured resources or to conduct any new damage assessment activity.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 486—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO MITIGATE THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ALONG THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO INVOLVING UNACCOMPANIED MIGRANT CHILDREN AND TO PREVENT FUTURE CRISES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COATS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 486

Whereas 1 in 5 children in the United States struggle with hunger;

Whereas research has found that more than 30 percent of low-income families do not have enough food during the summer months;

Whereas the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) exists to ensure that low-income children have access to adequate nutrition when the school year ends;

Whereas the summer food service program is designed to give hungry children a safe place to participate in fun, educational activities and to receive a meal;

Whereas thousands of schools and non-profit organizations across the country serve as summer food service program sites;

Whereas summer programs are often under-utilized, as only 1 in 6 eligible children participate in the summer food service program, due in part to families being unaware that the summer food service program exists;

Whereas lack of transportation and other barriers often prevent children from accessing the summer food service program sites, especially in rural areas; and

Whereas almost 1 in 3 low-income children live in communities that are not eligible to participate in the summer food service program, thus reducing their ability to participate in the program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2014 as “Summer Meals Awareness Month”;;

(2) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to assist in efficient use of summer food service program sites by raising awareness of the location and availability of those sites;

(3) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to support efforts to increase the participation rate of eligible children who, with-

out the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), may go without meals; and

(4) encourages members of Congress to visit a summer food service program site to see the importance of the program firsthand.

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC H. HOLDER, JR. SHOULD APPOINT A SPECIAL COUNSEL OR PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE THE TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE NONPROFIT GROUPS BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 487

Whereas, in February 2010, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) began targeting conservative nonprofit groups for extra scrutiny in connection with applications for tax-exempt status;

Whereas, on May 14, 2013, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) issued an audit report entitled, “Inappropriate Criteria Were Used to Identify Tax-Exempt Applications for Review”;

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that from 2010 until 2012, the IRS systematically subjected tax-exempt applicants to extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria, including use of the phrases “Tea Party”, “Patriots”, and “9/12”;

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected without cause to delays lasting years;

Whereas the TIGTA audit report found that the groups selected for extra scrutiny based on inappropriate criteria were subjected to unreasonable and burdensome information requests, including requests for information about donors and political beliefs;

Whereas the Exempt Organizations Division within the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the IRS has jurisdiction over the processing and determination of tax-exempt applications;

Whereas, on September 15, 2010, Lois G. Lerner, former Director of the Exempt Organizations Division, initiated a project to examine political activity of organizations described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, writing to her colleagues, “[w]e need to be cautious so it isn’t a per se political project”;

Whereas, on February 1, 2011, Lois Lerner wrote that the “Tea Party matter [was] very dangerous” and “[t]his could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen’s [sic] United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules”;

Whereas Lois Lerner ordered the Tea Party tax-exempt applications to proceed through a “multi-tier review” involving her senior technical advisor and the IRS Office of Chief Counsel;

Whereas Carter Hull, an IRS lawyer and a 48-year veteran of the United States Government, testified that the “multi-tier review” was unprecedented in his experience;

Whereas, on June 1, 2011, Holly Paz, Director of Rulings and Agreements within the

Exempt Organizations Division, requested the tax-exempt application filed by Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies for review by Lois Lerner's senior technical advisor;

Whereas, on March 22, 2012, Commissioner of Internal Revenue Douglas Shulman was specifically asked about the targeting of Tea Party groups applying for tax-exempt status during a hearing before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, to which he replied, "I can give you assurances . . . [t]here is absolutely no targeting";

Whereas, on April 26, 2012, Lois Lerner informed the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives that information requests were done in "the ordinary course of the application process";

Whereas prior to the November 2012 election, the IRS provided 31 applications for tax-exempt status to the investigative website ProPublica, all of which were from conservative groups and 9 of which had not yet been approved by the IRS, in spite of a prohibition under Federal law against public disclosure of application materials until after the application has been approved;

Whereas the IRS determined, by way of informal, internal review, that 75 percent of the applications for designation as an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that were set aside for further review were filed by conservative-oriented organizations;

Whereas, on January 24, 2013, Lois Lerner wrote, in an email to colleagues, regarding Organizing for Action, a tax-exempt organization formed as an offshoot of the election campaign of President Barack Obama: "Maybe I can get the DC office job";

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, Richard Pilger, Director of the Election Crimes Branch of the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice, spoke to Lois Lerner about potential prosecution for false statements about political campaign intervention made by tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas, on May 10, 2013, in response to a pre-arranged question, Lois Lerner apologized for the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS during a speech at an event organized by the American Bar Association;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, of the 298 applications delayed and set aside for additional scrutiny by the IRS, 83 percent were from right-leaning organizations;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, as of the May 10, 2013, apology from Lois Lerner, only 45 percent of the right-leaning groups set aside for extra scrutiny had been approved, while 70 percent of left-leaning groups and 100 percent of the groups with "progressive" names had been approved;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives determined that, of the groups that were inappropriately subject to demands to divulge confidential donors, 89 percent were right-leaning;

Whereas, on May 15, 2013, Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. testified before the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that the Department of Justice would conduct a "dispassionate" investigation into the IRS matter, and "[t]his will not be about parties . . . this will not be about ideological persuasions . . . anybody who has broken the law will be held accountable";

Whereas, on May 15, 2013, President Barack Obama called the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS "inexcusable" and promised that he would "not tolerate this kind of behavior in any agency, but especially in the IRS, given the power that it has and the reach that it has into all of our lives";

Whereas Barbara Bosserman, a trial attorney at the Department of Justice who in the past several years has contributed nearly \$7,000 to the Democratic National Committee and political campaigns of President Obama, is playing a leading role in the investigation by the Department of Justice;

Whereas the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice communicated with the IRS about the potential prosecution of tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, President Obama declared in a national television interview that the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS was caused by a "bureaucratic" "list" by employees in "an office in Cincinnati";

Whereas, on April 9, 2014, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives referred Lois Lerner to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner used her position to improperly influence agency action against conservative tax-exempt organizations, denying these groups due process and equal protection rights as guaranteed by the United States Constitution, in apparent violation of section 242 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner targeted Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies while ignoring similar liberal-leaning tax-exempt applicants;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner impeded official investigations by knowingly providing misleading statements to TIGTA, in apparent violation of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code;

Whereas the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives found that Lois Lerner may have disclosed confidential taxpayer information, in apparent violation of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

Whereas former Department of Justice officials have testified before a subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives that the circumstances of the investigation by the administration of the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS warrant the appointment of a special counsel;

Whereas Department of Justice regulations counsel attorneys to avoid the "appearance of a conflict of interest likely to affect the public perception of the integrity of the investigation or prosecution";

Whereas, on January 13, 2014, unnamed officials in the Department of Justice leaked to the media that no criminal charges would be appropriate for IRS officials who engaged in the targeting activity, which undermined the integrity of the investigation by the Department of Justice;

Whereas, on January 29, 2014, Attorney General Holder told the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, "I don't think that there is a basis for us to conclude on the information as it presently exists that there is any reason for the appointment of the independent

counsel . . . The notion that somehow this has caused a loss of faith in this Justice Department is inconsistent with the facts";

Whereas, on February 2, 2014, President Obama stated publicly that there was "not even a smidgen of corruption" in connection with the IRS targeting activity;

Whereas, on April 16, 2014, e-mails between the Department of Justice and the IRS were released showing that the Department of Justice considered prosecuting conservative nonprofit groups for engaging in political activity that is legal under Federal law, which damaged the integrity of the Department of Justice and undermined its investigation;

Whereas, on May 8, 2014, the IRS agreed to provide all of Lois Lerner's e-mails to investigators of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives;

Whereas, on May 14, 2014, e-mails obtained through a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Freedom of Information Act") by the nonprofit group Judicial Watch indicate that the Washington office of the IRS was examining applications for tax-exempt status by Tea Party organizations, which is contrary to claims that the cases were being handled by lower-level workers in Cincinnati;

Whereas, on June 11, 2014, James Comey, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), testified to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that FBI investigators did not examine the IRS database with taxpayer information, which included private taxpayer information that is prohibited from being shared without an order from a judge, and only looked at the table of contents;

Whereas, on June 13, 2014, IRS Office of Legislative Affairs Director Leonard Ourlser informed the Committee on Finance of the Senate that the IRS could not produce e-mails from January 2009 through April 2011 from Lois Lerner due to a computer crash;

Whereas, on June 17, 2014, the IRS stated that it could not produce e-mails from 6 other IRS employees;

Whereas, on June 23, 2014, it was reported that Commissioner of Internal Revenue John Koskinen has contributed approximately \$100,000 to Democratic candidates and organizations, including \$7,300 to President Obama;

Whereas, on June 24, 2014, it was reported that the IRS agreed to pay \$50,000 in damages to one of the conservative groups, the National Organization for Marriage, as a result of the unlawful release of confidential information to a political rival of that group;

Whereas, on June 25, 2014, according to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, Lois Lerner sought to have Senator Chuck Grassley, a sitting United States Senator and ranking Republican member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, referred for IRS examination; and

Whereas section 600.1 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, promulgated under section 515 of title 28, United States Code, requires the Attorney General to appoint a special counsel or prosecutor when it is determined that—

(1) a criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted;

(2) investigation or prosecution of that person or matter by a United States Attorney's Office or litigating Division of the Department of Justice would present a conflict of interest for the Department or other extraordinary circumstances; and

(3) under the circumstances, it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel or prosecutor to assume responsibility for the matter: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the statements and actions of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department of Justice, and the administration of President Barack Obama in connection with the targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants by the IRS have served to undermine the investigation by the Department of Justice;

(2) the efforts of the administration to undermine the investigation by the Department of Justice, and the appointment of Barbara Bosserman, who has donated almost \$7,000 to President Obama and the Democratic National Committee, to a lead investigative role, have created a conflict of interest that warrants removal of the investigation from the normal processes of the Department of Justice;

(3) further investigation of the matter is warranted due to the apparent criminal activity by Lois Lerner, former Director of the Exempt Organizations Division within the Tax-Exempt and Government Entities Division of the IRS, and the ongoing disclosure of internal communications showing potentially unlawful conduct by executive branch personnel;

(4) appointment of a special counsel or prosecutor would be in the public interest, given the conflict of interest for the Department of Justice and the strong public interest in ensuring that public officials who inappropriately target individuals for exercising their right to free expression are held accountable; and

(5) Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. should appoint a special counsel or prosecutor, with meaningful independence, to investigate the targeting of conservative non-profit advocacy groups by the IRS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2014, AS “NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY”

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WALSH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 488

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as “cowboys”, helped to establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment, is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across

the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2014, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce a resolution today to designate Saturday, July 26, 2014 as National Day of the American Cowboy. My late colleague, Senator Craig Thomas, began the tradition of honoring the men and women known as cowboys 10 years ago when he introduced the first resolution to designate the fourth Saturday of July as National Day of the American Cowboy. I am proud to carry on Senator Thomas’s tradition.

The national day celebrates the history of cowboys in America and recognizes the important work today’s cowboys are doing in the United States. The cowboy spirit is about honesty, integrity, courage, and patriotism, and cowboys are models of strong character, sound family values, and good common sense.

Cowboys were some of the first men and women to settle in the American West, and they continue to make important contributions to our economy, Western culture, and my home State of Wyoming today. This year’s resolution designates July 26, 2014, as the National Day of the American Cowboy. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important role cowboys play in our country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 489—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “GROWTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 489

Whereas, according to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations database (commonly known as the “POSSUM” database), more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions cause growth failure;

Whereas health conditions that cause growth failure may affect the overall health of a child;

Whereas short stature may be a symptom of a serious underlying health condition;

Whereas children with growth failure are often undiagnosed;

Whereas, according to the MAGIC Foundation for children’s growth, 48 percent of children in the United States who were evaluated for the 2 most common causes of growth failure were undiagnosed with growth failure;

Whereas the longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for damage and higher costs of care;

Whereas early detection and a diagnosis of growth failure are crucial to ensure a healthy future for a child with growth failure;

Whereas raising public awareness of, and educating the public about, growth failure is a vital public service;

Whereas providing resources for identification of growth failure will allow for early detection; and

Whereas the MAGIC Foundation for children’s growth has designated the third week of September as “Growth Awareness Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the third week of September 2014 as “Growth Awareness Week”; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of “Growth Awareness Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 490—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE MAY-LEWES FERRY

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas, on September 20, 1962, the 87th Congress granted consent to the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey to enter into a compact to establish the Delaware River and Bay Authority (referred to in this preamble as the “DRBA”) for the development of the area in both States bordering the Delaware River and Bay;

Whereas the pressures of increasing amounts of traffic, a growing population, and greater industrialization indicated the need for closer cooperation between the 2 States in order to advance their economic development and to improve crossings and transportation between the 2 States;

Whereas the Delaware River and Bay Authority was organized on February 6, 1963, to construct and operate transportation crossings between the 2 States and its first line of business was to update earlier feasibility studies for a ferry service connecting southern New Jersey and southern Delaware;

Whereas DRBA Commissioners immediately resolved, in April 1963, to establish the Cape May-Lewes Ferry at the earliest possible date following the release of the updated feasibility study;

Whereas, on July 1, 1964, the very first vessel departed the Lewes, Delaware terminal at 6:47 a.m., carrying 8 vehicles and 15 passengers;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has served as a major transportation link in the crowded Northeast corridor, connecting north-south traffic from Boston and New York City to Washington, D.C. and Florida;

Whereas the 85 minute, 17 mile journey across the Delaware Bay offers an efficient way to cut miles off a road trip;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has evolved over the past 50 years from strictly a mode of transportation to one that includes tourism and recreational opportunities;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry offers foot passenger shuttle service to destinations in Delaware and New Jersey for a variety of commercial and recreational activities on the other side of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas both bird watchers and bicyclists use the Cape May-Lewes Ferry to access the various and numerous trails on both sides of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminals will host festivals to celebrate the highly anticipated 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry on June 28, 2014, in Cape May and June 29, 2014, in Lewes;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry employs more than 130 full-time personnel and an additional 330 seasonal workers, adding significantly to the economies on both sides of the Delaware Bay;

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry operates year-round and has carried more than 43 million passengers and 14 million vehicles since the inception of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry in 1964;

Whereas the DRBA continues to invest its resources to improve the services and infrastructure of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, including a renovated ferry fleet and new passenger terminal facilities; and

Whereas the Cape May-Lewes Ferry remains an important transportation link, as a waterway continuation of United States Route 9 between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, connecting the communities of Lewes, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey;

(2) celebrates the history of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry as an important transportation and tourism link between the State of Delaware and the State of New Jersey;

(3) honors the ongoing role that the Cape May-Lewes Ferry plays in bringing people together through interstate commerce, tourism, and recreation all along the eastern seaboard; and

(4) recognizes the positive contributions that the Cape May-Lewes Ferry has on the development and growth of the Twin Capes region of Cape Henlopen, Delaware and Cape May, New Jersey.

SENATE RESOLUTION 491—CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES KINGS ON WINNING THE 2014 STANLEY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 491

Whereas, on June 13, 2014, the Los Angeles Kings (referred to in this preamble as the “Kings”) defeated the New York Rangers by a score of 3 to 2 in game 5 to win the 2014 Stanley Cup and be crowned champions of the National Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as the “NHL”);

Whereas defenseman Alex Martinez scored the Stanley Cup winning goal 14 minutes and 43 seconds into double overtime in game 5;

Whereas the Kings are the first team to win the Stanley Cup twice in 3 seasons since

the Detroit Red Wings consecutively won the Stanley Cup in the 1997 and 1998 seasons;

Whereas the Kings became the first team in NHL history to win 3 series in the seventh game on the road during the postseason;

Whereas the Kings have played 64 playoff games since 2012, the most in a 3 year span in NHL history;

Whereas the Kings allowed only 168 goals during the regular 2013-2014 season, the fewest of any NHL team, thus earning goaltender Jonathan Quick the William M. Jennings trophy;

Whereas the Kings also survived 7 playoff games in which they could have been eliminated but instead rallied from 2 goal deficits 4 times, including the first 2 games of the Stanley Cup Finals against the New York Rangers;

Whereas all players on the 2013-2014 Kings roster should be congratulated, including Playoff Most Valuable Player Justin Williams and Team Captain Dustin Brown, as well as, Jeff Carter, Kyle Clifford, Drew Doughty, Marian Gaborik, Matt Greene, Martin Jones, Dwight King, Anze Kopitar, Trevor Lewis, Alec Martinez, Brayden McNabb, Willie Mitchell, Jake Muzzin, Jordan Nolan, Tanner Pearson, Jonathan Quick, Robyn Regehr, Mike Richards, Jarret Stoll, Tyler Toffoli, and Slava Voynov; and

Whereas Team Owners Philip Anschutz and Edward Roski, General Manager Dean Lombardi, and Head Coach Darryl Sutter assembled the powerful team that comprises the 2014 Los Angeles Kings and led the team through a strong season that culminated in the winning of the Stanley Cup Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Los Angeles Kings on winning the 2014 Stanley Cup Championship; and

(2) commends Los Angeles Kings fans in not only California, but all across the United States for cheering the team to victory.

SENATE RESOLUTION 492—CONGRATULATING “A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION” ON ITS 40 YEARS OF ENGAGING, HUMOROUS, AND QUALITY RADIO PROGRAMMING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 492

Whereas, for 40 years, “A Prairie Home Companion” has brought listeners from around the country to the fantastic town of Lake Wobegon, Minnesota;

Whereas, in 2014, “A Prairie Home Companion” is a 2 hour radio variety program performed live that airs on Saturday afternoons;

Whereas over 600 radio stations carry “A Prairie Home Companion” to 4,000,000 listeners each week;

Whereas “A Prairie Home Companion” was created by and is hosted by a Grammy Award winner who received the award in 1998 for “Lake Wobegon Days”;

Whereas 12 people were in the audience for the first broadcast of “A Prairie Home Companion” on July 6, 1974, at the Janet Wallace Auditorium at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota;

Whereas, in 2014, “A Prairie Home Companion” is broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater in Saint Paul, Minnesota, a historic building that is over 100 years old and was

named after United States citizen and author F. Scott Fitzgerald;

Whereas “A Prairie Home Companion” has won a Peabody Award;

Whereas “A Prairie Home Companion” has broadcast from Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany, Iceland, and nearly every State in the United States;

Whereas “A Prairie Home Companion” inspired a movie by the same name, which itself won 4 international awards; and

Whereas in Lake Wobegon all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the cast and crew of “A Prairie Home Companion” for 40 years of engaging, humorous, and quality radio programming; and

(B) Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media for bringing “A Prairie Home Companion” into the homes of millions for 40 years; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the creator and host of “A Prairie Home Companion”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—DESIGNATING JULY 11, 2014, AS “COLLECTOR CAR APPRECIATION DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THAT THE COLLECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND CLASSIC CARS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF PRESERVING THE TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 493

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of individual expression;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the United States and supports wholeheartedly all activities involved in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;

Whereas the collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;

Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of the United States by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;

Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and

Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 11, 2014, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day”;

(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological

achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in events and commemorations of Collector Car Appreciation Day that create opportunities for collector car owners to educate young people about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States, including through the collection and restoration of collector cars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 494

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was born in Tennessee in 1925, graduated from the University of Tennessee Law College in 1949, and was admitted to the Tennessee bar after which he commenced practice in his beloved state;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. served in the United States Navy during World War II from 1943–1946;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was first elected to the United States Senate in 1966 and served three terms as a Senator from the State of Tennessee;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. served the Senate as the Republican Leader from 1977–1981 and as the Majority Leader from 1981–1985;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on March 26, 1984;

Whereas following his service as Senator, Howard H. Baker, Jr. continued to serve his country as chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan from 1987–1988 and as United States Ambassador to Japan from 2001–2005;

Whereas Howard H. Baker, Jr. was known for his commitment to civility in public life, admonishing his fellow citizens to accord “a decent respect for differing points of view”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr., former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT WARREN WEINSTEIN SHOULD BE RETURNED HOME TO HIS FAMILY

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas Warren Weinstein was abducted in Pakistan in 2011 and is currently being held captive by al Qaeda;

Whereas Warren Weinstein is a former official of the Peace Corps and the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas Warren Weinstein is widely recognized as a scholar and humanitarian who has spent his career working to improve the lives of men, women, and children around the world; and

Whereas video released of Warren Weinstein by his captors confirms that he is in poor health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) use all of the lawful tools at its disposal to bring Warren Weinstein home to his family;

(2) make the return of all United States citizens held captive abroad, regardless of their different circumstances, a top priority; and

(3) keep Congress apprised of actions to achieve these goals as new information is available, or quarterly if no new information is available.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3388. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3389. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3390. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3391. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3392. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3393. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3394. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3395. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3396. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3397. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3398. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3399. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3400. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3401. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3402. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3403. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3404. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3405. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3406. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3407. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S.

2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3408. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3409. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3410. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3411. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3412. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3413. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3414. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3415. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3416. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3417. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3418. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3419. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3420. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3421. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3422. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3423. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3424. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3425. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3426. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3427. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3428. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3429. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3430. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3431. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3432. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3433. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3434. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3435. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3436. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3437. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3438. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3439. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3440. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3441. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3442. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

SA 3443. Mr. REID (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3388. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy,

to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. RESOLUTION OF CONTROVERSIES UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT.

(a) ELECTION OF ARBITRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 512) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) WRITTEN CONSENT REQUIRED FOR ARBITRATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever a contract with a servicemember, or a servicemember and the servicemember’s spouse jointly, provides for the use of arbitration to resolve a controversy subject to a provision of this Act and arising out of or relating to such contract, arbitration may be used to settle such controversy only if, after such controversy arises, all parties to such controversy consent in writing to use arbitration to settle such controversy.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (d) of such section, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into, amended, altered, modified, renewed, or extended after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) LIMITATION ON WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 107(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 517(a)) is amended—

(A) in the second sentence, by inserting “and if it is made after a specific dispute has arisen and the dispute is identified in the waiver” after “to which it applies”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by inserting “and if it is made after a specific dispute has arisen and the dispute is identified in the waiver” after “period of military service”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to waivers made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PRESERVATION OF RIGHT TO BRING CLASS ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 802(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 597a(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) be a representative party on behalf of members of a class or be a member of a class, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, notwithstanding any previous agreement to the contrary.”.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall not be construed to imply that a person aggrieved by a violation of such Act did not have a right to bring a civil action as a representative party on behalf of members of a class or be a member of a class in a civil action before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3389. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. ROLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER MILITARY LENDING ACT.

(a) ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 987 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may commence a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States against any person who—

“(i) engages in a pattern or practice of violating this section; or

“(ii) engages in a violation of this section that raises an issue of general public importance.

“(B) RELIEF.—In a civil action commenced under subparagraph (A), the court—

“(i) may grant any appropriate equitable or declaratory relief with respect to the violation of this section;

“(ii) may award all other appropriate relief, including monetary damages, to any person aggrieved by the violation; and

“(iii) may, to vindicate the public interest, assess a civil penalty—

“(I) in an amount not exceeding \$110,000 for a first violation; and

“(II) in an amount not exceeding \$220,000 for any subsequent violation.

“(C) INTERVENTION.—Upon timely application, a person aggrieved by a violation of this section with respect to which the civil action is commenced may intervene in such action, and may obtain such appropriate relief as the person could obtain in a civil action under paragraph (5) with respect to that violation, along with costs and a reasonable attorney fee.

“(D) ISSUANCE AND SERVICE OF CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE DEMANDS.—Whenever the Attorney General, or a designee, has reason to believe that any person may be in possession, custody, or control of any documentary material relevant to an investigation under this section, the Attorney General, or a designee, may, before commencing a civil action under subparagraph (A), issue in writing and cause to be served upon such person, a civil investigative demand requiring—

“(i) the production of such documentary material for inspection and copying;

“(ii) that the custodian of such documentary material answer in writing written questions with respect to such documentary material; or

“(iii) the production of any combination of such documentary material or answers.

“(E) RELATIONSHIP TO FALSE CLAIMS ACT.—The statutory provisions governing the authority to issue, use, and enforce civil investigative demands under section 3733 of title 31 (known as the ‘False Claims Act’) shall govern the authority to issue, use, and enforce civil investigative demands under subparagraph (D), except that—

“(i) any reference in that section to false claims law investigators or investigations shall be applied for purposes of subparagraph (D) as referring to investigators or investigations under this section;

“(ii) any reference in that section to interrogatories shall be applied for purposes of subparagraph (D) as referring to written questions, and answers to such need not be under oath;

“(iii) the statutory definitions for purposes of that section relating to ‘false claims law’ shall not apply; and

“(iv) provisions of that section relating to qui tam relators shall not apply.”

(b) CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN PRESCRIPTION OF REGULATIONS.—Subsection (h)(3) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(H) The Department of Justice.”

SA 3390. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Matters Relating to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act

SEC. 1091. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES AFTER ASSIGNMENT OR RELOCATION TO QUARTERS OF UNITED STATES OR HOUSING FACILITY UNDER JURISDICTION OF UNIFORMED SERVICE.

(a) TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 305 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 535) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such subsection, the date the lessee is assigned to or otherwise relocates to quarters or a housing facility as described in such subparagraph.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the lease is executed by or on behalf of a person who thereafter and during the term of the lease is assigned to or otherwise relocates to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code), including housing provided under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.”

(2) MANNER OF TERMINATION.—Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (A) or (B) of such subsection,” before “by delivery”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) in the case of a lease described in subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such subsection, by delivery by the lessee of written notice of such termination, and a letter from the servicemember’s commanding officer indicating that the servicemember has been assigned to or is otherwise relocating to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed

service (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code), to the lessor (or the lessor’s grantee), or to the lessor’s agent (or the agent’s grantee); and”.

(b) DEFINITION OF MILITARY ORDERS AND CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR PURPOSES OF ACT.—

(1) TRANSFER OF DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is further amended by transferring paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 305(i) (50 U.S.C. App. 535(i)) to the end of section 101 (50 U.S.C. App. 511) and redesignating such paragraphs, as so transferred, as paragraphs (10) and (11).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is further amended—

(A) in section 305 (50 U.S.C. App. 535), as amended by paragraph (1), by striking subsection (i); and

(B) in section 705 (50 U.S.C. App. 595), by striking “or naval” both places it appears.

SEC. 1092. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RESPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 531 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 (50 U.S.C. App. 533) the following new section:

“SEC. 303A. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RESPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), with respect to a servicemember who dies while in military service and who has a surviving spouse who is the servicemember’s successor in interest to property covered under section 303(a), section 303 shall apply to the surviving spouse with respect to that property during the one-year period beginning on the date of such death in the same manner as if the servicemember had not died.

“(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be covered under this section with respect to property, a surviving spouse shall submit written notice that such surviving spouse is so covered to the mortgagee, trustee, or other creditor of the mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage with which the property is secured.

“(2) TIME.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be provided with respect to a surviving spouse anytime during the one-year period beginning on the date of death of the servicemember with respect to whom the surviving spouse is to receive coverage under this section.

“(3) ADDRESS.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) with respect to property shall be provided via e-mail, facsimile, standard post, or express mail to facsimile numbers and addresses, as the case may be, designated by the servicer of the mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage with which the property is secured.

“(4) MANNER.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be provided in writing by using a form designed under paragraph (5) or submitting a copy of a Department of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs document evidencing the military service-related death of a spouse while in military service.

“(5) OFFICIAL FORMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall design and distribute an official Department of Defense form that can be used by an individual to give notice under paragraph (1).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 303A of such Act, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to deaths that occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C.

App. 501) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Protection of surviving spouse with respect to mortgage foreclosure.”.

SA 3391. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1087. TRANSNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2014”.

(b) **POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL IMPORTATIONS.**—Section 1009 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 959) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “It shall” and all that follows and inserting the following: “It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance in schedule I or II or flunitrazepam or a listed chemical intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that such substance or chemical will be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.”

“(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or distribute a listed chemical—

“(1) intending or knowing that the listed chemical will be used to manufacture a controlled substance; and

“(2) intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe that the controlled substance will be unlawfully imported into the United States.”.

(c) **TRAFFICKING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS OR SERVICES.**—Chapter 113 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2318(b)(2), by striking “section 2320(e)” and inserting “section 2320(f)”;

and

(2) in section 2320—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) traffics in a drug and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such drug.”;

(B) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “counterfeit drug” and inserting “drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug”; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) the term ‘drug’ means a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).”.

SA 3392. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out an antimicrobial stewardship program at medical facilities of the Department of Defense.

(b) **COLLECTION AND USE OF DATA.**—In carrying out the antimicrobial stewardship program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a consistent manner in which to collect and analyze data on antibiotic usage, health issues related to antibiotic usage (such as *Clostridium difficile* infections), and antimicrobial resistance trends at medical facilities of the Department in order to evaluate how well the program is improving health care provided to members of the Armed Forces and reducing the inappropriate use of antibiotics at such facilities; and

(2) provide data on antibiotic usage and antimicrobial resistance trends at facilities of the Department to the National Healthcare Safety Network of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(c) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy for carrying out the antimicrobial stewardship program required by subsection (a).

SA 3393. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X of division A, add the following:

SEC. 1087. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION, BADGER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, BARABOO, WISCONSIN.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **PLANT.**—The term “plant” means the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo, Wisconsin.

(2) **PROPERTY.**—The term “Property” includes—

(A) the plant;

(B) any land located in Sauk County, Wisconsin, and managed by the Federal Government relating to the plant; and

(C) any structure on the land described in subparagraph (B).

(b) **TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1,553 acres of land located within the boundary of the Property, to be held in trust by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

(2) **DATE OF TRANSFER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The transfer of all land described in paragraph (1) shall be carried out not later than 1 year after the latter of—

(i) the date on which environmental remediation activities on the land described in that paragraph are finalized; and

(ii) the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **FINALIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES.**—For purposes of this paragraph, environmental remediation activities on a parcel of land to be transferred under paragraph (1) are considered to be finalized on the date on which the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Wisconsin makes a final case closure and no-action-required determination for that parcel of land.

(3) **TRANSFER OF PARCELS.**—The Secretary of the Army may transfer the land described in paragraph (1) in parcels.

(4) **LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall publish in the Federal Register a legal description of the land to be transferred under paragraph (1).

(c) **RETENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY THE ARMY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2) and notwithstanding the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Property to the Secretary of the Interior under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of the Army shall retain sole Federal responsibility and liability to fund and implement actions necessary for compliance with all environmental remediation activities required to support the land reuse identified in the final case closure and no-action-required determination of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Wisconsin for any transferred parcel of the Property.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The responsibility and liability of the Secretary of the Army described in paragraph (1) is limited to the remediation of environmental contamination caused by the activities of the Department of Defense that occurred before the date on which administrative jurisdiction over the land is transferred under this section.

SA 3394. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2842. WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC LAND FOR NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION, CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2971(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 127 Stat. 1044) is amended—

(1) by striking “subsection (a) is the Federal land” and inserting the following: “subsection (a) is—

“(1) the Federal land”; and

(2) by striking “section 2912.” and inserting the following: “section 2912;

“(2) approximately 7,556 acres of public land described at Public Law 88–46 and commonly known as the Cuddeback Lake Air Force Range; and

“(3) approximately 4,480 acres comprised of all the public lands within: Sections 31 and

32 of Township 29S, Range 43E; Sections 12, 13, 24, and 25 of Township 30S, Range 42E; and Section 5 and the northern half of Section 6 of Township 31S, Range 43E, Mount Diablo Meridian, in the county of San Bernardino in the State of California, (but excluding the parcel identified as 'AF Fee Simple') as depicted on the map entitled: 'Cuddeback Area of the Golden Valley Proposed Wilderness Additions, June 2014'."

(b) **EXPIRATIONAL REPEAL.**—The Act entitled "An Act to provide for the withdrawal and reservation for the use of the Department of the Air Force of certain public lands of the United States at Cuddeback Lake Air Force Range, California, for defense purposes", as approved June 21, 1963 (Public Law 88-46; 77 Stat. 69), is repealed.

SA 3395. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 557. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ASSESSMENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE INVOLVING RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS CADETS.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than June 30, 2015, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment of the feasibility of conducting a study of sexual violence involving cadets in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs during fiscal years 2009 through 2014 in order to determine the extent of sexual violence in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs and the need for reform of such programs in connection with such violence.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and prioritization of the quantitative and qualitative data, including collection and assessment methodologies in compliance with applicable privacy laws, that should be used to assess the extent of sexual violence involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets for each Armed Forces and across the Armed Forces in general, including data on—

(A) alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence by Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets as reported to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials;

(B) alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence by students of institutions of higher education of demographics similar to the demographics of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets as reported to institutions of higher education and law enforcement officials; and

(C) actions officially and unofficially taken by Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials in response to such alleged and proven incidents of sexual violence.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility of the collection and analysis of the data provided for in paragraph (1), including the methods and resources that would be necessary to col-

lect, for sample sizes of sufficient size as to provide significant evidence for determining the extent, if any, of sexual violence involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets.

(3) A description of Reserve Officers' Training Corps classroom information materials, course materials, and lesson plans related to education and training for prevention of sexual violence, and the process for developing such materials and lesson plans.

(4) A description of the processes of communication among Reserve Officers' Training Corps program officials, institutions of higher education, and law enforcement officials about alleged and proven sexual violence incidents involving Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets.

(5) A description of the process to review the records of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets, including disciplinary records, are evaluated prior to commissioning.

(6) Such other matters and recommendations with respect to the study required by subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 3396. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 738, in the table relating to Other Procurement, Army, insert after the item relating to Joint Light Tactical Vehicle an item relating to Family Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV), with a FY 2015 Request amount of "0" and a Senate Authorized amount of "50,000".

On page 738, in the table relating to Other Procurement, Army, insert after the item relating to Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (FHTV) an item relating to Additional HEMTT ESP Vehicles, with a FY 2015 Request amount of "0" and a Senate Authorized amount of "50,000".

SA 3397. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION
SEC. 301. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) healthy populations of fish depend on the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish habitats in the United States;

(2) fish habitats (including wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal and marine habitats) perform numerous valuable environmental functions that sustain environmental, social, and cultural values, including recycling nutrients, purifying water, attenuating floods, augmenting and maintaining stream flows, recharging ground water, acting as primary producers in the food chain, and providing essential and significant habitat for plants, fish, wildlife, and other dependent species;

(3) the extensive and diverse fish habitat resources of the United States are of enor-

mous significance to the economy of the United States, providing—

(A) recreation for 60,000,000 anglers;

(B) more than 828,000 jobs and approximately \$115,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to recreational fishing; and

(C) approximately 575,000 jobs and an additional \$36,000,000,000 in economic impact each year relating to commercial fishing;

(4) at least 40 percent of all threatened species and endangered species in the United States are directly dependent on fish habitats;

(5) certain fish species are considered to be ecological indicators of fish habitat quality, such that the presence of those species reflects high-quality habitat for fish species;

(6) loss and degradation of fish habitat, riparian habitat, water quality, and water volume caused by activities such as alteration of watercourses, stream blockages, water withdrawals and diversions, erosion, pollution, sedimentation, and destruction or modification of wetlands have—

(A) caused significant declines in fish populations throughout the United States, especially declines in native fish populations; and

(B) resulted in economic losses to the United States;

(7)(A) providing for the conservation and sustainability of fish populations has not been fully realized, despite federally funded fish and wildlife restoration programs and other activities intended to conserve fish habitat; and

(B) conservation and sustainability may be significantly advanced through a renewed commitment and sustained, cooperative efforts that are complementary to existing fish and wildlife restoration programs and clean water programs;

(8) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan provides a framework for maintaining and restoring fish habitats to perpetuate populations of fish species;

(9) the United States can achieve significant progress toward providing fish habitats for the conservation and restoration of fish species through a voluntary, nonregulatory incentive program that is based on technical and financial assistance provided by the Federal Government;

(10) the creation of partnerships between local citizens, Indian tribes, Alaska Native organizations, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, and Federal, State, and tribal agencies is critical to the success of activities to restore fish habitats;

(11) the Federal Government has numerous land and water management agencies that are critical to the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, including—

(A) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the National Park Service;

(D) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(E) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(F) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(G) the Forest Service;

(H) the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(I) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(12) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Marine Fisheries Service each play a vital role in—

(A) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the fish communities and fish habitats in the United States; and

(B) the development, operation, and long-term success of fish habitat partnerships and project implementation;

(13) the United States Geological Survey, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service each play a vital role in scientific evaluation, data collection, and mapping for fishery resources in the United States;

(14) the State and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies play a vital role in—

(A) the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the fish communities and fish habitats in their respective States and territories; and

(B) the development, operation, and long-term success of fish habitat partnerships and project implementation; and

(15) many of the programs for conservation on private farmland, ranchland, and forestland that are carried out by the Secretary of Agriculture, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State and Private Forestry programs of the Forest Service, are able to significantly contribute to the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan through the engagement of private landowners.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties consistent with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan—

(1) to promote intact and healthy fish habitats;

(2) to improve the quality and quantity of fish habitats and overall health of fish species;

(3) to increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species;

(4) to improve fish habitats in a manner that leads to improvement of the annual economic output from recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing;

(5) to enhance fish and wildlife-dependent recreation;

(6) to coordinate and facilitate activities carried out by Federal departments and agencies under the leadership of—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) the Director of the United States Geological Survey; and

(7) to achieve other purposes in accordance with the mission and goals of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(3) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 303(a)(1).

(4) **CONSERVATION; CONSERVE; MANAGE; MANAGEMENT.**—The terms “conservation”, “conserve”, “manage”, and “management” mean to maintain, sustain, and, where practicable, restore and enhance, using methods and procedures associated with modern scientific resource programs (including protection, research, census, law enforcement, habitat

management, propagation, live trapping and transplantation, and the regulated harvesting of fish)—

(A) a healthy population of fish;

(B) a habitat required to sustain fish and fish populations; or

(C) a habitat required to sustain fish productivity.

(5) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(6) **FISH.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “fish” means any freshwater, diadromous, estuarine, or marine finfish or shellfish.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “fish” includes the egg, spawn, spat, larval, and other juvenile stages of an organism described in subparagraph (A).

(7) **FISH AND WILDLIFE-DEPENDENT RECREATION.**—The term “fish and wildlife-dependent recreation” means a use involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or conservation education and interpretation.

(8) **FISH HABITAT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “fish habitat” means an area on which fish depend to carry out the life processes of the fish, including an area used by the fish for spawning, incubation, nursery, rearing, growth to maturity, food supply, or migration.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “fish habitat” may include—

(i) an area immediately adjacent to an aquatic environment, if the immediately adjacent area—

(I) contributes to the quality and quantity of water sources; or

(II) provides public access for the use of fishery resources; and

(ii) an area inhabited by saltwater and brackish fish, including an offshore artificial marine reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

(9) **FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “fish habitat conservation project” means a project that—

(i) is submitted to the Board by a Partnership and approved by the Secretary under section 305; and

(ii) provides for the conservation or management of a fish habitat.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “fish habitat conservation project” includes—

(i) the provision of technical assistance to a State, Indian tribe, or local community by the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program or any other agency to facilitate the development of strategies and priorities for the conservation of fish habitats; or

(ii) the voluntary obtaining of a real property interest in land or water, by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, including water rights, in accordance with terms and conditions that ensure that the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of—

(I) the land or water; and

(II) the fish dependent on the land or water.

(10) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(11) **NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN.**—The term “National Fish Habitat Action Plan” means the National Fish Habitat Action Plan dated April 24, 2006, and any subsequent revisions or amendments to that plan.

(12) **PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “Partnership” means an entity designated by the Board as a Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership pursuant to section 304(a).

(13) **REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.**—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land;

(B) water (including water rights); or

(C) a building or object that is permanently affixed to land.

(14) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(15) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

(A) each of the several States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) the Virgin Islands; and

(F) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(16) **STATE AGENCY.**—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State;

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State; or

(C) the fish and wildlife agency of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT BOARD.**—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to approve Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall be composed of 28 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be the Director;

(B) 1 shall be the Assistant Administrator;

(C) 1 shall be the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(D) 1 shall be the Chief of the Forest Service;

(E) 1 shall be the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(F) 1 shall be the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(G) 1 shall be the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation appointed pursuant to section 3(g)(2)(B) of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702(g)(2)(B));

(H) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(I) 1 shall be a representative of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

(J) 1 shall be a representative of the American Fisheries Society;

(K) 2 shall be representatives of Indian tribes, of whom—

(i) 1 shall represent Indian tribes from the State of Alaska; and

(ii) 1 shall represent Indian tribes from the other States;

(L) 1 shall be a representative of the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-

Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852);

(M) 1 shall be a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions, which is composed of—

(i) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(ii) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(iii) the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(N) 1 shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council; and

(O) 10 shall be representatives selected from each of the following groups:

(i) The recreational sportfishing industry.

(ii) The commercial fishing industry.

(iii) Marine recreational anglers.

(iv) Freshwater recreational anglers.

(v) Terrestrial resource conservation organizations.

(vi) Aquatic resource conservation organizations.

(vii) The livestock and poultry production industry.

(viii) The land development industry.

(ix) The row crop industry.

(x) Natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction.

(3) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the board established by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan shall appoint the initial members of the Board described in subparagraphs (H), (I), (J), (L), (M), (N), and (O) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the board established by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan a recommendation of not less than 4 tribal representatives, from which that board shall appoint 2 representatives pursuant to subparagraph (K) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) TRANSITIONAL TERMS.—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(O) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) 4 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) 3 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraphs (H), (I), (J), (L), (M), (N), and (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (K) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not less than 4 tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the

Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall elect a member of the Board to serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of $\frac{2}{3}$ of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 304; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 304. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—The Board may approve and designate Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to coordinate the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan at a regional level;

(2) to identify strategic priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to recommend to the Board fish habitat conservation projects that address a strategic priority of the Board; and

(4) to develop and carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An entity seeking to be designated as a Partnership shall submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require.

(d) APPROVAL.—The Board may approve an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include Federal, State, or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(2) is organized to promote the health of important fish habitats and distinct geographical areas, important fish species, or

system types, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, and estuaries;

(3) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decisionmaking;

(4) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(5) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decisionmaking by the applicant;

(6) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address the decline in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms in accordance with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan; and

(7) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

SEC. 305. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each calendar year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each calendar year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a description, including estimated costs, of each fish habitat conservation project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title, in order of priority, for the following fiscal year.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project to be recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b)—

(1) based on a recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in carrying out the fish habitat conservation project; and

(2) after taking into consideration—

(A) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project fulfills a purpose of this title or a goal of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;

(B) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) the availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e);

(D) the extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(i) increases recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(ii) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian tribes, and private entities;

(iii) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(iv) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by the States as species in greatest need of conservation;

(v) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), other relevant Federal law, and State wildlife action plans; and

(vi) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats such that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt; and

(E) the substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing recreational fishing opportunities and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS.—

(A) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity shall be eligible to receive funds under this title for the acquisition of real property.

(ii) RESTRICTION.—No fish habitat conservation project that will result in the acquisition by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity, in whole or in part, of any real property interest may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the project meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity unless—

(I) the Secretary determines that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is obligated to undertake the management of the real property being acquired in accordance with the purposes of this title; and

(II) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property.

(ii) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—Any real property interest acquired by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project shall be subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary providing for the long-term conservation and management of the fish habitat and the fish and wildlife dependent on that habitat.

(iii) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any acquisition of fee title to real property by a State, local government, or non-Federal entity pursuant to this title shall, where applicable and consistent with State laws and regulations, provide public access to that real property for compatible fish and wildlife-dependent recreation.

(II) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Public access to real property described in subclause (I) shall be closed only for purposes of protecting public safety, the property, or habitat.

(iv) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any real property interest acquired by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity under this title shall be approved by the applicable State agency in the State in which the fish habitat conservation project is carried out.

(II) ADMINISTRATION.—The Board shall not recommend, and the Secretary shall not provide any funding under this title for, the acquisition of any real property interest described in subclause (I) that has not been approved by the applicable State agency.

(v) VIOLATION.—If the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity violates any term or condition established by the Secretary under clause (ii), the Secretary may require the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to refund all or part of any payments received under this title, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND OR WATER.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Federal funds may be used for payment of 100 percent of the costs of a fish habitat conservation project located on Federal land or water.

(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from a Federal grant program; but

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian tribe pursuant to this title may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(f) APPROVAL.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of receipt of the recommendations of the Board for fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), subject to the limitations under subsection (d), and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c)—

(A) the Secretary shall approve, reject, or reorder the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board that is not within a marine or estuarine habitat; and

(B) the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly approve, reject, or reorder the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board that is within a marine or estuarine habitat.

(2) FUNDING.—If a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1) is approved by the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, as applicable, shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—If the priority of any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under subsection (b) is rejected or reordered by the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, shall, not later than 180 days after the

date of receipt of the recommendations, provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the Secretary, or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly, as applicable, detailing the reasons why the Secretary or the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce jointly rejected or reordered the priority of the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 306. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish a program, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program”, within the Division of Fish and Aquatic Conservation of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program shall—

(1) provide funding for the operational needs of the Partnerships, including funding for activities such as planning, project development and implementation, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and outreach;

(2) provide funding to support the detail of State and tribal fish and wildlife staff to the Program;

(3) facilitate the cooperative development and approval of Partnerships;

(4) assist the Secretary and the Board in carrying out this title;

(5) assist the Secretary in carrying out the requirements of sections 307 and 309;

(6) facilitate communication, cohesiveness, and efficient operations for the benefit of Partnerships and the Board;

(7) facilitate, with assistance from the Director, the Assistant Administrator, and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the consideration of fish habitat conservation projects by the Board;

(8) provide support to the Director regarding the development and implementation of the interagency operational plan under subsection (c);

(9) coordinate technical and scientific reporting as required by section 310;

(10) facilitate the efficient use of resources and activities of Federal departments and agencies to carry out this title in an efficient manner; and

(11) provide support to the Board for national communication and outreach efforts that promote public awareness of fish habitat conservation.

(c) INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the Assistant Administrator and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall develop an interagency operational plan for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs of the Program; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

(d) STAFF AND SUPPORT.—

(1) DEPARTMENTS OF INTERIOR AND COMMERCE.—The Director and the Assistant Administrator shall each provide appropriate staff to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program, subject to the availability of funds under section 313.

(2) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—Each State and Indian tribe is encouraged to provide staff to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program.

(3) **DETAILEES AND CONTRACTORS.**—The National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program may accept staff or other administrative support from other entities—

- (A) through interagency details; or
- (B) as contractors.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The staff of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program shall include members with education and experience relating to the principles of fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation.

(e) **REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Director shall provide to the Board a report describing the activities of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, the Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall provide scientific and technical assistance to the Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—Scientific and technical assistance provided pursuant to subsection (a) may include—

- (1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;
- (2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;
- (3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;
- (4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;
- (5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;
- (6) ensuring the availability of experts to conduct scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and
- (7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 308. CONSERVATION OF FISH HABITAT ON FEDERAL LAND.

To the extent consistent with the mission and authority of the applicable department or agency, the head of each Federal department and agency may coordinate with the Assistant Administrator and the Director to promote healthy fish populations and fish habitats.

SEC. 309. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 310. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.

(a) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of—

(A) this title; and

(B) the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet (or other suitable measure) of fish habitat that was maintained or improved under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities in the United States during the 2-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan during that 2-year period;

(C) a description of the opportunities for public recreational fishing established under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan during that period; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

- (i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 305(b);
- (ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 305(f), in order of priority for funding;
- (iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection or reordering of the priority of each fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 305(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 305(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects.

(b) **STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the status of fish habitats in the United States.

(c) **REVISIONS.**—Not later than December 31, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall revise the goals and other elements of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, after consideration of each report required by subsection (b).

SEC. 311. EFFECT OF TITLE.

(a) **WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of this Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.**—In carrying out section 305(d)(2), only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, in accordance with applicable State law, water rights or rights to property pursuant to a fish habitat conservation projected funded under this title.

(c) **STATE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control,

or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) **EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.**—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) **ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) **EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.**—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest.

(2) **MITIGATION.**—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) **CLEAN WATER ACT.**—Nothing in this title affects or alters any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 312. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

SEC. 313. FUNDING.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 305(f), of which 5 percent shall be made available for each fiscal year for projects carried out by Indian tribes.

(2) **NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program, and to carry out section 310, an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) **REQUIRED TRANSFERS.**—The Secretary shall annually transfer to other Federal departments and agencies such percentage of

the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraph (A) as is required to support participation by those departments and agencies in the National Fish Habitat Conservation Partnership Program pursuant to the interagency operational plan under section 306(c).

(3) **TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 307—

(A) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) \$500,000 to the Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(C) \$500,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey.

(4) **PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018 for use by the Board, the Director, and the Assistant Administrator for planning and administrative expenses an amount equal to 3 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) **AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.**—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) make funds available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) **DONATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) **TREATMENT.**—A donation accepted under this section—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

(i) used directly by the Secretary; or

(ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SA 3398. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1087. SAVING KIDS FROM DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Saving Kids From Dangerous Drugs Act of 2014”.

(b) **OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.**—Section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) **OFFENSES INVOLVING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MARKETED TO MINORS.**—

“(1) **UNLAWFUL ACT.**—Except as authorized under this title, including paragraph (3), it shall be unlawful for any person at least 18 years of age to—

“(A) knowingly or intentionally manufacture or create a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II that is—

“(i) combined with a beverage or candy product;

“(ii) marketed or packaged to appear similar to a beverage or candy product; or

“(iii) modified by flavoring or coloring; and

“(B) know, or have reasonable cause to believe, that the combined, marketed, packaged, or modified controlled substance will be distributed, dispensed, or sold to a person under 18 years of age.

“(2) **PENALTIES.**—Except as provided in section 418, 419, or 420, any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be subject to—

“(A) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years for a first offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule; and

“(B) an additional term of imprisonment of not more than 20 years for a second or subsequent offense involving the same controlled substance and schedule.

“(3) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any controlled substance that—

“(A) has been approved by the Secretary under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), if the contents, marketing, and packaging of the controlled substance have not been altered from the form approved by the Secretary; or

“(B) has been altered at the direction of a practitioner who is acting for a legitimate medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice.”.

(c) **SENTENCING GUIDELINES.**—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this subsection, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review its guidelines and policy statements to ensure that the guidelines provide an appropriate additional penalty increase to the sentence otherwise applicable in Part D of the Guidelines Manual if the defendant was convicted of a violation of section 401(i) of the Controlled Substances Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section.

SA 3399. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. INCREASED MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD FOR PURCHASES BY COMBATANT COMMANDS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.

(a) **INCREASED MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.**—In the case of any purchase by a combatant command in support of an operation overseas, the micro-purchase threshold for purposes of section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, shall be deemed to be \$10,000 rather than the amount otherwise provided for in subsection (a) of such section.

(b) **OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—In applying subsections (d) and (e) of section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, to purchases described in subsection (a), the purchases covered by such subsection (d) or (e) shall be deemed to be purchases not greater than \$10,000 rather than the amount otherwise provided for in such subsection (d) or (e).

SA 3400. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. AUTHORITY FOR TAIWAN C-130 FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUAM AND TAIWAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Taiwan C-130 aircraft are authorized to fly between Taiwan and Guam.

SA 3401. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1213. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER VESSELS TO TAIWAN.

Notwithstanding subsection (a) of section 7307 of title 10, United States Code, vessels otherwise subject to restrictions under such subsection may be disposed of to Taiwan without regard to such restrictions on or before December 31, 2019.

SA 3402. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1647. PLAN FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION ON CYBER MATTERS.

(a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the continuing education of officers and enlisted members of the Armed Forces relating to cyber security and cyber activities of the Department of Defense.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Requirements for provision of basic cyber threat education for all members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Requirements for postgraduate education, joint professional military education, and strategic war gaming for cyber strategic and operational leadership.

(3) Definitions of military occupational specialties and rating specialties for each military department along with the corresponding level of cyber training, education, qualifications, or certifications required for each specialty.

SA 3403. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. MAKING PERMANENT EXTENDED PERIOD OF PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES RELATING TO MORTGAGES, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, AND EVICTION.

Section 710(d) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 126 Stat. 1208) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (3).

SA 3404. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 854. MANAGEMENT OF MILITARY AIRSPACE.

(a) **INFORMATION ON MILITARY AIRSPACE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent possible, work to ensure that publicly available Internet websites or other information sources that enable members of the public to monitor the use by the Department of Defense of new military airspace include sufficient information to allow the public to obtain reasonable information regarding Department use of the airspace.

(2) **REASONABLE INFORMATION.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “reasonable information” means, at a minimum—

(A) a schedule of current and future planned uses of new military airspace;

(B) a list of restrictions corresponding to different uses of the airspace, including a

clear representation of what specific segments of new military airspace are scheduled to be used on specific dates; and

(C) contact information and procedures for interested parties to inquire about scheduled uses of new military airspace, receive general information about new military airspace, and request, including by electronic means, modifications to military use related to economic activity or other priorities.

(3) **CREATION OF DOD MANAGED INTERNET WEBSITE APPLICATION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the Department from creating its own Internet website application to improve communication with the general public over the use of new military airspace.

(b) **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prioritize reaching memoranda of understanding with private enterprises that utilize new military airspace as part of their regular business model, with the goal of minimizing disruption to affected enterprises while also protecting the national security needs of the Department.

(c) **PERIODIC REVIEW OF MILITARY AIRSPACE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Every five years after the creation of new military airspace or the changing of current military airspace, the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of the airspace to determine if the amount of military airspace is still in the interests of national security.

(2) **SCOPE.**—The review conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an examination of what units use the space for operations or training;

(B) an assessment of how the number and type of those units has changed in the previous five years; and

(C) a review of changes in military installations that use the airspace and how those changes impact the use of the airspace.

(d) **NEW MILITARY AIRSPACE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “new military airspace” means—

(1) military airspace designated after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) military airspace the boundaries of which are modified after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3405. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. STUDY ON REDUCING STIGMA AND IMPROVING TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AMONG MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly conduct a study on reducing the stigma and improving the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with individuals

with relevant experience relating to post-traumatic stress disorder, the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, and the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder on members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families, including the following:

(A) Representatives of military service organizations.

(B) Representatives of veterans service organizations.

(C) Health professionals with experience in treating members of the Armed Forces and veterans with mental illness, including those health professionals who work for the Federal Government and those who do not.

(3) **ELEMENTS.**—In conducting the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assess the following:

(A) The feasibility and advisability of strategies to improve the treatment of the full spectrum of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(B) The feasibility and advisability of strategies to diminish the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(C) The impact of the term “disorder” on the stigma attached to post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including the impact of dropping the term “disorder”, when medically appropriate, when referring to post-traumatic stress.

(D) Whether using the term “disorder” is the most accurate way to describe post-traumatic stress disorder in instances in which members of the Armed Forces and veterans have experienced traumatic events but have not been formally diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

(E) Whether there is a need to update the next version of the “VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Post-Traumatic Stress”, published by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(F) Whether there is a need to update information provided to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including information on Internet websites of the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, on post-traumatic stress disorder to reduce the stigma and more accurately describe the medical conditions for which members of the Armed Forces and veterans are receiving treatment.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study required by subsection (a), including recommendations for any actions that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs can take to reduce the stigma and improve the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3406. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 607, strike line 21 and all that follows through “Not later than” on line 24, and insert the following:

SEC. 1625. SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONSIDER GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.—In evaluating any offers submitted to the Department of Defense in response to a solicitation for offers for the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program (or any successor to that program), the Secretary of Defense shall consider any situation in which the cost of production or manufacturing operations, including systems and factory engineering, program management, standard integration and testing, launch and range activities, infrastructure, and parts obsolescence mitigation, or certification-related activities, is not fully borne by the offeror for such contract because of government-provided funds.

(b) REPORT ON RELIANCE OF EVOLVED EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM ON FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS.—Not later than

SA 3407. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2835. LAND CONVEYANCE, FORMER AIR FORCE NORWALK DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY POINT, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey, without consideration, to the City of Norwalk, California (in this section referred to as the “City”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 15 acres at the former Norwalk Defense Fuel Supply Point for public purposes.

(b) APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall affect the applicability to the Department of the Air Force of Federal, State, or local environmental laws and regulations, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(c) PAYMENT OF COST OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall require the City to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for such costs to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs for environmental documentation related to the conveyance, and any other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts paid to the Secretary in advance exceed the actual costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover those costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance or, if the period of availability for obligations for that appropriation has expired, to the appropriations or fund that is currently available to the Secretary for the same purpose. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary of the Air Force.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Secretary of the Air Force may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SA 3408. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 601.

Strike section 603.

Strike section 702.

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 605. PROHIBITION ON CHANGES TO MILITARY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS IN FISCAL YEAR 2015 PENDING THE REPORT OF THE MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Department of Defense is prohibited from making any changes to military compensation and benefits during fiscal year 2015 until after the date of the report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission under section 674(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1792).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “benefits” means provisions of law providing eligibility for benefits, including medical and dental care, cost-sharing for prescription drug copayments under the TRICARE program, educational assistance and related benefits, and commissary and exchange benefits and related benefits and activities.

(2) The term “compensation” means provisions of law providing eligibility for and the

computation of military compensation, including basic pay, special and incentive pays and allowances, basic allowance for housing, and basic allowance for subsistence.

SA 3409. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 317. REDESIGNATION OF THE PU’U PA LOCAL TRAINING AREA, HAWAII.

(a) ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT.—To provide necessary response actions in a fiscally responsible manner that strengthens environmental and cultural protections, the environmental restoration project at the Pu’u Pa Local Training Area, Hawaii, shall be redesignated from the Military Munitions Response Program to the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Funds authorized for the environment restoration project at the Pu’u Pa Local Training Area may be transferred to the Environmental Restoration Account, Formerly Used Defense Sites account in order to carry out the environmental restoration functions of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments. Any funds so transferred shall remain available until expended.

(c) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer made between accounts under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(d) SOURCE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS.—Pursuant to section 2703(c) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary may use funds available in the Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites account of the Department of Defense for environmental restoration projects conducted for or by the Secretary under subsection (a).

(e) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section affects or limits the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

SA 3410. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

SEC. 582. REVIEW OF DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this section, the appropriate discharge boards—

(1) shall review the discharge characterization of covered members at the request of the covered member; and

(2) if such characterization is any characterization except honorable, may change such characterization to honorable.

(b) **CRITERIA.**—In changing the discharge characterization of a covered member to honorable under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that such changes are carried out consistently and uniformly across the military departments using the following criteria:

(1) The original discharge must be based on Don't Ask Don't Tell (in this Act referred to as "DADT") or a similar policy in place prior to the enactment of DADT.

(2) Such discharge characterization shall be so changed if, with respect to the original discharge, there were no aggravating circumstances, such as misconduct, that would have independently led to a discharge characterization that was any characterization except honorable. For purposes of this paragraph, such aggravating circumstances may not include—

(A) an offense under section 925 of title 10, United States Code (article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), committed by a covered member against a person of the same sex with the consent of such person; or

(B) statements, consensual sexual conduct, or consensual acts relating to sexual orientation or identity, or the disclosure of such statements, conduct, or acts, that were prohibited at the time of discharge but after the date of such discharge became permitted.

(3) When requesting a review, a covered member, or the member's representative, shall be required to provide either—

(A) documents consisting of—
(i) a copy of the DD-214 form of the member;
(ii) a personal affidavit of the circumstances surrounding the discharge; and
(iii) any relevant records pertaining to the discharge; or

(B) an affidavit certifying that the member, or the member's representative, does not have the documents specified in subparagraph (A).

(4) If a covered member provides an affidavit described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3)—

(A) the appropriate discharge board shall make every effort to locate the documents specified in subparagraph (A) of such paragraph within the records of the Department of Defense; and

(B) the absence of such documents may not be considered a reason to deny a change of the discharge characterization under subsection (a)(2).

(c) **REQUEST FOR REVIEW.**—The appropriate discharge board shall ensure the mechanism by which covered members, or their representative, may request to have the discharge characterization of the covered member reviewed under this section is simple and straightforward.

(d) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After a request has been made under subsection (c), the appropriate discharge board shall review all relevant laws, records of oral testimony previously taken, service records, or any other relevant information regarding the discharge characterization of the covered member.

(2) **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS.**—If additional materials are necessary for the review, the appropriate discharge board—

(A) may request additional information from the covered member or the member's representative, in writing, and specifically detailing what is being requested; and

(B) shall be responsible for obtaining a copy of the necessary files of the covered

member from the member, or when applicable, from the Department of Defense.

(e) **CHANGE OF CHARACTERIZATION.**—The appropriate discharge board shall change the discharge characterization of a covered member to honorable if such change is determined to be appropriate after a review is conducted under subsection (d) pursuant to the criteria under subsection (b). A covered member, or the member's representative, may appeal a decision by the appropriate discharge board to not change the discharge characterization by using the regular appeals process of the board.

(f) **CHANGE OF RECORDS.**—For each covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e), or for each covered member who was honorably discharged but whose DD-214 form reflects the sexual orientation of the member, the Secretary of Defense shall reissue to the member or the member's representative a revised DD-214 form that reflects the following:

(1) For each covered member discharged, the Separation Code, Reentry Code, Narrative Code, and Separation Authority shall not reflect the sexual orientation of the member and shall be placed under secretarial authority. Any other similar indication of the sexual orientation or reason for discharge shall be removed or changed accordingly to be consistent with this paragraph.

(2) For each covered member whose discharge occurred prior to the creation of general secretarial authority, the sections of the DD-214 form referred to in paragraph (1) shall be changed to similarly reflect a universal authority with codes, authorities, and language applicable at the time of discharge.

(g) **STATUS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e) shall be treated without regard to the original discharge characterization of the member, including for purposes of—

(A) benefits provided by the Federal Government to an individual by reason of service in the Armed Forces; and

(B) all recognitions and honors that the Secretary of Defense provides to members of the Armed Forces.

(2) **REINSTATEMENT.**—In carrying out paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall reinstate all recognitions and honors of a covered member whose discharge characterization is changed under subsection (e) that the Secretary withheld because of the original discharge characterization of the member.

(h) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a review of the consistency and uniformity of the reviews conducted under this section.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for a four-year period, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reviews under paragraph (1). Such reports shall include any comments or recommendations for continued actions.

(i) **HISTORICAL REVIEW.**—The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that oral historians of the department—

(1) review the facts and circumstances surrounding the estimated 100,000 members of the Armed Forces discharged from the Armed Forces between World War II and September 2011 because of the sexual orientation of the member; and

(2) receive oral testimony of individuals who personally experienced discrimination and discharge because of the actual or perceived sexual orientation of the individual so

that such testimony may serve as an official record of these discriminatory policies and their impact on American lives.

(j) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "appropriate discharge board" means the boards for correction of military records under section 1552 of title 10, United States Code, or the discharge review boards under section 1553 of such title, as the case may be.

(2) The term "covered member" means any former member of the Armed Forces who was discharged from the Armed Forces because of the sexual orientation of the member.

(3) The term "discharge characterization" means the characterization under which a member of the Armed Forces is discharged or released, including "dishonorable", "general", "other than honorable", and "honorable".

(4) The term "Don't Ask Don't Tell" means section 654 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect before such section was repealed pursuant to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-321).

(5) The term "representative" means the surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of a covered member.

SA 3411. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 317. REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the progress of the Department of Defense in developing a project plan and milestones for climate change adaptation.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) Completion of climate change vulnerability assessments at military installations.

(2) Completion of data analysis and collection through site surveys.

(3) Measures the Department has taken to review and clarify relevant processes and criteria for construction project approval to ensure that climate change adaptation is considered as beneficial to the mission and readiness of the Department and for the protection of infrastructure and facilities.

SA 3412. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Section 4001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

“(a) No citizen shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except consistent with the Constitution and pursuant to an act of Congress that expressly authorizes such detention.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b)(1) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States apprehended in the United States.

“(2) Paragraph (1) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Carl Levin National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

“(3) This section shall not be construed to authorize the detention of a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or any other person who is apprehended in the United States.”.

SA 3413. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1034.

SA 3414. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle E—Matters Relating to the Asia Pacific

SEC. 1271. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC REBALANCE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Asia-Pacific region has nearly a third of the world's population and over one-quarter of global gross domestic product, and its future prosperity and security are intertwined with the United States;

(2) In addition to long-standing historic ties with Asia-Pacific countries, such as Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and

New Zealand, the United States welcomes its growing partnerships and collaboration with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and with governments across the Pacific Islands;

(3) throughout the Asia-Pacific, a strong defense posture provides the foundation for United States national security as well as for United States diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, and people-to-people engagement in the region;

(4) a regional defense posture must therefore include a balance of traditional and non-traditional military engagement in order to make use of the capabilities and capacities of United States partners and allies in the region with fewer resources;

(5) traditional military engagement is especially important in areas such as non-proliferation, ballistic and cruise missile defense, maritime security assistance, and combined military exercises;

(6) nontraditional defense engagement should include collaboration on combating emerging infectious diseases, responding to humanitarian disasters and extreme weather events, effectively addressing the security challenges posed by human and drug trafficking, civilian educational partnerships and foreign language learning, and joint research endeavors devoted to meeting the region's energy needs;

(7) while the Department of Defense is traditionally the United States Government agency with the resources and capacity to lead engagement throughout the region, whenever and wherever possible it should work closely with interagency partners to accomplish shared foreign policy objectives and should encourage those interagency partners to lead when appropriate in order to better achieve United States objectives in the Asia Pacific;

(8) regionally-focused security studies organizations managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, such as the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies established with the support of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, are critical to building broad, multilateral approaches to regional security concerns; and

(9) to support the rebalance to the Asia Pacific, the Department of Defense is encouraged to—

(A) enhance the use of the National Guard State Partnership Program to broaden and deepen mutually beneficial relationships with partner militaries and facilitate interoperability across a range of issues, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(B) advance shared goals in the area of global health, including through biosurveillance and disease monitoring, as well as collaboration between partner governments and the United States Army Research Institute of Infectious Disease to protect military and civilian interests from all biological threats;

(C) improve resilience to extreme weather and other natural disasters through humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises that build the capacities and capabilities of partners and allies in the Pacific;

(D) reduce the strategic vulnerability of fossil fuel consumption through science and technology agreements that help the Department and partner governments improve energy efficiency of military platforms and conservation at bases, and engineer non-petroleum alternative fuels that can be dropped into existing military platforms;

(E) utilize to the fullest extent possible the National Security Education Program to continue to build a broader and more qualified pool of United States citizens with crit-

ical-need foreign language and cultural competency skills relevant to the Asia-Pacific, and increase collaboration with appropriate interagency partners, such as the Department of State, that sponsor similar language training and other scholarship programs with an Asia-Pacific focus; and

(F) explore additional ways to leverage the highly-effective nontraditional military and civilian academic partnership and capacity-building programs at the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Studies and further develop the Center's alliances with its Defense Security Cooperation Agency sister organizations, the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, and the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.

SA 3415. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL TRAINING FOR VETERANS.

Section 330J(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-15(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) furnish coursework and training to veterans to enable such veterans to satisfy emergency medical services personnel certification requirements, as determined by the appropriate State regulatory entity, except that in providing such coursework and training, such entity shall take into account previous medical coursework and training received when such veterans were members of the Armed Forces on active duty.”.

SA 3416. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 120, line 17, insert “during any period, regardless of the duty status of the individual at the time of the alleged offense,” after “sex-related offense”.

SA 3417. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 544 and insert the following:
SEC. 544. ACCESS TO SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1044e of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DESIGNATION; PURPOSES.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall designate legal counsel (to be known as ‘Special Victims’ Counsel’) for the purpose of providing legal assistance to an individual described in paragraph (2) who is the victim of an alleged sex-related offense, regardless of whether the report of that offense is restricted or unrestricted.

“(2) An individual described in this paragraph is any of the following:

“(A) An individual eligible for military legal assistance under section 1044 of this title.

“(B) An individual who is—

“(i) not covered under subparagraph (A);

“(ii) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces; and

“(iii) a victim of an alleged sex-related offense as described in paragraph (1)—

“(I) during a period in which the individual served on active duty, full-time National Guard duty, or inactive-duty training; or

“(II) during any period, regardless of the duty status of the individual, if the circumstances of the alleged sex-related offense have a nexus to the military service of the victim.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking “eligible for military legal assistance under section 1044 of this title” each place it appears and inserting “described in subsection (a)(2)”.

SA 3418. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D, of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. REPORTING ON USE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report with an inventory of service contractors used by each element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), including, for each such contract, the contractor, a description of the service provided, and the amount obligated or expended.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) may be submitted in classified form, but shall contain an unclassified summary including the total amount expended by each element of the intelligence community on service contracts.

SA 3419. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. REQUIREMENT FOR POLICIES AND STANDARD CHECKLIST IN PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 2330a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (h), (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) REQUEST FOR SERVICE CONTRACT APPROVAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall—

“(1) establish a standard checklist to be completed before the issuance of a solicitation for any new contract for services or exercising an option under an existing contract for services, including services provided under a contract for goods;

“(2) issue policies implementing the standard checklist;

“(3) draft guidelines regulating the checklist; and

“(4) ensure such policies and checklist are incorporated into the Department of Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.”.

(b) ARMY MODEL.—In implementing section 2330a(g) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall model, to the maximum extent practicable, its policies and checklist on the policies and checklist relating to services contract approval established and in use by the Department of the Army (as set forth in the request for services contract approval form updated as of August 2012, or any successor form).

(c) DEADLINE.—The policies required under such section 2230a(g) shall be issued within 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the standard checklist required under such section 2330a(g) for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 within 120 days after the end of each such fiscal year.

SA 3420. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME AND DOMICILIARY CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN A THEATER OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

Section 1710(e)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “period of five years” and inserting “period of 10 years”.

SA 3421. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. AUTHORIZATION OF MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT.

The Air Force may use programs other than, and in addition to, the avionics modernization program for C-130 aircraft to modernize such aircraft.

SA 3422. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. 577. DEFERRAL OF PRINCIPAL OF FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS FOR CERTAIN PERIOD IN CONNECTION WITH RECEIPT OF ORDERS FOR MOBILIZATION FOR WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

(a) FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOANS.—Section 428(b)(1)(M) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(1)(M)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “, during any period”;

(2) in clause (i), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”;

(3) in clause (ii), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”;

(4) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”; and

(B) in the matter following subclause (II), by striking “or” after the semicolon;

(5) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (vi);

(6) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii), during the shorter of—

“(I) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii); and

“(II) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

“(v) notwithstanding clause (iv)—

“(I) in the case of any borrower described in such clause whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in clause (iv) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

“(II) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in subclause (I), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled; and”; and

(7) in clause (vi) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking “not in excess” and inserting “during any period not in excess”.

(b) DIRECT LOANS.—Section 455(f)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “during any period”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking “not in excess” and inserting “during any period not in excess”;

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”; and

(B) in the matter following clause (ii), by striking “ or ” after the semicolon;

(5) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (F);

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C), during the shorter of—

“(i) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C); and

“(ii) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

“(E) notwithstanding subparagraph (D)—

“(i) in the case of any borrower described in such subparagraph whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (C) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in subparagraph (D) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

“(ii) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in clause (i), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled; and”; and

(7) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking “not in excess” and inserting “during any period not in excess”.

(c) PERKINS LOANS.—Section 464(c)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087dd(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “during any period”;

(2) in clause (i), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”;

(3) in clause (ii), by striking “not in excess” and inserting “during any period not in excess”;

(4) in clause (iii), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”;

(5) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively;

(6) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

“(iv) in the case of any borrower who has received a call or order to duty described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii), during the shorter of—

“(I) the period beginning on the date such call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii); and

“(II) the 180-day period preceding the first day of such service;

“(v) notwithstanding clause (iv)—

“(I) in the case of any borrower described in such clause whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of the service described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) because of a personal injury in connection with training to prepare for such service, during the period described in clause (iv) and during an additional period equal to the duration of such service, as specified by or otherwise determined in the original call or order to duty; and

“(II) in the case of any borrower whose call or order to duty is cancelled before the first day of such service for a reason other than an injury described in subclause (I), during the period beginning on the date the call or order to duty is received by the borrower and ending on the date that is 14 days after such call or order to duty is cancelled;”;

(7) in clause (vi) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking “not in excess” and inserting “during any period not in excess”; and

(8) in clause (vii) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking “during which” and inserting “during any period during which”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section shall be construed to authorize any refunding of any repayment of a loan.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to all loans made, insured, or guaranteed under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

SA 3423. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 1105. APPELLATE PROCEDURES FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR SENSITIVE POSITIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 7701 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k)(1) The Board has authority to review on the merits an appeal by an employee or

applicant for employment of an action arising from a determination that the employee or applicant for employment is ineligible for a sensitive position if—

“(A) the sensitive position does not require a security clearance or access to classified information; and

“(B) such action is otherwise appealable.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘sensitive position’ means a position designated as a sensitive position under Executive Order 10450 (5 U.S.C. 7311 note), or any successor thereto.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any appeal that is pending on, or commenced on or after, the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3424. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. TEMPORARY LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OF CERTAIN RED HORSE UNITS.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to transfer from one facility to another any Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) unit based in the continental United States until 60 days after the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) A recommended basing alignment for RED HORSE units.

(2) An assessment of the national security benefits and any other benefits of the proposed transfer.

(3) An assessment of the costs of the proposed transfer, including the impact of the proposed transfer on the facility or facilities from which a RED HORSE unit will be transferred.

(4) An analysis of the recommended basing alignment that demonstrates that the recommendation is the most effective and efficient alternative for such basing alignment.

(5) An assessment of how the basing alignment affects the national emergency response mission of RED HORSE Reserve Component units.

SA 3425. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 332. REPORT ON ASSET TRACKING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of creating a specific line item in the Operations and Maintenance, Defense-wide budget to fund asset tracking and in-transit visibility initiatives, including implementation of an item unique identification (IUID) system.

SA 3426. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. CONSOLIDATED DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VETERANS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Improving Opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Act of 2014”.

(b) **SMALL BUSINESS DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN CONSOLIDATED.**—Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.**—The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’ means a small business concern—

“(A)(i) not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; and

“(ii) the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of a veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran; or

“(B) not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more veterans with service-connected disabilities that are permanent and total who are unable to manage the daily business operations of such concern or, in the case of a publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more such veterans.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) **TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES AFTER DEATH OF VETERAN-OWNER.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the death of a service-disabled veteran causes a small business concern to be less than 51 percent owned by one or more such veterans, the surviving spouse of such veteran who acquires ownership rights in such small business concern shall, for the period described in subparagraph (B), be treated as if the surviving spouse were that veteran for the purpose of maintaining the status of the small business concern as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

“(B) **PERIOD DESCRIBED.**—The period referred to in subparagraph (A) is the period beginning on the date on which the service-disabled veteran dies and ending on the earliest of the following dates:

“(i) The date on which the surviving spouse remarries.

“(ii) The date on which the surviving spouse relinquishes an ownership interest in the small business concern.

“(iii) The date that—

“(I) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability, is 10 years after the date of the veteran’s death; or

“(II) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling who does not die as a result of a service-connected disability, is three years after the date of the veteran’s death.”.

(c) **VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN CONSOLIDATED.**—Section 8127 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) in subsection (l)(2), by striking “means” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “has the meaning given that term under section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)).”.

(d) **GAO REPORT ON VERIFICATION OF STATUS.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) evaluating whether it is practicable for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have Government-wide responsibility for verifying whether a business concern purporting to be a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans (as defined under section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q))), as amended by this section) qualifies as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans; and

(2) making recommendations on the advisability of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs having such Government-wide responsibility.

SA 3427. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1522, strike subsection (b).

SA 3428. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1247. REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN SYRIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and again not later than 180 days after the cessation of violence in Syria, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A description of violations of internationally recognized human rights and crimes against humanity perpetrated during the civil war in Syria, including—

(A) an account of the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad;

(B) an account of the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by violent extremist groups and other combatants in the conflict; and

(C) a description of the conventional and unconventional weapons used for such crimes and, where possible, the origins of the weapons.

(2) A description of efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure accountability for violations of internationally recognized human rights and crimes against humanity perpetrated against the people of Syria by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, violent extremist groups, and other combatants involved in the conflict, including—

(A) a description of initiatives that the United States Government has undertaken to train investigators in Syria on how to document, investigate, and develop findings of war crimes, including the number of United States Government or contract personnel currently designated to work full-time on these issues and an identification of the authorities and appropriations being used to support training efforts;

(B) a description of the strategy and implementation efforts to ensure accountability for crimes committed during the Syrian conflict, including efforts to promote the establishment of an ad hoc tribunal to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the civil war in Syria; and

(C) an assessment of the impact of those initiatives.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 3429. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 203 of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of H.R. 5666, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106-554 and contained in appendix D of that Act; 114 Stat. 2763A-254; 22 U.S.C. 2452 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.**—The term ‘Fulbright University Vietnam’ means an independent, not-for-profit academic institution to be established in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

“(5) **TRUST FOR UNIVERSITY INNOVATION IN VIETNAM.**—The term ‘Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam’ means a not-for-profit organization founded in 2012, which is engaged in promoting institutional innovation in Vietnamese higher education.”.

(b) **USE OF VIETNAM DEBT REPAYMENT FUND FOR FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.**—Section 207(c)(3) of the Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of H.R. 5666, as enacted into law by section 1(a)(4) of Public Law 106-554 and contained in appendix D of that Act; 114 Stat. 2763A-257; 22 U.S.C. 2452 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **USE OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.**—During each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2018, amounts deposited into the Fund, in excess of the amounts made available to the Foundation under paragraph (1), shall be made available by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon the request of the Secretary of State, for grants to the Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam for the purpose of supporting the establishment of Fulbright University Vietnam.”.

(c) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 2452 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 211. FULBRIGHT UNIVERSITY VIETNAM.

“(a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of State may award 1 or more grants to the Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam, which shall be used to support the establishment of Fulbright University Vietnam.

“(b) **APPLICATION.**—In order to receive 1 or more grants pursuant to subsection (a), Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam shall submit an application to the Secretary of State at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(c) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—As a condition of receiving grants under this section, Trust for University Innovation in Vietnam shall ensure that Fulbright University Vietnam—

“(1) achieves standards comparable to those required for accreditation in the United States;

“(2) offers graduate and undergraduate level teaching and research programs in a broad range of fields, including public policy, management, and engineering; and

“(3) establishes a policy of academic freedom and prohibits the censorship of dissenting or critical views.

“(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that summarizes the activities carried out under this section during such fiscal year.”.

SA 3430. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize ap-

propriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. MAKING PERMANENT SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR AWARDS OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS WHO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR ORIGINAL CLAIMS THAT ARE FULLY-DEVELOPED.

Section 5110(b)(2)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “and shall not apply with respect to claims filed after the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of such Act”.

SEC. 1088. PROVISIONAL BENEFITS AWARDED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIMS PENDING FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 53 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period

“(a) **PROVISIONAL AWARDS REQUIRED.**—For each application for disability compensation that is filed for an individual with the Secretary, that sets forth an original claim that is fully-developed (as determined by the Secretary) as of the date of submittal, and for which the Secretary has not made a decision, beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date on which such application is filed with the Secretary, the Secretary shall award the individual a provisional benefit under this section.

“(b) **PROVISIONAL AWARDS ESTABLISHED.**—A provisional benefit awarded pursuant to subsection (a) for a claim for disability compensation shall be for such monthly amount as the Secretary shall establish for each classification of disability claimed as the Secretary shall establish.

“(c) **RECOVERY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may recover a payment of a provisional benefit awarded under this section for an application for disability compensation only—

“(1) in a case in which the Secretary awards the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary may only recover such provisional benefit by subtracting it from payments made for the disability compensation awarded; or

“(2) in a case in which the Secretary determines not to award the disability compensation for which the individual filed the application and the Secretary determines that the application was the subject of intentional fraud, misrepresentation, or bad faith on behalf of the individual.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5319 the following new item:

“§ 5319A. Provisional benefits awarded for fully developed claims pending for extended period.”.

SA 3431. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for

military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP IN THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**—Chapter 1611 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 16402. National Guard and Reserves: educational assistance to encourage membership

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Each Secretary of a military department may carry out a program to encourage membership in the reserve components of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary through the provision of educational assistance to individuals who participate in such program in order to develop skills that are critical to such reserve components as determined by such Secretary.

“(b) **PARTICIPATION BY INDIVIDUALS BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF GRADE 12.**—(1) An individual who is more than sixteen years of age may participate in a program under this section before commencing grade 12 in a secondary school with the written consent of the individual's parent or guardian (if the individual has a parent or guardian entitled to the custody and control of the individual).

“(2) An individual who participates in a program under this section pursuant to paragraph (1) may complete entry level and skill training before commencing grade 12 in a secondary school.

“(c) **ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out a program under this section, the Secretary of a military department shall—

“(1) establish and maintain a current list of the skills that are, or are anticipated to become, critical to one or more reserve components under the jurisdiction of such Secretary; and

“(2) prescribe academic and other performance standards to be met by individuals participating in the program.

“(d) **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.**—An individual who participates in a program under this section shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary of the military department concerned—

“(1) to enlist in or accept an appointment as an officer in a reserve component of the armed forces;

“(2) to complete entry level and skill training (if enlisting) or entry level training and officer candidate school (if accepting appointment as an officer);

“(3) to pursue on a full-time basis a course of education—

“(A) leading to a bachelor's or associate's degree at an institution of higher education; or

“(B) that—

“(i) is offered by an institution of higher education; and

“(ii) upon completion, will provide the individual with a level of education that is similar to a course of education described in subparagraph (A), as determined pursuant to subsection (c)(2);

“(4) while pursuing a course of education under paragraph (3), to perform such active

duty for training during periods between academic terms of the institution of higher education involved as such Secretary shall specify in the agreement; and

“(5) as provided in subsection (i), to serve in the reserve component of the armed forces specified in such agreement for two years for each academic year for which the individual receives educational assistance under this section.

“(e) AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The amount of educational assistance provided under a program under this section to an individual pursuing a course of education described in subsection (d)(3) during an academic year shall be the lesser of—

“(1) the maximum amount of in-State tuition and fees assessed during such academic year for programs of education leading to a bachelor's degree by public institutions of higher education in the State whose National Guard the individual is a member of or where the individual resides, as applicable; or

“(2) the amount of tuition and fees assessed during such academic year for such course of education by the institution of higher education providing such course of education.

“(f) PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary of the military department concerned shall pay educational assistance to individuals participating in programs under this section on a monthly basis.

“(2) The maximum number of months of educational assistance payable to an individual participating in a program under this section may not exceed the aggregate number of months comprising four academic years at the institution or institutions attended by the individual pursuant to the program.

“(g) RESERVE STATUS.—(1) Each individual participating in a program under this section shall, while pursuing a course of education under such program, be the following:

“(A) A member of the inactive National Guard or the Individual Ready Reserve, as applicable, during academic terms of pursuit of such course of education pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

“(B) A member of the National Guard or the Ready Reserve, as applicable, in active status while performing training during periods between such academic terms pursuant to subsection (d)(4)

“(2) Notwithstanding status under paragraph (1), an individual may not be called or ordered to active duty (other than active duty for training in accordance with subsection (d)(4)) while pursuing a course of education under a program under this section.

“(h) INELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.—(1) An individual who participates in a program under this section is not, while so participating, eligible for educational assistance under any other provision of this title, any other law administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretaries of the military departments, any law administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy), or any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(2) Any service in the armed forces by an individual described in paragraph (1) while participating in a program under this section shall be treated as qualifying the individual for education assistance under provisions of law referred to in that paragraph to the extent provided in such provisions of law.

“(i) COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—The service requirement of an individual pursuant to subsection (d)(5) shall commence as follows:

“(1) When the individual obtains the bachelor's or associate's degree, or completes the course of education described in subsection (d)(3)(B), for which the individual was paid educational assistance under this section.

“(2) If the individual ceases pursuit on a full-time basis of a course of education at an institution of higher education as agreed to pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

“(3) If the individual otherwise fails to obtain a bachelor's or associate's degree, or course of education described in subsection (d)(3)(B), as so agreed to.

“(j) REPAYMENT.—An individual who participates in a program under this section and who fails to complete the equivalent of a single academic year of education pursuant to subsection (d)(3) or complete the period of service or meet the types or conditions of serve for which educational assistance was provided the individual under the program, as specified in the written agreement of the individual under subsection (d), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of title 37.

“(k) FUNDING.—Amounts available to the Secretary of the military department concerned for the payment of recruitment and retention bonuses and special pays shall be available to such Secretary to carry out a program under this section.

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘entry level and skill training’ means the following:

“(A) In the case of members of the Army National Guard of the United States or the Army Reserve, Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training or One Station Unit Training.

“(B) In the case of members of the Navy Reserve, Recruit Training (or Boot Camp) and Skill Training (or so-called ‘A School’).

“(C) In the case of members of the Air National Guard of the United States of the Air Force Reserve, Basic Military Training and Technical Training.

“(D) In the case of members of the Marine Corps Reserve, Recruit Training and Marine Corps Training (or School of Infantry Training).

“(2) The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1611 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“16402. National Guard and Reserves: educational assistance to encourage membership.”.

SA 3432. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 810. EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE ANNUAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACT SERVICES.

Section 808 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public

Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1489), as amended by section 802 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 804) is further amended—

(1) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking “or 2014” and inserting “2014, or 2015”;

(2) in subsection (c)(3), by striking “and 2014” and inserting “2014, and 2015”;

(3) in subsection (d)(4), by striking “or 2014” and inserting “2014, or 2015”; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”.

SA 3433. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. NATIONAL BLUE ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “National Blue Alert Act of 2014”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COORDINATOR.—The term “Coordinator” means the Blue Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice designated under subsection (d)(1).

(2) BLUE ALERT.—The term “Blue Alert” means information relating to the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty sent through the network.

(3) BLUE ALERT PLAN.—The term “Blue Alert plan” means the plan of a State, unit of local government, or Federal agency participating in the network for the dissemination of information received as a Blue Alert.

(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” shall have the same meaning as in section 1204(6) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(6)).

(5) NETWORK.—The term “network” means the Blue Alert communications network established by the Attorney General under subsection (c).

(6) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(c) BLUE ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The Attorney General shall establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.

(d) BLUE ALERT COORDINATOR; GUIDELINES.—

(1) COORDINATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall assign an existing officer of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network.

(2) DUTIES OF THE COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator shall—

(A) provide assistance to States and units of local government that are using Blue Alert plans;

(B) establish voluntary guidelines for States and units of local government to use

in developing Blue Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Blue Alert plans throughout the United States, including—

(i) a list of the resources necessary to establish a Blue Alert plan;

(ii) criteria for evaluating whether a situation warrants issuing a Blue Alert;

(iii) guidelines to protect the privacy, dignity, independence, and autonomy of any law enforcement officer who may be the subject of a Blue Alert and the family of the law enforcement officer;

(iv) guidelines that a Blue Alert should only be issued with respect to a law enforcement officer if—

(I) the law enforcement agency involved—

(aa) confirms—

(AA) the death or serious injury of the law enforcement officer; or

(BB) the attack on the law enforcement officer and that there is an indication of the death or serious injury of the officer; or

(bb) concludes that the law enforcement officer is missing in the line of duty;

(II) there is an indication of serious injury to or death of the law enforcement officer;

(III) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and

(IV) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

(v) guidelines—

(I) that information relating to a law enforcement officer who is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty should be provided to the National Crime Information Center database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 534 of title 28, United States Code, and any relevant crime information repository of the State involved;

(II) that a Blue Alert should, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local governments), be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the apprehension of the suspect involved or which the suspect could reasonably reach, which should not be limited to State lines;

(III) for law enforcement agencies of States or units of local government to develop plans to communicate information to neighboring States to provide for seamless communication of a Blue Alert; and

(IV) providing that a Blue Alert should be suspended when the suspect involved is apprehended or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective; and

(vi) guidelines for—

(I) the issuance of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(II) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network;

(C) develop protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period beginning at the time of the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and ending at the time of apprehension of a suspect or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective, including protocols regulating—

(i) the use of public safety communications;

(ii) command center operations; and

(iii) incident review, evaluation, debriefing, and public information procedures;

(D) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network;

(E) establish an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law en-

forcement agencies, and other entities involved in the network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans, which shall include—

(i) to the maximum extent practicable, representation from the various geographic regions of the United States; and

(ii) members who are—

(I) representatives of a law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers;

(II) representatives of other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications;

(III) broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel; and

(IV) representatives of any other individuals or organizations that the Coordinator determines are necessary to the success of the network;

(F) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(i) the development of the network; and

(ii) regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network; and

(G) determine—

(i) what procedures and practices are in use for notifying law enforcement and the public when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; and

(ii) which of the procedures and practices are effective and that do not require the expenditure of additional resources to implement.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B), protocols developed under paragraph (2)(C), and other programs established under paragraph (2), shall not be mandatory.

(B) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B) shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with law enforcement agencies of States and units of local government), provide that appropriate information relating to a Blue Alert is disseminated to the appropriate officials of law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, and other agencies.

(C) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The guidelines established under paragraph (2)(B) shall—

(i) provide mechanisms that ensure that Blue Alerts comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local privacy laws and regulations; and

(ii) include standards that specifically provide for the protection of the civil liberties, including the privacy, of law enforcement officers who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty and the families of the officers.

(4) COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES.—The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Transportation, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and appropriate offices of the Department of Justice in carrying out activities under this section.

(5) RESTRICTIONS ON COORDINATOR.—The Coordinator may not—

(A) perform any official travel for the sole purpose of carrying out the duties of the Coordinator;

(B) lobby any officer of a State regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan; or

(C) host a conference focused solely on the Blue Alert program that requires the expenditure of Federal funds.

(6) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and

annually thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit to Congress a report on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of the Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

SA 3434. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 864. SBA SURETY BOND GUARANTEE.

Section 411(c)(1) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(c)(1)) is amended by striking “70” and inserting “90”.

SA 3435. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 223. REPORT ON INTERAGENCY INTEROPERABILITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on interagency interoperability of research and development, including on how the Secretary can encourage innovation, strengthen collaboration, and realize cost savings in scientific research.

SA 3436. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, the following:

SEC. 557. PRIVILEGE AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SAFE HELPLINE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SAFE HELPROOM.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Military Rules of Evidence shall be modified to establish a privilege against the disclosure of communications between the victim of a sexual assault and personnel of the Department of Defense Safe Helpline, and between the victim of a sexual assault and personnel of the Department of Defense Safe HelRoom, with respect to such sexual assault.

SA 3437. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

SEC. 354. AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN DUAL USE EQUIPMENT IDENTIFIED AS SIGNIFICANT MAJOR ITEMS SHORTAGES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2015, the National Guard Bureau may acquire the modification, repair, recapitalization, modernization, or upgrade of critical dual use equipment identified as “Significant Major Items Shortages” from the Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Sites utilizing funds appropriated within the National Guard and Reserve equipment appropriation, including semitrailer recapitalization, High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle ambulance recapitalization, construction engineer equipment, combat mobility, and Palletized Loading Systems.

SA 3438. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 737. EXTENSION OF QUALIFICATION OF CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the interim final rule entitled “TRICARE: Certified Mental Health Counselors” prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and published on December 27, 2011, or any other provision of law—

(1) any mental health counselor who is, as of October 1, 2014, a qualified mental health provider under section 199.4 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, only while practicing under the supervision of a physician, shall continue to be a qualified mental health provider under such section for purposes of the TRICARE program until not earlier than December 31, 2015, if such mental health counselor maintains all qualifications to serve as a qualified mental health provider under such section (including practicing under the supervision of a physician); and

(2) any mental health counselor described in paragraph (1) shall remain eligible for reimbursement under the TRICARE program while continuing to qualify as a mental health provider under such section, in accordance with such paragraph.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(1) The number of certified mental health counselors who are available to provide men-

tal health counseling to beneficiaries of the TRICARE program, disaggregated by State and territory of the United States.

(2) The number of mental health counselors who are, as of the date of the submission of the report, qualified mental health providers under section 199.4 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations, in accordance with subsection (a)(1), only while practicing under the supervision of a physician, disaggregated by State and territory of the United States.

(3) An assessment of whether a sufficient number of certified mental health counselors will be available to provide mental health counseling to beneficiaries of the TRICARE program after December 31, 2015, or any later date to which the Secretary extends the qualification of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) as qualified mental health providers pursuant to subsection (a)(1), with emphasis on the availability of certified mental health counselors—

(A) in Alaska;

(B) in predominantly rural States;

(C) in rural communities of States that are not predominantly rural States; and

(D) in the territories of the United States.

(4) A description and assessment of the availability of the following:

(A) Mental health counseling and training programs accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

(B) Certified mental health counselors in States and territories of the United States in which such programs are not available.

(5) An assessment of the costs and benefits of requiring beneficiaries of the TRICARE program to abandon existing patient relationships with mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) after December 31, 2015, or any later date described in paragraph (3), including an assessment of the impact of that requirement on the continuity of mental health care to such beneficiaries.

(6) A description of any evidence available to the Secretary suggesting that patients of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) under the TRICARE program are dissatisfied with their professional relationships with such counselors.

(7) A justification for the determination by the Secretary that it is necessary to eliminate the qualification of mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) under the TRICARE program to maintain high-quality services under such program, including whether evidence is available to the Secretary demonstrating that a statistically significant number of such mental health counselors currently credentialed as qualified mental health providers under such program are providing substandard care to beneficiaries of such program.

(8) An assessment of whether it is equitable to terminate experienced mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) from further participation under the TRICARE program in favor of potentially less experienced certified mental health counselors.

(9) A description of the obstacles faced by mental health counselors described in paragraph (2) who seek to become certified mental health counselors, including obstacles related to such mental health counselors not having graduated from an educational program certified by the Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

(10) A description of any modifications to regulations that the Secretary intends to propose or implement in light of the following:

(A) The extension of qualification required by subsection (a).

(B) The matters covered by the report.

(c) CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term “certified mental health counselor” has the meaning given such term in section 199.6(c)(3)(iii)(N) of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 3439. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1632. ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIALLY LICENSED SPACEPORTS AND RANGE COMPLEXES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress finds that it is critical to continue to support the national security priorities of the United States by preserving launch range capabilities that support access to space.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR SPACE LAUNCH CAPABILITY.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2015 for infrastructure and overhead for space launch capabilities, \$10,000,000 shall be available for spaceports and launch and range complexes that—

(1) are commercially licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration;

(2) receive funding from the government of the State or locality in which the spaceport or complex is located;

(3) have launched national security payloads; and

(4) have the capacity to provide mid-to-low inclination orbits or polar-to-high inclination orbits in support of the national security space program.

SA 3440. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERMENT IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED UNITED STATES IN LAOS DURING VIETNAM WAR ERA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2402(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) Any individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) was naturalized pursuant to section 2(1) of the Hmong Veterans’ Naturalization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-207; 8 U.S.C. 1423 note); and

“(ii) at the time of the individual’s death resided in the United States; or

“(B) who—

“(i) the Secretary determines served with a special guerrilla unit or irregular forces operating from a base in Laos in support of the Armed Forces of the United States at any time during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975; and

“(ii) at the time of the individual’s death—

“(I) was a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; and

“(II) resided in the United States.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an individual dying on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3441. Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 10, strike “\$257,500,000” and insert “\$294,500,000”.

On page 53, line 21, strike “\$53,000,000” and insert “\$90,000,000”.

SA 3442. Mr. REID (for Mr. BOOZMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11.

On page 7, strike lines 1 and 2.

SA 3443. Mr. REID (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1799, to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “fiscal years 2004 and 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal years 2004 and 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018”.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 214C. ACCOUNTABILITY.

“All grants awarded by the Administrator under this subtitle shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued and any appeal has been completed.

“(B) AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this subtitle to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this subtitle that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this subtitle during the following 2 fiscal years.

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subtitle, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a grant under this subtitle.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this subtitle during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator may not award a grant under any grant program described in this subtitle to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this subtitle and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Administrator, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Administrator shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this subtitle may be used by the Administrator, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, including the Administrator, provides prior written authorization through an award process or subsequent application that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all

food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.”.

SEC. 3. CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

Section 1402(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” before “Of the sums”; and

(2) by striking “available for the United States Attorneys Offices” and all that follows and inserting the following: “available only for—

“(i) the United States Attorneys Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide and improve services for the benefit of crime victims in the Federal criminal justice system (as described in 3771 of title 18, United States Code, and section 503 of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607)) through victim coordinators, victims’ specialists, and advocates, including for the administrative support of victim coordinators and advocates providing such services; and

“(ii) a Victim Notification System.

“(B) Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may not be used for any purpose that is not specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A).”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a field hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Monday, July 7, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cajundome Convention Center, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine Outer Continental Shelf production and to identify what actions the Federal Government can take to maximize the opportunities and minimize the challenges.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to herman_gesser@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Herman Gesser, III, at (202) 224-7826, or Clayton Allen at (202) 224-8164.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing

to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 2442, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and for other purposes; S. 2465, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; S. 2479, A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada; S. 2480, A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes; and S. 2503, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled "Improving the Trust System: Continuing Oversight of the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled "Indian Gaming: The Next 25 Years."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing

entitled "When Catastrophe Strikes: Responses to Natural Disasters in Indian Country."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "The State of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Industry: Federal Efforts to Attract 100 Million Visitors Annually."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10 a.m., room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Preserving American's Transit and Highways Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on June 26, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Sexual Assault on Campus: Working to Ensure Student Safety."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 26, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern,

Jon Bosworth, be granted floor privileges for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2076, Calendar No. 375.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2076) to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Boozman amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3442) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the requirement that the Commander of the United States Transportation Command be a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and that a substitute member of the Board be an officer of the United States Transportation Command)

On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11.

On page 7, strike lines 1 and 2.

The bill (S. 2076), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2076

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 51312 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 51312. Board of Visitors

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy (referred to in this section as the 'Board' and the 'Academy', respectively) shall be established to provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

"(b) APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, the Board shall be composed of—

"(A) 2 Senators appointed by the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(B) 3 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the chairman, in consultation with the ranking member, of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

“(C) 1 Senator appointed by the Vice President, who shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(D) 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader, at least 1 of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Commander of the Military Sealift Command;

“(F) the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy of the United States Coast Guard;

“(G) 4 individuals appointed by the President; and

“(H) as ex officio members—

“(i) the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(ii) the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

“(iii) the chairman of the Advisory Board to the Academy established under section 51313; and

“(iv) the member of the House of Representatives in whose congressional district the Academy is located, as a non-voting member, unless such member of the House of Representatives is appointed as a voting member of the Board under subparagraph (B) or (D).

“(2) PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Of the individuals appointed by the President under paragraph (1)(H)—

“(A) at least 2 shall be graduates of the Academy;

“(B) at least 1 shall be a senior corporate officer from a United States maritime shipping company that participates in the Maritime Security Program, or in any Maritime Administration program providing incentives for companies to register their vessels in the United States, and this appointment shall rotate biennially among such companies; and

“(C) 1 or more may be a Senate-confirmed Presidential appointee, a member of the Senior Executive Service, or an officer of flag-rank who from the United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or any of the military services that commission graduates of the Academy, exclusive of the Board members described in subparagraph (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1).

“(3) TERM OF SERVICE.—Each member of the Board shall serve for a term of 2 years commencing at the beginning of each Congress, except that any member whose term on the Board has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is designated.

“(4) VACANCIES.—If a member of the Board is no longer able to serve on the Board or resigns, the Designated Federal Officer selected under subsection (g)(2) shall immediately notify the official who appointed such member. Not later than 60 days after that notification, such official shall designate a replacement to serve the remainder of such member's term.

“(5) CURRENT MEMBERS.—Each member of the Board serving as a member of the Board on the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act shall continue to serve on the Board for the remainder of such member's term.

“(6) DESIGNATION AND RESPONSIBILITY OF SUBSTITUTE BOARD MEMBERS.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—A member of the Board described in subparagraph (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (1) or subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (2) may, if unable to attend or participate in an activity described in subsection (d), (e), or (f), designate another individual to serve as a substitute member of the Board, on a temporary basis, to attend or participate in such activity.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A substitute member of the Board designated under subparagraph (A) shall be—

“(i) an individual who has been appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate;

“(ii) a member of the Senior Executive Service; or

“(iii) an officer of flag-rank who is employed by—

“(I) the United States Coast Guard; or

“(II) the Military Sealift Command.

“(C) PARTICIPATION.—A substitute member of the Board designated under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall be permitted to fully participate in the proceedings and activities of the Board;

“(ii) shall report back to the member on the Board's activities not later than 15 days following the substitute member's participation in such activities; and

“(iii) shall be permitted to participate in the preparation of reports described in paragraph (j) related to any proceedings or activities of the Board in which such substitute member participates.

“(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—On a biennial basis, the Board shall select from among its members, a member of the House of Representatives or a Senator to serve as the Chairperson.

“(2) ROTATION.—A member of the House of Representatives and a member of the Senate shall alternately serve as the Chair of the Board on a biennial basis.

“(3) TERM.—An individual may not serve as Chairperson for more than 1 consecutive term.

“(d) MEETINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet several times each year as provided for in the Charter described in paragraph (2)(B), including at least 1 meeting held at the Academy.

“(2) SELECTION AND CONSIDERATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, the Designated Federal Officer selected under subsection (g)(2) shall organize a meeting of the Board for the purposes of—

“(A) selecting a Chairperson; and

“(B) considering an official Charter for the Board, which shall provide for the meeting of the Board several times each year.

“(e) VISITING THE ACADEMY.—

“(1) ANNUAL VISIT.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually on a date selected by the Board, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Superintendent of the Academy.

“(2) OTHER VISITS.—In cooperation with the Superintendent, the Board or its members may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board.

“(3) ACCESS.—While visiting the Academy under this subsection, members of the Board shall have reasonable access to the grounds, facilities, midshipmen, faculty, staff, and other personnel of the Academy for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board.

“(f) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Board shall inquire into the state of morale and discipline,

the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods, and other matters relating to the Academy that the Board decides to consider.

“(g) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall—

“(1) provide support as deemed necessary by the Board for the performance of the Board's functions;

“(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors Enhancement Act, select a Designated Federal Officer to support the performance of the Board's functions; and

“(3) in cooperation with the Maritime Administrator and the Superintendent of the Academy, advise the Board of any institutional issues, consistent with applicable laws concerning the disclosure of information.

“(h) STAFF.—Staff members may be designated to serve without reimbursement as staff for the Board by—

“(1) the Chairperson of the Board;

“(2) the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(3) the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

“(i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While serving away from home or regular place of business, a member of the Board or a staff member designated under subsection (h) shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(j) REPORTS.—

“(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after each annual visit required under subsection (e)(1), the Board shall submit to the President a written report of its actions, views, and recommendations pertaining to the Academy.

“(2) OTHER REPORTS.—If the members of the Board visit the Academy under subsection (e)(2), the Board may—

“(A) prepare a report on such visit; and

“(B) if approved by a majority of the members of the Board, submit such report to the President not later than 60 days after the date of the approval.

“(3) ADVISORS.—The Board may call in advisers—

“(A) for consultation regarding the execution of the Board's responsibility under subsection (f); or

“(B) to assist in the preparation of a report described in paragraph (1) or (2).

“(4) SUBMISSION.—A report submitted to the President under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be concurrently submitted to—

“(A) the Secretary of Transportation;

“(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

“(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.”.

VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 431, S. 1799.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1799) to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Coons substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3443), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “fiscal years 2004 and 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “fiscal years 2004 and 2005” and inserting “fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018”.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—Subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 214C. ACCOUNTABILITY.

“All grants awarded by the Administrator under this subtitle shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued and any appeal has been completed.

“(B) AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants under this subtitle to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this subtitle that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this subtitle during the following 2 fiscal years.

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subtitle, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a grant under this subtitle.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this subtitle during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(B) PROHIBITION.—The Administrator may not award a grant under any grant program described in this subtitle to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a grant under this subtitle and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Administrator, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Administrator shall make the information disclosed under this subparagraph available for public inspection.

“(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

“(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice under this subtitle may be used by the Administrator, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this Act, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than \$20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, including the Administrator, provides prior written authorization through an award process or subsequent application that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

“(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

“(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.”.

SEC. 3. CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

Section 1402(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(A)” before “Of the sums”; and

(2) by striking “available for the United States Attorneys Offices” and all that follows and inserting the following: “available only for—

“(i) the United States Attorneys Offices and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide and improve services for the benefit of crime victims in the Federal criminal justice system (as described in 3771 of title 18, United States Code, and section 503 of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607)) through victim coordinators, victims’ specialists, and advocates, including for the administrative support of victim coordinators and advocates providing such services; and

“(ii) a Victim Notification System.

“(B) Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may not be used for any purpose that is not specified in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A).”.

The bill (S. 1799), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TAKING OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 439, H.R. 2388.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2388) to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2388) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 490, S. Res. 491, S. Res. 492, and S. Res. 493.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 492

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to honor “A Prairie Home Companion,” which for 40 years has shared with its listeners the comings and goings of the good people of that most Minnesota of towns, Lake Wobegon—where as everyone knows, all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.

Only 12 people were in the audience for that very first broadcast on July 6, 1974, at the Janet Wallace Auditorium at Macalester College in Saint Paul. If those dozen people got there by car, they paid 55 cents per gallon to fill the tanks of their Ford Pintos or Plymouth Valiants. If they stopped for a McDonald’s burger afterward, they paid 30 cents.

How things have changed—and not just the price of gas and burgers!

Today, 40 years later, more than 600 radio stations carry "A Prairie Home Companion" to four million listeners every week from the historic Fitzgerald Theater in Saint Paul.

It has won a Peabody Award and has broadcast from nations including Canada, Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany and Iceland and nearly every State in the Nation. It has inspired a movie by the same name, which won four international awards. It has helped make Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media household names.

And it has certainly made its creator and host, Garrison Keillor, a household name! Mr. Keillor has won Grammy and George Foster Peabody awards, not to mention the National Humanities Medal.

But one thing has not changed at all from that very first broadcast: This little variety program resonates with people. It has warmed our hearts with its stories, songs, poems and jokes. It has made us laugh, made us cry, and made us sing along. And it has given its millions of listeners a hometown they can call their own—right in the heart of Minnesota.

Madam President, I would like to congratulate Minnesota Public Radio, American Public Media, and the cast and crew of "A Prairie Home Companion" on 40 years of radio excellence. This is one show that is most certainly above average.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF HOWARD BAKER, JR.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 494, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 494) relative to the death of Howard H. Baker, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of Tennessee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 494) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2562

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told that S. 2562 has been introduced and is at the desk and is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2562) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. REID. I ask for a second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment or recess of the Senate from Thursday, June 26, to Monday, July 7, Senators LEVIN and CARPER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2014, THROUGH MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, June 30 at 12 noon, and Thursday, July 3, at 1:30 p.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on

Thursday, July 3, 2014, until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use until later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 738; that all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Krause nomination; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that no further motions be in order to the nomination, that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session; and, finally, that when the Senate resumes legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363 and the Senate vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Sportsmen's Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be two rollcall votes at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 494 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 30, 2014, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

CHRISTOPHER A. HART, OF COLORADO, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, RESIGNED.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

JOHN W. LESLIE, JR., OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

MADELINE COX ARLEO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE DENNIS M. CAVANAUGH, RETIRED.

AMOS L. MAZZANT, III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE T. JOHN WARD, RETIRED.

ROBERT LEE PITMAN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE W. ROYAL FURGESON, JR., RETIRED.

ROBERT WILLIAM SCHROEDER III, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE DAVID FOLSOM, RETIRED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 53(B) IN THE GRADE INDICATED:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADMIRAL (SELECTEE) JAMES M. HEINZ

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CURTIS L. ABENDROTH
GEORGE D. MCHUGH
STEVEN M. ROWE
MONIE R. ULIS
MICHAEL J. WISE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN C. COPELAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL E. LINZEY
JOEL O. SEVERSON
GARY L. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOEL R. BURKE
RUSSELL L. DEWELL
DOUGLAS A. ETTER
PETER JARAMILLO
DARREN L. KING
RICHARD J. KOCH
MICHAEL J. WRIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

NORMAN A. HETZLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

STEVEN F. FINDER

To be major

DANIEL H. ALDANA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JASON S. HETZEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

FELIPE O. BLANDING, SR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

DOUGLAS T. MO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JODY M. POWERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES R. POWERS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER D. SNYDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

RICHARD JIMENEZ, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

JAIME A. QUEJADA

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER J. KANE

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN S. DONOHOE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

TIMIKA B. LINDSAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

CHRISTOPHER A. MIDDLETON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 26, 2014:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JO EMILY HANDELSMAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ESTHER PUAKELA KIA'AINA, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

VINCENT G. LOGAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE SPECIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

KAREN DYNAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT STEPHEN BEECROFT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

STUART E. JONES, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MRS. EILEEN HIGGINS
MEEGAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable Mrs. Eileen (nee Higgins) Meegan on the occasion of her 95th birthday, Tuesday, July 1st, 2014. The daughter of proud Irish South Buffalo residents, Eileen is the last surviving sibling of five children.

In 1939, Eileen fell in love with and married a fellow native of South Buffalo, Ray Meegan. Eileen has always been the consummate caregiver. She had the difficult role of wife to a soldier and police officer. Ray served the people of the United States in the First Cavalry during World War II, and the citizens of the City of Buffalo as a Buffalo Police Officer; in all of this, Eileen was by his side. Economically, many people at the time struggled. Mrs. Meegan held her family together and thrived.

The couple was together for 39 years, until Ray's death. They raised four happy and successful children—Celine, Daniel, Sean, and Dorothy Delores (Dee)—all of whom have remained important members of the Western New York community. Their sons Dan and Sean have even followed in their father's footsteps, serving in the Buffalo Police force.

At age 94, Eileen is in great health and continues to have a very strong mind. She has many special talents. Mrs. Meegan created and sewed her own wedding gown from scratch. She still enjoys cultivating a beautiful garden, and loves baking and cooking for her family. I am inspired by the resilience and continued spirit of this great woman—a true example of a loving wife and mother.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to speak on the behalf of this momentous occasion in the life of a proud Western New Yorker, Mrs. Eileen Meegan. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of Mrs. Meegan, and wishing her many more years of good health and full life experiences.

HONORING CHIEF OF POLICE
MICHAEL ALSUP

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the law enforcement community from the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois, Chief of Police Michael Alsup at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

Chief Alsup has faithfully served the public for over 42 years. Currently, he works as Chief of Police at Harper College, where he has spent the past 14 years ensuring the safety and improving the lives of students, teachers, administrators, and parents alike. While Chief Alsup is set to retire at the end of the month, his legacy of service will live on at Harper's thriving campus.

Mr. Alsup's tenure began as a Deputy Sheriff and Detective for Kendall County in 1972. He has since then served as the Chief of Police of the Sandwich Police Department and as Lieutenant at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. After leaving the College of Dupage, he began working for Harper College, where he serves as both the Chief of Police and a member of the College's Adjunct Faculty in the Criminal Justice Program in addition to serving as the College's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Chief Alsup can proudly conclude a distinguished career having made an impact on the lives of thousands of students. I know I join his family, colleagues, students and friends in wishing him much success in this next chapter.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in commemorating Chief Alsup and his many years of service.

IN HONOR OF JIM KIRACOFE UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Kiracofe on the occasion of his retirement as the District Program Administrator for the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District.

Jim can be very proud of his service to the people of Central Ohio. His steady commitment to his duties and the well-being of the residents of Licking County inspires everyone around him. The current state of the district stands as a significant affirmation of his role as a guardian of our vital resources. For consistent and outstanding achievement in his management practices and conservation philosophy the people of the district express their gratitude. Such recognition honors him and reflects well on our entire community.

I have enjoyed working with Jim over the last fourteen years and consider his leadership to have been an asset to our community. His advice, professional opinion and effectiveness in achieving success provided invaluable assistance to me and my staff on many occasions. I have relied on his guidance more than once, and he has always provided me with his wisdom.

His leadership and administrative abilities will be sorely missed, and his expertise and

experience will be very difficult to replace. However, Licking County will reap the benefits of his stewardship of the Soil and Conservation District for many years into the future.

Therefore, his friends and colleagues wish to recognize him and his achievements by holding a ceremony in his honor at the Agriculture Service Center in Newark, Ohio, and I am very pleased to wish him well and much success as he embarks on many new challenges.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VOTING
RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, and urge the full House to vote on this legislation without delay. Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as Americans, and any attempts to limit this right on a discriminatory basis must be struck down.

The constitutional right to vote existed for nearly a century, but millions of Americans were still routinely denied the right to vote based on the color of their skin. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act and our country made incredible strides to eliminate voter suppression and discrimination.

Discrimination at the polls is still a fact of life in many parts of our country. Congress recognized this when it passed the most recent reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act in 2006 by a unanimous vote in the Senate and a 390–33 margin in the House. Despite this overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and a voluminous record detailing the ongoing need for this legislation, one year ago this week, the Supreme Court struck down the heart of the Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wisely stated in her dissent of the Court's decision that to strike down the Voting Rights Act "when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes [to election laws] is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you're not getting wet." With efforts across the country to restrict the ability of individuals to register and vote, it's clear that we still need the "umbrella" protection that the Voting Rights Act has provided for nearly 50 years.

The Voting Rights Amendment Act is a bipartisan measure that will restore the critical voting protections that were struck down by the Supreme Court in *Shelby*. This bill will ensure that states and localities that have a recent history of voting rights violations will be subject to the same strong oversight that has been so successful since 1965.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

On the day he signed the Voting Rights Act, President Lyndon Johnson stated: "Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield." Congress has a similar opportunity to ensure that the all-important protections of the Voting Rights Act remain in place. Let's join together and ensure that this "triumph for freedom" is not lost forever.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITOO SOCIETY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an organization that has been dedicated to improving central Illinois for 100 years. The Itoo Society is the oldest Lebanese-American organization in the United States and one of the oldest heritage societies in Illinois. Named after a small village in northern Lebanon, the Itoo Society was formed in 1914 by a group of Lebanese immigrants who came together to support their members through financial and emotional hardships. Since then, it has developed into an active community group that Peoria, Illinois is proud to claim.

Peorians know the Itoo Society to be a family oriented organization that honors its members' heritage and culture. The Society has long been dedicated to charitable works that benefit the community members in Peoria as well as villagers in Itoo, Lebanon. Many of their festivals illustrate their dedication to commendable causes, including Peoria's oldest food festival, which honors those who have served in our military. I think my colleagues and I can learn a valuable lesson from the Itoo Society as its members are known for producing results through a team-oriented approach to their many projects.

In addition to serving its members, the Itoo Society opens its doors to charitable organizations and small businesses. By providing the community with a meeting place for business purposes and public fundraising events, the Society contributes to the success of other community institutions. This function is another way the Society brings together friends and neighbors who share similar problems, values, and ideas.

An impressive list of Peorians can claim Itoo roots, including former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, former City Councilman and now Chairman of the Society, Leonard Unes, and Peoria County Circuit Judge Steve Kouri.

I'd like to thank Corrie Ricca and Carl Williams, the Ladies' and Men's Branch Presidents, respectively, as well as Chairman Leonard Unes and the rest of the Itoo Society for their continuing service to the greater Peoria community and its devoted Lebanese members. On behalf of the constituents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, I commend the exemplary record of service the Itoo Society has contributed. I am honored today to recognize their 100 years of effort. May they have many more to come.

238 YEARS AGO THIS DAY IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's 238th birthday and the brave men and women of The Armed Forces and their families, who've paid and continue to pay the great price of Freedom and Independence for us all. And on this Fourth of July surrounded by your loved ones, say prayer and give thanks to them all. I submit this poem penned in their honor, and America's 238th birthday by Albert Carey Caswell.

238 AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

238 years ago this day . . .

As the birth of this Nation so made its way . . .

Declaring Independence as had they . . .
Shouting out across the world on that day!
With a shot heard around the world to say!
That for the greater good so willing to pay!
The greatest treasure,
That Last Full Measure had all of they!
To Live Free Or Die on that day!
238 years ago this day!

And since then,
throughout the coming years . . .
The price of Freedom,
has been bought and paid by all of these so dear!

As one truth!
One constant!
Has so appeared!
To weigh from year to year!
Are all of these brave hearts,
who have given and gave so all without fear!
And all of those families who have so lived in tears . . .

Whose loved ones now lie in such dark quiet graves so dear . . .
From the beaches of Normandy, to the jungles of Nam,

to An bar Province they've so fought and died for us all so clear . . .

As their courage,
all in the darkest of all nights has so persevered!

With their most precious lives they gave!
And all of their strong arms and legs!
And beautiful eyes upon their face!
As generation after generation,
these magnificent's the price of Freedom have paid!

"with the bombs bursting in air"
"with the rockets red glare"
"gave proof through the night that our flag was still"
"O . . . say can you see" while we all live so free?

This Independence Day!
And remember that somewhere far away,
there are heroes who for all of you will die this day!

And that in hospitals and towns all across this here USA!

There are fine Patriots of Peace,
who must rebuild their lives for the price of Freedom they paid!

So for all of them a prayer so say,
and carry them deep down in your hearts this day . . .

On this Independence Day,
on this America's 238th birthday!

Independence!

IN RECOGNITION OF PLYMOUTH'S FALLEN HEROES

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Plymouth's four fallen soldiers who died during the Vietnam War, and to recognize the Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony being held next week.

During the Vietnam War, Plymouth lost four of its own citizens who answered the call of duty. These selfless individuals will be memorialized by family, friends, and neighbors in their hometown at Plymouth's Vietnam Fallen Soldier Uniform Ceremony on July 3, 2014. Today, I would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting the names of the fallen:

Staff Sergeant Frederick T. Garside, U.S. Air Force—killed in action in Laos
Specialist Five Robert B. Hedge, U.S. Army—killed in action in Bien Hoa
Lance Corporal Wayne Moore, U.S. Army—killed in action in Quang Tri
HM3 Paul Rezendes, U.S. Navy—killed in action in Quang Tri

These courageous, distinguished men embodied the best ideals of our country and dedicated their lives to its security. I know I speak for many when I say that the memory of these four men will live on as an inspiration to us all and will serve as a reminder of what it means to serve one's country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to recognize the outstanding sacrifice that these veterans made for their country. I ask that my colleagues join me in this remembrance, and in thanking all of our service members deployed across the globe.

LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague from Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN for organizing this important special order to highlight LGBT Pride Month. Thank you for your leadership as a Co-Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus and really on so many other issues affecting our underserved communities.

Let me just say how proud I am to be a founding member and Vice Chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus. Our Caucus is stronger than ever and is really beating the drum for equality, ending discrimination and violence, and promoting the health and well-being for LGBT people here in the U.S. and around the world.

It makes me very proud to be here today during Pride Month as we commemorate the anniversary of last year's landmark Supreme Court decisions that struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and brought marriage equality back to my home state of California.

These decisions were strong and decisive steps forward in the march towards full equality for all.

Following those decisions, I had the privilege of officiating weddings for same-sex couples at Oakland City Hall—and let me tell you, they reflected the diversity of my district, the diversity of this country, and the diversity of the LGBT community.

Across the nation, some 2.8 million African Americans, Latino Americans, and Asian and Pacific Islanders identify as LGBT.

The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law has produced studies that provide us with critical data and analysis of these LGBT communities and their unique features, challenges, and needs.

The full reports can be found at <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/>.

One of the most striking disparities as we know for LGBT people of color is in HIV/AIDS rates. In 2010, African American gay and bisexual men between ages 13 and 24 accounted for more than twice as many new infections as their white or Latino peers.

These numbers show clearly that as we close out the month of June with our celebration of Pride Month, we must not lose sight of the hard work that remains to be done, in this country and around the world. Discrimination, unemployment, and even physical violence continue to be the daily reality for far too many LGBT people and it needs to stop.

Congress needs to act. We must pass ENDA, SNDA, my bill, the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, and other critical pieces of legislation that create real protections for LGBT people and full equality under the law.

I close by reiterating how proud I am to represent a district with a strong and diverse LGBT community and join my LGBT Equality Caucus colleagues in staying the course and fighting for what's right.

CONGRATULATING MRS. LUCETIA MANWARING FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring as she embarks upon 20 years of service as a congressional staff member. As a Senior Constituent Services Representative in my office, Mrs. Manwaring has established herself as a distinguished professional with a demonstrated record of achievement.

Lucetia holds a unique blend of experiences having also served in the U.S. Navy from 1989–1993. During this time, she served on the U.S. Navy Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Nuclear Repair Division; Served honorably in U.S. Desert Storm Campaign; and was a member of the U.S. Ready Reserve from 1993–2000. In addition, she has received several awards, including the Navy Wide Command Award, the National Defense Service Medal for Desert Storm, and a Naval Citation.

Lucetia received her Master of Science in Human Services from Capella University, and her Bachelor of Business Administration from Davenport University. She was a member of the Dean's List upon completing both degrees.

Since 1994, Mrs. Manwaring has displayed leadership and commitment, engaging with thousands of constituents throughout the State of Michigan. Her tenure began as a staff member for my uncle, retired U.S. Congressman Dale Kildee. She met Dale Kildee while serving in the Navy, and began her career as a staff member shortly thereafter. Upon his retirement, I was grateful to have her join my staff as well. I am grateful to be represented by such dedicated employees who work hard to make our community and nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mrs. Lucetia Manwaring for her unwavering commitment and extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to her for her years of service to our great country.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARC GATEWAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Arc Gateway. For more than six decades, The Arc Gateway and its dedicated staff have served those in Northwest Florida with developmental disabilities, providing them with increased opportunities and numerous first-class facilities to learn, work, play, and reach their full potential.

Like so many great organizations in this country, The Arc Gateway started out as a grassroots movement to address an unmet community need. Pearl Nelson—whose son, Chris, has Down Syndrome—sought resources to help her son and family, but found that no such organization existed in Northwest Florida. So, she placed an advertisement in the paper to find parents of children with special needs and form a support group. Thus, The Arc Gateway was born. Together, these parents drafted a constitution, opened a one-room school house, and became members of the state and national Arc.

Over the years, The Arc Gateway saw the changing needs of the local community and responded with a number of new programs to meet a range of important priorities. From this environment, the Pollak Activity Center and Pollak Rehabilitation Workshop were created to give adults with developmental disabilities places to continue to learn and grow. The Arc Gateway also realized the necessity of early intervention for children and, in 1974, began the Infant Stimulation Program. Three years later, the Pearl Nelson Center expanded to become the Pearl Nelson Preschool for children ages two through five. Another critical need that arose in the community was residential support programs, and The Arc Gateway, once again, stepped up to meet these needs and established the Women's Residential Training Center.

Today, The Arc Gateway has grown from its humble beginnings to serve nearly 1,000 chil-

dren and adults. They also provide an extremely impressive array of services to the community, including: the Pearl Nelson Child Development Center, which provides early intervention and pediatric services; the Pollak Training Center, where adults can participate in education classes, computer courses, and art instruction, in addition to job training; community based employment opportunities and services that connect people with local job options where they can succeed and enrich their lives; the Senior Adult Program at Bayview Senior Center, where senior citizens with developmental disabilities can access health, social, and leisure activities; as well as supported living and in-home support services to help individuals function in their own homes, and group homes that provide a great environment for support and companionship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize the tremendous success of The Arc Gateway over its 60-year history. Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, volunteers, and parents, The Arc Gateway has grown from a small support group to an irreplaceable community staple. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to meet unaddressed needs. My wife Vicki and I congratulate The Arc Gateway on 60 incredibly successful years and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the Northwest Florida community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING HUGH RALSTON

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Hugh J. Ralston, a remarkable visionary and steadfast leader whose commitment to the success of his community and the growth of philanthropy are immeasurable.

With over a decade of service as the Ventura County Community Foundation's (VCCF) President and Chief Executive Officer, Hugh Ralston oversaw the foundation increase its assets by one million dollars. This growth in resources included the purchase of the VCCF nonprofit center, the expansion of irrevocable planned donations and philanthropic contributions throughout the community, and a tenfold increase in its annual scholarship support that have benefitted hundreds of Ventura County students. With an annual distribution amount of \$1.3 million, VCCF plays an incredible supportive role for our region's students and nonprofit organizations.

It is powerhouse foundations like the Ventura County Community Foundation that empower the greatest efforts for change and benefits that spread all across our community and nation. The work that VCCF has done, with Hugh Ralston at the helm, has been duly recognized as being in compliance with national standards, the highest form of peer review for U.S. Community Foundations and the only form of accreditation within the U.S. Philanthropic community.

In the past decade, Hugh has secured partnerships with prominent local organizations

which support veterans, farmworkers, social justice advocates, medical students, professionals, and many other communal groups. During his time as the head of the VCCF, Hugh established the annual Community Leaders Awards and the biennial President's Awards which create networks and recognition for Ventura County leaders who do countless work with their nonprofits.

Community leaders like Hugh exemplify Ventura County's unsurpassed leadership. Although Hugh will be stepping down from his position as President and CEO of Ventura County Community Foundation, his legacy at VCCF and his immense impact on the community will continue to inspire the future of nonprofits and local philanthropy.

Hugh Ralston has been an amazing force in our region. The efforts that he has made for students, non-profit organizations, and the working community have ensured a remarkable investment in the future and deserve an innumerable level of gratitude.

I graciously thank Hugh for his unwavering commitment and dedication for the past 11 years as the President and CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. It has been my honor to collaborate and work with Hugh and there is no doubt in my mind that his influence will extend to many generations of community engagement and philanthropy.

HONORING MR. NEAL HARRELL
FOR HIS WORK AS AN INTER-
NATIONAL FOUNDATION VOLUN-
TEER IN HONDURAS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mr. Neal Harrell for his tremendous volunteer efforts with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation. It is an honor to have such an upstanding citizen in my district.

Recently, Mr. Harrell, who is an employee of Cuivre River Electric Cooperative, traveled to Honduras as an International Foundation volunteer to help employees at the Roatan Electric Cooperative implement their newly-acquired smart grid system. This trip was part of the Smart Grid Alliance for the Americas project. Mr. Harrell's volunteer efforts supported the Alliance's goal to share experience and provide technical assistance in smart grid technology applications to cooperative, municipal and other small electric distribution utilities in Latin America.

Mr. Harrell's efforts will help the Smart Grid Alliance of the Americas project improve energy efficiency, integrate renewable generation, and most importantly improve access to electricity for underserved communities in Latin America. I ask that you join me in recognizing Neal Harrell for his excellence in volunteer work for electric cooperatives across the nation. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN COMMEMORATION OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor one of our nation's greatest landmarks, Yosemite National Park. I am proud to be joined by: Rep. LAMALFA, Rep. HUFFMAN, Rep. GARAMENDI, Rep. THOMPSON, Rep. MATSUI, Rep. BERA, Rep. COOK, Rep. MCNERNEY, Rep. DENHAM, Rep. GEORGE MILLER, Rep. SPEIER, Rep. SWALWELL, Rep. COSTA, Rep. HONDA, Rep. ESHOO, Rep. LOFGREN, Rep. FARR, Rep. VALADAO, Rep. NUNES, Rep. MCCARTHY, Rep. CAPPS, Rep. BROWNLEY, Rep. CHU, Rep. SCHIFF, Rep. CÁRDENAS, Rep. SHERMAN, Rep. GARY MILLER, Rep. NAPOLITANO, Rep. WAXMAN, Rep. BECERRA, Rep. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Rep. RUIZ, Rep. BASS, Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Rep. ROYCE, Rep. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Rep. TAKANO, Rep. CALVERT, Rep. HAHN, Rep. CAMPBELL, Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Rep. LOWENTHAL, Rep. ROHRBACHER, Rep. ISSA, Rep. HUNTER, Rep. VARGAS, Rep. PETERS, and Rep. DAVIS.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's Yosemite Grant Act, creating, on June 30, 1864, the earliest parts of what would grow into the beautiful national park that we have today.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln took the unprecedented step of setting aside this scenic tract of wilderness in central California for public use and recreation. The creation of this first public park, preserved for the enjoyment of the public, served as the catalyst for the creation of a vast system of lands that provide recreational opportunities across the country, including more than 400 national parks.

Yosemite's development into a national park made it one of the nation's first travel destinations. Countless millions of Americans have visited the park over the last 150 years to enjoy the scenic beauty of nature. More than just idle viewing, Yosemite's heritage includes a dedication to camping and hiking that allows park visitors to immerse themselves in one of the American people's greatest treasures. Providing these various recreational activities, that so greatly enhance the visitor experience, is the lifeblood of the surrounding foothill communities.

Today, Yosemite National Park receives over 4 million annual visitors. They come from around the world to see the beauty and majesty of our nation. This includes Yosemite's two Wild and Scenic Rivers, the Tuolumne and the Merced; over 800 miles of trails, including the renowned Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail; the awe-inspiring scenery created by the area's rich volcanic and glacial history; and the groves of Giant Sequoia trees.

The park includes parts of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and contains several of the highest peaks in North America. Some of the world's most spectacular and unique geologic formations exist in Yosemite National Park, including renowned formations such as Half Dome, Sentinel Dome, El Capitan, Glacier

Point and the Royal Arches. Where the rivers wind through these impressive geological formations, there are some of the world's most majestic waterfalls: Yosemite Falls, Snow Creek Falls, Sentinel Falls, Bridalveil Fall, Nevada Fall, and Waterwheel Falls, to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite National Park is truly one of our nation's greatest treasures and we ask all the Members of this body to join us in celebrating its past and committing to preserving its future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HOMECOMING OF THE "CHARLES W. MORGAN"

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the return of the *Charles W. Morgan* whaling ship to New Bedford, Massachusetts.

The *Morgan* is the last American whaling ship in a fleet that had at one time numbered over 2,700 vessels. Built and launched in 1841, she is the oldest American commercial ship that is still afloat. Known as a "lucky ship", the *Morgan* successfully navigated dangerous storms, Arctic ice, and the roundings of Cape Horn during her 80-year whaling career. The ship embarked on 37 voyages between 1841 and 1921, covering every corner of the globe.

The *Morgan* was designated a National Historic Landmark by order of the Secretary of the Interior in 1966, and she was also a recipient of the coveted World Ship Trust Award. Since her arrival at Mystic Seaport, more than 20 million visitors have walked her decks. Next week will be a homecoming for the *Morgan* as she returns to New Bedford, Massachusetts, the site of her initial launch on July 21, 1841 from the yard of Jethro and Zachariah.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the *Charles W. Morgan* on this joyous occasion of her homecoming to New Bedford. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating her long and storied career.

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE
IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, efforts to reform our immigration system in the House have been blocked. It's been a year since our counterparts in the Senate passed bipartisan, comprehensive legislation, but the House Republican leadership has rejected the Senate bill without any attempt to shape a House response.

Meanwhile, 11 million undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and defend our country continue to be deported; potentially 135,000

immigrants a year may be wrongfully detained and exploited according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement contracts with detention centers; and countless others frequently endure harassment and abuse in the workplace because they are not legally recognized.

When did we veer so dangerously far off course? America has always been a nation of immigrants. From the first settlers, to the Great Wave, to the fight for legalization today, we're all either immigrants ourselves or direct descendants of them.

In fact, twenty-six percent of residents in my congressional district were born in a foreign country, compared to 13 percent nationwide.

As a first-generation American, I know the human side of this issue. My father traveled thousands of miles to this land, huddled by his mother's side, fleeing the religious persecution of Christians. He studied, learned, worked and excelled. He married, loved and raised his three children. He flew the American flag in front of his home every day, sang the praises of our country, and said prayers of thanksgiving daily for the blessings of America.

The opportunity my family was given in America is always with me, and I'm committed to seeing that everyone has a share in that same opportunity.

As a policymaker, I recognize that comprehensive immigration reform will also provide immense economic benefits to our country.

It's estimated that the Senate-passed comprehensive immigration reform bill could reduce the deficit by more than \$800 billion in the next 20 years, according to a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office analysis.

It's also estimated that wages would ultimately rise and our GDP would increase by over three percent in the next decade. In my congressional district, we would stand to gain over 17,000 jobs by 2023, according to an American Action Network analysis.

We're already making progress. The Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is allowing hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who were brought by their parents to the United States as small children, to gain temporary legal status, including work authorization and protection from deportation. This is the only country these young people know and to which they have pledged their allegiance. They deserve to be recognized.

The economic case is clear. Human lives are at stake. The founding principles of our country are on trial. Now is the time to act on comprehensive reform.

HONORING THE TOWN OF NEWPORT, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Newport, Maine, as it celebrates its 200th anniversary.

Located on the western boundary of Penobscot County, Newport is a town steeped in the

history of Maine and known best for the bounty of its farms and fields. First known as East Pond Plantation, Newport was settled in 1800 and incorporated as the 208th town in the District of Maine on June 14, 1814. Like many Maine towns, it grew from a small farming village into a prospering mill town by harnessing the power of the east branch of the Sebasticook River, and aided by the extension of the Maine Central Railroad.

On Monday, the people of Newport will begin a week-long celebration of the bicentennial of their town, filled with the same local spirit and sense of common purpose that filled those first residents who first petitioned to have their community recognized. The residents of Newport embody the values of the hardworking people of Maine and can take great pride in the rich heritage they have created over the past 200 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the people of Newport in Congress and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help the Town celebrate its 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the people of Newport and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

H.R. 4902, THE MIDDLE CLASS CHANCE ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight H.R. 4902, the Middle Class CHANCE Act, which I was proud to introduce last week.

As a Pell Grant recipient myself, I know that every dollar counts when you're trying to put yourself through college.

In our changing economy, today's college student is not necessarily full-time, living on campus, or between the ages of 18 and 22. Today's student is struggling to finish in four years, and today's student is averaging nearly \$30,000 in student loan debt.

That is why I am proud to have introduced the Middle Class CHANCE Act which will increase access to higher education for all our students by restoring the strength and length of the Pell Grant.

We argue that sensible solutions to our economic difficulties are essential to prevent this burden from passing on to our future generations. But let's take a look around; our future generations have already inherited the burden.

We cannot rebuild our economy when we do so at the expense of our future generations and the American dream of completing a post-secondary education.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Middle Class CHANCE Act and make college more affordable and accessible for today's student.

CONGRATULATING KAREN L. PALLANSCH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen L. Pallansch, Chief Executive Officer of Alexandria Renew Enterprises, on her election as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Alexandria Renew is an independent government agency providing wastewater treatment services to the City of Alexandria and portions of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Beyond her wealth of environmental and engineering experience, I commend Ms. Pallansch for embracing a collaborative approach to watershed-based solutions that have garnered broad support among the public, business, elected officials, regulators and policymakers.

Ms. Pallansch is also a staunch and effective advocate for investing in our nation's aging and often deteriorating water infrastructure—investments that convey both environmental and economic benefits and help communities across our great nation to grow and thrive. Ms. Pallansch believes—as I do—that great communities need and deserve great water infrastructure and great quality water.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the former Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)—the precursor to Alexandria Renew—Karen presided over the completion of the Authority's award-winning Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility that led the way in meeting the gold standard for removing nitrogen—one of the culprits behind the declining health of the Chesapeake Bay. Always seeking to be a good neighbor, ASA put much of the facility underground so as not to detract from the City's beauty and bring an Old Town look to the business of water protection.

When more stringent federal rules came along, Ms. Pallansch, working closely with her dedicated Board and staff, embarked on a massive State-of-the-Art Nitrogen Upgrade Program (SANUP) from which emerged the reimagining of what a wastewater treatment facility could be.

More than having cutting-edge technology, the facility she manages offers community-friendly features, including a regulation soccer field open to the public on top of an 18 million gallon treatment system. Alexandria Renew is moving down a bold new path to greater sustainability, helping to build greener, more sustainable communities, and creating in her agency "a utility of the future."

To reflect this broader enterprise, on Earth Day 2012, Ms. Pallansch announced that the Alexandria Sanitation Authority would be rebranded as Alexandria Renew Enterprises—the community's resource recovery center. The promise and synergy of this change are already being seen in a successful public-developer partnership that will create a vibrant new neighborhood from a dusty industrial area that was once an unregulated landfill for the City.

Ms. Pallansch has a long and distinguished career in the water reclamation field. She

began as a staff engineer, rising to several senior positions before accepting position of CEO where she is now responsible for a \$40 million operating budget and a \$220 million capital improvement plan.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Karen Pallansch on her election as President of NACWA. As with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, I am sure she will lead the organization down a road marked by innovation, collaboration, progress and success. I wish her and NACWA the very best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DALE MORRIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Dale Morris, Regional Director for American/American Eagle Airlines. Mr. Morris served a total of 27 years at American Airlines, including his early years as a protégé to former Chairman, President and CEO of American Airlines, Gerard J. Arpey. As he enters retirement, it is fitting that this body honors Mr. Morris and his illustrious career, given his personal and professional successes.

Mr. Morris was raised in Fresno, California, where he studied Journalism and Public Relations at Fresno State University. He maintained a firm connection to his roots as past president and current special advisor to the Fresno State Track & Field Commission. Among his various accolades, he is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Beta 311 Chapter.

In his role at American Airlines, Mr. Morris had the ability to navigate various legislative and regulatory obstacles to effectively advocate for American Airlines, thereby keeping American citizens and American skies safe. Over several decades, he has worked extensively with members of Congress, the White House, and the Department of State, always with the utmost integrity and trustworthiness.

Mr. Speaker, with Mr. Morris' leadership, officials at all levels of government made critical policy decisions that have improved the Nation's airports and many Americans' traveling experiences. I recognize Mr. Morris as a great American who has devoted his career to assisting those in public service and congratulate him on his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE TRACEY L. PINSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and outstanding servant of humankind, the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson, Director for the Office of Small Business Programs in the

Office of the Secretary of the Army, and the highest-ranking female civilian in the Army acquisition career field. Ms. Pinson has excelled at this position since her first day as director in May 1995. She will be retiring on Monday, June 30, 2014.

A Washington, D.C. native, Ms. Pinson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Howard University in 1978 and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1982. Her career began on Capitol Hill on the House Committee on Small Business under Chairman Parren Mitchell. Rep. Mitchell, of Maryland's Seventh Congressional District, was known as the "godfather" of minority business expansion and development efforts.

In 1986, Ms. Pinson was named as Assistant to the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 1995, Ms. Pinson was appointed the Director of Small Business Programs in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. She manages the largest small business program in the federal government in terms of dollars. Under her leadership, the Army has awarded over \$300 billion in contracts to small businesses.

Ms. Pinson manages the Army Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions Program and ensures these institutions are afforded an opportunity to participate in Army-funded programs. Under her leadership, over \$100 billion in Army awards have gone to HBCUs/MIs. She also headed an initiative to hire wounded warriors in her office. With their help, she has been able to steer over \$50 billion to veteran-owned businesses. She has also worked to secure contract awards for women-owned businesses, companies located in areas of economic distress, and small businesses in disaster relief efforts.

Throughout her career, Ms. Pinson has received numerous awards and accolades, including the Department of the Army Award—Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service in 1998; the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 2002 and for Distinguished Executive in 2009; and the Department of the Army Award for Meritorious Civilian Service in 2014.

Ms. Pinson's distinguished civil service has been mirrored by her extensive involvement in her community. In conjunction with her professional accomplishments in government, Ms. Pinson has served on a number of boards and commissions, most notably on the Board of Directors of the African American Federal Executive Association.

Ms. Pinson has dedicated her career to advocating for disadvantaged small business owners. Because of her efforts, thousands of these small business owners have received contract awards to stimulate their businesses, create jobs and contribute to the economy. Indeed, Ms. Pinson has been a champion for small businesses across the nation and I am so grateful for the role she has played in upholding the American dream for thousands of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable Tracey L. Pinson upon the occasion of her retirement

from a stellar career of 32 years of service in the federal government and nearly 20 years as Director for the Office of Small Business Programs for the Secretary of the Army.

TRIBUTE TO DAN WALTERS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of the Inland Empire are exceptional. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and devoted community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities a better place to live and work. Dan Walters is one of these individuals. Today I would like to recognize Dan Walters, who will be retiring from the position of District Director of The National Exchange Club after fifteen years of continuous volunteer service to the California and Nevada districts.

The National Exchange Club holds three core values dear to their mission of service: a commitment to family, a commitment to the community, and a commitment to country. Dan has embodied these three attributes during his fifteen years of service to his organization, and as a dynamic and effective leader, he has encouraged many others to do so as well.

Some of Dan's primary work with the National Exchange Club has involved working to prevent child abuse through education and fundraising activities nationwide. Among other important roles, The National Exchange Club recognizes those who uphold the ideals and institutions of their community; including law enforcement and fire department officers, school teachers, and students of the month, to name a few. Dan and his organization have also championed the installation of Freedom Shrines in our junior and senior high schools nationwide. These Shrines serve to inspire our nation's youth and are just another example of Dan's, and The National Exchange Club's, commitment to strengthening America's civic society and promoting American patriotism.

Dan's tireless efforts have not gone by unnoticed. In 2010, Dan was awarded the high honor of the National Exchange Club's Lifetime Achievement Award. Throughout his tenure with the National Exchange Club, Dan also received additional awards and letters of commendation from the National Exchange Club's Directors and District Executive Directors for his dedication to making our communities better places to live.

Dan's passion and dedication to the Exchange Club's efforts have been, and will continue to be, an inspiration throughout the community. He has been the heart and soul of many projects within our region and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that many in our region are grateful for his service and I congratulate him on his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 339 and 340, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of Pioneer Middle School in Yorkshire, New York. The school was recently designated a "School to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. Pioneer Middle School was one of only 118 schools from across the country to receive this outstanding distinction.

The Forum uses rigorous criteria of requirements and achievements to select the recipients of this highly esteemed honor. Academic performance, developmental responsiveness, and social equity are among the factors used to grade each school. Schools that receive this prestigious distinction must display a strong "sense of purpose" and maintain a "trajectory toward excellence." Pioneer Middle School continually meets and exceeds each of these requirements and it shows in the students and their mentors.

Earning this award speaks to the dedication of the administration and faculty to providing students with the highest level of academic excellence. I would like to specifically recognize the principal of Pioneer Middle School, Melissa Prorok, for going above and beyond in facilitating a positive academic experience for each student.

Once again, I commend Pioneer Middle School on this notable achievement. I am confident that the excellence displayed by the teachers and administrators will continue to develop strong academic foundations for their students, paving the way for them to achieve success throughout their academic careers. I am proud of the positive impact this school is making on students and its community.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. GRICE

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Christopher A. Grice, a true American hero. His achievements are shining examples of dedication and loyalty to the state of Kentucky, and his country.

Colonel Grice was originally commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) as a Distinguished Military Graduate after graduating with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University. Colonel Grice continued his education by later earning a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management from Webster University.

His military career as a commissioned officer began as the Battalion Chemical Officer of the 1st Battalion in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he also served as a Support Platoon Leader. Colonel Grice led the Blue Grass Chemical Activity's workforce through the Rocket Separation Operation. The operation was deemed successful due to Colonel Grice's commitment to safety and stakeholder involvement. Perhaps Colonel Grice's greatest attribute is his leadership abilities. After facing a government shutdown and a moratorium on hiring during his command, Colonel Grice's ability to maintain a high morale while meeting all regulatory requirements is truly admirable.

Several military decorations Colonel Grice has received throughout his impressive career including the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon. These awards are only a small testament to Colonel Grice's service to our armed services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Colonel Christopher A. Grice on his life of superior excellence, service and loyalty. His service to the state of Kentucky is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing what Colonel Grice accomplishes in the future. I would also like to extend my personal gratitude to Colonel Grice for all that he has done for the United States military, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote 356, I was away from the House floor and intended to vote "aye."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,545,861,055,228.61. We've added \$6,918,984,006,315.53 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF DR. CHARLES "CHUCK" LIONEL FRANKLIN, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader, caring physician, and loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend, Dr. Charles "Chuck" Lionel Franklin, Jr. Dr. Franklin departed to his eternal reward on Monday, June 2, 2014. A funeral service was held on Monday, June 9, 2014, at the Dunbarton Chapel at Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of mourners were present to pay tribute to Dr. Franklin's honorable life and legacy.

Dr. Franklin was born on April 5, 1946, and was raised in Washington, D.C. Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Franklin exemplified the meaning of being a servant leader. He began at Howard University, where he never missed an opportunity to engage in causes that promoted justice and equality. Even as an alumnus, his commitment to the university remained one of his greatest causes. He advocated the D.C. Metro bus system to change the name of the bus stop for Howard's campus from "LeDroit Park" to "Howard University" to recognize the university's status in the same way that other prominent colleges were recognized. Also, as a result of his advocacy on behalf of his beloved alma mater and black college football, the Washington media began publishing the scores and highlights of black college sports in mainstream sports news stories. Dr. Franklin shared Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s belief that, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

In 1976, Dr. Franklin expanded his repertoire of servant leadership by opening his Family Medicine practice in Silver Spring, Maryland, with medical privileges at area hospitals. Dr. Franklin practiced medicine for 35 years, focusing on patient advocacy. He worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Franklin is his steadfast commitment to his family and his faith. I became fond of Dr. Franklin through his wife, the former Alexis Margaret Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, and a lifelong friend of mine. As big brother to Dolores and Estelle, dad to Sharath, Michelle and young Chuck, grandfather to Brian and David, and inspiration to extended family and countless friends, Chuck spared no effort in sharing himself to the fullest. Moreover, as husband, there was no limit to his love for Alexis! But above all, Dr. Franklin loved his Savior. Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he was often called "the praying doctor" because he not only gave his patients medical hope but he also prayed with them for spiritual help and healing.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday

in your life you will have been all of these." Dr. Franklin went far in life because his loving personality brought warmth to all whom he encountered. A man of integrity and high moral values, his understanding, compassion and kindness made him a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in paying tribute to Dr. Charles "Chuck" Franklin, Jr. for his dedication to serving others, his passion for promoting equality among individuals from different walks of life, and his deep commitment to his family and his faith. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Franklin's family and friends during this very difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING CHAD CLARK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Chad Clark of Floresville, Texas—a well-known and respected law enforcement officer.

Mr. Clark's story was truly one of hard work and dedication, having climbed his way from the position of nonpaid reserve officer all the way to lieutenant. The nearly 22 years of service Chad Clark gave to the Floresville Police Department is the second-longest stint in the department's history.

In 1989, while Mr. Clark was working in a local convenience store, he struck up a friendship with a Floresville PD officer. This new friendship sparked Chad's interest in a career in law enforcement and he soon enrolled in police academy in San Antonio. After working in the Poteet Police Department for two years, Chad Clark returned to Floresville to begin his more than 20 year term of service in the Floresville Police Department.

Five years into his career, he was promoted to corporal. In 2001, while working as the day-shift supervisor, Mr. Clark was promoted to detective, where he investigated a wide variety of crimes.

In 2012, Chad Clark reached the level of lieutenant within the Floresville Police Department. That same year, he was elected as the Wilson County Precinct 2 constable. He served admirably in both capacities and will be missed dearly by all that had the pleasure of knowing him.

Described by those he worked with, Mr. Clark was a kind-hearted, generous man who came into work with a positive outlook that was infectious.

Aside from his exemplary career in law enforcement, Chad Clark had served on the boards for the Wilson County Friends of the Library as well as the Floresville Independent School District. Mr. Clark is survived by his two daughters, 21-year-old Kayla and 17-year-old Marah.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the late Chad Clark. His hard work and positive attitude have truly impacted many lives and our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMSTOCK'S MAGAZINE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Comstock's magazine as the publication celebrates its 25th anniversary. For a quarter century, this magazine has shared timely and significant insights into the Sacramento region's business climate with thousands of readers. As Comstock's staff, business partners and readers gather to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Comstock's magazine and its special place in Sacramento's business community.

Comstock's magazine is the brainchild of my friend and businesswoman, Winnie Comstock. I have had the pleasure of knowing Winnie for many years; we first met while folding clothes at the annual Junior League rummage sale. She has always displayed a true passion for telling Sacramento's story and has succeeded beyond belief with Comstock's magazine.

The first issue of Comstock's was published in July of 1989 and the magazine has thrived ever since. The magazine has created a forum for coverage of ideas that celebrate the region, while never shying away from addressing what the region must do to succeed. On issues from water to transportation, and banking to education, each month Comstock's leaves over 85,000 readers with a better understanding of the topics that define the Sacramento region.

Comstock's magazine reporting has earned multiple "Maggie Awards," which includes twice being named the Best Business Consumer Magazine in the Western United States by the Western Publishers Association, as well as numerous national awards from the American Association of Business Publication Editors.

Since its founding in 1989, the world has dramatically changed, and Comstock's has changed with it. The magazine is now a true multi-platform media company, with a stellar website and a number of social media outlets, all in addition to their print edition. It also was one of the first magazines in the country to develop a digital edition and iPad app.

Finally, Comstock's magazine has never forgotten that it does not just report on the Sacramento region, but that they are also a key part of it. They offer complimentary advertising and coverage to a number of nonprofits and charities, while also publishing an annual "Capital Region Cares" edition that spotlights the region's nonprofit community. Winnie and her colleagues have also supported a number of economic development efforts and have worked closely with the area's Chambers of Commerce and economic development organizations, such as SACTO, SARTA, and Valley Vision.

Mr. Speaker, as the staff, advertisers and readers of Comstock's come together to celebrate the magazine's 25th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their

fine reporting and work that has helped define the Sacramento Region. I am confident that the magazine will continue to thrive in the years to come.

HONORING VIRGINIA INGRAM

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who is an inspiration to many Brooklynites and New Yorkers. This Saturday, Virginia Ingram will turn 100 years old, an impressive feat that deserves our recognition and celebration.

Virginia Ingram was born on June 27, 1914 in Lynchburg, VA. The fifth child born to Charles and Alda Wilson, Virginia was raised on a large farm with her siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Growing up in a relatively rural area during the early 20th century, she's been known to tell stories related to her love of the outdoors. As a young woman, Mrs. Ingram would often accompany her father on a horse and buggy to chop wood for the fire.

Like so many others of her generation, Mrs. Ingram eventually migrated from the south to a northern city—New York. Coming to New York in 1930, she began a career working various seamstress jobs. Notably, during World War II, she helped make Mae West Jackets, the flotation devices that saved the lives of American fighter pilots.

After the war, in 1946, she met and married the late Lacey C. Ingram. Virginia and Lacey moved to the Red Hook projects at 811 Hicks Street in 1951. Together, they had two children and two stepdaughters. Today, she enjoys seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren who have further enriched her life.

Eventually, Mrs. Ingram moved to 80 Dwight Street, where she has been a Red Hook resident for over 60 years. It was there that she met the late Reverend and Mrs. McBride, founders of New Brown Memorial Baptist Church. A woman of deep faith, Mrs. Ingram was one of the original parishioners at the church. In the early days, Sunday Service was held in Rev. McBride's apartment. Sunday School was held in various church members' apartments. Mrs. Ingram has loving memories of those years and everyone who helped build the church.

In 1979, Mrs. Ingram went to Bible School, later becoming a Missionary. With the support and blessing of the late Rev. Truitte, she remained dedicated to this calling. She was a missionary for many years, working alongside many dynamic women before serving under Reverend Reid as a Deaconess.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Ingram's story is an impressive one—and the local community of Red Hook is a richer place because of her many kind contributions. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her on the advent of her 100th birthday and wishing her many blessings.

HIV TESTING DAY

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to National HIV Testing Day, which takes place on June 27. This day serves as an important opportunity to urge everyone to get tested. I would like to thank all of the advocates, care coordinators, and healthcare providers, both in my community and around the country, for their tireless work in serving the HIV-positive community and raising awareness of HIV issues more generally.

There are over one million people of all ages, ethnicities, and sexual orientations in the United States living with the HIV virus, and South Florida has one of the highest HIV infection rates in the country. Sadly, nearly one in six HIV-positive individuals do not know that they are infected, which means that they could be unknowingly spreading the virus. We simply must close this gap so that we may improve health outcomes for those living with HIV and protect against future infections.

HIV does not discriminate—it impacts people old and young, gay and straight, and of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. To highlight this critical issue, I will be hosting a call to action in my district. I hope that everyone will take this opportunity to get tested for HIV and to ask their friends and family to do the same.

Again I would like to thank the advocates, care coordinators and healthcare providers in South Florida and around the country for their tireless work in preventing, detecting, and treating HIV. I wish them the best as they pursue this daunting but important endeavor.

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD J. NEVIN,
JR. ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Edward J. Nevin, Jr., on the great occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ed Nevin was born on August 26, 1914, at 15th and Harrison in the South of Market District of San Francisco. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in his beloved City of Saint Francis, and went on to graduate from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

A passion for civic duty and a commitment to his community led Ed to a 34-year career in the San Francisco Police Department, where he served with distinction in several important positions. He was the Chief of the Chinatown Detail, Director of Special Services (Vice Squad), Commander of the San Francisco Housing Authority Police, and Chief of San Francisco International Airport Police.

While Ed takes enormous pride in protecting the people of San Francisco, he has always considered his greatest accomplishment to be

his family. He was married to Mazie McDermott Nevin for 70 years until her passing in 2009. Together they had seven children: Virginia, Edward III, Michael, Katherine, James, Margaret Mary, and Eileen; 22 grandchildren and 45 great grandchildren.

Ed and Mazie were deeply rooted in their Catholic faith, a guiding light that called them into selfless service to their community. They were longtime leaders in support of Catholic married couples and services for youth, and Ed was a recipient of the Special Recognition Award from the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Lifelong residents of the Bay Area, Ed and Mazie lived in San Francisco, Glen Ellen, San Ramon, and at The Magnolia in Millbrae.

On August 26, 2014, Ed's family and friends will honor him on the blessed occasion of his 100th birthday with a celebration at the Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Edward J. Nevin on his 100th birthday. He is a faith-filled family man who is revered by his colleagues, admired by the people he served, and beloved by his family. I am privileged to have known the Nevin family for many years and shared a beautiful friendship with their late son, Mike, a devoted and beloved public servant, and their daughter Margie and her husband, Patrick Johnston. Ed Nevin stands as a paragon of integrity and decency. He has strengthened his community and his country throughout a life filled with faith and raised an extraordinary family that continues to live the Nevin values. Our nation has been immensely bettered by Ed Nevin in countless ways over an entire American century, and we pay tribute to this great and good man who exemplifies the very best of America.

5TH BIRTHDAY AND BEYOND

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commemorate the United States' role in preventing the death of millions of children under the age of five across the world. In a country where talk of a child's fifth birthday elicits happy memories of time spent with family and friends, we too often forget that in regions across the globe, many children never make it to their fifth birthday. Thanks to the support and generosity of the American people, U.S. aid programs have helped cut the number of child deaths, under the age of five, in half since 1990.

The devastating and deadly effects of diseases like pneumonia, measles and malaria have been largely curbed across the globe with the support of Americans. These monumental advances are allowing millions more children to live the healthy, happy childhood that all kids deserve. It is important we recognize these advancements and honor the dedication and work of those that have made them possible. We must also continue to support efforts to improve children's lives around the world and redouble our efforts and commit-

ment to children's health. It is my sincere hope the progress achieved by 5th Birthday and Beyond continues, and we can make this a world where no child unnecessarily suffers from, or ultimately succumbs to, a preventable or treatable illness.

HONORING VETERAN CURTIS
ALLRED

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Curtis Allred of Missouri's 8th Congressional District for his achievement, and commitment to serving our country.

Curtis enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating High School at the age of 17 in order to serve his country in Iraq. After boot camp and SOI training he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, which is a battalion-level infantry unit composed of infantry Marines and support personnel. In February of 2004 his battalion was deployed in Iraq and was a part of the initial invasion of Fallujah.

After his tour in Iraq, Curtis helped train new Marines for combat until he retired in 2007. The battalion which Curtis was a part of was the most deployed battalion in the Iraq War.

At a young age Curtis Allred showed an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives. I wish him all the joys in life he so rightfully has earned.

HONORING MR. CHARLES HENRY
"CHUCK" NOLL, OF SEWICKLEY,
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor the memory of Mr. Charles Henry "Chuck" Noll of Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Mr. Noll passed away on June 13, 2014 at the age of 82. Chuck Noll was born in Cleveland on January 5, 1932, but he will be remembered best in Pittsburgh: the city that he transformed through his legendary coaching of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

A Pro Football Hall of Famer, Mr. Noll led the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl championships in twenty-three seasons. He holds the record of being the only coach to win four Super Bowl trophies, a feat the team accomplished between 1975 and 1980.

This achievement did not come without perseverance. Mr. Noll began his football career as a linebacker and guard for the Cleveland Browns, where he played until he retired at twenty-seven. He then dedicated his life to coaching, eventually becoming the then youngest head coach in NFL history when the Steelers hired him on January 27, 1969. Steelers President Art Rooney II said, "He set a

new standard for the Steelers that still is the foundation of what we do and who we are. From the players to the coaches to the front office down to the ball boys, he taught us all what it took to be a winner."

At just thirty-seven years old, Mr. Noll turned the struggling franchise into an unbeatable powerhouse, leading the team to their first playoff appearance in thirty-nine years in 1972. Two years later, Mr. Noll took the team even further, winning the team's first Super Bowl in a classic against the Minnesota Vikings.

The "City of Champions" would not be what it is today without Mr. Noll. Former Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann said, "He built a foundation . . . This entire organization will be a part of his legacy."

Mr. Noll's passion and love of coaching and contributions will always be remembered by the Steelers, by Western Pennsylvanians, and by all members of "Steelers Nation."

Chuck Noll was so much more than a coach. He was a licensed pilot and sailor, played musical instruments, spoke French, and was well versed in cooking, gardening, and home repairs. Team members would often try to find topics that Mr. Noll did not know about, almost always to no avail. Mr. Noll once said that he would have been a history teacher if not a football coach, but by making the football field his classroom, he in a sense fulfilled both these careers.

Perhaps what Mr. Noll was best at was bringing people together and being a source of encouragement. He focused on building a sense of family among the team; he taught players the importance of sacrifice, humility, and winning both on and off the field. He never ceased to remind players that their actions today would affect tomorrow, a mentality that made him a role model for everyone.

Bishop David Zubik said, "Let's learn this lesson from coach. That we should all recognize what we can be, recognize what we are capable of doing and encourage other people to be their best. That's greatness. And that's why today we thank God for the coach."

We are pleased to honor the memory of one of our nation's greatest football coaches, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

SGT. TAHMOORESSI

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, who is currently in jail in Mexico. I urge the government of Mexico to bring his case to trial and do all that they can to ensure he comes home safely and quickly.

Mr. Tahmooressi has nobly served our country during war. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan including winning a combat field promotion to Sergeant in Helmand Province. He was honorably discharged in 2012, but remains on reserve duty until 2016. According to his family, he suffers from severe

PTSD and had traveled from our hometown of Weston to California to seek treatment from a VA facility there. But he is currently in trouble and needs our assistance.

Andrew was arrested on April 1st of this year in Tijuana, Mexico after crossing the border with several firearms in his automobile as well as ammunition for these weapons. He was then charged with possessing firearms and ammunition in violation of Mexican law. Andrew, according to his signed statement, was traveling to visit a friend near the Mexican border on the night of April 1 when he made a wrong turn and accidentally crossed the border into Mexico. It is also our understanding that the weapons in his possession at that time were purchased legally in the United States.

After being held for two days in temporary holding, Andrew was transferred to La Mesa Penitentiary. Since his incarceration, Andrew has continued to suffer from PTSD.

Yesterday I spoke to Andrew's mother Jill. As a mother, my heart goes out to her, her family and Andrew during this scary and uncertain time. As a fellow mother, her neighbor and her Representative, I committed to Jill that I will continue to do all that I can to bring Andrew home.

I have raised Andrew and his situation personally with Vice President JOE BIDEN and with Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina Mora. I commend the State Department for their efforts to ensure that Andrew is being treated humanely by Mexican authorities, and for their efforts in helping secure an attorney for Andrew. My staff and I have been in regular contact with the State Department since Andrew's arrest.

I call on Mexican government officials, specifically the Attorney General of Mexico to ensure that Andrew's case moves as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to work collaboratively to find productive ways to bring Andrew home. There is absolutely no reason this important endeavor should be a partisan exercise.

HONORING EVELYN GROSS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Evelyn Gross who died on June 18th in Plano, Texas at the age of 92 after a long battle with lung cancer.

Evelyn Gross was the mother of Alan Gross, the subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, who has been imprisoned in Cuba for the last four and a half years for working to increase Internet access for Cuba's small Jewish community.

Evelyn Gross's last wish was to see her son before she died, but despite repeated pleas for a humanitarian furlough to visit her, the Cuban officials refused to grant Alan's request to do so.

As the end of her life approached, in a fit of desperation, Alan went on a hunger strike to protest the failure of both governments to resolve this issue and free him. At his mother's

urging, Alan stopped the hunger strike after nine days.

Judy Gross, Alan's wife said that the death of Evelyn Gross was a devastating blow to Alan, who was extremely close to his mother and was already in a fragile state.

Before his arrest, Alan spoke to her twice a day by phone. We are all very worried about how he is coping with her death.

Judy Gross fears that her husband will sink deeper into depression and give up all hope of ever coming home.

She worries that the pain of not being able to see his mother before her passing could start Alan down a dangerous path of destructive behavior.

Before the death of Evelyn Gross, many of Alan's friends had already grown deeply concerned about Alan's physical and emotional well being.

Alan lives confined in a small prison cell 23 hours a day with two other inmates. Until recently, prison officials kept the lights on in the cell 24 hours a day.

Weakened by the prospect of having to serve out a 15-year prison sentence under these conditions, Alan's health and emotional state have suffered. He has lost over 100 pounds, he suffers from chronic pain, and his loss of hope and increasing despondency have caused those who love him to fear that he is at risk of losing his will to live.

When Alan turned 65 last month, he swore that it would be his last birthday in prison. He said he was determined to come home, alive or dead.

I am taking the floor today to urge the Government of Cuba to free Alan Gross and for President Obama to do everything he can to obtain his release.

I fear for what might happen if nothing is done soon to free Alan Gross.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMANDO J. MORA, JR.

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I along with Rep. LINDA T. SANCHEZ rise to honor the life of Armando J. Mora, Jr., a Santa Fe Springs City fireman who died of service related cancer on June 18th, 2014.

Mr. Mora was raised in Santa Fe Springs and was proud to serve in the Fire Department of the city he loved. Mr. Mora came from a very distinguished family who have committed their lives to public service in Santa Fe Springs. His father Armando Mora, Sr. served on the City Council and was Mayor, and his brother Robert also serves in the Fire Department and is President of Local 3507 of the firefighter's union.

Armando J. Mora, Jr. began his career in the fire service of the City of West Covina and was hired by the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department on January 20, 1981. He served with distinction for 33 years as a firefighter, and was known as an extraordinary man of great character and generosity to all in our community. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr.

Mora because he knew the danger he faced every day on the job, but would not be deterred from his duties in protecting the people of our region.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Mr. Mora's mother Alicia Mora, his loving and devoted wife Georgina Mora, his two children, Lauren and Anthony, stepson Jesse, two sisters Annie and Irene, his brother Robert, and to the extended Mora family and friends, including his brave brothers and sisters in the Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. We are all devastated by the loss of one so loved. We ask that our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join us to honor this fallen hero who has made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

IN HONOR OF FORMER ALBANY
CHIEF OF POLICE WASHINGTON
LONG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and outstanding public servant, Mr. Washington Long, the first black Police Chief in the history of Albany, Georgia. Sadly, Chief Long died on Thursday, June 19, 2014. A funeral service will be held on Friday, June 27, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia with interment following at Riverside Cemetery.

Mr. Long was born in Marianna, Florida. He enlisted in the United States Army at an early age, before transferring to the Air Force. While stationed at Turner Air Force Base in Albany, he met then Albany Police Department Chief Laurie Pritchett. Chief Pritchett saw potential in Mr. Long and asked him to join the force if Chief Pritchett could convince the commissioners to hire black police officers. Mr. Long made up his mind to join the Police Department when he was stopped by a police officer in downtown Albany, where racial strife was profuse in the years following the Albany Movement, a part of the greater Civil Rights Movement. He believed he could be a better police officer than the one who stopped him and so in 1966, Mr. Long became one of the city's first black police officers.

In the police department, Mr. Long rose through the ranks of Corporal, Detective, Captain, Major and Assistant Chief. In 1987, Mr. Long was named Chief of the Albany Police Department, becoming the city's first black police chief. He held this post until he retired in 1994.

During his nearly thirty-year career with the Albany Police Department, Chief Long served the citizens of Albany, Georgia with devotion and distinction. Responsible for ensuring the safety and protection of the residents of Albany, Chief Long proved to be a strong and revered leader. A great number of challenges came with a position of this caliber, exacerbated by the lingering effects of segregation and racial tension. Chief Long met these challenges head-on with steadfast humility and strong moral fiber.

Chief Long was a member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church for over fifty years and served on the Deacon Board. He was also a member of numerous community organizations, the most notable being the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Albany—East Albany Unit. He sponsored the membership for many children over the years so that they could have a support system in the community to encourage them to realize their full potential.

Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Chief Long's life was defined by service. He paid his rent and he paid it well through his distinguished service to his community, devotion to his work, and the compassion he showed for the people of Albany. He will truly be missed.

Chief Long is survived by his daughter, Lisa; son, Ronald; and siblings Gertrude, Coriel, Paul, William, Frederick and Mariah.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in paying tribute to Chief Washington Long and his legacy of service to Albany, Georgia. He loved the people of Albany and he was committed to making the community safer to live in and to improving the quality of life. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

IN SUPPORT OF VOTING RIGHTS
AND THE VOTER RIGHTS ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the right of all Americans to vote without fear of discrimination, no matter their race, color, or political beliefs.

In 1965, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act. The enactment of VRA fulfilled a century of work towards guaranteeing that our most fundamental right—the right to vote—would be protected for all Americans, including in states and local jurisdictions that had historically denied or disempowered minority voters.

The protections provided in VRA ensure that historically disenfranchised communities in our country are now able to freely vote. The very chamber we stand in today is a reflection of the success of VRA, seen in the election of dozens of Members of Congress who come from these very communities.

A year ago today, however, the successes of VRA became endangered when the Supreme Court ruled in a controversial 5–4 decision that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Act, which had been used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional.

As a result of the Court's opinion in Shelby, the right to vote for millions of Americans, in-

cluding my constituents in Houston and Harris County, are now endangered. Immediately after the high court's ruling, the State of Texas announced that it would put into immediate effect a voter ID law that had been previously blocked by a federal court because the state law's restrictions target the very communities that are meant to be protected under Section 5.

Congress must act. The right to vote for all is at the very heart of our democracy.

Bipartisan legislation, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, has been introduced in this Congress that would provide a new coverage formula based on current problems in voting and directly respond to the high court's concerns.

This is not perfect legislation, but it would go a long way towards restoring the protections that my constituents had before the Court's decision.

I urge my colleagues to bring the Voting Rights Amendment Act to a floor vote and ensure that our most sacred right—the right to vote—is protected for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ESSIE POUGH
ON THE OCCASION OF HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize one of my constituents from Oak Park, Illinois, Essie Pough, as she retires from the Illinois Department of Human Services after 46 years of public service to the state of Illinois and its citizens. On behalf of the 7th District of Illinois, I congratulate and commend Mrs. Pough for almost five decades of outstanding dedication to the state.

Mrs. Pough began her career when the agency was known as the Illinois Department of Public Aid. She has worked at multiple locations for the agency, providing the customers with professional assistance at each—whether she was in the Walcott office, the Madison office, or in Humboldt Park. As an example of her commitment to the public, Mrs. Pough started taking Spanish classes after moving to her Humboldt Park office which serves a large number of Illinoisans who speak Spanish. She worked at the Humboldt Park office for 30 years.

Although small in stature, Mrs. Pough has a dynamic and impressive personality that amazes her friends, family and co-workers. I also understand that she has a fondness for high heels, even starting her work day by walking up the stairs to her second floor office every day in 4-inch heels, which no doubt helps explain her health and fitness to this day. Mrs. Pough is a caring friend and co-worker. Her propensity to routinely feed her colleagues makes me disappointed that I never had the opportunity to work with her. In addition, she regularly supported her coworkers' accomplishments with parties to recognize birthdays and promotions as well as led the annual Black History celebration.

Outside of work, Mrs. Pough is an avid bowler with an average of 133. Impressively,

she has already bowled 200 twice this year alone. These scores are especially notable given her distinctive bowling stance, bowling while down on one knee. She is an active member of Living Word Christian Center where she adds her beautiful voice to the choir and shares her bowling talents with the bowling team.

In closing, I join with the friends of Essie Pough and her 8 children, 19 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren in celebrating her retirement on April 30, 2014, after 46 years of public service. I recognize Mrs. Pough's dedication to her community and state as well as convey my deep appreciation for her service. I am honored to celebrate the achievements of Mrs. Pough and am hopeful for a prosperous and active retirement.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY N. TONSICH

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Anthony N. Tonsich, the son of Croatian immigrants and a native of San Pedro who passed away on June 19, 2014 with his loving family by his side.

Anthony always had an adventurous spirit. Whether he was sailing on his boat, Lady Bug II, or traveling around Europe, Anthony's life was constantly marked by movement. So it came as no surprise when Anthony developed a love for automobiles and spent over 45 years in the car business without ever taking a sick day over the course of his career.

Anthony will most fondly be remembered for the lasting impact that he had on his family, friends, and community. He enlisted in the Army and served as a drill instructor until 1952, helping new recruits become accustomed to military life. Yet Anthony's ability to lead by example did not end when he took off the uniform in 1952. He continued to inspire others through his generous spirit, warm personality, and extraordinary work ethic. He served as a role model for people in San Pedro, especially his eight beloved grandchildren and his three children: Anthony, Suzanne, and my dear friend Nick.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of the House join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the life and legacy of Anthony N. Tonsich.

THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT & HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in my district. The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) was created by the City of Alexandria under the authorization of Housing Authority Law, Chapter 1, Title 36

Code of Virginia, in 1939, for the express purpose of operating the Affordable Housing Program for low and moderate-income individuals in Alexandria. ARHA's goal is to provide citizens the ability to own a home or secure an affordable rental unit and improve the quality of life for all Alexandrians.

ARHA commenced operations in Alexandria, Virginia in 1941. They built their organization on a foundation that advocated the importance of providing safe, decent, sanitary, and affordable housing. They have grown into a stellar operation and are a leader in the development and management of mixed income housing in Alexandria. Home equity, housing security, and self-sufficiency are all important for Alexandrians to ensure a high quality of life. ARHA empowers its clients in these areas by providing an array of supportive services that give residents the opportunities needed to grow independently.

A healthy housing industry is important to the economic development of the City of Alexandria. It provides families with affordable housing opportunities and the chance to build equity while strengthening the tax base, creating jobs, and opening doors for further growth and development. Their continued partnerships between financial institutions and housing developers will continue to provide needed affordable housing opportunities for residents in Alexandria.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority for their outstanding work and contribution to our community.

MICHELLE WIE WINNING HER 1ST MAJOR

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a local Hawaii girl who has stormed the world stage of golf, and made our state proud as we have watched her grow and achieve. On Sunday, Honolulu-born Michelle Wie won the U.S. Women's Open, her first major in a long career that began on the lush golf courses of Oahu.

The daughter of South Korean immigrants, Michelle started golfing at age four and by age 10 became the youngest qualifier ever at the USGA Women's Amateur Public Links Championship. In 2007, she graduated from Punahou School on Oahu.

Whether pioneering her unique putting style or showing grace and determination under intense media spotlight and pressure, Michelle has shown she is an athlete beyond her years.

Michelle, the people of Hawaii are cheering you on as you take your career to the next level, and continue to represent our state and the aloha spirit! Congratulations!

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN EDWARD BARBER

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, to recognize John Edward Barber. John was born to Nancy and Robert Barber on December 3, 1972 in Winter Garden, Florida. John graduated from West Orange High School in 1991 after spending a year in Germany on a Congress-Bundestag Scholarship through AFS.

John then went on to study Political Science and Women's Studies at the University of South Florida, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1995. While in college, John and Sam Singhaus teamed up to perform as their drag characters, Tweeka Louise Weed and Miss Sammy, doing shows in Orlando and Tampa. John moved to Miami's South Beach, then to Atlanta, before moving back to Orlando to attend cosmetology school. He built a faithful following as a hair stylist, working most recently at Vamp Hair Salon in Orlando's Thornton Park neighborhood. He was voted Favorite Local Hair Stylist in Watermark magazine's 2008 "Wave Awards".

He started active in politics, using his Tweeka Weed persona as a political and social commentator on radio station 106.7 FM (WXXL) during the 2008 elections. He was also a volunteer during Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer's campaign and an active political fundraiser and supporter. John was also an advocate for HIV and AIDS awareness.

John was seldom without his sense of humor. He was a consummate entertainer wherever he was, whether it was talking to customers as he styled their hair or raising funds for a political candidate or charity.

John died Monday, Oct. 17, 2011, after a ten-month battle with cancer. He was just 38 years old.

John's legacy lives on in Orlando through The Barber Fund which he founded while undergoing intense cancer treatment. John touched many lives and will be remembered as someone who spent his time on Earth making our community a better and more beautiful place.

He is survived by his mother, Nancy Barber; his grandmother, Nancy Arnold; his sister, Nancy Barber; his sister and brother-in-law, Robin and Ron Branch, and their children, Ellie, Steve, and Bobby Branch; his aunt and uncle, Fran and Dan Arnold, Jr.; and his aunt, Carol Booth.

I am proud to honor the memory of John Edward Barber, during LGBT Pride Month.

CONGRATULATING VETERAN RON STOPPELMANN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate veteran Ron

Stoppelman and thank him for his service in the United States Army. Stoppelman has shown his strength not only in the military, but also in his daily life.

Ron Stoppelman, an artillery mechanic during the Vietnam War, was able to save countless lives when he controlled a fire that had begun after a propellant charge from an artillery round exploded and spread to an ammunition storage point. There was danger of the fire reaching other storage units which would have caused the detonation of ammunition as well as personal harm to staff at nearby facilities. At the risk of injury, he controlled the flames and prevented it from spreading further.

Due to his bravery, Stoppelman has been recognized for several honors. Some of his achievements include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, and the Soldier's Medal for Heroism in a Non-Combat Situation.

Ron Stoppelman has shown bravery and strength in many situations and I know those traits will continue to be with him in his future endeavors. I wish him all the best.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRADUATION OF AMERICAN STUDENTS FROM THE LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES IN CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer my personal congratulations to the 2014 graduating class of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. They have all traveled a long way to earn Medical Doctorates in Havana, Cuba.

These dedicated doctors overcame immense hurdles to complete their medical educations. They not only had to face six years away from home, but also had to pursue their education in Spanish after attending a 12-week intensive language program. They had to complete their studies cut off from their families and uncertain about their futures due to the draconian Cuban embargo that continues to threaten this excellent program.

After a visit to Cuba in 2000, I was proud to have helped initiate the scholarship program, along with the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am also proud to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to bring access to healthcare back to those who need it most.

The 2014 graduating class includes 20 students from the United States, bringing the total of young physicians to 104 who are either completing residencies or practicing medicine in underserved areas of the United States. These students should be recognized not only for the many challenges they had to overcome, but also for their dedication to service.

The Cuban government devoted scholarships, covering tuition, dormitory room and board, and textbooks, to students from the United States who are willing to commit to

serve in medically underserved communities. This expensive and humane gesture allows students, who might otherwise not have the resources to pursue medical degrees in the United States, to become doctors and to serve the uninsured and underinsured who too often fall through the cracks of our for-profit healthcare industry. It also reduces the concern that health care for all is not attainable because there are not enough doctors to meet the need.

It is my hope that what these doctors have achieved will not only bring desperately needed healthcare to the underserved, but will also serve as an example to the healthcare industry, the American people and the members of Congress, that healthcare is a basic human right, not a privilege.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute the graduates of the Latin American School of Medical Sciences. I look forward to seeing all that you accomplish and I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 44TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. TAOFI AND MASINAATO MAGALEI

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear sister and her loving husband on their 44th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei were married on June 27, 1970, and were later sealed in the Laie Hawaii Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for time and all eternity.

Taofi and Masinaatoa Magalei are the proud parents of four children—Michele, Taofi Jr., Kristal, and Nainoa. They are also blessed with six beautiful grandchildren—Sanaa Filiaga, Tyler Magalei, Ariana Magalei, Michele Magalei, Eternity Filiaga, and Tre Magalei—and they expect more grandchildren to come.

Mr. Taofi Magalei, Sr. is now retired after working for more than 40 years with combined service at Continental Airlines, BYU-Hawaii, and the Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie. Mrs. Masinaatoa Magalei is also now retired after working 23 years as a school teacher, counselor, and Vice Principal.

As they celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary, I wish my sister and her husband endless years of wedded bliss. I thank them for their love and support for all these years, and I convey my love to them and their family on this very special occasion. I pray that the Lord continues to bless them and their family forevermore.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BOBBY JUNKER

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional Navy

scientist and civil servant. Dr. Bobby Junker, a native of San Antonio, TX, died June 14, 2014 after a long illness. Dr. Junker came to the Washington, DC area in 1977 after accepting a position with the Office of Naval Research (ONR), where he remained for his entire 37 year career. At the time of his retirement in May 2014, he served as Department Head for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance for ONR.

Dr. Junker was a 1965 alum of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, as well as the University of Texas at Austin, where he received both his Master's degree (1967) and Doctorate in Chemistry (1969). Among the numerous awards Dr. Junker received over his distinguished career, he has been awarded the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award twice (1985 and 2011), the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive three times (1989, 1999 and 2008) and the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive once (2003). He was also a life member of the American Physical Society, Sigma Xi and Senior Executives Association. He is most remembered as a visionary and brilliant leader in the field of science and technology. The Chief of Naval Research described Dr. Junker as a national treasure, both a trusted advisor and a dedicated star in the information sciences community.

More important than this distinguished service and his career honors, he was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather to his family as well as a leader, advisor and true friend to many. Dr. Junker is survived by his wife Ginie Junker; children Evan Junker, Melissa Depew and Bryce Combs; stepchildren Daniel and Andy Katt; grandchildren Megan and Bryan Depew, Isabella Combs, and Riley and Holden Katt; and brother Eugene Junker.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dr. Junker's family, as well as our continuing gratitude to individuals such as Dr. Junker willing to dedicate their lives to honorable service and an exceptional career devoted to defending the nation. He is a critical reminder to us all of the importance of our civil service workforce. We should never forget that while the military defends us all, it is our civil servants who work, often unseen and unrecognized, to support and defend our military.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE, A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE HALL OF FAME THIRD BASEMEN BROOKS ROBINSON OF THE BALTIMORE ORIOLES

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Ms. Speaker, I submit the following poem by Albert Carey Caswell.

BROOKS ROBBING SOME, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND GLOVE

On fields of green,
there is but one position seen!
Where, there's such hell to pay!
Because, third base is such the place . . .

Where only those of courage play!
That hot corner,
where on any pitch you're a goner . . .
As lasers come screaming at you every day!
Where with each and every pitch,
this could be it. "D" Day!
Because it's just the place,
where instincts and quickness and speed
come into play!
Where, those faint of heart,
do not so wish to take stay!
And it takes a special man,
to command the courage to play!
With but only micro seconds to so react in
time,
to stay intact and steal the game away!
Who said that crime does not pay?
Because in Baseball,
for stealing big bucks you will get paid!
And that's something that Brooks has done
both night and day!
ROBBING SOME,
THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN HEART AND
GLOVE!
And with his glove and hi bat has done such
harm!
Proving to all,
that in Baseball crime really does pay!
For he has pulled off many more heists in
broad day light than Capone they say!
Yea, Brooks should be doing hard time . . .
for all those crimes of stealing hits so away!
For this is a story,
all about Arkansas glory . . .
But not of Presidential Glory or cheese-
burgers hey!
Because, long before there was Mr. President
Clinton, "Bill". . .
Brooks so owned that center stage!
Brooks Robbing Some,
The Man With The Golden HEART and
GLOVE
Who history has so made!
Because upon these fields of green . . .
no greater third baseman has so been seen!
With his soft hands and cannon arm to win
the day!
As he so took command on each and every
play!
When, charging the bunt . . .
he was always on the hunt for that put out
or double play!
With that bare hand grab,
as was his to have all in perfection's way!
An when all was so said and done,
his arm was so equipped with a golden
gun . . .
Of the caliber from which he could throw la-
sers from!
And Brooksy Babe could even throw out Su-
perman, this one!
Even impressing James Bond and making
Chuck say,
"go to war Miss Murphy" On each and every
day!
And with his reactions so all in time,
it was but a crime the way Brooks so stole
all those hits away!
Making it look so very easy" too WAY . . .
WAY". . . WAY!"!
And bringing them to their knee's each and
everyday!
Because no matter who the batter,
they'd all come back to the dugout in a lath-
er cursing his name they!
Brooks Robinson . . . the latter!
And this Man,
who in The Hall of Fame now so stands . . .
was also equipped with a bat of such power
to make em pay!
As it all so began on those fields of green,
a catch with Mom and Dad had they . . .
And then on that first opening day!
As that dream to play he so made!

As a child,
as he so wished the while!
To make it to The Big Leagues one day!
With that great Brooksy smile!
From Little Leagues to High School ball . . .
And some college calls and wants you to
play . . .
Until, that fateful draft day . . .
and now your out on your way!
To The Big Leagues, To The Pro's . . .
something that few of us will ever know!
Until, finally then you get that one golden
chance,
to so advance on your first opening day!
But, for most of us these dreams die hard
they say!
So surely now,
no one can so claim no doubt!
No greater Third Baseman has ever come our
way!
As Brooksy Babe made it to the "O"s!
For in all of those boys of summer,
no other man with such golden hands and
glove here . . .
and kind heart has so played!
With all his basic instincts,
history Brooks Robinson so made!
Like a vacuum cleaner,
to batters no one was any meaner stealing
all of those hits away!
And Oh that arm which did such harm,
that would even make Superman alarmed!
As "Aint the beer cold" as Chuck would say!
And as a Batter he was just as Phatter . . .
Hitting tatters and for average as he gath-
ered everyday!
As he was Mr MVP,
during the season and The World Series . . .
as Brooksy Babe always took center stage!
For Mr. Clutch,
for Brooksy was of such a ballplayer . . .
yea!
As he made Earl Weaver a true believer,
and get down on his knees here and thank
God for Brooks and pray!
Here's to you Mr. Robinson,
and what to Baltimore you so gave!
And Oh that dynamic duo,
that other Robinson who so who "O",
who were like Batman and Robin all the
rage!
And Brooks, in baseball you stood at the
very top,
as "O" miles apart from all the others . . .
yup!
But the greatest thing about you Brooks,
is your heart of kindness for others would
not stop!!
For you always so find the time,
to us all so remind of your greatest part!
And that kindness in the game of life,
is where it all so starts, is but surely the
greatest play in any ball park!
Yea number 5, in the game of baseball . . .
you will forever stay alive until the end of
days!
For you were The Very Best,
and nothing less they will say!
As you so showed us all The Oriole Way,
all in your time!
"Yea Brooks like a vacuum cleaner you
sucked all of those balls up for outs
each day!
And you were such a thief beyond belief in
every way!
Who but on fields of green,
robbing some on each and every day!!
Now here's to you Mr. Robinson,
and what to this game of Baseball and Balti-
more you so gave!
And that's why in The Hall of Fame as The
Greatest whose ever played!

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPITOL PO-
LICE OFFICER SHAFTON T.
ADAMS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great friend and out-standing public servant, Officer Shafton T. Adams, of the United States Capitol Police, for his distinguished service to Congress and the United States of America. On June 30, 2014, Officer Adams will be retiring from the U.S. Capitol Police after thirty outstanding years of service.

Officer Adams, a Washington, D.C. native, attended Southeastern University and the Uni-versity of the District of Columbia. He began his duty assignments as a Capitol Police Of-ficer in 1984. Throughout his career, he re-ceived numerous honors, including a Certifi-cate of Merit and a Life Saving Award. He has earned certifications in advanced specialized fields including Hostage Negotiations, Fire-arms Instructor and Armorer, Hazardous Mate-rials Technician, CPR Instructor and Field Training Officer.

In 2004, Officer Adams began working as a Physical Security Specialist. In this capacity, he researched, maintained and educated staff on all facets of physical security and equip-ment. He created vulnerability assessment re-ports for Members of Congress and rec-ommended risk mitigation. In doing so, he en-sured the physical security needs of Members of Congress. His position required him to maintain a Top Secret SSBI Clearance.

The mission of the U.S. Capitol Police is to "protect the Congress, its legislative pro-cesses, Members, employees, visitors, and fa-cilities from crime, disruption, or terrorism." Because of the selflessness and dedication of Officer Adams and the Capitol Police, Mem-bers of Congress are able to have peace of mind while fulfilling our constitutional respon-sibilities. We owe so much to the officers of this special force who devote their lives to pro-protecting those who make the laws of our great nation as well as those who work in and visit the magnificent halls and grounds of our Cap-itol.

Officer Adams's service to his country is but a small testament of the high caliber of char-acter that he embodies. He is passionate, dedicated and highly efficient and adheres to the highest standards of moral values. Officer Adams regards his mission on Earth as being a provider and protector—two roles I have wit-nessed him perform admirably throughout his professional and personal life.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Of-ficer Adams not only for his distinguished service, but also for his friendship and guid-ance. It gave me great peace of mind to know that I could call on Officer Adams, day or night, in Washington or at home in Georgia, and he would go to great lengths to assist me in whatever I needed.

Officer Adams has certainly excelled in all areas of his life, but none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife and his family.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Officer Shafon T. Adams upon the occasion of his retirement from a stellar career of thirty years with the United States Capitol Police.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I have introduced legislation to reestablish the public holiday for George Washington's Birthday from the third Monday of February to the actual date of Washington's birth on February 22. I have long admired President Washington and have found inspiration in public service from studying his life. Few know that his first political office was representing Winchester, Virginia, in the Virginia House of Burgesses. I am proud to say Winchester is in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Earlier this month I spoke to the third grade classes at Waterford Elementary School in Loudoun County. When I brought my effort to move the holiday back to President Washington's actual birthday the children cheered. Then their teachers asked what their students could do help get the legislation passed.

I want to enter into the RECORD a resolution drafted and signed by all the students in the class that says that George Washington's Birthday should be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday in February each year. The complete resolution reads:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN WOLF'S BILL TO MAKE FEBRUARY 22 THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

We are gathered today in third grade at Waterford Elementary School, in historic Waterford within the County of Loudoun, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, to affirm Congressman Wolf's proposed bill to honor George Washington, and

We have learned of Congressman Wolf's initiative to celebrate the significance of President Washington's birth to the birth of our nation, honoring his unparalleled role in American History; instilling in the American people a deeper desire to learn more about this great man:

Whereas, as General and Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, Washington led the Patriots to victory in the Revolutionary War. Absent this, the United States may have never been born, and

Whereas, following his dreams of a free and democratic country, Washington refused to become a king and refused to serve more than two terms as president. He pioneered the qualities of our government that helped to establish clear roles of its leaders by establishing a system of checks and balances, and

Whereas, Washington's efforts and actions led to the design and construction of our capital city. Washington, himself, laid the cornerstone of our U.S. Capitol, and

Whereas, our first and one of the greatest presidents, was president of the Continental Congress, a key author of the Constitution, and an instrumental force in uniting the thirteen colonies, and

Whereas, Washington was the ONLY president unanimously nominated for that office by the electoral college for both his first and second terms, and

Whereas, Washington, a man of incredible vision, freed his own slaves in his will, foreshadowing an identical outcome nation-wide on September 22, 1862, and

Whereas, George Washington, the father of country, is admired and honored by all who know the significance of his contributions.

Now, therefore, be it resolved to pass H.R. 681: to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Washington's Birthday be observed on February 22, rather than the third Monday of February of each year.

Be it further resolved to tell Congressman Wolf how much his inspiration, wisdom, determination, and unfailing support for honoring George Washington means to us; and how grateful we are or his service.

Respectfully Submitted: Riley E. White, Paige E. Wenham, Clay Ash, Kierstin G. Culp, Reggie Norton, Matt Chmielewski, Jackson Allgood, Aiden Akers, Kevin Beach, Ava Fahrner, Luke Jenkins, Connor Thurston, Joseph T. Ravese, Barrett Ralston, Haley Oliver, Maxwell Twyford, Ava Mumaw, Charlotte Fiorentino, Emma Vest, Lily Kelly, Cole Gormont, Claire Thurston, Ian T. Watson, Susan H. Verdin Teacher, Stephanie R. Wang, Wynn Drenning, Blake Earles, Luke Malonis, Henry E. Dinger, Cash Croft, Grace Gavilinski, Madeline Shea, Collin Price, Anthony Alfaro, Corey Schaeffer, and Evelyn B. Hale Teacher.

The third graders at Waterford Elementary aren't alone in their support of H.R. 681. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winning history author David McCullough, Washington historian Ron Chernow, historians Peter Henriques and Richard Bookhiser and scholar and history professor Gordon Wood also support the bill, as does George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. On June 2, 2014, I received the following letter from Curt Viebranz, the president of Mount Vernon:

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for introducing H.R. 681 to restore the nation's official observance of George Washington's Birthday on February 22, the actual date of his birth 282 years ago. We at Mount Vernon enthusiastically support this important legislative effort!

As you are well aware, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was created to save George Washington's home from potential ruin and maintain this priceless landmark for the good of the American people. We have worked tirelessly for more than 150 years to keep Washington's extraordinary legacy alive, and we accomplish this solely through private donations—we do not accept any government funds. Just last year, we opened the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington which offers a remarkable new platform to expand our scholarship and educational outreach for visitors both on the estate and online. We strongly believe that a true patriotic celebration of Washington's birthday would help return George Washington to a place of prominence in our national consciousness—a goal for which we have been striving for many years.

Today several states, the media, advertisers, and the general public have abandoned recognition of Washington's birthday and replaced it with a commercial "shopping holiday" that leaves American history, heroes, and patriotism by the side of the road. The holiday was far more meaningful when it revolved around George Washington and schools and families focused on Washington's sterling example of character and leadership.

Americans should learn from example and celebrate and appreciate our heroes. Our Founding Fathers and subsequent leaders were surely clear on this point. President John F. Kennedy stated, "History is the means by which a nation establishes its sense of identity and purpose." President Harry Truman emphasized this point as well when he said, "The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know."

Restoring the official celebration of Washington's birthday would be a great place to start. We look forward to the day when, once again, February 22 is marked by patriotic festivities and lessons about George Washington which can teach and inspire American leaders of today and tomorrow.

As our nation's foremost founding father, Washington is relevant to each new generation because his prominent character traits—undaunted courage, unabashed patriotism, reasoned judgment, a profound sense of civic responsibility, and a deep, selfless commitment to country—never go out of style. Educating the children of America about the life and leadership of George Washington is an important investment in the future of our nation.

Your efforts are particularly important because as noted author and keynote speaker at our Library's opening ceremonies David McCullough has said many times, we are "raising a generation of historically illiterate children." Surveys and focus groups validate this problem and show that most Americans recognize the face of Washington on their dollar bills, but they don't know much about him. This is a real cause for concern about the future of our nation. It is our duty and privilege to teach today's young people about George Washington's leadership with the hope that they will follow in his footsteps. Enactment of your legislation would go a long way toward emphasizing the importance of remembering the Father of Our Country.

We are inspired in countless ways by George Washington's example as the indispensable man. He served as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army through the eight long years of the War of Independence. The people then showed their overwhelming support for him as he was unanimously elected as president of the Constitutional Convention and to two terms as our new nation's first president. As you know, the unanimous election of a President of the United States has never occurred since.

A true celebration of Washington's birthday would encourage Americans to reflect on the distinguishing qualities of his leadership. For example, Washington was willing to sacrifice the life he loved at Mount Vernon time and time again when he was called to serve his country. Perhaps more than anyone in American history, he understood and valued patriotic duty.

Another admirable trait was his willingness to give up power. In a time when great leaders were marked by their ability to gain and keep as much power as possible, George Washington willingly stepped down as the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army as well as after his second term as president. He could have been elected again and again, but his peaceful transition of power demonstrated that democracy really worked and established a new definition of power. He truly believed in the concept of liberty where the power rested with the people. What an important lesson even for the leaders of today!

The celebration of George Washington's Birthday on February 22 will help return the

Father of Our Country to his position as "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen," as Light-Horse Harry Lee said so many years ago. George Washington's sterling example of character and leadership provides the opportunity to refresh and inspire our country as we face formidable challenges both at home and abroad.

Thank you again for your efforts in introducing H.R. 681. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association stands behind you in this patriotic pursuit.

Sincerely,

CURTIS G. VIEBRANZ,
President.

My legislation is not without precedent. In 1975, Congress amended the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and President Gerald R. Ford signed legislation into law returning the annual observance of Veterans Day from the fourth Monday in November to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day as a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

There is a reason the birthday of President George Washington is the only legal federal holiday observed for a President of the United States. He is called the "father of our country" because he is without compare in our nation's history. Washington's Birthday has been celebrated since the final days of the Revolutionary War. French and American troops paraded through Newport, Rhode Island, in 1781 and celebrations were held in Richmond, Virginia, in 1782. Organized by French General Rochambeau and others who knew him personally, these celebrations drew special attention to the bravery, courage, leadership and perseverance of the Revolutionary War hero. From the beginning of our country, the importance of this day has been recognized. As President James Buchanan said in 1860, "... when the birthday of Washington shall be forgotten, liberty will have perished from the earth." In response, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed legislation in 1879 that made Washington's Birthday a holiday for District federal workers. The holiday was extended to all federal workers in 1885.

Sadly, the celebration of President Washington's unparalleled role in American history has been lost and I believe Congress has unwittingly contributed to this lack of historical understanding by relegating Washington's birthday to the third Monday in February to take advantage of a three-day weekend. It is time to change the focus of the holiday from celebrating sales at the mall to celebrating the significance of President Washington's birth and the birth of our nation. I urge the House to take up this bill and pass it.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DEMETRIS A. SAMPSON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. DeMetris Sampson as she retires after 25 years of illustrious service from the Dallas-based law firm, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. Ms. Sampson was the first African-American woman named as partner at the firm, and she epitomizes the characteristics of a true servant-leader. It is often said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others. I dare to say that DeMetris has found herself twice over.

DeMetris Sampson has provided outstanding community service throughout the City of Dallas. She has displayed a constant commitment to serving those whose life she has impacted through varied activities—from serving as president of the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys. She has been involved extensively with programs, such as Emerging Young Leaders and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

DeMetris Sampson is not only a leader; she is a person of incredible intellect who possesses the ability to build alliances with people and groups from diverse backgrounds and varying interests. She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Trinity Chapter of Links, Inc. No matter the organization or affiliation, integrity has always been the central element of Ms. Sampson's work. She can always be counted on to do what is right. She is a champion of justice and offers a resounding voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ms. Sampson has received numerous awards for her dedicated service, including the 2012 Legacy of Service Foundation Award.

Mr. Speaker, I can say with great pride that the City of Dallas is a better place because of the dedicated and selfless service of DeMetris A. Sampson. Her unprecedented community involvement will impact the City of Dallas for years to come. I want to extend a personal thank you, and a thank you on behalf of the wonderful people of the great City of Dallas. Thank you DeMetris for your outstanding example. As you retire, you deserve to reflect upon your career with great pride in a job well done. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Sampson for her outstanding professional achievement and dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES PITTS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Pitts, who

passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2014. As one of the key researchers in understanding the dangers and repercussions of air pollution, his contribution to the state of California, and the world, will not be forgotten. James will be truly missed, as a dynamic and passionate advocate, educator, mentor and friend.

Six months after James was born in Salt Lake City on January 10, 1921 to Ester and James N. Pitts, the family moved to Los Angeles. It was not until James' studies in high school at Manual Arts High School that he found his passion for chemistry. He took this enthusiasm for science to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he graduated with a bachelor's in chemistry in 1945 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1949. Following his graduation, James' passion for teaching began to take shape. In 1954, James began as a founding professor at the University of California, Riverside, focusing his research on fundamental photochemistry. James led the efforts to establish the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at the University of California, Riverside and served successfully as its director for eighteen years.

James began his air pollution research in the 1950s during a time when the nature and dangers of smog were still unknown. Through James' findings, he was able to influence groundbreaking Southern California air policy and clean air regulations that drastically improved the state's environmental health, and the health of California residents. The research carried out by his team provided much of the scientific basis of California's forward-thinking policies and regulations which have been widely adopted both nationally and internationally. Throughout his tenure, James also managed to find time to co-author nearly four hundred scientific works, and became such an authority in the scientific world that he was constantly visited by scientists, politicians and international leaders from around the globe. His extensive work in this field earned him numerous accolades from the United States Congress, the California State Assembly, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the State Air Resources Board, and the Coalition for Clean Air.

James Pitts was an energetic advocate who made a true difference in the state of California and through his efforts, he ultimately impacted the world for the better. As an educator at both University of California, Riverside and University of California, Irvine, his enthusiasm for chemistry was contagious. James instilled many of his students with an unrelenting desire to improve the environment and prepared these future generations of scientists to better the world for many years to come.

James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community, and love of family. James will also be remembered for his love of the outdoors. James took advantage of everything the environment had to offer, which was clearly reflected in his life's work. James is survived by his second wife, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts and his three daughters from a previous marriage, Linda Lee, Christie Hoffman, and Beckie St. George as well as his former wife, Nancy, six grandchildren and their families. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the

light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. The bill would make a minor change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would give the D.C. Courts and PDS authority to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts to their employees. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to their future administrative and budget needs. The sequester and other budgetary pressures are a factor in the need to offer employees who are eligible for retirement the incentive to retire. The D.C. Courts and PDS would like the flexibility to extend

such offers to their employees. In particular, many of the jobs that the D.C. Courts are trying to fill require specialized skill sets and buyout authority would help to make the administration and operations of the court more effective and efficient.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has held that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. While federal agencies and federal courts have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, PDS and the D.C. Courts have not been expressly permitted to provide these types of payments to their employees. PDS and the D.C. Courts seek the same buyout authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

MARYLAND 6TH DISTRICT COUNTY
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor the following Teachers for being named Teacher of the Year in their counties, each of which is in Maryland's Sixth District:

Mrs. Dana Reinhardt: Teacher of the Year Allegany County Public Schools, 3rd Grade, George's Creek Elementary School.

Ms. Erin Doolittle: Teacher of the Year Frederick County Public Schools, Pre-K, Hillcrest Elementary School.

Mr. Ryan Wolf: Teacher of the Year Garrett County Public Schools, Math, Southern Garrett High School.

Mrs. Jane Lindsay: Teacher of the Year Montgomery County Public Schools, 8th Grade Reading and English, John Poole Middle School.

Mrs. Courtney Leard: Teacher of the Year Washington County Public Schools, 2nd Grade, Fountaindale Elementary School.

There are few callings more important to society than teaching, and these teachers have shown extraordinary skill, commitment, and ingenuity in the classroom. Dana Reinhardt, Erin Doolittle, Ryan Wolf, Jane Lindsay, and Courtney Leard have made a difference for their students and made their communities stronger. Their example is a reminder of the great work done by teachers across Maryland and around the country. Every child in America deserves teachers like this and schools that position them to succeed as adults.

It was my sincere honor to meet with them in the U.S. Capitol and hear their perspective on the major issues in education today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these Teachers of the Year for their tremendous achievement.

SENATE—Monday, June 30, 2014

The Senate met at 12:00 and 2 seconds p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 30, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEVIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
JULY 3, 2014**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, 2014.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:00 and 30 seconds p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, June 30, 2014

The House met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 30, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS STEWART to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this moment of prayer, grant to the Members of this people's House, as they meet with their respective constituents, the gifts of wisdom and discernment that, in their words and actions, they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

Please keep all who work here for the people's House in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibilities given them in their service to the work of the Capitol.

And during this week, when so many Americans come to our Nation's Capitol to celebrate the 4th of July, may they be blessed with good health and good will as we all celebrate the glorious experiment of participative democracy.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 641, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HOUSE BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles:

January 15, 2014:

H.J. Res 106. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

January 16, 2014:

H.R. 667. An Act to redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.

January 17, 2014:

H.R. 3547. An Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

January 24, 2014:

H.R. 3527. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.

February 7, 2014:

H.R. 2642. An Act to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.

February 12, 2014:

H.R. 2860. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management may use amounts in the revolving fund of the Office to fund audits, investigations, and oversight activities, and for other purposes.

March 6, 2014:

H.R. 2431. An Act to reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.

March 21, 2014:

H.R. 2650. An Act to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

H.R. 3370. An Act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An Act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

March 25, 2014:

H.R. 3771. An Act to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

April 1, 2014:

H.R. 4302. An Act to amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

April 3, 2019:

H.R. 2019. An Act to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year

pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

April 7, 2014:

H.R. 4275. An Act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

May 16, 2014:

H.R. 4120. An Act to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

H.R. 4192. An Act to amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

May 20, 2014:

H.R. 3627. An Act to require the Attorney General to report on State law penalties for certain child abusers, and for other purposes.

May 23, 2014:

H.R. 685. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

H.R. 1209. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the 'Doolittle Tokyo Raiders', for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

May 24, 2014:

H.R. 862. An Act to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.

June 9, 2014:

H.R. 724. An Act to amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.

H.R. 1036. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".

H.R. 1228. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".

H.R. 1451. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".

H.R. 2391. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".

H.R. 2939. An Act to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

H.R. 3060. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Burleson, Texas, as the “Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3658. An Act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

H.R. 4032. An Act to exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4488. An Act to make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.

June 10, 2014:

H.R. 1726. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

H.R. 3080. An Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles:

January 16, 2014:

S. 1614. An Act to require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes.

January 24, 2014:

S. 230. An Act to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

February 12, 2014:

S. 1901. An Act to authorize the President to extend the term of the nuclear energy agreement with the Republic of Korea until March 19, 2016.

February 15, 2014:

S. 25. An Act to ensure that the reduced annual cost-of-living adjustment to the retired pay of members and former members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62 required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 will not apply to members or former members who first became members prior to January 1, 2014, and for other purposes.

S. 540. An Act to temporarily extend the public debt limit, and for other purposes.

February 21, 2014:

S.J. Res. 28. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 29. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

March 13, 2014:

S. 23. An Act to designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.

March 21, 2014:

S.J. Res. 32. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter

as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

April 3, 2014:

S. 2183. An Act entitled “United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions”.

April 7, 2014:

S. 1557. An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children’s hospitals.

April 15, 2014:

S. 404. An Act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

April 18, 2014:

S. 2195. An Act to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

May 9, 2014:

S. 994. An Act to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

May 30, 2014:

S. 309. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

June 9, 2014:

S. 611. An Act to make a technical amendment to the T’uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to Section 3(b) of House Resolution 641, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, 2014.

Thereupon (at 11 o’clock and 32 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, July 3, 2014, at 12:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

6205. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Fiscal Year 2015 Budget amendments to fund Overseas Contingency Operations; (H. Doc. No. 113-126); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6206. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding a study of security measures on United States military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6207. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the twenty-fourth annual report on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6208. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report to Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF) for Fiscal Years 2005 through 2013, pursuant to Section 803A(g)(1) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974, as amended; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6209. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year (FY) 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a Report on Proposed Obligations for Cooperative Threat Reduction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6211. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-005, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6212. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-053, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6213. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-059, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6214. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zabloci Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6215. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of further measures in response to the situation in Iraq; (H. Doc. No. 113-127); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

6216. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-365, “Air Quality Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6217. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-367, “Workers’ Compensation Statute of Limitations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6218. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-366, “Southwest Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2014”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6219. A letter from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6220. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting a management advisory report on the House’s transition to PeopleSoft 9.1 Project; to the Committee on House Administration.

6221. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting an audit of Office of House Security Report No. 14-SAA-13; to the Committee on House Administration.

6222. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief Counsel, Regulations and Security Standards, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Adjustment of Passenger Civil Aviation Security Service Fee [Docket No.: TSA-2001-11120; Amendment No. 1510-4] (RIN: 1652-

AA68) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6223. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report on the Fiscal Year 2009 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in accordance with section 2610 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981, as amended; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

6224. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation [CMS-9952-F2] (RIN: 0938-AR77) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

6225. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter addressing the humanitarian situation in the Rio Grande Valley areas of our Nation's Southwest Border; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 641, the following report was filed on June 27, 2014]

Ms. GRANGER: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5013. A bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-499). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted June 30, 2014]

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2175. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day; with an amendment (Rept. 113-500). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2208. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017; with an amendment (Rept. 113-501). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2569. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Missisquoi River and the Trout River in the State of Vermont, as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; with an amendment (Rept. 113-502). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3687. A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to provide that if the head of the agency managing Federal property objects to the inclusion of certain property on the National Register or its designation as a National His-

toric Landmark for reasons of national security, the Federal property shall be neither included nor designated until the objection is withdrawn, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-503). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3802. A bill to extend the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113-504). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4017. A bill to designate a peak located in Nevada as "Mount Reagan" (Rept. 113-505). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4458. A bill to make permanent the withdrawal and reservation of public land previously withdrawn and reserved to support the operations of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California, and to provide for the withdrawal and reservation of additional public land, with an amendment (Rept. 113-506). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4193. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-507). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER):

H.R. 5014. A bill to suspend foreign assistance to certain countries related to unlawful migration; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 5015. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that grants awarded pursuant to part Q of title I of that Act may be used to hire veterans and other individuals as employees of law enforcement agencies for positions that do not require sworn authority; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. GRANGER:

H.R. 5013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which

states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 5014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1 Section 1 and Article 1 Section 9.

"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 5015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.

Article. I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 421: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 494: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 543: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 958: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 988: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1020: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 1186: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1201: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1428: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1893: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2543: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 3303: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3377: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 3382: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3400: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 3424: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3471: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 3510: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3566: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3708: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3775: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3851: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 3923: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3933: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3992: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4109: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4136: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 4143: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4227: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

- H.R. 4272: Mrs. LUMMIS and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4325: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4365: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4440: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4536: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4567: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 4590: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4651: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARTON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4659: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4679: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 4699: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 4759: Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 4781: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 4811: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4836: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 4863: Mr. PETERSON and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 4864: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4871: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4889: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4906: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4920: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 4930: Mr. FARR, Mr. HALL, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 4960: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 4967: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 4979: Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 5005: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 30: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 109: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H. Res. 588: Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 644: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. TURNER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. COLE, and Mr. SCHOCK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
GRAYCE UYEHARA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Grayce Uyehara who was instrumental in securing redress for the Japanese Americans incarcerated during the Second World War.

Born Grayce Kaneda on July 4, 1919, in Stockton, California, Uyehara and her family were incarcerated at the Stockton Assembly Center and the Rohwer Relocation Center. A leader in the Japanese American community, Uyehara served in leadership positions at all levels of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), including as president of the Philadelphia chapter and governor of the Eastern District Council, in addition to service on national JACL committees.

In 1985, Uyehara was appointed as the executive of the JACL Legislative Education Committee, which was established to advocate for the final phases of the redress campaign. Uyehara was a catalyzing force in organizing participation of the community across the nation. During the push for final passage of the Civil Liberties Act, Uyehara mobilized a grassroots campaign through her Action Alerts and inundated the White House with letters of support. The Japanese American community celebrated on August 10, 1988, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law, which formally apologized for the violations of the civil liberties and constitutional rights of Japanese Americans and issued monetary reparations.

Uyehara's spirit, activism, and drive served and continue to serve as a model of leadership for succeeding generations of Japanese Americans. I was honored to work with her on the passage of redress and I celebrate her many achievements.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE TANIMURA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, George Tanimura, on the occasion of his reaching his 100th year. George has lived a remarkable life that has spanned the Great Depression, WWII, and the rise of the modern information economy. In that time George confronted prejudice, helped to rebuild a dislocated community, nurtured a large extended family, and fostered the development of the modern produce industry. George is a farmer's farmer. As one of the

founders of the Tanimura & Antle, he has helped build one of the nation's largest private lettuce producers. So while you may have never heard of George Tanimura, I can guarantee that every Member of this House has eaten something that George and his family have grown. He has planted and nurtured a legacy that will produce a crop for generations to come.

George was born in San Juan Bautista on July 2, 1915. His parents had emigrated from Japan to build a better life in the United States. While attending grammar school in Castroville, George thinned iceberg lettuce on his father's small farm. After his mother died, George, the eldest of 12 siblings, had to leave high school to farm with his father. Then when George was just 16, his father died leaving George with the responsibility for the family and their farm. In the midst of the depression, George became the patriarch of his large family. Under his leadership, the Tanimura children began their own prosperous farming operations.

However, just as they were recovering, the U.S. entry into WWII turned the Tanimuras' lives upside down. In 1942, they found themselves imprisoned by our government along with other Americans of Japanese descent in remote internment camps across the desert West. And even though the Tanimuras lost everything, two of his brothers fought with the U.S. Army in Europe. For George, his time in the camp offered him another opportunity to find fortune in the midst of adversity. He met Masaye Yamauchi and they were married on September 21, 1944. Upon release, the Tanimura family farmed small patches of land, saved the profits, and ultimately purchased their first acre of land. This simple formula began the Tanimuras trek toward the American Dream.

In the late 1950s, the Tanimuras began to grow exclusively for Bud Antle. Bud, and his son Bob, had been working closely with the Tanimura family for many years. Finally in 1982, George and Bob combined over 30 years of mutual friendship, respect, and experience to create Tanimura & Antle. The new company combined the Antle's shipping and marketing savvy with the Tanimura's growing expertise. That combination has helped T&A grow into one of the world's premier fresh produce companies. And it forms the basis of T&A's continued success.

Family and community are very important to George. George and Masaye have two children, Glenn (Sheila) Tanimura and Leslie (Ken) Morishita. They also have 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. George has served countless community efforts giving his leadership, dedication, and wealth to making his region a better place for all families. But his deep sense of humility keeps him from claiming any recognition other than his simple refrain of "it doesn't matter, I'm just a farmer."

That, Mr. Speaker, is the essence of George Tanimura—a humble farmer whose

hard work and integrity have helped create one of the pillars of the American agricultural economy. George and the men and women like him are the bedrock of our nation. I know I speak for the whole House in extending the gratitude of the United States to George and his family for 100 years of excellence.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the enactment of the G.I. Bill.

Seventy years ago this past Sunday, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the bill that transformed American economic and social life and changed forever the way we live and work.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the "G.I. Bill," opened the doors of higher education to millions of the veterans who risked their lives to save the world for freedom in World War II.

Before World War II, college and homeownership were, for most Americans, an impossible dream. Because of the G.I. Bill, millions who would have flooded the job market instead opted for education.

In the peak year of 1947, veterans accounted for 49 percent of college admissions and by the time the original G.I. Bill ended on July 25, 1956, 7.8 million of 16 million World War II Veterans had participated in an education or training program.

Millions also took advantage of the G.I. Bill's home loan guaranty and from 1944 to 1952, the federal government backed nearly 2.4 million home loans for World War II Veterans, which was then the largest expansion in home ownership in American history.

Upon signing the G.I. Bill on June 22, 1944, two weeks and two days after D-Day, President Roosevelt stated:

This bill gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.

* * *

For they have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems.

The lawmakers that passed the G.I. Bill had no idea the remarkable effect this bill would have in establishing a thriving middle class America. The legislation that they passed provided opportunity for individuals to succeed. It was an investment in our people and many Americans took that opportunity and thrived.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The lesson in this is if you give average Americans an opportunity to succeed, then they will take advantage and do extraordinary things.

HONORING PRESIDENT AND CEO
OF CONFERENCE OF MINORITY
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS,
JULIE CUNNINGHAM

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of the President and CEO of Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), Julie Cunningham.

Ms. Cunningham served on President-Elect Barack Obama's Transition Team at the U.S. Department of Transportation and provided expert testimony before the U.S. Congress, including the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Senate Democratic Caucus.

I have been working with COMTO and Julie Cunningham for many years, and was so pleased to host the COMTO conference in my home town of Jacksonville last year. She was a powerful force in the transportation industry and brought together all the minority voices in transportation to speak as one to ensure that people of color were working in and receiving contracts in the field of transportation.

Ms. Cunningham was nationally known for her talent in building healthy, effective partnerships across diverse government and corporate cultures as well as for her strong advocacy for a level playing field and maximum employment and contract participation for minorities, women, and economically disadvantaged persons. Under her direction, COMTO became a recognized resource as a result of the organization's advocacy relative to workforce diversity and inclusion, and participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses (minority, women and veteran owned businesses) in the transportation industry. COMTO was awarded the 2005 Disadvantaged Business Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Prior to joining COMTO, she held positions in the energy and construction industries. She was previously employed as a Senior Consultant at a Nuclear Power Plant and was credited for developing critical strategic and internal communication plans for a struggling power plant. She led the plant's senior management team in implementing programs to improve employee morale and to win the stakeholder community as ambassadors of nuclear power. She is also known for her ability to implement grassroots programs, and facilitate work process improvements for nuclear power plants.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Ms. Cunningham was a member of many boards of directors, including the Mineta Transportation Institute, the Eno Foundation and the National Transit Institute Advisory Council. She was also a member of the American Society of Association Executives, and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Cunningham graduated from Hiram College

with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughter, Karissa Cunningham of Clarksville, TN; parents, James and Louise Smith of Painesville, OH; siblings, Cathy (Safdar) Hussain of Jacksonville, FL, Elisa (Paul) Sanchez of Painesville, OH, and Jeffery Smith of Painesville, OH; grandmother, Minnie Banks of Painesville, OH; niece Tiffany Smith of Cleveland, OH; nephew, Blake Smith of Coshocton, OH; great nephew, James Gadowski of Painesville, OH, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and lifelong friends throughout the nation.

My prayers go to Julie's daughter and her family, and to the many members of COMTO. I am thankful for her life and many accomplishments.

TEXAN COL. RUDDER'S BOYS OF
POINTE-DU-HOC

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was raining as the English Channel churned and tossed the Americans in the landing craft. The sun was coming up over the horizon, but no one could see it through the gray clouds. Thousands of teenage liberators stared into the distance to see the high cliffs of Normandy, France. It was D-Day, June 6, 1944—70 years ago.

Expecting to land on Omaha Beach at 6:30 a.m. ahead of other Allied Forces, Texan Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder led the United States Army Rangers' 2nd Ranger Battalion into what seemed like an impossible feat.

As the treacherous weather conjured crashing waves five to six feet tall, a shifting wind tossed the Rangers off course. The mist, clouds and smoke obscured the navigation, making it hard to locate Pointe-du-Hoc from a mile out at sea. Their landing was delayed by forty minutes. Already, the mission seemed doomed. This navigational error meant two things: They would have to sail parallel to the coast facing intense enemy fire. It gave the enemy time to recover and prepare for the next assault.

For almost half an hour, the Rangers rode along the coast as bullets were flying all around them. Some Rangers were hit by enemy fire. But bleeding or not, still they pushed forward.

They battled the wind as the pelting rain blurred their vision and soaked their climbing equipment. They were exhausted and tense. The landing crafts that brought the GIs to shore were beginning to take on water, presenting yet another obstacle for Rudder's Rangers. Water began to leak in through the front ramp of the landing crafts, so the Rangers ripped up the floorboards and used their helmets to bail out the alarming amount of water rushing in all while the Nazis fired down at them atop the cliffs.

One of the landing crafts sunk from the weather and enemy fire. The brutal conditions of the sea caused others in the landing crafts to become violently seasick. Finally, the Rang-

ers reached the eastern side of the Pointe, their new designated landing spot. It was now 7:10 a.m. The battle had just begun, and the odds were stacking up against Rudder's success.

The Rangers were miserable, cold, wet and seasick; some bleeding from injury but none wavered. Their mission: to conquer the cliffs at Pointe-du-Hoc and find the big German guns. The guns could reap havoc on later landings.

No longer was the weather their only enemy. As the first shoe print was made in the wet sand of Normandy, the Rangers came under brutal fire from atop the cliffs as the enemy chunked grenades down at them. The men had to resist the urge to take out the machine guns because the primary mission was to climb. Fifteen men were already lost in the crossing of the beach. Divided into three units, Lt. Col. Rudder prepared to lead the Provisional Rangers, task force A of 250 men up the cliffs. They moved quickly with precision and expertise. They shifted through the chaos that ensued around them all while operating soaking wet equipment. (The ropes attached to the grappling hooks were heavy with water and thus could not reach the top of the cliffs when launched from a mortar.)

The Rangers used rope ladders, a few dry grappling hooks and steel ladders to scale the cliffs. Their machine guns were clogged with mud. Amidst enemy fire and malfunctioning equipment, the Rangers were flung back and forth climbing the wet ropes.

While some Rangers provided cover on the beach, amazingly, the first ones to the top, conquered the cliff in 10 minutes. They in turn provided covering fire for the ones still on the beach.

As soon as the Rangers pulled themselves over the cliff, snipers immediately fired. Fortunately, the heaving bombing the Americans had done to the island in the days beforehand had created large craters in earth. This allowed the Rangers to hide themselves from the enemy fire.

Within half an hour, the remaining task forces had made it up the tall cliffs. Rudder, bleeding from two gunshot wounds, never let his focus waver or his determination grow weary. He discovered quickly that the Germans had left wooden decoys in the gun casements. Exhausted, wounded and bewildered, Rudder kept pushing the Rangers inland. They had to find the big guns. Around 8:00 a.m. small patrols were sent south to locate the missing guns. By 9:00 a.m., their second goal completed. Now, they had to take them out.

The Rangers had located the missing guns 600 yards south of the Pointe. The Nazis had hidden the guns back from the beach to protect them from Allied air strikes and naval bombardment.

Rudders' Rangers took out the emplacements using thermite grenades and eliminated the enemy protecting them.

The mission though completed in spite of the horrific obstacles was not without cost. Rudder's Rangers had over 50 percent casualties. Some Rangers gave their lives that summer morning conquering the cliffs.

As American blood was shed on the French beaches and cliffs, General Rudder had secured the beachhead for later Allied Forces

coming ashore. This paved the way to eventual victory.

In the months leading up to the Normandy Invasion, Rudder's elite group of Army Rangers underwent rigorous training in preparation for the part that they would play for the invasion named Overlord at Normandy.

Colonel Rudder put his 2nd Ranger Battalion through hell in order to prepare them for their mission at Pointe du Hoc. He made them march in full gear for over 20 miles. He had them train in hand to hand combat, climb rope ladders without safety harnesses and endure difficult amphibious training.

The success that the Rangers had on D-Day was a direct result of Rudder's intense personal involvement with their training. The amount of effort and dedication he put forth into the training is why the troops were able to manage the chaos and complete their mission. Rudder made sure that every man was prepared to do the impossible.

James Earl Rudder was born in the small Texas town of Eden, about 45 miles southeast of San Angelo, in 1910. After graduating from high school, he played football for two years at Tarleton State. He then transferred to Texas A&M in 1930. He graduated in 1932 with a degree in education. After graduation he joined the U.S. Army Reserves as a second lieutenant.

In 1937, he married Margaret Williamson (who graduated from the University of Texas), and together they had five children. In 1941, he was doing what he loved, coaching football, when duty called.

These brave men who cracked the Nazi grip on Europe began with the liberation of France 70 years ago. From there, the Rangers went on to fight in the Battle of the Bulge and U.S. forces on to Germany. Nothing like it had ever been done before in history. Over 150,000 Allied soldiers hit the beaches during the assault landings on the 6th of June. By the 4th of July, over 1 million joined in the invasion force through Normandy. It was a miraculous feat for 1944.

Colonel Rudder received many military honors including the second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was a full Colonel by the end of the war and was promoted to Brigadier General of the U.S. Army Reserves in 1954 and Major General in 1957.

After the war, Rudder returned to Texas. He remained a highly successful and distinguished Texan until his death.

He served as Mayor of Brady for 6 years, visited the White House frequently—advising Lyndon Baines Johnson on many military issues and was hired to clean up the corruption going on in the General Land Office.

Col. Rudder became president of Texas A&M University in 1959 and president of the entire A&M system in 1965, holding both positions until his death in 1970.

The boys of D-Day came; they liberated; and some went home. Over 9,000 other GIs are buried at the top of the cliffs of Normandy, France. As we reflect on those Rangers on D-Day, 70 years ago, and the Texan who led them into battle, Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder, we once again marvel at the lives of those we call the Greatest Generation of Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KISHAN PATEL AND AJ KOLONDRAS FOR WINNING FIRST PLACE WITH THEIR WEBSITE AT THE 2014 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kishan Patel and AJ Kolondra for winning first place with their website entitled "Freedom Beach: A History of the Fort Lauderdale Beach Wade-Ins" in the 2014 National History Day Competition.

Kishan and AJ have exemplified a strong commitment to the important history of South Florida. This was clearly displayed through the remarkable website they created.

I lived through the years of segregation and experienced the wade-ins first hand. It is great to see how far we have come through the work that Kishan and AJ have put on display.

I had the pleasure of being interviewed by Kishan and AJ for their project, and am delighted to hear of their success in the competition. They were both able to come to Washington, D.C. as finalists, where they toured the White House and U.S. Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to recognize Kishan and AJ for what they have accomplished. Their hard work and dedication has paid off.

I wish them both much success in their future endeavors.

H.R. 1098, H.R. 1281, H.R. 4080, H.R. 3548, AND H.R. 4631

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for five public health bills before the House today.

H.R. 1098, the Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014, extends surveillance and research activities for traumatic brain injuries (or TBI), as well as other programs for TBI services and supports overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services. I represent the nation's largest Veterans Affairs health facility—the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. TBI is one of many complex health problems affecting the veteran community served by this facility. I am pleased that we were able to include a provision in the bill that calls on HHS and the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to report on their progress in coordinating TBI efforts for current and former members of the military. I also want to commend the sponsors of the legislation, Congressman PASCRELL and Congressman ROONEY, for their work on this issue.

H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014, extends newborn screening services and related activities for many conditions that are not otherwise apparent at birth and, if left untreated, can cause severe disability or even death. I want

to thank the sponsors of this legislation, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD and Congressman SIMPSON, as well as the sponsors of the Senate companion bill, Senators HAGAN and HATCH. The bill before the House today is the product of bipartisan and bicameral negotiations to assure House and Senate passage of this measure. I would also like to thank Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER for their leadership on this measure in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act, reauthorizes four grant programs that seek to improve access to trauma care services within states and in rural areas. Energy and Commerce Members, Congressmen BURGESS and GREEN, are to be commended for their sponsorship of this legislation and leadership on trauma care issues.

We are also considering another bill today related to trauma care: H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act. This legislation expands the current definition of trauma for the purposes of trauma care grants to include burns and other injuries resulting from electrical, chemical, or other exposures. Congressman JOHNSON should be commended for his work on this issue.

Finally, H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014, would extend autism spectrum disorder activities at the Department of Health and Human Services and ensure these efforts are better coordinated with activities across the federal government. The legislation before us reflects bipartisan and bicameral efforts to advance a bill that can pass both chambers well in advance of the September 30 sunset provisions that are in current law. I want to thank Congressmen SMITH and DOYLE, as well as Senators MENENDEZ and ENZI, who sponsored the Senate companion bill. And again, I would like to thank Senators HARKIN and ALEXANDER for their work on this issue in the HELP Committee.

All of these bills were worked out with Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. UPTON. I appreciate their cooperation and contributions, and I am pleased to support all five of these bipartisan measures and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the hard work of staff on both sides of the aisle, and to commend them for their work on these bills. I particularly want to recognize Anne Morris Reid, our lead public health staffer, who has moved on to a job in the Senate, but leaves the House with an impressive record of accomplishment.

HONORING ST. HELENA PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Helena Public Library as it has been awarded second place in the Library Journal's 2014 edition of their "Best Small Library in America" contest. This

award, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, recognizes libraries across our country that serve a population of less than 25,000 and yet, still offer outstanding and comprehensive services to the public. St. Helena Public Library is the first library in California to be honored with this award.

St. Helena Public Library has made a concerted effort in recent years to ensure that they are providing the services that our community needs most. In doing so, they have developed new programs and practices in order to better serve the older adult and Spanish-speaking populations in our St. Helena community. For example, St. Helena Public Library now offers classes on general computer skills and social media in addition to offering technical support for personal electronic devices. Furthermore, the library has increased their Spanish language materials and has developed a Spanish website, Facebook page and e-newsletter. In an effort to build connections between the Spanish and English speaking communities the library sponsored a salsa making contest, which was a smashing success. The library also demonstrates a steadfast commitment to fostering a love of reading in our children. I've seen first-hand with my granddaughter the library's outstanding programs for children and how they have worked successfully to enhance our children's ability and desire to read.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the St. Helena Public Library for all they do to provide our community with access to knowledge and information. On behalf of a grateful community, we honor and thank the St. Helena Public Library today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I incorrectly voted "no" on the motion to recommit for H.R. 4899 (rollcall vote 367). This was a mistake. I wanted to vote "yes" on the motion to recommit for H.R. 4899 and the record should reflect my intent.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR RICHARD WHITE, AMERICAN RED CROSS, SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard White, regional Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross, Southern Arizona Chapter upon his retirement after 14 years of service.

Richard came to the local chapter of the Red Cross in 2000 after nine years with the United Way of Tucson and immediately made an impact on the success of the entire organi-

zation. When the tragic events of September 11, 2001 happened in New York City, Richard provided his expertise in communications and emergency management. He also was instrumental in improving the financial standing of the local chapter of the Red Cross.

The local Red Cross chapter serves 23,000 square miles in five Arizona counties—Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham and Greenlee. It also serves three Native American reservations—Tohono O'odham, San Carlos Apache and Pascua Yaqui nations. The chapter responds to a local emergency nearly every 46 hours; serves more than 700 displaced people, most of them children, and their pets annually; trains more than 24,000 people annually in lifesaving skills; and assists nearly 1,000 refugees each year.

Under Richard's leadership, the local chapter also has successfully organized itself to be a significant resource for the many armed forces and veterans in my district and across Southern Arizona by providing crisis intervention, referral and direct assistance programs. Recently, the Veterans Administration awarded the Southern Arizona Chapter a \$1 million Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant to provide benefits to very low-income veteran families living in—or transitioning to—permanent housing. The range of services offered under the grant includes financial assistance on behalf of veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs, as well as other services in the community.

In 2010, when the Southern Arizona Chapter moved into its new offices, Richard took the initiative to go "green" by incorporating solar power and was the first American Red Cross chapter nationally to do so. They currently generate approximately 80 percent of their energy needs from a 40 KW solar array, saving approximately \$160,000 in operating costs annually.

We will miss Richard's commitment and dedication, but know he has helped form a Red Cross chapter that is ready and able to respond to any emergency or community need.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDRICK M.G. EVANS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loyal South Carolinian, Dr. Fredrick M.G. Evans, who has dedicated his career to public service in South Carolina.

In addition to his extensive career in education, he has served as a reserve law enforcement officer in Orangeburg County since 2008. Dr. Evans was recently awarded, on his 53rd birthday, the National Sheriffs' Association Certificate of Merit for his work with the Orangeburg County Police Department. During his time with the department, Dr. Evans has documented 5,500 hours of law enforcement duty ranging from direct patrol, to Reserve Investigator, and security detail.

Dr. Evans received his undergraduate degree from Clark Atlanta University and a Mas-

ters Degree from the University of South Carolina in secondary education. He continued his education and received an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota. Dr. Evans has been a positive and productive citizen of South Carolina for decades.

As a lifelong member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, a brotherhood that we share, Dr. Evans continues to work with students at South Carolina State University as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Evans was recognized in 2009 as the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputy of the Year, and in March 2011, he was promoted to Lieutenant of the Reserve Deputy Sheriffs.

National Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Aaron Kennard said about Dr. Evans, "we feel that his valuable contributions to his community and to the field of criminal justice and law enforcement should be commended."

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Fredrick M.G. Evans upon this receipt of his outstanding award from the National Sheriffs' Association and for his years of distinguished service at South Carolina State University. His dedicated commitment to his community and his profession is exemplary, and his contributions are incalculable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 368. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BENJAMIN GILMAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a dear friend and former Congressional colleague, the Honorable Benjamin Gilman.

Ben, ever a true statesman and gentleman, served as a mentor to me, especially during his time as Chairman of the House International Relations Committee. His tenure was marked by a supreme dedication to those in need: the hungry, the oppressed, and the neglected around the world.

Whether through his work in promoting microcredit and micro-enterprise programs, or his leadership investigating religious intolerance, Chairman Gilman served as a model for all of his colleagues. He used his voice and platform to speak for those the world could not hear.

A proud veteran of the Second World War, Chairman Gilman also focused on returning

prisoners of war to their homes, the plight of the working poor in countries whose economies were paralyzed by international drug trade, and so very many more.

To his former constituents in New York, he was known as "Gentle Ben," and fortunately for his former colleagues, Ben is, to this day, an active participant in our government.

I am grateful to Chairman Gilman for his great works, and for the inspiration he gave me years ago when he wielded the gavel of the International Relations Committee.

I am pleased to also recognize that Chairman Gilman is still being recognized to this day for his great contributions to our country. In fact, this past Sunday, June 29, Orange Hall of Orange County Community College held its Paintings for World-Harmony exhibit dedicated to Ben. This heartfelt event contained the renowned works of his longtime friend, Sri Chinmoy (Deceased—2007).

Ben, your portrait hangs in our Committee Hearing room, but truly, we need no such reminder of your tenure. Your work on behalf of all Americans in advancing freedom and justice is ongoing, and ever present in our minds.

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD H. BAKER, JR. "MAJORITY LEADER, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, AND THE 'GREAT CONCILIATOR' OF THE SENATE"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Howard Henry Baker, Jr., a great American, a man who personified civility and bipartisanship; one of the most passionate advocates for good governance, fiscal responsibility, and global security; a man who served his body with distinction in the Armed Services and the United States Senate. Senator Baker died at his home in Huntsville, Tennessee, today, June 26, 2014, at the age of 88.

Born November 15, 1925, in Huntsville, Tennessee, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., the son of Howard Henry Baker, Sr. and Dora Ladd Baker, was heir to a distinguished political tradition. His grandfather was a judge and his grandmother was the first woman to serve as sheriff in Tennessee.

His father, Howard Henry Baker, Sr., represented eastern Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1951 until his death in 1964, whereupon he was succeeded by his wife and Howard Baker's stepmother, Irene Bailey Baker.

Howard Baker was educated at The McCallie School, a military academy in Chattanooga, and Tulane University in New Orleans. During World War II, he trained at a U.S. Navy facility on the campus of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee in the V-12 Navy College Training Program.

He was commissioned as a lieutenant, junior grade, and served on a PT boat in the South Pacific as World War II was ending. After his discharge, Howard Baker attended the University of Tennessee College of Law,

from which he graduated in 1949 and embarked upon a highly successful career in the private practice of law.

Howard Baker began his political career in 1964 when he sought and won the Republican nomination to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Estes Kefauver but was defeated in the special election by Ross Bass. Undaunted, he came back two years later to capture the Senate seat, this time defeating former Tennessee Governor Frank Clement, who had defeated Senator Bass in the Democratic primary.

In winning the race, by the decisive margin of 56–44 and supported by a coalition of African Americans, young persons, and moderates, Howard Baker became the first Republican elected to the Senate from Tennessee since Reconstruction. He was reelected in 1972 and 1978, serving 18 years in total before retiring from the Senate in 1984 at the end of the 98th Congress.

In the Senate, Howard Baker's record marked him, as he described himself, as "moderate to moderate conservative." He supported fair housing and voting rights legislation, and was a leading advocate of the Clean Air Act. He also was instrumental in the bitter but ultimately successful fight to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty.

Howard Baker also was a young man in a hurry. Upon the death of his father-in-law and mentor, the great Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen, whose daughter, Joy, he had met and married in 1951, Howard Baker sought the post of Senate Republican Leader.

He was narrowly defeated by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. But after the retirement of Senator Scott in 1976, Howard Baker was elected Republican Leader by his colleagues and Senate Majority Leader in 1980 when Republicans regained the Senate for the first time since 1954 in the wake of the 1980 landslide election of Ronald Reagan.

Howard Baker is perhaps best known for his service as the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, better known as the Senate Watergate Committee. He is remembered for asking the question: "What did the president know and when did he know it?"

That question would go on to become a national catchphrase and a part of the nation's cultural lexicon.

In 1980, Howard Baker was a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination won by Ronald Reagan. After retiring from the Senate in 1984, he considered a second run for the presidency but put aside those personal ambitions in 1987 to accept President Reagan's request to serve as White House Chief of Staff at the nadir of the Reagan Administration brought on by the Iran-Contra scandal.

As Majority Leader, Howard Baker supported Reagan's supply-side economic program of massive tax cuts for the wealthy and draconian cuts to Great Society programs. In response to the resulting massive structural deficits, Howard Baker helped broker the deal and shepherd to passage legislation in 1982 that raised taxes. He also worked with President Reagan and House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill to put Social Security on a sound financial footing for 75 years.

For his lifetime of service to our nation, Howard Baker was awarded the Medal of

Freedom by President Reagan in 1984. But his service to our nation did not stop there. In 2001, Howard Baker was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 27th Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan in which capacity he served until February 17, 2005.

In 2007, he joined with former congressional leaders Tom Daschle, George Mitchell, and Bob Dole to found the Bipartisan Policy Center, a non-partisan organization that promotes bipartisanship solutions to the major challenges facing the nation.

In 1996, after the death of his first wife, Joy Dirksen, he married Nancy Landon Kassebaum from Kansas. In 2001 he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Japan and served faithfully.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Baker was a legislator's legislator. Our prayers and condolences go out to his widow, former U.S. Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker, to his son Darek and daughter Cissy, and to his family and loved ones.

Howard Baker touched so many lives in so many helpful ways that he will always be remembered as one of the finest public servants of the 20th century.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of the distinguished senator from Tennessee, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., the "Great Conciliator of the Senate."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Children and Families

To hold hearings to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private re-homing.

SD-430

JULY 9

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2442, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, S. 2465, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, S. 2479, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, S. 2480, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and S. 2503, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State

of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

SD-628

JULY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, Admiral William E. Gortney, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Northern Command, and Commander, Northern American Aerospace Defense Command, General John F. Campbell, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and Commander, United States Forces, Afghanistan, and Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special

Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

JULY 16

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program.

SD-628

JULY 23

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years.

SD-628

JULY 30

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine responses to natural disasters in Indian country.

SD-628

SENATE—Thursday, July 3, 2014

The Senate met at 1:32 and 37 seconds p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 3, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARPER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
JULY 7, 2014, AT 2 P.M.**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, July 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:33 and 11 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 3, 2014

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 3, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God, You created us, endowed with freedom. We give You thanks for giving us another day.

On the eve of America's national holiday, may all citizens be mindful of the wonder of our Nation's inception. Men and women of goodwill, from various backgrounds and sections of the colonies, from disparate faith traditions came together in prayer and, united by a vision of political and economic autonomy, courageously placed their lives, their liberty, and their fortunes on the line to found these United States.

May all Americans be renewed in their commitment to our representative government. May each American citizen expect of themselves intelligent participation in the political process so that the Members of Congress they elect might be statesmen and -women who are able to represent the interests of their constituents while also faithfully honoring their oath to defend the Constitution in doing what is best for our Nation.

In all the celebrations of this weekend, may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 641, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 30, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 30, 2014 at 12:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2388.

That the Senate passed S. 1799.

That the Senate passed S. 2076.

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 494.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1799. An act to reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990; to the Committee of the Judiciary; in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2076. An act to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Robert F. Reeves, Deputy Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 2388. An act to take certain federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution

641, the House stands adjourned until 1 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 7, 2014, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6226. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Silk Way Airlines of Baku, Azerbaijan pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6227. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priorities. Centers for International Business Education Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0034] [CFDA Number: 84.220A.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6228. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0035] [CFDA Number: 84.015B.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6229. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Language Resource Centers Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0037] [CFDA Number: 84.229A.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6230. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0036] [CFDA Number: 84.016A.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6231. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priorities. National Resource Centers Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0038] [CFDA Number: 84.015A.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6232. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for FY 2008 through FY 2011; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

6233. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's annual report for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6234. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6235. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Defense Contract Management Agency's Drug-Free Workplace Plan, pursuant to Public Law 100-71, section 503(a)(1)(A) (101 Stat. 468); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and Oversight and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 641, the following report was filed on July 2, 2014]

Mr. CRENSHAW: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5016. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-508). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted July 3, 2014]

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation; with an amendment (Rept. 113-509). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3086. A bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act (Rept. 113-510). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3488. A bill to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-511, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4802. A bill to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-512). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4803. A bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-513). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4185. A bill to re-

visc certain authorities of the District of Columbia courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-514). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4195. A bill to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-515). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4812. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-516). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration, H.R. 3488 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. YOHO introduced a bill (H.R. 5017) to prohibit United States non-security assistance to Mexico; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 5016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 9 Clause 7, No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 303: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 543: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 630: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1518: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 2021: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2316: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2504: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 2673: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2994: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3172: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3400: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3471: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 3543: Mr. ENYART and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3576: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 3717: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3992: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 4106: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4143: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4165: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 4227: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4272: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 4418: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4447: Mr. POSEY, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 4450: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4590: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4677: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 4717: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4718: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4879: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4920: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4930: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4962: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4970: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4980: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. REED.
H.R. 5003: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 5009: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 5010: Mr. HONDA.
H. Res. 326: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H. Res. 606: Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 607: Mr. ROKITA.
H. Res. 621: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 632: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H. Res. 644: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. NUGENT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SHUSTER.

AMENDMENTS

Under Clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to apply long-term predictions of life cycle greenhouse gas emissions for United States LNG exports in any public interest determination under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used within the borders of the State of Louisiana by the Mississippi Valley Division or the Southwestern

Division of the Army Corps of Engineers or any district of the Corps within such divisions to implement or enforce the mitigation methodology, referred to as the "Modified Charleston Method".

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Departmental Administration", and increasing the amount made available for "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Department of the Army—Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction", by \$5,000,000.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Departmental Administration", and increasing the amount made available for "Corps of Engineers—Civil—Department of the Army—Corps of Engineers—Civil—Operation and Maintenance", by \$5,000,000.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. CASSIDY

AMENDMENT NO. 6: Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
BRANDON GARABRANT OF
GREENFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today we honor Lance Corporal Brandon Garabrant, of Greenfield, New Hampshire, for his heroism and service as a U.S. Marine serving our country in Afghanistan. I was devastated to learn of the tragic death of Lance Corporal Garabrant, who spent his life serving his community and his country with honor and courage. Through his dedicated service as a volunteer firefighter and as a Marine, he made his family, his state, and his nation proud. The thoughts and prayers of the entire Granite State are with Lance Corporal Garabrant's family and friends. It is our responsibility as Granite Staters and as Americans to protect and honor all those who serve our great nation and guard our freedom.

Our veterans and servicemembers make grave sacrifices in order to preserve our freedom and protect our families. These courageous men and women devote their lives to standing up for our way of life, and they deserve our deepest respect and gratitude.

The greatest tribute we can provide for Lance Corporal Garabrant is to continue to remember his bravery and sacrifice, and to celebrate his life. He paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom and way of life, and we must forever honor his memory.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIRE-
MENT OF AMBASSADOR TATOUL
MARKARIAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of His Excellency Tatoul Markarian, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United States of America.

His Excellency Dr. Markarian is completing his term as Ambassador to the United States after nine years of service. Dr. Markarian has been a crucial figure in fostering relations between Armenia and the United States.

As Armenian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Markarian has been credited with creating closer ties with the United States by coordinating visits between the two countries' government officials and diplomats. He has been instrumental in securing increased humanitarian assistance from the U.S. to both Armenia and Artsakh, two struggling econo-

mies that are in great need of economic support. This has been highlighted by Armenia becoming a competitive potential candidate for Millennium Challenge Corporation funding, which aims to reduce widespread poverty and strengthen infrastructure. Ambassador Markarian has also been largely responsible for coordinating improved bilateral talks between both countries, through the U.S.-Armenia Economic Task Force and Strategic Dialogue.

Dr. Markarian has had a long career in public service. He served in the Republic of Armenia's legislative and executive branches at a crucial time, during the Republic's early years, first as assistant to the Vice Chairman of the newly created Armenian parliament, then as an advisor to the Vice President of Armenia and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister. During his tenure as Ambassador to the United States he concurrently serves as the Ambassador to Mexico.

I commend his Excellency Dr. Markarian on his service and accomplishments. His service has strengthened the relationship between Armenia and America. I wish the best for him, his wife, and three sons in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING OCOSTA HIGH
SCHOOL'S NATIONAL RECYCLING
PROGRAM AWARD

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ocosta High School in Westport, Washington for receiving the 2014 American Forest & Paper Association's School Recycling Award for Partnerships.

These partnership awards, offered by the AFPA, seek to recognize and promote new and innovative programs that increase the amount of paper recovered for recycling. Ocosta High School established a paper recycling program in 1992 when the nearby Port of Grays Harbor recycling program closed down. Since then, Ocosta High School's recycling program has evolved into a district-wide program, working not only with students at all grade levels, but local businesses and the community as a whole.

Ocosta High School also operates a baling machine which allows them to track the success of the program and compare amounts of paper recovered with past records. In 2013, over two decades since beginning the program, Ocosta High School recovered 24 tons of paper and paper-based products.

Programs such as Ocosta High School's recycling program are an essential component of our work for developing and expanding renewable resources. The commitment we share

will ensure sustainability for future generations.

In receiving this special recognition, I am confident that Ocosta High School will inspire other schools to create new and innovative programs that will increase the amount of paper and paper-based packaging recovered for recycling. The high school's work for sustainability and environmental awareness has had a substantial benefit to our region and to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by sending my best wishes for the school's continued success, and again applauding Ocosta High School's students and faculty on receiving the 2014 American Forest & Paper Association's School Recycling Award for Partnerships. I am proud to recognize their dedication to environmental stewardship and to their community, today, in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COLONEL DAVID J. TERANDO ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the military service of Colonel (Col) David Terando on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Marine Corps. I commend Col Terando's career and offer my sincerest thanks for his more than 30 years of dedicated service in protecting our nation.

In 1984, Col Terando was commissioned via the NROTC program at the Illinois Institute of Technology and he began his time in the Marine Corps as a communications officer with Base Communications Center, Camp Pendleton. He has supported our great nation by deploying multiple times throughout his career where he has directly supported both humanitarian and combat operations. He was involved with Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and deployed three separate times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the Liaison Officer to the Kuwait Army, and in critical staff billets for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Three decades later, Col Terando has come full circle and is retiring from his post as Chief of Staff of the combined Marine Corps Installations West (MCIWEST)-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCB CAMPEN).

In 2012 Col Terando focused on the merger of MCIWEST and MCB CAMPEN. Successfully creating a new Command structure is a massive undertaking that requires leading thousands of individuals, detailed analysis, decisive action and countless Operational Planning Teams. This culminated on 5 April 2012 with the activation of MCIWEST-MCB

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CAMPEN, where Col Terando assumed his duties as Chief of Staff.

In his role as the Chief of Staff, Col Terando successfully transformed the organization from concept to operational. Col Terando developed regional policies, directives and practices that led to the interaction of five bases and stations occupying over 160,000 acres throughout California, Nevada and Arizona.

Col Terando has been the epitome of what a Marine Corps leader should be. His performance throughout his career was exemplary.

I offer Col Terando my warmest congratulations and hope that he enjoys a rich and rewarding retirement with his wife Janet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing the career of Col Terando.

RECOGNIZING DEVERAUX AND
KRISTIE HUBBARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and community work of Deveraux and Kristie Hubbard, of Peoria, IL.

Deveraux and his wife Kristie have been and continue to be invaluable members of their community, and for their hard work and dedication, they have fittingly been honored at the annual Boy Scouts of America, W. D. Boyce Council, Whitney M. Young reception on June 29, 2014.

Extremely active throughout their communities in other capacities, Deveraux and Kristie have prioritized their work with our local youth and their dedication to the local Boy Scout troop is to be admired.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. Scouting is unique and provides young men with opportunities and structure they may otherwise never experience.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Hubbard family for their years of dedicated service to the greater Peoria community. They have truly been a catalyst for change and growth in the community. I am delighted to recognize their achievements and pleased to know they are not alone in their dedication to our youth and community development.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE CITY OF WESTPORT,
WASHINGTON

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Westport, WA, which is celebrating its 100th year as a city on June 26, 2014. This historic fishing community located on the beautiful coast of Washington State serves as a gateway to Grays Harbor and the majestic Olympic Mountains.

The city of Westport has a rich history. The coastal community and region is the ancestral home of several local Native American tribes who remain vibrant today. In the summer of 1857, Thomas Barker Speake and his family settled in what would eventually become the city known as Westport.

Among the earliest structures built, the Westport Lighthouse was dedicated on April 14, 1898, and still stands as a beacon for weary mariners anxious to return home from sea.

By 1914, Westport was a busy, though small, center for fishing, shellfish harvesting, seafood processing, and tourism. This history has given Westport a strong connection to its environment and natural resources. Today, with a population of over 2,000 citizens, Westport continues to rely on these resources for much of its livelihood.

Westport's centennial celebration demonstrates the vitality and continued excellence of the city's maritime and fishing heritage. I have seen firsthand some of the businesses that keep Westport moving forward, such as Ocean Gold Seafood and Westport Shipyards. I have enjoyed the extraordinary sense of community that happens during the annual Blessing of the Fleet.

The Founders Day celebrations will help ring in the 100th anniversary of the beloved City of Westport. I am proud to join Mayor Michael Bruce in his efforts to commemorate this special occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again congratulating the City of Westport on their first centennial celebration. I am pleased today to recognize in the United States Congress the city's contribution to my home state's history and to a stronger nation.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT OBERG

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Oberg for his outstanding commitment and dedication of 29 years of service to law enforcement, specifically the California Highway Patrol, the community, and his service to the United States of America.

Scott Oberg began his law enforcement career as an officer when he joined the California Highway Patrol El Centro Area Office on May 23, 1985 after graduating from the academy. Soon after, Scott Oberg served as a Field Training Officer from 1988 until 2002; during this time he trained seventeen officers, served on the Critical Incident Investigations Team from 2009 until 2012, as Court Officer from 2011 to 2013, and currently serves as a Front Desk Officer.

Additionally, from 1992 to 1996, Scott Oberg served on the elite Imperial County Narcotics Task Force, where he participated in 24 undercover investigations and assisted in many seizures and arrests. Furthermore, Scott Oberg has an exemplary record of approximately 21,000 citations issued, 1,000,000 patrol miles, 12,000 motorist services, 900 collisions investigations, 425 DUI arrests and 95 felony arrests.

I applaud Scott Oberg for his distinguished service to California, the Imperial Valley community, and California's 51st Congressional District.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING
MELROSE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the centennial celebration of Melrose, Wisconsin. Originally known as "Bristol," the village was first settled by Robert Douglas in 1839. Located in Jackson County, the village served as an important hub for the lumber industry during Wisconsin's early development. After the lumber boom, Melrose's mill and proximity to water helped support the development of the agricultural industry that is so abundant in southwest Wisconsin. In 1854, the village post office was established, and the community name was changed to Melrose. In 1913, the village of Melrose was incorporated.

With a population of 503 residents, Melrose is proud of its many close-knit community connections. The village boasts two wonderful parks, including Recreation Park, where residents can come together to enjoy Wisconsin's great summers and play baseball, tennis, and volleyball, and "Tank" Park, where residents can enjoy various recreational activities while inspecting the park's World War II era tank.

The beautiful wooded lands surrounding the village make it an excellent destination for outdoorsmen and women of all sorts. Melrose is a great place to explore the Black River, or to hike, bike, or snowmobile on one of its many recreational trails. The village also hosts a number of popular events, including the Melrose Corn Broil, which features locally-grown produce.

On July 5, 2014, Village President Tory Lockington, local elected leaders, and Melrose residents will come together to celebrate the village's centennial with a variety of events devoted to the village's diverse offerings, including a farmer's market, concerts, and various performances by local student groups. Today, I recognize Melrose's centennial and join in their celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION OF
THE WOLF CREEK BRIDGE TO
MICHAEL G. GIBBS

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the dedication of the Wolf Creek Bridge in Cocke County, Tennessee to Mr. Michael Gibbs.

The Wolf Creek Bridge is one of East Tennessee's infrastructural treasures. Located in Cocke County, Tennessee, the original bridge was completed in February 1928 for a meager cost of \$119,102. Having been through a series of repairs throughout its time, the Wolf

Creek Bridge underwent its first major rehabilitation in April 2012 under the direction of the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The Wolf Creek Bridge is now larger than it has ever been at 30.8 feet across with lanes widened to 12 feet and 3 foot shoulders on either side. Thanks to this rehabilitation, this bridge, which has been an integral part of the region since its induction in 1928, is now better than it has ever been before.

June 27, 2014 marked a new day in the history of the Wolf Creek Bridge, wherein the bridge was dedicated to one of the many soldiers from Tennessee that has given his life to the service of our nation and renamed Veterans Pass in Memory of Michael Gerald Gibbs. Michael G. Gibbs, a native of Del Rio, Tennessee, served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. On April 25, 1967 he made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States of America and was among the first casualties from Cocke County, Tennessee. His name on the Wolf Creek Bridge marks a significant union between those who have served our nation on the front lines through the military and those that have provided the necessary infrastructure and community support to keep America strong at its core.

It is an honor to see the dedication of the Wolf Creek Bridge to the memory of Mr. Michael Gibbs, a true representation of the volunteer spirit.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENN STATE COOPERATIVE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, the Cooperative Extension was established by Congress as a nationwide transformational education system that would operate through Land-Grant universities. We acknowledge the good work of the Penn State Cooperative Extension in this anniversary year. This successful program advocates healthful lifestyle choices, community vitality and a safe and abundant food supply, while dedicated to protecting our natural resources. It engages rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, with topical classes available to children as well as adults, such as business, health, family, youth, food, animals, plants, pests and master gardener classes. Like all Cooperative Extensions, the Penn State Cooperative is funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, state and county government. We congratulate the Cooperative Extension and its dedicated staff on a century of outstanding service to the communities they serve and look forward to interesting and exciting programming through the 21st century.

HONORING SYLESTER FLOWERS, R. PH.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Syvester Flowers. Known as a hardworking and long-standing public health advocate, and a visionary in the field of pharmaceutical services, Mr. Flowers has left an indelible mark on Bay Area communities. With his passing on June 21, 2014, we look to Syvester Flowers' legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Born on June 30, 1935 in High Point, North Carolina, Mr. Flowers grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Howard University in 1958 and moved to California after serving in the military. He worked as a pharmacist at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco from 1961 to 1963 before opening his first retail pharmacy, The Apothecary, in East Oakland in 1964. He opened other pharmacies in working-class neighborhoods that grew into a successful chain, all while primarily serving underrepresented communities. In 1967, Mr. Flowers founded the Ramsell Corporation (Ramsell) as a holding company for his pharmacies. His business later flourished as he expanded into managing pharmaceutical services. In addition, he served as the Pharmacy Director for the San Francisco County Mental Health Department's methadone treatment program from 1971 to 1982, and also held teaching positions as an adjunct professor of pharmacy at the University of the Pacific in Stockton and as an assistant clinical professor of pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy.

Headquartered in Oakland, Ramsell serves as the parent company to four healthcare-related businesses including Ramsell Public Health Rx, Ramsell Pharmacy Solutions, Ramsell Information Technology and Ramsell International. In 1997, Ramsell won a competitive bid to administer the State of California's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and the company operates similar programs in Oregon, Texas, Washington, Colorado and Delaware. Active in 14 states, Ramsell provides forty percent of HIV/AIDS medications nationally with a mission to ensure that underserved communities receive access to prescription drugs and quality health care services. Ramsell has expanded services to include drug administration program management, medication therapy management, patient assistance programs tools and re-entry solutions for Corrections. Mr. Flowers served as CEO and President of Ramsell until 2008, when he stepped down and his son Eric Flowers took the reins. He served as Chairman of the Board until his passing.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Flowers was also keenly committed to community leadership. With a strong passion for giving back to his community and finding solutions to bridging the gaps in care and treatment in marginalized populations, Mr. Flowers and his family established the Flowers Heritage Foun-

dation in 2003 with an educational grant to Howard University. The Flowers Heritage Foundation became a non-profit organization in 2005 and is dedicated to working closely with community partners and stakeholders to achieve successful outcomes of the unmet needs in the healthcare system, which includes identifying and addressing disparities in HIV/AIDS care and prevention as well as other burgeoning health crises.

Mr. Flowers also earned myriad accolades, including recognition by the California State Senate and then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2007, and receiving the California Pharmacy Hall of Fame Award in 2008 by the California Pharmacists Association. In 2009, Mr. Flowers received the Pinnacle Award from the American Pharmacists Association Foundation for his leadership on enhancing healthcare quality. Additionally, he was honored by Howard University and received the Alumni Award for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement for his accomplishments in business and public health service. In 2013, the Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce honored Ramsell with the Oscar J. Coffey Small Business Award for its vital contributions to improving the lives of Oakland and Alameda County residents.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual and community leader, Mr. Syvester Flowers. His invaluable service to improving the lives of the underserved will live on in the endless legacy of his life's work. I offer my sincerest condolences to his many loved ones, friends and colleagues he touched over the course of his incredible life. May his soul rest in peace.

WELCOMING PARISH CHOIR AND CHORISTERS OF ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome the Parish Choir and Choristers of St. Thomas Episcopal Church to our nation's capital.

The choir, along with their Rector, The Rev. Darren R. S. Elin, and music director, Dr. Carlton Monroe, was one of a few Episcopal choirs invited to sing at the National Cathedral this summer, a very distinct honor.

I congratulate these men, women, and children on this special occasion, and I commend them for their service to their community and to God. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated people in the Second Congressional District of Ohio.

Again, congratulations to the St. Thomas Church Choir on this well-deserved honor. I wish them the best of luck this weekend and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAL
BODZIANOWSKI

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michal Bodzianowski of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Michal, a sixth grader at STEM High and Academy, is an honorable winner of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program.

Michal's project will explore the creation of beer in microgravity. The project was one of eleven student proposals that were selected to be aboard SpaceX-3 that launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in December of 2013.

His innovative project is currently being executed at the International Space Station by astronauts who are closely following the direction of the young scientist himself. Simultaneously, Michal is conducting the same experiment on the ground to see what differences may arise. We are rooting for the success of Michal's experiment and are certain that it will have pivotal, lasting effects on the evolution of space research.

Michal serves as role model to young scientists. His early dedication and determination to study science and technology is a testament to the American dream and I am proud to represent him in Congress. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Michal Bodzianowski for his achievement of winning the "Student Spaceflight Experiments Program" and successfully launching his experiment into space.

HONORING HOUSTON JEWELRY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Houston Jewelry, a Houston family-owned and operated business since 1866, which has specialized in diamonds and fine jewelry since 1953. A true "Texas Treasure," this jewelry store can trace its history all the way back to the family's general store on Main Street. The Donsky-Solomon family is now in its fifth generation of active management of the business.

The history of this family store mirrors that of Texas itself. What started out as a frontier general store in the young, burgeoning town of Houston, grew and matured to become one of "America's Best Couture Jewelers" and a multiple winner of the Better Business Bureau of Houston's Award for Excellence. Like the city of Houston, from humble beginnings, the store owned by the Donsky-Solomon family has now earned national and international recognition. From the sale of staple and fancy dry goods to fine jewelry through catalog and online sales, each generation has enhanced the business it inherited. Weathering storms, economic busts, and national depressions, Houston Jewelry has been a steadfast testament to

the power of determination, innovation, and family bonds. Their contributions to Houston are unquestioned, and I wish them continued success.

FAREWELL REMARKS FOR AMBASSADOR TATOUL MARKARIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Ambassador Tatoul Markarian for his service as the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United States.

A distinguished diplomat, the Ambassador has a long career in public service, having represented the people of Armenia both at home and around the world. Prior to his current position, he served as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations and as Ambassador to the Mexican States. Additionally, he served previously from 1994-1999 as the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Armenian Embassy in Washington.

Before entering the Armenian Foreign Service, Ambassador Markarian served in the newly-independent Armenia's legislative and executive branches.

I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish together while Ambassador Markarian has been stationed in Washington for the last nine years. Together, we have fought together for Congressional Recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and foreign aid assistance to both the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Armenia. As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I have had the honor of working closely on these issues for more than twenty years.

Today, the U.S.-Armenian relationship remains critically important. Armenia has been a crucial ally in a strategic region of the world by extending robust support for the U.S.-led peacekeeping deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kosovo. Additionally, they have cooperated with the United States on a broad range of regional and security challenges. This relationship has been stewarded and advanced by Ambassador Markarian during his time in Washington.

Ambassador Markarian has dedicated his life's work to our shared goals and the people of Armenia. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to him for his service here in the United States and offer both him and his family the best of luck as they move forward on to their next diplomatic posting.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF
LOGAN, WEST VIRGINIA, AS A
PURPLE HEART CITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on this, the eve of the anniversary of American Independence, it is fitting that we recognize not only the role of the founders in freedom's birthplace, Philadelphia, but that we salute those who have, ever since that declaration of freedom in 1776, fought in battle after battle and in war after war to secure our freedoms. On that day of days celebrating America's freedoms, like all days when freedom reigns, we should honor those who have so selflessly served and made such extraordinary personal sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, more than a year before independence was declared, General George Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army. His leadership was born of our War for Independence, and, to this day, General Washington remains a revered figure for the soldier in the field. And for so many reasons, the General still warmly resides in America's hearts and minds. Among our Nation's highest honors stands one enjoying almost universal recognition and holding a distinguished reverence by those both inside and outside the ranks of our dedicated military services. Its pedigree stretches back to the legendary commitment General Washington had made to his troops.

Above all, the Purple Heart symbolizes the sacrifice made freely for this country, given for each of us and for future generations. Here in our Nation's Capital on the office wall of West Virginia's Third Congressional District hangs one of my most cherished recognitions, a citation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America recognizing my service to the Order. Each year, I am honored to welcome West Virginia members of the Order to my office and to discuss with them issues of importance.

Many times I have had the high honor of presenting the Purple Heart to my fellow West Virginians. Without exception, they are as humble in accepting this award as they were meritorious in their actions for which it was granted. Here, Mr. Speaker, is found the true heart of the American character.

In the heart of the Appalachian Coalfields, in the heart of Logan County, West Virginia, its County Seat, the City of Logan, has been rightly proclaimed "A Purple Heart City." Through the decades and by the thousands, the men and women of this patriotic town and from throughout this county have freely enlisted their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to further the cause begun with the "shot heard 'round the World."

The Proclamation honors the service and sacrifice of those who have received a Purple Heart. Our service men and women and veterans, many of whom are honorably represented by Logan's Chapter 733 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, are revered by the citizens of the City of Logan and those in the County at large.

The great cost, the blood lost, will never have been in vain within these city limits. Mr.

Speaker, the honor and respect paid to those in uniform and those now in the ranks of our veterans is supreme and as about as united as you are going to get in these United States of America.

As Logan Mayor Serafino J. Nolletti's Proclamation states, "the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women from the City of Logan who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens."

Nor, Mr. Speaker, does the service to our Nation end for the West Virginia veteran with his muster out pay. Not by any stretch of the imagination. Our veterans continue to contribute to their community through their faithful work in their churches and service within the many charitable organizations to which they belong. Their selfless work is the mortar that so securely binds our Republic together.

That most certainly includes the dedicated commitment of the officers of Chapter 733: Charles Baisden, Commander; Troy Varney, Senior Vice Commander; Charles Frye, Finance Officer; and Larry Thompson, Sergeant at Arms.

In creating the military honor that preceded today's Purple Heart, General Washington issued an order that closed with these words: "The road to glory in a patriot army and free country is thus open to all." Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, if the veterans and Purple Heart recipients in Logan, West Virginia, have any say in the matter, and I assure you they will, the road to glory will always be open to all in a free United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. SHELLIE SAMPSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 28, 2014, the Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York & Vicinity led by President Reverend James D. Morrison paid tribute to late Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, who presided over the conference as president until his untimely passing, which occurred on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 20, 2014.

It is with great honor that I am able to say that Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson was a true disciple of the Lord and messenger of the Word. He combined the power of education with the power of divinity to manifest perfection and excellence. Dr. Sampson earned it the old fashion way, because he was led by God and destined to lead others. The Book of Proverbs, Chapter 16, Verse 9 states, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Biblically literate and centered, Dr. Sampson brought down the walls of Jericho, and removed all the obstacles by raising and developing his leadership through ongoing training and learning at the highest level. Book of John, Chapter 13, Verses 13–17 also states, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also

ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

Reverend Dr. Sampson was guided by these teachings during his 30 years of pastoral service to Thessalonía Baptist Church and his devoted leadership to the Baptist Ministers' Conference of New York and Vicinity. Therefore, it is our firm belief that the Creator sets a clear path for each of us to follow, and the path paved by Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson, Jr. will allow so many to benefit from his commitments. Great men like our beloved husband, father, grandfather and Pastor are precious gifts we temporarily have in this world, but their assistance, contributions and accomplishments will be far remembered and everlasting and define him as a true patriot of an American Dream well lived.

I am including into the RECORD Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson's obituary which was read during his Going Home Services.

Shellie Sampson was born on December 15, 1940 in the central region of Newark, New Jersey. As the eldest of three children to the late Shellie Sampson and Lillian Brinson, he placed a high value on education and led a life characterized by profound spiritual insight, hard work, tenacity, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. While growing up in Newark, he took advantage of the opportunities before him and used his resources to become a man of distinction who would leave an enduring legacy.

Shellie Sampson graduated from Central High School with honors in science, history, music, and distance running. He went on to attend Rutgers University dual majoring in chemistry and natural science before earning a Bachelor's of Arts in natural science. He worked diligently even while being one of few Black Americans to attend Rutgers. During a time of tumultuousness and racial upheaval, he persevered in spite of discrimination from professors and hostility towards African Americans. Following his bachelor's degree, assured of the unquestionable spiritual call upon his life, he attended Drew University where he earned a Master's of Divinity and a Doctorate in Ministry of Christian Education. At the same time that he was yielding to the spiritual call, there was an equally great intellectual fervor continuing to grow within him. He was accepted to New York University where he pursued Urban Studies and all coursework leading to a doctorate degree. After the program had been eliminated, he transferred to Temple University where he gained far beyond what he imagined. Choosing to start from the beginning of his doctorate, he was able to study the latest research that would provide him with the tools he needed to produce his own original, cutting-work. Dr. Sampson gained mastery in areas beyond his particular discipline, integrating Urban Studies, Psychology, Black Studies, History, Sociology, and Education. In 2007, at 66 years old he had completed coursework for his third doctorate and earned a Ph.D. in Urban Education and Psychology. Within the University, some of the most highly esteemed scholars commented that they were astounded by the depth of his intellectual contributions to fields that were not his own. His departments began his dissertation as the model for all subsequent doctoral theses

and asked him to provide a list of every title in his personal library at home. Based on his inquiries and insights, additional courses were added to the curriculum to further enhance the program. These accolades were in addition to seminars he attended at MIT and Princeton University.

Not only was Dr. Sampson a man of keen spiritual insight and intellectual prowess, but he had an unwavering commitment to his high school sweetheart. At age 15, he met Deloranzo Paschal at Central High School, and after looking up her academic records in the school office, he determined that she was the kind of woman that he wanted to date. For their first date, he took her to see the "The Ten Commandments," and was then certain that they shared a common vision and passion for God. As their love blossomed, he proposed to her and even waited while she pursued her dream of entering military service as Air Force personnel. In 1960, they were married in Bloomfield. They have six sons and three daughters. Dr. Sampson was a devoted father who worked tirelessly to provide his family with the best education, well-rounded extracurricular activities and diverse life experiences: Above all else, he taught them that God and education were the keys to success. Because of his ambitions and standards of excellence, his family now includes leaders in the following fields: educational leadership, pastoral visionary, law, counseling, civil service, music conducting, early childhood, elementary and higher education, public relations, veterinary medicine, public health, medical assistance, chemical engineering, cross cultural studies, computer engineering, fashion marketing, animal science, communications, media and music technology and performance.

The success that Dr. Sampson's family achieved is the result of the hand of God upon his life. It began when he accepted Christ in his heart while playing the organ as a teenager. At the risk of embarrassing his pastor, he was honest with himself and with God, responding to the altar call because he wanted to know God as his Lord and Savior. From that very moment, Dr. Sampson yielded to the Holy Spirit and began to center his life on his newfound spiritual identity from church activities, to vacation, to times of prayer with his family. He tenaciously pursued his purpose until January 20, 2014 when the Lord called him home.

He was blessed to have an impeccable academic record but also to have an impressive career as a chemist for Theobald Industries. He also worked as a microbiologist at Best Foods International and a Technological Supervisor in Packaging Engineering—Quality Control for Anheuser Busch. In most of his positions, he was one of few, if not the only African American working in the company. Although he frequently met with racial opposition, when he traded his career as a chemist for Anheuser Busch for the call of preparing people for God's Kingdom, the company was disappointed to see him go and promised him a job and benefits if he ever wanted to return. There was no question, as for Dr. Sampson and his house, they would serve the Lord.

In the 1970s, Dr. Sampson was ordained and installed on the same day as Pastor of New Calvary Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey. Despite the arduous schedule, he worked, attended school, and pastored with his whole heart. While pastoring at New Calvary, he was invited to apply to serve as the interim headmaster at Covent Avenue Science Academy. He assumed the position and the Lord would continue to open doors

for him, connecting him with various leaders who would recognize his gifting and invite him into more extensive church networks. Dr. Sampson served as the president of both the Shiloh Baptist Association Congress of New Jersey, as well as the Northern Baptist School of Religion of Newark. He was a guest instructor for the Eastern Baptist Association College Seminary Extension; a guest lecturer at Drew University School of Theology, and Executive Director of the Baptist Education Center of New York. In addition, he traveled with the NYC Religious Education Academic Foreign Studies Tours, traveling to WCC Geneva, Switzerland, Gregorian University, Rome and Hebrew University, and Israel.

After pastoring from 1970 to 1982 at New Calvary Baptist Church, he was called to Thessalonian Baptist Church and installed as the twelfth pastor in May, 1982. Dr. Sampson came with a vision that continues to grow even unto this day. His vision included major projects such as, the erection of the Cultural Community Center, which today is a multi-million-dollar communal faculty. Upon completion, the Center housed the following: South Bronx Leadership High School, the TIR Bookstore, church offices, a banquet hall, amphitheater, chapel, lower gallery with additional office space and over a dozen classrooms. Dr. Sampson was a strategic thinker who anticipated the future. In laying the plans for the building, he placed the elevator and handicap ramp at the intersection of the church and the new construction in order to provide access for seniors and disabled visitors. Dr. Sampson's strategic leadership led him to establish the Thessalonian Institute of Religion and the Thessalonian Academy, an elementary school designed to ground students in the Gospel and provide a rigorous academic curriculum. To date, the Academy has had over 50 graduates and more than 100 students, many of whom have gone on to attend prestigious boarding schools, colleges, and universities. Other endeavors include several renovations to the church building, food pantry, senior programs, adult education programs, feeding and clothing of the needy, Boy Scouts, youth ministry, annual church retreats, and the enhancement to the name: Thessalonian Worship Center.

In addition, writing was the hallmark of Dr. Sampson's life. Not only could he often be found feverishly inscribing notes in a pocket notebook, but he always carried a pen and was ready to record the things that God was revealing to him. His discipline to write transferred to his roles in ministry. He was Editor-in-Chief for the National Baptist Christian Education Handbook and he wrote materials for church leadership, such as *Effective Techniques in Abuse Ministry: Hand-*

book for youth education, Superior Leadership in Challenging Situations as well as training guides for various aspects of the ministry. He authored several books and publications, including Revelation Now: Viewing the Tragedies and Triumphs of Believers, Building Faith Now and Achievement. His publications extended beyond local venues and were disseminated to international audiences. He incorporated his own publishing company, Dorkeo Inc. and his texts were distributed through a variety of formats including print, digital, audio, and visual.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Reverend Dr. Shellie Sampson. Educator, Spiritual Leader, and a true American Hero.

IN HONOR OF DAVID R. GREEN

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David R. Green for his outstanding and invaluable service to the community, his service to the United States of America, and congratulate him on his retirement.

David R. Green began his healthcare administration services career in 1974. During his 40-year career he served as chief executive officer at seven Southern California hospitals and was an administrator of five different skilled nursing facilities. Additionally, David R. Green served on a number of healthcare boards, including but not limited to, the California Hospital Association Board and CHA Rural Hospitals Board.

During David R. Green's tenure at the El Centro Regional Medical Center (ECRMC), which began in 2003, officials completed construction of a two-story, 60-bed addition consisting of a state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit. He also expanded the emergency department, surgical suites and outpatient services with the acquisition of the Oncology/Hematology of Imperial Valley clinic and the Imperial Valley Wound Healing Center, and the hospital's laboratory underwent an extensive renovation.

David R. Green has exhibited dedication to ECRMC's patients and staff and commitment to expanding and improving healthcare services in Imperial County the last eleven years. I applaud David R. Green for his distinguished

service to California, the Imperial Valley community, California's 51st Congressional District, and the nation.

H.R. 4870, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise an issue for consideration as we move towards conference on this bill. When we considered the NDAA several weeks ago, an amendment that I submitted with Mr. ROONEY of Florida was adopted by voice vote to ensure that TRICARE beneficiaries with developmental disabilities have access to behavioral health treatment, specifically a therapy known as applied behavior analysis, or ABA.

The provision streamlines access to care by moving coverage of ABA under TRICARE Basic, removing caps on coverage, ensuring access to providers, and allowing all children with developmental disabilities access to these services.

However, because of the obscure way that a small class of TRICARE beneficiaries' benefits are funded, additional appropriations language is needed to make sure these children get the care they deserve.

I had planned to offer an amendment that would just clarify that retirees and their dependents of the Coast Guard, Commissioned Corps of NOAA, and Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service Corps can have these specific ABA treatments made available by the NDAA, funded out of the Defense Health Program.

By doing this, we would fulfill the legislative intent captured in section 704 of the NDAA which ensures access to ABA in TRICARE and states that we intend to ensure appropriate and equitable access to such treatment for all TRICARE beneficiaries.

While I will not offer the amendment at this time, I would appreciate the opportunity to work with Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCOSKY as we go to conference to make sure that all TRICARE beneficiaries are able to access the care they need.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, July 7, 2014

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK MEADOWS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this assembly return from days away celebrating our Nation's birth, grant them safe and restful journey. May they return ready to assume a difficult work which must be done.

We pray for the needs of the Nation, and world and all of creation. Bless those who seek to honor You and serve each other and all Americans in this House through their public service. May the words and deeds of this place reflect an earnest desire for justice, and may men and women in government build on the tradition of equity and truth that represents the noblest heritage of our people.

May Your blessing, O God, be with us this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 641, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(b) of House Resolution 641, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow for morning-hour debate.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6236. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kiwifruit Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 920 [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-12-0008; FV12-920-1 FR] received June 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6237. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Intermediary Rending Program (RIN: 0570-AA86) received May 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6238. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Language Resource Centers Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0037; CFDA Number 84.229A] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6239. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0036; CFDA Number 84.016A.] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6240. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities; National Resource Centers Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0038; CFDA Number 84.015A] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6241. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority; Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Programs [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0035], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6242. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities; Centers for International Business Education Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0034] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6243. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Current Good Manufacturing Practices, Quality Control Procedures, Quality Factors, Notification Requirements, and Records and Reports, for Infant Formula [Docket No.: FDA-1995-N-0063 (formerly 95N-0309)] (RIN: 0910-AF27) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6244. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulatory Guide 3.29, Preheat and Interpass Temperature Control for the Welding of Low-Alloy Steel for Use in Fuel Reprocessing Plants and in Plutonium Processing and Fuel Fabrication Plants [NRC-2014-0070] received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6245. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Management Directive 11.1 NRC Acquisition of Supplies and Services received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6246. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the semiannual Report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6247. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report titled "Metropolitan Police Department First Amendment Investigations Substantially Complied with District Law"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6248. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the final report of the Sergeant at Arms' Badge Management System; to the Committee on House Administration.

6249. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the final report on Managing the Mobile Environment; to the Committee on House Administration.

6250. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the final report on the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer's controls over Personally Identifiable Information; to the Committee on House Administration.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 5018. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, to establish requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5019. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 654. A resolution relating to the application of Article II, section 3, clause 5, of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 655. A resolution relating to the application of Article II, section 3, clause 5, of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Res. 656. A resolution relating to the application of Article II, section 3, clause 5, of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

227. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Florida, relative to Senate Memorial 658 memorializing Congress to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment which requires a balanced federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

228. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Florida, relative to Senate Memorial 476, memorializing Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the constitution which impose fiscal restraints on the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

229. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution 14-1009 memorializing Congress to restore the Federal Voting Rights of 1965 as amended; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

230. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 261, memorializing Congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the constitution to provide that every law enacted shall embrace only one subject to be clearly expressed in the title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 5018.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes); Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 (To coin money, regulate the value thereof; and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures); Article I, Section 8, Clause 6 (To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department thereof).

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 477: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 478: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2141: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2264: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2278: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2794: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2835: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2921: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 3374: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3471: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 3494: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3850: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 3899: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. FARR, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. DENT, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3982: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4411: Mr. HOLT, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 4450: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 4594: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 4628: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4699: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 4750: Mr. CARTER and Mr. McCaul.

H.R. 4836: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4882: Mr. SALMON and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 4930: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 4976: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H. Res. 109: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. NEAL.

H. Res. 558: Ms. KUSTER.

H. Res. 588: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. LOEBACK.

H. Res. 623: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. HOLT.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

87. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Town Council of Windham, Connecticut, relative to Town Council Resolution Number 2637 petitioning Congress to oppose H.R. 2278, the S.A.F.E. Act; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE—Monday, July 7, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source and ground of all truth, give our Senators the grace of reflection that will unite the scattered forces of their souls. May life's frenetic pace not hinder them from thinking about its meaning and its end. Grant that Your truth will take root within their souls, providing them with wisdom to know when to abstain and when to persevere. As they read Your sacred Scriptures, may they feel the stirring of Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, bless all human hearts that today are lifted up to You. Accept their prayers and praise, as You guide them on the road that leads to eternal life.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KAINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30. Senators during that period of time will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5:30 we have two rollcall votes, the first on the confirmation of the Krause circuit court judge and the next will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2562

I am told S. 2562 is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2562) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring back jobs to America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

WASTING TIME

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a lot of people within the sound of my voice will not understand what I speak about, which is having an emergency brake or a parking brake on a car. It used to be standard procedure. People would pull out the emergency brake, and 99 percent of the time people would remember to release it before they took off, but sometimes people would forget and that car would still go forward, but it didn't go forward very well. In fact, it would start smoking—"Oh, I forgot to turn that off."

So emergency brakes, what do they have to do with us in the Senate? What it has to do with us is that it appears the Republicans in the Senate have intentionally left on the emergency brake. For everything we try to do, it is similar to when we used to drive a car and have the emergency brake on. It doesn't move right. It moves very slowly.

Throughout President Obama's time in office, the Republican leadership in

the Senate has done its best to keep the brakes engaged, slowing any effort to legislate on even the most bipartisan bills. We should be passing legislation that strengthens our economy and protects working families instead of wasting hundreds of hours—hundreds of hours—as we struggle to perform one of our most basic duties, confirming Presidential nominees.

Last year, in response to unprecedented—I repeat, unprecedented—Republican obstruction, the Senate was forced to change its rules to ensure that some of the President's nominees received the up-or-down vote they deserve. I am so happy that change was made. It has allowed the Senate to make substantial progress on one of its primary functions. Positions that were once vacant for months—even years—are now staffed with qualified and competent public servants.

In spite of our having changed the rules, the Republicans are still continuing to try to slow everything down. Again, the brakes are on, and they only have one reason I can come up with for doing this. It is not that they dislike the President's nominees; it is that they want to do everything they can to slow down his administration, to make him look bad and to make Senate Democrats look bad, because they believe that even though they are the cause of the obstruction everybody will say: The Democrats control the Senate, why aren't they doing more?

We can't do more because they have put on the brakes, even though we changed the rules and are moving through judges especially very quickly.

For the viewing audience, on a judge they can only stall for 1 hour, and they usually do. On circuit court judges they get 30 hours, and they take up all of those 30 hours, even though they wind up voting for the judge. On Cabinet nominations they get 30 hours. On subcommittee officers they get 8 hours. That is in the rules. We changed some of the rules, but we didn't change that. In hindsight—we will have to wait and see. If they are going to continue this, we will have to take another look at that. It is outrageous what they have done.

We have made substantial progress, as I have said, on one of our primary functions. The Senate is continuing its progress confirming these nominees in spite of the Republicans putting up roadblock after roadblock. Instead of seeing how their needless obstruction has hurt our country and working with us to confirm these vital nominations, the Republican leadership has responded with what can only be described as a temper tantrum, I guess. I

don't know what else to call it. We have already established that they are trying to do it to make us look bad and the President look bad, but think what it is doing and what it has done to our country.

They are mad about a lot of things, I guess. The No. 1 thing they are mad about is Obama was reelected. Remember, Frank Luntz called a meeting here 3 days after Obama was first elected. He said: We have two things we are going to do—and all the Republican big shots were here—No. 1, we are going to make sure Obama isn't reelected. That was a flop. No. 2, we are going to oppose everything the President wants, and that is what they have done and continue to do.

I have said this before and I will say it again. The first Congress we had a lot of Democrats—58, 59, and for a short period of time we had 60—and we had some moderate Republicans with whom we could work, but they are gone except SUSAN COLLINS. They are gone. So even though that first Congress was extremely productive, the next two have been thwarted by the obstructionism we have encountered for everything we have tried to do.

The Republican leader is obviously now resorting to a tactic that I guess they decided to do in the Frank Luntz meeting; that is, just trying to run out the clock. As in a football game, if there is only 1 minute left to go, they say let's just run out the clock or a basketball game or, as we saw over the last few weeks, a soccer game. Stall it. We are ahead. It is tied. That is where we need to stay.

They are just trying to run out the clock. Instead of killing time on the scoreboard, the Republican leader is using the cloture clock to kill the remaining 6 months of this Congress. They want just to go away, preventing nominees from getting confirmed and thwarting Democrats from passing legislation that is good for the middle class.

Would it be good for the middle class to raise the minimum wage? Of course. It would be great. Would it be good for the American public to have it so my daughter, for instance, if she does the same job your son does, that they get paid the same amount of money? They filibustered that. They stopped that. How about student loans? Student loans are the highest debt in America today—almost \$1.3 trillion—and we tried to remedy that, make it better for students and of course their families who are paying and have paid over the years for these large loans. Filibuster; extended unemployment benefits, filibuster.

So they are doing this to make the President look bad, make us look bad, but they are still running out the clock. That is what they are trying to do.

Again, so people understand, we get cloture with a simple majority. They

can stall for many hours. As I said, circuit court judges get 30 hours, nominees for Cabinet posts get 30 hours, 8 hours for subcabinet, and only an hour on other judges. If we take a close look at how they have utilized the time we have wasted—let's say the last 2 months the Senate has been in session—Senate Republicans have forced us to waste almost 10 days, more than half the time we have been in session. They have wasted 236 hours in order to slow the confirmation of President Obama's nominations—236 hours. Of those 236 hours, Senate Republicans have used 5 hours to actually come to the Senate floor and debate the qualifications of these nominees. The rest of the time we sit, as the viewing public sees, in these quorum calls, where we do nothing. For every hour they have debated these nominations, the Senate Republicans have wasted 46 hours just killing time. Mr. President, 5 hours out of 236 hours is the time they have actually used.

To further highlight the absurdity of their obstruction, the Republicans have voted overwhelmingly to confirm most all of these same nominees they have obstructed and filibustered. So far this year Republicans have blocked immediate confirmation of 22 nominations they later voted unanimously to confirm.

Why are they blocking these nominations they all support? They just want to slow things down. They want everybody to look bad. They know they are not in control—that is what the American public feels—even though they have all of these rules they force procedural gimmicks we have to work our way through. There is no other way to look at what Republicans are doing. This is obstruction for obstruction's sake. The Republican leader is desperate to keep this emergency brake on, hoping that by slowing down every Senate process imaginable, he can run out the remaining 6 months and damage Obama. The harm it does to our country, I guess, is not in their calculation. He is playing a very dangerous political game at the expense of this great country and of course the American taxpayer.

The Senate currently has a backlog of 131 nominees who have been languishing on the Senate calendar for an average of 281 days—281 days. It is particularly outrageous that they are stopping us from confirming non-controversial career Foreign Service officers and ambassadors.

What does this mean, a career Foreign Service officer? The Presiding Officer has been in government a number of years. He has been Governor of one of the larger populated States in the country. He has been in the U.S. Senate. The Presiding Officer has seen—I am convinced of this—young men and women who decide they want to go into the Foreign Service. They are the

brightest of the brightest. They do extremely well in school. They have these tests they have to pass, written and oral. They speak and learn many different languages. They have been waiting their whole career to be named an ambassador. It is a huge thing. It is like being selected to go to the Super Bowl or to be on the Pro Bowl team. But when it comes time to get this position they have worked for their whole career, they are being held up.

These are ambassadors to places that need American diplomats. You need a boss. Twenty, 25 percent of the ambassadorial spots in Africa they have blocked. These are not political nominees. Most of them are career nominees. They are Republicans and Democrats. When these ambassadors are chosen, they are not chosen based on their political party. They are chosen on merit. We have places such as Honduras, Qatar, Vietnam where we do not have ambassadors.

They are even blocking the Department of Defense, the Navy, the Air Force. They are at the mercy of the Republican leader's clock-killing obstruction. American interests abroad and the defense of our Nation are forced to take a back seat while Republican leadership hopes to make political gains by running out this clock.

So after having returned from the Fourth of July—this country's birthday—I urge Republicans to stop this needless obstruction. What is to be gained by needlessly grinding the Senate to a halt? The only thing I can see is they think they are going to hurt President Obama, who they are so upset because he got reelected and reelected very easily.

I say to them, if you oppose a nominee, let's have a debate on the nomination and then vote. Do not delay a vote on a career Foreign Service officer who has worked his or her entire life to become an ambassador. Do not delay national security personnel who are needed to protect our Nation. Do not delay key staff people at the Cabinet level from doing their work for the American people.

I do not expect Republicans to give their unanimous consent to every nominee on the calendar. Rather, Senate Democrats are asking that Republicans legislate in good faith. Let's look at these. If there is something wrong with them, let's debate them. If nominees are deserving of their unanimous support—and most of them come out of the committees unanimously—why waste the Senate's time by blocking confirmation of these individuals? There is no reason for doing that.

We have so much to address over the coming weeks. We are going to vote on the sportsmen's bill tonight. We have the highway bill, the emergency supplemental, manufacturing legislation. We are going to do something about the Hobby Lobby legislation we need to

correct. There is so much we have to do. We have terrorism insurance. We have to do that. The Export-Import Bank, we have to do that. But we are being stopped from doing all of that.

We have more than enough to keep us busy. That is an understatement. So what we are doing, instead of doing the things necessary for the American people, is we are being forced, because of the obstruction of the Republicans, to sit here and struggle through a few nominations that we can work out by spending 8 hours on this one, 4 hours on that one, 30 hours on this one. It is really unfair to the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the crisis at our border continues unabated. It is a crisis that should never ever have occurred. It occurred as a direct result of the failure of the leadership of the United States, the clarity of our message, and our willingness to enforce simple, plain immigration laws.

Last week, we reached the point where the President of the United States—who is directly responsible for sending messages and effecting policies that encourage the flow of immigration to the United States, announced he would be asking Congress—us—to cooperate with him and provide him with \$2 billion in additional funds to deal with the humanitarian crisis—a crisis, as I indicated, that was produced as a result of his activities.

In the same breath at that moment when he asked for more money to take care of the crisis, he announced he will deliberately and openly go around the Congress of the United States and the Constitution and unilaterally change immigration law again through an executive policy.

The President said:

... today, I'm beginning a new effort to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress. As a first step, I'm directing the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General [directing them] to move available and appropriate resources from our interior to the border.

He further said:

I have also directed Secretary Johnson and Attorney General Holder to identify additional actions my administration can take on our own, within my existing legal authorities, to do what Congress refuses to do and fix as much of our immigration system as we can. I expect their recommendations before the end of the summer and I intend to adopt those recommendations without further delay.

The problem is that we have laws. Congress has established laws. The President wanted to change those laws, and Congress made a decision. The decision was not to change those laws, and those laws remain in effect. As President of the United States of America, he has the highest duty to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed.

Remember now, the President is the chief law enforcement officer in America. The FBI answers to him, the Drug Enforcement Administration answers to him, the Department of Justice—he appoints the top officials, and they answer to him. So does Border Patrol, and so do Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, immigration officers throughout, and the Secretary of Homeland Security. It is his administration, and he has used powers to go beyond—that I am aware of—what any President has used to basically declare: I will not enforce the laws passed by Congress. I am going to change those laws—I don't have to change them; I am just going to direct my officers not to carry them out, not to enforce them.

Another thing he said was that young people here would not be deported. He invited a number of them to the White House. As a result, the word got out in Central America particularly that if you come to the United States as a young person—a parent could bring them or brother and sister—and you get into the United States, you will not be deported; you will be allowed to stay, and you could get a permit—that is, you would be released on bail into some family member's custody and you could show up at some point in the future to have a hearing. I have heard it is maybe as many as 500 days before a hearing occurs. And who is going to go and look for these individuals when they don't show up for court, as is continuously happening in high numbers, not showing up for court?

So to me it is disturbing that we are in this situation. And make no mistake about it—\$2 billion is a lot of money. We work hard around here to try to pay for things we need to by saving money here and saving money there,

and now the President just sends over a message: I am going to demand \$2 billion.

We have to take care of the children. We can't leave them in a circumstance where they are not fed or taken care of or in a safe condition. I guess we will have to find some money to do that. But the question is, How did it happen? Why did it happen? And \$2 billion is more than the general fund budget of the State of Alabama, which is where I am from. An extra \$2 billion is a lot of money—extra money this year. Why? Because in 2011 we had 6,000 unaccompanied children apprehended at the border, and this year we are projected to have 90,000. That is why the President says we need \$2 billion more—because the message got out, the word got out: You can come to America and, as a young person, you won't be deported.

In fact—and Congress doesn't know it fully at this point, but, in fact, that is true. Young people coming to America unlawfully from Central and South America, other than Mexico, are being allowed to stay, and it encourages more.

We have to have a lawful system of immigration, a system that serves the national interests. A lawful system means one that is carried out effectively and efficiently. It is wrong and it is immoral to create a system in which there is no law, where laws are violated willy-nilly and nothing is ever done about it. That is not healthy at all for any nation, and I would submit clearly that any nation must maintain the integrity of its borders. Failing to do so undermines the very sovereignty of that nation. No nation in the world that I am aware of maintains open borders. If you are not going to maintain open borders, then you have to set up standards for application and admission, and then if you establish those standards, you have to carry them out fairly and objectively.

There are millions of people who have applied to come to America who are waiting in line, people with college degrees and relatives here, who have applied lawfully and are waiting their turn. And how is it right, how can it be justified morally, religiously, as a matter of public policy, as a matter of law that we just ignore them and let people come through by the hundreds of thousands?

Indeed, it has been projected that unless something changes—and I think it could change if we have leadership—unless changes occur, we could have as many as 140,000 young people come next year. I guess that would be \$4 billion extra that would have to be funded next year to take care of the costs. It is an unbelievable turn of events.

My staff and I did a time line months ago, before this crisis became so imminent, and we documented a series of actions in which the President of the

United States has directed his agencies to conduct their operations in such a way that it undermines the laws of the United States. This is 39 pages.

One of the first ones—and I talked about it at the time and the ramifications that would occur from it, and nobody paid much attention. Back in January of 2009 President Obama took office. He had talked to activist groups throughout the country and he had made a promise to them. Not long after he took office, immigration enforcement officers executed a raid—which they had been doing over a period of years and always been able to do—on an engine machine shop in Bellingham, WA, and detained 28 illegal immigrants who were using fake Social Security numbers and identity documents.

Shortly thereafter, pro-amnesty groups—these activist groups—criticized the administration for enforcing the law. An unidentified official at the Department of Homeland Security was quoted in the Washington Times as saying this about the new Secretary of Homeland Security: “The secretary is not happy and this is not her policy . . .” Instead of enforcing the law, the Secretary investigated the ICE officers, who were simply doing their jobs.

Esther Olavarria, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, said on a phone call with employers and pro-amnesty groups that “we’re not doing raids or audits under this administration.” That was a huge abandonment of a normal and natural law enforcement procedure to create a lawful system of immigration right out of the chute—a direct result, in my opinion, of promises made during the campaign, not for law enforcement reasons, not for the national interests of the United States.

It goes on.

In January 2009 the Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, delayed an E-Verify compliance deadline. She delayed the E-Verify deadline a second time. She delayed the E-Verify a third time.

It goes on, page after page of activities in which they took steps to undermine law.

In June 2010 the Obama administration sued Arizona. The State was trying to help enforce Federal immigration law, and they sued the State of Arizona. They sued any other State that attempted to do anything that would enhance law enforcement.

In January 2010 the Obama administration ignored the dangerous “sanctuary cities” policy. Amazingly, in this country we have cities that are providing sanctuary to people who are illegally in the country. Law enforcement arrests someone who is here illegally, they convict them of a crime—I was a Federal prosecutor for many years—they hold them and then turn them over to the Federal law enforcement officers for deportation. But then these cities refuse to do that. Nothing was

done about it, and this administration took no action—in fact, seemed to encourage it, frankly.

In March 2011, ICE Director John Morton issued the first of a series of memoranda systematically weakening their enforcement deportation procedures, essentially implementing an “administrative amnesty.” He issued two more amnesty memos in July 2011.

In December 2011 reports surfaced that the Obama administration would reduce the National Guard at the border. President Bush had beefed up our enforcement and sent a pretty good message that we were getting serious about the border. We were making some progress when he was doing that, but by December 2011 the Obama administration had begun to reduce the National Guard’s presence, which has now been eliminated at the border.

On June 15, 2012, President Obama bypassed Congress and in effect unilaterally implemented the DREAM Act—legislation that had twice or three times been brought before this Congress and failed to pass—dealing with children who enter the country before the age of 16 and who can prove how old they were when they entered, who can prove how long they have been here. The legislation was poorly drafted, it was rejected by Congress on more than one occasion, and the President just said to his officers: Don’t enforce it with regard to these young people. Don’t deport anybody you apprehend who claims they entered the country before they were age 16 or 17 or 18.

Who knows what year it would be.

This was really the beginning of the message to the people in Central America particularly that young people weren’t going to be deported—the direct action that led to the crisis we have today—and I pointed that out at the time and others did.

Chris Crane, president of the National ICE Council, wrote a letter last May warning: We are seeing a surge of young people.

As I said, there are 39 pages with multiple actions on some of those pages—actions that were taken by the President’s staff and underlings that undermined and weakened the ability of our immigration laws to be carried out effectively, consistently, and fairly. It is a terrible thing, and now we have this crisis today.

According to a new report from the Los Angeles Times—which, I have to say, is probably one of the more knowledgeable papers, if not the most knowledgeable paper in America concerning immigration issues. They issued a report that deportation of illegal immigrant youth has fallen dramatically under the current administration even as the flow of illegal youth into the United States has exponentially increased.

Just this weekend, they wrote this:

President Obama and his aides have repeatedly sought to dispel the rumors driving

thousands of children and teens from Central America to cross the U.S. border each month with the expectation they will be given a permit and allowed to stay.

But under the Obama administration, those reports have proved increasingly true.

Data from the paper shows that the number of illegal youth from Central America who were apprehended averaged around 4,000 per year over the last decade. So the newspaper points out that over the last decade we have apprehended about 4,000 youth per year. Some reports suggest that the number could reach 90,000 this year—an increase of more than 2,000 percent. Yet since 2008 deportation of illegal youth has dropped roughly 80 percent. So we have an 80 percent drop in the deportation while we have seen a 2000 percent increase in the number coming unlawfully. Does this not tell us something? Is this acceptable? Isn’t this a guarantee that we will see more people attempt to come to America unlawfully in the future? In May of last year, 2013, Chris Crane, the president of the ICE union, wrote a letter and he warned about the increasing number of young people coming in as a result of the President’s unilateral imposition of rules to block enforcement of immigration law with regard to young people. In October 2013 numbers were already beginning to surge. That was obvious.

In January of this year, the Department of Homeland Security laid out proposals for bids for a contract to private companies that would handle as many as 65,000 young people coming into the country unlawfully. So in January they were well aware of what was happening. Was any action taken in May of last year or October of last year or January of this year to confront honestly what it was that was causing such an increase of immigration from our Latin American countries and Central America, primarily? The answer is no. So now what we have is an emergency demand for \$2 billion to deal with the crisis—just a sad event, really. I wish it hadn’t happened.

But you cannot play games with law enforcement. I spent too many years as a federal prosecutor—almost 15, really. You have to have clarity of law. People have to understand it, and they have to believe that if they violate the law they will be apprehended. So we have this bizarre event where noncitizens can come into the country in violation of our laws, plain and simple, and they are given amnesty and forgiven and not prosecuted. But a citizen who doesn’t pay a few dollars of our taxes or violates a speeding ticket or gets a DUI can go to jail. So how can this possibly be justified in any moral or legal sense? I just don’t think it can.

The situation is so bad and so sad that we had Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson before the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, and I pressed him. He said: Well, we don’t want young people coming to

America because it is dangerous. I said: "What about it being a violation of the law?" He sort of avoided that. I asked him again and I pressed him. He finally said: Well, it would be against the law. But he didn't clearly state that if you come to the United States unlawfully you will be deported if you are apprehended. He didn't deny that people who come to the country today—young people—if they are entering in they are given to HHS, they are released to the custody of some adult relative that may show up or housed by the government and eventually are unlikely to ever leave the country under their policies.

The moderator of "Meet The Press" pressed him about this. Mr. Gregory said:

Critics say you are not stemming the tide fast enough. This number's going to grow wherever it ends up. The bottom line is what happens now? Are you prepared to deport these children, young mothers. . . . Are you prepared to deport them?

Isn't that a good question to the man that heads Homeland Security, whose responsibility it is to enforce our immigration law?

Now, I will acknowledge I opposed Mr. Johnson's confirmation. I don't think he had ever met an immigration officer in his life or a Border Patrol officer in his life and never had any experience in this. He was active politically with counsel for Department of Defense, but he had no experience in these matters. So did Mr. Johnson give us straight answers to this question? His answer was this:

Our message to those who come here illegally: Our border is not open to illegal migration. And we are taking a number of steps to address it, including turning people around faster. We've already dramatically reduced the turnaround time, the deportation time. For the adults we're asking this week for a supplement for Congress, from Congress, to bring on additional capacity. And we're cracking down on the smuggling organizations.

Mr. Gregory said:

Do they need to be deported? Or I've seen some reporting suggesting that more than half of them could end up staying in the United States.

That is a plain question.

Secretary Johnson said:

The law requires that, when DHS identifies somebody as a child, as an unaccompanied child, we turn them over to the Department of Health and Human Services. But there is a deportation proceeding that is commenced against the child. Now that proceeding can take some time. And so we are looking at options, added flexibility, to deal with the children in particular, but in a humanitarian and fair way.

Mr. Gregory:

Well, I'm sorry. . . . I mean it sounds like a very careful response. Are they going to be deported or not?

Secretary Johnson:

There is a deportation proceeding that is commenced against illegal migrants, including children. We are looking at ways to cre-

ate additional options for dealing with the children in particular, consistent with our laws and values.

Mr. Gregory: "I'm trying to get an answer to, 'Will most of them end up staying, in your judgment?'"

Mr. Johnson:

I think we need to find more efficient effective ways to turn this tide around, generally. And we've already begun to do that.

Mr. Gregory:

But what does that mean? Are you saying it is impractical to deport all of them who are here now?

Secretary Johnson, our chief law enforcement officer, still does not say they will be deported.

I'm saying that we've already dramatically reduced the turnaround time for adults and we are in the process of doing that for the adults with the kids. We're looking at additional options for the kids in particular.

Mr. Gregory:

To deport them or to settle them here in America? Is the goal of the administration to settle as many of these kids in America as possible? What about those who are here now? What is the goal of the administration, to settle them in America or deport them . . . ?

Secretary Johnson: "There is a deportation proceeding pending against everyone who comes into the country illegally and apprehended at the border."

Look, this is a top law enforcement officer. This is the top law enforcement officer with regard to immigration in America. He is the Secretary of Homeland Security and answers directly to the President of the United States. He could not say: Do not come to America unlawfully. It violates our laws. We cannot accept that. If you do so you will be deported. If you bring children, you both are going to be deported. Why couldn't he say that? He couldn't say it because they have had no serious policy to effectuate the law which is current law since he has been in office and before, really. They just don't want to say it. It is just stunning to me that you cannot have clarity and leadership in the top people in our government, and I am concerned about it.

So this Congress is going to have to wrestle with how to participate in doing something positive about the unlawfulness at our border. I wish we had a partner in the chief law enforcement officer of America, the President of the United States and his assistant, Secretary Jeh Johnson, but we do not. They have no intention of enforcing the law effectively and consistently. It demeans the respect this Nation should have in the world. It undermines one of the most remarkable valuable characteristics of America, and that is our commitment to the rule of law. It is a direct affront to the rule of law. They directly undermine the sovereignty of our Nation. If you don't control your border, you don't control your sovereignty, and it is just wrong. It is not

right. We are not able to accept everybody that would like to come to America—we just cannot.

We have the most generous immigration system in the world. We admit a million each year under lawful application processes. We admit another 600,000-plus under the guest worker program to come and take jobs that we need to put Americans in. Over half a million of these are not just farm workers—only 20 percent of that 600,000-plus are farm workers. Most of them are taking jobs throughout the economy. At this point in time with high unemployment and falling wages, this is not a policy that serves our national interest. We just simply cannot do that. It makes businesses happy. They like an overflow of workers that helps keep wages lower, but it is not the right thing to be doing for working Americans.

So as a nation we have a challenge, and Congress is going to have to assert itself. Congress passes laws. The President executes the laws. It is his duty to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and they are not being faithfully executed. In fact, they are being eviscerated by policy after policy after policy.

One of the top immigration officials declared: "If somebody gets into America and passes the border, they are virtually unlikely ever to be deported, adult or child."

This is a direct result of the President's policies. We do not need to continue them. In the course of this crisis, I hope we will act with concern for those young people who are here, but I hope we will use this opportunity as a Congress to assert our legitimate rights as the lawmaking branch, and in a bipartisan way, the Republicans and Democrats will defend and assert to the President that he must enforce the laws that we, the Congress, pass. He does not get to on his own execute alterations in the fundamental law of America.

There was an internal memorandum, I believe, and this internal memorandum from the Department of Homeland Security said people with children were asked why they were coming. You have heard it said because there is more violence and crime in Central America this year than last year. That is not so. They interviewed these people and what did they tell them? According to this memorandum 95 percent of them said they came because they heard if they came to America with children they would be able to stay and they would be given a permiso—in other words, released on bail—and they wouldn't have to come back for a hearing and they would be in the country.

The stories are quite clear from the investigative officers that people are crossing the border with children and they go right up to the Border Patrol

officers and turn themselves in. The Border Patrol officers turn them over to Homeland Security, and Homeland Security doesn't deport them. They set them up for some sort of trial or hearing, which may take up to 500 days. Then they find a place for them and they take care of them. It is just the kind of process that makes no sense for a serious Nation. That is all I am saying.

Why are we seeing this large number again? It is because they believe it works. And in fact it is working. In fact, young people who are coming in with their parents or brothers or uncles or aunts are coming into the country and both of them are staying. Nobody is really being deported, and they don't intend to leave.

The President created this policy, and now it has caused a national crisis. I hope we can do better. I hope in the course of the discussion we can improve on our law and find some strength for the President and put some strength behind our law enforcement in America.

Chairman GOODLATTE, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House, has made a strong statement. He said he simply cannot provide money until we have clarity that we are going to be taking action in this country that will keep this from happening in the future. We certainly need to do that, and if we do, I am more optimistic than a lot of people.

I truly believe if we follow up aggressively and start promptly reporting people who come here illegally instead of talking about it and not releasing them on bail on permisos, the word will get out in Central America just as it got out that they could come and stay. The message that will get out will tell them: Don't come here or you will take a risk. You will lose your money, you will lose everything you invested in this attempt, and you will be sent back. If we do that, the numbers will start to fall, and we might be surprised how fast those numbers would fall. It would be good for public policy and the rule of law.

I thank the Chair, yield the floor, and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask to address the Senate as in morning business and take such time as I may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT SUPPORT SYSTEM

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, at a time when vital defense programs are threatened due to a lack of funding, the Federal Government has wasted billions of dollars attempting to procure new large information technology systems, consistently disregarding lessons learned from past failures and well-established acquisition best practices.

Even with a current annual budget of \$80 billion for information technology projects, the Federal Government struggles to make those systems work. The American people can still remember the embarrassing failure of healthcare.gov, the Obama administration's most recent information technology fiasco. What they may not realize is the Health and Human Services' healthcare.gov mess is not unique and is, in an important sense, merely business as usual in how the government, particularly the Department of Defense, acquires large information technology systems.

The Pentagon is responsible for many of the most egregious cases of wasted taxpayer dollars when it comes to government information technology programs. Lack of planning for these acquisitions within the Armed Forces has made the adoption of new information technology systems an expensive and risky endeavor. The Air Force's Expeditionary Combat Support System, or ECSS, is a prime example of how a system designed to save money can actually waste billions of taxpayer dollars without producing any usable capability.

Today the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations issued a bipartisan report on the failed acquisition of the ECSS, a program that was supposed to decrease costs and increase efficiencies by consolidating the Air Force's hundreds of legacy logistic systems into a single new system.

It is important to recognize that what happened with ECSS is not an isolated case of incompetence. Unfortunately, it is one of the many examples that show how billions of dollars can be wasted if the intended acquisition is not started off right with a detailed plan that includes clear, stable requirements and achievable milestones supported by realistic original cost estimates and reliable assessments of risk.

The subcommittee's report notes that the Air Force started the ECSS acquisition in 2004 with the goal of obtaining a single "transformational" unified logistics and supply chain management system that would allow the Air Force to track all of its physical assets worldwide, from airplanes, to fuel, to spare parts. These types of computer platforms; that is, large business systems that companies use to make their businesses operate more efficiently, are known as enterprise re-

source planning systems or ERPs. Basically, ECSS was supposed to be an enterprise resource planning system that would have combined all of the Air Force's global logistics and its associated supply chain management activities under one streamlined management information technology system.

As the Department of Defense's overall strategy to become fully auditable hinges on how successfully it procures and integrates these systems into its business enterprises, failures such as the ECSS are not only costly to the taxpayer but also disastrous to the Department's larger financial improvement efforts.

To keep costs down, the Air Force intended to build its new ERP system using already available commercial software instead of a software system designed from scratch. That type of commercial software, however, works best when the organization using it follows efficient business processes. In order to take advantage of the commercial software that supported ECSS, the Air Force needed to dramatically change longstanding internal business processes that supported how it managed global logistics and its associated supply chain.

That never happened. Unfortunately, the culture of resistance to change in the Air Force made it difficult to make those changes. The Air Force needed strong leaders who could communicate not only the goals of ECSS to end users and get their buy-in but also develop sound program management strategies to overcome resistance to change among those lower level personnel. Ultimately, the leaders of the ECSS Program did not effectively communicate with the end users. Without their buy-in, ECSS was doomed to fail before it even started.

Because the Air Force had not adequately planned what needed to be done to procure ECSS effectively, it was easier for program managers to order changes in configuration that in effect customized the commercial software on the fly rather than alter the Air Force's own culture. That caused costs to skyrocket and delivery schedules to slip.

The Air Force's eagerness for expensive customization was especially troubling given that as early as 2004, the Air Force identified the need to avoid customizing the commercial software lest costs explode. But in the end, it failed to heed its own advice. The subcommittee report finds that the Air Force's customization of the commercial software was a major root cause of ECSS's failure.

Such customization could have been avoided had the Air Force fully and timely implemented a congressionally mandated procedure for improving its operations called business process re-engineering. Business process re-engineering, which is a proven private

sector management approach, offers a structured way to introduce major new changes into an organization to help it run more efficiently and ensures that careful planning goes into every stage. Not infrequently, Fortune 500 companies use business process reengineering to, for example, restructure existing business units to work more efficiently, passing resulting savings on to consumers and to absorb effectively new business units from companies they have acquired or merged with to maintain overall competitiveness in the marketplace.

Had the Air Force actually used business process reengineering in connection with the ECSS; that is, redesigned those business processes that needed to be changed for the Air Force to absorb its commercial off-the-shelf software effectively, the risk identified in 2004 would have been consciously addressed at each stage of the procurement, not essentially disregarded for 8 years.

In its 2004 risk assessment, the Air Force also identified a lack of stable program requirements as a risk to the program. That risk, too, was not accounted for. From the beginning of the ECSS procurement, the Air Force failed to properly define and stabilize the program's requirements, what the system would do, and how it would do it. Even those who were going to use ECSS felt as though they were in the dark. In 2008, 4 years later, a technician stated: "My [number one] complaint is that ECSS has yet to identify . . . any time line [for when] we can expect to receive detailed information [or] requirements about what ECSS will provide." This user's complaint reflects the lack of planning that went into the Air Force's attempt to procure ECSS.

To this day, the Air Force still does not know how many legacy systems it actually has on hand, let alone the number that ECSS was to replace. The Air Force's lack of knowledge about its current information technology systems led to confusion when it tried to construct a replacement. That is why I offered an amendment to the NDAA—the National Defense Authorization Act—for fiscal year 2015 that would require program personnel to have a proper understanding of existing legacy systems and clear goals in connection with its efforts to procure new information technology systems, but more has to be done.

The subcommittee's report recommends the Department of Defense should also start assessing how much BPR would need to be done—and how feasibly it can be done—earlier in the acquisition lifecycle of these ERPs. Also, investment review boards, which are critically important governance tools used in connection with the Department's efforts to procure ERPs, should be integrated into the budgeting process when these programs begin.

That would help make sure that not only is BPR being implemented early and effectively but also that the large information technology system being procured lines up with the Department of Defense's broader efforts to modernize its business systems. Collectively, these initiatives would help these programs start off right and allow both the Department of Defense and Congress to conduct better oversight and hold leadership accountable for future failures.

In this case no one within the Air Force and the Department of Defense has been held accountable for ECSS's appalling mismanagement. No one has been fired and not a single government employee has been held responsible for wasting over \$1 billion in taxpayer funds. With six program managers and five program executive officers over 8 years having transitioned in and out of the program, the Air Force has had trouble determining who should be held responsible. On scores of other failed programs, this of course is a study we are all familiar with. Let me repeat: Not a single government employee has been held responsible for wasting over \$1 billion—six program managers and five program executive officers over 8 years in and out of the program.

This is a chronic lack of accountability, and I think efforts in the National Defense Authorization Act amendments to align the tenure of program managers with key decision points in the acquisition process is badly needed. That provision would allow us to not only hold accountable those responsible for blunders such as ECSS but also to reward those involved with successful acquisition strategies.

The subcommittee's report details many leadership failures within the Air Force and the Department of Defense in the ECSS Program that should serve as a warning for current and future information technology acquisitions. Since 1995 the Government Accountability Office has placed the Department of Defense business systems modernization efforts; that is, its efforts to replace its existing information technology systems to improve how the Department of Defense is managed, on its high-risk list every year. It has been on that list for many of the same reasons ECSS failed, including inadequate management controls to oversee how it acquires these large systems.

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Defense "has not fully defined and established business systems modernization management controls." It further noted that these management controls are "vital to ensuring that [DOD] can effectively and efficiently manage an undertaking with the size, complexity, and significance of its business systems modernization and minimize the associated risks." I challenge the new Deputy Secretary of Defense, who acts as

the Chief Management Officer, to work with the Government Accountability Office to get the Department of Defense's business systems modernization efforts off the high-risk list, and I look forward to a plan from him on how he intends to do it.

Such a plan is clearly necessary, given the current difficulties the Department of Defense is facing in procuring major information technology programs. The Army has spent roughly \$1.89 billion on its logistics modernization programs. Yet just recently, in May of this year, the Department of Defense inspector general reported that the Army will most likely miss the congressionally mandated auditability deadline in September of 2017 because it failed to properly implement the BPR.

Additionally, the defense enterprise accounting and management system, or DEAMS, is a current Air Force acquisition effort that has received roughly \$425 million in funding and is scheduled to receive billions more. DEAMS has faced similar issues to those witnessed in the failed ECSS procurement program. For instance, similar to ECSS, the Air Force has been frustrated by its inability to get the buy-in it needs from DEAMS' intended end users for them to change their business processes and allow for DEAMS integration into the Air Force.

According to a December 2013 Department of Defense internal report, end users at McConnell Air Force Base indicated that the training for this program "did not provide them with a real understanding of the system and its application to their day-to-day work process." Sound familiar? In this case, the Air Force and the Department of Defense are again failing to properly procure and implement a program that is crucial to its business operations and to the Air Force becoming fully auditable by 2017.

The Navy has also struggled with the procurement of large information technology as a program called Navy ERP illustrates. According to the Department of Defense's Deputy Chief Management Officer, these guidelines demand that program officers for information technology acquisitions effectively map out current legacy systems and business processes that need to be changed or retired and then lay out a new plan that would improve and transform the shortcomings of the old systems. These "as is" and "to be" process maps help guide the DOD components and agencies in how they procure large information technology systems.

But when the Department of Defense inspector general asked the program office for Navy ERP's process maps, disturbingly, the Navy said no such plan existed. This is particularly unsettling because the Under Secretary of the Navy at the time, who is now the

Deputy Secretary of Defense, certified that those plans were actually completed.

In addition to the lack of process maps, the Department of Defense inspector general found that Navy ERP could not be used to track and account for the Navy's \$416 billion in military equipment assets. That means the Navy's program would not even allow the Navy to become fully auditable, as required by Congress, raising questions about why the Navy would spend \$870 million on a program that would not even fulfill congressional mandates.

This lapse in oversight is unacceptable, which is why the subcommittee's bipartisan report recommends that the Department of Defense review its internal policies to make sure information technology systems that receive BPR certifications on paper are actually implementing BPR in reality.

These certifications are required for a reason: They help decisionmakers in the Department of Defense and Congress make informed decisions on whether a given program is ready to go further in the acquisition process and whether taxpayer funds should be authorized and appropriated for that purpose.

As I mentioned earlier, information technology procurement is not only a Department of Defense problem. In November of last year, in response to the disastrous healthcare.gov rollout, President Obama himself said:

One of the things [the Federal Government] does not do well is information technology procurement. This is kind of a systematic problem that we have across the board.

I agree with him that information technology procurement in the Federal Government is in desperate need of reform. The White House's Office of Management and Budget has expressed significant concerns about 42 Federal information technology investments, totaling \$2 billion. According to the Government Accountability Office: "despite spending hundreds of billions on I.T. since 2000, the federal government has experienced failed I.T. projects and has achieved little of the productivity improvements that private industry has realized from I.T."

The Department of Homeland Security's Secure Border Initiative Program, or SBInet, was another notable major IT procurement failure. My colleagues might remember SBInet as the high-tech surveillance program that, when it began in 2006, promised a single "transformational" integrated security system for hundreds of miles of border protection on our southern border. Well, I remember SBInet as a system that, according to the Government Accountability Office, cost \$1.2 billion and was on a path to spend 564 percent more than its initial cost estimates when it was canceled in 2010. Once again, ever-changing requirements, a

lack of internal management controls, and not really understanding what we were trying to procure, how hard it would actually be, and planning effectively for those difficulties, led to the Federal Government squandering over \$1 billion with nothing to show for it.

The Federal Government's incessant inability to procure major information technology systems is especially concerning since, in the coming months, the Department of Defense will be selecting a contractor to develop a centralized military health care information technology system. That program is supposed to provide seamless sharing of health data among the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and private sector providers. In light of the recent tragic consequences stemming from mismanagement at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and VA hospitals around the country, we cannot afford to further jeopardize veterans' health care because of information technology failures. Yet any serious effort to reform how care is delivered to our veterans will largely turn on the effective delivery and integration of this system. We need to put the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs on notice that we will monitor this program carefully throughout its acquisition.

In closing, there is still much to be done at the Department of Defense and throughout the Federal Government to ensure the acquisition of large information technology programs is improved. If we do not want to repeat past failures, the Department of Defense's attempts to procure large business IT systems must be supported by the right leadership, proper planning, and a workforce that is open to changing "business as usual" in order to help make sure the Department operates more efficiently, effectively, and transparently.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLARIFYING INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NOMINATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 470, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) amending Senate Resolution 400 (94th Congress) to clarify the responsibility of committees of the Senate in the provision of the advice and consent of the Senate to nominations to positions in the intelligence community.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the resolution is agreed to, and the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of Wednesday, June 11, 2014.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. CORNYN. This Wednesday, it is reported President Obama will be traveling to my State of Texas, but he will not visit the border between Texas and Mexico, the site of what he has himself called a growing humanitarian crisis. Instead, on his 2-day trip, he will fundraise and apparently deliver remarks on the economy. It is a little ironic, given the economic boom in Texas relative to the rest of the country, that the President would choose to come to Texas and to lecture us on what he thinks we should do about the economy, but my hope is he would come to learn from Texas and not just give another lecture.

Today, the White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, said the President was "well aware" of the crisis on the border. As the distinguished Presiding Officer knows, I recently visited McAllen, TX, myself 1 week ago today, and it is heartbreaking to see these young children without their parents. It is difficult to hear the horrific stories about the journey these children made from their homes in Central America through Mexico, dodging assault, kidnapping, various and other sundry crimes, and then finally making their way into the United States. So it is easy in one sense to see why the President might prefer to stay away rather than to come, learn, and listen for himself, particularly in light of the sad stories he is going to hear or he would hear if he decided to come.

But I think the problem speaks for itself when the President, who would prefer to hang out with campaign donors and other political supporters, would decide not to have any interaction with those who are directly affected by his failed policies—in this case the failed immigration policies that led to a full-blown humanitarian crisis.

Instead of taking the easy way out, I wish the President would step up and lead—and he would learn, perhaps, something he did not already know or that he thinks he knows and which is absolutely wrong. It is puzzling, and it is frustrating that the President of the United States chooses the path he apparently is going to take rather than one that will help him solve problems.

We know the President last week stood in the Rose Garden in front of

the American people and at the same time he asked for money to help address this problem—and it is reportedly on the order of \$2 billion—in the very next breath he announced he is looking at expanding the very same policies that have helped create this crisis, create the impression there will be no consequences for coming to the country in violation of our laws. It is disheartening, it is disappointing, and it is extremely dangerous.

This week, during his trip to Texas, it would take the President less than 1 hour on Air Force One to visit the border and to see what I and so many of my colleagues have seen firsthand, a very sad situation that could have been prevented. But now that it has happened, it needs to be addressed in a bipartisan way. He would see what I saw, which is children separated from their parents with no certainty about the future, children who have endured unspeakable hardships and cruelty at the hands of some of the most vile thugs on the planet, the cartels, who view them as a commodity as they do drugs and weapons. They view these children as a commodity, something to make money off of.

The Border Patrol in South Texas and along the border is doing a very professional job under very difficult circumstances, but they are simply overwhelmed. Repeatedly, we will hear of the Border Patrol—law enforcement officers—basically having to divert their attention from doing those law enforcement responsibilities and duties to basically taking care of children, making sure they are fed, their medical condition is being attended to, and they have a safe place to stay while going through the procedures there at the border.

I commend the Border Patrol and all of our Federal law enforcement agencies for making their resources and time stretch as far as possible for these children while the Commander in Chief has decided to do something else.

I realize how controversial and polarizing this issue can be, but at least in some respects it should take precedence over partisan politics and fund-raisers.

What I don't understand is how the President can send us a bill for \$2 billion—which he reportedly is going to do tomorrow, apparently asking us for some changes in the existing law—and then to simply be missing in action when it comes to learning for himself the very facts that are necessary for him to be able to make the case not only to Congress but to the American people for why both of those were necessary.

President Obama evidently needs a wakeup call, and visiting the border and learning firsthand about the severity and causes of this ongoing crisis will be that wakeup call.

Again, I urge the President to visit the border this week during his fundraising trip to Texas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. COATS. Madam President, the Supreme Court issued a ruling last week that I wish to discuss for a few moments today. This decision marks a very important development in the ongoing debate our country is engaged in on the subject of religious freedom.

In a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court reported that the contraception coverage mandate imposed by the Affordable Care Act on family-owned companies such as Hobby Lobby stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties violates the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

These two companies are owned by individuals who have faith-based objections to providing access to contraceptives that can terminate a pregnancy.

While it is true some faith-based institutions object to the mandate on religious grounds, their insurance companies which are covering them and their employees in that business are mandated to provide support for contraception. It is also true, but not really distinguished and noticed in the media, that there are a number of institutions which are saying: You can't couch this under the umbrella of contraception, you have to understand that what we are opposed to here is not all forms of birth control.

Hobby Lobby has been clear to state that they fall under this category, although they oppose the morning-after pill and other contraceptives that induce abortions.

The Supreme Court's ruling means employers such as Hobby Lobby or Grote Industries in my home State of Indiana—a family-run auto lighting company—will not be forced to take actions contrary to their religious beliefs. I applaud this ruling issued by the Court because freedom of religion is a core American principle guaranteed by our First Amendment, and through this decision the Court has affirmed that the administration simply can't pick and choose when and how or whether to adhere to the Constitution.

While this ruling is a welcome positive step, it is important to note that religious freedom is still under attack across this country. It is under attack because the Court's ruling applies only to a very narrow rule, family-owned for-profit companies such as Hobby Lobby, when many faith-based organizations, charities, hospitals, educational institutions are still required to facilitate insurance coverage that includes contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs despite their religious beliefs and despite their moral objec-

tions. Requiring these faith-based institutions and businesses to betray the fundamental tenets of their beliefs is, I believe, unconstitutional, and the administration's so-called accommodation is far from adequate in this fundamental breach of our First Amendment rights under our Constitution. Those impacted by this mandate are a large and diverse group that includes Indiana-based institutions such as Grace College in Winona Lake, IN, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, and many other schools based on a religious foundation that find a moral and religious objection.

Despite conscious objections and the University of Notre Dame's clearly outlined standards and values, Notre Dame was told by a Federal appeals court late last year that it must comply with the ObamaCare mandate, which they are appealing.

My alma mater, one of those institutions, Wheaton College, was told by the Supreme Court only last week that it doesn't have to abide by the contraceptive coverage mandate until the judicial system determines whether the administration's requirement is valid over religious institutions and other nonprofits.

Just an aside, it was surprising to read this morning in the Wall Street Journal that—in fact, it was disappointing and highly unusual—despite the Court explicitly stating its decision to grant Wheaton College a temporary injunction “should not be construed as an expression of the Court's views on the merits” of Wheaton's case, having explicitly stated that, one Justice wrote a dissenting opinion in which she essentially decided on the merits of the Wheaton case herself. That is the first time, in my recollection. I don't follow every decision of the Supreme Court, but I follow many of them—but it is surprising that a Justice would allow their ideological passion on a particular issue to so mischaracterize the ruling of the Court that simply provided for an injunction to give the time for the court system to make a ruling.

Nevertheless, that is not why I came to the floor this evening. I thought in terms of thinking through this issue and what I might say that it appears to be ideological bias on the Court that raised its ugly head here, and hopefully that will be retracted.

But whether it is Wheaton College, whether it is Notre Dame or Grace College or numerous other institutions, it is important to understand that in many of these institutions a thread of faith, a stream of water, runs through everything they do in those organizations, and particularly in those schools of higher learning and those entities that provide social services through the food banks, through dealing with the homeless. The element of faith is important to their success, it is important to their results, and it is important to their beliefs.

Whether it is faith in learning as the central part of institutions such as Notre Dame, Wheaton College, or others, or whether it is a homeless shelter in South Bend, IN—that is the combination of churches, university, city, county, some Federal funding, some local funding, and some volunteer funding—it is essential, as they have told me on one of my visits, that this ribbon of faith is essential to the success of their program and to the rehabilitation of those who walk through the front door, often homeless, and leave months and years later with the capabilities of full employment, gainful employment, and become homeowners instead of homeless.

Whether it is food banks or homeless shelters or other important organizations, so many of these are meeting needs of people across this Nation. But these institutions are seeing this ribbon of faith and the free exercise of religion constrained and restricted by this administration's mandate under the Obama health care law.

What is at stake here is of extreme significance. Established in the founding of our Nation and sustained for over 200 years, religious freedom is at the very core of our system of government, and protection of religious liberty means all people of all faiths have the right to exercise their faith within the bounds of our justice system even if their belief seems to some as misguided or flawed or flatout wrong. But what is unique about America and what is guaranteed in our Constitution is that we do not have the right to dictate to those people how to express their faith so long as they are within the bounds of justice, how to express their faith, live their faith, and employ their faith.

Taking that right away from faith-based institutions is flatout wrong and I believe a violation of the most precious amendment to the Constitution. Faith-based institutions should not have to facilitate insurance coverage for products that are counter to their religious or moral beliefs. To require them to betray the fundamental tenets of their beliefs and accept this violation of their First Amendment rights guaranteed by the Constitution is simply wrong.

In a joint statement released shortly after announcement of the Hobby Lobby decision, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said:

Now is the time to redouble our effort to build a culture that fully respects religious freedom.

That is really what we are asking for. We are asking this administration to respect those institutions' and those individuals' religious freedom as guaranteed under our Constitution. Wheth-

er we agree with their tenets, whether we ideologically take a position in favor or not in favor, it is their right and it is guaranteed.

I hope in the coming days the Supreme Court will strike down the administration's mandate for all faith-based institutions and rescind this unprecedented attack on religious freedom. While we await further action from the Court, now is the time for this body—the Senate—and all Americans of faith to stand for our country's longstanding right to the freedom of religion. It was the father of our country, after all, George Washington, who once said:

I have often expressed my sentiment, that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience.

We today know that reference to "every man" also includes every woman and every human being, the right to be accountable to God alone for their religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of their own conscience—not the dictates of a Federal Government that says "We know better," not the dictates of those who simply say "We will interpret that liberty to our satisfaction to accomplish our purposes." As in Washington's times, we must defend these rights of conscience and preserve religious liberty for all Americans regardless of their choice of belief and expression of their faith.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, last week Target stores announced that they were going to initiate a new policy in their stores across the country. They were going to politely ask all of their consumers to refrain from bringing guns inside their stores.

This is a picture of one of their customers bringing what appears to be a semiautomatic rifle into a store in order to buy Oreos. Their statement read like this:

As you have likely seen in the media, there has been debate about whether guests in communities that permit "open carry" should be allowed to bring firearms into Target stores. Our approach has always been to follow local laws, and of course we will continue to do so, but starting today we will also respectfully request that guests not bring firearms to Target—even in communities where it is permitted by law.

We've listened carefully to the nuances of this debate and respect the protected rights of everyone involved. . . . This is a complicated issue, but it boils down to a simple belief: Bringing firearms to Target creates an environment that is at odds with the family-friendly shopping and work experience we strive to create.

I am thankful that Target has taken this position. I am hopeful that other retail stores across the country will follow suit. My only point of disagreement is that there is any nuance to this debate. My only point of contention is that there is anything complicated about whether this is appropriate for workers across retail stores and restaurants in the United States or the little kids who come in and shop there on a regular basis.

Here is what the NRA had to say about this. The NRA released a statement that said:

Let's not mince words, not only is it rare, it is downright weird and certainly not a practical way to normally go about your business while being prepared to defend yourself—talking about bringing firearms into stores—to those who are not acquainted with the dubious practice of using public displays of firearms as a means to draw attention to one's self or one's cause, it can be down right scary. Using guns really to draw attention to yourself in public not only defies common sense, it shows a lack of consideration and manners.

That was the NRA's position for a couple of days, until a handful of NRA members got upset and started tearing up their membership cards, and then the NRA's top lobbyist apologized for that statement and effectively withdrew it. Luckily, Target some weeks later changed their policies.

That is weird. That is scary. That is inappropriate. It is this policy which we have perpetuated by our inaction in this place that allows for the continued diffusion of weapons, many of which are military grade such as the one displayed here that is leading to the spiraling rates of mass gun violence across this country.

We went for a stretch in January or February where there was a school shooting almost every other day that school was open. We expect now to pick up the newspaper and read about another mass slaughter somewhere in this country, and we wonder why it is happening. There are guys buying Oreos with an assault rifle strapped onto their shoulder, and that debate is nuanced and complicated about whether we should allow it.

The gun lobby's position speaks to this mythology—that is charitable, a lie to the cynics—that the only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. That is not what actually any of the data tells us. The data tells us if you have a gun in your home, you are much more likely to be the victim of a gunshot from that gun than you are to ever use that on an assailant. If you are a woman, for instance, you are five times more likely to die as a result

of domestic violence with a gun if it is in your home rather than if you are in a home without a gun. Health Affairs came out with a study of 50 States. A longitudinal study of experience related to rates of gun violence and rates of gun ownership found that for every percentage increase of gun ownership in a community, there is a percentage increase in gun violence.

There have been 79 shootings in Walmarts in the last year—79 shootings in Walmarts, of all places, in the last year. I am glad Target made the decision to take guns out of the workplace.

Senator BLUMENTHAL will speak after me. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I sent a letter to Target asking them to make this change in policy, and I am glad they did.

It appears we will have debate this week on a piece of legislation that will allow for individuals to bring more firearms onto public property throughout this country. It is not a debate about bringing firearms into Target stores; it is a debate about bringing firearms onto public lands.

There is a perfectly legitimate debate to be had about bringing more legal guns onto public property, but there is a more important debate than that about taking illegal guns off of our city streets. If the Senate is going to spend a week debating a bill about gun policy, then we should be talking about getting rid of illegal guns. We should be talking about keeping guns out of the hands of criminals. We should be talking about stopping the epidemic of gun violence across this country.

These are the numbers: 31,000 people are killed by guns every year, 2,600 people are killed by guns every month, and 86 people are killed by guns every day. If we are going to be talking on the floor of the Senate about guns this week, we should be talking about how to stop another Newtown, another Aurora, another bloody Chicago summer.

The bill we are being asked to debate this week is a gun bill that does nothing to stop the scourge of gun violence across our country, and I for one cannot vote for it. I cannot vote for it because there are not only families still grieving in Newtown, but every single day there are families grieving across this country, such as the families associated with a young man by the name of Michael Mayfield in Baltimore, MD. Michael was killed earlier this year. He was an outstanding student. He was passionate about being a member of the Junior ROTC. He was a gifted baseball star in Baltimore. The paramedics found Michael shot in the head inside a vehicle in Northwest Baltimore and took him to a local hospital, where he died. He left his house at about 6 o'clock, and somebody walked up to him on the street, shot him four times in the head, and then fled on foot to an

awaiting car up the street. He had been accepted to college, and he was due to start there this fall, but instead of going to his graduation, his family and friends—hundreds of them—went to his funeral.

Paul Lee was killed some weeks later in another school shooting at Seattle Pacific University. A delusional young man started shooting and killed Paul, who was described as easygoing and energetic. A friend and dorm mate of his said he was adored by everyone and affectionate with everybody. He loved to dance. He was a member of Seattle Pacific University's hip-hop club, and his friend said he would walk around his dorm doing the robot. At a makeshift memorial to him outside where his funeral took place, one friend wrote, "Keep dancing in heaven."

Kristjan Ndoj, a 15-year-old from Connecticut, was out on his bike one night. When the clock approached 8:45, two gunshots were fired from a wooded area near his house and struck Kristjan in the head and leg, dropping him onto the driveway at Agawam Trail. He died 5 days later. Police say the shooting may have involved trouble over a teenage girl.

The casualness of violence in this country and the idea that a dispute over a teenage girl would result in the death of a 15-year-old is directly connected to our casualness about guns in this country. If we are so casual as to think someone needs to be armed when they go to buy Oreos at a Target, it stands to reason that some kids may think they can have a casualness about settling disputes with guns as well.

I will not be voting for cloture today because we are long overdue to make a statement in the Senate about the tens of thousands of deaths happening due to guns all across this country. Everyone has a role to play in trying to stem this epidemic of violence. Target has a role to play, and they stepped up last week by taking guns out of their stores. Our hospitals and our mental health professionals have a role to play. This is not just about the number of guns out in our communities, this is also about getting resources to very troubled kids. This Congress has a role to play as well. Our role is to have a debate about how we can take guns out of the hands of criminals, take military-style assault weapons off the streets, and give real resources to people who want to help these troubled individuals. That is the debate we should be having on the floor of the Senate this week if we really want to honor all of the voices of these victims.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to thank my colleague Senator MURPHY. He is my friend and partner on so many different issues but most especially on measures to stop

gun violence in this country—commonsense, sensible measures he has championed so ably, and I have been very proud to work with him as a partner in spearheading this issue as well.

I wish to explain my reasons that I am unable to vote for the bill we are considering today, the bill that is presented for cloture on the motion to proceed this afternoon. People in the United States have a Second Amendment right to possess and use firearms. It is guaranteed by the Constitution. And there are legitimate ways people can use firearms in this country—recreational and sometimes commercial. Those rights are guaranteed by the Constitution, and this measure, arguably, is in service of those rights.

I cannot vote for a measure which makes owning or possessing or using guns more readily or easily useable when we have failed to act, and we have failed to act, on commonsense, sensible measures that will stop gun violence.

I voted to achieve cloture on a measure very similar to this one before Sandy Hook and before the Senate failed to produce the necessary 60 votes which were required to pass commonsense gun violence legislation a year ago April.

I can see the legitimate reasons to vote for the Sportsmen's Bill and to support cloture but not when this body has failed in its fundamental obligation to make America safer and to rid it of gun violence. We have an obligation to take first things first and protect our children and adopt the kinds of commonsense measures—background checks, mental health initiatives, school safety, and a ban on illegal trafficking—that are easily within reach and would be passed by a majority of this body if presented for another vote and if a majority of Members voting was sufficient rather than the 60 votes that is now our threshold.

I am reminded today of a victim of gun violence over this very weekend in the early morning of Sunday. A young woman in Bridgeport was gunned down by her ex-boyfriend, raging into her mother's house. First he shot her mother's boyfriend and then turned his gun on her because she had the audacity to end their relationship.

Her story puts a face on the reason I have offered a measure named after Lori Jackson, another victim of gun violence, to impose commonsense steps to take guns away from the people who are under temporary restraining orders as well as permanent restraining orders. Whether that kind of measure would have worked in this case is irrelevant. Her death was unnecessary, preventable, tragic, and painful to her family, not to mention her mom, who was in the house at the time she was gunned down and murdered.

Her death occurred within 75 minutes of another death in Bridgeport. On the

east side, Abraham "A.B." Davidson, a 23-year-old young man, was sitting on his house porch on Barnum Avenue in Bridgeport—gunned down.

In the case of Kiromy Fontanez—the young woman who was shot by her ex-boyfriend—the shooter, Jose Santiago, was apprehended almost immediately and gave a confession. According to Bridgeport police, the case is closed. The chief of the Bridgeport police, Chief Gaudett, had this to say:

Three separate incidents, six people shot, two people dead. I am very proud of the work that all of our officers do every day, but especially last night. It was a really trying night last night.

Chief Gaudett committed himself to begin a renewed effort against domestic violence inspired by the death of this young woman, Kiromy Fontanez.

In Connecticut we have already exceeded the number of domestic violence deaths that occurred in all of last year. Her death was the 10th in 2014 alone. Domestic violence takes a terrible, awful, unacceptable toll in lives and injuries, heartbreak and pain, and it is so avoidable and unnecessary.

We need to do more about domestic violence, but, as my colleague Senator MURPHY has commented so well, the chances of death as a result of domestic violence are increased by five times when there is a gun in the house. Guns and domestic violence are a dangerous toxic mix, and that is the reason for our legislation, the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act. The legislation we have offered takes away guns, stops purchases and ownership of guns when there are restraining orders, when there is an objective reason to think there will be this kind of threat of violence and rage and wrath.

The memory of these two people—who died just yesterday morning in the early hours of the Sunday following Independence Day—should focus our attention again on what is important, what should be our priority, what should be our first steps when it comes to guns. That is to make America safer.

Four months after the brutal murders in Sandy Hook, this body said no to the grieving Newtown families, to the people of Connecticut, and to the vast majority of American people who continue to support commonsense measures such as background checks. This body voted to prevent gun violence legislation from getting a final vote.

Today we will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's bill. The fact that we are now considering this legislation to expand recreational shooting on Federal lands without addressing the scourge of gun violence is a stark reminder of the Congress's misplaced priorities and unfulfilled obligations.

I sympathize with what my great colleague Senator HAGAN is trying to do.

If the legislation we are considering were part of a broader national discussion and conversation about who should possess guns and how we should keep them out of the hands of dangerous people—criminals and mentally troubled people who are dangerous to themselves or others—it would be a different debate on the floor and the considerations for me would be different on this vote.

I spent last week going from town to town in Connecticut listening to constituents who asked me, What are you doing in Washington? What I heard a lot was, What are you doing in Washington to stop gun violence? When will you bring back the measures to stop gun violence that are the legacy and the lesson of Sandy Hook—a tragedy that still causes so much pain to so many people, thinking of those families, the 20 beautiful children and brave educators whose lives were lost that day. I cannot go back to Connecticut and tell those people who asked me about what we are doing about guns in America that what we have done is made it easier for Americans to shoot at targets, made it easier for big game trophy hunters to bring their polar bear rugs back from Canadian hunting grounds, and reduced regulations that govern shell cases. That is not my idea of where our priorities should be.

First things first. Let's stop gun violence. Let's at least take steps to reduce its horrific toll of death and injury, its cost in dollars. Let's try to find that bipartisan ground on reducing domestic violence or reaching out to people who need mental health treatment, and let's find common ground on making America safer. That common ground serves our best instincts—what makes our Nation the greatest Nation in the history of the world, a nation whose independence we celebrated this weekend, with pride and joy, even as the terrible toll of gun violence continued in yesterday's early morning, over the weekend throughout America, where tens of thousands of deaths have followed the tragic, horrific, unspeakable tragedy of Sandy Hook.

I will vote against this legislation, against invoking cloture, with sadness and regret that that obligation and promise is as yet unfulfilled.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, in a few minutes the Senate will vote on whether to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014, a bill I introduced earlier this year with my friend and colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI.

I am proud that by working alongside our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we have crafted a package of 12 provisions that have broad bipartisan

support. I will be back on the floor at a later time to give a much more thorough, open, and indepth presentation on our bill, but I wish to take a couple of minutes to highlight a couple of the key provisions.

One is to ensure that future generations do have an opportunity to enjoy our great outdoors as we do today. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act reauthorizes several landmark conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Our bill also includes regulatory reforms and enhancements that will benefit sportsmen and women across our country. For example, States will be able to allocate a greater portion of the Federal Pittman-Robertson funding to create and maintain shooting ranges on public land. This is important because we are currently facing a shortage of public shooting ranges across the country.

We will also enable hunters to purchase an electronic duck stamp. I can personally vouch for the benefits of this provision. Our son-in-law came to visit one year. My husband planned to take him duck hunting toward the end of the season. Unfortunately, three different places had sold out of duck stamps. When my husband buys his duck stamp for the season, he actually purchases extra ones, just in case family or friends come to visit during duck season. Senator WICKER's electronic duck stamp provision will allow my husband and other hunters to purchase duck stamps online—this is 2014—instead of traveling from post office to post office in search of a duck stamp.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act will also help improve access for hunting and fishing on public lands and will require 1.5 percent, or \$10 million, of annual Land and Water Conservation Fund money to be used to improve the access on our public lands.

It is important to note that we accomplish all of this without adding anything to the deficit. In fact, this act actually reduces the deficit by \$5 million over the next 10 years.

I believe we have assembled a strong bill that is going to benefit the anglers, the outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and the hunters in North Carolina and nationwide. I am proud to say this bipartisan act has 45 cosponsors—18 Democrats, 26 Republicans, and one Independent. We have cosponsors of all ideological backgrounds from every region of the country.

The list of organizations supporting our bill is also long and diverse. Over 40 organizations have endorsed the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, ranging from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, to Ducks Unlimited.

Outdoor recreation activities are part of the fabric of so many States, including North Carolina. From the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the west to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in the east, North Carolinians are passionate about the outdoors. Hunting, fishing, and hiking are a way of life, and many of these traditions have been handed down through my own family.

I am glad the Senate will debate the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. In putting our bill together, Senator MURKOWSKI and I tried to pull the best ideas from Members of both of our parties. However, I do recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas for how to strengthen this bill. It is my hope we can take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen's-related amendments this week. I encourage my colleagues who have amendments to file them and come to the floor to discuss them.

In closing, this Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 is a balanced bipartisan plan that is endorsed by 40 stakeholders, and it is fiscally responsible. I urge my colleagues to vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill so we can start debating steps we can take to benefit the more than 90 million sportsmen and women across the country.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

REFORMING FOSTER CARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for many years I have been an advocate for reforming the foster care system and making sure the government is doing the best it can to protect and care for those who are abused, neglected, and particularly when they are removed from their families. That is why Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana and I started the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth. We wanted a forum to discuss policies and practices and to learn more about the challenges foster young people face. We want to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable young people who don't have a permanent place to call home.

The caucus cannot function without the input and the insight from foster young people. These young people are the experts on the foster care system. They have been through it. They know the challenges. They tell us in this caucus what works and what needs to change. They share the experiences and provide us with real-world stories about how our policies truly affect them.

I wish to highlight the story of one particular person whom I have had the privilege of getting to know. Ammoni Myers is an intern in my office this summer. She is participating in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's Foster Youth Internship Program. I wish to tell her story because it is important not to forget

there are young people in this country such as Ammoni who don't have a permanent family or a place to call home. Despite her circumstances, Ammoni has risen up and made a better life for herself. So allow me to share her story.

Ammoni Myers, a native of Boston, became a ward of the State on the day she was born. She was abandoned at birth. When she was 6 months old, Ammoni's great aunt learned of Ammoni and her two other siblings and decided to take care of them by taking them into her home. She lived in her great aunt's care for 10 years. Even though she had a better family environment, life still presented her with many challenges. Ammoni struggled with rejection and trauma at a very young age, resulting from different types of abuse.

At the age of 10, Ammoni was reunited with her biological mother because the State granted her temporary custody. Ammoni thought her life was finally secure. Wouldn't we think so, being at home with our birth mother? Her mother promised to care for her and never give her up again. Unfortunately, after 2 short years, Ammoni's mother voluntarily returned her and her siblings back to the State.

So at the age of 12, Ammoni was separated from her siblings and placed with foster families until the age of 18. Although Ammoni and her brother were placed together for a short period of time, they were later separated as Ammoni moved around in the system. During her time in foster care, she was moved several times, never experiencing permanency or stability. That is one of the things I learned through the work of this caucus; that when we talk to people who are in foster care, what do they want? They want permanency. They want a real mom and dad, and they would like to have a place to call home.

To Ammoni, foster parents seemed more interested in cash benefits for parenting rather than human investment. She experienced emotional and verbal abuse in places she stayed. She didn't know unconditional love. Her foster families didn't take the time to manage her trauma but instead added to it.

One of the most difficult experiences Ammoni faced was aging out of the foster care system, and aging out issues with these young people is exactly why Senator LANDRIEU and I established the caucus I have already spoken about.

During the summer, while still in care, Ammoni entered an intense college preparation program that would determine if she was adequately prepared to enroll in a postsecondary institution. Already anxious about the future of her success and if she would be able to handle the workload of the program, she received a phone call from her social worker that afternoon. The bad news came that she was aging

out. She was told that her foster mother was no longer being paid for Ammoni's bed. Because the money was running out for her foster parents, Ammoni was forced to leave the home immediately.

The shock and devastation of those words crushed Ammoni. She lived in that home with that family for 3 years. She considered it a long-term living situation. Ammoni returned to find her belongings packed in garbage bags waiting for her at the door. That is a story our caucus often hears.

Ammoni aged out of the system in a way no person should have to experience. She left a place she considered home, not knowing what her future would hold. She was on her own, shoved into independence with no family, support or a place to call home.

Ammoni's aging-out experience left her feeling shattered and confused. She felt betrayed by both her foster mother, who claimed to love her, and the child welfare system—in other words, the State she lived in—that claimed to protect her. While this experience quickly taught Ammoni the value of independence, she would have preferred to have a smoother transition into that independence.

When Ammoni left her so-called home at age 18, she was taken in by a former mentor and her family. She resided there for 5 years. Living there was a reminder that love, family, and support do exist.

In 2008 Ammoni learned she had post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety. These diagnoses led her to take a break from school to gain control over these disruptions. Ammoni entered into a Christian residential program, Mercy Ministries, where she was able to gain a better understanding of herself. This experience motivated her to attend Gordon College, a Christian institution outside of Boston.

Today she is working in my office, sitting in this Chamber with me, learning how government works. She is becoming an advocate for foster youth who face the same experiences she faced.

Despite the challenges, Ammoni feels very fortunate. She has been able to attend college, graduate this year, and hopes to pursue a meaningful career. Knowing that many children and youth do not have adequate support systems in their life to help them along their life journey, Ammoni pursued an education in social work and sociology.

Many people who have gone through similar experiences resort to other paths because of the lack of support and services. Many foster children age out of the system without supportive services in place to ensure healthier lives. Thankfully, Ammoni has had a network of support to guide and direct her through difficult times.

Ammoni's experience has fueled her passion to advocate for those who do

not have a voice to fight for themselves. As Ammoni looks back on her life, she realizes her past does not have to determine her future. She is on her way to becoming a monumental figure for those who have suffered, giving youth across the country a voice and making a difference in this world.

I appreciate her willingness to let me share her story. It is so typical of so much that we hear in the caucus that Senator LANDRIEU and I formed. This young girl is a very brave woman. She knows we can learn from her. We will learn from her. We must do right by her and others in the foster care system.

I hope my colleagues have a chance to say hello to Ammoni while she is here in Washington, DC, and take a minute to commend her for being an advocate for other youth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask to speak on the nomination that is pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

KRAUSE NOMINATION

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to speak just for a couple moments—because we are limited in time to speak—about Cheryl Ann Krause who is the nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

I want to review her credentials, some of which the Members of the Senate are familiar with in preparing for the vote.

Cheryl Ann Krause is a graduate of the Stanford Law School. She got her juris doctorate degree with distinction in 1993. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania summa cum laude. Of course, I am especially proud of that as a Pennsylvanian.

She has an extensive career both as a member of law firms in the private sector as well as a prosecutor. Before I get to that, I want to mention her clerkships.

She clerked in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for Judge Alex Kozinski. That was followed by a clerkship in the Supreme Court of the United States for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy.

Later she became a prosecutor, as I mentioned, in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where she worked for 5 years. In that capacity as a prosecutor, she handled the investigation, prosecution, and appeals of domestic and international bank fraud, securities fraud, money laundering, and public corruption cases.

She has a broad and deep experience in the law, both on the civil and criminal side of it. She is an excellent student, as you can tell from her academic

credentials and her educational background. She has been a member of so many organizations which would be directly relevant and connected to her work as a judge. I will not read all of those today.

But I also want to say that Cheryl is someone I know. I know her to be a person of character and integrity, someone who has not just broad experience but the kind of integrity and judicial temperament that we will want from a member of any Federal district court or, in this case, an appeals court.

Finally, I will mention something about her own family background. Her husband is Col. Bradford R. Everman, who currently serves as the Operations Group commander of the 177th Fighter Wing with the New Jersey National Guard. He served, as well, as a fighter pilot in tours of duty the world over. So she has both her own credentials but also has as a member of her family a real commitment to our country above and beyond her excellent work as a lawyer, as a scholar, as a lecturer, and, of course, as a prosecutor. So I could not say anything more today to recommend her to Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle when we have the vote to move her forward so she can become a circuit court judge on the U.S. Circuit Court for the Third Circuit, which, of course, includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware as States in that circuit.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL ANN KRAUSE TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cheryl

Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baldwin	Graham	Murray
Barrasso	Grassley	Nelson
Bennet	Hagan	Paul
Blumenthal	Harkin	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Pryor
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rubio
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Kaine	Scott
Chambliss	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Coburn	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lee	Tester
Coons	Levin	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	Markey	Udall (CO)
Crapo	McCain	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCaskill	Walsh
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Enzi	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Begich	Johnson (WI)	Vitter
Flake	Landrieu	
Isakson	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT
OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—
Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Richard J. Durbin, Michael F. Bennet, Debbie Stabenow, Ron Wyden, Joe Donnelly, Patrick J. Leahy, Angus S. King, Jr., Mark Begich, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Heidi Heitkamp.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Alexander	Brown	Cochran
Ayotte	Burr	Collins
Baldwin	Cantwell	Coons
Barrasso	Carper	Corker
Bennet	Casey	Cornyn
Blunt	Chambliss	Crapo
Boozman	Coats	Cruz

Donnelly	Kirk	Rockefeller
Durbin	Klobuchar	Rubio
Enzi	Leahy	Sanders
Fischer	Lee	Schumer
Franken	Levin	Scott
Gillibrand	Manchin	Sessions
Graham	McCain	Shaheen
Grassley	McCaskill	Shelby
Hagan	McConnell	Stabenow
Harkin	Merkley	Tester
Hatch	Mikulski	Thune
Heinrich	Moran	Toomey
Heitkamp	Murkowski	Udall (CO)
Heller	Murray	Udall (NM)
Hooven	Nelson	Walsh
Inhofe	Paul	Warner
Johanns	Portman	Whitehouse
Johnson (SD)	Pryor	Wicker
Johnson (WI)	Reid	Wyden
Kaine	Risch	
King	Roberts	

NAYS—12

Blumenthal	Coburn	Menendez
Booker	Feinstein	Murphy
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Cardin	Markey	Warren

NOT VOTING—6

Begich	Isakson	Schatz
Flake	Landrieu	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 12. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I voted in support of cloture on the motion to proceed to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. This is a procedural vote to begin debate on this bill, which has been introduced by Senator HAGAN of North Carolina and is cosponsored by 45 Senators, including 26 Republicans.

Senator HAGAN's bill seeks to enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. It also reauthorizes key conservation programs that support outdoor recreation. It is no secret that I strongly support efforts to combat violent gun crime and to reduce the high number of gun deaths and injuries that occur each year, but I recognize the distinction between legitimate hunting and target shooting activity, as opposed to irresponsible or criminal gun use. I believe there are ways to support the former without undermining efforts to reduce the latter.

If, during debate on this bill, Senators try to add provisions to weaken the laws on the books when it comes to keeping our citizens safe from gun violence, I will strongly oppose those provisions, but for purposes of today's procedural vote, I support moving forward on this bipartisan legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I have a number of topics to go over, and I will do this as briefly as I can because I

know colleagues want to put forward a unanimous consent request.

In our work every day something happens, and I feel compelled to talk about a few of these things. But before I begin my remarks, I wish to send a message of condolence to all those parents who have lost their children to violence in our country, in the Middle East, and all over the world. Children and all innocents must be protected in a truly civilized world. We need to work toward that day, we have to pray for that day, and it is going to take people who care in order to make that happen.

When somebody said you have to walk and chew gum at the same time when you are a Senator, they were more than right. There are so many issues coming at us, and I am going to speak about a few of them.

I will start off with the crisis we face in the highway trust fund. I wish to call attention to a transportation government shutdown which will happen in 25 days unless we save the highway trust fund. In August we have a slowdown in payments to the States, and it is very serious. Unless Congress takes action, billions of dollars in transportation funding to the States will be delayed or stopped.

I see Senator CORKER is here and I know he is here on another topic, but I thank him for his courage in working across the aisle and saying: We need to pay for our roads and our bridges.

I see Senator KLOBUCHAR is on the floor. She knows what it means when a bridge collapses, for goodness sake. You have to be able to pay for certain things in this country. We could argue about frills around the edges, but I don't think anyone would disagree with you if you went out on the street and asked whether the United States of America should have a grade A transportation system.

DOT, the Department of Transportation, sent out letters to all of our States warning that the fund is in a dire situation and we have to act. In 74 days the trust fund goes completely bankrupt if we don't come up with the additional revenue. Here is where we are. In 85 days, we actually have to reauthorize the whole program, and in 25 days, the payments slow down.

Why is this happening? It is because Federal gas tax receipts that are paid into the trust fund have not kept pace with inflation or the rising cost of building our bridges and highways. There are thousands of businesses and millions of jobs at risk if we do not act, and that is why we have so many people supporting the reauthorization of the trust fund and figuring out a way to pay for that.

We have the Chamber of Commerce, and they are aligned with the AFL-CIO. This is a rarity. Usually those groups are fighting each other, but we

have unanimity here: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Associated General Contractors. As I said, the AFL-CIO. The Associated Equipment Distributors, the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Unions of Operating Engineers.

We have 70,000 bridges in disrepair, which are called structurally deficient. We have 50 percent of our highways which are not up to par. What are we doing? I can tell my colleagues what we are not doing. We are not doing our job.

Now, I can brag just for a minute. Senator VITTER and I were able to get a bill unanimously through the Environment and Public Works Committee—not one dissenting vote. I have to say to my colleagues who are listening, that committee is an object in the diversity we bring here. We have BERNIE SANDERS. We have JIM INHOFE. We have BARBARA BOXER. We have DAVID VITTER. We have JOHN BARRASSO. We have SHELTON WHITEHOUSE. We have BEN CARDIN and we have Senator FISCHER. So we have a broad diversity. I have to mention Senator SESSIONS and Senator GILLIBRAND and Senator BOOKER. This is a committee that represents the ideological spectrum of the Senate.

I will tell my colleagues we passed a bill out for 6 years. We know it has to be paid for, but I think we were very reasonable in what we said. We said, look, this isn't the time for a giant new increase. We kept it at current levels of spending, plus inflation. God bless Senator WYDEN and Senator HATCH. They are working on a plan to pay for this bill. We have colleagues, as I mentioned, including Senator MURPHY and Senator CORKEE, who came together and said: Look, the Chamber of Commerce makes a good point. We haven't raised the gas tax in a very long time. If we do a few cents a year, we will be able to patch up this trust fund—and more than patch it up—get it going for 6 years.

Today, leading groups representing bipartisan State and local officials sent a letter urging Congressional leaders to find a fix for the Highway Trust Fund and to pass a long-term surface transportation bill. The organizations include the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The Nation's surface transportation system is in a critical condition and significant funding is needed to simply maintain the current system. Nationwide there are 70,000 bridges that are structurally deficient, and 50 percent of our Nation's roads are in less than good condition.

Delaying a long-term bill just prolongs uncertainty. An extension into 2015 would create another crisis, just before the next construction season. To allow the Trust Fund to become insolvent would be unprecedented and further delay simply extends the uncertainty. We need a long-term bill no later than December and a short-term patch for the Trust Fund now. Failure is not an option.

I will say this: The clock is ticking, however we look at it. One more time: The clock is ticking. There are 25 days until a slowdown of payments to the States. In 25 days our States are going to be howling because they won't be able to pay for work that has already been done. The way it works is they do the work and then we repay them for, in many cases, 75 percent of the work; in some cases, 50 percent of the work.

So I call on all of my colleagues: Let's set politics aside.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON BIRTH CONTROL

I wish to speak briefly about two other issues. One of them has to do with the Supreme Court decision on birth control. I hope every woman in America is paying attention to what this Court did. Five men, all Republican appointees, basically said a corporation can put its religion above all of its employees. It is just astounding.

I voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and I know why I voted for it. It was a very important piece of legislation which said that individuals can't have their freedom of religion stepped upon. It didn't say corporations. So here we have a situation where one family doesn't believe in birth control, and now they are telling every woman who works there: Sorry, you are out of luck. It is really unbelievable. To me, the Court siding with the corporation over the thousands of people who work there is just shocking. What happened to individual freedom here?

We are going to try our best to fix it.

Let's remember this: 99 percent of women have used birth control at some point in their lifetime. Let me say that again: 99 percent of women have used birth control at some point in their lifetime, and 1.5 million women take birth control solely for a painful condition. Sixty percent of the women on birth control take it in part for painful and difficult conditions.

So the Supreme Court, in an ideological, political decision, in my view, said to the women of America: Corporations are more important than you.

We are going to try to fix this. We are going to do everything we can. I hope we can reach across the aisle. I have hopes that we can, to fix this.

POLITICAL BLAME GAME

Now I will conclude my remarks on another topic. The week we were away I was working in the State. I went to some highway projects. I went to a na-

tional park. But all through the time I was working in the State, I was hearing a continuum of the blame game going toward our President.

Republicans blame President Obama for every single thing that happens. Not enough jobs? They blame the President, even though since his policies have been in place, we have had 52 straight months of job growth. Last month alone, 288,000 jobs were created. Remember, at the end of George Bush's time in office, we were bleeding 700,000 jobs a month. The unemployment rate has dropped from 10 percent to 6.1 percent, and we could be doing even better if Republicans hadn't blocked the President's jobs bills.

The Obama recovery even includes a record-breaking stock market which helps everybody. Everybody has a 401(k), a retirement account. When the President took office, the Dow Jones average was under \$8,000. Now it has more than doubled, and the Dow hit 17,000 for the first time last week. Yet and still the President is to blame for not enough jobs.

Deficits. Republicans blame the President, even though since he took office, the deficit has been cut by more than half, and deficits would be lower still if our friends on the other side stopped fighting with us when we try to close tax loopholes such as ending the tax policy that rewards companies for shipping jobs overseas or passing more equitable income tax rules which would allow people such as Warren Buffett to pay the same effective tax rate as his secretary—not a bad idea—and would really help us. We would get rid of that deficit. Remember when Bill Clinton was President. We wound up not only not having a deficit, we had a surplus. When George Bush came in, he started a couple of wars, put them on the credit card; tax cuts to the rich, put that on the credit card, and we have been battling it ever since.

Now we have an influx of immigrants from Central America. Republicans blame the President, even though it is House Republicans who are blocking immigration reform the Senate already passed in a bipartisan way which will greatly enhance border protections, spends tens of billions of dollars on that, and sets out clear and fair rules for immigrants. And they blame President Obama even though the guidelines for how we treat unaccompanied immigrant children from countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, those guidelines were sent to and signed by George W. Bush.

Then we have the civil war in Iraq. Republicans blame President Obama even though he opposed the disastrous Iraq war. I have to say that Senator PAUL is not in that category, and I appreciate that. For the most part, Republicans blame President Obama, even though he opposed the disastrous Iraq war which sowed the seeds for the

sectarian warfare we are seeing today. How proud I was to vote with then Senator BIDEN, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and along with 74 of my colleagues, we voted to say there ought to be a federation in Iraq—semi-autonomous regions—the Kurds, the Shias, the Sunnis. Seventy-four of us voted for that, and the Bush administration laughed it off, including Condi Rice and Dick Cheney. We have them all on record. Now this thing happens and who gets the blame? The President gets the blame from the Republicans.

How about Benghazi. We have heard about Benghazi. Republicans blame the President and they continue to politicize this tragedy, even though under President Obama's leadership the United States has captured the suspected terrorist who is believed to be one of the masterminds behind the killing of these four extremely brave Americans. Benghazi is a tragedy. It is not about a scandal.

Now, how about the release of Sergeant Bergdahl. Republicans cried foul when the President got him released, even though many of them right in this Chamber—and they are on videotape—were calling for Sergeant Bergdahl's release. And they also have insisted that no soldier ever be left behind.

I have to say, it is just getting old. Republicans blame the President for everything, including issuing Executive orders. The Speaker of the House is suing the President for abusing his Executive power. President Obama has issued the fewest Executive orders per year of any President since Grover Cleveland. It is just getting to be too much.

I wouldn't be surprised if the Republicans blame President Obama for America's recent loss in the World Cup or even for their own six consecutive losses in the annual congressional baseball game.

Enough. We all need to work together. Stop the finger pointing. The people need us to work together, not to play the blame game. I am very hopeful that we will have a little introspection around here. It might be a little too much to ask for. But I think if we did it—there are so many good people here on both sides of the aisle, and if we just decided once and for all to put politics aside—the President won election twice. It wasn't even contested. So deal with it. Work with him.

I have served with five Presidents—a couple of Republicans, several. I battled with them, didn't agree with them. I remember Ronald Reagan, if we beat him in the conversation, would say, OK, let's move on. So, yes, sometimes Democrats win; sometimes Republicans win. We have to work together and move forward and solve the problems of this great Nation because the people expect it of us.

I thank my colleagues very much, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2265

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I don't believe that foreign aid should go to countries that persecute Christians. I also don't believe that foreign aid should go to countries that host terrorists within their government. I have had this belief for some time, but I have met with a great deal of resistance in the Senate.

Last week, in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I introduced an amendment which said that any country that persecutes Christians by law—Pakistan has a Christian woman named Asia Bibi; she is on death row for the crime, some say, of blasphemy. Others say she never said a word. She is really on death row for being a Christian. She has been there for 5 years. I say Pakistan shouldn't get any American money and that no taxpayer money should go to countries that are persecuting Christians.

In the Sudan, another country that receives money from the American taxpayer, Meriam Ibrahim is on death row for the crime of changing religion. She married a man who is a Christian. She is now being detained. She tried to escape recently. She was redetained.

The only thing that is consistent about foreign aid is that it continues to flow, regardless of restriction, regardless of window dressing to say, Oh, if a country does this, we will take it back. It never happens. Our foreign aid, our hard-earned American tax dollars continue to flow to these countries, no matter what their behavior is.

So two weeks ago I came to the floor and I said, in Israel Hamas is now joining with the Palestinian Authority. Hamas is a terrorist group that does not recognize Israel and attacks Israel on a routine basis. Now that they will be part of a unity government, they will be receiving foreign aid from America. So I said, for goodness sakes, would we not want restrictions on this aid? Would we not want to say that our money shouldn't flow to Hamas?

They should have to recognize Israel's right to exist. They should have to renounce violence. On a daily basis they lob missiles from Gaza into Israel. Yet in the Foreign Relations Committee only one other Member had the guts to vote against this foreign aid, because foreign aid is so entrenched in our national psyche that it goes on regardless of the behavior.

Now, some will say: There are rules. If Hamas becomes a big part of this government, they won't get any money. Guess what. Hamas can read. They have read our legislation. They are purposely setting up their unity government to evade our restrictions.

There are already people who say the President has a waiver. So in my legislation, the Stand With Israel Act, we would get rid of the Presidential waiver

and say that if Hamas joins a government with the Palestinian Authority, they should get no American taxpayer money. I said this two weeks ago. The Democrats said: No, President Obama doesn't want to give up the authority to continue sending money to these countries.

A week ago we had another disaster. In Israel three young teenagers were killed: Gilad Shaar, Eyal Yifrah, and Naftali Fraenkel, who was also an American citizen as well—killed in cold blood.

Do you know what the response of Hamas was? To stand up and cheer. In fact, I can give you the direct response of Hamas. Khaled Meshal, their political director, said: "Blessed be the hands that capture them." They stood with glee and cheered when these three teenage boys were killed in cold blood. These were not soldiers, these were civilians.

The news reports are that Hamas has joined this unity government precisely because they are bankrupt. They want to get our money. That is why they are joining the unity government.

What is ours? Ours is the tepid "oh, please don't behave that way." But we have no teeth. The same thing has happened in Egypt, the same thing in Pakistan, country after country. The only consistent is the money never stops and the behavior never changes.

Some will argue that foreign aid is a way to project American power. Well, if it is, we ought to be projecting American values. We should project what America stands for. We should not be saying: Here is some money. Do with it what you will.

So this has real teeth. This act is called the Stand with Israel Act. It says: No money to terrorists, no money to Hamas unless they are willing to give up the war and begin to find peaceful means of coexisting.

So this evening I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2265 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to say that I appreciate so much the point of view the Senator from Kentucky brings to the committee and his focus on foreign aid. No doubt there are issues relative to aid to many countries around the world that we need to be looking at. This is an issue, though, that I really believe the committee itself should deal with first.

While I appreciate his desire to deal with this and bring it directly to the floor, on behalf of myself and the chairman of the committee, I am going to

object, but I am going to object because I really would like for this issue to be heard in an appropriate way—this issue and many others the great Senator has brought forth on the floor today.

I thank him for his concern. I thank him for the issues he has brought up. I hope the committee itself will deal with this important issue, as it should, through regular order. For that reason, I object to this particular unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I was proud to be an original cosponsor for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which protects American women against violence and human trafficking. I am especially proud of the tribal provisions we included in VAWA, which are critical because nearly 40 percent of American Indian women will endure domestic violence in their lifetime, compared to 24 percent in the general population. VAWA ensures that violence prevention programs receive strong Federal funding and gives law enforcement powerful tools to fight violence and trafficking.

Violence against women is not just a problem in the United States; it is a challenge around the world. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of the International Violence Against Women Act.

One key step to empowering women around the world is through access to education. Unfortunately, for many young women around the world today, educational opportunities are limited. According to the United Nations, only 35 percent of young women in Sub-Saharan Africa will receive a secondary education, let alone the college degree that opens up new opportunities for women in the workplace and in leadership positions around the world.

But even though gender disparities in education remain high, especially in the developing world, countries and nongovernmental organizations are

stepping up to the plate to make a difference. Today, I want to share the story of an organization which empowers young women in Rwanda by helping them receive a strong secondary-school education.

Rwanda was devastated by the war and genocide in 1994, but against all odds Rwandans have managed to rebuild their country and become a model of low corruption, economic growth, and gender parity in government. The constitution mandates a minimum 30 percent representation for women in Parliament, and today, remarkably, it is 64 percent women. These women have been instrumental in the reconciliation and rebuilding of the country and continue to lead today. However, women are not represented at this level in all sectors, and in the rural areas many parents are skeptical of the value of educating their girls. As is typical in many developing countries, if parents have limited money to send their children to school, many will send only their boys and keep the girls at home to help with household chores like collecting wood and tending to younger siblings. In Rwanda, 97 percent of girls attend primary school, but less than 13 percent attend secondary school, meaning that only a small fraction of Rwanda's young women will have the opportunity to go to university.

Rwanda Girls Initiative, RGI was founded in 2008 in Seattle, WA, with the mission of educating and empowering girls of Rwanda to reach their highest potential. RGI believes that education is the foundation on which all other development is built, and educating girls can exponentially increase this impact. With this belief and with a strong partnership with the Government of Rwanda, RGI started the Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology in 2011. Gashora Girls Academy is an upper-secondary university prep boarding school for 270 girls in grades 10–12 located in the Gashora sector of Bugesera District, a poor, agricultural area located an hour to the south of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. This area was particularly devastated during the country's genocide in 1994. Gashora Girls Academy offers a curriculum that focuses on STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math—with an underlying belief in the importance of educating and nurturing the “whole girl.” Beyond the STEM coursework, students focus on developing life skills, leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. Crucially, they get an education in a safe environment, free from the violence that is all too common for many young women in Rwanda and around the world.

In October 2013, Gashora Girls Academy graduated their first class of seniors. Of 85 graduates, 25 are admitted to schools in the United States, including

Harvard, Yale, Smith, the University of Pennsylvania, and Seattle University. Two more girls are going to McGill University in Canada. These 27 girls coming to North America will be receiving approximately \$4.8 million in financial aid in order to attend world-class institutions. Other graduating students are attending schools in Costa Rica, China, South Africa, Ghana, and right at home in Rwanda. These girls will become national leaders, doctors, scientists, teachers, and more, each contributing to the success of their country.

Enatha Ntirandekura is a recent graduate from Gashora Girls Academy. Both of her parents are subsistence farmers and the very little income they make is from a small plot of land. Though Enatha was always a strong student, some in her village discouraged her parents from allowing her to continue her studies. They said that a girl shouldn't be educated. At one point, someone in the village burned her family's coffee trees, their sole source of income. But her parents continued to send her to school, and she had the top score in her district on the national exam after middle school. She was offered a scholarship by the Rwanda Girls Initiative to attend Gashora Girls Academy. Enatha is a tenacious student and scored perfectly on the national exam she took after graduating this past year. Because of her success, she has been selected as a Presidential Scholar and will receive a full scholarship to an American university this fall. She hopes to study agriculture and then go back to Rwanda to work on the problem of malnutrition and food scarcity to help her community.

As we can see from Enatha, educating a woman is a tremendous investment. When Enatha returns home with her degree in agricultural science, that one scholarship to Gashora Girls Academy will empower her to help many more people in Rwanda. And Enatha's story is not unique; in fact, it is the norm. One extra year of secondary school increases a girl's future wages by 15 to 25 percent. When a woman in the developing world receives 7 or more years of education, she marries later and has fewer children. When women and girls earn income, they reinvest 90 percent of it into their families, creating a ripple effect for coming generations. Helping Enatha and the young women like her become doctors, teachers, and leaders will transform not only individuals, but entire communities.

Educating girls and young women is the surest way to empower them. Education empowers them to teach, to lead, and to stand up against violence. I am honored to stand with my female colleagues to draw attention to this important issue. A great education transforms lives and can lift up entire communities and countries. I look forward to working with my colleagues to

empower women and girls around the world.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Traumatic Brain Injury Act. It is my pleasure to be joined in this effort by my colleague and fellow member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator BOB CASEY, Jr.

Brain injuries are among the most frequent reasons for visits to physicians and emergency rooms, and contribute to about thirty percent of all injury deaths. A critical health issue for military personnel, TBI has also become a signature wound of war. According to a Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DVBIC, analysis of surveillance data released by the Department of Defense, DoD, 33,149 U.S. military personnel were diagnosed with a TBI in 2011 alone.

People who survive a TBI can face observable effects lasting just a few days, or serious lifelong disability. A survivor of a severe brain injury typically faces five to 10 years of intensive services and estimated lifetime costs in the millions. TBI affects not only the person living with TBI, but also the family and community of which the individual is a part. Families are the primary caregivers for a person with brain injury.

The Traumatic Brain Injury Act is the only Federal legislation that specifically addresses issues faced by the millions of American children and adults who live with a long-term disability as a result of TBI. I first introduced the TBI Act with the late Senator Ted Kennedy nearly 20 years ago. The TBI Act of 1996 launched an effort to conduct expanded studies and to establish innovative programs for TBI.

Three agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, administer the TBI program: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, carries out projects relate to prevention, surveillance, and education about TBI; the National Institutes of Health, NIH, funds basic and applied research; and the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, assists states in improving access to health and other services, including protection and advocacy services. The TBI Reauthorization Act of 2014 will continue these vital supports for an extremely vulnerable population. This bill also continues to encourage interagency coordination and requires HHS to develop a coordination plan for all Federal activities with respect to TBI.

According to the CDC, in 2009, nearly a quarter of a million children age 19 or younger were treated in emergency departments for sports and recreation-re-

lated injuries that included a diagnosis of concussion or TBI. This legislation also requires the review of scientific evidence regarding brain injury management in children and adolescents, including current and promising additional research.

The TBI program offers balanced and coordinated public policy in brain injury prevention, research, education, and community-based services and supports for individuals living with traumatic brain injury and their families and I ask my colleagues' support for the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 2014.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE McLAUGHLIN

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Katherine "Kay" McLaughlin.

Kay was born in South Boston, MA, on July 11, 1921. She is the middle child of the five children of Francis Pucci and Mary O'Donnell.

Kay grew up a short walk from Boston Harbor near Castle Island, a Revolutionary War-era fort that still stands today, and spent many days walking from her home to Castle Island and back, a lifelong habit that has contributed greatly to her long life. She graduated from Boston Girls High School and would take great joy in telling her children of the day she and her friends skipped school to see Frank Sinatra perform.

After high school, she attended Boston Secretarial School and went to work at Submarine Signal Company located in Boston. By that time, she had already caught the eye of a young man in the neighborhood named Leo McLaughlin. In 1944 they were married.

Leo and Kay's first child, a girl, arrived in 1946 and there were more to come. In 1957, Kay and her family moved to Bedford, NH. By 1961, there were six girls and seven boys in the McLaughlin family. Included in this group were the children of Kay's deceased sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

At the age of 36, Kay was a mother of 13 with another child to come in the immediate future. With wisdom beyond her years, Kay arbitrated disputes between rival factions amongst her children. She provided what was needed to solve their problems and keep the family moving in the right direction.

Though Kay endured many losses—the death of a baby in childbirth, losing a talented daughter in the prime of her life, and losing her husband—they were not enough to stifle her spirit. As time passed and her children produced children of their own, she once again became a resource to her 16 grandchildren, keeping secrets and providing aid and comfort.

Should Kay somehow find a way to live forever, we are all sure she will

provide the same aid and comfort to her 17 great-grandchildren. While she is with us today in person, she will always be with us in spirit.●

REMEMBERING ELLA KIRK, MICHAEL MAHL, ELLA MYERS, AND DR. PETER HOCHLA

• Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, with deep regret I wish to speak about a very tragic event that occurred recently in my State. On Friday afternoon, May 23, a plane crashed in Arenas Valley, just outside Silver City. It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to four New Mexicans: Ella Kirk, 14; Michael Mahl, 16; Ella Myers, 16; all of Silver City, NM; and Dr. Peter Hochla, 67, of Albuquerque.

Ella Kirk, Michael Mahl, and Ella Myers were talented, gifted students. They had just finished their sophomore year at Aldo Leopold Charter School in Silver City. They were not only fellow classmates, they were close friends, and they were also dedicated to protecting the environment. Each served on the Youth Conservation Corps ecological monitoring crew, which won first place at the New Mexico EnviroThon competition earlier this year.

On Sunday, June 1, friends and families gathered at a memorial service in Silver City. Their recollections, as reported in the Silver City Sun-News, recall the three remarkable young people taken so suddenly from our midst.

Ella Kirk, despite her youth, was a passionate advocate for protecting the Gila River. Her tireless work to save the Gila from a diversion project resulted in a petition of over 6,400 signatures from New Mexico and around the world. She delivered that petition to the Governor and she testified before the New Mexico State Legislature. Ella played the fiddle, loved dance and music, and was talented in both. At the memorial service, Patrice Mutchnick paid tribute to her daughter, saying, "She thought every choice she made affected others, and that's the kind of caring individual she was."

Michael Mahl was an honor student. He also was a musician. Michael performed at his first open mic night at Diane's Parlor in Silver City just 1 month earlier. Michael's father, John Mahl, also performed that night. He recalled later to the Sun-News that his son was a tough act to follow. Michael was also a student leader, and was elected by his classmates to be their next student body president.

Like Michael, Ella Myers was an honor student. She was a prolific writer and an athlete. Ella was looking forward to attending the summer arts program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. At the memorial service, her father, Brian Myers, said simply, "She was a remarkable, gifted, talented artist. She had poise, grace, and elegance."

Jim McIntosh, a teacher at Aldo Leopold, noted the talents and distinction of these students. "Michael had a little bit of Elvis in him. Ella Jaz was polite and razor sharp. Ella Myers wanted to know what she was made of and proved that when she rode the 31-mile Tour of the Gila with a borrowed bike with me."

We remember these gifted young people, who left us far too soon. We honor who they were, and we mourn who they might have become and what they might have accomplished. But even in their tragically short time in this world, they touched many lives and inspired all who knew them.

We also remember Dr. Peter Hochla, and his legacy of service to our nation and our State. Dr. Hochla was born in Slovakia and immigrated to the United States as a child. He was a physician for the New Mexico Veterans Administration, and a retired Air Force colonel. As a psychiatrist with the Albuquerque VA hospital, he piloted his own plane to provide care to veterans throughout New Mexico. He leaves behind his wife of 35 years, Dr. Cheryl Greene Hochla, a son, and a daughter. Dr. Hochla dedicated his life to defending the freedoms that we hold dear and to caring for his fellow veterans.

The memory of those we have lost is ever with us, and so is the sorrow. We do not know why this tragedy occurred. We do not know why these lives were taken so suddenly. But what we do know is that in Silver City and in Albuquerque, there are families and friends whose hearts are breaking, who are dealing with grief that is so hard to bear, and almost impossible to comprehend.

Words cannot alter, cannot change, this profound loss. My wife Jill and I wish to extend our deepest condolences. We share in your sorrow, and we pray that you will find comfort in memories of your loved ones and in the mercy of time and God's grace.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Sen-

ate, on July 3, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of Maryland) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2388. An act to take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2014, the enrolled bill was signed on July 3, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARPER).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2562. A bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6269. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Section 737 Study on Incidence of Breast Cancer Among Members of Armed Forces Serving on Active Duty"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6270. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6271. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6272. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to South Africa; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6273. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6274. A communication from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report and statement of the system of internal control; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6275. A communication from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Offi-

cer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2013 Management Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6276. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a prospectus that supports additional design for the Columbus, New Mexico, Land Port of Entry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6277. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine and New Hampshire; Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9912-51-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6278. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9912-57-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6279. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for North Carolina: State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions" (FRL No. 9912-83-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6280. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9912-56-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6281. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Listing of Trustee Designations" (FRL No. 9739-9-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6282. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9911-76-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6283. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL

No. 9912-64-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6284. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Revision 0 to Fitness-for-Duty—Construction" (NRC-2014-0099) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6285. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manual Operator Actions in Diversity and Defense-in-Depth Analyses" (NRC-2009-0515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6286. A communication from the Acting Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Revision to Physical Security Early Site Permit and Reactor Siting Criteria" (NRC-2014-0101) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6287. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6288. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6289. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Substitutions for SSA-538" (RIN0960-AH02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6290. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6291. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Third Rule Implementing Export Control Reform; Correction" (RIN1400-AD46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6292. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CLIA Program and HIPAA Privacy Rule: Patients' Access to Test Reports" (RIN0938-AQ38) (CMS-2319-F) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6293. A communication from the Deputy Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Occupational Safety and Health Investigations of Places of Employment; Technical Amendments" (RIN0920-AA51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6294. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6295. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Federally Assisted Programs or Activities" (RIN3136-AA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 26, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6296. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to the deployment of certain U.S. forces to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6297. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6298. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2013 Wiretap Report"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6299. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants for Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces" (RIN2900-AP07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-6300. A communication from the Executive Director of the Office of Privacy and Disclosure, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Agency Biennial Computer Matching Report"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6301. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-357, "Special Event Waste Diversion Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6302. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-356, "Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6303. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-355, "Educator Evaluation

Data Collection Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6304. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-354, "Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6305. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Council Resolution 20-502, "Transfer of Jurisdiction Over Lot 802, Square 4325 within Fort Lincoln New Town Emergency Approval Resolution of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6306. A communication from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6307. A communication from the Acting Inspector General of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification that the audit of the financial statements of the Federal Trade Commission for fiscal year 2014 has commenced; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6308. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions" ((GN Docket No. 12-268) (FCC 14-50)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6309. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Specifications for the 2014-2015 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries" (RIN0648-XD094) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6310. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20A" (RIN0648-BD83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6311. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Off the Atlantic States; Amendment 5" (RIN0648-BD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6312. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of National Marine

Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Re-establishing the Sanctuary Nomination Process" (RIN0648-BD20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6313. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules Governing Qualifying Examination Systems and Other Matters" ((WT Docket No. 12-283) (FCC 14-74)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6314. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions" ((WT Docket Nos. 12-268 and 12-269) (FCC 14-63)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 25, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6315. A communication from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Amtrak's Executive Level 1 salary for 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6316. A communication from the Executive Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Finance.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-267. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1076

Whereas, Insurance protects the United States economy from the adverse effects of the risks inherent in economic growth and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 produced insured losses larger than any natural or man-made event in history; claims paid by insurers to their policyholders eventually totaled some \$32.5 billion, making this the second most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, The sheer enormity of the terrorist-induced loss, combined with the possibility of haute attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets,

causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, The lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, The United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, Under TRIPRA, the federal government provides such reinsurance after industry-wide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed \$100 million; and

Whereas, Coverage under TRIPRA is provided to an individual insurer after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism equal to 20% of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, After an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays 15% of residual losses and the federal government pays the remaining 85%; and

Whereas, The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of \$100 billion of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup 100% of the benefits provided under the program via policy holder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than \$27.5 billion and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, Without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, The presence of a robust private/public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, Without a program such as TRIPRA, many citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, Without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, Unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counterterrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President of the United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the members of the Illinois congressional delegation.

POM-268. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the Secretary of the Interior to immediately take all necessary measures to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, under a treaty agreement entered into in 1973, the United States is required to ensure that water delivered to Mexico as part of Mexico's allocation of Colorado River water meets certain water quality standards; and

Whereas, in accordance with this agreement, the United States Congress enacted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act of 1974, which directed and authorized the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate and maintain a desalting plant to treat drainage water from the Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District and deliver the treated water to Mexico; and

Whereas, construction of the Yuma Desalting Plant was completed in 1992; and

Whereas, the Yuma Desalting Plant is capable of treating 100,000 acre-feet of water annually; and

Whereas, except for limited, initial operations in 1993, a demonstration run completed in 2007 and a nine-month pilot run completed in 2011, the federal government has failed to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant for most of its 30 years of existence; and

Whereas, the Department of the Interior is using 100,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Mead to fulfill its water quality obligations to Mexico, rather than conserving an equivalent amount of water through the operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant; and

Whereas, the Colorado River system is in its 14th consecutive year of drought; and

Whereas, as a result of these drought conditions, the Department of the Interior is projecting that a shortage on the Colorado River is increasingly likely, with the probability that the shortage will exceed 50% in 2017; and

Whereas, the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study released by the Bureau of Reclamation in December 2012 concluded that there will be a future imbalance between the supply and demand for Colorado River water and cited measures such as water conservation, reuse and augmentation to stave off future shortages on the Colorado River; and

Whereas, the Central Arizona Project is a junior priority rights holder to Colorado River water and would bear the largest reduction of Colorado River water in times of shortage; and

Whereas, by abdicating its obligation to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant, the federal government has caused the loss of more than 1,300,000 acre-feet from Lake Mead, placing the State of Arizona at increased risk of water shortage; and

Whereas, if the federal government were to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant, it would conserve 100,000 acre-feet per year, equivalent to the water needed to supply more than 250,000 Arizona homes with water annually.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior immediately take all necessary measures to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-269. A memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to recognize that open-air burn pits impose significant health risks and enact a presumption of a service connection between open-air burn pit exposure and subsequent illnesses that is similar to the presumption in place for exposure to Agent Orange; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2002

Whereas, during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, open-air burn pits were widely used for the disposal of waste in place of incinerators until bases became more established. The military burned nearly everything in the open-air burn pits, including plastic, styrofoam, electronics, metal cans, rubber, ammunition, explosives, human waste and lithium batteries; and

Whereas, in 2011, an Institute of Medicine study, requested by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, concluded that there was insufficient data to determine whether burn pit emissions had long-term health consequences. However, some United States military personnel that were stationed near burn pits have stated that burn pit exposure has led to a litany of medical problems; and

Whereas, after careful review of the Institute of Medicine report, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has directed the Veterans Health Administration to conduct a long-term prospective study on all adverse health effects potentially related to military deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan, including health effects potentially related to exposure to airborne hazards and burn pits; and

Whereas, congressional lawmakers passed, and President Obama signed, a bill in 2013 that creates a registry similar to the Agent Orange and Gulf War registries to help patients, doctors and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs determine the extent to which air pollution caused by open-air burn pits has led to medical diseases among service members.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the United States Congress recognize that open-air burn pits impose significant health risks and enact a presumption of a service connection between open-air burn pit exposure and subsequent illnesses that is similar to the presumption in place for exposure to Agent Orange.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-270. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California supporting the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and respectfully memorializing the United States Congress to promptly renew the extension of

unemployment benefits that will tremendously aid millions of people; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, In 2008, the United States suffered its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression; and

Whereas, The economic downturn resulted in a 10 percent unemployment rate nationwide by 2009, and a rate as high as 12.4 percent in California; and

Whereas, When unemployment benefits were first authorized, the national unemployment rate was only 5.6 percent; and

Whereas, Now the current unemployment rate is at 7 percent and 36 states, including California, have higher rates of unemployment; and

Whereas, California's unemployed workers currently face one of the toughest job markets in the country, with statewide unemployment at 8.5 percent and three unemployed workers for every available job; and

Whereas, In 2009, Congress passed the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program which extended benefits to those out of work for up to 99 weeks to give relief to many that have endured an extended period of unemployment. Unemployed workers in California receive 37 weeks of EUC, and 26 weeks of state benefits, averaging just two hundred ninety-two dollars (\$292) a week; and

Whereas, On December 28, 2013, the EUC program expired without an extension from Congress. On that day, 214,000 unemployed workers ran out of EUC in California and 12,500 more will be doing so daily; and

Whereas, As of February 24, 2014, close to 1,273,100 unemployed workers in California have run out of all available unemployment benefits; and

Whereas, The EUC program brought \$4.5 billion in benefits to the California economy in 2013 alone; and

Whereas, It is crucial for the United States government to take action in renewing the EUC program and extending the unemployment benefits that millions of people direly need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports the extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and respectfully memorializes the United States Congress to promptly renew the extension of unemployment benefits that will tremendously aid millions of people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-271. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to repeal the requirement that physicians who have a National Provider Identifier enroll in or opt out of Medicare as a condition for payment of claims for ordered or provided covered services under federal health care programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152), collectively

known as the Affordable Care Act, expands the role of federal health care programs and regulations over the private health care market; and

Whereas, the Affordable Care Act makes many changes to the Medicare and Medicaid programs, some of which involve strengthening tools for quality and integrity; and

Whereas, the Affordable Care Act has resulted in numerous regulations for health care providers; and

Whereas, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requires physicians to enroll in Medicare or opt out of Medicare in order for health care providers to receive payment for services; and

Whereas, wrong addresses, telephone numbers and licensing information for physicians have been found throughout Medicare enrollment systems that are used to approve claims; and

Whereas, an estimated 58% of enrollment records in the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System were inaccurate, and 48% of records in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System had errors; and

Whereas, more and more physicians are choosing not to accept Medicare or Medicaid due to increased government regulations and reduced levels of reimbursement; and

Whereas, the federal Medicare enrollment requirement has the unintended consequence of limiting facility options for physicians to admit and treat their patients.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress repeal the requirement that physicians who have a National Provider Identifier enroll in or opt out of Medicare as a condition for payment of claims for ordered or provided covered services under federal health care programs.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-272. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013, which eliminates the personal income tax, the alternative minimum tax, the inheritance tax, the gift tax, the capital gains tax, the corporate income tax, the self-employment tax, and the employee and employer payroll tax and replaces them with a national retail sales tax; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE MEMORIAL 118

Whereas, our Founding Fathers, being mindful that history has demonstrated that income taxes give government too much power over citizens, specifically forbade such taxes in the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, Alexander Hamilton wrote in The Federalist No. 21 that "it is a signal advantage of taxes on articles of consumption, that they contain in their own nature a security against excess;" and

Whereas, the current income tax system requires individual taxpayers to prepare annual tax returns using many complicated forms, causing innocent errors that are heavily punished; and

Whereas, the current income tax system actually penalizes marriage; and

Whereas, the federal income tax:

(1) Retards economic growth and has reduced the standard of living of the American public;

(2) Impedes the international competitiveness of United States industry;

(3) Reduces savings and investment in the United States by taxing income multiple times;

(4) Slows the capital formation necessary for real wages to steadily increase;

(5) Lowers productivity;

(6) Imposes unacceptable and unnecessary administrative and compliance costs on individual and business taxpayers;

(7) Is unfair and inequitable;

(8) Unnecessarily intrudes upon the privacy and civil rights of United States citizens;

(9) Hides the true costs of government by embedding taxes in the costs of everything that Americans buy;

(10) Is not being complied with at satisfactory levels and, therefore, raises the tax burden on law-abiding citizens; and

(11) Impedes upward social mobility, and

Whereas, federal payroll taxes, including social security and Medicare payroll taxes and self-employment taxes:

(1) Raise the cost of employment;

(2) Destroy jobs and cause unemployment; and

(3) Have a disproportionately adverse impact on lower-income Americans, and

Whereas, the federal estate and gift taxes:

(1) Force family businesses and farms to be sold by the family in order to pay taxes;

(2) Discourage capital formation and entrepreneurship;

(3) Foster the continued dominance of large enterprises over small family-owned companies and farms; and

(4) Impose unacceptably high tax-planning costs on small businesses and farms, and

Whereas, a broad-based national sales tax on goods and services purchased for final consumption:

(1) Is similar in many respects to the sales and use taxes that are authorized in 45 of the 50 states;

(2) Will promote savings and investment;

(3) Will promote fairness;

(4) Will promote economic growth;

(5) Will raise the standard of living;

(6) Will enhance productivity and international competitiveness;

(7) Will reduce administrative burdens on the American taxpayer;

(8) Will improve upward social mobility; and

(9) Will respect the privacy interests and civil rights of taxpayers, and

Whereas, Congress should consider when implementing the administration of a national sales tax that:

(1) Most of the practical experience in administering sales taxes is found at the state level;

(2) It is desirable to harmonize federal and state collection and enforcement efforts to the maximum extent possible;

(3) It is sound tax administration policy to foster administration and collection of the federal sales tax at the state level in return for a reasonable administration fee to the states; and

(4) A business that must collect and remit taxes should receive reasonable compensation for the cost of doing so, and

Whereas, the 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution should be repealed: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida: That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due respect, does hereby urge the United States Congress to enact H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013, which eliminates the personal income tax, the al-

ternative minimum tax, the inheritance tax, the gift tax, the capital gains tax, the corporate income tax, the self-employment tax, and the employee and employer payroll tax and replaces them with a national retail sales tax, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-273. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California calling upon the Congress and the President of the United States to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people constituted genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, During the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 1.5 million men, women, and children of Armenian descent lost their lives at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Empire in its attempt to systematically eliminate the Armenian race; and

Whereas, Despite Armenians' historic presence, stewardship, and autonomy in the region, Turkish' rulers of the Ottoman Empire subjected Armenians to severe and unjust persecution and brutality including, but not limited to, widespread and wholesale massacres beginning in the 1890s, most notably the Hamidian Massacres from 1894 to 1896 and the Adana Massacre of 1909; and

Whereas, The earlier massacres and subsequent genocide of the Armenians constitute one of the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the world; and

Whereas, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other people would, bring no retribution, declared, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and

Whereas, Unlike other people and governments that have admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent, the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the Ottoman and Young Turk rulers. Those denials compound the grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the descendants of the victims; and

Whereas, The Republic of Turkey has escalated its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained its blockade of Armenia and increased its pressure on the small but growing movement in Turkey acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and seeking justice for this systematic campaign of destruction of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Pontians, Syrians, and other Christians upon their biblical-era homelands; and

Whereas, Those citizens of Turkey, both Armenian and non-Armenian, who continue to speak the truth about the Armenian Genocide, such as human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink, continue to be silenced by violent means; and

Whereas, The accelerated level and scope of denial and revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of the indescribable brutality and the lives that were tormented, compel a sense of ur-

gency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

Whereas, The United States is on record as having officially recognized the Armenian Genocide in the United States government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Reservations to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838, and by Congressional legislation including House Joint Resolution 148 adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247 adopted on September 10, 1984; and

Whereas, Even prior to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the United States has a record of having sought to justly and constructively address the consequences of the Ottoman Empire's intentional destruction of the Armenian people, including through Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 adopted on February 9, 1916, Senate Resolution 359 adopted on May 11, 1920, and President Woodrow Wilson's November 22, 1920, decision entitled, *The Frontier between Armenia and Turkey*; and

Whereas, By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of history; and

Whereas, This measure would declare that the Legislature deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person, in this country or abroad, to deny the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide; and

Whereas, California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States, and Armenians living in California have enriched our state through their leadership and contribution in business, agriculture, academia, government, and the arts; and

Whereas, The State of California has been at the forefront of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to prevent the recurrence of genocide; and

Whereas, On April 24, 2013, the President of the United States stated, "A full, frank, and just acknowledgment of the facts is in all of our interests. Nations grow stronger by acknowledging and reckoning with painful elements of the past, thereby building a foundation for a more just and tolerant future"; and

Whereas, President Obama entered office having stated his "firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence" and affirmed his record of "calling for Turkey's acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide"; and

Whereas, The United States' national interests in establishing equitable, constructive, stable, and durable relations between Armenians and Turks cannot be meaningfully advanced by circumventing or otherwise seeking to avoid the central political, legal, security, and meal issue between these two nations: Turkey's denial of truth and justice for the Armenian Genocide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature hereby designates the month of April

2014, as “California Month of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature commends its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature respectfully calls upon the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people constituted genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey’s full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work toward a just resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Governor, and the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.

POM-274. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the President of the United States to issue final approval for construction and completion of the Keystone XL pipeline project; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 281

Whereas, Floridians consume approximately 26 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel daily and approximately 9.5 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually, and

Whereas, across party lines, Floridians have long recognized the dependence of the state’s tourism and agricultural economy on access to reliable and affordable petroleum products, and

Whereas, many other Florida industries, including fertilizer, agrochemical, plastic, manufacturing, bakeries, juice processing, pulp and paper, road construction, metals, restaurants, and grocery stores, are heavily dependent on access to reliable and affordable petroleum products to transport goods, and

Whereas, Gulf state refineries produce the vast majority of the gasoline and diesel fuel crude oil delivered and consumed in Florida, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline will be capable of transporting more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil per day to 57 Gulf state refineries, and

Whereas, the crude oil transported through the Keystone XL pipeline could replace oil from unstable regions of the world with oil from Canada, a friendly and historically reliable neighbor and our principal source of imported crude oil, and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, pipelines are one of the safest and most cost-effective means to transport petroleum products, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline could reduce the large numbers of tankers and barges carrying crude oil through the Straits of Florida and across the Gulf of Mexico, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline will not encounter the disruptions experienced by tankers and barges delivering crude oil to Gulf state refineries during hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, thus enhancing Florida’s energy security during emergencies, and

Whereas, the southern portion of the Keystone XL pipeline has already been approved and construction is proceeding, and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, construction of the United States portion of the Keystone XL pipeline is a \$3.3 billion project that will create thousands of American jobs, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline project has been subject to the most thorough public consultation process of any proposed United States pipeline, and

Whereas, according to the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement issued by the United States Department of State, multiple environmental impact statements and studies have concluded that the Keystone XL pipeline poses the least impact to the environment and is much safer than other modes of transporting crude oil, and

Whereas, the Keystone XL pipeline project has received bipartisan support in the United States Congress, including a letter to the President signed by 53 Senators urging the President to support the pipeline, and

Whereas, a recent Pew Research Center survey has found that two-thirds of Americans support the Keystone XL pipeline project: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the President of the United States is strongly urged to issue final approval for construction and completion of the Keystone XL pipeline project; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-275. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado urging and requesting members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1012

Whereas, The federal minimum wage was established through the “Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938”, in response to the Great Depression, to ensure that workers earned enough to pay for necessities and minimum monthly expenses; and

Whereas, Since then, the cost of living has steadily increased while the federal minimum wage has generally remained stagnant; and

Whereas, Congress has only raised the minimum wage twice in the past 20 years; and

Whereas, The federal minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, has declined from its peak of \$10.72 in 1968 to \$7.25 today, a 33% decrease in purchasing power; and

Whereas, Under the current minimum wage, it is possible to work full time and still be under the minimum federal poverty line; and

Whereas, It is virtually impossible for a minimum-wage worker to afford a two-bedroom apartment in any state while working a 40-hour week; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage would decrease American dependency

on public assistance programs, such as Section 8 housing vouchers and food stamps, in order to pay for living expenses and raising families; and

Whereas, The majority of those who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are full-time workers who are supporting their families in moderate- to low-income households; and

Whereas, For the vast majority of low-skilled or unskilled workers, the minimum wage should be simply a starting salary that gets them employed and gives them a chance to advance; and

Whereas, Increasing the minimum wage would immediately boost the wages of about 15 million low-income workers; and

Whereas, Raising the federal minimum wage is projected to significantly boost the economy at large by increasing purchasing power of workers, thereby increasing the United States gross domestic product; and

Whereas, In 2006, Colorado voters decisively voted to approve Initiative 42, which raised the state minimum wage and tied it to inflation in order to preserve the purchasing power of Colorado workers and help ensure that they can support themselves and their families; and

Whereas, Colorado raised the minimum wage in 2011 and 2012 over the federal minimum, which contributed to a decrease in the unemployment rate from 8.73% to 7.2% during that two-year period; and

Whereas, Several other states have notably raised their minimum wages during times of high unemployment, including Washington, Oregon, Ohio, and Arizona, and those states all experienced decreases of at least 1.5% in unemployment during the same two-year period; and

Whereas, Raising the minimum wage not only will stimulate the economy but will also lift millions of Americans out of poverty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein, That we, the Colorado General Assembly, urge and request members of Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation to help ensure that hard-working Americans can earn a fair wage and afford to care for their families; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, and the Majority and Minority Whips of the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

POM-276. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois acknowledging the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 419

Whereas, Scientific research demonstrates that good nutrition beginning in utero and extending throughout the first year of life is critical to the healthy growth and development of infants and that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition by providing certain health benefits for both the mother and child; and

Whereas, The United States Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend babies be exclusively fed with breast milk for the first 6 months of life, and continue on with breast milk through the first year of life; and

Whereas, Healthy People 2020, an initiative that comprises science-based, ten-year national objectives to improve the health of all Americans, administered under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, aims to increase the percentage of women initiating breastfeeding to 81.9% and still continuing to breastfeed when their newborn is 6 months of age to 60.6%; and

Whereas, It is a mother's choice in how she feeds her baby, and the choice is often made based on the best feeding option for her infant given her and her family's life circumstance, including familial, cultural, and community issues as well as based on barriers to breastfeeding, including returning to work, medical difficulties, and lack of breastfeeding support; and

Whereas, The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other public health organizations do promote breastfeeding goals, and some go beyond this to promote other dietary guidance for feeding an infant under age 2 or identify what a mother should do if she cannot or chooses not to breastfeed, or needs to supplement breastfeeding; and

Whereas, An example of this is provided in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food & Nutrition Service publication, "Feeding Your Baby in the first Year", which gives participants in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) food program a basic overview of the best sources of nutrition for their babies in the first year, starting with breastfeeding, including infant formula if needed, following with the introduction of solid foods; and

Whereas, Infant nutrition research has generated a range of iron-fortified infant formulas (as well as specialized infant formulas for premature babies and for those babies with medical conditions needing sustenance to survive and thrive) that address a critical need in providing a safe and nutritious alternative to breast milk for mothers who are unable to breastfeed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we acknowledge the role of optimal infant nutrition during the first year of life and that new mothers require information, guidance, and support to provide the best nutritional start for their babies; and be it further

Resolved, That we recognize the scientific research documenting that breastfeeding is the best form of infant nutrition and supports breastfeeding promotion policies; and be it further

Resolved, That we aspire for mothers to make informed choices about how to feed their infants by requiring that mothers receive, prior to and/or after birth, complete and balanced information on all infant nutrition options; and be it further

Resolved, That we call on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to publish and distribute maternal and infant nutrition information approved by the U.S. Surgeon General to mothers prior to and after birth; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge state health departments to facilitate public-private collaboration with families and communities to increase maternal and infant nutrition awareness, particularly in underserved areas, and provide access to nutritional programs for

mothers and their children beginning in utero and throughout their first year of life; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, members of the Illinois Delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J. Durbin and Mark Kirk, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the United States Surgeon General, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

POM-277. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois encouraging states that provide Medicaid coverage to examine the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for evidenced-based hospital care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 418

Whereas, Leading health and nutrition experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition and good patient health can keep people healthy and out of institutionalized health care facilities, thus reducing healthcare costs; and

Whereas, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is not routinely viewed as a medical concern in the U.S., and that malnutrition is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as older adults, hospitalized patients, or minority populations that statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease; and

Whereas, Illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; the elderly lose lean body mass more quickly and to a greater extent than younger adults and weight assessment (body weight and body mass index) can overlook accurate indicators of lean body mass; and

Whereas, The American Nursing Association defines therapeutic nutrition as the administration of food and fluids to support the metabolic processes of a patient who is malnourished or at high risk of becoming malnourished; and

Whereas, Access to therapeutic nutrition is critical in restoring lean body mass such that it resolves malnutrition challenges and, in turn, improves clinical outcomes, reduces health care costs, and can keep people and our communities healthy; and

Whereas, Despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatments have not been incorporated as routine medical treatments across the spectrum of health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Eighth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we encourage states that provide Medicaid coverage to examine the benefits of routine nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment for those who are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition, as well as examine the benefits of nutrition screening and therapeutic nutrition treatment as part of the standard for

evidenced-based hospital care; and be it further

Resolved, That we support an increased emphasis on nutrition through the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, as well as for Medicare beneficiaries, to improve their disease management and health outcomes; and be it further

Resolved, That we encourage preventive and wellness services, such as counseling for obesity and chronic disease management, to be a part of the Essential Health Benefits package included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, members of the Illinois delegation of United States House of Representatives, Illinois Senators Richard J. Durbin and Mark Kirk, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

POM-278. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the members of the United States Congress to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, it is a troubling fact that, over the past century, numerous American military personnel have been taken prisoner of war by enemy forces or have gone missing in action while in service to their country; and

Whereas, these men and women have diligently served the citizens of the United States through their efforts to provide for the safety, security and well-being of this state and nation. In so doing, they have sacrificed their time, dreams and often their own health or lives to preserve our liberties and freedom; and

Whereas, we owe a special debt of respect and gratitude to those who were captured and yet kept faith, even while being deprived of their freedom and possibly tortured, and to those whose fate remains unknown by their loved ones; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that the United States attempt to determine the fate of members of the American armed forces who were taken prisoner or who went missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Cold War missions, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas, a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives would be tasked with conducting a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to any American personnel who are unaccounted for from these conflicts, including MIAs and POWs who are missing or were captured.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the Members of the United States Congress establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs in the United States House of Representatives.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-279. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California urging the

President of the United States to take executive action to suspend any further deportations of unauthorized individuals with no serious criminal history; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 40

Whereas, According to the Pew Hispanic Center, in 2011, there were 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States; and

Whereas, Deportations have reached record levels under President Obama, rising to an annual average of nearly 400,000 since 2009; and

Whereas, According to Congress Members Raul M. Grijalva and Yvette Clarke, although the Obama Administration reportedly prioritized deporting only criminals, many individuals with no serious criminal history consistently have been deported; and

Whereas, Increased deportations and a continuously broken immigration system exacerbate the living conditions of United States citizen children whose parents have been deported; and

Whereas, Separation of children from their parents, irrespective of immigration status, always results in severe consequences for young children who are left with no parental guidance or care and a highly unstable financial situation; and

Whereas, As immigration continues to be at the center of a national debate, President Obama and Congress must implement a more humanitarian immigration policy that keeps families together; and

Whereas, California is home to approximately 10.3 million immigrants of which approximately 2.6 million are unauthorized to live in the United States; and

Whereas, Many Members of Congress recently signed a letter requesting President Obama to suspend any further deportations; and

Whereas, Since California is home to a large number of unauthorized immigrants from all parts of the world, this state should make it a priority to keep families together and continue to press President Obama and Congress for a solution to our broken federal immigration system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges President Obama to take executive action to suspend any further deportations of unauthorized individuals with no serious criminal history; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-280. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado urging and requesting members of Congress to update the formula in Section 4 of the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965", as amended, as quickly as possible to ensure Section 5 of the act can be restored and every citizen's voice is heard and every vote is counted; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14-1009

Whereas, The Colorado General Assembly has always supported the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965", as amended, and its legacy of protecting American citizens; and

Whereas, The Voting Rights Act was one of the greatest achievements of the Civil

Rights Movement and helped to not only allow equal access at the ballot box, but to facilitate advancement in other areas of life for minorities across the country; and

Whereas, Congress passed the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1869, giving black men the right to vote, but attempted and actual barriers to political participation remain consistently introduced in capitols and Congress even today; and

Whereas, In 1964, fewer than seven percent of eligible black citizens were registered to vote in Mississippi and, by the end of 1966, that figure had risen to nearly 60 percent, and during the same period Alabama voter registration rates climbed from below 20 percent to over 50 percent; and

Whereas, The so-called Jim Crow laws of the South made voter registration and election rules more restrictive, intentionally reducing political participation by minority voters with the use of poll taxes, literacy tests, and record-keeping and identification requirements; and

Whereas, In 1964, only five black citizens held seats in Congress (with none from any Southern state) and a total of 94 black citizens served in all legislatures, and today the Congressional Black Caucus has 43 members while over 600 African Americans hold seats in all legislatures, with another 8,800 being mayors, sheriffs, school board members, and other elected officials; and

Whereas, Forty-seven percent of these public officials live in the seven states originally covered by the Voting Rights Act; and

Whereas, Voter turnout in the South dropped drastically due to segregation-era voting laws, and as a result, by 1910 not a single black voter was registered in 27 of 60 parishes in the state of Louisiana, and black voters were completely eliminated from the rolls in North Carolina from 1896 to 1904; and

Whereas, In a five-to-four decision in June 2013, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act was unconstitutional, which section sets forth the formula under which states and jurisdictions must seek preclearance from the United States Department of Justice before enacting new voter laws and regulations or making changes to existing laws; and

Whereas, The preclearance provision in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act relied on the formula contained in Section 4 to protect the voting rights of all citizens; and

Whereas, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in her dissent to the *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* case, stated, "Just as buildings in California have a greater need to be earthquake-proofed, places where there is greater racial polarization in voting have a greater need for prophylactic measures to prevent purposeful race discrimination."; and

Whereas, Prior to the United States Supreme Court's invalidation of Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, federal district courts in several preclearance states, including Texas, Florida, and Alabama, ruled their proposed voting law changes unconstitutional; and

Whereas, Sufficient data has been established from numerous studies and surveys that could serve as the basis for a new formula, including data found from calculating the overall size of the minority population, voter turnout among all groups, the number of voting discrimination lawsuits as well as number of cases that have been lost or settled, and the prevalence of racially polarized or biased voting as a factor in voter preferences; and

Whereas, Congress has repeatedly extended the Voting Rights Act, which was first passed in 1965 and then reauthorized for five years in 1970, for seven years in 1975, and for 25 years in 1982, and Congress renewed the act in 2006 for 25 years after holding extensive hearings from which they found persistent racial discrimination at the polls; and

Whereas, When the Voting Rights Act passed in 2006, it enjoyed wide bipartisan support and was signed into law by President George W. Bush: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein, That the Colorado General Assembly urges and requests members of Congress to update the formula in Section 4 of the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965", as amended, as quickly as possible to ensure Section 5 of the act can be restored and every citizen's voice is heard and every vote is counted; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the Congressional Black Caucus, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

POM-281. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizing the month of May 2014 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 367

Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of the spinal cord; and

Whereas, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

Whereas, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

Whereas, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

Whereas, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and aware of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

Whereas, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of the general population; and

Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age of about 55, and affects both men and women without bias; and

Whereas, Annually, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed throughout the nation; and

Whereas, In Pennsylvania, there are currently more than 1,000 individuals who have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

Whereas, The \$350,000 in State funding the General Assembly appropriated for ALS patient care in fiscal year 2013-2014 provided services to more than 900 constituents and provided a substantial savings to the State budget and to taxpayers; and

Whereas, The ALS Association reported in 2009 that on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

Whereas, ALS has no known cause, prevention or cure; and

Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only on patients but on their families as well and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month of May 2014 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-282. A memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection between Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses to United States Vietnam War veterans who served in the waters, which is defined as the combat zone, and in the airspace over the combat; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2001

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed twenty-two million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops that the enemy used. These herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-4: 105 stat 11: 38 United States code section 1116) that presumptively recognized as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. This presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans who were diagnosed with illnesses such as type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, respiratory cancers, soft tissue sarcomas and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, pursuant to a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country during their time of service, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits. Moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, ever since this 2001 directive was implemented, the United States Navy has been excluded from receiving benefits even though Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, warships that were positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water. A 2002 Australian study found that the distillation

process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water that was used for drinking, cooking and washing. This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military. When the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, herbicides containing dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, more than thirty veterans service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013. By not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying other groups without any financial, scientific or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure. The federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas, the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters and airspace, encompassing the entire combat zone.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the United States Congress restore the presumption of a service connection between Agent Orange exposure and subsequent illnesses to United States Vietnam War veterans who served in the waters, which is defined as the combat zone, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the state of Arizona.

POM-283. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri urging the President of the United States and administration officials to support the increased importation of oil from Canadian oil sands, to approve the newly routed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline, and to support and facilitate permitting for oil production off the northern coast of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 4

Whereas, high oil prices are having a major detrimental impact on families, farms, and businesses in Missouri and are likely to undercut the prospects for an economic recovery; and

Whereas, the United States currently imports almost half of its oil and petroleum products, making it dependent on foreign sources and subject to interruptions and

price fluctuations stemming from geopolitical forces; and

Whereas, such instability has damaging consequences both for our economy and our national security; and

Whereas, the United States Geological Survey estimates a resource of up to 27 billion barrels of oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas of Alaska, providing a vast domestic oil reserve, but opposition and regulatory hurdles are keeping energy producers from accessing these resources; and

Whereas, the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline project seeks to link expanded oil production from the Canadian oil sands to refineries in the United States and to facilitate the flow of oil from the Dakotas to the Gulf Coast, thereby decreasing our dependence on oil from outside of North America; and

Whereas, Canada is a close friend and ally, with whom we share links of infrastructure and energy networks and other ties, so that dollars spent on Canadian oil will likely contribute to the success of the American economy; and

Whereas, the TransCanada pipeline project is projected to create construction and manufacturing jobs in the United States, adding billions of dollars to the United States economy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby call upon President Barack Obama and administration officials to:

(1) Support the increased importation of oil from Canadian oil sands and to approve the newly routed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline to reduce our oil dependency on unstable governments, strengthen ties with an important ally, and create jobs for American workers;

(2) Support and facilitate permitting for oil production off the northern coast of Alaska to decrease our dependence on foreign oil and spur investment in the American economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, United States House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2028. A bill to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-205).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Legislative Activities of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation During the 112th Congress" (Rept. No. 113-206).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 2564. A bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, to stop exploitation through trafficking, and to amend title 18, United States Code, by providing a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 495. A resolution designating July 2014 as "Summer Meals Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 496. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former United States Senator for the State of Illinois; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 561

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 561, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 931, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to raise awareness of, and to educate breast cancer patients anticipating surgery, especially patients who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, regarding the availability and coverage of breast reconstruction, prostheses, and other options.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 1011

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1011, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to

provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to establish programs with respect to childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from definition under that Act.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration.

S. 1599

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1599, a bill to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 1696

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1696, a bill to protect a women's right to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy by limiting restrictions on the provision of abortion services.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to permanently extend the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act of 2009 and establish a private right of action to enforce compliance with such Act.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2436

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2436, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organization dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to preserve ex-

isting rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

S. 2562

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2562, a bill to provide an incentive to businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S.J. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies or other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 3241

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3241 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING JULY 2014 AS "SUMMER MEALS AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas 1 in 5 children in the United States struggle with hunger;

Whereas research has found that more than 30 percent of low-income families do not have enough food during the summer months;

Whereas the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) exists to ensure that low-income children have access to adequate nutrition when the school year ends;

Whereas the summer food service program is designed to give hungry children a safe place to participate in fun, educational activities and to receive a meal;

Whereas thousands of schools and non-profit organizations across the country serve as summer food service program sites;

Whereas summer programs are often under-utilized, as only 1 in 6 eligible children participate in the summer food service program, due in part to families being unaware that the summer food service program exists;

Whereas lack of transportation and other barriers often prevent children from accessing the summer food service program sites, especially in rural areas; and

Whereas almost 1 in 3 low-income children live in communities that are not eligible to participate in the summer food service program, thus reducing their ability to participate in the program: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2014 as "Summer Meals Awareness Month";

(2) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to assist in efficient use of summer food service program sites by raising awareness of the location and availability of those sites;

(3) encourages members of Congress, schools, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, and State governments to support efforts to increase the participation rate of eligible children who, without the summer food service program for children established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), may go without meals; and

(4) encourages members of Congress to visit a summer food service program site to see the importance of the program firsthand.

SENATE RESOLUTION 496—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ALAN JOHN DIXON, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER,

Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 496

Whereas Alan John Dixon was born in Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois on July 7, 1927, served in the United States Navy Air Corps in 1945, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1949, graduated Washington University School of Law located in St. Louis, Missouri in 1949, passed the Illinois bar in 1949, and then commenced practice in Belleville;

Whereas Senator Dixon married his wife, Joan Louise "Jody" Fox, in 1954;

Whereas Senator Dixon is survived by his wife, Joan; 2 daughters, Stephanie Yearian of Waterloo, Illinois, and Elizabeth Megaw of Fairfax, Virginia; 1 son, Jeffrey Dixon of Chicago, Illinois; 8 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren;

Whereas Senator Dixon was elected Belleville, Illinois, Police Magistrate in 1949;

Whereas Senator Dixon served in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1951–1963, in the Illinois Senate from 1963–1971, and as Minority Whip of the Illinois Senate from 1964–1971;

Whereas Senator Dixon served as Illinois Treasurer from 1971–1977 and Illinois Secretary of State from 1977–1981;

Whereas Senator Dixon was first elected to the United States Senate in 1980 and served until 1993;

Whereas Senator Dixon continued to serve his country as chair of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission from 1994–1995;

Whereas Senator Dixon served the State of Illinois for 42 years;

Whereas Senator Dixon was the first statewide Democrat in Illinois to make full disclosure of his net financial worth and began the tradition in Washington of bipartisan Illinois Congressional lunches; and

Whereas his impeccable honesty, willingness to reach across the aisle and across Illinois, and leadership in the State earned him the nickname "Al the Pal": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former member of the United States Senate;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Alan John Dixon.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3444. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3445. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3446. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3447. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3448. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU for herself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3449. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Reid of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3450. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3451. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3452. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3453. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3444. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.

(a) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “, United States Code”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e)(1) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall report to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this section. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

“(2)(A) The report required by paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

“(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

“(f) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

“(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

“(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

“(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

“(5) The amount of the award.

“(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

“(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).”

(b) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in each controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

“(B)(i) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

“(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) does not affect any other information that is subject to

nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

“(C) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall include and clearly identify in the annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

“(i) any amounts paid from section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

“(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

“(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

“(6) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection:

“(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

“(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

“(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

“(D) A description of the claims in the case.

“(E) The amount of the award.

“(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

“(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

“(8) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), including the Attorney General of the United States and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “United States Code,”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,” and inserting “of this section”; and

(B) by striking “of such title” and inserting “of this title”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall first apply with respect to awards of fees and other expenses that are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL REPORTS.—The first reports required by section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, shall be submitted not later than March 31 of the calendar year following the first calendar year in which a fiscal year begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) ONLINE DATABASES.—The online databases required by section 504(f) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be established as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but in no case later than the date on which the first reports under section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are required to be submitted under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

SA 3445. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational

hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 37, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(10) **MOTORIZED VESSELS IN THE OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS.**—The Secretary of the Interior—

(A) shall manage the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to allow the use of motorized vessels in a manner that is not more restrictive than the use restrictions in effect on November 21, 2013; and

(B) may manage the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to allow the use of motorized vessels in a manner that is less restrictive than the use restrictions in effect on November 21, 2013.

SA 3446. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, line 1, strike “in November 2014” and insert “on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section”.

SA 3447. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 384, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

PART III—AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE UNIFORMED AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT

SEC. 1078A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(c)) is amended by striking “Not later than 90 days” and inserting the following:

“(1) **PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED.**—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 43 days before any election for Federal office held in a State, the chief State election official of such State shall submit a report containing the information in subparagraph (B) to the Attorney General and the Presidential designee, and make that report publicly available that same day.

“(B) **INFORMATION REPORTED.**—The report under subparagraph (A) shall consist of the following:

“(i) The total number of absentee ballots validly requested by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters whose requests were received by the 47th day before the election.

“(ii) The total number of ballots transmitted to such voters by the 46th day before the election by each unit of local govern-

ment within the State that will administer the election.

“(iii) If the chief State election official has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, an explanation of what information is incomplete information and efforts made to acquire such information, including the identity of any unit of local government that failed to provide required information to the State.

“(C) **REQUIREMENT TO SUPPLEMENT INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.**—If the report under subparagraph (A) has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, the chief State election official shall make all reasonable efforts to expeditiously supplement the report with complete information.

“(D) **FORMAT.**—The report under subparagraph (A) shall be in a format prescribed by the Attorney General in consultation with the chief State election officials of each State.

“(2) **POST ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED.**—Not later than 90 days”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The heading for subsection (c) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(c)) is amended by striking “REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED” and inserting “REPORTS ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS”.

SEC. 1078B. TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS; REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8) transmit a validly requested absentee ballot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter by the date and in the manner determined under subsection (g);”.

(b) **BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.**—Subsection (g) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(g)) is amended to read as follows:

“(g) **BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received at least 47 days before an election for Federal office, the following rules shall apply:

“(A) **TRANSMISSION DEADLINE.**—The State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 46 days before the election.

“(B) **SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF FAILURE TO TRANSMIT ON TIME.**—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A) and the absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter did not request electronic ballot transmission pursuant to subsection (f), the State shall transmit such ballot by express delivery.

“(ii) **EXTENDED FAILURE.**—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 41st day before the election, in addition to transmitting the ballot as provided in clause (i), the State shall—

“(I) in the case of absentee ballots requested by absent uniformed services voters with respect to regularly scheduled general elections, notify such voters of the procedures established under section 103A for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots; and

“(II) in any other case, provide for the return of such ballot by express delivery.

“(iii) **COST OF EXPRESS DELIVERY.**—In any case in which express delivery is required under this subparagraph, the cost of such express delivery—

“(I) shall not be paid by the voter, and

“(II) may be required by the State to be paid by a local jurisdiction if the State determines that election officials in such jurisdiction are responsible for the failure to transmit the ballot by any date required under this paragraph.

“(iv) EXCEPTION.—Clause (ii)(II) shall not apply when an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter indicates the preference to return the late sent absentee ballot by electronic transmission in a State that permits return of an absentee ballot by electronic transmission.

“(v) ENFORCEMENT.—A State’s compliance with this subparagraph does not bar the Attorney General from seeking additional remedies necessary to fully resolve or prevent ongoing, future, or systematic violations of this provision.

“(C) SPECIAL PROCEDURE IN EVENT OF DISASTER.—If a disaster (hurricane, tornado, earthquake, storm, volcanic eruption, landslide, fire, flood, or explosion), or an act of terrorism prevents the State from transmitting any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A), it shall notify the Attorney General as soon as practicable and take all actions necessary, including seeking any necessary judicial relief, to ensure that affected absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters are provided a reasonable opportunity to receive and return their absentee ballots in time to be counted.

“(2) REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER 47TH DAY BEFORE ELECTION.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received less than 47 days but not less than 30 days before an election for Federal office, the State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 3 business days after such request is received.”.

SEC. 1078C. TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS TO CONFORM TO 2009 MOVE ACT AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(3) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)(3)) is amended by striking “general elections” and inserting “general, special, primary, and runoff elections”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “general”, and

(2) in the heading thereof, by striking “GENERAL”.

SEC. 1078D. TREATMENT OF POST CARD REGISTRATION REQUESTS.

Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) TREATMENT OF POST CARD REGISTRATIONS.—A State shall not remove any voter who has registered to vote using the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) except in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(a)).”.

SEC. 1078E. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.

(a) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION TO OVERSEAS VOTERS.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-3) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or overseas voter” after “submitted by an absent uniformed services voter”; and

(2) by striking “members of the uniformed services” and inserting “absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters”.

(b) USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-3) is amended—

(A) by striking “A State” and inserting the following:

“(a) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State”, and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) APPLICATION TREATED AS VALID FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and processes a request for an absentee ballot by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter and the voter requests that the application be considered an application for an absentee ballot for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election), the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to either of the following:

“(A) VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.—A voter removed from the list of official eligible voters in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(a)).

“(B) UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS.—A voter whose ballot is returned by mail to the State or local election officials as undeliverable or, in the case of a ballot delivered electronically, if the email sent to the voter was undeliverable or rejected due to an invalid email address.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 104 of such Act is amended by striking “PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION” and inserting “TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS”.

(3) REVISION TO POSTCARD FORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential designee shall ensure that the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) enables a voter using the form to—

(i) request an absentee ballot for each election for Federal office held in a State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election); or

(ii) request an absentee ballot for a specific election or elections for Federal office held in a State during the period described in paragraph (1).

(B) PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “Presidential designee” means the individual designated under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(a)).

SEC. 1078F. APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Paragraphs (6) and (8) of section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6(6)) are each amended by striking “and American Samoa” and inserting “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

SEC. 1078G. BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105A(b) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—
(A) by striking “March 31 of each year” and inserting “June 30 of each odd-numbered year”; and

(B) by striking “the following information” and inserting “the following information with respect to the Federal elections held during the 2 preceding calendar years”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “separate assessment” each place it appears and inserting “separate assessment and statistical analysis”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “section 1566a” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting “sections 1566a and 1566b”;

(B) by striking “such section” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting “such sections”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(C) The number of completed official postcard forms prescribed under section 101(b)(2) that were completed by absent uniformed services members and accepted and transmitted.

“(D) The number of absent uniformed services members who declined to register to vote under such sections.”.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—Section 105A of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a) is amended by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a review of any reports submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b) with respect to elections occurring in calendar years 2014 through 2020.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after a report is submitted by the Presidential designee under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report containing the results of the review conducted under subparagraph (A).

“(2) MATTERS REVIEWED.—A review conducted under paragraph (1) shall assess—

“(A) the methodology used by the Presidential designee to prepare the report and to develop the data presented in the report, including the approach for designing, implementing, and analyzing the results of any surveys.

“(B) the effectiveness of any voting assistance covered in the report provided under subsection (b) and provided by the Presidential designee to absent overseas uniformed services voters and overseas voters who are not members of the uniformed services, including an assessment of—

“(i) any steps taken toward improving the implementation of such voting assistance; and

“(ii) the extent of collaboration between the Presidential designee and the States in providing such voting assistance; and

“(C) any other information the Comptroller General considers relevant to the review.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 101(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (6); and
(B) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively.

(2) Section 102(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “101(b)(7)” and inserting “101(b)(6)”; and

(B) in paragraph (11), by striking “101(b)(11)” and inserting “101(b)(10)”.

(3) Section 105A(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “ANNUAL REPORT” in the subsection heading and inserting “BIENNIAL REPORT”; and

(B) by striking “In the case of” in paragraph (3) and all that follows through “a description” and inserting “A description”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to reports required to be issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1078H. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 1078G(d), the amendments made by this title shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

SA 3448. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. WICKER)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COASTAL WATERS.—The term “coastal waters” means—

(A) all waters, whether salt or fresh, of the Gulf coastal State shoreward of the baseline from which the territorial sea of the United States is measured; and

(B) the waters of the Gulf coastal State seaward from the baseline referred to in subparagraph (A) to the inner boundary of the exclusive economic zone 200 mile limit.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

(3) FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “fishery management plan” means a plan for the conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper prepared and adopted by the Commission pursuant to section 304.

(4) GULF COASTAL STATE.—The term “Gulf coastal State” means the following States bordering the Gulf of Mexico:

- (A) Alabama.
- (B) Florida.
- (C) Louisiana.
- (D) Mississippi.
- (E) Texas.

(5) GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.—The term “Gulf of Mexico red snapper” means members of stocks or populations of the species *Lutjanis campechanus*, which ordinarily are found seaward of the coastal waters.

(6) MAGNUSON-STEVENS ACT.—The term “Magnuson-Stevens Act” means the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SEC. 303. TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.

(a) NEW FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM COMMISSION.—The Commission shall submit

to the Secretary of Commerce a fishery management plan for Gulf of Mexico red snapper adopted by the Commission pursuant to section 304.

(b) ACTIONS BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—
(1) REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION OF PLAN.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

(A) review the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) to determine whether or not the plan—

(i) includes fishery management measures that are compatible to the extent practicable with the national standards set forth in section 301 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851) and other applicable provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act; and

(ii) will ensure the long-term conservation of Gulf of Mexico red snapper populations; and

(B) certify whether or not the Commission has submitted a fishery management plan to properly conserve and manage Gulf of Mexico red snapper consistent with this title.

(2) REVOCATION OF SUPERSEDED PLAN.—Upon receipt of a certification by the Commission under section 304(b)(2) that all of the Gulf coastal States will have sufficient management measures under section 304(b)(1), the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register revoking those regulations and portions of the Federal fishery management plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico that are in conflict with the fishery management plan for Gulf of Mexico red snapper, including the deletion of the species from the management unit.

(c) STATE ACTIONS.—Upon certification by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1) that the fishery management plan will properly conserve and manage Gulf of Mexico red snapper consistent with this title, the Gulf coastal States shall implement all appropriate measures to manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper resource in the adjacent coastal waters in accordance with the fishery management plan.

SEC. 304. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) COMMISSION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall prepare and adopt a fishery management plan to provide for the conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper and specify the requirements necessary for Gulf coastal States to be in compliance with the plan.

(2) STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish standards and procedures for the preparation of the fishery management plan, including standards and procedures to ensure—

(A) the long-term sustainability of Gulf of Mexico red snapper based on the available science; and

(B) adequate opportunity for public participation in the preparation of the fishery management plan, including at least four public hearings and procedures for the submission to the Commission of written comments on the fishery management plan.

(3) LIMITATION ON REDUCTION IN QUOTAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the fishery management plan may not reduce the overall quota of Gulf of Mexico red snapper apportioned to commercial fishing on the date of the enactment of this Act until the date that is 3 years after such date of enactment. Such plan may increase such a quota based on stock assessments.

(B) EXCEPTION IN CASE OF A REDUCTION IN STOCK.—In the event of a reduction in the

stock of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, the fishery management plan shall reduce the quota described in subparagraph (A) in a manner that ensures a sustainable harvest of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) STATE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) SUBMITTAL OF MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—Each Gulf coastal State shall submit to the Commission management measures to ensure compliance with the conservation objectives of the fishery management plan.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon certification by the Commission that all Gulf coastal States have submitted sufficient management measures described in paragraph (1), the Commission shall certify to the Secretary of Commerce under section 303(b)(2) to revoke Federal management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper, and the Gulf coastal States shall manage the Gulf of Mexico red snapper in the adjacent coastal waters consistent with the fishery management plan.

SEC. 305. MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN BY GULF COASTAL STATES.

(a) DETERMINATION.—In December each year, and at any other time it considers appropriate, the Commission shall determine—

(1) whether each Gulf coastal State has adopted all regulatory measures to fully implement the fishery management plan; and

(2) whether the enforcement of the fishery management plan by each Gulf coastal State is satisfactory to maintain the long-term sustainability and abundance of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) SATISFACTORY STATE ENFORCEMENT.—For purposes of subsection (a)(2), enforcement by a Gulf coastal State shall not be considered satisfactory by the Commission if, in its view, such enforcement is being carried out in such a manner that the implementation of the fishery management plan within the coastal waters of the Gulf coastal State is being, or will likely be, substantially and adversely affected.

(c) NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE OF ADVERSE DETERMINATION.—The Commission shall immediately notify the Secretary of Commerce of each negative determination made with respect to a Gulf coastal State under subsection (a).

SEC. 306. GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY MANAGEMENT REVIEW.

(a) COMMISSION REVIEW AND REPORT ON CERTIFICATION ON CERTAIN STATE ACTIONS.—

(1) COMMISSION REVIEW OF STATE CERTIFICATION.—Each Gulf coastal State that manages Gulf of Mexico red snapper shall submit to the Commission a certification as follows:

(A) If Gulf of Mexico red snapper is undergoing overfishing or subject to a rebuilding plan, that such Gulf coastal State shall implement immediately the necessary measures to end overfishing and rebuild the fishery.

(B) That such Gulf coastal State shall implement a program to provide for data collection adequate to monitor the harvest of Gulf of Mexico red snapper by such Gulf coastal State.

(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Upon the review of each certification submitted to the Commission under paragraph (1), the Commission shall certify to the Secretary of Commerce whether or not the Gulf coastal State concerned is fully carrying out the matters covered by the certification.

(b) ACTION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—Upon receipt by the Secretary of Commerce of a notice under section 305(c) or a report under subsection (a)(2) that a Gulf Coastal

State is not fully complying with the matters specified in subsection (a)(1) as certified by that State pursuant to subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may declare a closure of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery within the Federal waters adjacent to the Gulf coastal State. In making such a declaration the Secretary shall fully consider and review the comments of the Gulf coastal State and the Commission.

(c) **ACTIONS PROHIBITED DURING CLOSURE.**—During a closure of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery under subsection (b), it is unlawful for any person—

(1) to engage in fishing for Gulf of Mexico red snapper within the Federal waters adjacent to the Gulf coastal State covered by the closure;

(2) to land, or attempt to land, the Gulf of Mexico red snapper that is subject to the closure; or

(3) to fail to return to the water the Gulf of Mexico red snapper to which the closure applies that are caught incidental to commercial harvest or in other recreational fisheries.

SEC. 307. IMPROVED STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTION FOR GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of carrying out this title, the Secretary of Commerce shall support the Gulf coastal States and the Commission in developing and implementing a comprehensive study on Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper. The study shall include the following:

(1) Annual stock assessments of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(2) The number of participants, both commercial and recreational, in the coastal waters of the Gulf coastal States that harvest Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(3) Recommendations for improved conservation and management of Gulf of Mexico red snapper.

(b) **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall, in consultation with the Gulf coastal States and the Commission, conduct a comprehensive study and analysis of the economic impacts and benefits for the local, regional, and national economy of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery. The study shall include the following:

(1) A thorough analysis of the beneficial economic impacts of industries directly related to the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery, including, but not limited to, boat sales, marina activity, boat construction and repair, fishing gear and tackle sales, and other closely associated industries.

(2) A proper economic analysis of the downstream economic impacts of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery on the economies of the Gulf coastal States, including, but not limited to, hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, related tourism, and other peripheral businesses and industries.

(c) **BIENNIAL REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress, the Gulf coastal States, and the Commission on a biennial basis a report on the progress and findings of studies conducted under subsections (a) and (b), and shall make each report available to the public. Each report shall, to the extent practicable, include recommendations on additional actions to be taken to encourage the sustainable conservation and management of the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery.

SA 3449. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada to

the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:
“SECTION 1 . HUNTING IN KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) may not restrict the use of dogs in deer hunting activities in Kisatchie National Forest (referred to in this section as the ‘Forest’), unless the restrictions—

“(1) apply to the smallest practicable portions of the Forest; and

“(2) are necessary to reduce or control trespass onto land adjacent to the Forest.

“(b) **PRIOR RESTRICTIONS.**—Any restrictions regarding the use of dogs in deer hunting activities in Kisatchie National Forest in force on the date of enactment of this Act shall have no force or effect.

“(c) **ADJACENT LANDOWNERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any landowner of land that abuts a unit of the Forest may petition the Secretary to restrict the use of dogs in deer hunting activities that take place on the portion of the Forest that abuts the land of the landowner.

“(2) **RESTRICTIONS.**—If the Secretary receives a petition from an adjacent landowner under paragraph (1), the Secretary, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, may impose restrictions on the use of dogs in deer hunting—

“(A) limited to the portion of the Forest that is located within 300 yards of the boundary of the land of the landowner; and

“(B) consistent with subsection (a).”.

SA 3450. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:
TITLE III—ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Recreational Land Self-Defense Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment of the Constitution provides that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed”.

(2) Section 327.13 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, “possession of loaded firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons is prohibited” at water resources development projects administered by the Secretary of the Army.

(3) The regulations described in paragraph (2) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the Second Amendment rights of the individuals while at such water resources development projects.

(4) Federal laws should make it clear that the Second Amendment rights of an individual at a water resources development project should not be infringed.

(b) **PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS AT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—The Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under part 327 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the laws of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SA 3451. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Recreational Land Self-Defense Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

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(3) The regulations described in paragraph (2) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the Second Amendment rights of the individuals while at such water resources development projects.

(4) Federal laws should make it clear that the Second Amendment rights of an individual at a water resources development project should not be infringed.

(b) **PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS AT WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**—The Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under part 327 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the laws of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SA 3452. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect

and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall not—

(1) finalize the proposed directive of the Forest Service entitled “Proposed Groundwater Management Directive, Forest Service Manual 2560” (79 Fed. Reg. 25815 (May 6, 2014)); or

(2) use the directive described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar directive, as the basis for any decision regarding management of groundwater resources on National Forest System land or any rulemaking.

(b) RULES.—The use of the directive described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar directive, as the basis for any rule shall be grounds for vacation of the rule.

SA 3453. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Secretary of the Army nor the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) finalize the proposed rule entitled “Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ Under the Clean Water Act” (79 Fed. Reg. 22188 (April 21, 2014)); or

(2) use the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(b) RULES.—The use of the proposed rule described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) shall be grounds for vacation of the final rule, decision, or enforcement action.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in the office of Senator AL FRANKEN, Karen Saxe, be granted floor privileges from July 7, 2014, to July 31, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2014 second quarter Mass Mailing report is Friday,

July 25, 2014. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510–7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224–0322.

SUMMER MEALS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 495, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 495) designating July 2014 as “Summer Meals Awareness Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 495) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR ALAN JOHN DIXON

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 496.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 496) relative to the death of the Honorable Alan John Dixon, former United States Senator from the State of Illinois.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 496) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the final 30 minutes; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act, postcloture; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and finally, that all time during adjournment, recess, and morning business count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 496 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Alan John Dixon, former U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

ROBERT ALAN McDONALD, OF OHIO, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE ERIC K. SHINSEKI, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES K. MCLAUGHLIN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3034:

To be general

GEN. DANIEL B. ALLYN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. MARK A. MILLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SEAN B. MACFARLAND

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE

INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES B. LASTER

CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by
the Senate July 7, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

CHERYL ANN KRAUSE, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 8, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 9

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Russia and developments in Ukraine.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine challenges at the border, focusing on the causes, consequences, and responses to the rise in apprehensions at the southern border.

SD-342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine political pluralism in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mediterranean Partners, focusing on political developments among the Mediterranean Partners in the years following the popular uprisings that began in late 2010.

SVC-203/202

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine improving audits, focusing on strengthening the Medicare program for future generations.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine promoting the well-being and academic success of college athletes.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 2442, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to

take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, S. 2465, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, S. 2479, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, S. 2480, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and S. 2503, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.

SD-628

JULY 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Admiral William E. Gortney, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Northern Command, and Commander, Northern American Aerospace Defense Command, General John F. Campbell, USA, for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force, and Commander, United States Forces, Afghanistan, and Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, to be General and Commander, United States Special Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 517, to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, S.J. Res. 19, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections, and the nominations of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Pamela Pepper, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Brenda K. Sannes, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, and Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, and Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Leslie Ann Bassett, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay, and Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador the Republic of Guatemala, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed emergency supplemental request for fiscal year 2015 for unaccompanied children and related matters.

SD-106

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 14

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James C. Miller, III, of Virginia, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, and Victoria Reggie Kennedy, of Massachusetts, all to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

JULY 15

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine an assessment of the recovery at five years.

SH-216

JULY 16

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine phone scams, focusing on progress and potential solutions.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program.

SD-628

JULY 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense.

SD-G50

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

JULY 23		JULY 30
10 a.m.	2:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation	Committee on Indian Affairs	Committee on Indian Affairs
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance	To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years.	To hold an oversight hearing to examine responses to natural disasters in Indian country.
To hold hearings to examine accountability and corporate culture in wake of the General Motors (GM) recalls.		
SR-253	SD-628	SD-628

SENATE—Tuesday, July 8, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest Heavens, for we look to You each day for our protection and peace. Fulfill Your purposes by using our Senators as agents of Your grace. Lord, surround them with Your favor, as their labors bring honor to You. Deliver them from the traps set by their enemies. Give them hearts filled with confidence in Your prevailing providence, sustaining them with Your unfailing faithfulness and love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SALUTING THE FLAG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just by chance last night I was reading a book and it included a speech given by JOHN MCCAIN, our fellow Senator. What Senator MCCAIN talked about was some of his experiences in the prison camp in Vietnam where a man by the name of Mike Christian had spent an inordinate amount of time sewing on the inside of the pajama-like outfit they gave him to wear, and he put a flag inside his jacket—his shirt. This jacket was discovered, the flag was discovered by the prison officials, and he was beaten really very much. He was beaten severely. Of course, they ripped the flag out of his coat.

We take for granted saluting the flag. We come in here and we do it every morning. By rote, we stand and do it. I am not too sure that we shouldn't think a little bit more about what we are doing when we salute the flag. I am going to bring that excerpt from home and I am going to submit it for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for everybody to see, about people who have been—for example, Senator MCCAIN was in prison for 5½ years. As

we know, he was, on many different occasions, tortured. So when JOHN MCCAIN salutes the flag and when Mike Christian, a fellow pilot—he was actually a navigator on an airplane—salute the flag, it means a lot to them, and we should encapsulate that when we think about saluting the flag.

I will submit that excerpt for the RECORD tomorrow. I read that last night, late. I thought, when we salute our flag, we should think about it more than, I am sure, we do all the time.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, postcloture.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the majority control the time from 2:15 until 3:15 and the Republicans control the time from 3:15 to 4:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is no secret that the Senate, as of late, has been beset by partisan rancor and obstruction: one Republican filibuster and then another, and then another, and still more filibusters. That is why the legislation that is before us today represents a rare opportunity for the Senate to complete work on a bill that enjoys broad bipartisan support.

Senator KAY HAGAN's sportsmen's bill is overwhelmingly popular with Democrats and Republicans around the country, and for good reason. Forty million Americans who hunt and fish stand to benefit from this legislation.

The sportsmen's package represents years of bipartisan work—years—combining some 20 bills important to the sportsmen's community. The bill expands opportunities for sportsmen, promoting an industry that contributes almost \$200 billion annually to our Nation's economy. In Nevada, over 200,000 people hunt and fish every year. It is

good for tourism. People come to Nevada to hunt for game, including antelope, elk, and bighorn desert sheep. We have wonderful fishing. We don't have a lot of lakes and rivers, but what we have is terrific. That is why fishermen come from around the country to fish in Nevada, it is a \$1 billion industry.

I was talking to my friend Senator BENNET from Colorado and he said in Colorado it is a \$4 billion industry. I would bet that even in a heavily populated State such as New Jersey there is a lot of hunting and fishing that goes on. It is good for the economy.

Senator HAGAN's legislation promotes hunting, fishing, and recreation, all while fostering habitat conservation through voluntary programs. Because of her tireless efforts building bipartisan consensus, Senator HAGAN's bill is cosponsored by 25 Republicans and 19 Democrats. This legislation also enjoys the support of more than 50 national sportsmen and conservation groups all over this country.

As Benjamin Disraeli, the famous statesman from Great Britain, said, "The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes." This bill is ready and the opportunity is now. After years of hard work by Senator HAGAN and others, now is the time to consider and pass this legislation. But, as always, our success in moving this legislation will depend on the cooperation of all Senators in putting aside political games and petty disputes over amendments in order to pass a bill that will benefit millions of Americans.

This is a bill that is as much a Republican bill as it is a Democrat bill. So why should this bill be killed for procedural reasons? This is a bill they have worked on for many years.

I am hopeful that through bipartisan support we can get this bill over the finish line, as we were able to do with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act earlier this year, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act a few weeks ago.

I urge my colleagues to respect the hard work of those Senators who have put this measure before us and allow this matter to pass—and quickly.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, just some information for my friend from

Vermont. We had anticipated after my remarks of going to the comments of Senator ALEXANDER and Senator CORKER in connection with the life of Senator Howard Baker. So I ask unanimous consent at this point that the Senators from Tennessee follow my remarks on Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I shall not, of course, because as I told the press in Vermont last week, I had the privilege of serving with more than 10 leaders in both parties since I have been here, and it is impossible to find a finer leader than Howard Baker. I considered him to be a Senator's Senator and one of the finest people I have ever served with. So of course I will wait.

I would ask to amend the unanimous consent request so that following the remarks of the Republican leader and the two Senators from Tennessee I then be recognized for my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the leader modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. First, a few observations about ObamaCare. It may not have existed in the English language a few years ago, but in short order it has become a battle word for broken promises and almost cartoonish inefficiency. It is no wonder why: You can keep your plan. You can keep your doctor. Premiums will go down. The law will create millions of jobs.

We knew the promises wouldn't hold up. Many of us said so. One even earned the dubious distinction of being declared the "lie of the year." And that is why it is so hard to trust much of what the Obama administration claims about ObamaCare these days, such as back in December when administration officials issued another promise—that they would make sure any taxpayer-funded ObamaCare subsidies would go only to enrollees who actually qualify for them under the law.

We wanted this assurance not only because so many other promises had been broken; we wanted it because eligibility verification is so important. Middle-class taxpayers are feeling enough pain from this law already. They shouldn't have to subsidize inaccurate or even fraudulent ObamaCare claims on top of all the rest. So I helped pass a law that requires a non-partisan watchdog to keep an eye on the procedures the administration claimed would protect taxpayers to see how they will work and then report back to us in Congress.

Last week that watchdog, the inspector general, issued the first two reports on the issue, and it turns out we were

pretty correct to be worried. The inspector general concluded that the administration was often ineffective at verifying such basic details about ObamaCare enrollees as their citizen status, their income, their Social Security number, and whether they were even eligible to purchase ObamaCare in the first place. The administration, the IG reported, didn't even follow its own eligibility verification procedures in many cases.

And that wasn't all. The IG also discovered nearly 3 million inconsistencies in the information ObamaCare enrollees provided in their applications, nearly 90 percent of which couldn't even be resolved because the necessary software—the necessary software—wasn't even operational.

It is completely ridiculous.

And the administration is still struggling to get a handle on the problem. Computer systems that should have been ready to go last October have not been built yet. It is the kind of scenario we would expect to see in a Leslie Nielsen movie, not in real life.

Worse still, administration officials are now indicating they are going to keep chugging ahead with their deeply flawed verification practices, even after everything the government's own watchdog uncovered. Many individuals enrolled with the current flawed enrollment process will automatically be enrolled for the same taxpayer subsidies next year.

They are defiant—defiant—in the face of all of this. This is precisely the kind of flippant attitude that is so infuriating to many of our constituents.

Many of us predicted these kinds of problems would be the likely outcome of giving government such expansive power over a huge segment of our economy. Of course we are going to have massive inefficiency and probable fraud and migraines for middle-class families who already have enough to deal with. Of course we are going to see all this. It seems inevitable.

That is why Republicans say we need to start over with actual health care reform—reform that can actually lower costs and increase the quality of care without resorting to this tired sort of government-centric approach.

ObamaCare is built upon the intellectually lazy idea that we can simply legislate a desirable outcome into existence, that we can tell a hulking Federal bureaucracy to simply bureaucratize affordable health care into being. Unfortunately, life does not work that way. Reality always intervenes, as we have been seeing with the pain of ObamaCare these past few years—pain that will only continue until Washington Democrats join us to enact a serious bipartisan solution that actually addresses many of our health care challenges and dispenses with the failed policies of this administration. Yet that is exactly the opposite of

what we have seen from our friends on the other side so far.

Instead of working with us to solve massive problems, such as the ones the inspector general identified, Democrats in Washington are simply hiding from the issue altogether. They are trying to change the subject. Even hinting at it prompts the Democratic majority to shut down the legislative process altogether and cancel committee markups. They block votes and amendments. They will not allow the Senate to consider numerous bipartisan House-passed bills that would address some of ObamaCare's most glaring problems.

Even when a bipartisan group proposes a plan to address a flaw in the law that is reducing incomes for working families, they reject it. Instead, they schedule show votes designed to inflame one group or another.

As for the President, he is traveling around the country this week to give campaign speeches—not working with Congress to help middle-class families struggling under the weight of his policies. So the Democratic plan seems to be to double down on the mess they created and to hope Americans can be distracted enough to forget about it come November.

If that is the plan, it is not going to work. Middle-class Americans know who has been standing by their side throughout this entire ObamaCare fiasco. They know who has been standing against them, serving as a shield for the President and the hard left.

It is not too late for Democrats in Washington to work with Republicans to address the massive problem they created. If they truly care about the millions they have already hurt in this country with this law, it is time to do just that.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senators from Tennessee and I had an opportunity 1 week ago today to attend the funeral of Senator Howard Baker, who led the Senate Republicans for 8 years and was a truly wonderful American.

Actually, it was just an honor to attend his funeral down in Huntsville, TN, a town of 1,248 souls that Senator Baker often referred to as the "center of the known universe." It was a wonderful tribute, and it carried a lot of lessons about the work we do.

Senator CORKER was there too, and I am sure he felt the same way. Just before the funeral, he noted that Senator Baker was the kind of person who seemed to evoke "wisdom in everything he did." I was glad to hear the two men got to spend some time together a few months before Senator Baker passed away.

Anyway, a real highlight of the funeral for me was a magnificent—absolutely magnificent—eulogy by Senator

ALEXANDER. It captured not only the closeness of their friendship but also the qualities that made Senator Baker such an important figure. This morning I would like to take just a moment to thank Senator ALEXANDER for those thoughtful words and at this point insert his eulogy into the RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that be done.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Eulogy of Senator Howard Baker, Jr., July 1, 2014]

“HOWARD BAKER, JR.: TENNESSEE’S FAVORITE SON AND ONE OF OUR COUNTRY’S FINEST LEADERS”

(By Lamar Alexander)

On behalf of the Baker family and all of us Tennesseans, let me welcome Vice President Biden, Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, and Senator Danforth, who married Howard and Nancy.

It was August, 1960. Republican Day at the Illinois State Fair. Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen was warming up the crowd of 30,000, explaining why Vice President Richard Nixon should be president of the United States instead of Senator John F. Kennedy.

Seated on the platform behind him were Dirksen’s daughter Joy, and her husband Howard Henry Baker, Jr., a 34-year-old lawyer from Huntsville, Tennessee, who looked about 24.

“Jack Kennedy is a nice young man,” Dirksen was saying. “But all they can say he has ever done was serve on a PT boat in World War II.”

Turning toward his son-in-law with a flourish, Dirksen said, “Why, my own son-in-law, Howard Baker, Jr., was on a PT boat in World War II, and I’ve never heard anyone suggest that he was qualified to serve in any public office.”

Four years later, instead of running for the safe congressional seat that his father and stepmother had held, Howard Baker, Jr., ran to become the first Tennessee Republican popularly elected to the United States Senate. He probably would have won if presidential candidate Barry Goldwater hadn’t stopped at the Knoxville airport a few days before the election and promised to sell the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Howard ran again in 1966. I remember standing at that same airport being embarrassed by his prediction to the media that he would win by 100,000 votes, and then, a few days later, he did just that.

Behind Howard Baker’s pleasant demeanor was a restless ambition that would propel him to the heights of American politics and government for forty years.

He learned quickly. His maiden address in the Senate lasted about an hour. Afterwards, he asked Senator Dirksen, the Senate Republican Leader, “How did I do?”

“Howard,” Dirksen replied, “perhaps you should occasionally enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.”

In 1968, Howard and Congressman George Bush were runners-up to Governor Spiro Agnew when Nixon picked a vice president. In 1969, when Dirksen died, after only three years in the Senate, he ran for Republican Leader, only to be defeated by Senator Hugh Scott.

In 1971, President Nixon asked him to be on the Supreme Court. Howard declined, then called back and said he would accept if the president insisted, but Nixon had already appointed Bill Rehnquist.

In 1973 came the Watergate hearings. Eighty-five percent of Americans saw those hearings, broadcast most days by all of the only four television networks that then existed. And the most famous words were Howard Baker’s: “What did the president know and when did he know it?”

Howard suspected that Senator Scott had made him Ranking Republican on the Watergate Committee to “get rid of me as a competitor.” He had run against Scott a second time for Leader, and lost. But instead, the exposure made Baker a national hero and, once again, runner-up in the vice-presidential sweepstakes in 1976 when Gerald Ford picked Bob Dole instead of Howard.

Senator Scott retired, and a few months later, in January, 1977, Howard was elected Republican Leader by one vote. He served for eight years. When, in 1980, the Republican sweep made him majority leader, he visited the wily Democratic Leader Robert Byrd. First, Howard surprised Byrd by suggesting that Byrd keep his ornate office.

Having softened up Byrd, Baker then said, “Senator Byrd, I’ll never learn the rules as well as you know them, so I’ll make a deal with you: I won’t surprise you if you won’t surprise me.”

Byrd replied, “Let me think about it.” The next day he agreed. And they ran the Senate together for four more years.

Baker then commandeered an additional set of offices next to the Republican Leader’s less-spacious quarters that are today called the “Howard Baker Rooms.” He always said that the view from the Howard Baker rooms was the second best view in Washington. The best, of course, is from the White House, which he also occupied—but not in the way he had planned.

In late 1986, while the Bakers were vacationing in Miami, the phone rang. Joy answered. It was President Reagan.

“Where’s Howard?” asked Reagan.

“At the zoo with the grandchildren,” Joy said.

“Wait till he hears about the zoo I have planned for him,” the president said.

Howard became White House chief of staff, helping to cleanse the Reagan presidency of its Iran-Contra troubles.

President Reagan and Howard Baker began each day telling each other a little story. “It got to be a lot of stories,” Howard said. I always felt a little better about our country knowing we had two men at the top with such temperament.

Joy died in 1993. In 1996, Howard married Nancy. Those of us at the wedding were happy because we had never seen two people so happy.

In 1996, the two Senators Baker moved to Tokyo where Howard became U.S. Ambassador to Japan. When he returned, he headed the law firm that is a descendant of a law firm his grandfather founded in Huntsville.

What skills allowed Howard Baker to accomplish so much?

He was an eloquent listener. He said in 2011, “There is a difference between hearing and understanding what people say. You don’t have to agree, but you have to hear what they’ve got to say. And if you do, the chances are much better you’ll be able to translate that into a useful position and even useful leadership.”

He was called “The Great Conciliator” for his habit of gathering disputing senators into one room, listening for a while, and then his summary of the discussion would become the senators’ agreement.

He demonstrated courage. He supported civil rights when most southerners didn’t. He

and Senator Byrd found 68 votes to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty. Several Republican senators signed a letter asking Baker to resign as Leader because of that.

Roy Blount, Jr., says you start getting into trouble when you stop sounding like where you grew up. Howard Baker never stopped sounding like where he grew up. He always went home to Huntsville, which he called the “center of the known universe.”

He had an eye for talent. In 1969, he told me, “You ought to meet that smart young legislative assistant who works for Senator Marlow Cook.” That assistant was Mitch McConnell. Howard mentored another Tennessee majority leader, Bill Frist; Senators Thompson and Corker; and Governors Sundquist and Haslam; Ambassadors Ashe and Montgomery; Congressman Duncan—as well as many others in this congregation.

With Bill Brock and Winfield Dunn, he kept the door open to Republican primaries, attracting hundreds of thousands of “discerning Democrats” and independents and creating the majority status the Tennessee Republican Party enjoys today.

Howard Baker knew how to make the Senate work. He understood that the Senate’s unique role is as a place for extended debate and amendment on important issues until there is a consensus. That is how he fixed Social Security with Tip O’Neill and Ronald Reagan, how he passed the Reagan tax cuts and the Clean Air and Water laws.

One thing he did not do well was fundraising. He left that to Ted Welch and Jim Haslam and Bill Swain. According to Jim, “Howard would not raise any money at all, until he started raising money for the Baker Center and then he made every call with me.”

In the new version of Lamar Alexander’s Little Plaid Book, there is this rule: “When invited to speak at a funeral, remember to mention the deceased at least as often as yourself.”

I have done my best to follow that rule today, but I hope you understand how difficult that is for me, as it would be for many of you.

So let me just get it out all at once:

For the last half century, Howard Baker has had more influence on my life than anyone outside my own family. He inspired me to help him build a two-party system. I babysat for Darek and Cissy. I met Honey at a softball game between the Baker staff and the John Tower staff. My favorite photograph of her is one Howard took at the Baker home when we were celebrating our marriage. Our daughter Leslee was flower girl at Darek and Karen’s wedding. I occupy the same Senate office Howard once had in the Dirksen Senate office building. My desk on the Senate floor was once his desk.

As his legislative assistant, I wrote his speeches, prompting him to tell the story at least 100 times of how I once asked to see him privately to determine if there was some problem with our relationship because I had learned that he never said in his speeches any of the words that I had written.

“Lamar,” he replied, “we have a perfect relationship. You write what you want to write—and I’ll say what I want to say.”

Occasionally a young person will ask me, “How can I become involved in politics?”

My answer always is, “Find someone you respect, volunteer to help him or her do anything legal, and learn all you can from them. That’s what I did.”

How fortunate we were to know, to be inspired by, and to learn from Tennessee’s favorite son and one of our country’s finest leaders, Howard Baker.

Dan Quayle, when he was a senator, summed it up: "There's Howard Baker," he said, "and then there's the rest of us senators."

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would like to share some of Senator ALEXANDER's observations about Senator Baker because, as I said, I think they are important, timely lessons about the purpose and potential of our service.

One of the things that stands out in all the tributes to Senator Baker, including Senator ALEXANDER's, is the way in which he embodied the rare trait of taking himself lightly even as he took his duties seriously.

I will give you an example. One of the time-honored traditions around here is for new Senators to labor over their maiden speeches as if Pericles himself were standing in judgment from the Presiding Officer's chair. Senator Baker was no exception. His maiden speech was long, thoughtful, and dense—so much so that when he asked his father-in-law, then-Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen, for his reaction, Dirksen is said to have remarked: "Howard, Howard, perhaps you should occasionally enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought."

It was the kind of comment that might have stung a lesser Senator, but as Senator ALEXANDER pointed out in mentioning that last week, Baker was a quick learner. About a week or so later, Howard rose again—this time to challenge one of his Democratic colleagues to a game of tennis. The Senator in question had just taken a swipe at the vigor of his Republican colleagues, particularly the new ones, and Senator Baker decided to rise to the challenge, tongue firmly in cheek.

It was a star performance. The Senator that Baker challenged even interrupted him at one point to suggest that it was "one of the best maiden speeches that has ever been delivered in this chamber." Evidently he had missed Baker's actual maiden speech. But Senator Baker's legendary ability to adapt was now firmly established and it set the tone for a two-decade run in which he would be called upon to deploy his many other talents and skills to defuse tensions, resolve conflicts, repair trust, build consensus, and, frankly, just to put people at ease—because sometimes in this business there is nothing more important than just that: to just keep the bearings oiled.

We have all been recently reminded of how Senator Baker put his own ambitions aside to help rebuild the Reagan White House after Iran-Contra. It was a great testament to his values and to his feel for priorities. What Senator ALEXANDER reminded us last week was that these former political rivals—Baker and Reagan—started every day in the White House together telling each other a little story. They had no problem putting their past disputes behind them and building a close working

friendship based on mutual respect, common purpose, love of country, and of course good humor. They were adults, busy about serious business, and they conducted that business with dignity and with grace.

The larger point is that while people talk a lot about the importance of having political skill in Washington these days, the importance of temperament cannot be overstated. The way Senator Baker conducted himself here and in the White House is eloquent testimony of that.

It is not that he was laid back. As Senator ALEXANDER put it, behind Baker's pleasant demeanor was a restless ambition that would propel him to the heights of American politics and government for 40 years, but he could subordinate that ambition when he felt the moment or the country needed him to. He was persistent about achieving a result but never insisted that his way was the only way to do it. It is a quality that required an ability to listen. In Baker's case that meant being an eloquent listener, a trait Senator ALEXANDER put above all the others in Baker's formidable arsenal.

Here is how Senator Baker himself once put it:

There is a difference between hearing and understanding what people say. You don't have to agree, but you have to hear what they've got to say. And if you do, the chances are much better you'll be able to translate that into a useful position and even useful leadership.

Senator ALEXANDER pointed out Howard Baker had courage. He helped round up the votes to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty even though he must have known it would not help him much in a Republican primary for President, to put it mildly. When the integrity of our politics was at stake, he did not hesitate to take on a President of his own party in a very public way—an impulse that one hopes lawmakers in both parties could muster today if the integrity of our system called for it again.

But perhaps most important of all, Howard Baker was grounded. He had an important job to do, and he did it well, but he also kept a healthy distance from his work. His photograph of President Reagan's inaugural in January 1981 illustrates the point. Just behind the new President we can spot the Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill and the new Vice President George Bush. Then right there between them is a man holding up a camera to capture the moment. It is the new Senate majority leader standing there like an ordinary spectator with a very good seat. It was Howard Baker.

Senator ALEXANDER summed up Baker's groundedness this way: "Howard Baker never stopped sounding like where he grew up."

Senator Baker was a fixture here for decades, but Huntsville was always

home. Perhaps that is also why Senator Baker took his stewardship of the Senate so very seriously. He knew he was not going to be around forever and that meant he had a duty to make the Senate work and to preserve it as a place where disputes and disagreements are sifted and sorted out and where stable, durable solutions are slowly but surely achieved. It is how he earned the nickname "the great conciliator."

When Dan Quayle was a Senator here, he used to say: "There's Howard Baker, and then there's the rest of us."

Over the past week, we have been reminded of why that was, and I thank Senator ALEXANDER for helping us remember why his friend and mentor meant so much to this country and this institution.

May the memory of Howard Henry Baker inspire us to be our best selves and even better Senators.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. I believe it is correct that Senator CORKER and I, before morning business begins, have a few minutes to reflect on Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That understanding is correct.

Mr. ALEXANDER. That is correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is under morning business right now, but the Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask consent that before morning business begin that Senator CORKER and I be permitted to reflect on Senator Baker.

Mr. President, I ask consent that we have a few minutes to speak about Senator Baker before morning business begins.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I am not going to object because we have an understanding, but I would like to have a similar amount of time to reflect on Senator Alan Dixon, who passed away over the weekend, after the Senators from Tennessee have paid homage to Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Illinois.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank Senator MCCONNELL from Kentucky for his eloquent remarks. One other thing I said at the funeral was that Senator Baker had an eye for talent. In 1969, when I was a young aide in the Nixon White House, Senator Baker came to me and said: "You might want to get to know that smart young legislative assistant for Senator Marlow Cook." That young legislative assistant was MITCH MCCONNELL. So I did get to know him.

I thank Senator MCCONNELL for coming to the funeral. I thank Senator REID, our majority leader, for being there as well. They were there at the front of that small church in Huntsville, TN. The Vice President came. He sat there, met everybody, showed his respect for both former Senator Baker and his wife, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker. We Tennesseans appreciated that courtesy by the Vice President, the majority leader, and the minority leader very much.

There were a number of others there. Our Governor was there; Senator CORKER and I, of course, were there; Senator Fred Thompson; majority leader Bill Frist, whom Senator Baker had mentored; Senator Pete Domenici, Senator Bill Brock, Senator Elizabeth Dole, and Senator Bennett Johnston were also there; as well as Senator Jack Danforth, who married Howard and Nancy; and our former Governors, Winfield Dunn and Don Sundquist. It was a small church, but along with former Vice President Al Gore and the current Vice President and the majority leader, as well as the minority leader, there was real respect for the former majority leader of the Senate.

I will not try to repeat what I said at the funeral, and it was a privilege for me to be asked by the family to speak, but I did want to make two comments briefly, one personal and one about the Senate.

The personal one that I said at the funeral was that I had tried to follow the rule in LAMAR ALEXANDER's "Little Plaid Book" that when invited to speak at a funeral, remember to mention the deceased more often than yourself and to talk more about Howard Baker than my relationship with him, but that was hard to do. I waited until the end of my remarks to try to do that.

No one had more influence on my life over the last half century than Howard Baker. I came here with him in 1967 as his only legislative assistant. That is how many legislative assistants Senators had then. They dealt mainly with one another, not through staff members. I came back in 1977 when suddenly he was elected Republican leader on his third try by one vote, and I worked in the office that is now the Republican leader's office for 3 months helping him find a permanent chief of staff until I went back to Tennessee.

Throughout my entire public life and private life, no one has had more effect on me by virtue of his effort to encourage me—as well as many other younger people who were working their way up in a variety of ways—and as an example for how to do things.

My advice to younger people who want to know how to become involved in politics is to find someone whom you respect and admire, volunteer to go to work for them and do anything legal they ask you to do and learn from them, both the good and the bad. I had the great privilege of working with the best.

To give one small example of how closely intertwined our lives have become, I had the same office he had in the Dirksen Office Building. I had the same phone number he had in the Dirksen Office Building. If you open the drawer of this desk, you will find scratched in the drawer the names Baker, Thompson, and my name. I have the same desk on this floor.

As far as the Senate, just one story. A remarkably effective presentation at the funeral was made by the Reverend Martha Anne Fairchild, who for 20 years has been the minister of the small Presbyterian church in Huntsville. She told a story about lightbulbs and Senator Baker.

He was on the Session, which is the governing body of the church. He was an elder, and he insisted on coming to the meetings. She said that at one of the meetings of the Session the elders, who represent the maybe 70 members of the church, fell into a discussion about new lightbulbs. It was pretty contentious, and eventually they resolved it because Senator Baker insisted that they discuss it all the way through to the end.

She talked with him later, and he said: "Well, I could have pulled out my checkbook and written a check for the new lightbulbs, but I thought it was more important that the elders have a full and long discussion so they all could be comfortable with the decision they made."

That story about lightbulbs is how Howard Baker saw the U.S. Senate—as a forum for extended discussion where you have the patience to allow everyone to pretty well have their say in the hopes that you come to a conclusion that most of us are comfortable with and therefore the country is comfortable with it. He understood that you only govern a complex country such as ours by consensus. And whether it was lightbulbs or an 9-week debate on the Panama Canal during which there were nearly 200 contentious amendments and reservations and arguments, you have those discussions all the way through to the end.

It is said that these days are much more contentious than the days of Howard Baker. There are some things that are different today that make

that sort of discussion more difficult, but we shouldn't kid ourselves—those weren't easy days either. Those were the days when Vietnam veterans came home with Americans spitting on them. Those were the days of Watergate. Those were the days of Social Security going bankrupt and a 9-week contentious debate on the Panama Canal. Those were the days of the Equal Rights Amendment. Those were difficult days too. Senator Baker and Senator Byrd on the Democratic side were able, generally speaking, to allow the Senate to take up those big issues and have an extended discussion all the way through to the end and come to a result.

Most of us in this body have the same principles. Those principles all belong to what we call the American character. They include such principles as equal opportunity, liberty, and *E pluribus unum*. And most of our conflicts, the late Samuel Huntington used to say, are about resolving conflicts among those principles. For example, if we are talking about immigration, we have a conflict between rule of law and equal opportunity, so how do we put those together and how do we come to a conclusion? Howard Baker saw the way to do that as bringing to the floor a subject, hopefully with bipartisan support, and talking it all the way through to the end until most Senators are comfortable with the decision. His aid in that was, as Senator MCCONNELL said, being an eloquent listener. That is why he was admired by Members of both parties. In one poll in the 1980s, he was considered to be the most admired Senator by Democrats and by Republicans. That is why Dan Quayle said: There is Howard Baker "and then there's the rest of us Senators."

So I think the memory of Howard Baker, his lesson for us, is that—without assigning any blame to the Republican side or the Democratic side—we don't need a change of rules to make the Senate function, we need a change of behavior. Howard Baker's behavior is a very good example, whether it was the Panama Canal, whether it was fixing Social Security, whether it was President Reagan's tax cuts, or whether it was resolving whether how to buy new lightbulbs for the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, TN.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the remarks of Martha Anne Fairchild, the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, TN, as well as two other documents, one by Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., who was Senator Baker's legislative assistant and President Reagan's counsel. According to Culvahouse, Howard Baker told him that if the President did not truly know about the diversion of Iranian arms sales proceeds to the Contras, he was to help him—if he did not truly know. The other is an article by Keel

Hunt from the Tennessean about Senator Baker, and finally the funeral order of worship from the Baker ceremony.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IN MEMORY OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.

FUNERAL SERMON BY THE REV. MARTHA ANNE FAIRCHILD, PASTOR, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HUNTSVILLE, TENNESSEE

Dear friends, thank you for your presence here this afternoon. Thank you for joining us as we gather to remember and give thanks for the remarkable life of Howard H. Baker, Jr.. We are grateful and honored that you are here with us.

I would like to read one more Scripture lesson, one with opening words that may surprise you. But as I continue reading, you will understand why I chose it. It was written by the Apostle Paul, from a prison cell, perhaps within a very short time before his own death. He was writing to a community of faithful Christians he held in such high esteem that he considered them to be equal co-workers with him in the work of Christ, and he wrote these words at the end of a letter full of tender concern and advice for dear friends he knew he might never see again. Here are Paul's words from the fourth chapter of his letter to the church at Philippi: (Philippians 4:4-9)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

"Rejoice in the Lord always," Paul says. I'll admit it, those are odd words for a funeral sermon. We may be celebrating the life of a great man, but we do not feel much like rejoicing. Our feelings are too bittersweet for that. We have lost someone we loved deeply, someone who was an immense influence for good not only in our own country but around the world. How is rejoicing part of this picture? How can we say, "Rejoice!"

Rejoicing is part of the picture for us for the same reason it was part of the picture for Paul. Paul was nearing his own death. He had already lost his freedom—he was writing this letter from a prison cell. He was writing to people he would never see again. In the stark conditions of imprisonment in the first century, he was suffering physically, in chains and without sufficient food or clothing, often alone and in pain, with no certainty about what would happen to him. Yet he invites us to rejoice, because the sources of his joy were not tied to his particular difficult circumstances. They were tied to the kind of man he was.

Can we quiet our hearts enough to hear his words? "Let your gentleness be known to everyone." In gentleness Paul found the key that led him into the surrender of worry, into a life of prayer, and above all else into a peace beyond human understanding. This gentleness, this prayer, this peace, made it

possible for him to live in joy whatever his circumstances and to invite his friends to do exactly the same.

I chose to read these words today because we are saying goodbye to a supremely gentle man. Howard Baker embodied in his life all the qualities Paul commends to our reflection and attention. He was a true, honorable, and just man. He lived a pure, pleasing, and commendable life, and surely he was a man of excellence and worthy of praise. In a public life spanning decades of serious, selfless service to his country, Howard Baker embodied every public virtue.

Of his public virtues, in fact, so much has been said over the past few days that I can add very little. So I share with you something of the gentleness Howard Baker shared with his church. He was a member of this congregation from his childhood, and one of the most faithful attenders of public worship I have ever known. When he was in town, he was in church on Sunday morning—it was one of his priorities. There is an old catch phrase about sharing time, talents, and treasure with one's church, and Howard Baker shared all those things: He shared his time with his faithful attendance at worship and church events. He shared his talents with his photography of church happenings from Homecoming to Easter egg hunts, and of course his cooking prowess when got up early on Easter Sunday to join the other church men cooking breakfast—his particular talent was putting the biscuits in the oven and getting them out on time. He shared his treasure in a lifetime of generous financial support of the church. But most of all Howard Baker supported this church with his presence.

Here is an example. Some years ago the congregation of this church elected him as a ruling elder, a lifelong position in our denomination. His election placed him in active service on our church board, called the Session, for a three year term. Now, I must share a little secret with you. Session meetings only rarely concern matters of any great import. So I mentioned to him that I understood the many demands he had on his time, and offered him a blanket excused absence for any meeting he needed to miss. That was a mistake. He was quite offended by this suggestion of mine and told me firmly—but very gently—that he intended to make every meeting. And that is what he did, on one occasion even flying in for our evening meeting and flying out again that very same night to meet a commitment elsewhere the following day. When Howard Baker made a promise, he kept it.

At every meeting, he was an attentive, helpful, encouraging elder among fellow elders. He tried to get all of us to call him Howard, and some of us managed to do that and some of us never could. Even when the discussion revolved around the purchase of new light bulbs—yes, I know all those jokes, too—he was patient and helpful in not only contributing to the discussion but in helping me as his moderator to guide it to a conclusion. He told me later he considered just pulling out his checkbook and writing a check for the bulbs we were dithering over, but he wanted his fellow elders to go through the process of making a decision we were all comfortable with. And for that he was willing to devote a little more time, a little more patience, and, yes, a little more love to the task.

When he accepted President Bush's appointment to become the United States Ambassador to Japan, his term of active service on the Session was not quite over. It was

necessary for him to resign, and he called me to apologize that he could not complete his term. It may seem that no apologies would be necessary, but he reminded me that he had made a commitment to serve his church, and he truly regretted being unable to complete that commitment.

I am humbly grateful that he was so willing to accept me as his pastor when I came here almost 20 years ago, a woman only a few years out of seminary who still had much to learn about the serious business of Christian ministry. From the very beginning he treated me with affection and respect, and I hope I have learned from him.

One of the things we all admire him for was his gift of attention. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great 20th century Christian theologian and martyr, once remarked, "The first duty one owes to others in the fellowship is to listen to them." Howard Baker had a deep commitment to listening. When you talked to him he paid attention to you—even if he could only speak to you for 60 seconds, you had his focused attention for that entire 60 seconds. You knew he heard you. And every time you came away a little encouraged, a little cheered, a little more content, because he had paid attention—that great gift of being listened to that we all hunger to receive.

Among the questions a Presbyterian elder must answer in the affirmative at his or her ordination is this one: "Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?" That is a vow every leader should take. It is a vow Howard Baker lived up to in his entire life of service, for that is what he was: a servant leader, one who embodied not only the qualities of courage, confidence, and consensus-building that were the hallmarks of his public life, but also the qualities of humility, good humor, and selfless love that made those other qualities possible. He was a servant leader in the truest sense of the term.

As we remember him for his gentleness, his good humor, his deep wisdom, as we recall shared moments of tears and laughter, tense times of debate and controversy, satisfying times of concord and shared accomplishment, as we pay tribute to him for his deep love for his family, for his unwavering devotion to the well-being of his country, and even for his unflinching appetite for all things chocolate and sweet, perhaps you can see why I think we must say with Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always!" By God's great gifts to him, Howard Baker became a great gift to us. And surely that great gift is worth rejoicing over always.

Shortly we will follow his casket out to the cemetery adjacent to this church. When we go I invite you to remember that across the street from that cemetery once stood the house where Howard Baker was born. We will be laying him to rest just a few hundred feet from where his life began. In the completion of that great life well lived, I hope that, even in the midst of our sorrow, we will find cause to rejoice always.

Thanks be to God for the life of Howard Baker. Thanks be to God.

[From the National Review Online, July 2, 2014]

HOWARD BAKER JR., COURAGEOUS CONSTITUTIONALIST

(By Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.)

Many of the recent obituaries of Howard Baker, the former Senate majority leader, White House chief of staff, and U.S. ambassador to Japan, quote Jim Baker's accurate observation that Howard was a "mediator,

negotiator, and moderator.” As a son of a congressman, a son-in-law of Senator Everett Dirksen’s, and a three-term senator, Howard understood that transacting the people’s business required at least 51 votes in the Senate and 218 votes in the House. On the tough votes that require leadership and political courage, he knew that the necessary majority was to be found on both sides of the aisle.

Contrary to recent suggestions by approving left-leaning news commentators and critics on the inexperienced right, Howard Baker’s interpretation of acceptable “compromise” did not entail splitting the difference or seeking a watered-down consensus. As Bob Dole observed, Howard Baker believed, along with Ronald Reagan, that achieving 70 percent or more of one’s priorities is a victory in our democracy. Above all, Howard Baker was the most civil and respectful person I have known. As a consequence, he had many friends across the political and policy spectrums who would give his views a fair and careful hearing.

Howard Baker exercised political courage wisely and with the intention to win. His views, even when they were in the minority in the Republican caucus and among Tennessee voters, were the result of careful study and measured against long-term national interests. His support for the Panama Canal Treaty, for instance, clearly damaged his prospects in the 1980 Republican presidential primaries, and his leadership in securing passage of the Clean Air Act and strip-mine reclamation disappointed his friends and neighbors in the coal country of East Tennessee. Those and other unpopular votes did not occur in isolation; they were co-joined and hedged by his unrelenting support for a strong military, for nuclear power and coal gasification, and for dispensing with the prolonged environmental review of the Alyeska Pipeline.

Jim Neal, the renowned Tennessee trial lawyer and Kennedy-administration prosecutor, presciently predicted that Howard, owing to his “strong moral compass,” would be the star of the Senate Watergate Committee. From announcing at the beginning of the Watergate Committee hearings that “he would follow every lead, unrestrained by any fear of where that lead might ultimately take us,” to assembling a minority staff that discovered the existence of the Nixon Oval Office tapes, to making the motion that the Committee subpoena the tapes, Howard set aside partisan considerations and led the effort to find the answers to the key question: “What did the President know and when did he know it?” In 1987, when he was the new Reagan White House chief of staff, Howard instructed me that my job as the recently appointed White House counsel was to guide and advise President Reagan through the Iran-Contra investigations without his being impeached—if the president truly did not know about the diversion of Iranian arms-sales proceeds to the Contras. Query how many current and recent senior officials would append that all-important modifier: if.

In his farewell speech to the Senate, Howard stated that “our wisest course is to follow the Constitution rather than improvise around it.” He expressed deep concern that the Clinton impeachment proceeding votes were along party lines and that we were reaping the whirlwind of the Watergate convulsion—that we had not learned our lesson but were instead enacting ill-advised and constitutionally suspect laws that were no substitute for judging the character of our leaders on a non-partisan basis.

I have no doubt that if Howard Baker and his long-time Democratic counterpart in the Senate leadership, Robert Byrd, were in the Senate today, both would be working together to put an end to the current (and any other) administration’s blatant disregard of congressionally enacted statutes. In that vein, Howard instructed me and other senior Reagan-administration lawyers to drop our objections to the Senate’s proposed “ratification record” underlying the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty; that was the Senate’s prerogative, Howard reminded me, and the president wanted the INF Treaty ratified as part of his strategy to end, and win, the Cold War.

Shortly before the 2010 midterm congressional elections, I visited with Howard Baker at his home in the mountains of East Tennessee. When I expressed concern about the dramatic swings in the recent election results, he replied: “I taught you better than that. Those swings are the self-corrections built into our republican form of government.” All of us are well-advised to reflect upon the teachings of Howard H. Baker Jr.

[From the Tennessean, June 29, 2014]

HOWARD BAKER’S LEGACY: “THE OTHER GUY MIGHT BE RIGHT”

(By Keel Hunt)

For Tennesseans who knew Howard Baker in his day, the news of his death on Thursday brought an afternoon of emptiness, feelings of great loss, and a deep sense that one very special had left the building.

There are certainly people who knew him better than I did, but in my own memory this man of moderate height looms larger than life. Let me count the ways.

Baker was a master politician, the great conciliator and a builder of human bridges.

Especially from the vantage point of this current angry age, Baker’s gifts shine brightly now: that calming voice, the steady temperament, his gift for reaching out and drawing people together, a knack for reasoned compromise, his abiding sense of how government can and should work.

Today, you hear some of those terms attacked, by the people who thrive on dividing, as being somehow unpatriotic. Baker’s life was a demonstration of how politics and the skills of collaboration are noble, of how government can work to move society forward.

Hearing both sides of an issue, finding the common ground—these are the gifts we associate with Baker now and all the moderate politicians he inspired (see below). This is how good government happens.

He often quoted his own father, U.S. Rep. Howard Baker Sr., who told him: “You should always go through life working on the assumption that the other guy might be right.” His stepmother once said of Baker Jr., “He’s like the Tennessee River—he flows right down the middle.”

Before politics, Baker was reared in tiny Huntsville, in Scott County, and educated in Chattanooga, Sewanee and Knoxville. In the early 1960s, by this time a lawyer working in Huntsville and Knoxville, he became an architect of the modern Republican Party in Tennessee.

In 1964, wanting to mount his own campaign for U.S. Senate, Baker allied with Republican organizers at the far end of the state in Memphis and Shelby County, notably the lawyers Lewis Donelson and Harry Wellford. Together, they laid the foundation for a two-party state.

Baker’s aim was to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Estes Kefauver, who had died, and he came very close to winning. But it was a

Democratic year driven by national factors well beyond his control: Barry Goldwater, the GOP’s presidential nominee, came to Tennessee saying TVA ought to be sold; and Lyndon Johnson, who had succeeded President John F. Kennedy after the assassination, would win in a landslide.

Two years later, the statewide coalition that Baker and the Shelby Countians formed scored its first victory, with Baker winning the Senate seat for a full term. He was the first Republican since Reconstruction to be elected statewide in Tennessee. Four years after that, there were two more GOP victories statewide: Winfield Dunn was elected governor, and the Chattanooga U.S. Rep. Bill Brock joined Baker in the Senate.

Today, three decades on, two generations of political leaders can be seen in the Baker lineage: Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Bill Haslam, Fred Thompson, Bill Frist, Don Sundquist.

Alexander, very early in his career, was Baker’s top legislative aide, and left that office in 1970 to be Dunn’s campaign manager. In 1973, Baker made Thompson minority counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, putting him on TV screens across America. Haslam, in 1978, worked in Baker’s re-election office. Corker and Haslam became mayors of Chattanooga and Knoxville, respectively, and later on senator and governor.

Baker had a way with Democrats, too. He was the first Republican ever endorsed by The Tennessean, in its partisan Democratic heyday. The editorial on this page that supported him was a breakthrough in Democratic territory for Baker’s East-West alliance.

When President Jimmy Carter proposed the Panama Canal Treaty, handing the canal over to Panama, Baker was a key advocate on the Senate floor when it passed.

Plenty will be written this week about his roles on the national and global stages—as Senate majority leader, President Reagan’s chief of staff, ambassador to Japan. But through it all, and more so than many senators who have become national politicians, Baker also stayed close to his Tennessee roots.

One morning long ago, two years into his second term, I was in a room full of reporters in Washington, D.C., and heard the senator say: “I am from Huntsville, Tennessee, which is the center of the known universe.”

That is where, on Tuesday afternoon, he will come to his final rest.

FUNERAL ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

*Entrance of the Family

*Sentences of Scripture

*Hymn America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,

For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!

America! America! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress

A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!

America! America! God mend thy every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,

Who more than self their county loved, and mercy more than life!

America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness and every gain
divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees, be-
yond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by
human tears!

America! America! God shed His grace on
thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood from
sea to shining sea.

Opening Prayer

Scripture Readings Ecclesiastes 3:1-15;
John 14:1-6, 25-27

Psalm 23 (read by all)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for
Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy
staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the pres-
ence of mine enemies: Thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

Sermon The Reverend Martha Anne Fair-
child

Remarks Senator Lamar Alexander
Anthem May the Road Rise to Meet You

First Presbyterian Church Choir

Prayers

*Hymn Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God:

Refrain:

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

*Commendation

*Blessing

*Recessional

*Dismissal of the Family

*General Dismissal

Postlude

Pastor: The Reverend Martha Anne Fair-
child

Music Director: David Mayfield

If you release a baby sea turtle on ChiChi-
Jima, (a small island off the coast of Japan),
and your turtle heads to the sea, you are
guaranteed good luck for 100 years.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Sen-
ate for this time, and I yield the floor
for my colleague from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. I would like to join our
distinguished leader MITCH MCCONNELL
in seconding the comments about the
presentation the senior Senator from
Tennessee made at the Howard Baker
funeral.

It is a great privilege for us to serve
in this body. While times are tough rel-

ative to our ability or willingness to
solve some of the major problems,
many of the major problems of our Na-
tion today—and sometimes there are
comments made about serving in the
Senate—what I say to people back
home is that if any of us ever forget
what a privilege it is to serve, we
should go home. That privilege allows
us to meet people and to be in con-
versation with people like Howard
Baker who affect us and cause us to be
better people. It also allows us to wit-
ness what took place last week. I have
to say I have seen Senator ALEXANDER
on many occasions say and do things
that I thought were impressive. I don't
think I have ever seen anything that
measures up to what was said in that
small Presbyterian church last week. I
think all of us were touched. The Sen-
ator had a lot of good material to work
with and was describing a man who
probably has had more effect in a posi-
tive way on Tennessee politics—in
many ways, national politics—like
Howard Baker.

He was an inspiration to all of us.
When we were around him, his gra-
ciousness and humility caused all of us
to be much better people. His encour-
agement, especially when dealing with
tough issues, I think caused all of us to
want to strive even harder to be better
Senators and better people.

I certainly cannot give the comments
with the eloquence the Senator gave
last week and certainly the ones just
given. I know you and he were very
close, and he impacted you more than
any other person outside your imme-
diate family, but he had an impact on
all of us. He had an impact on this Na-
tion. It is a great honor and privilege
to stand with the Senator today to ac-
knowledge Senator Baker's greatness
as a person, his greatness as a Senator.

Many times we see presentations as
people talk about someone's life, and a
lot of times that is embellished. I will
say in this case none of it was. It was
all about the man serving here in the
Senate but also serving in that small
church in Huntsville, TN, to which he
was so loyal.

I thank the Senator for the oppor-
tunity to serve with him. I know each
of us strives to carry out those charac-
teristics Howard Baker so wisely
showed us, and I do agree that the Sen-
ate would be a much better place if all
of us could embody those characteris-
tics most of the time.

I thank the senior Senator for his
leadership and for his comments.

I thank our distinguished minority
leader, during a time of great busy-ness
in his own personal life, for taking the
time to be a part of something that I
think is meaningful to him also.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I have been moved by
the comments from the Senators re-

garding Senator Baker. The story the
senior Senator from Tennessee told
about the lightbulbs is—those of us
who knew Senator Baker could well
understand that. He was a man who
brought Senators together—both par-
ties.

I will tell two very quick stories. One
is referencing a leadership race won by
one vote. He had called a good friend of
his, who was at home on official busi-
ness, and said: I know the press says I
am going to lose this race, but I know
you are voting for me. Can you come
back and vote?

That Senator did. The Senator was
the then-senior Senator from Vermont,
Robert Stafford, and he flew back to
get to the caucus to vote for his friend
Howard Baker—the first one by one
vote; all the rest by acclamation. I
know this because both Senator Staf-
ford and Howard Baker told me that
story. They were also two of the finest
Senators with whom I have ever
served. Both tried to work things out.

My other story is we were going to be
in session until midnight one night on
a technically contested matter.

Senator Ted Stevens and I and a few
others went to see Howard Baker, who
was the majority leader. We talked
about the issue that was divisive. We
said: We think we have a solution. We
have all been talking. We can work it
out but it is going to take some time
for the drafting. Could you recess and
not stay until midnight when all it is
going to do is exacerbate tempers?
Come back in the morning and we will
have it all worked out, and we will get
this done.

Senator Baker knew that we were all
Senators in both parties who kept our
word. He said: "Of course." So we re-
cessed. Now, as the Senator from Ten-
nessee knows, we have cloakrooms here
in the back of this Chamber. We all—if
we have late-night votes, most of us
hang around the cloakroom between
votes. At that time they had beautiful
stained glass windows in the alcoves.

We recessed and went home. An hour
or so after we went home a bomb went
off out here in the corridor. When we
came in the next morning, this place
looked like a war zone. Shards of glass
from those windows in both cloak-
rooms were embedded in the walls. The
door to where the distinguished Repub-
lican deputy leader has his office now
was blown in, the stained window
above of it was ruined. Paintings out
here were shredded, and some of the
marble busts of former vice presidents
were damaged. You could smell the
gunpowder of the explosive when we
came to work.

I mention this because his form of
leadership was that if we could get to-
gether and work things out, he pre-
ferred we do that. He would encourage
it—both Republicans and Democrats.
Then because he could rely on those of
us—again both Republicans and Demo-
crats—who would keep our word, he

agreed to that. We knew he would keep his word.

I wonder how many lives of Senators were saved that night because of that. How many would have been terribly injured. Of course our staffs who work often long after we have gone—how many people could have been harmed if it had not been for the fact that the Senate was a different place, and I believe a better place.

But I say this not so much to tell historical stories, but I say this out of my great respect for Howard Baker. Somebody calculated the other day that I have served with 18 percent of all of the Senators since the beginning of this country. If I put my tiny handful of the best, Howard Baker is in there, hands down—a wonderful, wonderful man. He was a Senator's Senator. He believed in the Senate. He believed what a privilege it was to serve here.

He believed that the Senate could be the conscience of the Nation. I appreciate the tribute that was paid by my dear friend, the senior Senator from Tennessee, who I knew as Governor and as Cabinet member. We have always had a good personal relationship. I listened to his tales of Howard Baker. His colleague from Tennessee painted quite a picture of him. I thank them for doing that. I thank them for adding to the history of the Senate by doing it.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished senior Senator from Illinois be recognized once I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Everyone knows the old adage that a picture is worth 1,000 words. I have been an avid photographer since I was a child. I have a strong sense of that. So I thought I would provide a few examples today, because sometimes words are not enough.

I have often spoken about the horrific toll on civilians from landmines. These tiny explosives, about the size of a hockey puck or a can of soup, can kill a child or blow the legs and arms off an adult. They are triggered by the victim. In other words, unlike a gun that a soldier aims and fires or a bomb that is dropped and explodes on a target, landmines sit there and wait for their victims.

It could be hours or days or weeks, even years. But however long it is after they are scattered and hidden beneath a layer of sand or dirt, they explode when an unsuspecting person, whether a combatant or an innocent civilian, steps on it or triggers it with a plow or a wheelbarrow or a bicycle. That person's life is changed forever.

In many countries where there are few doctors, landmine victims bleed to

death. Those who survive with a leg or both legs gone are the lucky ones. This girl is an example of who I am talking about. We do not know her nationality, but the picture tells a lot. She is learning to walk on artificial legs. Her life has been made immeasurably harder because of a landmine that probably cost less than \$2. I have a granddaughter not much older than her.

Each of these photographs tell a similar story. None of these people were combatants. Each are facing lives of pain, and sometimes in their communities stigmatization because of weapons that are designed to be indiscriminate.

The Leahy War Victims Fund has helped some of them, as this photograph taken in Vietnam shows. My wife Marcelle and I have seen the difference the Fund has made, but I wish there were no need for it because there would be no landmines.

Over the years, as people around the world became aware of the landmine problem, they took action. The Senate was the first legislative body in the world to ban exports of antipersonnel landmines. I am proud of writing that amendment. Other countries soon followed our example.

And there were others, especially Canada's former Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Thanks to them an international treaty outlawing the weapons has been joined by 161 countries. I regret that the United States, of all the NATO countries, is the only one that has not joined, even though the U.S. military has not used antipersonnel mines for 22 years, despite two long wars.

On June 27, though, the Obama administration finally took a step—it is an incremental step, but it is a significant one—to put the United States on a path to join the treaty. Although the United States has not produced or purchased antipersonnel mines since the 1990s, the White House announced that as a matter of official policy that it will no longer produce or otherwise acquire antipersonnel mines, nor will the Pentagon replenish its stockpile of mines as they become obsolete.

Our closest allies and many others around the world welcomed this step, even though it falls far short of what supporters of the treaty have called for.

But one senior Member of the House of Representatives immediately accused President Obama of ignoring U.S. military commanders, some of whom have defended the use of landmines, just as the military defended poison gas a century ago when nations acted to ban it.

This Member of the House said: The President "owes our military an explanation for ignoring their advice", and he went on to say that this decision represents an "expensive solution in search of a nonexistent problem."

A Member of our body, the Senate, called the announcement a "brazen attempt by the President to circumvent the constitutional responsibility of the Senate to provide advice and consent to international treaties that bind the United States."

These are strong words. They make great sound bites for the press. But the truth lies elsewhere.

Over the years, the White House has consulted closely with the Pentagon, including about this decision. The policy just announced simply makes official what has been an informal fact for at least 17 years through three Presidential administrations.

It also ignores the fact that the United States has neither joined the treaty nor has the President sent it to the Senate for ratification, so the President has obviously not circumvented the Senate's advice and consent role.

And it ignores that every one of our NATO allies and most of our coalition partners have renounced antipersonnel mines, as have dozens of countries that could never dream of having a powerful, modern army as we do—countries that look to the United States, the most powerful Nation on Earth, but they got rid of their landmines.

The naysayers' argument is simple. It goes like this: The United States is no longer causing the misery captured in these photographs, so why should we join the treaty? Does that mean they also oppose the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as the crippled people in this photograph? Do they oppose the Chemical Weapons Treaty, and every other treaty dealing with international relations that the United States has joined since the time of George Washington?

Does the fact that we are not causing a problem, that we do not use landmines or chemical weapons, absolve us from having a responsibility to be part of an international treaty to stop it? Of course not. The world looks to the United States for leadership.

In 1992, if the Senate had accepted the argument now being made this body would never have voted 100 to 0 to ban the export of antipersonnel landmines.

I suppose those in the House who criticize President Obama today would say the entire Senate was wrong 22 years ago. Those 100 Democrats and Republicans who voted back then to ban U.S. exports of antipersonnel mines understood that while the United States may not have been causing the problem, we needed to be part of the solution. The same holds true today.

In 1996 President Clinton called on the Pentagon to develop alternatives to antipersonnel mines, whether they were technological or doctrinal alternatives. He was Commander in Chief, but the Pentagon largely ignored him.

But now 18 years later it needs to be done. Not at some unspecified time in the future but by a reasonable deadline—because it can be done.

Now, I am not so naive to think that a treaty will prevent every last person on Earth from using landmines. But if people use them, they pay a price for using them. Bashar Assad used poison gas, but look at the political price he paid. Are those who oppose the landmine treaty so dismissive of the benefits of outlawing and stigmatizing a weapon like IEDs, which pose a danger to our own troops?

Rather than opposing a treaty that will make it a war crime to use landmines against our troops, why not support the mine-breaching technology they need to protect themselves?

I always come back to the photographs. I have met many people like these. They may not be Americans, but what happened to them happens to thousands of others like them each year. The United States can help stop it. It is a moral issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The assistant majority leader.

REMEMBERING ALAN DIXON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday at 6 p.m. on Capitol Hill there was a gathering at a nearby restaurant known as The Monocle. It was a gathering of former staffers of U.S. Senator Alan Dixon of Illinois. They picked The Monocle because he would have picked it. It was his favorite place on Capitol Hill. And it was a sad day, because Senator Dixon passed away Sunday morning in Fairview Heights, IL.

His staff gathered at The Monocle the next day, which would have been his birthday, to toast him and to pay tribute to a great boss, a great friend, and a great Senator from the State of Illinois.

Senator Dixon passed away in his sleep in the early hours on Sunday morning. His son Jeff had dropped him off at home, and he was there with his wife Jody when he passed away. So instead of celebrating his birthday on Monday, we had a day of remembrance of an extraordinary public servant for the State of Illinois.

Alan Dixon used to be known in political circles as Al the Pal, and he loved it. It really described him. For him, friendship and loyalty were everything. It showed in his life and, I think, was a great part of his success.

He was a person who gloried in representing Illinois. He never harbored any national ambitions. Being a Senator from Illinois was his goal in life. He reached it and performed so well as Senator that he is fondly remembered by many who served with him in the House and in the Senate.

He represented an old-school style of politics. He believed in his heart that

people of good will could find common ground if they worked at it. He knew how to make this government work, how to make this Senate work, and work for the State of Illinois.

In his memoir, which he published last year, he wrote:

Generally speaking, my political career was built on good will and accommodation.

He was known by Senators on both sides of the aisle as a friendly, helpful, articulate, and effective colleague.

He was a downstate guy in our State. He grew up in Belleville and St. Clair County, not too far away from my hometown of East St. Louis. He grew up just across the river from the great city of St. Louis. His dad owned and ran the Dixon Wine and Liquor Company in Belleville.

Alan served in World War II, in the U.S. Navy Air Corps. After the war, he went to the University of Illinois where they had a special arrangement for vets to earn a bachelor's degree. He went for a short time to the University of Illinois Law School and then, when his dad's business was struggling, he transferred to Washington University Law School where he graduated second in his class.

In 1948, at the age of 21, a neighbor said: Alan, I have been watching you and I think you ought to consider running for police magistrate in Belleville, IL. Alan hadn't even graduated from law school, and his friend reminded him you didn't have to be a lawyer to be a police magistrate in those days. So he ran and he won.

Two years later, after getting out of law school and passing the bar, both in Missouri and Illinois, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives—the youngest member ever elected to the Illinois General Assembly. His starting salary: \$3,000.

He went on to become one of the most successful vote-getters in the history of the State of Illinois. He won 29 consecutive bids for public office, for State representative, State senator, secretary of state, and state treasurer. During one of those races, he carried all 102 counties in Illinois, all 30 townships in Cook County, and all 50 wards. That is a record I don't think anybody will ever break.

When he served in Springfield, IL, as a State representative and a State senator, he did a lot of things, but he pointed with pride to his passage of a constitutional change in Illinois to finally modernize our judiciary. He remembered his days as police magistrate and thought our system of justice had to be brought into the 20th century. Alan Dixon of Belleville, IL, led that effort—an enormous political lift. He got it done. He was effective. People trusted him and they respected him.

He led an unpopular fight against loyalty oaths during the McCarthy era, and he helped create the Illinois college system.

In 1980, the people of Illinois chose Alan Dixon to represent them here in the Senate. He teamed up with his old friend a couple years later who had joined him in the Illinois General Assembly, his seatmate in the Assembly, a man named Paul Simon. Senator Dixon and then-Congressman Paul Simon, soon to be Senator Paul Simon, were colleagues and buddies and business partners. What an unlikely duo. There was Paul Simon who might be persuaded once in a blue moon to drink a little glass of wine, and there was Alan Dixon who loved that cold beer that he grew up with in Belleville, IL. But the two of them were fast friends. I witnessed that friendship over the years. I didn't see the early days when they owned newspapers together—Paul was a newspaper man and Alan more an investor—but I did witness the political part of that friendship, and it was amazing to see.

There were moments in their lives when the two of them could have clashed over their political ambitions, but they always worked it out. They were always friends, and that made a big difference in both of their lives.

It was Alan Dixon as Senator who came up with an idea that had never been tried before in Illinois: He decided to try to get all of the members of the Illinois congressional delegation—Democrats and Republicans—together for lunch on a regular basis. Well, he had to persuade a few of the oldtimers who weren't really open to the idea, but it was his personality and his determination that got it done, a tradition which continues to this day.

In his 12 years in the Senate, Alan Dixon didn't forget where he came from. He remembered growing up in a family of modest means in Belleville. He remembered those tough summer jobs—and there were plenty of them. And he never forgot the working people he represented in St. Clair County and across the State of Illinois.

Alan was at the top of his game and in the strongest voice when it came to standing up for working people and the little guy. He fought for affordable housing and lending practices. He denounced wasteful spending and created a procurement czar to oversee spending at the Pentagon.

One of the things which he is remembered for as a Senator was deciding to personally test a new weapons system. They sent him down to test the Sergeant York gun. They put him in a helmet and sat him on the gun. He was going to test it and fire it, and he soon discovered the gun was a dud—it couldn't shoot straight. He came back and reported it to his colleagues in the Senate, including Senator Sam Nunn, and they went along with Senator Dixon and said: We are going to junk this project. It is a waste of taxpayers' money.

It was Alan Dixon who called for tougher oversight of the savings and

loan industry and vigorous prosecution of scam artists who defrauded S&Ls and left taxpayers holding the bag.

In 1992, Alan lost his bid for reelection to the Senate in a hotly contested three-way primary. It was the political upset of the year. It isn't often around here that a Senator would lose in a primary race for reelection—and a lot of people were wondering, his first political loss, how would it affect Alan Dixon.

Election night, Alan stood up and gave the most heartfelt, touching speech I can ever remember of a person who lost a campaign. It was repeated over and over that he was a real gentleman, and his words that he had to say even in defeat added to his reputation as a fine, honest, great public servant. A tearful crowd listened as he said he had “loved every golden moment” of his time in politics.

His fellow Democratic Senators had twice unanimously elected him to serve as chief deputy whip. After his loss in that election and then retirement, he was praised on the floor of the Senate by not only Ted Kennedy and George Mitchell but Bob Dole and Strom Thurmond as well.

In 1995, his public life was resumed when President Clinton appointed Alan Dixon to chair the base closure commission known as the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. It made sense. As a Senator, Alan Dixon had written the section of the Defense authorization bill that created the BRAC.

Here was a man who had spent his entire career making political friends, but now he took on a job that was bound to test some of those friendships. He accepted that assignment because the President asked, and Dixon knew it was right for America. It was the same decision he made when he enlisted to serve in World War II.

Last October, Alan Dixon published his memoirs with the appropriate title “The Gentleman From Illinois.” He returned to Washington briefly with Jody and members of the family to head on over to his favorite Capitol Hill restaurant, The Monocle. It is about a stone's throw from the Dirksen Senate Office Building where he used to have his old meetings in his office. The Monocle was the place where, afterwards, you joined for bipartisan dinners and a lot of good times.

Alan Dixon told his old friends gathered at The Monocle that evening:

What this country needs now is more friends on the Hill working together and talking together, and working for solutions that will serve the interest of the public.

Well, Alan Dixon was right about that. I hope that some day, in his memory, we will see the return of that spirit in this Senate Chamber. This country truly needs to work together.

Before Dixon left the Senate, then-Senator Paul Simon praised him with these words:

In generations to come, his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren will look back and say with pride, “Alan Dixon was my father, my grandfather, my great-grandfather,” whatever that relationship will be.

Those words by Paul Simon about his lifelong political friend and colleague Alan Dixon ring true today as we reflect not only on his service as a Senator and public official but also as a person.

I lost a pal when Alan Dixon passed away. My wife and I extend our condolences to Alan's wife of 60 years, Jody. What a sweetheart of a woman. People don't realize what spouses put up with because of our public lives. She put up with it for many years. There were good times, but I am sure there were tough times too. Mothers have to work a little extra harder when the father happens to be in public life. She was his rock.

To Alan and Jody's three children Stephanie, Jeff, and Elizabeth, and to their families, to the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren—you can be proud of Alan Dixon. He was truly “the gentleman from Illinois.”

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this last weekend in Chicago was memorable—memorable for the wrong reasons. This last weekend in Chicago, gun violence took the lives of 14 people and wounded 82.

I am honored to represent Illinois. I am especially honored to represent a great city such as Chicago. But I am heartbroken to think about what happened this past weekend.

Mayor Emanuel and Superintendent Gary McCarthy anticipated the Fourth of July weekend would be a challenge, and they dispatched hundreds of police to the streets of Chicago in an effort to avert this violence. I wouldn't say they failed, but I would say the tragedy that followed tells us we have a lot of work to do.

I am sure Mayor Emanuel and all of the elected officials in Chicago, including Superintendent McCarthy, are looking over what happened this past weekend trying to think of what they can do to bring peace to the city and end the violence which has taken so many lives. They will be working overtime, and a lot of people will point the finger of blame and say they could have done more. I think the mayor would acknowledge he could have done more. But let me add, we all could have done more. It isn't just the city's responsibility that this kind of violence has occurred. It isn't just the misfortune of the city of Chicago that these lives were lost and that gun violence continues to plague us. It is a responsibility that goes far beyond the city of Chicago. It is a responsibility we have visited on this Chamber, of the Senate.

How can we ignore gun violence in America wherever it occurs—in Chicago, in Washington, DC, across this country? What are we doing as Members of the Senate? What efforts are we making to make America a safer place to live? We have run away from it. We ran away from our responsibility when it comes to an honest, conscientious discussion about gun control.

Some people are frightened of this issue. They think when you get near the Second Amendment, it is the third rail of politics, and that there are gun lobby groups out there just waiting to pounce on any Member who comes to the floor of this Senate and talks about changing our gun laws. That has been the case for a long time, and yet the American people, when you ask them about the basics, get it. They understand you can protect our Second Amendment rights to own and use firearms legally and responsibly and still put reasonable limits in place to keep guns out of the hands of people who will misuse them.

Is there anyone who believes it is an infringement of constitutional rights to say that no one who has been convicted of a felony should be allowed to purchase a firearm in America? That makes sense.

This weekend in Chicago convicted felons were out on the street with firearms firing away. We should do everything in our power to stop that from occurring. After all of the senseless tragedies which we have seen over the last several years—in Connecticut, in so many different places, even in the State of Illinois—is there anyone who argues with the premise that people who are so mentally unstable they cannot accept the responsibility of a firearm should not be allowed to buy a firearm? Two categories: Convicted felons, mentally unstable people, should not be allowed to purchase firearms in America, period.

We had the vote—a bipartisan vote. Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia is no liberal. Senator MANCHIN is a real conservative and pro-gun. He joined up with Senator PAT TOOMEY of Pennsylvania, who is about as conservative a Republican as you can find. Both Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY came to the floor and said let us do background checks to make sure convicted felons and people who are mentally unstable cannot purchase a firearm. It failed. It failed because it faced a filibuster we couldn't break. The majority of Senators voted for it, but that wasn't enough because we needed 60 and we didn't have it. We lost a handful of Democrats and we attracted only a few Republicans to support us.

To me, that is not the end of the debate. It is time for us to revisit that issue. It is time for us to have another vote on the floor of the Senate. I am not sure the outcome will be much different, but we owe it to the people of

this country to continue this debate, and we owe it as fellow Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to search for solutions.

Let me tell you another measure that could have helped in Chicago and other cities across America. There is a term called straw purchaser. A straw purchaser is someone who will walk into a gun store, present their identification, and purchase a firearm because they are legally entitled to purchase it, and then turn around and give it or sell it to someone who could not legally buy that same gun. Many times it turns out to be the girlfriend who is sent in to make the purchase. It is time to change that law. It is time to send out an all-points bulletin to the girlfriends of thugs that they are going to be sent away to prison for a long time for that kind of irresponsible act. Straw purchasers pass these guns into the community, and when they do, we know what happens: Innocent people die. That is another provision we should vote on on the floor of the Senate.

If there are colleagues who want to stand and defend the right of straw purchasers to buy guns and turn them over to convicted felons, be my guest. I want to hear that debate. Tell me how that is an exercise of your constitutional right. It is not.

I have thousands and thousands of people across Illinois who own firearms, who store them safely, use them legally, and enjoy their rights under the Constitution. Well, what I am suggesting today is not going to change that at all, but they live in communities where people will misuse these firearms.

We have a moral responsibility in the Senate to do everything we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who misuse them. We have a legal and moral responsibility to accept this opportunity in the Senate to debate these issues. We cannot run away from them any more than we can run away from the violence in our streets. I am not alone in my feelings on this issue. There are other Senators who share them. It is time for us to stand up and speak up. We have a responsibility to the people we represent, to innocent people who are being threatened and killed across America.

What happened in Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend is a wakeup call—another wakeup call—to the Senate to get about the business of our purpose here, the reason we were elected—to try to make America a better and safer place.

Madam President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2565 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363.

The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

First, I thank Senators HAGAN and MURKOWSKI for their leadership in gathering support and getting this bill to the floor.

Nearly half of the Senate is cosponsoring this legislation from every corner of our country. It is truly a national bill, and that is why over 30 groups—from the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Ducks Unlimited to the Dallas Safari Club and many others—support this bill. It is an ambitious proposal that includes dozens of smart ideas from both sides of the aisle. It encourages private investment into fish habitat as well as land and wildlife management.

This bill supports public shooting ranges so more folks have a place to take their kids to teach them how to responsibly handle a firearm, and it protects some of our best places to hunt, fish, and recreate.

Make no mistake, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is also a jobs bill, which is something we constantly talk about needing more of around here.

In my State of Montana, outdoor recreation supports tens of thousands of jobs. It is a \$6 billion-a-year industry. Nationwide our outdoor economy creates and sustains more than 6 million jobs every single year.

Despite the economic power of public lands to sustain the rural economy, some folks are talking about closing off the land and privatizing it. We can-

not let that happen. Instead, we need to pass the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, which will strengthen our economy as we create more opportunities for folks to continue recreating in our great outdoors. Responsibly enjoying our outdoors is part of our way of life in Montana. In the Big Sky State we are proud hunters, anglers, sports men and women, and that is why it is critical that this bill will open more of our public lands to every law-abiding American who has a right to access them.

In Montana alone, nearly 2 million acres of public land is not easily accessible to folks, and I am proud my colleagues included the making lands public provision that I have pushed for, for years. These lands were set aside for our parents to enjoy, for all of us to enjoy, and ultimately for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Accessing these lands is our birthright, and this bill delivers on a century-old promise to preserve our outdoor heritage.

By passing this bipartisan legislation, we will help ensure future generations get to experience the natural wonders that were passed down to us.

In the last Congress, the Senate took up a similar package only to see political gamesmanship get in the way. We cannot let that happen again. Millions of sports men and women across this country expect better. The American people deserve better. There is too much in this bill that we agree on to let it fail once again.

Senators HAGAN and MURKOWSKI have worked diligently for months to craft a bill that has an incredible amount of support in the Senate, but, most importantly, back home in the States we all represent. Let's pass this bill once and for all.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Americans might have noticed a trend in ObamaCare headlines over the past two days. There was Sunday's Politico story and it basically had this title: "Why liberals are abandoning the Obamacare employer mandate."

There was an Associated Press story entitled "Senate Democrats Try to Pull Focus From Obamacare."

Then on Monday, Politico published a story called "Obamacare's next

threat: A September surprise" about the White House efforts to prepare Democrats to meet September rate hike announcements.

All of these stories amount to one thing. Democrats are running scared from ObamaCare.

These three articles are just a few of the many pieces to be published about Democrats' efforts to distance themselves from ObamaCare in preparation for the November election.

It is not surprising they are worried. ObamaCare is Democrats' and the White House's main legislative achievement, and Americans don't like it. They didn't like it in 2010 when the law was passed, they didn't like it when the law was being implemented, and they don't like it now. A Quinnipiac poll from last week reported that 55 percent of Americans oppose ObamaCare. Similar numbers of Americans opposed it 3 months earlier, and almost 3 months before that. In fact, when we average polling on the health care law from late 2009 until today, we find the health care law has consistently been opposed by the majority of Americans. Opposition to the health care law currently averages nearly 14 percentage points higher than support. That is not a good sign for Democrats.

Many Democrats who firmly supported the health care law in 2009 and 2010 believed the law would grow more popular when the American people found out what was in the bill and how it would benefit them. But the health care law has not gotten more popular. Americans found out what was in the bill and they didn't like it. Democrats are realizing that their support for the bill may cost them their seats in November. So now they are running in the opposite direction.

According to Monday's Politico article, the White House knows very well that Democrats are finding ObamaCare to be a big problem in their campaigns. So it has redirected the efforts of its ObamaCare war room to prepare for the release of rate hikes that are coming in September. "The White House and its allies know"—this is a quote from the story—"they've been beaten in every previous round of ObamaCare messaging, never more devastatingly than in 2010." The story goes on to say:

And they know the results this November could hinge in large part on whether that happens again. So they are trying to avoid—or at least get ahead of—any September surprise.

That is from the Politico story.

Let me just say to the White House: Good luck with that.

There is a reason why the White House and its allies have been, as Politico notes, "beaten in every previous round of ObamaCare messaging." It is because the White House's messaging didn't match up with the reality it promised Americans.

The White House can talk all it wants about ObamaCare's supposed benefits, but if Americans aren't experiencing those benefits, no amount of talking is going to work. Most Americans aren't experiencing ObamaCare benefits. They are experiencing ObamaCare pain: higher premiums, higher deductibles, the loss of doctors and hospitals, less control and less freedom.

As have most Members of Congress, I have gotten countless letters from constituents telling me about the pain ObamaCare is causing them. Tom from Hurley, SD, wrote to me to tell me his premiums have more than doubled and his deductible has quadrupled since the President's health care law was enacted.

Harvey from Mitchell, SD, wrote to tell me that his insurance went up 16 percent effective April 1 of this year. "Biggest increase ever," he said.

Jill from Sturgis, SD, wrote to tell me that she went on line to get a health insurance estimate at healthcare.gov and found that the cheapest plan would cost her \$366 a month with a \$5,000 deductible. "Are you kidding me?", she wrote. "That's \$9,392 a year I have to pay in, every year, before it pays anything . . . which is roughly 16 percent of our combined income. I can't afford that and try to save money for retirement at the same time" she says.

Jill is not alone in not being able to afford that. Too many Americans are in similar situations, facing the prospect of huge health care bills and wondering how on Earth they are going to pay them.

All the talk in the world from the White House isn't going to make people enthusiastic about ObamaCare if they can't afford their ObamaCare premiums or have lost access to the doctor or the hospital they like.

Politico reports that 21 States—21 States—have posted preliminary health insurance premiums for 2015, and that average preliminary premiums went up in all 21 States. Those proposed increases—several in the double digits—are coming on top of the State premium hikes many Americans faced this year.

The White House can attempt to defend these increases as much as it wants, but there really isn't any way to spin huge premium hikes when they promised people their premiums not only wouldn't increase but would actually go down.

ObamaCare is fundamentally broken. This bill was supposed to reduce health care premiums and lower the cost of care while allowing Americans to keep the doctors they like. Instead, it has done the exact opposite. ObamaCare isn't just driving up health care premiums; it is also devastating our already damaged economy.

The ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule is forcing businesses, large and

small, to reduce employees' hours at a time when many Americans are struggling to find full-time work. USA Today reported yesterday that Friday's unemployment report found a sharp rise in the number of part-time workers who prefer full-time jobs. So what we have is people who want to work full-time but full-time jobs are unavailable, so they are taking part-time work. Why? Well, one of the reasons they attribute it to is the ObamaCare requirement that the work week be a 30-hour week as opposed to a 40-hour week. So what is happening is employers are hiring employees for less than 30 hours a week so they won't be stuck with all of the requirements and the mandates that come with ObamaCare. So it is leading to more part-time jobs when people are actually looking for full-time work in our economy.

The law's burdensome mandates and regulations are placing a heavy burden on small businesses and making it impossible for many of them to expand and to hire employees. As Politico reported, when it comes to the employer mandate, even liberals are admitting that the rule is unnecessary and burdensome. Politico notes:

The shift among liberal policy experts and advocates has been rapid. A stream of studies and statements have deemed the mandate only moderately useful for getting more people covered in ObamaCare. And they too have come to see it as clumsy, a regulatory and financial burden that creates as many problems as it solves.

That is from the Politico story talking about many of the liberal policy experts who are now turning their backs on the employer mandate.

Then there is the potential for fraud, with the Health and Human Services inspector general's office reporting that the administration is not properly verifying that those receiving subsidies actually qualify for them. And the disastrous Web sites have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The list goes on and on and on. Whether they admit it or not, everyone knows that ObamaCare is not working. It is time to start over and replace this law with real reforms—reforms that will actually lower costs and improve access to care.

Republicans have offered solution after solution to solve the many problems created by ObamaCare—from Senator COLLINS' bill to repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek, which I just mentioned earlier, to a provision I came up with that would exempt schools, colleges, and universities from ObamaCare's crippling employer mandate—something that our colleges and universities across the country are feeling and it is impacting their ability to hire employees.

Instead of fleeing from ObamaCare or attempting to put a positive spin on its many failures, Democrats should join Republicans to repeal this broken law and replace it with real reforms. Then

Democrats would have a real accomplishment to take home to their constituents, and they would not have to worry about having the White House send a team of people in the war room assigned to Democrats here on Capitol Hill who are trying to figure out ways to message the bad news that keeps coming out about higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, fewer doctors, and fewer hospitals. That is the message that Democrats here in Congress are having to deal with when they respond to the constituents they hear from in their districts or their States. And that is why the White House is so focused on changing the subject to anything from ObamaCare.

That is the reality, and it is an economic reality that is affecting and impacting way to many American families. Middle-income families in this country are squeezed. Household income has gone down by \$3,300 since the President took office. Everything middle-income Americans have to pay for has gone up—from health care to college education to fuel, electricity, food—you name it.

So those middle-income families in this country are increasingly feeling squeezed and pinched by this economy, made much, much worse by the passage of a health care law that has driven up the cost of health care—higher premiums, fewer doctors, fewer hospitals, fewer full-time jobs or part-time jobs. Why? Because employers are trying to avoid the heavyhanded mandates and requirements to provide government-approved insurance, and so they are finding more and more part-time employees when the employees—people out there in the workforce—are looking for full-time jobs so they can provide for their families. Good-paying jobs with opportunities for advancement—that is what we ought to be focused on. Unfortunately, everything coming out of Washington, DC, and particularly the policies coming out of this administration—namely, first and foremost, ObamaCare is making it more expensive and more difficult for employers to hire. It is costing middle-income families more to cover their families with health coverage, and it is making everything else in our economy more expensive.

That is the reality that most Americans are dealing with. We can do so much better. We should do so much better. If Democrats will acknowledge the error of their ways in the passage of this bad law to start with, we can go back to the drawing board and do this in a way that actually does reduce cost and provide better access to health care for American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HETKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak to the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXCESS FEDERAL PROPERTY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, while I was home over the recess, I had the opportunity to visit with lots of Kansans. One of the conversations I had was with a county emergency preparedness director in advance of a Fourth of July parade. He brought to my attention something we had heard just in the last few days about a development at the Department of Defense.

I want to mention to my colleagues and ask them, but ask the agencies involved—which would be the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency—to see if we cannot find a solution to a problem that should not be a problem.

In the Presiding Officer's State and mine we have lots of volunteer fire departments. One of the developments over time has been their equipment is excess military equipment that is either loaned or given to those small town fire departments. They are volunteers. In my hometown, the fire whistle blows and men and women from across the community gather at the fire station, get in the truck, and go to the fire and fight the fire.

Their equipment is expensive and the budget they have to fulfill their mission is small. One way they have been able to overcome that small budget and expensive equipment is through the Department of Defense, which has, over a long period of time, donated excess military equipment to the local fire departments. They do this through the State forester. In fact, 95 percent of the communities in Kansas are protected by a volunteer fire department and 50 million acres of land is protected by volunteer fire departments.

Well, 3 weeks ago, the Department of Defense halted the transfer of excess trucks, generators, pumps, and engine parts, based upon emissions regulations and an agreement that apparently exists between the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA, apparently, has to approve the transfer of those vehicles because they may not satisfy the clean air standards. So what seems to me to be a commonsense solution to the need for fire equipment—including trucks—is now being halted because of concerns of whether those vehicles—those old vehicles no longer used by the Department of Defense—meet the emissions standards.

Well, I would certainly first remind folks that these trucks are very impor-

tant when there is a fire, but there is not a fire every day. It is not as if these vehicles are on the road in a constant fashion day in and day out. I would also indicate that the fires they put out increase emissions, so the marginal increase in the amount of emissions because you may be using a fire truck that does not meet the emissions standards is well overcome by the fire that burns the grass, the forest, the trees or a home by what that fire puts into the atmosphere.

Since January 1 of this year, there have been nearly 92,000 acres burned in more than 5,000 wild land fires—grass fires—across Kansas.

For most of those rural fire departments, the Federal excess equipment is the only equipment they can afford to handle those natural or manmade disasters.

The Kansas Forest Service, as I said, administers this program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They provided 40 to 50 trucks per year, and they were able to set aside again that number for Kansas—40 to 50 trucks—for Kansas fire departments for this year.

We currently have 445 trucks issued in Kansas, valued at about \$21 million, and there are 52 fire departments in Kansas waiting for a replacement truck.

The Department of Defense decision to implement this policy will cost fire departments in Kansas and across the country the opportunity to utilize excess equipment, save lives, and protect property.

My request is that my colleagues who have an interest in this issue work with me and others and help us bring to the attention of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Hagel, and the EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, as well as USDA, which administers the program for the fire departments, that we work together to find a commonsense solution.

Apparently the alternative is if these trucks are not available to be transferred to Kansas and elsewhere, to local fire departments, then the trucks are destroyed, smashed, and somehow disposed of in a landfill. Again, I would suggest that the conservation, the environmental opportunity to see the life of these vehicles extended, as compared to being destroyed, smashed, and disposed of, would work in the favor of the environment as well as in the opportunity to provide safety and security for hundreds of thousands of Kansans, hundreds of thousands of Americans, who depend upon rural fire departments, hometown fire departments, to meet the needs of their safety and security.

It seems to me we are asking for something simple. We need a little common sense and cooperation among an agency and two departments. I would ask my colleagues that you help me find a solution to this problem by

getting those agencies, the Department of Defense in particular, to explain why this is a good policy with such detriment to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. I come to the floor today because it seems day after day there is another story or two in the paper about what is happening with the President's health care law. As I go home to Wyoming each week, I go through Denver and the airport there. Today the headline in the Denver Post has to do with the Colorado health exchanges. The first line says: "Colorado's health care exchange is expecting nearly twice as many people to drop or to decline to pay for their policies." You know, they predicted how many people would continue to make payments if they had signed up under the President's health care law. Today they are predicting that twice as many as they anticipated would be either dropping or failing to pay for their health care premiums.

The Wall Street Journal today, above the fold, front page, "Newly Insured Face Coverage Gaps." So you get people who may have signed up under the President's health care law, coverage gaps, not paying, dropping, truly not the deal the President has said was something he felt would be helpful to Americans. More and more people are finding out they are having bigger problems under the President's health care law, problems with the promises that were made by this President, by this administration, and by those who voted for the health care law.

I get home just about every weekend in Wyoming to talk with people, to listen to them, to hear what they have to say. But also as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, one of my responsibilities is also to see how policies such as the President's health care law come out across the country, what happens in other States, how policies out of Washington affect people all across America.

Today I wish to talk a little about how the health care law is impacting people not just in my home State of Wyoming but all across the country. In addition to being in Wyoming last week, I had a chance to visit Alaska. What I heard from people there as well as people in Wyoming is that people have been hurt by the President's health care law. They are anxious about it in terms of their own health care, and they are angry about insurance they have had that they have lost, and the implications of the President's health care law where many promises were made and now people are finding out the President's promises, in terms of their own lives, their own health and

their own families, have not actually been kept.

The President, Democrats here in the Senate, promised their law was going to be great for the American people. That is the promise. Well, I can tell you the people I talk to in Wyoming, people I heard from in Alaska, are very worried about the terrible side effects they are feeling specifically as a result of this awful health care law.

Small businesses—and small businesses are a major part of the economy in rural States. Small businesses and the people who specifically work in those small businesses are the backbone of the economy for so many of our communities. So it is very troubling when I read about something in the health care law that threatens the very health of the people who work in these small businesses.

When Democrats were trying to sell their health care law, they bragged. They bragged about something called the SHOP program. That is the exchange where small businesses in a State were supposed to be able to buy insurance for their workers, to be able to shop for it, be able to get something that is affordable. That is the promise made by Democrats who voted for this health care law.

Democrats actually gave speeches on the floor about small businesses being able to find affordable insurance. This program was supposed to open last year, but just like the failed exchanges the President set up, when the exchanges opened October 1, this was not ready to go. So what the Obama administration did is they said: We will delay it for a year, because the program was not ready. So they left all of the businesses kind of in a lurch. Now they say it might be ready this fall. Well, time will tell.

Here is what the Wall Street Journal found in an article last month, June 10. They ran a headline that said, "Some small business employees to have only one health plan choice: 18 states will offer only one plan when small-business exchanges open."

The Democrats promised a lot more than that. Those who voted for that promised a lot more. Those who gave speeches promised a lot more. But in 18 States, there will be only one plan when they finally get it open, 18 States where workers and small businesses will not have any choice among insurance plans and no competition, and Alaska is one of them. Less choice, less competition, and of course that means higher premiums.

People all across the country are experiencing higher premiums. That is the thing that causes so much anger and anxiety among families all across the country. When that letter comes—and the newspaper stories are already starting to get out there, as well as television, radio, reading about it on the Internet—the question is: How much higher?

The President promised \$2,500 lower premiums. Nobody believes that. Nobody in America believes the President of the United States and the promise he made. It is a sad situation when the President is not believed by anyone. But yet that is what we have. He made a promise: \$2,500 per family lower. People all know that prices are going higher. The question is: How much higher?

This is what an article said in the Alaska Dispatch: "Alaska's small businesses feel pinch of rising health care costs." The article tells a story of a restaurant owner with 24 employees. He is paying about \$5,000 a month more than he paid last year for his share of his workers' insurance. That is about a 40-percent increase over last year—40 percent. The President said it was going to go down. This is a 40-percent increase. This small business owner in Alaska says the costs are "crippling" and he said it is like meeting another payroll every month. This small business owner says:

It's killing me. I just don't know how long we can keep absorbing these costs.

Those costs are a devastating side effect of the health care law. Democrats voted for it. Every Democrat in the Senate voted for that. There was a story on television up there, channel 13, a television station in Anchorage, KYUR. They aired a story last month about Linda Peters. She is another local business owner. She had 14 employees. She pays for the health insurance for her employees. Her share of the premium has gone up, gone up from \$600 per person 2 years ago to \$950 today. She says it has gotten so expensive that she has had to shift the cost of employees' dependents back to her workers.

So she was providing insurance for the dependents of the employees, but now she is not able to do that. Why? Because of the President's health care law. She told the TV station, "It was really tragic, it's enraging in fact, as employers who care about our employees. "Tragic and enraging."

But the President forced this on her and every Democrat in this body, every Democratic Senator who voted for this.

This woman in Alaska: Tragic and enraging. She is looking into dropping insurance coverage altogether. She pays her employees well so they will not get a subsidy in the State exchange. So here is a small business owner who can speak personally about the expensive, the tragic, and the enraging side effects of the Obama health care law on her employees.

Of course, there is a lot of uncertainty about what happens next and how much rates might continue to go up. Of course, that makes it even worse. The business owner said:

I just can't penalize my employees by dropping the plan, and I can't figure out: Where am I going to get the money? It's frightening. What happens next year?

That is a big concern, what happens next year. People worry about next year. They budget for next year. They plan for next year. They think about their expenses, balancing it with their income. President Obama says: The Democrats who voted for this law—in the President's own words—should forcefully defend and be proud—should forcefully defend and be proud—of the health care law.

Are Democrats in this Senate who voted for this health care law proud? Are they proud of what the law is doing to these people in Alaska and other States? Are Democrats willing to come to this floor and forcefully defend and be proud of the extra stress, the extra costs they are causing for these people all across the country?

According to a recent study by the Manhattan Institute, people in Alaska are paying a hospital more for their coverage. They found the premiums of the average 64-year-old woman in Alaska would have been \$693 a month in 2013. That is before they were forced onto the ObamaCare exchange. But in 2014, buying insurance from the exchange, her premiums jumped to \$813 a month. She is paying \$1,400 more this year than she did last year because of the specifics of the health care law.

For a 27-year-old man, he would have paid an average of \$130 a month in 2013. But under the health care law and the exchange, he now pays \$284 a month. That is more than double. That is an extra \$1,800 more this year than it was last year.

Is there a Senator in this body who will come to the floor and forcefully defend the fact that there are these people all across America who are paying twice as much for insurance because of the health care law?

Democrats did not solve the problem with our health care system. They just mandated coverage, and mandated more expensive coverage. They made it more expensive and they have more mandates. People wanted reform that gave them access to quality affordable care, not more expensive coverage.

Republicans have offered solutions, solutions for patient-centered care, for patient-centered health care reform. We have talked about things such as increasing the ability of small businesses to be able to join together and negotiate better rates, about expanding health savings accounts, and allowing people to shop for and buy health insurance in other States that work best for them and for their families.

In 18 States, including Alaska, the small business exchange will offer just one choice for insurance. Shopping in other States could increase competition and help lower premiums for people who work for those small businesses.

That would have been a simple solution that works and helps people actually afford coverage and care. It is not

what Democrats did with their health care law, but it is what Republicans are offering. We have suggested ideas to get people the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs—not higher costs with a subsidy for some people, but actually lowering the cost for everyone.

Republicans are going to keep coming to the floor. We are going to keep offering real solutions for better health care without all of these tragic side effects.

I am sure that tomorrow there will be another headline and another one the day after that of people who have been harmed by the health care law as we see more and more and hear from more and more Americans who feel the President has not kept his promises, that the Democrats who voted for the health care law have failed the American people and have failed to answer the concerns of the American people, which was affordable quality care.

Madam President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3:15 p.m. will be controlled by the majority and the time from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. will be controlled by the Republicans.

The Senator from Vermont.

COST OF WAR

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wanted to say a few words about the conference committee in terms of legislation protecting the health of our veterans. We are working hard on it in the Senate, the House is working hard on it, and our staffs have been meeting. I have been in touch often with Chairman MILLER in the House. We had, I thought, a very productive conference committee before we left.

As we continue to proceed, if there is anything I have learned since I have been chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is that I think as a people, as a nation, we underestimate the cost of war, and before anyone votes to go to war again I think they should fully appreciate the repercussions of that vote.

What going to war means is not—as in the case of Afghanistan and Iraq—losing some 6,700 brave men and women. That is a terrible loss, but I also want people to remember the fam-

ilies, the wives, the kids, the mothers, and the impact that loss has had on their lives and the need for us to protect those wives and those children to make sure they can have the quality of life they are entitled to despite their loss.

But it is not only loss of life. We have had in this war a horrendous epidemic of men and women coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder. I am not sure of exactly the number, but it could be as high as 500,000 men and women coming home from war with PTSD and that is a very difficult illness which needs a lot of care and that illness, again, impacts the entire family—wives, kids. It impacts the ability of a worker to go out and get a job to earn an income. That is a cost of war.

Needless to say, the cost of war is the many who came home without legs, who came home without arms, who came home without eyesight. The cost of war is a high divorce rate for folks who come home who cannot readjust well into their family life. The cost of war is an extremely high rate of suicides. The cost of war is widows who are now having to rebuild their lives. And on and on it goes. The bottom line is the cost of war is enormous in terms of human suffering and the impact on not only the individual who fought in that war but on the entire family.

As I think our colleagues know, several weeks ago Senator MCCAIN and I put together a proposal to deal with the current crisis at the VA, and I am very proud that legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 93 to 3.

What are we dealing with? What is the cost of this proposal? This is an expensive proposal because the cost of war is expensive. What a VA audit told us is that more than 57,000 veterans are waiting to be scheduled for medical appointments. These are the folks who are on these waiting lists, some of which were secret, some of which had data manipulated. These are folks who should have been getting into the VA for timely health care but who were not. On top of that, there is an unknown number of veterans who are on no lists because of poor work being done at the VA. They were not on any list. How many there are we don't know, but many of those people need to be seen.

So what our legislation does is say we are going to make certain that all of these veterans who are waiting for health care—who have waited far too long for health care—will, in fact, get health care as soon as they possibly can, and they will get that health care either through private physicians, they will get that health care in community health centers, they will get that health care at the Department of Defense military bases, they will get that health care at the Indian Health Service, but they will get that health care in a timely manner, and that is going

to be an expensive proposition. We cannot provide health care to tens and tens of thousands of veterans in a short period of time outside of the VA without spending a substantial sum of money.

No. 2, long-term, what is clear to me and I think to anybody who has studied the issue is that if we are serious about eliminating these waiting lists and getting people into the VA in a timely manner, we have to make sure that at every facility in this country the VA has the requisite number of doctors, nurses, and other types of personnel they need in order to accommodate the growing numbers of people who are coming into the VA.

If we are talking about hiring thousands of doctors in a moment, by the way, where we have a very serious doctor shortage in this country, that is going to be an expensive proposition, as well as hiring the nurses and other personnel and building or leasing the space we need. That is issue No. 2. That is going to be expensive, but long term, if we are serious about keeping our commitment to the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend this country, that is exactly what we have to do.

The third area in this legislation which is going to be expensive is we have now for the first time said to veterans that if they are living a distance away from a VA facility, more than 40 miles, they are going to be able to go to a private doctor. That will cost us some money as well.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator from Vermont yield for a question through the Chair?

Mr. SANDERS. I am happy to yield the floor to the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I don't ask the Senator to yield the floor, but I would, through the Chair, address the Senator from Vermont.

First, I thank the Senator for his bipartisan effort with Senator JOHN MCCAIN which led to an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote on the floor of the Senate to address what we consider to be a crisis in the Veterans' Administration. Press reports have suggested in the most extreme situation that some veterans' lives were being compromised because of the failure of providing timely care to these veterans. It resulted in an investigation of VA facilities all across the United States. It resulted in the resignation of the Secretary of the Veterans' Administration and promises for dramatic reform, but I have to say to the Senator from Vermont what he has accomplished with Senator MCCAIN is tangible.

I would like to ask him two or three questions about the current state of affairs. How long ago was it that we passed on the floor of the Senate this bipartisan measure?

Secondly, did this measure involve emergency spending to deal with the

emergency in the Veterans' Administration?

Third, did the House version of their VA reform include the resources the Senator from Vermont mentioned, the new doctors, the new nurses, the new facilities to accommodate this wave of veterans. Those are the three questions that I think are critical.

I close by saying thank you again and again, because as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senator has reminded us of the real cost of war.

There are many people who vote quickly to go to war who will not vote quickly to pay for the care we promised our veterans when they come home. Thank you for caring.

Mr. SANDERS. I very much thank the Senator. Let me answer the very last question first, and I will go through the others.

I think throughout the history of this country, not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, I think as a people we have underestimated the real cost of war. There was no word called PTSD at the end of World War II, but anyone who thinks that men and women did not come home from war suffering from that ailment would be very mistaken. So the cost of war is real, and it is not just missiles and tanks and guns. If this country means anything, we take care of all of those who serve, to the last day of their lives, when they need that care. I don't have the date in front of me, but I think it was about 3 weeks ago when we passed that legislation by a huge vote. I think there were only 3 people who voted against it. It was a vote of 93 to 3—huge bipartisan support for the bill.

But equally important, to answer the important question raised by the Senator from Illinois, there was also an overwhelming understanding that paying for this bill is a cost of war. It has to be emergency funded, and in a strong bipartisan vote the Senate said, yes, that is how we are going to pay for it.

In terms of the House bill, the House bill was a reasonable bill, but they did not go into the detail we did in terms of how it will be paid. But the major point I do want to make—I was just going to get to that and I appreciate the Senator from Illinois raising it. This bill is not going to be paid for by cutting education or food stamps. That isn't going to happen. That isn't going to happen, first of all, because it is not going to happen and, second of all, it would be grossly disrespectful to the veterans of this country. The veterans of this country need help. They need help now. This legislation must be passed as soon as possible, and it must be passed in terms of the emergency funding. This is a cost of war.

I would ask my friend from Illinois, the whip, can he recall what kind of programs were offset and what kind of

taxes were raised to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I would answer the Senator, without asking him to yield the floor, and say this: When we decided to embark on the invasion of Iraq and the invasion of Afghanistan, it was with at least the understanding of then-President Bush that these would be costs that would be added to the deficit of the United States. We would not be paying as we fought. We would be waging a war, spending the money necessary to wage it successfully, and we would deal with the cost of it at a later moment in time. Many of us, even those of us who voted against the invasion of Iraq—and I was 1 of 23 on the floor of the Senate voting against it—voted for the resources to wage the war, saying if our men and women in uniform are risking their lives, we will stand by them, equip them, and bring them home safely. I also believed and understood that I had an obligation to every one of those men and women in uniform, having promised them that if they would risk their lives for America and come home needing our help, whether it is health care or education or the basics of life, we would be there.

I say to the Senator from Vermont thank you for reminding us of the pledge made by America to these veterans and I believe the pledge made by Republicans and Democrats in Congress to stand by them when they came home.

Mr. SANDERS. The Senator is exactly right. While no one is quite exactly clear how much those two wars will end up costing us, the estimate is between \$3 and \$6 trillion. The point Senator DURBIN made is even those who voted against the war—and I did as well—understood that when we sent men and women off to battle they would have to have all of the resources they needed to do their mission. Equally important, what we are saying now is when they come home wounded in body, wounded in spirit, we need them to have the resources they require to make their lives whole again. That is a moral obligation. I thank the Senator for raising that point.

I will yield the floor in a second, but first I will conclude by saying that I want to see this bill passed as soon as possible. We are working as hard as we possibly can, but anyone who magically thinks the only problem facing the VA is more accountability and better management is not correct. We do need better management at the VA, we do need more accountability at the VA, and this legislation will provide that.

People who are incompetent and people who are dishonest should be fired. There must be more transparency, and there certainly must be a much clearer chain of command that goes from Washington to regional hospitals and facilities and back up again.

At the end of the day, the best management in the world is not going to provide the quality and timely health care veterans need unless we have the doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel, and that is the simple fact. Excellent management, yes; transparency, yes; fire incompetent people, yes; but we also need the doctors and nurses to provide quality and timely care to the veterans of our country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, it has been 2 weeks since the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees held our first conference meeting to fix the VA health care system. It is a disservice to our veterans that we have not met again. My fellow conferees and I should be at the table actively negotiating a path forward.

Chairman SANDERS is right when he says the situation at the VA is an emergency. I had the opportunity to meet with veterans last week in Hilo, HI. My discussion with them underscored the urgency of addressing the longstanding issues at the VA.

For those who have not visited Hawaii, Hilo is on the Big Island of Hawaii, and it is home to volcanoes, rain forests, and just about every other climate. It is also twice as big as the rest of Hawaii's islands combined. In fact, it is roughly the size of Connecticut but with only a fraction of the population. It can take hours to drive from Hilo to the second largest town, Kailua-Kona. Of the roughly 143,000 people living on the island, 15,000 are veterans.

I am raising these facts because I want my colleagues to understand that veterans in communities like those who live on Hawaii Island need our help and they need it now.

The veterans I met in Hilo expressed to me that they cannot get care anywhere other than the VA on the Big Island, as private physicians are few and far between. In fact, while 90 percent of Hawaii Island residents have health insurance, there is a serious physician shortage. This results in long wait times for non-VA health care. Given these long wait times for private physicians, Big Island veterans rely on VA for their primary care. Those Hawaii Island veterans who have private insurance have, out of their own pockets, paid for flights to the island of Oahu to get the care they need. This means over \$300 out-of-pocket just to get to their medical appointments. The \$300 does not include any costs associated with the care itself.

This is another reason that expanding access to non-VA providers is needed to immediately address the VA health care emergency. With this expansion, we must ensure that every veteran in our country, whether rural or urban, can more easily get the care they need if the VA is unable to accom-

modate them. Rural and urban veterans in Hawaii and across our Nation deserve better.

A recent audit of the VA in Hawaii found that veterans were waiting over 140 days to receive care. A more recent update found that while progress is being made, the wait is still over 100 days. Nationwide, nearly 60,000 veterans are waiting simply to get an appointment, and of course that is unacceptable. This is why I stand eager and ready to work with my Senate and House colleagues to ensure that the veterans of this country get the care they need and the benefits they have earned.

This conference committee must reconvene as soon as possible to move forward on the important task to finalize legislation that does three important things: No. 1, directly addresses the emergency circumstances that have been uncovered at the Veterans' Administration; No. 2, ensures that all of our veterans receive access to the care they deserve; and No. 3, begins the long-term work of restoring veterans' trust not only in the VA but in Congress's ability to effectively oversee the VA and provide the resources necessary to care for our veterans.

Nearly the entire Senate agrees that the current VA situation is an emergency and that Congress must act. I am hopeful we can all agree on that point, but my fellow conferees need to be at the table now, face to face, to work out solutions to make the VA work for our veterans.

I hope we will include provisions in the Senate-passed legislation that will provide for 26 major medical facility leases and provide for the resources and authority to expedite hiring of VA doctors and nurses.

In addition, while I agree that accountability of executives is needed, we should avoid politicizing the non-appointed civil service process and allow some due process for VA employees.

Furthermore, our veterans rely on the services of qualified, committed professionals at the VA. In fact, the veterans I met with last week indicated that they really liked VA care; however, they were concerned that VA doctors were already overstretched in terms of patients. I don't believe that simply telling VA doctors to see more patients is the only or best answer, nor is it enough to allow veterans to seek care from private providers. We should be doing more to attract more health professionals to VA, especially primary care providers. We have to recognize the long-term benefits of attracting a high-quality workforce to VA and that we can improve accountability in a carefully balanced way.

Investing in the VA is an essential step toward building back the trust of our veterans.

I understand my colleagues' concerns with the cost of the proposals before

us, but inaction will not overcome those concerns. Those of us serving as conferees need to sit down and discuss how to get our veterans what they need quickly. The time for action is now. Veterans in Hawaii and across the country are counting on us and deserve no less.

I yield the remainder of my time and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to begin by thanking my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, for his very eloquent and powerful remarks on the need to address gun violence in this country and to do it as part of our consideration of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. I look forward to joining with him in the coming days—in fact, perhaps in the coming hours—in offering commonsense, sensible measures that will give us the opportunity to help stop gun violence in this country, addressing domestic violence as well, which so often leads to gun violence. Women are five times more likely to be killed in domestic violence when there is a gun in the home. The Senator from Illinois also addressed straw purchases and issues relating to drug trafficking. We have raised those and other issues in the past but have not yet successfully passed legislation in the Senate, not even addressed it in depth.

So I hope we will have the opportunity in these next couple of days to consider these kinds of measures, because the scourge of gun violence is continuing in our neighborhoods and on our streets, just as it took the lives of 20 beautiful children and 6 great educators in Newtown, CT, almost a year and a half ago, and 2 more people on Sunday on the east side of Bridgeport alone, and tens of thousands of others. It continues to cause death and injury and costs in lost lives and dollars throughout this country. We have an obligation as part of this measure to do better than we have in dealing with this tremendous, horrific, and unspeakable problem. It affects so many innocent children, particularly the children who are affected in urban neighborhoods where there are drive-by shootings; in rural neighborhoods all across the country; in our cities and on our streets and in our schools.

We have an obligation to do better and to put priorities first when it comes to the use of guns. I understand the reasons for expanding or providing more opportunities in this bill that may involve firearms, but first things

first. Let's cure the safety of the country. Let's consider commonsense, sensible measures on gun control before we expand the use of guns and firearms in this country.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

I am here as well to address the separate, unrelated issue of doing better to care for our veterans. The Veterans Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 is now in conference. I am on that conference committee. This body passed that bill by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 93 to 3 on June 11. It is a comprehensive bill to start addressing the problems that came to our attention so dramatically. There were reports of deadly delays, destruction of documents, manipulation of data, and falsification of records, as well as tragic reports of unacceptable wait times that were concealed at VA health care facilities. Books were cooked and criminal wrongdoing was covered up. That is the reason I have called for a criminal investigation, and one has now begun. I hope it will produce accountability from the health care system of the VA.

More fundamentally, we have an obligation in the Senate and in the Congress to address the underlying issues that led to those deadly wait times and delays, the cooking of books and covering it up that has so dramatically undermined trust and confidence in the VA health care system. If anything, since June 11, the problem seems to have worsened. In fact, comparing May to July, the recently released figures of July 3—just last week—the numbers of medical appointments delayed for longer than 30 days has tripled in Connecticut and doubled nationwide. Nationwide, that number has gone from 242,069—roughly a quarter of a million veterans whose appointments were postponed by 30 days or more—to 636,436. That is the number of veterans waiting longer than 30 days for an appointment. In Connecticut, the comparable numbers are 998 to 2,727—a tripling of the appointments delayed for longer than 30 days. In other parts of the country at other clinics and facilities, those numbers quadrupled.

The possible good news is that maybe—just maybe—the doubling, tripling, quadrupling of those numbers of appointments longer than 30 days delayed means the numbers are more accurate and truthful. We don't know. I have demanded an explanation. I have written to the Acting Secretary of the VA, Sloan Gibson, calling for a public explanation for these numbers and the very alarming and astonishing trends, drastic and dramatic increases in those numbers of appointments suffering from delays.

Justice Brandeis once said:

Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.

These chronic failings at the VA demand a better explanation. Veterans deserve to know if things have gotten worse or is the reporting just better. All of us—the public whose taxpayer monies fund the VA—deserve the same kind of explanation. There should be a criminal investigation if there has been obstruction of justice and destruction of documents and falsification of records which involve Federal criminal wrongdoing.

The act we now have in conference committee will help address many of these problems looking forward, moving ahead, by providing more access to private doctors and private hospitals outside the VA system to minimize and reduce and perhaps even eliminate those unacceptable waiting times of longer than 30 days for an appointment. It will provide more doctors—more than \$500 million for that purpose alone. It will impose accountability by enabling easier firing and seeking to, in effect, claw back, or at best stop, some of the financial incentives that may have driven the false reporting.

In those ways and a variety of others, this bill will help us move forward and achieve progress.

No one should be under any illusion that this bill alone will solve all the problems. It is not a panacea. It is not a permanent solution to the VA's problems. We need, for starters, a new leader. The VA has no permanent Secretary. The confirmation of a new one is imperative. But tough questions are absolutely essential to determine whether the President's nominee should be the one to lead this agency, and I am certainly hoping he will be.

The Veterans' Affairs conference committee met on June 24. I emphasized the importance at that hearing of honoring the commitment of our men and women in uniform by addressing the VA challenges with adequate funding and essential legislation. I am hopeful we will move quickly and effectively after that first June 24 meeting now to present to both Houses a final version of this bill so we can truly address the problems our veterans deserve to have solved and the VA has an obligation to eliminate. We need to assure that the differences between the two bodies are resolved and send this bill to the President for his signature. A country that really values its veterans, truly honors their service, should not subject them to waiting delays, secret waiting lists, and false records. This broad, bipartisan, historic bill to ensure that delays in treatment are eliminated and bad actors at the VA health centers are held accountable is a critical step to keep faith with our veterans and let us move forward quickly and responsibly with this bill.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there are a few of us who want to come down and talk a little bit about specific things in our States that are reaching a crisis point by having to participate in ObamaCare. But before doing that I want to make just one comment to make sure it is in the RECORD and that we can talk about the election that took place over in Afghanistan.

We have had quite a time over there. We have lost actually 2,197 of our own troops in Afghanistan, and we have had about ten times that many who have been injured. So it has been a real crisis for a lot of people. For a long period of time things had been going well. I think when the decision was made by this President to pull everything out at a given time things started turning around a little bit. Now they are in the middle of a—in Afghanistan the election took place. I know we are not supposed to say this, and there is no official position—I want to make that clear—by the United States of America, but to me there are two people running against each other. There is a good guy and a bad guy—that holdover from the old administration, whose name is Ashraf Ghani, who is Karzai's chosen one, who is one who would continue to go in a lack of leadership and not take advantage of the opportunities they have right now; then Abdullah Abdullah is the other one.

My concern with this—and I expressed this concern on the Senate floor about 3 weeks ago. I said: I know we have deadlines. We are going to have a primary, which we already had. Then we are going to have a primary runoff. Then on June 22, which is 2 weeks from today, there will be an official declaration as to who won the primary runoff.

The Presiding Officer is fully familiar with this. We talked about that this morning. Well, in this runoff situation, we have found a lot of discrepancies. It seems to me that while I consider one guy to be the good one and one to be the bad one, all of the mistakes that were made and the irregularities that were found were found in favor of Ashraf Ghani, as opposed to Abdullah Abdullah.

Let me give you an example. In one of the provinces—it was the Wardak Province—Ghani's vote count went from about 17,000 in April to 170,000 in the runoff. Stop and think about that. That is almost mathematically impossible. When you consider the number of

registered voters there, this number actually exceeds the number of registered voters. So you went from 17,000 in the same province when they went through the primary back in April, and then that jumped up by tenfold to 170,000 in the runoff. That is an increase of 1,000 percent over April's result. All of those, of course, were in an area where—it is in a part of the country where Ghani's vote was more favorable.

Then the other thing I think is unprecedented, I think we all know in our own States, whether it is in West Virginia, Oklahoma, or any of the rest of them, the vote percentage turnout is less in rural areas than it is in urban areas. In urban areas you have to go next door to vote. It is very convenient. In many rural areas, certainly in my State of Oklahoma, you have to drive maybe 30 or 40 miles to vote. So the percentage turnout is less. It happens that Ghani's support comes from the rural areas. In this runoff election that just took place, they had a 75-percent turnout in those areas. At the same time, in the urban areas, they only had a 24-percent turnout.

First of all, I do not think we can name one election in history that had a larger turnout in a rural area than it did the urban areas in the same election. So we are looking at something that could not happen and logically it did not happen. That was something that certainly worked in the favor of Ghani's election.

Right now everyone agrees on one thing; that is, that the election was at least falsified. If not, it was just a rigged election. There are a lot of organizations out there—the European Union, for example, and the U.N. and other groups such as OSCE, which is the Office of Security and Cooperation in Europe—that all agree we should have an audit of this election—at least an audit which should include some independent source. So I want to get on record now, because I fear if nothing is done in the next 14 days, he will be declared the winner, with these discrepancies, I think that would be doing a great disservice to the people of Afghanistan. They would lose faith in their system, because what I am saying here on the Senate floor they already know.

HEALTH CARE

Let me jump into another area I am very interested in, as is every Member of this body. I can remember back in the 1990s we had what was referred to as "Hillary health care." At that time, there were several members of Parliament—one of them was up here and we had a hearing. That person said: You know, it is hard for us in the United Kingdom to understand why we have had this type of socialized medicine for as many years as I can remember—this is his quote. He said:

Yet we are now finally realizing that your system over in the United States is a much

better system. We are now starting to discard the whole socialized medicine system.

That is something we saw way back in the 1990s. It came again with the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare. We have a lot of examples in my State of Oklahoma, heartbreaking accounts. Since the rollout last fall, my office has been flooded with stories from Oklahomans who found ObamaCare to be one massive broken promise from President Obama.

These stories include a woman from Broken Arrow, OK, who reported a 20-percent increase in her monthly premiums.

A father from Owasso, OK, shared a story—I talked to all of these individuals personally—of his son and daughter who serve as missionaries in Indonesia. Their health care deductibles in the United States have more than doubled from \$1,200 per person to \$2,600 a person.

One teacher, a public schoolteacher from Copan, OK, who teaches—actually not in public school, it is adjunct college classes. She shared that not only did she have her work hours cut but is now paying \$950 a month in premiums for health care with a \$6,000 deductible.

Another teacher from Sallisaw, OK—that happens to be the strawberry capital of the world in case you guys did not know that—shared that her deductible increased by \$1,000 from last year.

A man from Noble told us his company modified health plans to match the ObamaCare requirements. It is a company he owns. He says these changes cost him a 40-percent increase in his out-of-pocket expenses and his premium costs.

A man from Tulsa who lives actually in my same neighborhood has a family of five. He works for a small business. He shared with us that he is now paying \$4,000 more for insurance than he had paid a year ago.

This November, a new open enrollment period will begin in at least one State, Virginia, which has already reported an astounding 22-percent increase over the past year.

All of that is happening. People from any State, any of the 50 States, could come down and talk about the individual cases in their States. We have one good thing that is going on right now. We have a great attorney general by the name of Scott Pruitt. Scott Pruitt, the attorney general from Oklahoma, has a lawsuit. It is called *Pruitt v. Burwell*. Oklahoma has standing to proceed on a case that the IRS acted beyond Congress's intent in its effort to impose penalties in States that have Federal exchanges.

We have 36 States that have Federal exchanges. These exchanges are—well, first of all, the administration had a motion to dismiss. It was overruled 11 months ago, so this is a real case. The State has asked for summary judgment.

Success in this case would mean the dismantling of the ObamaCare employer and individual mandates for all 36 States that have at least a partially federally facilitated exchange. I guess you can say it might end up being our attorney general from the State of Oklahoma is going to be the one who is going to be the most successful in doing something about this thing we should have learned a long time ago was not going to work.

I have a personal interest in this, having had—there are states or countries that have socialized medicine. We have Canada, we have Great Britain, we have many other countries. In making a study of these, you find there is limited coverage for people when they reach a certain age.

I see our good friend from Wyoming who is a medical doctor. He has given his second opinion many times. In one of those he talked about you get past a certain age, you are unable to get the treatment. I happen to have had occasion to have four bypasses at an age when in some countries I would not have qualified.

It is something we have been very active in. We are going to hopefully be the heroes from the State of Oklahoma in offering relief to at least 36 of our States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments from the Senator from Oklahoma who, like the Senator from Wyoming who is on the floor here with us here today, has heard from many of his constituents about the impact ObamaCare is having on them, the real-world economic impact.

I have received countless letters from my constituents in South Dakota telling me about the challenges they are facing because of ObamaCare. Those challenges consist of the economic costs associated with the new health care law: higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher copays, the loss of the doctors they like, the burden the law is placing on their businesses if they are an employer, and less control and less freedom, which is something that is important to so many Americans, particularly when it comes to their health care.

I want to take a few moments to highlight some of the stories that constituents of mine have shared with me. I know the Senator from Wyoming is here to do the same, to talk about the impact not only in his State of Wyoming but all across the country.

One person named Erik from southeast South Dakota wrote to me to tell me his family's health care plan was cancelled thanks to ObamaCare. His old plan was \$448 a month, with a \$5,000 deductible and a 20-percent copay after that. The cheapest bronze plan he could find was \$987 a month, more than

double what he was paying before, with a \$6,500 deductible and a 40-percent copay. He said, "This means that I would need to incur about \$26,000 in eligible medical expenses each year before insurance is a benefit to me."

Then there is Megan from McCook County, SD, who contacted me to tell me the cheapest plan she could find for her family of 4 would cost her a staggering \$17,000. Seventeen thousand dollars. That is more than some people pay for their mortgage in an entire year.

Randy from Hot Springs, SD, contacted me to tell me an exchange plan similar to his old insurance plan is \$1,222 a month, almost 2½ times the cost of his old insurance plan.

Sheri, from a small town in Minnehaha County, said:

Next year, our insurance is changing, and I will lose my family practice doctor of 22 years—the doctor that delivered all my children and that has cared for our teenage children all of their lives. We'll also lose all of the back-up doctors our family has seen when we couldn't see our regular doctor. . . . I was happy with my insurance, and now I have to lose my doctor.

Then there is Denny from Rapid City, SD, who told me the following:

My insurance company cancelled my policy. I am currently paying over \$800 a month for a family of four. . . . If I sign up for ObamaCare, I would be paying over \$2,500 a month. I cannot think of any way this is considered affordable health care!

Linda, a small business owner and operator from a small town along the Missouri River, wrote this:

We need your help. . . . We have one full-time employee, and we provide health care coverage for him, his wife, and their children. . . . Our monthly premium in 2013 was \$2,964.20 or \$35,570.40 annually. Our monthly premium—as a result of the "Affordable Care Act"—for 2014 is \$3,524.75 or \$42,297 annually.

A huge increase from what they were paying before, from 2013 to 2014.

She says:

I have been told by our agent to expect even more substantial increases in 2015. This is very frightening for us.

Lyle from Brookings, SD, said that thanks to ObamaCare, his monthly premium almost doubled and his deductible doubled.

He says:

I'm a small business owner, and would like to hire an employee next spring. Well, that's not going to happen!

We were told that ObamaCare would lower costs and make health care more affordable. Instead, it has driven up costs for these Americans and for many others. What middle-class family can afford to spend \$17,000 a year on insurance? How can a small business with one employee afford a \$7,000 yearly hike in insurance premiums? The answer is they cannot.

As if high health care prices were not enough, ObamaCare is also damaging many Americans' job prospects.

There is the 30-hour workweek rule, which is forcing many employers to cut

their employees' hours. There is the medical device tax, which has already resulted in thousands and thousands of lost jobs in the industry and will likely result in many more if it isn't repealed. There is the employer mandate, which is discouraging many employers from expanding and hiring new employees. And there are the many rules and regulations that are placing a huge financial and logistical burden on small businesses.

ObamaCare isn't working. It was supposed to help Americans. Instead, it is hurting them. It is time to start over and to replace this law with real health care reforms—reforms that will actually lower costs for Americans, give them back their health care choices, and improve access to care.

That is what we ought to be doing. But, unfortunately, we have lots of folks here in this Chamber who are trying as desperately as they can to run away from the issue without fixing it.

So as we get into these November elections and the run-up to them, a lot of vulnerable Democrats who voted for this are looking for a way out. But in many cases this was their signature achievement. This is the President's signature law. So they own it. They own that vote. Yet they are trying to figure out a way to spin it to the American people so that it will come across in a different way than the reality the American people are experiencing.

This is the headline in *Politico* from yesterday: ObamaCare "War Room Prepares for Sept. Surprise." They know there is more bad news coming out in September of this year when the new insurance rates are announced to kick in.

So what is the White House doing? They have six people assigned to congressional Democrats to help do damage control in their States or their districts when this bad news comes out. And it inevitably will because there is no way that all the new mandates and requirements associated with this law don't lead to higher prices—in addition to all the higher taxes that go with it.

So the headline is the "War Room Prepares for Sept. Surprise," and it goes on to detail how they are trying their best to spin this in a way that confuses the American people into thinking it is something better than it is. Unfortunately for the spinners, the reality that most Americans are confronting and experiencing is a very different one—and that is the reality I talked about earlier: higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher copays, fewer choices when it comes to doctors and hospitals, fewer full-time jobs and more part-time jobs as employers look for ways to avoid dealing with these mandates and requirements that are imposed under ObamaCare. But it is forcing more and more people onto part-time jobs when they would like to be working full time. That is why last

week when the jobs numbers came out and people were hailing the numbers—sure, there was some good news there. But there was an awful lot of bad news, and one of the bad news items was that a good majority were actually part-time and not full-time jobs.

Why? One of the reasons is the mandates and requirements under ObamaCare and the institution of a 30-hour workweek, which is forcing employers to hire employees for fewer than 30 hours so they don't get stuck with having to provide government-approved health care, which would dramatically increase what they are paying for health care today.

That is the reality that most Americans are confronting. I hope at some point, as these realities continue to sink in with the American people, their elected officials here in Washington will come together and realize this isn't working; it is not working for employers; and it is not working for middle-class families in this country who are increasingly squeezed by these higher costs; and it certainly isn't working for our economy.

I know the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, who has been mentioned by the Senator from Oklahoma, is a physician and understands these issues very well and has spoken at great length here on the floor about ObamaCare and its impacts. I know he is going to share some of the stories that he has received from not only the people he represents from the State of Wyoming but from those around the country who are feeling the impacts of this law.

So would I yield for the Senator from Wyoming?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I join my colleague from South Dakota and agree with what he is seeing in South Dakota and I am seeing in Wyoming and that people all across the country are seeing with regard to the President's health care law. People are very concerned because it hits them in their pocketbook.

What we are seeing is that people's premiums are going up. The deductible that they have to pay before they get to use their insurance is going way up. The copay that they have to make has gone way up.

So in terms of people's actual pocketbook issues and the things that concern them, they are paying more and getting less, and it is because of the mandates in the Obama health care law.

The President of the United States says: "Forcefully defend and be proud" of this law. Yet day after day, I don't see Democrats who voted for the health care law coming to the floor to forcefully defend or be proud of it. And there is very little to be proud of.

We all get letters from people in our home States. I was home over the

Fourth of July visiting around the State, going to many communities. I haven't run into anyone who says this has actually significantly helped make their life better. People have come up to me at parade routes, rodeos—all the different places we have been—and they have great concerns about the health care law and the impact on their own personal life, what money is left over at the end of the day to help put food on the table, to get the kids off to school, clothing for the kids, and how the impact of the health care law is making it harder and lowering the quality of life in spite of the President's promises, which they say are just not true.

I got a letter from a young woman, Shelly in Worland, WY, in Washakie County, in the center of the State. I know the community very well. She writes to me:

I know you have heard my story a hundred times, but I feel maybe one more won't hurt.

She wanted to share what is going on in her specific life in Wyoming related to the health care law.

Yesterday in the mail I received a notice that my . . . health insurance will go from \$637 to \$897, and my \$10,000 deductible is now \$11,000.

So her premiums have gone up and the deductible has gone up. It is a double whammy hitting her. But, she says:

My plan now meets the requirements of the health care reform law.

And let's be serious about this. The requirements of the health care law mandate that many people all across the country end up buying much more insurance than they ever will need, ever will want, and will ever use. But it has to comply with what the Federal Government says they need.

The families of Wyoming have a better idea of what they need for their health insurance than Barack Obama has in terms of what he thinks they might need. The families of Wyoming know what they need much more so than the Democrats in this body who voted the mandates onto these people and said they have to have all of this insurance. This woman doesn't need it, doesn't want it, and is not going to use it. Yet she is paying more out of her pocket, impacting that family's life so it can comply with the health care law instead of what is best for her and her family.

She goes on to say:

My husband is self employed on the family farm, and I am also self employed at a beauty shop. Needless to say we have always pinched our pennies. My children are all grown, my two daughters are both kindergarten teachers in our wonderful state, and my son is working with us on the farm. We have worked very hard not to use any of the government assistance raising our children on less than \$30,000 a year.

We are talking about hardworking families from all across the country pinching their pennies, making sure

that they use their money wisely, not relying on the government. That is what we have here.

So now I am forced to enter the health care reform circus.

That is what this is. This is a circus forced down the throats of the American people by the Democrats in this body and by the President of the United States who forced this onto the American people, this health care reform circus.

I know I missed the deadline because I was determined to not be a part of this, but now I simply cannot afford this insurance. I tried to navigate the website last night and finally gave up after being kicked off three times.

To make matters worse my insurance was offering one decreasing deductible that we were counting on. We also lost that in our new policy. We had our deductible down to 3,000. We have been saving in an HA, but I'm afraid it won't last long. I have just been told I have a rare bone disease called fibrous dysplasia. It is causing some eye issues, and I am facing some sort of surgery to remove the diseased bone behind my eye.

This hardworking Wyoming family:

After working so hard to take care of ourselves my husband and I are faced with having to have help. This makes no sense to us. We were doing fine until the government stepped in.

There has to be an answer somewhere. Thanks for your time.

I practiced medicine for 25 years in Wyoming and took care of many families just like we have here with Shelly, knowing how hardworking people are—and the Presiding Officer knows that as well—in rural communities, people who roll up their sleeves, go to work every day, and don't want assistance from the government. They just do their job. And this is a family that has been hurt by the President's health care law—hurt dramatically. They had gotten their deductible down to \$3,000, and now it is up to \$11,000. Their premiums are higher than they were before, and she has a lot more insurance than she is ever going to want, need, can afford or will ever use.

But we are seeing this all around the country. It is not just in stories from Wyoming. CBS Money Watch in the middle of June came out with a report called "For some, Obamacare delivers sticker shock."

It is interesting, just trying to follow the press from around the country. These aren't isolated cases. We are seeing this all across the country.

The article goes on:

. . . Obamacare is delivering a hefty dose of sticker shock.

What did the President of the United States promise the American people? He promised the American people that under his plan insurance premiums would drop \$2,500 per family by the end of his first term—not stay flat, not go up a little—would actually go lower \$2,500 per family per year by the end of his first term. "Obamacare is delivering a hefty dose of sticker shock."

Now, who is getting hurt by this? All Americans are getting hurt, but the Washington Post had an interesting story on June 24. I wish the President would pay attention to this. The President of the United States needs to know that it is "Older women who bear the brunt of higher insurance costs under Obamacare"—the headline in the Washington Post June 24.

The new government report is out:

. . . women age 55 to 64 will face a huge spike in cost when they go out to buy individual insurance on the federal exchange. These women bear the brunt of the increased premiums and out of pocket expenses after the Affordable Care Act.

Winners and losers—and President Obama has chosen older women to bear the brunt of higher increased insurance costs under the President health care law.

We are going to hear that again and again as Democrats stand up to talk about the issues facing our country. It is older women who are bearing the brunt of the higher insurance costs under the President's health care law, as reported in the Washington Post.

Then, how incompetent is the Web site? Let's take a look at what the New York Times said July 1: "Eligibility for Health Insurance Was Not Properly Checked, Audit Finds."

An independent audit of insurance exchanges established under the health care law has found that federal and state officials did not properly check the eligibility of people seeking coverage and applying for subsidies, the latest indication of unresolved problems at HealthCare.gov.

I remember listening to President Obama talk and be interviewed by President Clinton in September of last year in New York City at the Clinton Global Initiative, or something like that. President Obama said: Easier than shopping on Amazon. Cheaper than your cell phone bill.

This is in a report to Congress on Tuesday:

In a report to Congress on Tuesday, the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services . . . said that the exchanges . . . did not have adequate safeguards "to prevent the use of inaccurate or fraudulent information when determining eligibility."

Moreover, in a companion report, the inspector general said that the government had been unable to verify much of the information reported by people applying for insurance coverage and financial assistance to help pay premiums.

We are talking about the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services of the Obama administration.

"As of the first quarter of 2014," [the Inspector General] said, "the federal marketplace was unable to resolve about 2.6 million of 2.9 million inconsistencies"—

—because the Web site that President Obama has said would be easier to use than Amazon, cheaper than your cell phone was not fully operational. What kind of government incompetence are we talking about?

The Associated Press on July 1: "Health law sign-ups dogged by data flaws." Unable to resolve 2.6 million so-called inconsistencies—it is astonishing. And they call it "another health care headache for the White House." The problems continue out of sight. The President is trying to hide these problems—trying to hide them from the American people. The President says one thing, tries to sell a story. The President now has his own war room set up—not to solve the problems. Oh, no. He is not trying to solve the problems. He has a war room to try to spin the information so the voters don't get to see what they are not being deceived by. They can see through this. You have a war room with six people trying to spin the health care numbers rather than trying to solve the problems, trying to lower the cost of care, trying to help patients get care—not empty coverage and expensive coverage. There are so many problems in the world, and what the White House has decided to spend its time and money on is set up a war room to try to spin the issues of the Obama health care law, not to solve the problems.

Go around the country, State by State. California: ObamaCare massive backlog stalls medical expansion. Connecticut: Anthem seeks 12.5 percent rate increase. Back to California: Confusion over doctor list is costly for ObamaCare enrollees in the State.

You can work your way around the country, and State by State, whether you do it from east to west, north to south, do it in alphabetical order, in every State there are horror stories about the impact of this health care law.

Connecticut again: ObamaCare glitch leading to canceled policies. Constituents calling to talk to their State representatives say their insurance policies have been canceled because the subsidies that helped discount the premiums hadn't been paid—hadn't been paid. According to people involved with the insurance companies, the issue of mistaken policy cancellation "is real." So the insurance companies are saying it is absolutely true, it is absolutely real.

I see other colleagues on the floor.

I would say that in Colorado, a State that I go through every weekend at least twice going to Wyoming and coming back to DC from Wyoming, people in Colorado are very concerned. "Colorado health exchange site needs surgery." This is NBC 9 News, Colorado. A reporter said:

I'm not going to sugar-coat this: The official state website where Coloradans can shop for health insurance is a mess. Sure [the web site] looks pretty slick at first glance. It lets you window shop for plans and offers some (but not all) good info about the health care law. But when you actually create an account and start shopping, the site offers an experience that is clunky, counter-intuitive, and often confusing.

That sounds to me like the Obama administration—clunky, counterintuitive, and often confusing.

That's the web product being offered to Coloradans after receiving more than \$179 million in federal grants to develop the state exchange.

This reporter says:

If you are looking for a passionate argument of the pros and cons of [ObamaCare], as a reporter I avoid making public policy arguments.

However, if this is the official system the people of Colorado are getting to shop for individual coverage, it should be a good one. Nine months after it began selling health plans, this website is not a good one. It should be upsetting to everyone in the state of Colorado, especially supporters of the healthcare law.

I would apply that to anyone from Colorado who is on this Senate floor or in the House of Representatives who voted for the health care law.

He said:

It should be upsetting to everyone in the state, especially supporters of the healthcare law. My family obtained a health plan despite the website.

By way of background, I am not remotely anti-technology. I grew up in Silicon Valley. I built my own computers as a kid. I once had a job working in tech support for [a dot-com company], a sophisticated e-commerce platform . . . My goal in this review is to shine a light on some really basic (and deeply frustrating) problems that any commercial dot-com would be pulling all-nighters to fix.

Well, that shows you the difference between a commercial dot-com and the government of the United States.

It says:

For some reason, these issues have been allowed to hang around for the better part of a year by the Connect for Health Colorado.

And then today, the Denver Post: "Colorado exchange expects more to drop health coverage"—giving up, not paying their premiums, not renewing their coverage. They are expecting double what was initially anticipated of the number of people who aren't paying their premiums. They realize this empty coverage they are paying a lot of money for isn't actually good for them. They are paying too much in premiums. Their deductibles are high, their copays are high.

I can go on and on. The people of America know what they wanted with health care reform. They wanted to be able to get care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. That is not what they got from President Obama's health care law that the Democrats in this body voted for. What they got are higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, maybe cannot keep their doctor, cannot keep their hospital—not what the President promised, not what people wanted, and it is time to go back and start over to work on a health care system that gives the American people what they truly want, truly need, and deserve.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friends who have been here talking about this. Both Senator THUNE and Senator BARRASSO spent so much time on figuring out ways this could work better and obviously it is not working as well as people hoped it would.

There is a series of headlines I saw on my desk today. CNN Money said: "Were ObamaCare applications accurate? Who knows?"

Reuters says, "Obama care exchange is not properly verifying applicant data."

The New York Post: "Obamacare data errors could jeopardize coverage for millions."

The Washington Times: "ObamaCare markets foul up eligibility and verification parts in applications."

The New York Times: "Eligibility for health insurance was not properly checked audit finds."

Wall Street Journal: "Reports Fault Controls of Health Exchanges."

This is simply not working. It wasn't as though there was a lot of time to make it work either. It was from early in 2010 until the law was implemented in the end of 2013, and there is one problem after another, which is a good indication of what happens when the government tries to do more than the government is capable of doing, when the government tries to prescribe all kinds of decisions that would be so much better left to individuals as long as the government has done what it could to ensure a more aggressive, active, competitive marketplace. But that is not what happened here.

The Associated Press this weekend had a headline that read: "Senate Democrats try to pull focus from ObamaCare." Of course they would, because every Democrat who is in the Senate when this bill passed voted for the bill.

You know, if there is one long-term political lesson to learn here, surely it is that when you do something this big, you should do it in a way that no matter what you have to do you find a way to get people on both sides involved. Don't do this in a way that shoves it down the throats of the country or your colleagues.

More bad news, more broken promises, higher premiums. The anticipation this fall is that premiums, notices of which are going to go out later this year, are going to go up. They are going to go up in double digits. The promise in 2009 was not only that families would pay less money but they would pay \$2,500 less money. Somehow the people who were for this bill in the administration knew so much about health care and so much about the impact of what government having more control of people's health care would do, told us not only that the premiums were going to go down, but that they

were going to go down \$2,500 per family. Now most families are finding that there is a \$2,500 number, but it is the number that you would feel lucky to have if your insurance for your family just went up that much.

July 1, Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General released a report that was the subject of all those headlines I just read. The report said they didn't do enough to verify, haven't checked this closely enough, don't know if people are eligible for the government assistance they are getting for their insurance. It said the administration was unable to put safeguards in place to protect taxpayers and prevent incorrect subsidy payments from happening.

The report also found the administration didn't even follow its own eligibility verification in many instances. They didn't go through the procedures they had set up for themselves. In fact, of the 2.9 million verification inconsistencies, they were unable to resolve 2.6 million of them. They wind up with 2.9 million problems when they find out their verification inconsistencies, and 2.6 million of the 2.9 million—hey, we cannot figure this out. We didn't get enough information. We don't know why the system is not working, but it is not.

In January 2014, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Sebelius, certified to Congress that the ObamaCare exchanges could verify that individuals receiving tax credits and cost-sharing assistance were actually eligible to receive taxpayer-provided assistance. Now apparently by July of 2014, 6 months later, the people who check to see if that was true or not find out it is not true at all.

Middle-class Americans have enough pain with this law already without finding out their tax dollars are going to pay bills of people who don't qualify to have that much of their bill paid or maybe not even any of their bill paid. Recently I spoke on the floor about a contract in Missouri and three other States with a British company, Serco, about the lack of transparency and accountability in the act. As the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently reported: "Whistleblower allegations last month claimed that workers slept, read or played games at Wentzville"—this is the Wentzville facility—"played games at Wentzville and provoked a flurry of questions from congressional delegation[s]."

Further quoting, "We played Pictionary. We played 20 Questions. We played Trivial Pursuit," one employee told the Post-Dispatch. She estimated she processed six applications the entire month of December.

CMS didn't acknowledge these allegations but they said they had "adjusted Serco's work to accommodate changing operational needs."

Two months ago Senator ALEXANDER and I called these reports into question

and we sent a letter to CMS and said: What are you doing there and why is this not working? I don't know if we said it in the letter but we could have said: Why did you contract with a British company that was already in trouble with the British Government for not providing these services?

These are not particularly technical services. If there is only one country in the world that can provide services to the United States, we found the one place in the world where we found a company that was already in trouble with their own government for not providing services and said you're the company for us. We want you to be the ones that provide these services for people who cannot apply over the Internet and send in their applications in some other way.

So to Senator ALEXANDER I say: What about these charges that people simply don't have anything to do and rather than admit that they have nothing to do, you see library books stacked up on the table. Here is the Trivial Pursuit game. Touch your computer every once in a while. Refresh your computer once every 10 minutes so it looks as though you are doing something.

Two weeks ago we finally received a reply after 2 months of having this question out there, and I think I put that reply in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It was so much of a non-answer answer. It was more like: We got your letter. We are going to look into this and see if we can figure out what's happening.

I don't think it would be that hard to figure out.

I recently learned that CMS determined that Serco had met the terms and conditions of the contract which apparently involved, if you believe these employees, playing board games and reading library books, and CMS decided this British company does such a great job they were going to exercise the first option of the contract and on June 28 they awarded an extended contract to the company through what they said was "a full and open competition" to provide these services.

The lesson here is that the government needs to think long and hard before it gets into the world of making decisions for people that people can better make for themselves. The government doesn't need to think long and hard to believe there is a government responsibility to ensure a certain amount of consumer protection, that what companies say they are going to do they are required to do, that they clearly tell you what they are going to do. Families can decide what they want in their insurance policy better than the government can decide what they want in their insurance policy.

I am sure every Member in the Senate gets stacks of letters—I know I get them—from those who are retired and

don't understand why they need pediatric dental care and policies that cover a half dozen things they could never possibly use. They don't understand why those policies are now so expensive that they can no longer afford to have the policy they had. They don't understand the reason for cutting Medicare and starting a new government program. It doesn't make sense to them. It doesn't make sense to cut funding to a program—a program which is clearly facing challenges as our society gets older—by \$600 or \$700 billion over 10 years in order to start a new program where the costs will be so much more than anybody anticipated.

I am pleased to join my friends today who have been here for the better part of this last hour talking about the challenges we face. We know there are better solutions. More competition and buying health care insurance across State lines would have been a couple of solutions. Associated health plans where a small business or an individual can find some group to become part of—the government could have made that easier instead of making it illegal and impossible.

There should be more transparency by providers. I would like to know what hospitals and doctors charge and what their results are. And they know. There is no reason that cannot be made available. In fact, one of the better provisions in the Affordable Care Act said the government is supposed to do that, but of all the things the government could have done, that is something the government has not found time to do.

They could address medical liability reform. There was a double handful and maybe even just a single handful of things we could have done to say: Let's try these things and see if they don't make the system work better and see what lesson we learn by injecting these two or three or four or five things into a health care system that was the best health care system in the world; it just didn't have the amount of competition, transparency, and access it needed to have.

I will continue to hope we will move forward, learn the hard-learned lessons of the implementation of this plan, and go back and find what was working so well and figure out what we need to do to make that work even better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday I came to the floor and spoke about President Obama's reluctance to see firsthand the ongoing and growing humanitarian crisis occurring on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Today I come to the floor to renew my call—as other elected officials from both sides of the aisle have done—urging President Obama to please come to the border, where this humanitarian

crisis is unfolding. It has been reported that the President will be in Texas for 2 days starting tomorrow. He will be there Wednesday and Thursday on a fundraising trip.

I am not suggesting a handshake on the tarmac or a roundtable 500 miles away from the border, but please come and see it with your own eyes, as I have. Talk to the Border Patrol. Learn from not only the migrants who have traversed Mexico at the risk of their own lives to come to the United States, but find out what we need to do to deal with the ongoing crisis and what we need to do to solve it.

I urge him to do so not as a political statement but so he can witness what is a very sad and in many ways tragic situation and one that could have been mitigated if not prevented. Unfortunately, this is a humanitarian crisis that his policies and the perception about his commitment to enforce our laws have helped create.

Given the recent White House announcement that the President refuses to visit the Rio Grande Valley this week, it unfortunately appears that my request today will fall on deaf ears and therefore suggests to the American people that either the President doesn't really understand this border crisis or he simply doesn't care.

To give the President a fair shake, I was with the President after the tragic shootings at Fort Hood in 2009 and last year. I was with the President at the memorial service in West, where first responders were tragically killed as a result of an explosion. Why he is so stubborn and hardheaded that he refuses to visit the Rio Grande Valley and witness this ongoing humanitarian crisis with his own eyes is really mystifying.

Governor Perry has been doing what I have been doing and urging the President to visit the border. He happened to share with the media—Governor Perry, that is—last night a White House letter inviting him to an immigration roundtable in Dallas. This crisis is unfolding on the border and not in Dallas. I brought a map of Texas with me so the President can see this for himself. This is Dallas. This is where the crisis is unfolding in the Rio Grande Valley, which is about 500 miles away.

Thankfully, the President doesn't have to fly commercial; he flies on Air Force One. My guess is that it would probably take him an hour out of his scheduled activities in Texas to go to the border and maybe another hour on the ground to talk to the Border Patrol, as I did last week. If he did that, he would see these children jammed in detention facilities at the Border Patrol detention stations. It would give him an opportunity to talk to some of them, as I did in my visit last week. I think it would be helpful to the President.

I think one of the biggest problems Presidents have is they end up living in a bubble. They only get access to information that is filtered through their advisers and counselors, and sometimes Presidents simply don't understand; they are tone deaf to the problems which confront the country. That is why it would be in the best interests of my constituents in Texas, it would be in the best interests of these children who are part of this humanitarian crisis, and it would be a contribution toward a solution to this crisis if the President would simply travel 500 miles from Dallas, TX, where he invited Governor Perry to a roundtable, down to the Rio Grande Valley.

As I said, the President's trip to Texas will focus on fundraising, and I understand that. But the problem is his policies have had a disproportionate impact upon my constituents who live along the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact, it is my recollection that the President of the United States has not once visited the Rio Grande Valley, where a majority of this ongoing crisis is taking place.

He did come to El Paso back in 2011. When people suggested we had a problem with security at the border, he ridiculed them by saying: Well, maybe we ought to build a moat along the border. That is actually insulting coming from a person who has never actually been to the border, particularly the Rio Grande Valley, where a majority of these children are crossing.

Indeed, over time what has happened is much of the illegal immigration that comes across the border has migrated from Nogales, AZ, to the Rio Grande Valley. You can't see it on this map, but if you understand the geography here, most of these children are coming from Central America. The shortest distance from Guatemala and Honduras to the United States is through the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

The President should also visit Brooks County, which is a place I have visited. This is where the Falfurrias checkpoint is located. They have found many dead bodies of immigrants who died from exposure while trying to circumvent the checkpoint at Falfurrias. What happens is coyotes, as they call them—human smugglers—will bring them across the border, put them in stash houses on the border, and many of those conditions are inhumane in and of themselves. What will then happen is that the coyotes—smugglers—will bring them in trucks up the highway, and before they hit the checkpoint in Falfurrias, they will tell them to get out of the truck, give them a milk jug full of water, and tell them they will see them on the north side of the checkpoint.

So dozens, if not hundreds, if not thousands of immigrants over time try to walk—some in the 100-plus-degree Texas weather—around this check-

point, and some simply don't make it. If you understand where they have come from—some from Central America—many are terribly dehydrated, already ill from exposure, and for many of them their last steps are in Brooks County while trying to walk around this checkpoint in Falfurrias.

I think the President would benefit from doing what I have done. He should visit the residents in Brooks County, talk to the Border Patrol, and learn more about the problem and how we might effect a solution. If he refuses to go out of stubborn pride or whatever the reason is, then he will simply be ignorant of the best ways we can work together to solve this underlying problem.

In recent weeks I have shared only a few of the many horrific stories regarding the dangerous journey countless numbers of children take to get to the United States from Central America. They call the train that many of them ride in the corridors controlled by the cartels who treat human beings as a commodity—like drugs and guns. They treat human beings as a commodity that makes money for them. These immigrants go through the corridors on a train system they call The Beast.

There is a chilling book written by Salvadoran journalist Oscar Martinez about The Beast. In it, you find out that 6 out of 10—maybe more—women who come up along this train system known as The Beast are sexually assaulted. Migrants are routinely kidnapped and held for ransom by the gangs and cartels that patrol this area, and many of them simply don't make it.

I shudder to think of how many of the young children—some as young as 5 have been detained at the border region—never make it to the border because they die in the process. That is not humanitarian. That is not friendly. That is cruel. We ought to be telling the truth about this horrific journey and discouraging parents from sending their children from Central America up through Mexico on the back of The Beast only to die in the process or to be assaulted, kidnapped, or horribly injured and maimed.

Well, this is one of the many reasons why I think the President would benefit from a visit. It is hard to ignore the facts, especially when you see them with your own eyes and you get a chance to talk to our hard-working professional Border Patrol, doing an incredible job with limited resources.

When you have 52,000 children coming across the southwestern border at the Rio Grande sector since October and 39,000 women with minor children detained in the Rio Grande sector, unless you go and talk to the Border Patrol and learn about this with your own ears and eyes, you may not realize that drug interdictions are depressed because our Border Patrol is basically

trying to change diapers and deal with the humanitarian crisis. They are overwhelmed and are unable to do one of their principal jobs, which is to interdict illegal drug importations into the United States.

So I hope the President will reconsider. He is not going to Texas until tomorrow. My understanding is he will be there for 2 days, and certainly he has an hour or 2 hours out of his schedule that he could dedicate to seeing the crisis for himself and learning more about it, and then coming back and working with us to try to stop it.

Of course, we all feel nothing but sympathy for the children and families who sacrifice their lives trying to make it to the United States but fail because of the impression that our immigration laws simply will not be enforced. Many of my colleagues have come to the floor and said, If we would pass the comprehensive immigration bill the Senate passed last year, that would do it. Well, I would say, with all respect, that is demonstrably false, because even the President and Secretary Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security have conceded that none of these children would be eligible, under the President's deferred action Executive order—none of them would be eligible for entry and to stay in the United States. So passing that law would have nothing to do with this current crisis.

Between President Obama's failure to enforce our immigration laws and his ever-shifting explanations, it is no wonder he has lost credibility on this issue. Many Americans simply don't have confidence that the President is willing to faithfully execute the laws of the United States, including our immigration laws. No wonder Speaker BOEHNER and so many of our House colleagues have gotten so frustrated they have decided maybe the only alternative is to take the President to court. We know the President has had a pretty bad couple of weeks when it comes to overreach, and he has been rebuked several times recently for unconstitutional acts such as trying to determine when the Senate is in recess and evade the confirmation process in the Senate.

If the President wants to know why we haven't been able to pass immigration reform, all he has to do is look in the mirror. All he has to do is look at his own policies which have created an enormous amount of distrust between not only Congress and the executive branch but in his agencies so that they will actually do what they are supposed to do, such as the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement—ICE—and the other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Given all the differing narratives coming out of the White House concerning this surge of unaccompanied

minors, it is time for the President to directly address the problem.

I know the President has sent over today a \$3.7 billion request for more money. I have no doubt that some pieces of it are justified. For example, we need enhanced detention facilities. We need more immigration judges and other people as part of that process so hearings can be conducted on a timely basis and a legal determination made according to existing law whether people can stay or whether they have to be returned to their country of origin.

Visiting the border is just one in a series of steps the President could take to regain some of his own credibility but also to help address this crisis.

This is not just a humanitarian crisis; this is also a national security crisis, as recently testified to by the head of Southern Command, General Kelly, a Marine general who is head of that combatant command. He is in charge of that area of the globe from Mexico south known as Southern Command, and he says because of inadequate resources and equipment and manpower to deal with the drug cartels moving illegal drugs from South America up through Central America through Mexico to the United States, 75 percent of the time, General Kelly said, they simply have to sit and watch because they don't have the resources. I would hope that some of the money included in this \$3.7 billion request would be dedicated to making sure that General Kelly and our law enforcement agencies have the resources and equipment necessary to stop the drug cartels from moving drugs from South America through Central America and up through Mexico.

As General Kelly said, we have this intersection of criminal conduct and terrorism that sometimes takes place with organizations such as Hezbollah, for example, that has established a presence in South America, historically, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out this vulnerability can be exploited by other people and not just the drug cartels.

The question remains, if one has enough money, can one make it into the United States? Unfortunately, I think we have to answer that question in the affirmative. Last year alone, 414,000 people were detained on our southwestern border from 100 different countries—100 different countries. So this isn't just about people who have no hope and no opportunity trying to come to the United States from Mexico and trying to get a job; this is about uncontrolled immigration through our southwestern border from all over the world. Admittedly, most of them come from Mexico and Central America, but this is a vulnerability where people can come from Pakistan, they can come from Afghanistan, they can even come from Iran—countries of special interest, countries that are state sponsors of

international terrorism. So this is worthy of the President's attention and worthy of a Presidential visit, and I hope he will change his mind and do that.

I think President Obama needs a wakeup call. He needs to realize that the situation along the border is not as rosy as perhaps he is under the impression it is. Only by visiting the border and visiting firsthand and seeing with his own eyes and listening with his own ears to the professionals who are working there so hard and are simply overwhelmed will he be able to get a good idea of not only what the problem is but what the solutions are. Then and only then, I believe, will he be ready and will we be ready to sit down and work together through this request the President has sent us and figure out how we can solve the problem.

Once again, I hope the President will reconsider his decision, since he is going to be in Texas anyway on Wednesday and Thursday, and go to the border, just 500 miles away. On Air Force One it is easy to get there. It won't take much time. He could spend an hour on the ground, and then I think he will come away glad he has taken advantage and accepted this invitation by Governor Perry and me and other Texans to come see the problem for himself.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VA HEALTH CARE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I believe when it comes to caring for our Nation's heroes, we can't accept anything less than excellence.

As have many of my colleagues, I have been very troubled by the most recent allegations of the VA failing to provide veterans timely health care. The VA generally offers very high-quality health care and does many things as well or better than the private sector. But when you are caring for our Nation's heroes and you have the backing of the full resources of the Federal Government, "just as good" is not enough. We expect more. So I am very frustrated to be here again talking about these deeply disturbing issues and the Department's repeated failures to change.

GAO and the inspector general have reported on these problems many times over the years. Last Congress we did a great deal of work around wait times, particularly for mental health care. I think the VA is starting to see that business as usual is not acceptable.

The administration has taken steps to begin addressing some of the major systemwide problems, but much more needs to be done. Tomorrow, when I

meet with the President's nominee for the VA Secretary, I am going to ask him how he plans to make these changes. That is why I am very glad to be serving on the veterans conference committee, because Congress needs to act as well.

The most important thing we can do right now is to pass responsible and effective legislation to bring much-needed reforms to the VA, and we need to do it soon.

There have been major bipartisan efforts in both the House and in the Senate to move legislation addressing these problems. Many Members have been part of those efforts, and I commend them all for their commitment to bipartisanship and for putting the needs of our veterans first. It is vital that we continue to build on this bipartisan momentum and to continue making progress if we are going to address some of the immediate accountability and transparency concerns that are plaguing the VA and to fix its deep-seated structural and cultural challenges.

I know Members have a wide range of concerns with the bill, and I believe we can address those concerns responsibly and in a way that puts our veterans first and gives the VA the tools it needs to address the challenges it faces. That means building and strengthening the VA system so it delivers the best care for the long term. But it is important for us to act quickly to start making these changes. We cannot allow this process to break down. Veterans are still waiting to get the care they need.

Many of us were rightly outraged the VA did not act to help veterans because the Department ignored all the information and did nothing. This Congress must not do the same and fail veterans by not acting.

I urge all of our colleagues to work as hard and as quickly as possible to finalize an agreement and get it to the President. More problems will be uncovered and the investigations will proceed, and we will need more action from the VA, the administration, and Congress, because our Nation made a promise to the men and women who answer the call of duty, and one of the most important ways we uphold that is by making sure our veterans can get access to the health care they need and they deserve, no matter what it takes.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

I also wish to speak about another important issue Congress needs to act on, and that is the looming crisis with the highway trust fund.

As is the case with other States around the country, my home State of Washington relies on the highway trust fund to pay for construction projects. These are projects that ease traffic on our highways, repair bridges, and make safety improvements. This year, for example, officials in Washington State

plan to use money from the highway trust fund to improve safety at railroad crossings in Centralia. They plan to replace anchor cables on bridges in Seattle, and they plan to repave roads across the State to fix potholes and to make roads smoother for our drivers. But here in DC, the Department of Transportation and many of us in Congress have been warning for months that the highway trust fund needs more revenue to pay for these critical projects in my home State and across the country. Without that revenue, the trust fund is going to reach critically low levels next month.

This is coming now just a few months after Republicans pushed us into a government shutdown. If Congress fails to act soon, families and businesses and States would see another shutdown, this time with highway projects around the country.

I had hoped we would be able to get this done by now. The last thing, I can tell my colleagues, the American people want to see right now is another countdown clock on the evening news. But we still have a chance to get this done before it is too late. Instead of lurching to yet another crisis and putting our construction projects at risk, let's work together and do the right thing for our families and our workers and the economy.

The clock is ticking for Congress to find the much-needed revenue. Starting August 1, the Department of Transportation said it will start delaying payments to our States for projects that ease traffic on clogged highways and make important repairs to our bridges. On average, States will lose 28 percent of their Federal funding. Without that money, many States are going to have to delay or stop work on their construction sites. Officials in my home State have said up to 43 highway projects could be threatened, and across the country more than 1,000 construction projects could be at risk, according to the Department of Transportation.

If there is one thing Democrats and Republicans should be able to agree on, and usually do, is that we should be investing in and improving our transportation infrastructure, not letting it crumble. A construction shutdown would threaten jobs and businesses. If States have to scale back their plans, companies are going to hire fewer workers to repair and improve roads and bridges across the country. Without a fix, nearly 700,000 jobs will be at risk next year, according to the Department of Transportation. And let's remember, the construction industry was one of the hardest hit sectors after the economic downturn and has not yet fully bounced back. In fact, weakness in the U.S. labor market is actually due to the lack of growth in the construction sector, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Allow-

ing our highway trust fund to dip to critically low levels would deliver another blow to the construction sector as it is struggling to recover.

Last fall, families and communities across our country were forced to endure a completely unnecessary government shutdown. That shutdown, we all know, hurt our people and threatened a very fragile economic recovery and shook the confidence of the American people who expect their elected officials to come together and avoid such an unnecessary crisis. I was proud to work with Democrats and Republicans at the end of last year to pass a bipartisan budget deal that prevented another government shutdown. It restored critical investments in families and the economy and it put a halt to the constant budget crises.

I was proud to build on that bipartisan momentum and work with my friend Senator ISAKSON and others on a workforce investment deal that passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support. We hope, by the way, that will pass the House tomorrow and get signed into law.

We know bipartisanship work is possible. We know the country is better for it when it happens. We know it is what families we represent expect from all of us. So today I am calling on Republicans to work with us in good faith to do the right thing and help us avoid this construction shutdown. I know Republican leaders once again are worried about their tea party fringe pushing them into another unnecessary crisis, but I hope they are able to push them aside and work with us to get this done. Republicans saw how devastating it was for them—and their constituents—when they hurt the country with the government shutdown. I am hopeful that gives them any additional incentive they may need to work with us this time.

State and local governments, workers, businesses, and drivers are looking to us to resolve this crisis and avoid another shutdown. States cannot afford important highway construction projects without this important highway trust fund. Families cannot afford to have a few Members of Congress putting jobs at risk again. With the clock winding down fast, we cannot afford to put this off any longer. So let's resolve this looming crisis. Let's work together and prevent a construction shutdown this summer for our economy, for our businesses, and for our families across the country.

Thank you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about the challenge we have to make sure every child in America who is eligible for one of the programs that help children have enough to eat and have nutritious food is getting served. The problem across the country is we have a number of children who are receiving meals during the school year, either school breakfast as part of the School Breakfast Program, or the School Lunch Program. So at some point in time they are getting a meal at school, and maybe more than one meal. Then they go home for the summer, and even though they are eligible for the summer programs, which tend to be in different locations, may not be at one school or one central location, a lot of children do not get the benefit of those programs. The program name is the Summer Food Service Program. Many Americans may have heard of the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, probably have heard less about the Summer Food Service Program.

We know that even though children are taking a summer vacation from school, hunger does not take a summer vacation. Hunger is always a clear and present danger, a reality for children, especially children in low-income communities from low-income families. This is a reality for so many children, millions of them across the country and their families. But it is also preventable. It is a tragedy when a child does not have enough to eat. But this is preventable if we do the right thing.

We know that during the school year, when you add up all of the children who receive a meal at school, it amounts to about 21 million. That is the good news, that that many children are being served. The bad news is when they go home for their summer vacation, by one count, the last count we have, only 3 million children are getting a summer meal, even though as high as 21 million are eligible—or 21 million receive that kind of help during the school year.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, the dropoff, the last number we have, is during the course of the year, just about 777,000 children received a meal, about three-quarters of a million children. The problem, though, is the summer number goes way down to, at last count, 105,000, just a little more than 105,000, so there is a little more than a 7-to-1 difference between the school year and the summer program.

One of the things we have to do is to get the word out. That is why I brought

along this poster that highlights this. To find a site in your State, in your community—there are many sites, tens of thousands of them across the country—you may need to inquire about it. You may need to make a phone call to find out about the sites—1-866-3-HUNGRY, and then a different one, 1-877-8-HAMBRE.

We want to make sure that in addition to knowing the 800 numbers, you have a Web site. It is pasummermeals.com. That, of course, applies to Pennsylvania, pasummermeals.com. So if you live in Pennsylvania, that is your Web site.

These numbers are national numbers, the 1-866-3-HUNGRY, and then 1-877-8-HAMBRE. That is one way to find out, for families to find out, for advocates, anyone who is concerned about this or wants to know more about what their community has available for them, because, as I said before, it is different than the circumstances during the year. During the year, children go to a school and that school has a School Breakfast Program and/or a School Lunch Program. In the summer, you have the same services available, the same opportunities, same eligibility for children, but the sites are—there are more sites. And sometimes, when people do not know, when they cannot be served by a school, they may have to go to another place in their community.

This is a major issue. Because we know that all the science tells us if we want children to learn more now and earn more later, that is what we all hope is not just the right thing to do, but if you have enough to eat you probably learn better. Obviously if you can learn more, you are going to earn more, literally, in your lifetime. This is not just a rhyme, it has a scientific foundation.

We want to make sure that in addition to having the best possible educational programs for children to learn, we want to also create the best circumstances for them to learn. I do not know about people here, but in the course of my day, if I do not eat breakfast and then it gets to noontime or 1:00 and I have not had something to eat, it is pretty hard for me to be as functional and as effective as I want to be. I can only imagine what it is like for a child who does not have enough to eat, not just on one particular day of the week but maybe more than one day or a couple of days in a row. I do not know how they can function, let alone learn and study, take tests and achieve and be successful over time. They need the same kind of help in the summer as they have during the year.

So if we are making it possible, if our government and communities around the country are making it possible for a child to have a school breakfast and/or a school lunch, why would we not make sure they have meals during the

summer as well, especially when there is a program in place they are eligible for?

We have to call attention to it. I know this is a challenge in all of our States. We want to make sure we are highlighting, getting information out so our children can have opportunities not only to have enough to eat but to eat meals that are nutritious.

I was at a site in Philadelphia yesterday, the Gesu School, which is in north Philadelphia. I taught there as a volunteer 31 years ago. I actually not only handed out the lunches to the children at that site, but I was able to see what was in them. They were good meals, but they were also very nutritious, something that can help a child grow and learn and move into the future. We are grateful we have these programs. But if we do not tell people enough about them, we are going to continue to have that terrible dropoff from the number of children served during the year—again, as I said, 21 million children, dropping off to only 3 million children served in the summer. There is no reason why we should allow that to happen. There is no reason why we should say that is anything other than unacceptable.

I am grateful to have this opportunity and grateful for the support this program has across the country. We need to get the word out. We need to get these 800 numbers out as much as we can.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 or 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Earlier this year I learned about a case of research misconduct that happened at Iowa State University. A team of scientists was working on a vaccine to fight HIV. One of the researchers, Dr. Han, committed fraud to make it appear as though the vaccine for HIV was working. He purposely spiked the testing samples so it looked as if the vaccines actually fought HIV. Dr. Han's fraud helped his team get \$16 million in national grant money from the National Institutes of Health or around here we refer to that as the NIH. NIH is part of the Department of Health and Human Services or what we refer to as HHS.

HHS gives out billions of dollars in research grants every year. In 2013 NIH gave out over \$20 billion in research

grants. Obviously that is a huge amount of money by any standard.

The government has a responsibility to make sure this money is well spent. Unfortunately, it looks as if the government is relying on the grant recipients to do oversight instead of the government seeing that the money is well spent.

In this case officials at Iowa State University were unaware of the fraud until another team of scientists couldn't duplicate the results. Iowa State University took the problem very seriously and notified Health and Human Services. I compliment them for that. But if it weren't for Iowa State University's actions, I doubt the Government ever would have found out about this tremendous amount of fraud.

The Office of Research Integrity at Health and Human Services was created for the specific purpose to prevent and investigate research misconduct. The Office of Research Integrity investigated the allegations of misconduct at Iowa State University and in fact confirmed that Dr. Han knowingly committed fraud. Dr. Han even admitted to the fraud. The Office of Research Integrity imposed only a 3-year ban on Dr. Han from receiving any more Federal grant money.

That is basically a slap on the wrist from the Office of Research Integrity. It makes absolutely no sense that someone who admitted to that level of fraud could be eligible for another Federal grant in just 3 years.

I asked the Office of Research Integrity why the penalty for Dr. Han was so light and if it would try to recover any of the \$19 million in research grants. The taxpayers subsidized what was supposed to be promising HIV research, but it was based on Dr. Han's fraud. His phony results were the basis for those grant applications. The Office of Research Integrity says it considers a 3-year ban a very strict penalty. To Iowans, that doesn't sound like a very commonsense penalty.

In fact, the Office of Research Integrity says that 3 years is the maximum penalty it can give unless there are aggravating circumstances. That 3-year limit is set by the White House Office of Management and Budget. So the Office of Research Integrity claims that somehow its hands are tied. But in this case the Office of Research Integrity did not even try to demonstrate aggravating circumstances to enforce a longer debarment than 3 years against Dr. Han.

The Office of Research Integrity admitted that there is nothing to keep Dr. Han from conducting research again funded by American taxpayers after those 3 years. The Office of Research Integrity claims it does not have the authority to recover funds in case of research conduct.

Now, think about that for a minute. This Office of Research Integrity, with

the responsibility to make sure money is wisely used and research is honest, says it does not have the authority to recover funds obtained by fraud.

The Office of Research Integrity—we are talking about research integrity—says it is the responsibility of the agency that issued the research grant to recover money obtained by fraud.

So I asked the National Institutes of Health about its involvement in this case. The National Institutes of Health first said that only \$500,000 of the \$19 million in research grants would be recovered. The National Institutes of Health also claimed it was not responsible for recovering the fraudulent grant money. According to the National Institutes of Health, oversight is the responsibility of the educational institution receiving the money. NIH said:

ISU as grantee is legally responsible and accountable for the use of funds provided for the performance of grant-supported project or activity.

It looks as if each office I asked just simply passes the buck along to somebody else. But a pass-the-buck attitude doesn't work when it comes to government oversight.

I also asked Health and Human Services about the case. Health and Human Services said that:

Grant recipients have the primary obligation to conduct investigations of their own researchers.

Universities need to be responsible and accountable with Federal research grants. By taking action when it learned of the fraud, Iowa State University did that in this case. But that does not give the government an excuse not to do oversight. And if the government is relying on universities to report fraud instead of doing the oversight, there are probably other cases of fraud that are never caught.

If someone writes a taxpayer-funded check, they should be responsible for making sure the money is being well spent. The funding agency, and Health and Human Services as a whole, should do more to protect taxpayers' dollars, especially when many are calling for even more taxpayer funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The Office of Research Integrity has a clear mission to prevent and investigate cases of research misconduct.

But I am concerned not only about this case but allegations about the Office of Research Integrity made by its former director, Dr. David Wright. Dr. Wright resigned only days after I started my investigation.

In his resignation letter, Dr. Wright said that bureaucratic red tape was keeping him—Dr. Wright—from doing his job. He said up to 65 percent of his time was spent “navigating the remarkably dysfunctional HHS bureaucracy to secure resources and . . . get permission for ORI to serve the research community.”

We ought to take his allegations very seriously, and HHS should do so as well. When researchers abuse the public's trust, the Office of Research Integrity should use all the powers at its disposal to resolve the problem.

I recently learned that Dr. Han has been indicted for four felony counts of making false statements. Regardless of the outcome of this indictment, it is encouraging to see an effort to increase accountability for spending of taxpayers' money.

Also earlier this week the National Institutes of Health confirmed for the Des Moines Register that it would stop the final grant payment. That of course will save taxpayers \$1.4 million.

So it is good news that the National Institutes of Health is taking action to recover taxpayers' money in this fraud case. But this is only one case, and the National Institutes of Health's actions came after months of public attention and my investigating. I worry that more cases may go unnoticed and even unaddressed if there isn't a public outcry. We can't afford that. We can't afford to have cases like this go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Federal oversight of research funds is far too weak. The government is doing far too little to recover money lost to fraud. We can't afford a “fund it and forget it” attitude. Fraudsters need to be held accountable, and people handing out taxpayers' money need to know that if they are careless with that money, Uncle Sam will come knocking at the door for a refund.

Although Secretary Sebelius recently left Health and Human Services, I expect the new Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell to take this issue very seriously. Ultimately, the Secretary of HHS has the responsibility to ensure that health research grants are not abused. She needs to ensure that agencies within HHS have all the tools they need to recover money lost to fraud and to prevent it from happening in the first place. Secretary Burwell should investigate Dr. Wright's allegations about the Office of Research Integrity and fix the problems that Dr. Wright outlined before his resignation.

Oversight is an extremely important part of the government's role. Unfortunately, it is often ignored and taxpayers' dollars are abused. When researchers abuse the public's trust, Health and Human Services and its components should use all the power they have to investigate, resolve the problem, and get the money back. They owe it to the American taxpayers.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DONNELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this past Wednesday, July 2, I was extremely pleased and honored to be a part of the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to a brave soldier Kentucky is proud to call one of its own. SPC Earl Wilson of Liberty, KY, received his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds suffered while serving our country in Vietnam. I want to share the honor and majesty of this event with my colleagues and so therefore ask unanimous consent that the full text of my remarks at the ceremony to award SPC Earl Wilson his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the text of the two proclamations for the Purple Hearts, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD:

SENATOR MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART WITH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON, JULY 2, 2014

Thank you for that kind introduction. It is my great honor to be here for the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Army Specialist Earl Wilson of Liberty, Kentucky, for wounds received in action while in service to our country in Vietnam.

It's a long-overdue honor that is finally upon us, thanks to Earl's many family and friends who helped make this moment possible. This event today is a testament to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship.

Because this ceremony is a high honor and a prestigious occasion, we have several dignitaries with us who I want to recognize, including State Senator Jimmy Higdon and Casey County Judge-Executive Ronald Wright. Casey County Sheriff Jerry Coleman and the county circuit court clerk, Craig Overstreet, are with us. And I'm pleased to welcome Casey County Attorney Tom Weddle and Liberty Mayor Steve Sweeny.

It's a pleasure to have Chris Smrt of the Kentucky chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart here today to welcome Specialist Wilson into their ranks, as well as VFW Post 5704 Commander Claude Wyatt. Both organizations are strong advocates for our veterans.

I'd like to recognize Glen Phillips, a veteran who played an important role in today's ceremony.

Let me also say a special hello to my long-time friends, Betty Lou and T.M. Weddle.

It's also an honor to recognize Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington, fellow resident of Liberty and fellow member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, here today. Jesse, welcome.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the members of Earl Wilson's family who are from right here in Liberty and came to join us today, including Earl's wife, Brenda, and family members Crystal and John Davis; Melissa Wilson Durham; Addison and Ian Davis; Tanner and Blake Durham; Jimmy Couch, Cierra Couch, and Dave Brown.

The original Purple Heart was established by General George Washington himself, and as such the Purple Heart is the oldest existing military award that is still given to servicemembers.

For a period in our country's history, however, the honor fell into disuse. In 1932, to mark the bicentennial of Washington's birth, it was General Douglas MacArthur who spearheaded its revival.

We remember MacArthur for many things, not least of which are his words. To an audience at West Point Military Academy, he once said:

"'Duty, Honor, Country'—those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

As it turns out, these words have particular meaning for the life and service of Specialist Earl Wilson. In the jungles of Vietnam, he found courage where we could have not blamed him for his courage failing, he found faith where there was little cause for it, and he created hope when it might have been lost.

Earl's time of service ended nearly 40 years ago, but our admiration of it has not. Earl was drafted into the U.S. Army and inducted on November 17, 1969. After completing basic training, he was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for infantry school. Earl has said that in those days, if you went to Fort Polk, you knew you were going to Vietnam, because Fort Polk was the hottest, most miserable place there was. It was like training for the intense heat.

Sure enough, Earl was deployed to Vietnam and served there for one year, from July 1970 to July 1971. Traversing the mountains and jungles of Vietnam, in an entrenched battle with the enemy, was hazardous duty. Earl spent as long as 40 days on patrol in the sweltering jungles, without hot food, without showers, without any of the luxuries or amenities so many of us take for granted here at home.

Deployed with Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, Earl and his unit came under attack one night in January 1971. As daylight broke on the morning of January 7, Earl's unit went in pursuit of the enemy. Following a blood trail, they were in hot pursuit when they came upon a gate along their path.

One of Earl's fellow soldiers tried to open the gate. It was stuck, so he yanked on it, not knowing the gate was booby trapped. A hand grenade went off, knocking Earl and several other soldiers clean to the ground. Earl got pieces of shrapnel lodged in his leg, and had to be flown out for medical treatment.

Earl may have been down, but he was not out. After receiving care for his wound, he was back in action with the 1st Battalion, and was present on January 25 later that year on patrol in Quang Ngai.

As his unit proceeded on foot patrol, Earl was at the point. Earl circled back to the rear to check on his fellow soldier and best friend Specialist William Creech Jr. of Paris, Illinois. Earl's entire company had trekked the same path through the bushes, but as Specialist Creech entered the bushes along the same path he stepped on a hidden landmine and was killed.

Shrapnel from the landmine struck Earl in his head and arm and threw him backwards onto the ground. Earl suffered not only the loss of his best friend but also a severe hearing loss, which he still carries to this day. But Earl's injuries could have been worse. The landmine was so powerful it tore down trees that were up to five inches thick within the blast radius. Earl is lucky to be alive today.

Earl spent another six months in Vietnam before shipping out on July 8, 1971. It's ironic that as he was handed a four-inch thick stack of paperwork to process out of Vietnam, Earl accidentally dropped one of the folders—and learned from one document that he had received the Bronze Star Medal for bravery. But Earl never received the Purple Heart he earned with his blood and sacrifice—until now.

It is thanks to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship that Earl is receiving his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster today. Earl's daughter, Melissa Wilson Durham, wrote me to ask for help getting her father the medals he deserved. Thank you, Melissa, for honoring your father's service.

Earl was also helped by his friend and fellow soldier, and friend to Kentucky soldiers everywhere, retired Staff Sergeant Glen Phillips. It was Staff Sergeant Phillips who helped gather the facts in order for Earl to receive his Purple Heart today.

Glen, who is also from Liberty, has helped look out for many veterans in the area over the years. Thank you Glen, for your service and for your efforts on behalf of Earl and so many other fellow veterans.

Earl, I know you accept this award with humility and grace, and with reverence and respect for your fellow soldiers who fought alongside you in the jungles of Vietnam, including the many who did not make it home, such as Specialist William Creech.

We're grateful for your service, Earl, and we're grateful to celebrate your sacrifice. It's never too late to honor the brave.

By the way, for those who do not know, the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is to signify that Earl is actually eligible to receive two Purple Hearts, for the incident on January 7 and then also on January 25.

The presentation of this Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is just a small recognition of the wealth of respect you deserve for your service to our country and your service in protecting all of us.

And to the values of duty, honor, country that you hold in abundance, as General MacArthur prescribed—in a way that you have demonstrated to all of us that it is possible to build courage where there is none, to regain faith when it seems lost, and to create hope when hope is what's most needed.

Now, the solemn moment we're gathered here for today has arrived. Specialist Earl Wilson, Brenda, and members of the Wilson family—please join me for the reading of the proclamation and the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

Text of first Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to: Private First Class Denver E. Wilson United States Army For Wounds Received in Action On 7 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Re-creation per General Orders 510, 13 January 1971

Headquarters, 23d Infantry Division APO San Francisco 96374

John M. McHugh

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Text of second Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:

This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART

Established by General George Washington At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to: Private First Class Denver E. Wilson United States Army For Wounds Received in Action On 25 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam

Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Permanent Order 135-25, 15 May 2014

United States Army Human Resources Command

Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-5408

John M. McHugh

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

REMEMBERING PETER M. WEGE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on July 7, Michigan lost a great champion. Over his 94 years, Peter M. Wege accomplished many lifetimes worth of goals. He helped the company his father founded, Steelcase, into one of the world's leading office furniture companies, employing thousands of Michiganians and helping cement the status of Grand Rapids as the world's hub of office furniture making. And had he done no more than lead a great company and provide jobs to great workers, he would be worthy of celebration.

But as his hometown paper, the Grand Rapids Press, described him with typical West Michigan understatement, Pete Wege was "an unconventional industrialist." In a community that has benefited greatly from the public spirit of its business leaders, few have rivaled the impact of this remarkable man. Always aware of his good fortune and of the needs of his community, he poured money that could have made him one of the world's wealthiest people into the Grand Rapids

area and beyond. Libraries and schools, theaters and museums, churches and civic buildings, parks and wilderness areas all benefitted from his generosity and vision.

And he had those two qualities—generosity and vision—in abundance. He was more than a philanthropist; he was a man on a mission. That mission began when he was on another kind of mission, serving his country during World War II, when he flew as a transport pilot. Piloting an aircraft to Pittsburgh during the war, the landing field was so shrouded in smog that he couldn't land. That polluted air launched him on a lifetime of dedication to environmental causes. He created the Wege Foundation in 1967 to promote educational, cultural, environmental and scientific efforts. Two years later, he established the Center for Environmental Study. He wrote two books laying out his argument that environmental stewardship would boost the economy, rather than harming growth.

Perhaps nowhere was Pete Wege's impact more strongly felt than in his love for the Great Lakes. In 2004, he sponsored the Healing Our Waters conference in Michigan. His agenda was simple and powerful: "The lakes are our life support system, and we've got to treat them that way," he said. The conference brought together environmental leaders from across the country, and led to publication of a report on the need for a plan to restore the Great Lakes. That powerful call helped lead to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has devoted millions of dollars to habitat restoration and environmental cleanup on the lakes. The Healing our Waters Coalition continues today to advocate for restoration and preservation of the lakes Pete Wege cared about so deeply.

Peter Wege dedicated his life to preserving this world's natural beauty, and to promoting the beauty that humankind creates. His legacy will live in the cleaner waters of the Great Lakes he loved, and in the artistic and scientific endeavors he helped to promote. He represents the best part of Michigan, the best part of America, that part that celebrates what makes our world and its people so irreplaceable. I will miss him and Michigan will miss him.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I too wish to pay tribute to a great industrialist who became an even greater philanthropist, a passionate protector of our Great Lakes, and a dear friend, Peter Wege, who passed away yesterday at the age of 94.

A man of profound faith, with a deep love for his country, Peter was born in Grand Rapids, MI. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Peter left the University of Michigan to serve his country as a multi-engine pilot for the Army Air Force.

When he returned from World War II, he became a salesman for an office furniture company founded by his father. He wasn't given any breaks—he was forced to rise through the company by virtue of his own hard work, not his name.

He eventually became vice chairman of that company, whose name was changed to Steelcase, Inc., in 1954. The company became the world's largest manufacturer of office furniture, and Peter was eager to use the wealth he had earned to make a difference in the many causes that mattered to him.

Through the Wege Foundation, Peter made generous donations to the arts, to education, to health care, and to other human services.

His greatest passion, however, was the environment and our beautiful Great Lakes.

When he gave money to be used for the construction of a building, Peter never asked to see his name in gold. He only wanted the building to be green: He insisted on sustainable, LEED-certified design.

I can remember how proud Peter was to give me a book he had written. The title "Economicology," was a word he coined to describe his belief that you could make profits without making pollution.

As an outgrowth of his love for Michigan, Peter was a champion for the Great Lakes: His sponsorship of the "Healing Our Waters" conference brought conservationists and environmentalists from around the world. This helped provide the vision for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has provided over \$1 billion in funding for nearly 3,000 projects around the Great Lakes since 2010.

Throughout his life, Peter strived to make the world a better place for future generations. In that respect—as in every other endeavor he devoted himself to—Peter was an unqualified success.

He will be deeply missed, but Peter's generous spirit will live on.

Peter will be remembered every time a child plays in the sand on one of our beautiful Michigan beaches.

Peter will be remembered every time a family gathers around a dinner table to enjoy fish caught in one of our beautiful Great Lakes or the many fresh, clean rivers and streams across the region.

Peter will be remembered with every refreshing glass of clean water that comes from the tap and every invigorating breath of fresh air.

He will never be forgotten.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SPECIALIST RYAN J. GRADY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Ryan J. Grady. Ryan died July 1, 2010

in Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom due to injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Ryan was born May 30, 1985 in Marion, KS and later moved to Bristow, OK. After graduating from Thunderbird Military Academy in 2003, he joined the Army as a combat engineer. He was awarded a Purple Heart from shrapnel wounds he received when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during his first deployment to Iraq in 2005–2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After returning home in 2006, he joined the Vermont National Guard. In 2008 he transferred to the Oklahoma National Guard and then returned to the Vermont National Guard in 2009 because he heard the unit was deploying to Afghanistan.

Ryan grew up in a military family, with his father and brothers serving in the Army as well. On the day of the incident, Ryan shared a meal with his brother, Kevin Grady, who was also deployed to Afghanistan with the Vermont National Guard.

Jim Grady, Jr. said Ryan's size 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds sometimes intimidated people, but said anyone who met him quickly could tell he had a warm heart. As a soldier, he would sign off on notes with the words "saving the world one mission at a time," his brother said.

At the grand opening of the Grady Dining Facility on Bagram Airfield's Camp Warrior, acting director of the Army National Guard, MG Raymond Carpenter, said "Specialist Ryan Grady represents to us what the modern National Guard is. He joined the guard because he wanted to serve his country."

Ryan was posthumously promoted from private first class to specialist and was laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in St. Johnsbury, VT.

Ryan is survived by his wife Heaven, of Bristow, OK, his daughter Alexis, his father SFC James A. Grady of West Burke, VT, his mother Debbie Hudacek of Bristow, OK, stepfather Tom Hudacek of Bristow, OK, and his brothers: Kevin Grady of St. Johnsbury, VT and James Grady of Muskogee, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Ryan J. Grady, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT CHARLES S. JIRTLE

Madam President, today I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle. Along with four other soldiers, Scott died June 7, 2010 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Dangan district of Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Scott was born September 13, 1980 in Lawton, OK and graduated from MacArthur High School. After graduating,

he served in the Navy Reserves in Oklahoma City.

The son of an Active Duty Army master sergeant, he enlisted in the Army in 2007. After completing basic training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY as an indirect fire infantryman.

Scott, who served a tour in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, knew the impact the deployments had on his family. His final posting on Facebook read: "Savannah is having a real problem with this deployment, and I pray to God that He will watch over her and my children."

Pastor Trey Smart said Scott's four older brothers would recruit him when they heard the ice cream truck coming down the street. "They always knew if they sent Scott to ask Terry and Virginia for money, they wouldn't turn him down because he was the youngest," Smart said.

His parents said, "Our son Charles Scott Jirtle joined the Army because he wanted to take care of his children. He extended his enlistment for this deployment, knowing that he was going to a very hot spot."

Those thanking Scott for his ultimate sacrifice for the protection of this great country say John 15:13 describes his selfless virtues perfectly: "greater love hath not man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

On June 16, 2010, the family held church services at First Baptist Church East in Lawton, OK.

He is survived by his wife Savannah, daughters: Chelsie and Cheyenne, a son Jordan, unborn son Charles Scott Jirtle, Jr., stepdaughter Rylee Jo Jirtle, parents, MSG (Retired) Terry L. and Virginia Jirtle, Lawton, OK; 4 brothers: Joseph Elkins and wife Tammy, James Jirtle, Kendall Jirtle and wife Brandi, all of Lawton and AME2 (AW) Anthony Jirtle, Oak Harbor, WA; stepbrother, Danny Henry and wife Shauna; several nieces and nephews: Ashley, Kayla, Starr, Alexis, Skyler, Payton, Preston, Morgan, Bryce and Kolby.

Today we remember Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST AUGUSTUS J. VICARI

Madam President, I now wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC Augustus "Augy" J. Vicari of Broken Arrow, OK who died on July 29th, 2011 serving our Nation in Pakтия Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Vicari was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Specialist Vicari died of injuries sustained when his unit was attacked with

an improvised explosive device while on patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl. He was 22 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: his wife Holly, parents Michael and Evelyn Vicari, and siblings: Joseph, Michael, Emily, and Mollie.

A native of Lowell, IN, Augy graduated from Lowell High School in 2008. After graduation, he and his wife then moved to Broken Arrow to be close to his father-in-law. Augy then enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard and attended basic training and advanced individual training in 2009.

In addition to being a soldier, Augy enjoyed working on cars and spending time with family and friends. As evident by reading through some quotes from family and friends, he consistently impressed and touched the lives of those he interacted with on a daily basis:

John and Barb Slankard said "Augy's smile lit up every room he was in . . . a truly amazing person that was taken far too soon. We thank him for his courage and sacrifice and we are honored to have known him."

MG Myles Deering, the Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant General said, "This loss of life has shaken every member of the Oklahoma National Guard to their core. We have lost a very brave man who once raised his hand and took an oath to defend our nation. He courageously gave everything he had to ensure our freedom and safety and his sacrifice will not be forgotten."

SSG Kyle Wachtendorf of the Oklahoma National Guard praised Augy by saying, "He was a Oklahoman who chose to stand up and fight for what was right. Chose to leave his family in order to fight for others and made the ultimate sacrifice for God and their country."

Reverend Tony Janik said "Augy wanted to see the world. He wanted to see justice in the world."

U.S. Congressman PETER VISCLOSKEY from Indiana's 1st District honored and paid tribute to Augy on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 7, 2011.

A true warrior, Augy died while participating in a patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl of Pakтия Province on his way back to the U.S. combat outpost just barely over a month after arriving in Afghanistan. This tough fight took Augy from us prematurely, but make no mistake; it is a fight we will win. We must continue our unwavering support for the men and women protecting our Nation and allies.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Augy's family and friends. Augy lived a life of love for his wife, family, friends, and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who

volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

NEWPORT, MAINE BICENTENNIAL

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Newport, ME. Newport was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this bicentennial is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this bicentennial marks Newport's incorporation, the year 1814 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the region was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Abenaki, and the chain of lakes and streams formed their highway between the mighty Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers. The very name of the town a translation of Sebasticook, the Abenaki word for portage is evidence of the friendship between the first white settlers and the Native Americans.

The settlers were drawn by fertile soil, vast forests, and fast-moving waters, which they turned into productive farms and busy lumber mills that were soon followed by blacksmiths, leather manufacturing, textiles, and other endeavors vital to Maine's development. The wealth produced by the land, and by hard work and determination, was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. In the decades that followed, Newport became a center of industry and innovation with such remarkable endeavors as silk production, condensed milk manufacturing, and the fabrication of what were considered the finest carriages in Maine.

Today, the people of Newport continue to build. Their strong environmental ethic has helped make Sebasticook Lake a favorite recreation destination for residents and visitors. The Newport Industrial Center offers a home to new or expanding businesses, and the Newport Cultural Center contributes to a vibrant downtown.

A quality that runs through Newport's history is courage, best demonstrated by the memorial the town dedicated 3 years ago to SGT Donald Skidgel, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for giving his life to save the lives of his fellow soldiers in Vietnam. From the Civil War to the conflicts of our time, the names of some 500 patriots from Newport who have served our Nation with honor and defended our freedom with valor are inscribed on the Veterans Memorial.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate

the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Newport has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

JUSTICE FROM SERBIA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, 15 years ago this week three American citizens—the brothers Ylli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi—were transferred from a prison to an Interior Ministry camp in Eastern Serbia. At that camp, they were executed and buried in a mass grave with dozens of Albanians from Kosovo.

Today, I again call upon the Serbian authorities to bring those responsible for these murders to justice. Belgrade has given us assurances in recent years that action will be taken, but no clear steps have actually been taken to apprehend and prosecute those known to have been in command of the camp or the forces operating there.

The three Bytyqi brothers went to Kosovo in 1999, a time of conflict and NATO intervention. Well after an agreed cessation of hostilities in early June, the brothers escorted an ethnic Romani family from Kosovo to territory still under Serbian control, where that family would be safer. Serbian authorities apprehended the brothers as they were undertaking this humanitarian task and held them in jail for 15 days for illegal entry. When time came for their release, they were instead turned over to a special operations unit of the Serbian Interior Ministry, transported to the camp and brutally executed. There was no due process, no trial, and no opportunity for the brothers to defend themselves. There was nothing but the cold-blooded murder of three American citizen brothers.

Serbia today is not the Serbia of 15 years ago. The people of Serbia ousted the undemocratic and extreme nationalist regime of Slobodan Milosevic in 2000, and the country has since made a steady, if at times difficult, transition to democracy and the rule of law. In 2014, Serbia began accession talks to join the European Union, and in 2015 it will chair the OSCE, a European organization which promotes democratic norms and human rights.

I applaud Serbia on its progress and I support its integration into Europe, but I cannot overlook the continued and contrasting absence of justice in the Bytyqi case. The new government of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has pledged to act. It must now generate the political will to act. The protection of those responsible for this crime can no longer be tolerated.

The surviving Bytyqi family deserves to see justice. Serbia itself will put a dark past behind it by providing this justice. Serbian-American relations

and Serbia's OSCE chairmanship will be enhanced by providing justice. It is time for those responsible for the Bytyqi brother murders to lose their protection and to answer for the crimes they committed 15 years ago.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PORT LIONS, ALASKA

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the residents of Port Lions, AK as they celebrate the golden anniversary of the founding of their community.

Port Lions was founded after the tsunami caused by the 1964 Good Friday earthquake destroyed settlements on Afognak and Raspberry Islands. Residents of Port Lions began moving into the village in December, after receiving incredible support from the Lions Club to build anew. Over the years, Port Lions has become a community with a strong sense of pride in family, friendship, and the kind of resilience that characterizes Alaskans.

This year the city of Port Lions and the Native village of Port Lions have organized events to celebrate their 50-year history. They have honored the neighbors and relatives lost in 1964, celebrated the community they helped to build, and fostered their vision for even more growth and prosperity in the future.

I would like to thank the residents of Port Lions for their persistence, resilience, and determination in the face of difficult obstacles. Their lives are testimony to the strong spirit of Alaska. I am honored to have the opportunity to share in the commemoration of their golden anniversary. •

BREMER COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big

difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Bremer County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Bremer County worth over \$2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$38 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together includes the community's tremendous success with the Main Street Iowa program, particularly the great work they have done rehabilitating the Last National Bank Building.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Bremer County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, over many years, I fought for more than \$5.2 million in funding for ag-based industrial lubricant research, as well as \$500,000 for the 10th Avenue South corridor, and \$400,000 to rehabilitate abandoned military facility just outside of Waverly, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Bremer County has received \$961,998 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Bremer County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$89,295.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster; it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Bremer County has received over \$6 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Bremer County has received more than \$1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. For instance, Bremer County has received \$200,000 in Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, grants. Also, since 2001, Bremer County's fire departments have received over \$6 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal oppor-

tunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Bremer County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Bremer County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Bremer County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Franklin County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Franklin County worth over \$1 million and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought

hard to support, which have provided more than \$8 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the great work that community leaders have done in using Main Street Iowa funds to leverage community investment and volunteerism to make major improvements in downtown Hampton.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face in Iowa and all across America is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This is not just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Hampton to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Franklin County has earned \$80,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program, better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Franklin County has received \$1,723,499 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Franklin County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$25,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through var-

ious programs authorized through the farm bill, Franklin County has received more than \$445,420 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Franklin County's fire departments have received over \$800,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Franklin County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Franklin County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Franklin County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. Of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MONROE COUNTY, IOWA

● **Mr. HARKIN.** Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities

across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Monroe County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$2.9 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include the community's tremendous success at obtaining funds for firefighter safety and equipment through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, their work to improve housing for people with modest means through Housing and Urban Development, as well as their efforts to tap into funds made available through farm bill programs that I championed as Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Monroe County has received \$863,188 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Monroe County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$57,500.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal

friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Monroe County has received more than \$146,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Monroe County's fire departments have received over \$500,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Monroe County has recognized this important issue by securing \$50,000 for community wellness activities.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed

captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Monroe County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Monroe County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Monroe County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL TRIMBLE

● Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, on behalf of all Arizonans, I want to thank our State's official historian, Marshall Trimble, for his years of dedicated teaching service at Scottsdale Community College, from which he is retiring this year. Marshall Trimble is a true Arizona original. Born in Mesa and raised along historic Route 66 in Ash Fork, Marshall's infectious enthusiasm for Arizona's history and culture led him to begin teaching classes on the history of the southwest at Scottsdale's Coronado High School in 1969. For the next five decades, Marshall taught, sang and wrote about our State and its colorful historical characters, keeping alive our pioneering Old West spirit for generations of Arizonans. In 1997, Governor Fife Symington bestowed Marshall with the title Official State Historian, an honor continued by each successive Governor. Arizona owes Marshall a deep debt of gratitude for his many contributions to our State, and we look forward to his continuing to entertain and educate us for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE PRUNK

● Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today, I wish to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk. After 35 years of service to our Nation and the State of Oregon, General Prunk will retire from the Oregon National Guard. I know I speak for Oregonians across the State in thanking him for his service.

I got to know Bruce well during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commissions, BRAC, process. He was a key player in leading the Oregon Na-

tional Guard's efforts and working with my office to build an overwhelming business case for keeping the 142nd Fighter Wing open at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Everywhere you turned, it seemed like he was at community meetings, making media presentations, and doing outreach with elected officials and business leaders to build consensus. As a result of these herculean efforts, we successfully beat back Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation to close the 142nd Fighter Wing, and the wing's airmen keep the skies of the Pacific Northwest safe to this day.

General Prunk enlisted in the Oregon Air National Guard in 1983 and worked his way up to serve in several high-level positions throughout the Oregon Air National Guard, including vice wing commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing, chief of staff for air at Joint Force Headquarters, and assistant adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard. He also held positions in the National Guard Bureau out in Washington, DC, serving as assistant and as special assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Bruce volunteered to deploy to Iraq in 2007 with the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and that he earned the Bronze Star for actions during that deployment.

Rising to the level of general is quite an accomplishment and enough of a career for most folks, but not Bruce. In his civilian life, he joined the Portland Police in 1976, working his way up to captain, then to commander, and finally to assistant chief of police. In these positions, he led community policing efforts, working with local leaders and elected officials to improve neighborhood livability in Portland. He retired from the Portland Police in 2004 and was able to devote more time to the Oregon National Guard.

I think General Prunk's career epitomizes the citizen-soldier envisioned by the Founders. His civilian service and long military career have given him an appreciation for the various challenges Oregon's National Guard soldiers and airmen face balancing family, employer, and often medical issues. His ability to bring different groups together to solve problems is perhaps best illustrated through his work with Camp Rosenbaum, a free camp on the Oregon coast for low-income, inner-city children. For over 25 years he has led efforts to build a unique partnership between police, public employees, and private sponsors to help thousands of at-risk young people go to Camp Rosenbaum.

From his work on the BRAC recommendations to his service in the Portland Police to his involvement with Oregon's military crisis hotline on suicide prevention, General Prunk has just about done it all. Oregon is

grateful for all of his hard work on the State's behalf and for the leadership he has displayed over his long and decorated career. It has been a privilege to get to know such a dedicated public official, and I want to thank him for his many years of outstanding service. His retirement will be a loss to Oregon, but we wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.●

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE
ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE
ORDER TO TAKE ADDITIONAL
STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE
NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORI-
GINALLY DECLARED ON OCTOBER
27, 2006 IN EXECUTIVE ORDER
13413 WITH RESPECT TO THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO—PM 48

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian oper-

ations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of, arms and related material, including military aircraft and

equipment, or advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any armed group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of (i) any of the activities described above or (ii) any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413; or

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 8, 2014.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2569. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6317. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2014 Amendment)" (Docket No. AMS-CN-13-0100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6318. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility" (RIN3052-

AC84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6319. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6320. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6321. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense (DoD) intending to assign women to previously closed positions in the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6322. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application of 'Security-Based Swap Dealer' and 'Major Security-Based Swap Participant' Definitions to Cross-Border Security-Based Swap Activities" (RIN3235-AL25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6323. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's management report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6324. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6325. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 541) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6326. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to operation of the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6327. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6328. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2014-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6329. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2013"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6330. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Capital Planning and Stress Testing" (RIN3133-AE27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6331. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Central African Republic Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 553) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6332. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "South Sudan Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 558) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6333. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; and Removal of Person from the Entity List Based on Removal Request" (RIN0694-AG19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6334. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments To Reflect Change of Office Name From Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes" (RIN2501-AD70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Government Securities Act Regulations; Replacement of References to Credit Ratings and Technical Amendments" (RIN1535-AA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6336. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "High-Performance Green Building Initiative Activities"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6337. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Response to Findings and Recommendations of the Hydrogen and

Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) during Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6338. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9910-99-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6339. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Indiana PM2.5 NSR" (FRL No. 9912-85-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6340. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9911-91-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Wage Garnishment" (FRL No. 9910-14-OCFO) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6342. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9911-05)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6343. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to extending the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from Cambodia from the Bronze Age Through the Khmer Era; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6344. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) non-medical redeterminations for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6345. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Participation of a Person Described in Section 6103(n) in a Summons Interview Under Section 7602(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code" ((RIN1545-

BM25) (TD 9669)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6346. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—July 2014" (Rev. Rul. 2014-20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6347. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disregarded Entities; Religious and Family Member FICA and FUTA Exceptions; Indoor Tanning Services Excise Tax" ((RIN1545-BJ06; RIN1545-BK38) (TD 9670)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6348. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Credit for Employee Health Insurance Expenses of Small Employers" ((RIN1545-BL55) (TD 9672)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6349. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation" ((RIN1545-BL97) (TD 9671)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6350. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Filing Season Program" (Rev. Proc. 2014-42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6351. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0079—2014-0083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6352. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research and Training Centers" (CFDA No. 84.133B-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6353. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Animal Drug Applications; Confidentiality of Data and Information in a New Animal Drug Application File; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2014-N-0108) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6354. A communication from the Acting Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council's 2014 annual status report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6355. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-365, "Air Quality Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6356. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-366, "Southwest Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6357. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-367, "Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6358. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's final inventory list for 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6359. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report on Federal agencies' use of the Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6360. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6361. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6362. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers" (CFDA No. 84.133B-5.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6363. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6364. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Adminis-

tration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6365. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 2nd Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6366. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Tramadol into Schedule IV" (Docket No. DEA-351) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6367. A communication from the Director of National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2013 Report on Apportionment of Membership on the Regional Fishery Management Councils; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6368. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits" (RIN2126-AB73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6369. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Reports by Air Carriers on Incidents Involving Animals During Air Transport" (RIN2105-AE07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6370. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Accessibility of Web Sites and Automated Kiosks at U.S. Airports" (RIN2105-AD96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6371. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Accessibility of Aircraft and Stowage of Wheelchairs" (RIN2105-AD87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6372. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limit in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD347) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6373. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Bluefin Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-XD331) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6374. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD337) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6375. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; 2014 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications" (RIN0648-XD139) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6376. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations" (RIN0648-BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6377. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure" (RIN0648-XD238) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6378. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment Parts 1, 21, 73, 74, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands" ((WT Docket No. 03-66) (FCC 14-76)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6379. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled "Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments" ((RIN1625-AC13) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0410)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6380. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dry Cargo Residue Discharges in the Great Lakes" ((RIN1625-AA89) (Docket No. USCG-2004-19621)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6381. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to the Inland Navigation Rules" ((RIN1625-AB88) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0102)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6382. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Isle of Wight (Sinexuxent) Bay, Ocean City, MD" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1021)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6383. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Jersey City, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2566. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in and around historic mining townsites located in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2567. A bill to provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2568. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribu-

tion limit for Coverdell education savings accounts from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2569. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; read the first time.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 109

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 109, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 350

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1442

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1442, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for unsubsidized buildings and to provide a minimum 4 percent credit rate for existing buildings.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN)

was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1878

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of non-prescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2481

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 2532

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2532, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits.

S. 2535

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2535, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 2548

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2548, a bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 3377

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3377 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an

original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3451

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3451 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. MIKULSKI):
S. 2565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here to discuss the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, which is a bill my colleagues Senators SHAHEEN, BOXER, GILLIBRAND, and I introduced today. It will update the child and dependent care tax credit to offer working families more relief from the rising costs of childcare.

When the child and dependent care tax credit was enacted originally, kids were playing with Rubik's Cubes and listening to eight-track tapes. As we all know, a lot has changed since then, and one of the most important changes our country has seen since that time is the rise of women in the labor force.

Since the mid-1970s, women's participation in the labor force has increased by 23 percent, and most women now do work full time. In two-thirds of families with dependent children, both parents work outside the home.

Over a period of time in which the middle class has been squeezed by an increasingly global economy with higher prices for everything from health care to college, women joining the labor force has helped to ease some of those burdens for families. In fact, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has called the increasing participation of women in the workforce: "A major factor in sustaining growing families incomes." A recent study by the Center for American Progress found between 1979 and 2012, the U.S. economy grew by 11 percent as a result of women joining the labor force.

As we look for ways to create jobs and expand growth in the 21st century, it is clear our country's economic success goes hand in hand with that of women and working families. We have

to make sure our policies are updated to meet the needs of today's working parents, and one area we need to take a look at is childcare. The cost of childcare has skyrocketed in recent years. Full-time childcare for just one child can cost families more than \$10,000 annually, and for families below the poverty level—those who are already struggling the most to make ends meet—childcare can, on average, swallow one-third of what those parents are able to bring home.

This is a real problem for far too many hard-working parents, and it is a problem for our economy, because when parents are struggling to find reliable, safe, affordable care for their children during the day, it is harder for them to give their all on the job. Even worse, childcare is so expensive, some parents—most often mothers—are deciding it is not even worth returning to the workforce. This means families are being held back from gaining the economic security they are working so hard to achieve.

The child and dependent care tax credit was of course intended to help parents overcome these barriers, but today the benefit working parents get from the credit is a small fraction of what childcare actually costs. Because of how it is structured, the lowest income working families cannot benefit from it at all, meaning they have to bear the full brunt of childcare costs on very low wages.

It is clear this credit is one of the policies we need to bring into the 21st century, and that is exactly what we were doing when we introduced the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act. This legislation will boost the benefit working families can receive for childcare costs, and it will make the child and dependent care tax credit refundable so those working parents who are struggling the most to make ends meet can better afford the childcare they need to work and support their families.

If Congress passes our bill, next year working families could see a credit of \$1,600 for one child or \$3,200 for more than one child. That is almost three times the maximum benefit many families are currently eligible to receive.

Our bill would be a real help to hard-working families who are trying to raise their children, pay the bills, save for college, and put something away for retirement. It could break down one of the biggest barriers mothers face when thinking about reentering the workforce.

The need to expand access to affordable childcare is something I often talk about with my own constituents in Washington State. During those conversations, what I hear from parents is: I am so glad you focused on this. It is a real issue for us.

Updating this tax credit to reflect the needs of families in today's econ-

omy would be a critical step forward in terms of our larger effort to ensure that working parents, dads and moms, have a fair shot.

I believe by putting in place policies to make childcare more affordable, make sure women get the equal pay they deserve by raising the minimum wage so millions of workers have a better shot at lifting themselves out of poverty, and by taking steps to ensure students are not overwhelmed by debt after they graduate from college, we could break down some very real barriers that are holding our families and our economy back. There is no reason we should not start that right now with the bill we are introducing today.

I hope all of our colleagues will take a minute, look at this—Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act—and take this seriously. I hope we will be able to make it easier for moms and dads to afford safe reliable care for their children while they are at work. I think we can all agree parents deserve to have that peace of mind. I believe if we enact this bill and build on it with other critical policies to help working families, our economy will be much stronger now and over the long term.

I thank Senators SHAHEEN, BOXER, and GILLIBRAND again for all of their hard work and leadership on the part of working families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3454. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3455. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3456. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3457. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3458. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3459. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3460. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3461. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3462. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3463. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3464. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3465. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3466. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3467. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3468. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3469. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3470. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3471. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3472. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3473. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3474. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3475. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3476. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3477. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3478. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3479. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3454. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and eligible individuals to request access to Federal lands to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions. The process developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection shall include provisions that clarify that—

(1) an eligible organization or eligible individual granted access under this section shall be acting for private purposes and shall not be considered a Federal volunteer;

(2) an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered a volunteer under section 3 of the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 181);

(3) the Federal Torts Claim Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(4) the Federal Employee Compensation Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section and such activities shall not constitute civilian employment.

(b) **RELEASE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.**—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or an eligible individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal lands under this section if the eligible organization or eligible individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability related to the access granted under this section.

(c) **APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization and eligible individual of the approval or denial of a request by that eligible organization and eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section not more than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) **DENIALS.**—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or eligible individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial request; and

(B) any actions that eligible organization or eligible individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(d) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—The Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations to—

(1) coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a joint report to Congress describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (d)(1); and

(2) efforts being taken to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—The terms “eligible organization” and “eligible individual” means an organization or individual, respectively, that—

(A) is acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

(B) is certificated in training that meets or exceeds standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

(2) **GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.**—The term “good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission” means a search for one or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

SA 3455. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2014”.

(b) **REAUTHORIZATION.**—Section 2(c)(2) of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (39 U.S.C. 416 note) is amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “6 years”.

SA 3456. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. FEDERAL LAND DISPOSAL.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED LAND.**—The term “covered land” means—

(A) land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; or

(B) land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service).

(2) **EXCESS COVERED LAND.**—The term “excess covered land” means any covered land that is identified for disposal under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service).

(b) LIMIT ON FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF LAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), covered land shall not comprise more than 50 percent of the total land area of a State.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF EXCESS COVERED LAND FOR DISPOSAL.—If the total percentage of covered land in a State exceeds the limit established by subsection (b), the Secretaries concerned shall jointly identify covered land in the State that the Secretaries concerned determine to be appropriate for disposal under subsection (d).

(d) REQUIRED DISPOSAL.—Not later than December 31, 2019, the Secretary concerned shall dispose of all excess covered land through—

(1) transfer to the State in which the excess covered land is located; or

(2) selling the excess covered land at auction.

(e) RULES.—The Secretary concerned shall issue rules to carry out the transfers and sales under subsection (d).

SA 3457. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . FIREARM COMMERCE MODERNIZATION.

(a) FIREARMS DISPOSITIONS.—Section 922(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “located” and inserting “located or temporarily located”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “rifle or shotgun” and inserting “firearm”; and

(B) by striking “located” and inserting “located or temporarily located”; and

(C) by striking “both such States” and inserting “the State in which the transfer is conducted and the State of residence of the transferee”.

(b) DEALER LOCATION.—Section 923 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “, and such location is in the State which is specified on the license”; and

(B) in the last sentence—

(i) by inserting “transfer,” after “sell,”; and

(ii) by striking “Act,” and all that follows and inserting “Act.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(m) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the sale, transfer, delivery, or other disposition of a firearm or ammunition—

“(1) by a person licensed under this chapter to another person so licensed, at any location in any State; or

“(2) by a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to a person not

licensed under this chapter, at a temporary location described in subsection (j) in any State.”.

(c) RESIDENCE OF UNITED STATES OFFICERS.—Section 921 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) For purposes of this chapter:

“(1) A member of the Armed Forces on active duty, or a spouse of such a member, is a resident of—

“(A) the State in which the member or spouse maintains legal residence;

“(B) the State in which the permanent duty station of the member is located; and

“(C) the State in which the member maintains a place of abode from which the member commutes each day to the permanent duty station of the member.

“(2) An officer or employee of the United States (other than a member of the Armed Forces) who is stationed outside the United States for a period of more than 1 year, and a spouse of such an officer or employee, is a resident of the State in which the person maintains legal residence.”.

SA 3458. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 926A of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 926A. Interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘transport’ includes staying in temporary lodging overnight, stopping for food, fuel, vehicle maintenance, an emergency, medical treatment, and any other activity incidental to the transport.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any provision of any law (including a rule or regulation) of a State or any political subdivision thereof, a person who is not prohibited by this chapter from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm or ammunition shall be entitled to—

“(1) transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where the person may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the firearm to any other such place if, during the transportation—

“(A) the firearm is unloaded; and

“(B)(i) if the transportation is by motor vehicle—

“(I) the firearm is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle; or

“(II) if the motor vehicle is without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm is—

“(aa) in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console; or

“(bb) secured by a secure gun storage or safety device; or

“(ii) if the transportation is by other means, the firearm is in a locked container or secured by a secure gun storage or safety device; and

“(2) transport ammunition for any lawful purpose from any place where the person may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the ammunition, to any other such place if, during the transportation—

“(A) the ammunition is not loaded into a firearm; and

“(B)(i) if the transportation is by motor vehicle—

“(I) the ammunition is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle; or

“(II) if the motor vehicle is without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the ammunition is in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console; or

“(ii) if the transportation is by other means, the ammunition is in a locked container.

“(c) STATE LAW.—

“(1) ARREST AUTHORITY.—A person who is transporting a firearm or ammunition may not be—

“(A) arrested for violation of any law or any rule or regulation of a State, or any political subdivision thereof, relating to the possession, transportation, or carrying of firearms or ammunition, unless there is probable cause to believe that the transportation is not in accordance with subsection (b); or

“(B) detained for violation of any law or any rule or regulation of a State, or any political subdivision thereof, relating to the possession, transportation, or carrying of firearms or ammunition, unless there is reasonable suspicion that the transportation is not in accordance with subsection (b).

“(2) PROSECUTION.—

“(A) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If a person asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the government shall bear the burden of proving, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the conduct of the person was not in accordance with subsection (b).

“(B) PREVAILING DEFENDANT.—If a person successfully asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the court shall award the prevailing defendant reasonable attorney’s fees.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 926A and inserting the following:

“926A. Interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition.”.

SA 3459. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 ____ . PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES REFORM.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO PILT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ENTITLEMENT LAND.—Section 6901(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the National Park System or”; and

(B) in subparagraph (H), by inserting “, other than land that is a unit of the National Park System” before the period at the end.

(2) ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.—Section 6904(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the United States acquired for the National Forest Wilderness Areas; and”.

(3) REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK.—Section 6905 of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 501 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 471j) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(B) The chapter analysis for chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 6905.

(b) DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—Any amounts saved as a result of the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to address the maintenance backlog on National Park System land.

SA 3460. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2. DISCOUNTED NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES.

Section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “\$10.00” and inserting “\$80.00”.

SA 3461. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 43, strike lines 4 through 11 and insert the following:

(2) in section 204 (43 U.S.C. 2303), by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a procedure to identify, by State, inholdings for which the landowner has indicated a desire to sell the land or interest therein to the United States.”.

(3) in section 205 (43 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “, using funds made available under section 206.”; and

(ii) by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2014”; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “11” and inserting “22”;

(4) in section 206 (43 U.S.C. 2305), by striking subsections (b) through (f) and inserting the following:

“(b) AVAILABILITY.—Of the amounts in the Federal Land Disposal Account—

“(1) 50 percent shall be made available to the Secretary of the Treasury, without further appropriation, for Federal budget deficit reduction; and

“(2) 50 percent shall be made available to the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture, without further appropriation, to address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.”; and

(5) in section 207(b) (43 U.S.C. 2306(b))—

SA 3462. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under this title, a person who is determined by the Secretary to be mentally incompetent shall not be considered adjudicated pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, until—

“(1) in the case in which the person does not request a review as described in subsection (c)(1), the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the person receives notice submitted under subsection (b); or

“(2) in the case in which the person requests a review as described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c), upon an assessment by the board designated or established under paragraph (2) of such subsection or court of competent jurisdiction that a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency.

“(b) NOTICE.—Notice submitted under this subsection to a person described in subsection (a) is notice submitted by the Secretary that notifies the person of the following:

“(1) The determination made by the Secretary.

“(2) A description of the implications of being considered adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18.

“(3) The person’s right to request a review under subsection (c)(1).

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the date on which a person described in subsection (a) receives notice submitted under subsection (b), such person may request a review by the board designated or established under paragraph (2) or a court of competent jurisdiction to assess whether a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency. In such assessment, the board may consider the person’s honorable discharge or decoration.

“(2) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall designate or establish a board that shall, upon request of a person under paragraph (1), assess whether a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency.

“(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A person may file a petition with a Federal court of competent jurisdiction for judicial review of an assessment of the person under subsection (c) by the board designated or established under paragraph (2).

“(e) PROTECTING RIGHTS OF VETERANS WITH EXISTING RECORDS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall provide written notice of the opportunity for administrative review and appeal under subsection (c) to all persons who, on the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, are considered adjudicated

pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18 as a result of having been found by the Department to be mentally incompetent.

“(f) FUTURE DETERMINATIONS.—(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall review the policies and procedures by which individuals are determined to be mentally incompetent, and shall revise such policies and procedures as necessary to ensure that any individual who is competent to manage his own financial affairs, including his receipt of Federal benefits, but who voluntarily turns over the management thereof to a fiduciary is not considered adjudicated pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18.

“(2) Not later than 30 days after the Secretary has made the review and changes required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the results of the review and any resulting policy and procedural changes.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.”.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 5511 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), shall apply only with respect to persons who are determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, to be mentally incompetent, except that those persons who are provided notice pursuant to subsection (e) of such section shall be entitled to use the administrative review under subsection (c) of such section and, as necessary, the subsequent judicial review under subsection (d) of such section.

SA 3463. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE RECREATIONAL AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FINAL RULE.—The term “Final Rule” means the final rule entitled “Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Cape Hatteras National Seashore—Off-Road Vehicle Management” (77 Fed. Reg. 3123 (January 23, 2012)).

(2) NATIONAL SEASHORE.—The term “National Seashore” means the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of North Carolina.

(b) REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION BUFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review and modify wildlife buffers in the National Seashore in accordance with this subsection and any other applicable law.

(2) BUFFER MODIFICATIONS.—In modifying wildlife buffers under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, using adaptive management practices—

(A) ensure that the buffers are of the shortest duration and cover the smallest area necessary to protect a species, as determined in accordance with peer-reviewed scientific data; and

(B) designate pedestrian and vehicle corridors around areas of the National Seashore closed because of wildlife buffers, to allow access to areas that are open.

(3) **COORDINATION WITH STATE.**—The Secretary, after coordinating with the State, shall determine appropriate buffer protections for species that are not listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), but that are identified for protection under State law.

(c) **MODIFICATIONS TO FINAL RULE.**—The Secretary shall undertake a public process to consider, consistent with management requirements at the National Seashore, the following changes to the Final Rule:

(1) Opening beaches at the National Seashore that are closed to night driving restrictions, by opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.

(2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods in the Fall and Spring if off-road vehicle use would not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.

(3) Modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

(d) **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VEHICLE ACCESS POINTS.**—The Secretary shall construct new vehicle access points and roads at the National Seashore—

(1) as expeditiously as practicable; and

(2) in accordance with applicable management plans for the National Seashore.

(e) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall report to Congress within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act on measures taken to implement this section.

SA 3464. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) **FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.**—

“(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2015, \$1,410,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2016, \$1,460,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2017, \$1,560,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2018, \$1,780,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(V) for fiscal year 2019, \$2,030,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VI) for fiscal year 2020, \$2,320,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VII) for fiscal year 2021, \$2,650,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VIII) for fiscal year 2022, \$2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IX) for fiscal year 2023, \$2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(X) for fiscal year 2024, \$2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) As used in this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of 70 percent of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of wildfire suppression operations; and

“(II) the term ‘wildfire suppression operations’ means the emergency and unpredictable aspects of wildland firefighting including support, response, and emergency stabilization activities; other emergency management activities; and funds necessary to repay any transfers needed for these costs.

“(iii) The average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years shall be calculated annually and reported in the President’s Budget submission under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for each fiscal year.”

(b) **DISASTER FUNDING.**—Section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” and inserting “plus”; and

(B) in subclause (II), by striking the period and inserting “; less”; and

(C) by adding the following:

“(III) the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding fiscal year.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) Beginning in fiscal year 2017 and in subsequent fiscal years, the calculation of the ‘average funding provided for disaster relief over the previous 10 years’ shall include the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding fiscal year.”

(c) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—If the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines that supplemental appropriations are necessary for a fiscal year for wildfire suppression operations, such Secretary shall promptly submit to Congress—

(1) a request for such supplemental appropriations; and

(2) a plan detailing the manner in which such Secretary intends to obligate the supplemental appropriations by not later than 30 days after the date on which the amounts are made available.

SA 3465. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the land and water conservation fund established under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–5).

(2) **LEVEL OF RECEIPTS.**—The term “level of receipts” means the level of taxes, receipts, bonuses, and rents credited to the Fund for a fiscal year as set forth in the budget baseline projection of the President, as determined under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), for that fiscal year submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) **TOTAL BUDGET RESOURCES.**—The term “total budget resources” means the total amount made available by appropriations Acts from the Fund for a fiscal year for making expenditures under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.), as determined by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(b) **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION TRUST FUND GUARANTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each fiscal year, the total budget resources made available from the Fund shall be equal to the level of receipts credited to the Fund for that fiscal year.

(2) **USE OF AMOUNTS.**—The amounts described in paragraph (1) shall be used only to carry out land and water conservation activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.).

(3) **GUARANTEE.**—No amounts may be appropriated for land and water conservation activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.) unless the requirement under paragraph (1) has been met.

(c) **ENFORCEMENT OF GUARANTEE.**—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any Act making appropriations that would cause total budget resources for a fiscal year for land and water conservation activities described in subsection (b)(2) for that fiscal year to be less than the amount required by subsection (b)(1) for that fiscal year.

SA 3466. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 7(a) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–9(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) To address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.”

SA 3467. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 44, strike lines 16 through 20, and insert the following:

(b) **DEFICIT REDUCTION.**—

(1) **FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2024.**—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, of the

amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, there shall be transferred to the Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction, \$1,000,000.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year, 10 percent of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account shall be transferred to the Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction.

SA 3468. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

Section 11(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(f)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after the subsection heading; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) Except as provided in this paragraph, regulations promulgated under paragraph (1), including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, may not—

“(i) prohibit or restrict the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipping, or transportation, within the United States, of elephant ivory that has been lawfully imported into the United States;

“(ii) change any methods of, or standards for, determining if such ivory has been lawfully imported that were in effect on February 24, 2014, including any applicable presumptions with respect to such determinations;

“(iii) prohibit or restrict the importation of such ivory that was lawfully importable into the United States on February 24, 2014; or

“(iv) prohibit or restrict the possession of such ivory that was lawfully possessable in the United States on February 24, 2014.

“(B) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to regulations, including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, that were in effect on February 24, 2014.

“(C) Regulations promulgated under paragraph (1), including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, that became effective during the period beginning on February 25, 2014, and ending on the date of enactment of this paragraph, shall be revised, as necessary, to comply with the requirements specified in subparagraph (A) for regulations promulgated after such date of enactment.”.

SA 3469. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 14, line 25, insert “use the funds apportioned to it under section 4(c) to” after “a State may”.

SA 3470. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to

protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 805(b)(2) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)(2)) is amended as follows:

(1) By inserting “and for the lifetime of the passholder” after “without charge”.

(2) By striking “charge, to” and inserting “charge, to the following”.

(3) By striking “any United States” and inserting the following:

“(A) Any United States”.

(4) By inserting after “residency.” the following:

“(B) Any veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.”.

(5) By striking the last sentence.

SA 3471. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—CROOKED RIVER COLLABORATIVE WATER SECURITY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER; CROOKED, OREGON.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (72) and inserting the following:

“(72) CROOKED, OREGON.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The 14.75-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to Dry Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

“(i) The 7-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to River Mile 8 south of Opal Spring, as a recreational river.

“(ii) The 7.75-mile segment from a point ¼-mile downstream from the center crest of Bowman Dam, as a recreational river.

“(B) HYDROPOWER.—In any license application relating to hydropower development (including turbines and appurtenant facilities) at Bowman Dam, the applicant, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall—

“(i) analyze any impacts to the scenic, recreational, and fishery resource values of the Crooked River from the center crest of Bowman Dam to a point ¼-mile downstream that may be caused by the proposed hydropower development, including the future need to undertake routine and emergency repairs;

“(ii) propose measures to minimize and mitigate any impacts analyzed under clause (i); and

“(iii) propose designs and measures to ensure that any access facilities associated with hydropower development at Bowman Dam shall not impede the free-flowing nature of the Crooked River below Bowman Dam.”.

SEC. 303. CITY OF PRINEVILLE WATER SUPPLY.

Section 4 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954), is amended—

(1) by striking “during those months” and all that follows through “purpose of the project”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Without further action by the Secretary of the Interior, beginning on the date of enactment of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014, 5,100 acre-feet of water shall be annually released from the project to serve as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping, pursuant to and in a manner consistent with Oregon State law, including any shaping of the release of the water. The City of Prineville shall make payments to the Secretary for the water, in accordance with applicable Bureau of Reclamation policies, directives, and standards. Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and other applicable Federal laws, the Secretary may contract exclusively with the City of Prineville for additional quantities of water, at the request of the City of Prineville.”.

SEC. 304. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

The Act entitled “An Act to authorize construction by the Secretary of the Interior of the Crooked River Federal reclamation project, Oregon”, approved August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; chapter 980; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 6. FIRST FILL STORAGE AND RELEASE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Other than the 10 cubic feet per second release provided for in section 4, and subject to compliance with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall, on a ‘first fill’ priority basis, store in and when called for in any year release from Prineville Reservoir, whether from carryover, infill, or a combination of both, the following:

“(1) 68,273 acre-feet of water annually to fulfill all 16 Bureau of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011.

“(2) Not more than 2,740 acre-feet of water annually to supply the McKay Creek land, in accordance with section 305 of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014.

“(3) 10,000 acre-feet of water annually, to be made available first to the North Unit Irrigation District, and subsequently to any other holders of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011 (in that order), pursuant to Temporary Water Service Contracts, on the request of the North Unit Irrigation District or the contract holders, consistent with the same terms and conditions as prior such contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and District or contract holders, as applicable.

“(4) 5,100 acre-feet of water annually to mitigate the City of Prineville groundwater pumping under section 4, with the release of this water to occur not based on an annual call, but instead pursuant to section 4 and the release schedule developed pursuant to section 7(c).

“(b) CARRYOVER.—Except for water that may be called for and released after the end of the irrigation season (either as City of Prineville groundwater pumping mitigation or as a voluntary release, in accordance with section 4 of this Act and section 306(c) of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014, respectively), any water stored under this section that is not called for and released by the end of the irrigation season in a given year shall be—

“(1) carried over to the subsequent water year, which, for accounting purposes, shall

be considered to be the 1-year period beginning October 1 and ending September 30, consistent with Oregon State law; and

“(2) accounted for as part of the ‘first fill’ storage quantities of the subsequent water year, but not to exceed the maximum ‘first fill’ storage quantities described in subsection (a).”

“SEC. 7. STORAGE AND RELEASE OF REMAINING STORED WATER QUANTITIES.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Other than the quantities provided for in section 4 and the ‘first fill’ quantities provided for in section 6, and subject to compliance with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall store in and release from Prineville Reservoir all remaining stored water quantities for the benefit of downstream fish and wildlife.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall release the remaining stored water quantities under paragraph (1) consistent with subsection (c).

“(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—If a consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or an order of a court in a proceeding under that Act requires releases of stored water from Prineville Reservoir for fish and wildlife downstream of Bowman Dam, the Secretary shall use uncontracted stored water.

“(c) ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall develop annual release schedules for the remaining stored water quantities in subsection (a) and the water serving as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping pursuant to section 4.

“(2) GUIDANCE.—To the maximum extent practicable and unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Commissioner of Reclamation shall develop and implement the annual release schedules consistent with the guidance provided by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon to maximize biological benefit for downstream fish and wildlife, after taking into consideration multiyear water needs of downstream fish and wildlife.

“(3) COMMENTS FROM FEDERAL FISH MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—The National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall have the opportunity to provide advice with respect to, and comment on, the annual release schedule developed by the Commissioner of Reclamation under this subsection.

“(d) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall perform traditional and routine activities in a manner that coordinates with the efforts of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon to monitor and request adjustments to releases for downstream fish and wildlife on an in-season basis as the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon determine downstream fish and wildlife needs require.

“(e) CARRYOVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any water stored under subsection (a) in 1 water year that is not released during the water year—

“(A) shall be carried over to the subsequent water year; and

“(B)(i) may be released for downstream fish and wildlife resources, consistent with subsections (c) and (d), until the reservoir reaches maximum capacity in the subsequent water year; and

“(ii) once the reservoir reaches maximum capacity under clause (i), shall be credited to the ‘first fill’ storage quantities, but not to

exceed the maximum ‘first fill’ storage quantities described in section 6(a).

“(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Commissioner of Reclamation to perform all other traditional and routine activities of the Commissioner of Reclamation.

“SEC. 8. RESERVOIR LEVELS.

“The Commissioner of Reclamation shall—

“(1) project reservoir water levels over the course of the year; and

“(2) make the projections under paragraph (1) available to—

“(A) the public (including fisheries groups, recreation interests, and municipal and irrigation stakeholders);

“(B) the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

“(C) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

“SEC. 9. EFFECT.

“Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act—

“(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between contractors and the United States under Reclamation contracts;

“(2) amends or reopens contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

“(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or requirements that may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.”.

SEC. 305. OCHOCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

(a) EARLY REPAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Ochoco Irrigation District, Oregon (referred to in this section as the “district”), may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM LIMITATIONS.—Upon discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of the construction costs allocated to all land of the landowner in the district, the land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations of Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(c) CONTRACT AMENDMENT.—On approval of the district directors and notwithstanding project authorizing authority to the contrary, the Reclamation contracts of the district are modified, without further action by the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) to authorize the use of water for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, in order for the district to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as authorized by Oregon State law;

(2) to include within the district boundary approximately 2,742 acres in the vicinity of McKay Creek, resulting in a total of approximately 44,937 acres within the district boundary;

(3) to classify as irrigable approximately 685 acres within the approximately 2,742 acres of included land in the vicinity of McKay Creek, with those approximately 685 acres authorized to receive irrigation water pursuant to water rights issued by the State of Oregon if the acres have in the past received water pursuant to State water rights; and

(4) to provide the district with stored water from Prineville Reservoir for purposes of supplying up to the approximately 685 acres of land added within the district boundary and classified as irrigable under paragraphs (2) and (3), with the stored water to be supplied on an acre-per-acre basis contingent on the transfer of existing appurtenant McKay Creek water rights to instream use and the issuance of water rights by the State of Oregon for the use of stored water.

(d) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (c), nothing in this section—

(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between the district and the United States under the Reclamation contracts of the district;

(2) amends or reopens the contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships that may exist between the district and any owner of land within the district, as may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.

SEC. 306. DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND VOLUNTARY RELEASES.

(a) PARTICIPATION IN DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETINGS.—The Bureau of Reclamation shall participate in dry-year management planning meetings with the State of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, municipal, agricultural, conservation, recreation, and other interested stakeholders to plan for dry-year conditions.

(b) DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Reclamation shall develop a dry-year management plan in coordination with the participants referred to in subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall only recommend strategies, measures, and actions that the irrigation districts and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders voluntarily agree to implement.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in the plan developed under paragraph (1) shall be mandatory or self-implementing.

(c) VOLUNTARY RELEASE.—In any year, if North Unit Irrigation District or other eligible Bureau of Reclamation contract holders have not initiated contracting with the Bureau of Reclamation for any quantity of the 10,000 acre feet of water described in subsection (a)(3) of section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 304), by June 1 of any calendar year, with the voluntary agreement of North Unit Irrigation District and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders referred to in that paragraph, the Secretary may release that quantity of water for the benefit of downstream fish and wildlife as described in section 7 of that Act.

SEC. 307. RELATION TO EXISTING LAWS AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS.

Nothing in this title (or an amendment made by this title)—

(1) provides to the Secretary the authority to store and release the “first fill” quantities provided for in section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 304), for any purposes other than the purposes provided for in that section, except for—

(A) the potential instream use resulting from conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as provided for in section 305(c)(1);

(B) the potential release of additional amounts that may result from voluntary actions agreed to through the dry-year management plan developed under section 306(b); and

(C) the potential release of the 10,000 acre feet for downstream fish and wildlife as provided in section 306(c);

(2) alters any responsibilities under Oregon State law or Federal law, including section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536); or

(3) alters the authorized purposes of the Crooked River Project provided in the first section of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954).

SA 3472. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield is modified to include the land and interests in land as generally depicted on the map titled “Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Expansion”, numbered 325/80,080, and dated June 2007. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES.**—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) is authorized to acquire the land and interests in land, described in subsection (a), from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall administer any land or interests in land acquired under subsection (b) as part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is transferred—
(A) from the Secretary to the Secretary of the Army administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1.170-acre parcel of land depicted as “Area to be transferred to Fort Lee Military Reservation” on the map described in paragraph (2); and

(B) from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1.171-acre parcel of land depicted as “Area to be transferred to Petersburg National Battlefield” on the map described in paragraph (2).

(2) **MAP.**—The land transferred is depicted on the map titled “Petersburg National Battlefield Proposed Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction”, numbered 325/80,801A, dated May 2011. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(3) **CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.**—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction under paragraph (1) is subject to the following conditions:

(A) **NO REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.**—The transfer is without reimbursement or consideration.

(B) **MANAGEMENT.**—The land transferred to the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be

included within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield and shall be administered as part of that park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SA 3473. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2 . NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

(a) **PURPOSES OF CONFERENCE.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.**—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) develop and submit to the Administrator a comprehensive conservation and management plan that—

“(A) identifies the estuary and estuary resources to be considered within the plan;

“(B) recommends priority protection, conservation, and corrective actions and compliance schedules that address point and nonpoint sources of pollution—

“(i) to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including—

“(I) restoration and maintenance of water quality, including wetlands and natural hydrological flows;

“(II) a resilient and diverse indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

“(III) recreational activities in the estuary; and

“(ii) to ensure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected;

“(C) identifies healthy and impaired watershed components by carrying out integrated assessments that include assessments of—

“(i) aquatic habitat and biological integrity;

“(ii) water quality; and

“(iii) natural hydrological flows;

“(D) considers current and future sustainable commercial activities in the estuary;

“(E) considers the effects of ongoing climate, hydrologic, and geologic changes on the estuary, including—

“(i) the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary;

“(ii) the development and implementation of adaptation strategies; and

“(iii) the potential impacts of changes in sea level or coastal erosion on estuarine water quality, estuarine habitat, and infrastructure located in the estuary;

“(F) increases public education and awareness with respect to—

“(i) the ecological health of the estuary;

“(ii) the water quality conditions of the estuary; and

“(iii) ocean, estuarine, land, and atmospheric connections and interactions;

“(G) includes performance measures and goals to track implementation of the plan; and

“(H) includes a coordinated monitoring strategy for Federal, State, and local governments and other entities.”.

(2) **MONITORING AND MAKING RESULTS AVAILABLE.**—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) monitor (and make results available to the public regarding)—

“(A) water quality conditions considered by the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed under paragraph (4);

“(B) watershed and habitat conditions that relate to the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary; and

“(C) the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed for the estuary under this subsection;”.

(3) **INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) provide information and educational activities on the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary; and”.

(4) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The sentence following section 320(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as so redesignated) (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)(8)) is amended by striking “paragraph (7)” and inserting “paragraph (8)”.

(b) **COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.**—Section 320(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(d)” and all that follows through “In developing” and inserting the following:

“(d) **USE OF EXISTING DATA AND COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.**—

“(1) **USE OF EXISTING DATA.**—In developing”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **USE OF COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.**—In updating a plan under subsection (f)(7) or developing a new plan under subsection (b), a management conference shall make use of collaborative processes—

“(A) to ensure equitable inclusion of affected interests;

“(B) to engage with members of the management conference, including through—

“(i) the use of consensus-based decision rules; and

“(ii) assistance from impartial facilitators, as appropriate;

“(C) to ensure relevant scientific, technical, and economic information is accessible to members;

“(D) to promote accountability and transparency by ensuring members are informed in a timely manner of—

“(i) the purposes and objectives of the management conference; and

“(ii) the results of an evaluation conducted under subsection (f)(6);

“(E) to identify the roles and responsibilities of members—

“(i) in the management conference proceedings; and

“(ii) in the implementation of the plan; and

“(F) to seek resolution of conflicts or disputes as necessary.”.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION OF PLANS.**—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) **ADMINISTRATION OF PLANS.**—

“(1) **APPROVAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a management conference submits to the Administrator a comprehensive conservation and management plan under this section, and after providing for public review and comment, the Administrator shall approve the plan, if—

“(A) the Administrator determines that the plan meets the requirements of this section; and

“(B) each affected Governor concurs.

“(2) COMPLETENESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator determines that a plan is incomplete under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator shall—

“(i) provide the management conference with written notification of the basis of that finding; and

“(ii) allow the management conference to resubmit a revised plan that addresses, to the maximum extent practicable, the comments contained in the written notification of the Administrator described in clause (i).

“(B) RESUBMISSION.—If the Administrator determines that a revised plan submitted under subparagraph (A)(ii) remains incomplete under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator shall allow the management conference to resubmit a revised plan in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(C) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In determining whether to approve a comprehensive conservation and management plan under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator—

“(i) shall limit the scope of review to a determination of whether the plan meets the minimum requirements of this section; and

“(ii) may not impose, as a condition of approval, any additional requirements.

“(3) FAILURE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR TO RESPOND.—If, by the date that is 120 days after the date on which a plan is submitted or resubmitted under paragraph (1), (2), or (7) the Administrator fails to respond to the submission or resubmission in writing, the plan shall be considered approved.

“(4) FAILURE TO SUBMIT A PLAN.—If, by the date that is 3 years after the date on which a management conference is convened, that management conference fails to submit a comprehensive conservation and management plan or to secure approval for the comprehensive conservation and management plan under this subsection, the Administrator shall terminate the management conference convened under this section.

“(5) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—On the approval of a comprehensive conservation and management plan under this section, the plan shall be implemented.

“(B) USE OF AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under titles II and VI and section 319 may be used in accordance with the applicable requirements of this Act to assist States with the implementation of a plan approved under paragraph (1).

“(6) EVALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall carry out an evaluation of the implementation of each comprehensive conservation and management plan developed under this section to determine the degree to which the goals of the plan have been met.

“(B) REVIEW AND COMMENT BY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—In completing an evaluation under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit the results of the evaluation to the appropriate management conference for review and comment.

“(C) REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In completing an evaluation under subparagraph (A), and after providing an opportunity for a management conference to submit comments under subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall issue a report on the results of the evaluation, including the findings and recommendations of the Administrator and any comments received from the management conference.

“(ii) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Administrator shall make a report issued under this subparagraph available to the public, including through publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet.

“(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR NEW PLANS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if a management conference submits a new comprehensive conservation and management plan to the Administrator after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall complete the evaluation of the implementation of the plan required by subparagraph (A) not later than 5 years after the date of such submission and every 5 years thereafter.

“(7) UPDATES.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator makes an evaluation of the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan available to the public under paragraph (6)(C), a management conference convened under this section shall submit to the Administrator an update of the plan that reflects, to the maximum extent practicable, the results of the program evaluation.

“(B) APPROVAL OF UPDATES.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a management conference submits to the Administrator an updated comprehensive conservation and management plan under subparagraph (A), and after providing for public review and comment, the Administrator shall approve the updated plan, if the Administrator determines that the updated plan meets the requirements of this section.

“(8) PROBATIONARY STATUS.—The Administrator may consider a management conference convened under this section to be in probationary status, if the management conference has not received approval for an updated comprehensive conservation and management plan under paragraph (7)(B) on or before the last day of the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Administrator makes an evaluation of the plan available to the public under paragraph (6)(C).”

(d) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (h), (i), (j), (k), and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the Administrator, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, cooperate and coordinate activities, including monitoring activities, related to the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan approved by the Administrator.

“(B) LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY.—The Environmental Protection Agency shall serve as the lead coordinating agency under this paragraph.

“(2) CONSIDERATION OF PLANS IN AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS.—In making an annual budget request for a Federal agency referred

to in paragraph (1), the head of such agency shall consider the responsibilities of the agency under this section, including under comprehensive conservation and management plans approved by the Administrator.

“(3) MONITORING.—The heads of the Federal agencies referred to in paragraph (1) shall collaborate on the development of tools and methodologies for monitoring the ecological health and water quality conditions of estuaries covered by a management conference convened under this section.”

(e) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) of section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) EFFECTS OF PROBATIONARY STATUS.—

“(A) REDUCTIONS IN GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall reduce, by an amount to be determined by the Administrator, grants for the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan developed by a management conference convened under this section, if the Administrator determines that the management conference is in probationary status under subsection (f)(8).

“(B) TERMINATION OF MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES.—The Administrator shall terminate a management conference convened under this section, and cease funding for the implementation of the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed by the management conference, if the Administrator determines that the management conference has been in probationary status for 2 consecutive years.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 320(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended by striking “subsection (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for—

“(A) expenses relating to the administration of grants by the Administrator under this section, including the award and oversight of grants, except that such expenses shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this subsection;

“(B) making grants under subsection (h); and

“(C) monitoring the implementation of a conservation and management plan by the management conference, or by the Administrator in any case in which the conference has been terminated.

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—The Administrator shall provide at least 80 percent of the amounts appropriated under this subsection per fiscal year for the development, implementation, and monitoring of each conservation and management plan eligible for grant assistance under subsection (h).

“(3) REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall include in the annual budget request of the Environmental Protection Agency a clear description of the amounts requested by the Administrator to make grants under paragraph (1)(B).”

(g) RESEARCH.—Section 320(k)(1)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “parameters” and inserting “parameters”; and

(2) by inserting “(including monitoring of both pathways and ecosystems to track the introduction and establishment of nonnative species)” before “, to provide the Administrator”.

(h) NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by inserting after subsection (k) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) the following:

“(1) NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall complete an evaluation of the national estuary program established under this section.

“(2) SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS.—In conducting an evaluation under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

“(A) assess the effectiveness of the national estuary program in improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences convened under this section;

“(B) identify best practices for improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences convened under this section, including those practices funded through the use of technical assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies;

“(C) assess the reasons why the best practices described in subparagraph (B) resulted in the achievement of program goals;

“(D) identify any redundant requirements for reporting by recipients of a grant under this section; and

“(E) develop and recommend a plan for eliminating any redundancies.

“(3) REPORT.—In completing an evaluation under this subsection, the Administrator shall issue a report on the results of the evaluation, including the findings and recommendations of the Administrator.

“(4) AVAILABILITY.—The Administrator shall make a report issued under this subsection available to management conferences convened under this section and the public, including through publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet.”.

(i) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.—Section 320(a)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE,—” and all that follows through “In any case” and inserting the following:

“(2) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.—In any case”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SA 3474. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION ____ . POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD FURTHER RESTRICT THE RIGHT OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS TO OWN A FIREARM.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, amendment, resolution, or conference report that further restricts the right of law-abiding individuals in the United States to own a firearm.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “further restricts the right of law-abiding in-

dividuals in the United States to own a firearm” means any further restriction on the right of law-abiding individuals in the United States to own a firearm not contained in law before the date of enactment of this Act, including any legislation that—

(1) prohibits, increases restrictions on, or regulates the manufacture or ownership of any firearm that is permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) prohibits the manufacture or possession of specified categories of firearms based on the characteristics of such firearms that are permitted to be manufactured or possessed under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) prohibits specific firearms or categories of firearms that are permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) limits the size of ammunition feeding devices or prohibits categories of ammunition feeding devices that are permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(5) requires background checks through a Federal firearms licensee for private transfers of firearms if the transfers do not require a background check under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(6) establishes a record-keeping system for the sale of firearms not established before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(7) imposes prison sentences for sales, gifts, or raffles of firearms to veterans who are unknown to the transferor as a person prohibited from possessing a firearm that would not otherwise be imposed under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SUPER MAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 3475. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF LAND.—No land or interests in land may be added by acquisition, donation, transfer of administrative jurisdiction, or otherwise to the inventory of land and interests in land administered by the Bureau of Land Management until a centralized database of all lands identified as suitable for disposal by Resource Management Plans for lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau is easily accessible to the public on a website of the Bureau. The database required under this subsection shall be updated and maintained to reflect changes in the status of lands identified for disposal under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate a report detailing the status and timing

for completion of the database required by subsection (a).

SA 3476. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SALE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR DISPOSAL.

(a) COMPETITIVE SALE OF LAND.—The Secretary shall offer the identified Federal land for disposal by competitive sale for not less than fair market value as determined by an independent appraiser.

(b) EXISTING RIGHTS.—The sale of identified Federal land under this section shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(c) PROCEEDS OF SALE OF LAND.—All net proceeds from the sale of identified Federal land under this section shall be deposited directly into the Treasury for reduction of the public debt.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate—

(1) a list of any identified Federal land that has not been sold under subsection (a) and the reasons such land was not sold; and

(2) an update of the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary on May 27, 1997, pursuant to section 390(g) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127; 110 Stat. 1024), including a current inventory of the Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary that is suitable for disposal.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IDENTIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term “identified Federal land” means the parcels of Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary that were identified as suitable for disposal in the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary on May 27, 1997, pursuant to section 390(g) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-127; 110 Stat. 1024), except the following:

(A) Land not identified for disposal in the applicable land use plan.

(B) Land subject to a Recreation and Public Purpose conveyance application.

(C) Land identified for State selection.

(D) Land identified for Indian tribe allotments.

(E) Land identified for local government use.

(F) Land that the Secretary chooses to dispose under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

(G) Land that is segregated for exchange or under agreements for exchange.

(H) Land subject to exchange as authorized or directed by Congress.

(I) Land that the Secretary determines contain significant impediments for disposal including—

(i) high disposal costs;

(ii) the presence of significant natural or cultural resources;

(iii) land survey problems or title conflicts;

(iv) habitat for threatened or endangered species; and

(v) mineral leases and mining claims.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SA 3477. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Palestinian Authority, or any affiliated governing entity or leadership organization.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall have no effect for a fiscal year if the President certifies to Congress during that fiscal year that the Palestinian Authority has—

- (1) formally recognized the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state;
- (2) publicly recognized the state of Israel;
- (3) renounced terrorism;
- (4) purged all individuals with terrorist ties from security services;
- (5) terminated funding of anti-American and anti-Israel incitement;
- (6) publicly pledged to not engage in war with Israel; and
- (7) honored previous diplomatic agreements.

SA 3478. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**TITLE III—SECOND AMENDMENT
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2014**

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Second Amendment Enforcement Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

(2) As the Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States have recognized, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the rights of individuals, including those who are not members of a militia or engaged in military service or training, to keep and bear arms.

(3) The law-abiding citizens of the District of Columbia are deprived by local laws of handguns, rifles, and shotguns that are commonly kept by law-abiding persons throughout the United States for sporting use and for lawful defense of their persons, homes, businesses, and families.

(4) The District of Columbia has the highest per capita murder rate in the Nation, which may be attributed in part to local laws prohibiting possession of firearms by law-abiding persons who would otherwise be able to defend themselves and their loved ones in their own homes and businesses.

(5) The Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended by the Firearms Owners’ Protection Act of 1986, and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993, provide com-

prehensive Federal regulations applicable in the District of Columbia as elsewhere. In addition, existing District of Columbia criminal laws punish possession and illegal use of firearms by violent criminals and felons. Consequently, there is no need for local laws which only affect and disarm law-abiding citizens.

(6) Officials of the District of Columbia have indicated their intention to continue to unduly restrict lawful firearm possession and use by citizens of the District.

(7) Legislation is required to correct the District of Columbia’s law in order to restore the fundamental rights of its citizens under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and thereby enhance public safety.

SEC. 303. REFORM D.C. COUNCIL’S AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT FIREARMS.

Section 4 of the Act entitled “An Act to prohibit the killing of wild birds and wild animals in the District of Columbia”, approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 809; sec. 1-303.43, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Nothing in this section or any other provision of law shall authorize, or shall be construed to permit, the Council, the Mayor, or any governmental or regulatory authority of the District of Columbia to prohibit, constructively prohibit, or unduly burden the ability of persons not prohibited from possessing firearms under Federal law from acquiring, possessing in their homes or businesses, or using for sporting, self-protection or other lawful purposes, any firearm neither prohibited by Federal law nor subject to the National Firearms Act. The District of Columbia shall not have authority to enact laws or regulations that discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms. Nothing in the previous two sentences shall be construed to prohibit the District of Columbia from regulating or prohibiting the carrying of firearms by a person, either concealed or openly, other than at the person’s dwelling place, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person.”.

SEC. 304. REPEAL D.C. SEMIAUTOMATIC BAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(10) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7-2501.01(10), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(10) ‘Machine gun’ means any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, or may be readily restored to shoot automatically, more than 1 shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger, and includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS SETTING FORTH CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 1(c) of the Act of July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22-4501(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) ‘Machine gun’, as used in this Act, has the meaning given such term in section 101(10) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975.”.

SEC. 305. REPEAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(a) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7-2502.01(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “any firearm, unless” and all that follows through paragraph (3) and inserting the following: “any firearm described in subsection (c).”.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF FIREARMS REMAINING ILLEGAL.—Section 201 of such Act (sec. 7-2502.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) A firearm described in this subsection is any of the following:

- “(1) A sawed-off shotgun.
- “(2) A machine gun.
- “(3) A short-barreled rifle.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 201 of such Act (sec. 7-2502.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “Registration requirements” and inserting “Firearm Possession”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO FIREARMS CONTROL REGULATIONS ACT.—The Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 is amended as follows:

(1) Sections 202 through 211 (secs. 7-2502.02 through 7-2502.11, D.C. Official Code) are repealed.

(2) Section 101 (sec. 7-2501.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking paragraph (13).

(3) Section 401 (sec. 7-2504.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “the District;” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the District, except that a person may engage in hand loading, reloading, or custom loading of ammunition for firearms lawfully possessed under this Act.”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “which are unregistrable under section 202” and inserting “which are prohibited under section 201”.

(4) Section 402 (sec. 7-2504.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Any person eligible to register a firearm” and all that follows through “such business,” and inserting the following: “Any person not otherwise prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law, or from being licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code,”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) The applicant’s name;”.

(5) Section 403(b) (sec. 7-2504.03(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “registration certificate” and inserting “dealer’s license”.

(6) Section 404(a)(3) (sec. 7-2504.04(a)(3)), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm,”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by striking “holding the registration certificate” and inserting “from whom it was received for repair”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “and registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm”;

(D) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “registration certificate number or”; and

(E) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E).

(7) Section 406(c) (sec. 7-2504.06(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Within 45 days of a decision becoming effective which is unfavorable to a licensee or to an applicant for a dealer’s license, the licensee or application shall—

“(1) lawfully remove from the District all destructive devices in his inventory, or peaceably surrender to the Chief all destructive devices in his inventory in the manner provided in section 705; and

“(2) lawfully dispose, to himself or to another, any firearms and ammunition in his inventory.”.

(8) Section 407(b) (sec. 7-2504.07(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “would

not be eligible" and all that follows and inserting "is prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law."

(9) Section 502 (sec. 7-2505.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) Any person or organization not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law may sell or otherwise transfer ammunition or any firearm, except those which are prohibited under section 201, to a licensed dealer."

(B) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

"(c) Any licensed dealer may sell or otherwise transfer a firearm to any person or organization not otherwise prohibited from possessing or receiving such firearm under Federal or District law."

(C) in subsection (d), by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(D) by striking subsection (e).

(10) Section 704 (sec. 7-2507.04, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "any registration certificate or" and inserting "a"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "registration certificate."

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2(4) of the Illegal Firearm Sale and Distribution Strict Liability Act of 1992 (sec. 7-2531.01(4), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or ignoring proof of the purchaser's residence in the District of Columbia"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "registration and".

SEC. 306. REPEAL HANDGUN AMMUNITION BAN.

Section 601(3) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7-2506.01(3), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking "is the holder of the valid registration certificate for" and inserting "owns".

SEC. 307. RESTORE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE IN THE HOME.

Section 702 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7-2507.02, D.C. Official Code) is repealed.

SEC. 308. REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 706 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7-2507.06, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking "that:" and all that follows through "(1) A" and inserting "that a"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to violations occurring after the 60-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 309. REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CARRYING A FIREARM IN ONE'S DWELLING OR OTHER PREMISES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Act of July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22-4504(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking "a pistol," and inserting the following: "except in his dwelling house or place of business or on other land possessed by that person, whether loaded or unloaded, a firearm,"; and

(2) by striking "except that:" and all that follows through "(2) If the violation" and inserting "except that if the violation".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5 of such Act (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22-4505, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking "pistol" each place it appears and inserting "firearm"; and

(2) by striking "pistols" each place it appears and inserting "firearms".

SEC. 310. AUTHORIZING PURCHASES OF FIREARMS BY DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (b)(3) by inserting after "other than a State in which the licensee's place of business is located" the following: "or to the sale or delivery of a handgun to a resident of the District of Columbia by a licensee whose place of business is located in Maryland or Virginia."

SEC. 311. REPEALS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACTS.

The Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008 and the Firearms Registration Emergency Amendment Act of 2008, as passed by the District of Columbia, are repealed.

SEC. 312. FIREARMS PERMITTED ON POSTAL PROPERTY.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 930(g)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and";

(2) by striking "The term 'Federal facility' means" and inserting the following: "The term 'Federal facility'—

"(A) means"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) does not include a building or part thereof owned or leased by the United States Postal Service."

(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—The Postal Service shall amend section 232.1 of title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, to specify that an individual who is otherwise permitted under law to carry a firearm may, in accordance with the law of the State in which the postal property is located—

(1) carry a firearm while on postal property, either openly or concealed; and

(2) store a firearm on postal property.

SEC. 313. PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS ON PUBLIC LAND.

Section 512 of the Credit CARD Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7b) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS ON PUBLIC LAND.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) AGENCY.—The term 'agency' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

"(B) PUBLIC LAND.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'public land' means any land owned or administered by the United States.

"(ii) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'public land' does not include—

"(I) land located on the outer Continental Shelf; or

"(II) land located in—

"(aa) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

"(bb) Guam;

"(cc) American Samoa;

"(dd) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

"(ee) the Federated States of Micronesia;

"(ff) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

"(gg) the Republic of Palau; or

"(hh) the United States Virgin Islands.

"(2) POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON PUBLIC LAND.—The head of any agency shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, on public land if—

"(A) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

"(B) the possession of the firearm complies with the law of the State in which the public land is located."

SEC. 314. SEVERABILITY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, if any provision of this title, or any amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SA 3479. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 25, strike lines 1 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) **FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.**—The term "Federal public land" means any land or water that is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate, and the public, that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to explore wildland fire preparedness and to consider the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Forest Service.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to john_assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Meghan Conklin at (202) 224-8046 or John Assini at (202) 224-9313.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Role of Regulation in Shaping Equity Market Structure and Electronic Trading.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Falling Through the Cracks: The Challenges of Prevention and Identification in Child Trafficking and Private Re-homing.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC
AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold an East Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, “Combating Forced Labor and Modern-Day Slavery in East Asia and the Pacific.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a European Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, “Renewed Focus on European Energy Security.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 906, 797, and 904; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that all rollcall votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the

table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THREATS TO
FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 440, S. Res. 447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 447) recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble.

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. RES. 447

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to evaluate freedom of the press around the world, to defend the media from attacks on its independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/163) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas 2014 is the 21st anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme “Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111-166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of freedom of the press around the world in the annual human rights report of the Department of State;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 71 journalists and 39 citizen journalists were killed in 2013 in connection with their collection and dissemination of news and information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 3 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment in 2013 were Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, and in Syria, the deadliest country for such journalists, an unprecedented number of journalists were abducted;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 617 journalists have been murdered since 1992 without the perpetrators of such crimes facing punishment;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 5 countries with the highest number of unpunished journalist murders between 2004 to 2013 are Iraq, Somalia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Syria;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 826 journalists and 127 citizen journalists were arrested in 2013;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 211 journalists worldwide were in prison on December 1, 2013;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison are Syria, China, Eritrea, Turkey, and Iran;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the Government of Syria and extremist rebel militias have intentionally targeted professional and citizen journalists, causing dramatic repercussions for the freedom of the press throughout the region;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has engaged in an unprecedented campaign to silence the independent press and undermine freedom of expression, including its recent efforts to destabilize Ukraine;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders has expressed concern that journalists in Cuba have suffered physical attacks, arbitrary detention, and death threats, and have been prevented access to information;

Whereas Freedom House has cited a deteriorating environment for internet freedom around the world and has ranked Iran, Cuba, China, Syria, and Ethiopia as having the worst obstacles to access, limits on content, and violations of user rights among the countries and territories rated by Freedom House as “Not Free”;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, the activism of civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world following World Press Freedom Day, held on May 3, 2014;

(2) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(3) pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

(4) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/68/163), by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press, such as the recent kidnappings of journalists and media workers in eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian militant groups;

(6) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to ensure that the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(B) to continue to urge foreign governments to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to continue to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press year-round.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute to the preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 447), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2569

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I understand that S. 2569, introduced earlier today by Senator WALSH, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2569) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that following morning

business, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order; and, finally, that following disposition of the Adams nomination and resuming legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, and that all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, tomorrow there will be at least one rollcall vote at 12 noon on confirmation of the Castro nomination to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. We expect voice votes on confirmation of the Vetter and Adams nominations and on adoption of the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:03 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 8, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the July Fourth break, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, who were killed during combat operations in Afghanistan: Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, Lance Corporal Brandon J. Garabrant, and Lance Corporal Adam F. Wolff. May I, at this time, extend my deepest sympathy to the families of these three brave marines.

Mr. Speaker, recently much attention has been given to the chaos building in Iraq. However, we must not forget that there is still chaos in Afghanistan.

In June of this year, I visited Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. I met three soldiers from Fort Bragg who had lost one leg each in Afghanistan. I met two marines from my district at Camp Lejeune.

One marine, 23 years old, had lost two legs and an arm. His father, from Louisiana, was standing beside his exercise mat, which is about 3 or 4 feet

off the ground. To look in the eyes of the father, to see the pain, the sadness, and the worry about the future of his 23-year-old son, I cannot describe today on the floor of the House. I don't know the words to describe the pain I saw in the eyes.

Then I went to see the second marine from Camp Lejeune, who in February of this year stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. I could only look at him and hope for the best as he told me about his wife and his 8-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have the photograph on this poster of two young ladies whose father was Sergeant Kevin Balduf, stationed at Camp Lejeune. The little girls' names are Eden and Stephanie. They are standing at the grave site of their father.

Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer—Sergeant Balduf, again, was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Colonel Palmer at Air Station Cherry Point, which is also in my district in eastern North Carolina—were sent to Afghanistan to train Afghans to be police officers. The night before Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer were killed, Sergeant Balduf emailed his wife, Amy, and said, "I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them." The next day, he and Colonel Palmer were shot and killed by the Afghans they were trying to train.

Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is not worth the treasure or the blood that has been spent there over the last 12 years. We have no more business thinking we can change the Middle East, because history has proven Afghanistan and Iraq will never change, no matter what. Iraq was an unnecessary war. It was manufactured intelligence by the previous administration. It was an unnecessary, unjust war where 4,000 Americans were killed, 30,000 were wounded, and 100,000 Iraqis were killed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will close today by quoting a man for whom I have great respect, because he and I agree on our foreign policies. His name is Pat Buchanan:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

We in Congress continue to spend money over in Afghanistan—and now Iraq—from money that we borrow from other countries. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I say to Stephanie and Eden: Your father was a hero. He will never be forgotten.

I will say to all the families and the children of those who lost loved ones:

Your loved ones will never be forgotten. They have done so much for this country.

May God continue to bless America and may God continue to bless those in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Federal judge in Texas, our government is "completing the criminal mission" of human traffickers "who are violating the border security of the United States" and assisting a "criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals."

Here is how ICE is complicit in aiding and abetting human smuggling:

A smuggler is paid to bring children into the United States. The smuggler then is apprehended by ICE and prosecuted, but the criminal act is completed when ICE personally delivers the migrant child to the parent who has instigated the crime. If the parent is also illegally in the United States, ICE neither deports the parent nor the child.

The Federal judge chastised the Department of Homeland Security for not enforcing the law and compares this nonenforcement on the border to "taking illegal drugs or weapons it has seized from smugglers and delivering them to the criminals who solicited their illegal importation" into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, with its policy of open borders and blatant refusal to enforce the law, is complicit in the crisis at the southern border.

The timing is not a coincidence. The surge of foreign nationals illegally entering the United States all began when the President planted the seed for executive amnesty in a 2012 Rose Garden speech. In this speech, he announced his policy of unilateral administrative amnesty for minors. This was an avoidable crisis created to set the stage politically for universal amnesty.

The President's policy of nonenforcement has effectively encouraged tens of thousands of people to pay smugglers to bring children from Central America to the United States. Now migrant children just surrender themselves at the border and expect the United States to let them stay, take care of them, or reunite them with their parents who may also illegally be in the U.S.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Why? Because the word is out in Central America that America does not enforce its laws. The number of unaccompanied minors who are smuggled into the U.S. illegally has grown tremendously under this administration, as this chart shows, now up to 142,000 a year.

This is not only a humanitarian crisis, but this crisis is affecting our national security, our economy, our health, and our sovereignty. Our porous border allows anyone to enter the United States illegally. The influx of thousands of migrants comes with a cost to the tune of billions of dollars, all left to Americans to pay for.

The system is overwhelmed. We can't even take care of our veterans. Now there have been disturbing reports of diseases originating in Central America that have traveled with the migrants coming to our country threatening the health of people who are legally here and American citizens.

This is not isolated on the border towns. Unaccompanied minor children are being sent all over the country. In fact, I just found out last night that Health and Human Services is looking for a school to house unaccompanied minors in Houston, Texas—my hometown.

While the administration acts surprised about the crisis, the paper trail shows they knew that it was coming in January. The Department of Homeland Security in January posted online advertising for transportation contractors needed to help deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States.

The administration knew about this, but rather than enforce the rule of law and increase border security, the administration planned to accept the migrants and find places to house them. This current chaos is also an insult to people who come to America the legal way, but the White House has put politics over the law and what is best for the American people.

So what now? Well, deploy the National Guard to the southern border to deter future migrants from making the journey to America. It is the first duty of the Federal Government to defend the sovereignty of our Nation. Appropriate money that is still going for nation-building in Iraq to fund the National Guard on our southern border. Surely, protecting our border is just as important as securing the border of Iraq. If the President won't protect the border, let the State Governors do it with the National Guard.

Second, those who have already come here should be safely reunited with their families in their native countries. The law should be changed to expedite their removal. Warehousing these children is not a compassionate response to this crisis. It will not solve the crisis; it will only grow.

The President of the United States should be the first to say to the world:

The rule of law will be enforced in the United States. Do not try to beat the system. Come to the United States the legal way or not at all.

But the administration is missing in action in this crisis. It is true the President is going to Texas this week, but he is going down there to raise money for a campaign. He is not going near the border. Maybe it is just too dangerous to go to the Texas-Mexico border.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FROM PFAFFTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Band of Raiders that successfully marched on Washington last week.

The Reagan High School Marching Band came to D.C. from Pfafftown, North Carolina, one of only 14 bands chosen to participate in the National Independence Day Parade.

Director Andrew Craft gives life to the band's philosophy that "we must create strong musicians before we can expect a strong music ensemble." The band's music statement emphasizes performance excellence, and excellence's ever present companion: work ethic.

In fewer than 10 years, Reagan High School is already recognized as having one of the top school bands in North Carolina and the Nation.

The Raiders performed "America the Beautiful" for the parade. They are also proud of the Reagan High School fight song, appropriately titled, "The Great Communicator March."

It is an honor to recognize this fine organization today, and I wish them continued success in the future. With their rigorous focus and commitment to excellence, I believe we can count on a bright future for the Band of Raiders.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, our crisis at the southern border is a direct result of the President's executive actions that have sent a message to children and families across Central America that if they cross our porous border they will be allowed to stay. In fact, the administration estimates approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children will cross our border this year alone.

This is a humanitarian crisis of this administration's own creation and a stark reminder of the President's

failings when it comes to securing our border. An unsecure border presents many dangers to our national security, and the recent and dramatic rise in unaccompanied alien children along our southern border indicates an alarming ease at which our border is being crossed illegally.

Potentially worse than that, despite the administration's apparent surprise by this recent surge in border crossings by these children, on January 19 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security posted a request for information on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site seeking contractors to provide "escort services" for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The posting specifically calls for a contractor who can transport unaccompanied alien children that have been apprehended by law enforcement in the U.S. to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The solicitation from January states that "there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total."

□ 1215

The online posting suggests that DHS was expecting a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children that it would need to transport this year.

Furthermore, the 65,000 number closely corresponds with the administration's new estimate that 60,000 unaccompanied children will come into the country illegally this year.

This leads to the obvious question of how it was that ICE or DHS was able to project such a rise in border crossing by children this year.

Because of this, I have sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Acting Director of ICE, Thomas Winkowski, demanding information as to how their agencies may have anticipated the recent and dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied alien children that are crossing the southern border into the United States illegally.

Mr. Speaker, this unprecedented humanitarian crisis at our border must be resolved, and I fear that promises of even more unilateral executive actions from this President will only make the problem he has created even worse.

We must get to the bottom of how this crisis happened, how it can be prevented from happening again, and how we can finally secure our Nation's problem of securing our porous borders.

IN HONOR OF MY SISTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our great country.

As the fireworks went off and we celebrated Independence Day, July

Fourth was a reminder of the men and women across this country and throughout history that have dedicated their lives to freedom, faith, and their families.

We had a wonderful time with a majority of my family, but I was reminded the day following the Fourth of July that this is not just about a place where we talk about policy. It is really about people.

I got a call that my sister, who is fighting a different kind of fight—a fight against cancer—was moved to a hospice wing. Truly, as I went to visit her, she reminded me, Mr. Speaker, that it is not about policy, but it is about people.

Today, as she fights for her final breath, I want to take a personal opportunity to tell the few that are gathered here—and perhaps this is only for an audience of one—that an older brother is proud of his sister. He is very thankful for the opportunity that he has had these last 52 years to know her.

Lord, as we look at the fight against cancer, it affects every single family—perhaps every single Member that is here—and there is nothing much that we can be thankful for, other than the time that it permits us to say the things that we should have said long ago.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body to thank many of the Members who have been praying for my sister, but mainly to say that I am proud to be her brother and to serve this country, where we can gratefully express our appreciation in a free and unselfish way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the House reconvenes, we ask Your blessing upon deliberations informed by the experiences and interactions of the Members with their constituents.

We thank You for the time to be together with family and friends as our

Nation celebrated 235 years of being a marvelous experiment in the self-governance of a people brought together by ideals and trusting in the ability of a free people to govern themselves in justice and peace.

Mindful of this great heritage, and the hard work and sacrifices of so many American ancestors to us all, may the Members of this people's House deliberate in good faith, mindful not only of short-term interest, but of their place in history, and of the tremendous responsibility to govern wisely for a bright future for our Nation.

May all that is done this day, in the wake of our national celebration, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING RANDY ERICKSON

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Randy Erickson, a constituent from Kodiak, Alaska.

Recently, on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he traveled from Kodiak, Alaska, to South Sudan. While there, Mr. Erickson repaired and serviced power generators for the two utilities that provide these towns with electricity. This work is part of the Electrification Sustainability Program in South Sudan, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One project has evolved into a self-sustaining municipal electric cooperative serving approximately 1,300 consumer members. The other project also serves approximately 550 customers, including household, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

After the 2005 peace agreement in South Sudan, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Inter-

national Foundation sent a team of experienced engineering and management staff to establish the first electric cooperative, and later to build two more rural utilities in other areas.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International team provided training at these utilities to strengthen the competency of their directors, management, and employees.

Civil unrest broke out again last December, and many people were evacuated. Recently, USAID and the State Department began approving travel for its employees and partners to South Sudan, and Mr. Erickson volunteered his time and skills for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation to help ensure that, despite the unpredictable situation, the people in these areas could still have electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Erickson for his hard work.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, as so many times before, the people of Israel are under missile attack from the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, with 300 rocket attacks since June—150 just over the past few days—forcing children into shelters, with the promise of more violence rained on Israel. This is the same Hamas that has formed a unity government with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Speaker, some things are clear. When rockets are fired on Israel, Israel will defend its people. When Hamas chooses violence, Israel will protect its people. When Hamas commits itself to the eradication and extermination of Israel, Israel will do what it must to ensure its survival.

Today, I will be introducing bipartisan legislation reaffirming this country's support for the people of Israel as it defends itself.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal published an editorial from the Colorado Springs Gazette titled: "Immigration Crisis: Securing Border is Key to Stemming Flow of Children."

Extraordinary points are made in the editorial:

Failure to secure the southern border, combined with careless messaging by President Barack Obama, has made the United States an attractive nuisance. The fiasco at the southern border is far more than a political dilemma.

Obama needs to get this under control, letting Latin Americans know in no uncertain terms that the United States cannot and will not host unattended children who illegally cross the border. We cannot continue putting these youths in danger, and we can't afford to resolve their collective plight.

The lives of helpless children rest in the balance.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, numbers don't lie, but viewed in isolation, they can obscure the truth.

Last week offered some encouraging news: 288,000 new jobs and an unemployment rate, by one measure, of 6.1 percent, which is the lowest rate achieved during Mr. Obama's administration.

There is tremendous human cost associated with half a decade of unemployment above—often, well above—6 percent, but this is an improvement. Our celebration, though, should be tempered by the truths obscured by this statistic.

The truth is: more than 92 million adults above age 16 are not in the labor force.

The truth is: if the labor force were at pre-recession levels, the unemployment rate would be 11.1 percent.

The truth is: the labor force participation rate has not been this low since 1978.

Mr. Speaker, some predicted President Obama would be the second coming of Jimmy Carter. Nearly 6 years in, that is looking like a best-case scenario.

SECURE THE BORDER AND FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE LAW

(Mr. BRIDENSTINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the President refuses to secure the border, ignoring our laws. He has promoted citizenship for anyone who makes it into our country illegally. In so doing, he has caused mass illegal migration into our country. This has resulted in human trafficking, abuse, and even death.

The President has turned U.S. military bases into refugee camps, denying Members of Congress access to these camps. He has allowed media tours, but the media can't ask questions, can't talk to medical staff or employees, can't talk to the children, can't bring recording devices, and can't take pictures. It is very reminiscent of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, the President's lawlessness on the border has undermined our

national sovereignty and national security. Now the President wants our constituents to pay \$3.7 billion to solve a problem he created. Without a secure border, this is just the beginning.

Members of both parties must demand that the President finally secure the border and faithfully execute the law.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go in my district, from the grocery store to town hall meetings, I hear the same thing over and over again. This President will not stay within the bounds of the Constitution of the United States or the laws passed by this body and the Senate, and it is time that we stand up to that.

That is why I join in support with the proposal by the esteemed Speaker of this House, the gentleman from Ohio, that this House bring a lawsuit to bring the President back within bounds. I do so reluctantly. I wish we didn't have to do that.

The President's response to this was to say: So sue me.

So, Mr. President, we will sue you—not because we want to but because we have to defend the Constitution you won't abide by and we have to protect the rights of the people of this country that you continue to transgress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the

vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VETERINARY MEDICINE MOBILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1528

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORT AND DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN THE USUAL COURSE OF VETERINARY PRACTICE.

Section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(e)" and inserting "(e)(1)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a registrant who is a veterinarian shall not be required to have a separate registration in order to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice at a site other than the registrant's registered principal place of business or professional practice, so long as the site of transporting and dispensing is located in a State where the veterinarian is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and is not a principal place of business or professional practice."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include an exchange of letters between the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, On April 3, 2014, the Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered reported H.R. 1528, the "Veterinary

Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.” As you know, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I too agree to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of H.R. 1528.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1528 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1528, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1528, the “Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.” As you noted, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1528, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary’s jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1528 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014, introduced by Representative KURT SCHRADER of Oregon.

This is a commonsense bill that is supported by the veterinary community and will bring clarity to the sometimes conflicting guidance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA, relative to the Controlled Substances Act and the ability of a licensed veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice out-

side of the registered location. Simply put, the bill allows veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances in the field.

This bill has a direct impact on my district—home of the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center. Vets are often required to provide ambulatory services in the field, especially in rural areas and for the care of large animals such as cows or horses. Sometimes it is not feasible for owners to bring the animals to a hospital or a clinic like New Bolton Center, and so vets provide essential house call visits.

Clarification of the law is necessary to allow vets to transport, administer, and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered location whether to provide pain management, anesthesia, or euthanasia. Passage of this important legislation will allow veterinarians the complete ability to provide care to their animal patients beyond their clinics. This will protect the health and welfare of the Nation’s animals, ensure public safety, and safeguard the Nation’s food supply.

A companion bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on January 8, 2014. H.R. 1528 includes 185 cosponsors and is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the ASPCA, the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and a veterinary coalition coordinated by the AVMA of over 110 organizations.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

This bipartisan legislation will permit veterinarians to treat animals in the most appropriate setting. This is particularly important for veterinarians when responding to emergencies, treating livestock and wildlife, or working in rural areas.

H.R. 1528 amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow veterinarians to legally carry and administer controlled substances in States in which they are licensed so they can provide care at the location of the animal patient.

The Senate unanimously passed a companion bill, and I am pleased the House is voting on this important legislation. Veterinarians must be able to legally provide complete veterinary care in a way that best protects animal welfare and public safety.

I would like to thank the sponsors, both Representative KURT SCHRADER and TED YOHO. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member FALLONE, and the work of the committee’s staff in advancing this bill

through the Energy and Commerce Committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1528, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), who is a veterinarian himself.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

I want to thank my colleagues—Chairman UPTON, Chairman GOODLATTE, and Mr. PITTS—for helping to bring this important measure to the floor, and a special thank you to my friend and fellow vet, KURT SCHRADER. I also want to thank the Senate for unanimously passing this important piece of legislation out of that Chamber.

I spent over 30 years in the veterinary profession, and the passage of this bill will allow for the continued use of drugs necessary to perform the work we do for our four-legged patients. The animals I have helped on ranches and in the field have no voice of their own, and they require a certain degree of service that only veterinarians can provide.

Vets must have the ability to treat animals on-site and in the field. Limit that ability and you hurt a profession, you cripple ranchers across the country, and, most of all, you unfairly restrict lifesaving treatments for the animals, the patients, who need them the most. Imagine what it would be if the cattle ranchers were required to bring their cattle in or the horse owners to bring their horse to the vet every time they needed services. It directly affects their patient and their livelihood.

My friends, take it from me, I have practiced veterinary medicine in the field. If anything, we need more vets in the field, not less. This bill simply allows those in our profession to continue to do the lifesaving work that we were trained to do on the animals that so badly require it.

Join me in voting for this commonsense measure.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Oregon, Congressman SCHRADER.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, this really was a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort, including, as you have already heard, an impressive coalition ranging from the American Farm Bureau and the ASPCA down to all 50 State veterinary medical associations.

It is nice, I think the public should be reminded, that while we have great differences in this body on many issues, there are also a lot of issues we agree on. I think this first 6 months has been a very productive session for this Congress, and this particular bill I think is noteworthy.

It is a little bit of a shame we are actually here in the early stages of the Drug Enforcement Agency's efforts to control the distribution and abuse of controlled substances. They issued a very blanket type of rule that, unfortunately, scooped up veterinary medicine and animals. We have been able to avoid this issue for many, many years. It is one of those where for the last 100–150 years veterinarians have gone out to the farms and ranches—nowadays, even within the cities, going home to home with mobile veterinary clinics—making sure those patients got the care with the appropriate medication that they deserve to be treated humanely.

DEA, in its exuberance, unfortunately, was unwilling to grant a waiver, a commonsense waiver, administratively, and forced Congressman YOHO and myself to go to a statutory change—lots of taxpayer money, lots of time by the committees. But it, unfortunately, is necessary. The good news I think for America is that commonsense does prevail a lot of times in this great Congress. As alluded to, they have over 185 cosponsors of this legislation, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, allowing veterinarians simply to do what they have done before, which is carry controlled substances safely to treat, dispense, and protect their patients in the field.

I think America would wonder why we are here. I think America is glad we are here, making sure that their pets, their livestock, get the care and treatment they need so they can have safe food and fiber and take care of the pets that they love and live with on a daily basis.

I am not going to go into the bill itself. I think Mr. PITTS did an excellent job of outlining things, as did Mr. GREEN.

I want to make sure I recognize a few folks that have been critical in the role here getting this to the floor. First and foremost, my good friend and colleague, TED YOHO from Florida, and his right-hand man, Larry Calhoun, did a yeoman's job making sure this was a good bipartisan effort; Chairman GOODLATTE and his staff for their unwavering support throughout the process; Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON were invaluable—as a matter of fact, I think we had all but four members of the Agriculture Committee sign on, Republican, Democrat, city, rural; this is a great bill—Senators MORAN and KING for their efforts on the Senate side; Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

And finally, I extend my personal gratitude and a very special thank you to Dr. Ashley Morgan at the American Veterinary Medical Association for her tireless efforts through several years' worth of time to make sure that this bill actually got to the floor and got

the vote that our animal friends actually deserve and, frankly, on behalf of all veterinarians in this great country.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers, and we are prepared to close.

I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to ask all of the Members to support this commonsense bill that is on behalf of the life and safety of our animal patients and the safety of our food supply.

I urge bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1528, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4653) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4653

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", which shall be an independent Federal Government advisory body".

(b) SELECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 201(b)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(2)) is amended by inserting at the end the following new sentence: "The Commission as a whole shall also have expertise on the variety of faiths practiced around the world.".

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking "The appointments required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act." and inserting the following: "An appointment required by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) should be made within 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.".

(d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom

Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), (A) by striking "and the director" and inserting "the director"; and

(B) inserting "and members of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom," after "Training Center,"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "and the various" and inserting "the various"; and

(B) by inserting ", the relationship between religious freedom and security, and the role of religious freedom in United States foreign policy" after "violations of religious freedom".

SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by inserting "voting" after "nine".

(b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting "voting members of the" after "The".

(c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Department of State is encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff with the appropriate security clearance access to classified information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their positions.".

(d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Subsection (g) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting ", including discrimination on the basis of religion" after "employment discrimination".

SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer programs that are primarily of educational benefit to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring private parties may provide compensation and benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, provided that no conflict of interest arises. The number, duration, and funding source of any such internship, fellowship, or volunteer programs shall be described in the annual financial report required by subsection (e).".

SEC. 6. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 207 (22 U.S.C. 6435), by striking "2014" and inserting "2019"; and

(2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking "September 30, 2014" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4653 demonstrates—again, introduced by our distinguished friend and colleague FRANK WOLF—the strong bipartisan support that exists for religious freedom, with nearly an equal number of Republican and Democrat cosponsors of the legislation.

□ 1545

I believe this makes a powerful statement in a world where we see the rights of religious minorities and conscientious objectors being trampled upon in countries where intolerant ideologies, be they of a sectarian or secular nature, seek to crush moral and spiritual thought and conscience.

The headlines, indeed, are filled with examples in country after country in the world. A 27-year-old mother in Sudan was imprisoned and faced a death sentence in Sudan because, under shari'a law, she was considered an apostate as the child of a Muslim father, even though the only religion she herself had ever practiced was Christianity. To this day, Meriam Ibrahim remains unable to leave Sudan.

Anti-Semitism, pervasive and lethal in the Middle East, has spread like a cancer in many parts of Europe, and has resurfaced in Ukraine with a series of shocking and violent attacks following the ouster of former Prime Minister Yanukovych.

In communist dictatorships such as China, religious believers are imprisoned, tortured, and even executed for attempting to practice their faith. In China today, there is a pernicious, escalating war on believers, made worse by the wanton brutality of the regime's ubiquitous secret police. In North Korea, the situation couldn't be more dire, with Christians in particular subject to what human rights observers have termed genocide, dying by the tens of thousands from starvation and torture in concentration camps for daring to hold true to their consciences—that innermost sanctuary of the individual.

Tragically, many countries of the world are a long way from achieving the human right of religious freedom recognized by article 18 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, with great legislative skill, commitment, and driving passion, Chairman FRANK WOLF pushed a somewhat supportive Congress but highly reluctant White House into enacting a singularly important human rights law: the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

For the first time ever, FRANK WOLF's law made the protection and promotion of religious freedom a serious priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador at Large for

Religious Freedom; by establishing the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, which, among other duties, compiles the International Religious Freedom Reports on every country in the world; and by crafting the independent-minded U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the subject of today's reauthorization.

Importantly, FRANK WOLF's landmark law also created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs. History has shown that when the U.S. elevates religious freedom—and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern—conditions often change for the better, prisoners of conscience gain their freedom, and progress is made in the free, or at least a freer, exercise of religious liberty.

According to the Commission, three themes guide the nine Commissioners' discussions on priority countries with serious violations of religious freedom: state-sponsored hostility to and repression of religion; state-sponsored extremist ideology and education; and state failure to prevent and punish religious freedom violations—or, a sense of impunity. Several of the CPC countries that systematically violate religious freedom fall into all three of those categories.

Mr. Speaker, when an administration, be it Republican or Democrat, demotes or trivializes religious freedom to a minor talking point, human rights-abusing nations construe such indifference as license to harass, abuse and exploit persons of faith.

Since its founding, the International Religious Freedom Commission has issued 15 annual reports and 14 special reports covering 76 countries. Of these, the Commission has identified 16 of these as countries that ought to be designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

I would also point out the Commission has acted as a true watchdog, recommending with incisive commentary—and I read their reports, as I know FRANK WOLF and many other Members in this Chamber read them—twice as many countries as CPCs than the State Department has designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

Our hope is that the State Department will say other diplomatic concerns need to be subordinated and just call it the way it is. If a designation is warranted, then name them a Country of Particular Concern and begin a robust intervention to try to get that nation to mitigate and, hopefully, end such egregious practices.

This includes the Commission's list of eight nations that are not on the list currently. One is Vietnam, which is an egregious violator of the rights of religious minorities. The Commission always calls it like it is and pulls no punches.

I would hope—and I would add this parenthetically—that when Members travel, they ought to look up on the Commission Web site and read what the country they are going to visit has said and done about religious freedom violations. Read the country specific report on it, and bring it up with your interlocutors in the country you are going to.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that while the CPC designations remain, the penalties associated with the designations have now essentially lapsed. The last designations by the Obama administration were in 2011, and as 2 years have passed, the sanctions directly linked to the International Religious Freedom Act's sanctions authority have expired. This failure to implement our law on religious freedom sends a deeply troubling message to violators of this fundamental human right. It is thus more important than ever that we in Congress speak with a clear and loud voice today.

Two-and-a-half years ago, after passing with strong bipartisan support in the House, reauthorization of the Commission got bogged down in the Senate. Eventually, through the tenacity of Chairman WOLF, holds were lifted and the bill passed and was signed into law. We hope that the Senate will move swiftly to passage.

Mr. Speaker, let me also point out that in the House there has been tremendous cooperation on both sides of the aisle. This is, as I said at the outset, a truly bipartisan piece of legislation. We have had excellent input from the Commission itself throughout this process, including testimony from then-Chairman Dr. Robert George of Princeton University, who attended my hearing on May 22 and laid out in long, and very, I think, precise detail what needs to be done to combat the religious intolerance that exists today.

I would point out parenthetically that on July 1, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett was elected as the new Chairman. Dr. George is now the Vice Chairman.

I would also point out that at my hearing members from the religious minority communities—Muslim, Baha'i, Christian, and Jewish—spoke out about the importance of the work of the Commission in countries like Iran, Pakistan, and China, helping to shine a bright light on the serious abuses that take place in all three countries. Of course, they raised other concerns as well.

Therefore, I ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this fine bipartisan piece of legislation, sending a very important message to the world that the United States of America deeply values religious liberty, and that it should continue to be a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4653, legislation that reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

I would like to begin by commending Representative FRANK WOLF, the author of this important legislation, along with Representative CHRIS SMITH, for their leadership on international religious freedom issues and for their hard work on this bill.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights States that:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to . . . manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.

Yet, every day religious communities around the world are subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination.

In Sudan, a woman just faced a trial for apostasy, and was initially sentenced to death. China has banned fasting during Ramadan in Muslim-majority areas. In Nigeria, Christians and Muslim communities live in fear of the fanatical terrorist group Boko Haram. In Iran, the regime continues to persecute members of the Baha'i faith.

These and the many other examples of religious intolerance around the world are unacceptable. In keeping with our values, the United States has a responsibility to speak out against violations of religious freedom wherever they might occur.

USCIRF's work to defend religious freedom ranges from conducting research and publishing reports and analysis for public consumption, to offering advice and guidance to lawmakers on religious freedom violations around the world.

I believe religious freedom is a cornerstone of a strong democracy. And democracies, especially the United States, have a responsibility to support religious freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4653, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the author of this legislation and the man that pushed this bill to enactment, the prime author of the International Religious Freedom Act, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, and also the cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader CANTOR, and their staff for prioritizing House consideration of this important reauthorization, as well as House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Congressman CHRIS SMITH for shep-

herding this legislation through the committee process.

I will say publicly what I said many times privately: no person that I have served with in 34 years has done more for human rights and religious freedom than Congressman CHRIS SMITH. He is my hero. When I see the giants that I have served with in my 34 years, and when you go abroad, whether it be in Boko Haram territory in Nigeria or in China, no one has a greater reputation for speaking out for the voiceless than Congressman SMITH. So I appreciate CHRIS' efforts at moving this thing quickly.

I also want to thank Elyse Anderson from my staff, who has done incredible work on this.

From the start, this bill has enjoyed, as Mr. SMITH said, strong bipartisan support, including the cosponsorship of Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL. I want to thank Mr. ENGEL also for his strong support on these issues over the years.

The broad support for this bill is fitting for an issue so central to America's own grand experiment in self-governance—the protection of religious freedom—which is often referred to as America's "first freedom."

Sadly, one need only pick up the newspaper today to see how religious freedom is under assault globally.

The terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, is gaining territory in Iraq and before our eyes is threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region, including the centuries-old Christian community.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled Mosul and the surrounding region in what the Christian Science Monitor recently characterized as a "cataclysmic restructuring of an area that was home to some of the earliest Christians."

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria. The government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia. Countries that we give aid and support to, though the Ahmadiyyas in Pakistan cannot even vote.

These persecuted individuals and communities look to the U.S. above all others to champion their cause and to raise their plight with repressive governments.

In May, I introduced H.R. 4653, the bipartisan legislation before us today, which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for 5 years.

First created in 1998 through the International Religious Freedom Act, it is an independent, bipartisan Federal

Government Commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violation based on international standards, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. Without this Commission, there would be nobody around to point out what is taking place to these groups.

□ 1600

Since its inception, the Commission has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions. The Commission has been a voice for the imprisoned Baha'i leader who is languishing unjustly behind bars in Iran. Many Baha'is are behind bars in Iran, and if it weren't for the Commission, no one would know.

The Commission has been a voice of the fearful Iraqi nun who is uncertain if there is a future for her in the land of her birth. More Biblical activity took place in Iraq than in any other country in the world, other than in Israel. Abraham is from Iraq. Ezekiel is buried in Iraq. Daniel is from Iraq, as are Jonah and Nineveh. Without the Commission, there would be nobody speaking out for the Iraqi nun, who is fearful of her life and is fearful of the future for her church.

The Commission has been a voice of the Buddhist monk, who has watched with horror as more than 130 of his fellow Tibetans have set themselves aflame in desperation at the abuses they have suffered at the hands of the Chinese Government. If it were not for this Commission, nobody would know how the Buddhists are being persecuted in Tibet.

In short, the Commission has been and, with passage of this legislation, will continue to be the voice of the marginalized, oppressed, and persecuted people who dare to worship according to the dictates of their consciences.

The Commission can be relied upon to consistently give the unvarnished truth, as Mr. SMITH said, about the true state of religious freedom in countries around the globe, whether they are strategic allies or adversaries. The Commission is also unhindered by the bureaucratic morass that so often stymies the State Department during both Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

Given the state of religious freedom abroad today, the sobering reality is that the Commission's voice is needed more now than ever before. A vote for this legislation is a vote for America's first freedom. With that, I urge its unanimous passage.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, so I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4653.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To conclude, I want to thank Chairman WOLF again for authoring the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998. What we reauthorize today is just one part of it, and that is the International Religious Freedom Commission.

For the record, the Commission is comprised of nine Commissioners, plus the Ambassador at Large. As of July 1, the current Chairman is Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett; Dr. Robert George is Vice Chairman; Dr. James Zogby is Vice Chairman; and Dr. Zuhdi Jasser and Mary Ann Glendon are Commissioners.

Dean Eric Schwartz—who, as we all know, used to work up on the Hill as a staffer on the Democrat side and who went on to work in the NSC and work on refugee policies—is also a Commissioner, as are Daniel Mark, Father Thomas Reese, and Hannah Rosenthal—who acted as—as point person in combating anti-Semitism. They work at their own expense. These are very, very dedicated individuals and their work is supported by a highly professional staff.

Again, I would ask Members to read their reports. They are among the best reports that have been produced anywhere in Washington. They are accurately posting what is going on, and then they go into great depth as to what some of the remedies ought to be.

I want to thank, again, Chairman WOLF for his extraordinary leadership for 34 years as a Member of Congress in combating all forms of human rights abuse, especially religious persecution. This is just another manifestation of his extraordinary leadership.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support to H.R. 4653, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014.

I support this bipartisan legislation which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for five years.

First created in 1998, USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan Federal government commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations based on international standards and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have religious freedom then it is important that we protect it. Everywhere we look, the choice of worship is being challenged.

For example, we are reminded that significant threats to religious freedom persist across the globe.

In Iraq the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is gaining territory in Iraq and threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region,

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria; the government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

Since its inception, USCIRF has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions.

USCIRF commissioners are routinely called upon to testify before Congress and provide expert policy recommendations on how to most effectively advance this fundamental human right in U.S. foreign policy.

Religious freedom is America's first freedom, part of its history and identity as a nation. It also is a core human right recognized by international law and treaty; a necessary component of U.S. foreign policy and America's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and a vital element of national security, critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world.

USCIRF champions this issue both at home and abroad and its voice is needed as much today as it has ever been.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize USCIRF.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4653, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMITS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 588) concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 588

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Demo-

cratic Republic of the Congo, providing an estimated \$758,102,000 in development, humanitarian, and security assistance, including peacekeeping activities, in fiscal year 2013;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo is "focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens";

Whereas the United Nations has recognized a child's right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is widely recognized as an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, affecting hundreds of children;

Whereas there are American families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that international adoptions of all children are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner;

(3) expresses concern over the increasing number of new adoption cases that have been opened and the impact on children and families of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's suspension of exit permits; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Congolese Government—

(A) resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway;

(B) expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and

(C) encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the United States Department of State and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process and ensure the welfare of all children adopted from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I speak in strong support of the Peterson resolution, H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Last year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended the issuance of exit permits for Congolese children who were adopted by foreign parents, impacting hundreds of U.S. families.

The suspension means that Congolese children adopted by American parents cannot leave the country to go to their new homes, even though the parents have been officially declared the legal guardians under Congolese law. What is more, despite the exit permit suspension, Congolese courts have continued processing new adoptions, leading to a further backlog of adopted children who are unable to leave the country.

It is estimated that over 900 American families are caught up in varying degrees and stages of this adoption limbo—breaking many, many hearts. This is a deplorable situation for these children and for their distraught families. The DRC has not offered a clear explanation for the suspension. The government has provided no evidence of widespread abuse in the adoption process.

The Peterson resolution underscores the importance of an ethical and transparent adoption process, and there are currently robust procedures in place for ensuring that these children are, indeed, orphaned and going to safe homes.

Ultimately, the DRC is entitled to amend its adoption process in going forward, but once the parents' legal guardianships are approved and established by the Congolese courts, the government should allow these children to depart the DRC with their adoptive moms and dads. All children deserve loving homes with moms and dads.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, COLLIN PETERSON, for authoring this important measure, which has strong bipartisan support. Mr. PETERSON has always been a consistent voice in support of human dignity and of the least and littlest among us, consistently defending the human person from the womb to the tomb.

At the full committee markup, several adoptive parents who were denied the requisite permission to bring their sons or daughters home were in attendance.

They, COLLIN, when we went down and spoke to them, told many of us how incredibly grateful they are to you for your leadership and your compassion and for your authorship, especially, of this important resolution.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the committee—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS—for their leadership in marking up this resolution at both the subcommittee and committee levels and for helping to get it to the floor. I also thank ERIC CANTOR and the Speaker for ensuring that it was up for consideration today.

Again, more than 900 American families from across the U.S. and their Representatives in Congress are watching this very closely. Indeed, in April, 170 Members of Congress wrote and asked the DRC Government to lift the exit permit suspension.

When Secretary Kerry visited the Congo in May, he personally raised the issue with President Kabila. I also call on President Obama to raise this issue personally when he and President Kabila meet at the gathering of African heads of state here in Washington during the first week of August.

Finally, I want to say a word to those parents who have endured not only the burdens that are financial, but that are primarily emotional in being separated from the children they have graciously welcomed into their lives.

Your hardship and pain is deeply understood by my colleagues and me, as well as by our staff members, many of whom have worked not only on this resolution, but who have also pushed our State Department and the Government of the DRC to resolve this important issue. Please continue to persevere. Don't give up hope. You will get to love and to have those wonderful children in your homes.

I also want to let the parents know that our Africa Subcommittee plans to hold another hearing to address the growing crisis of orphans in Africa to which adoption is one of the very important durable remedies, and we specifically intend to address the situation that you are confronting with your children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would hope that Congressman PETERSON would lead off that testimony, again, in having been the man, the person in Congress, walking point on this very important issue.

Our approval today of House Resolution 588, with support across party lines, will send a strong signal to Kinshasa that we need to unite these affected families. They shouldn't be separated from these kids. They have done everything by the book, and they ought to be with their loving parents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chair ROYCE, the subcommittee Chair CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Members ENGEL and BASS for their support of this legislation.

I first heard about this problem when a constituent from my district, Kristin

Zeidler of Montevideo, called my office to explain her family's situation.

Kristin and her husband, Gregg, adopted a 4-year-old girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their adoption has been recognized by both the United States Government and the Congolese Government since December of 2012, but they are not being allowed to bring this little girl home.

That is because, in September 2013, adoptions from the DRC were effectively suspended as the Congolese immigration authorities stopped issuing exit permits to adopted children. The Zeidler family has been fighting for the last year and a half to bring their little girl home.

This is just one example of more than 800 Congolese children and their adoptive American families who are caught up in the ongoing adoption crisis in the DRC.

Just to put this into context, this is over 10 percent of the total number of children who were adopted internationally by American families last year worldwide. The majority of the impacted cases are in their final stages and are merely awaiting the last step to bring home their legally adopted children.

This legislation takes a pragmatic approach, seeking to keep both sides at the table and to lead us towards a positive resolution. The resolution recognizes the Congolese Government's concerns about the ethical and transparent adoption process, and it respectfully requests that the issuance of exit permits and the adoption process resume.

Most importantly, H.R. 588 encourages a continued dialogue between our two countries on this issue. I hope that our mutual interests in the welfare of these children can lead us to a solution.

Turmoil in the region makes official estimates difficult, but we know there are millions of orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With hundreds of American families like the Zeidlers being impacted by the suspension, we have a responsibility to act. A child's right to a family is a basic human right that is worthy of protection.

I am leading a letter with Representatives EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, MICHELE BACHMANN, and TRENT FRANKS to President Obama, asking him to address this issue when he meets with President Kabila at the United States-Africa Leaders Summit here in Washington, D.C., next month. I urge my colleagues who support this resolution today to also consider signing the letter.

Once again, I am very grateful to committee Chairman ROYCE and to subcommittee Chairman SMITH for their attention to this important issue, and I am also grateful for the support

of the Adoption Caucus cochairs—Congresswoman BACHMANN and Congresswoman BASS—and of Ranking Member ENGEL.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I have several speakers who want to be here, but they are not physically present on the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this important resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, you have heard today about the devastating effects of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's decision to suspend exit permits for internationally adopted children. I've met with the American families who, as a result of this action, cannot welcome their adopted son or daughter into their home. I've seen their heartbreak.

One family, the Weavers, live in my district. In 2012, James and Olivia Weaver began the process of adopting little Wilfride, a gregarious five-year-old girl with a heartwarming smile. Her birth mother had abandoned her at a local orphanage.

The Weavers were overjoyed when, after nine long months, a Congolese court declared them Wilfride's legal parents. They quickly made preparations for their new daughter to join them and their two other daughters in Chino Hills, California.

But one month after the court's declaration, the Congolese Government suspended exit permits for children like Wilfride—meaning this little girl has had to continue living in an orphanage for the last 10 months. All this despite having a loving home in California that desperately wants to take her in.

I have been to the Congo many times. I understand the exceptional deprivation of orphans there. The Congolese Government should be helping, and not hindering, their transition to a good home.

I should add that, parents with completed adoptions in the DRC are legally responsible for their child's wellbeing—and are reportedly paying on average \$500 a month in child support, in addition to healthcare expenses. I have serious concerns that the DRC Government may have perverse financial incentives to postpone resolving this issue.

I sincerely hope that this is not contributing to the Congo's delay. The government must allow these children to make their way to the homes that are anxiously awaiting their arrival. I want to thank Rep. PETERSON and Chairman SMITH for their hard work on this difficult issue, and I urge Members to support this important

resolution to encourage the Congolese government to do the right thing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 588, which expresses the strong opposition of the House to the current practice of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of suspending the issuance of exit visas for Congolese children adopted by loving American families.

On September 27, 2013, the Congolese Government inexplicably and inexcusably suspended the issuance of exit permits to children who were seeking to depart and begin new and more hopeful lives in the country of their adoptive parents.

All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family.

It is unjust, cruel, and inhumane to punish innocent children for actions they did not commit and had no control over.

UNICEF estimates that there are over four million orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 800,000 of which are double orphans, meaning that they have lost both of their parents. In many cases entire families have been decimated by violence.

Thus, if these innocent children are to have any chance for a normal life, there is a major need for international adoptions.

The recent action by the DRC Government jeopardizes both the adoption process and the long term safety of these children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few nations with more persons willing and eager to open their homes and their hearts to the orphaned children of the DRC.

There are, right at this moment, scores of American citizens currently in the DRC who are being forced to remain in the country for months while they wait for the government to approve exit permits for their adopted children. These delays serve no useful purpose and unnecessarily impede the children's adjustment to their new life and brighter future in America, including enrolling in school, adapting to the culture, and learning the language.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Government of the DRC are particularly disturbing given the fact that the United States is one of the DRC's largest and most generous supporters, as evidenced by the estimated \$274 million in bilateral aid \$165 million in emergency humanitarian assistance it provided in fiscal year 2014.

I agree that it ought to be the policy of the United States to help the Democratic Republic of Congo "focus on helping the country become a nation that provides for the basic needs of its citizens."

That is why the government of the DRC must discontinue its current practice of needlessly delaying or suspending the issuance of exit visas to children so they can be united with their adoptive families who will love and cherish them and provide for their basic needs.

H. Res. 588 calls upon the U.S. Government to recognize a child's rights and ask the Congolese government to:

1. Resume processing and issuing exit permits;

2. Prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions that occurred before the suspension; and

3. Expedite the processing of children who are deemed medically fragile.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the pain and anxiety of one Texas family resulting from the DRC Government's arbitrary suspension of exit visas for adopted children.

The mother of this family wrote my office yesterday. This is what she said:

I am writing today to inform you of the tragic situation my family is in with our legally adopted children not being allowed to come home from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our sweet children, Josias (18 months) and Mercy (20 months), were adopted over a year ago and have had U.S. visas since December 2013.

Sadly, they are still waiting for us to come get them and bring them home because the Congolese government is not allowing any adopted children to leave the country to be united with their families.

In September 2013, the DRC government issued a suspension on the issuance of exit letters for all internationally adopted children, initially claiming the suspension would last "up to a year."

They have now indicated the suspension will likely go on much longer and that we may not ever be granted an exit letter for our children.

This has been a heartbreaking situation for our family as each day that our children are stuck in the DRC their lives are in danger.

Several children have died of malaria during the suspension and many more have become very ill due to unsanitary living conditions and limited access to medical care and their lives are now in jeopardy.

Adoption is an important tool for protecting children and if the only barrier preventing these children from going home is signature on an exit visa, then the United States should stand with the children and insist that the government of the DRC act in the best interests of the children.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 588 so that we can end the suffering and heartbreak currently experienced by so many American families and their adopted children from the DRC. It is the right thing to do.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today we have a chance to change the lives of hundreds of American families, including three families in the Sixth District of Kentucky. One of these is the Hatton family, who are sitting in the gallery here today.

These families have legally adopted children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but have been unable to bring their children home because their exit permits have been unfairly halted.

After learning of their struggles, I have been working closely with the Department of State and advocating on their behalf because no family should be faced with the choice of leaving the newest member of their family in another country or remaining in the Congo, further splitting up their family and causing a tremendous amount of uncertainty and heartache.

We must do everything in our power to help these American citizens and facilitate the travel of their adopted children home to join their family in the United States.

That is why I am a cosponsor of this resolution and thank the member from Minnesota for his leadership and support on this issue.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resume issuing exit permits so that families can bring their adoptive children home to the United States.

I want to commend my colleague, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, for bringing this measure forward. It makes clear that we condemn the use of children as political pawns and support the unification of these families that have been separated due to arbitrary, bureaucratic, red tape.

As the father of three, I can imagine nothing worse than being separated from my children and not being able to love and care for them. Unfortunately, this has been a reality for hundreds of American families, including two in my district.

The Riegler's, a family from Muncie, legally adopted their son Chiza on August 27, 2013. Almost a year later, he is not home, despite having medical needs that can only be properly treated in the United States. The Riegler's are not alone in this harrowing experience, other families throughout the country are in the same senseless limbo.

The Department of State must put pressure on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to issue exit permits for children that have legally been adopted. As exit permits are provided for children deemed medically fragile, the State Department must then expeditiously process the paperwork to ensure these children are in their parents' arms as soon as possible.

All children have a right to be in a loving family that can provide the support they need to become healthy adults. We should not accept having to wait years to bring an adopted child home to the United States as the best we can do for these children and their parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 588, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

PRECLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3488) to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide

customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3488

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

Pursuant to section 1629 of title 19, United States Code, and subject to section 5, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in a foreign country to—

(1) prevent terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and other security threats from entering the United States;

(2) prevent inadmissible persons from entering the United States;

(3) ensure merchandise destined for the United States complies with applicable laws;

(4) ensure the prompt processing of persons eligible to travel to the United States; and

(5) accomplish such other objectives as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the United States.

SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of the proposed agreement to establish such preclearance operations, including an identification of the foreign country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into a preclearance agreement, and the location at which such preclearance operations will be conducted.

(2) An estimate of the date on which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to establish preclearance operations under such agreement.

(3) The anticipated funding sources for preclearance operations under such agreement, and other funding sources considered.

(4) An assessment of the impact such preclearance operations will have on legitimate trade and travel, including potential impacts on passengers traveling to the United States.

(5) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such preclearance operations are to be established.

(6) An assessment of the impacts such preclearance operations will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing.

(7) Information on potential economic, competitive, and job impacts on United States air carriers associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(8) Information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(9) Information on potential security vulnerabilities associated with commencing such preclearance operations, and mitigation plans to address such potential security vulnerabilities.

(10) A U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing model for such preclearance operations, and plans for how such positions would be filled.

(11) Information on the anticipated costs over the next five fiscal years associated with commencing such preclearance operations.

(12) A copy of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) of section 5.

(13) Other factors that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of commencing such preclearance operations.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED AT AIRPORTS.—In the case of an airport, in addition to the notification requirements under subsection (a), not later than 90 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A certification that preclearance operations under such preclearance agreement would provide homeland security benefits to the United States.

(2) A certification that preclearance operations within such foreign country will be established under such agreement only if—

(A) at least one United States passenger carrier operates at such airport; and

(B) the access of all United States passenger carriers to such preclearance operations is the same as the access of any non-United States passenger carrier.

(3) A certification that the Secretary of Homeland Security has considered alternative options to preclearance operations and has determined that such options are not the most effective means of achieving the objectives specified in section 3.

(4) A certification that the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country will not significantly increase customs processing times at United States airports.

(5) An explanation of other objectives that will be served by the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country.

(6) A certification that representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection consulted publicly with interested parties, including providers of commercial air service in the United States, employees of such providers, security experts, and such other parties as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, before entering into such an agreement with such foreign government.

(7) A report detailing the basis for the certifications referred to in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before substantially modifying a preclearance agreement with the government of a foreign country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the proposed agreement, as modified, and the justification for such modification.

(d) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall monthly measure the average customs processing time to enter the 25 United States airports that support the highest volume of international travel (as determined by available Federal passenger data) and provide to the appropriate congressional committees such measurements.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Based on the measurements described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner of

U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall quarterly assess whether the average customs processing time referred to in such paragraph significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation.

(3) **SUBMISSION.**—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (2), if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1) significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation described in paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 days after making such determination, provide to the appropriate congressional committee a remediation plan for reducing such average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 30 days after submitting the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall implement those portions of such plan that can be carried out using existing resources, excluding the transfer of personnel.

(5) **SUSPENSION.**—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not submit the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3) within 60 days in accordance with such paragraph, the Commissioner may not, until such time as such remediation plan is submitted, conduct any negotiations relating to preclearance operations at an airport in any country or commence any such preclearance operations.

(6) **STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The remediation plan described in paragraph (3) shall consider recommendations solicited from relevant stakeholders.

(e) **CLASSIFIED REPORT.**—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a)(5) and the report required pursuant to subsection (b)(7) may be submitted in classified form if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such is appropriate.

SEC. 5. AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AT PRECLEARANCE AIRPORTS.

(a) **AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS AGREEMENT.**—Prior to the commencement of preclearance operations at an airport in a foreign country under this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall enter into an agreement with the government of such foreign country that delineates and requires the adoption of aviation security screening standards that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States.

(b) **AVIATION SECURITY RESCREENING.**—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that the government of a foreign country has not maintained security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at airports at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator shall require the rescreening in the United States by the Transportation Security Administration of passengers and their property before such passengers may deplane into sterile areas of airports in the United States.

(c) **SELECTEES.**—Any passenger who is determined to be a selectee based on a check against a terrorist watch list and arrives on a flight originating from a foreign airport at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), shall be required to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States.

SEC. 6. LOST AND STOLEN PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not enter into or renew an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish or maintain U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country unless such government certifies—

(1) that it routinely submits information about lost and stolen passports of its citizens and nationals to INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Document database; or

(2) makes available to the United States Government such information through another comparable means of reporting.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except for subsection (c) of section 4, this Act shall apply only to the establishment of preclearance operations in a foreign country in which no preclearance operations have been established as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3488. This legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security meet certain conditions and requirements prior to establishing any new U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in foreign countries.

The Customs and Border Protection's preclearance operations overseas inspect and examine travelers and their merchandise in foreign locations prior to their arrival in the United States. Once cleared on foreign soil, passengers do not have to clear customs upon arrival in the United States.

Now, Congress has a long history of supporting limited and specific preclearance operations. These serve to facilitate travel, and they improve homeland security. However, earlier this year, Customs and Border Patrol, or CBP, commenced preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi without prior notification to Congress, without concern to American jobs, and without a clear homeland security benefit.

This legislation ensures that the DHS takes into account the impact on American jobs and our global competitiveness as we enhance our security through future preclearance facilities. My bill requires DHS to meet a series of benchmarks to establish a preclearance operation and requires

transparency and prompt notification to Congress while the Department negotiates preclearance agreements with foreign governments. This legislation will go a long way towards preventing a repeat of CBP's mismanaged rollout of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

I have long had serious concerns about the agreement with Abu Dhabi, especially the way it was handled by the Department and, ultimately, the disregard DHS had for the domestic airline industry. To correct that error, this bill requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders so that that never happens again.

Abu Dhabi was the first new preclearance location established since 9/11. Prior to Abu Dhabi, the U.S. had preclearance locations in places like Ireland, the Bahamas, and Canada. We had an obligation to get this right, and CBP did not. Despite the security-focused rationale, this agreement was conducted without suitable congressional notification or a thorough explanation for the rationale of preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi.

We know that a significant number of watch list hits and suspicious travel pattern information originates from the region, but that does not excuse the lack of notification or, more importantly, not taking into account how such agreements affect American workers and their employers.

The establishment of a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where no domestic carrier currently flies—let me repeat that, no domestic carrier currently flies—puts U.S. carriers at a competitive and significant disadvantage, as customs wait times are generally shorter at preclearance facilities compared to wait times in the United States.

This facility provides a clear facilitation benefit to foreign airlines at the expense of U.S. carriers and U.S. jobs, and this is particularly egregious where the foreign-based airline is given subsidies designed to tilt the market unfairly in their direction. By requiring the Secretary to consider the economic impact in establishing preclearance facilities, we protect American jobs and American workers.

I support giving our security professionals the tools needed in their effort to “push out our borders,” but we must do so in a way that makes us more secure, does not divert limited CBP staffing resources, or threaten U.S. jobs and a vital economic engine provided by U.S. carriers.

I am pleased that over 150 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle cosponsored this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

As a Member who represents a major international airport, I had deep reservations about the Department of Homeland Security's decision to open a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year. I was concerned about the prospect that limited Customs and Border Protection personal resources would be diverted from domestic airports like Newark Liberty International Airport to overseas posts, which could result in wait times for clearing customs exceeding anyone's definition of reasonable. I also had concerns about DHS' decision to conduct preclearance at an overseas airport where U.S. carriers do not have a presence, thus giving a competitive advantage to a foreign-owned airline.

H.R. 3488 addresses both of my concerns. Regarding customs processing times, the bill requires DHS to certify to Congress that the establishment of preclearance operations in an additional country will not significantly increase processing times at airports in the United States. As for opening preclearance facilities at airports where U.S. carriers do not operate, this bill would prohibit DHS from doing so going forward.

United States airlines and the jobs they create and support across the country are critical to our economy. Efforts to "push out our borders" for security reasons must not come at the expense of the competitiveness of U.S.-owned and -operated airlines. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for recognizing this fact and for bringing forth this legislation before us today.

If enacted, H.R. 3488 will result in stricter requirements as well as enhanced oversight and accountability regarding how DHS decides to expand preclearance operations.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN for his diligent work on this issue—for quite a long time, actually. He raised concerns with the Department of Homeland Security preclearance operations very early on, and his leadership has been so important to the success of this bill and where we are today.

You know, really, I think there have been few issues that have kept CBP leadership busier over the last year than preclearance. The troubled rollout of the preclearance in Abu Dhabi caused an awful lot of consternation in the Congress.

The preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi was the first such operation es-

tablished since 9/11 based primarily on a security rationale. Therefore, the lack of appropriate congressional coordination and notification troubled many Members on both sides of the aisle.

In fact, preclearance operations were the subject of a limitation amendment to last year's Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that I cosponsored with Mr. MEEHAN.

The bill under consideration today is sort of a fusion of Mr. MEEHAN's original text and then the FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as well as Ms. JACKSON LEE's bill on this topic also, and it was very carefully crafted after numerous consultations with the Department of Homeland Security, the airline industry, and, again, Members from both sides of the aisle.

It really sets the contours for future preclearance operations which incorporate a series of notifications and certifications, including a justification that outlines the homeland security benefit and impact to domestic staffing and wait times that any new preclearance operations would have. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this bill requires Congress to be notified in the event that the Department of Homeland Security modifies or changes an existing agreement.

I certainly want to be clear that the House Homeland Security Committee supports preclearance where it makes sense. Preclearance, of course, has been around as a security screening and trade facilitation tool since the early 1950s actually, and since 9/11, the security value of these operations has only been heightened. However, this bill makes it absolutely clear that the Department of Homeland Security cannot repeat the mistakes of the past.

I would also like to just thank Chairman CAMP of the Ways and Means Committee, who helped work with us with the Homeland Security Committee to get this bill to the floor today. Again, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN and other Members who have worked hard to make sure that the American airlines are not negatively impacted by future preclearance operations overseas.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security decided to alter the focus of Customs and Border Protection's preclearance program from one aimed at passenger facilitation to one intended to enhance security—or, at least, that is what we were told when a bipartisan group of Members led by Representatives MEEHAN and DEFAZIO

began asking hard questions about why a preclearance facility was being opened in Abu Dhabi, an airport at which no U.S. flag carriers operate.

Since preclearance operations commenced in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, representatives from DHS, including Secretary Johnson, have repeatedly stated that they are looking to expand the program to other high-risk overseas airports. Enactment of H.R. 3488 would ensure that, before DHS entered into another preclearance agreement, thoughtful consideration is given to the potential homeland security benefits of such an expansion, as well as the potential impacts to CBP staff at domestic ports of entry. Importantly, the bill also requires DHS to report to Congress on the potential economic, competitive, and job-related impacts opening such a facility would have on United States air carriers.

During committee consideration of the bill, an amendment that I offered was accepted that would require any passenger arriving in the U.S. who is determined to be a selectee to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States. This provision would ensure that any traveler that is determined to be potentially dangerous undergoes security screening on U.S. soil before being allowed to board a domestic flight.

Finally, the bill prohibits the opening of a new preclearance facility unless at least one United States passenger carrier operates at the airport where preclearance operations would be established. This provision will ensure that we do not see a repeat of the circumstances surrounding the opening of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where a foreign airline was provided a significant competitive advantage over U.S. carriers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

□ 1630

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for his hard work and leadership on this issue, this bill. He rallied more than 150 Members of Congress—no small feat in this institution—to express his concern over the way the DHS preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi were set up last year. The commonsense bill before us today should be supported by every Member of this body. Pushing out the border through operations like preclearance allows Customs and Border Protection to identify and intercept threats, including dangerous people and cargo, long before they ever

reach our shores. So it is a noble concept.

Preclearance facilities have served America's interests by facilitating secure trade and travel since the 1950s. Since 9/11, the security value of these facilities has only increased.

However, I share the concerns of many of my colleagues regarding the rollout of a preclearance facility that was recently established in Abu Dhabi, which was the first such facility set up after 9/11. The process by which CBP announced and created this facility was not transparent, raising several questions about the suitability of that location.

I recently had the opportunity to visit this preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi on a delegation that I led to the region, and I came away convinced that there is real security value in putting our CBP officers overseas. However, I think it is appropriate that Congress weigh in on how we go about establishing future preclearance operations, given the controversy and mismanaged rollout of Abu Dhabi.

This bill strengthens the homeland security elements of preclearance operations by requiring that comparable aviation security screening standards are in place prior to beginning preclearance operations. It would also require rescreening of passengers and cargo if security standards are not maintained overseas.

This bill takes steps to reduce the potential for missteps by requiring a series of notifications and certifications to the Congress long before new preclearance facilities are established. Under the requirements of this bill, DHS must now certify that future facilities serve the national interests, stakeholders must be properly consulted, and U.S. airlines must have equal access to locations under consideration. This legislation we are considering is a result of extensive consultation with industry, the Department itself, and Members from both parties.

Again, I want to thank Chairman MEEHAN for his hard work and oversight on this important program. I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, BENNIE THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for, once again, on our committee, showing great bipartisanship to get the will of the people done in this House.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as you heard, H.R. 3488 enjoys the support of members of the Committee on Homeland Security. Indeed, this bill has a bipartisan collection of 154 cosponsors.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep appreciation to my

colleagues from both sides of the aisle for responding so collectively to the importance of this issue.

First and foremost, the principle that I think we stand for on both sides of the aisle is, when important issues like this are raised, that there be appropriate consultation with Congress and an appropriate understanding of the clear articulation by Homeland Security of the benefit that they expect to reach.

As the chairman has identified, once he visited Abu Dhabi, he came away convinced that there was a benefit. But the idea that that would not have been shared with us prior to entering that agreement is one of the critical things that we want to see addressed by this legislation.

But it is also the inability of the Department to appreciate or to take into consideration the impact that this will have, that it may have, and, in fact, it will have when there is no United States airline flying from Abu Dhabi. And the competitive disadvantage of that, which is generated by the fact that individuals who choose to fly the foreign airline currently get right into our country once they get into the preclearance facility, while those on American airlines coming into the same airport will wait in long lines. It creates a competitive disadvantage and the real possibility of a loss of American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 3488, the "Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014."

The legislation before the House today is the product of regular order, having been considered and approved by the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security in May and the Full Committee on Homeland Security in June.

H.R. 3488 stipulates the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations.

It is imperative that as we seek to "push out our Nation's borders" through preclearance and other programs, we do so in a risk-based manner that is mindful of impacts to our economy and the traveling public.

That guiding principle is what prompted me to introduce legislation last November, H.R. 3575, the "Putting Security First in Preclearance Act."

I am pleased that several of the provisions and policy goals contained in my legislation have been incorporated into the bill before the House today.

During subcommittee consideration of H.R. 3488, I offered two amendments that were adopted.

The first amendment requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the anticipated homeland security benefits as-

sociated with establishing preclearance operations at a foreign airport.

As the Department of Homeland Security seeks to expand preclearance operations to potentially high-risk airports around the world, we should have a full understanding of the homeland security benefits associated with opening such facilities.

My second amendment, also adopted during subcommittee consideration of the bill, requires that any country seeking to enter into a preclearance agreement with the United States submit lost and stolen passport information to INTERPOL or another source that is searchable by the United States.

The tragic loss of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 in March brought into focus a number of vulnerabilities in the international aviation arena, not the least of which is gaps related to lost and stolen passports.

On April 4th, the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing on the vulnerabilities of passport fraud.

One of the major takeaways from that hearing was the need for more countries to regularly submit information about lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL.

The provision in H.R. 3488 requiring countries seeking to open Preclearance facilities to submit information on lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL will serve as an impetus for bringing would-be international partners into the fold and make the INTERPOL database more complete.

Enactment of H.R. 3488 will ensure greater Congressional oversight of the process associated with commencing preclearance operations and ensure the economic interest of U.S. airlines are considered when new Preclearance facilities are contemplated.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 3488.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3488, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4007) to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4007

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS

“SEC. 2101. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

“(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Under such Program, the Secretary shall establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities and chemical facilities of interest from acts of terrorism and other security risks and require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and to develop and implement site security plans.

“(b) SECURITY MEASURES.—Site security plans required under subsection (a) may include layered security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

“(c) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove each security vulnerability assessment and site security plan under subsection (a). The Secretary may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure, but the Secretary shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established under subsection (a).

“(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or pursuant to other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of such program meet the requirements of this section. A covered chemical facility may meet the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that has been reviewed and approved by the Secretary under this paragraph.

“(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title. In the case of a covered chemical facility for which a site security plan has been approved by the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary may not require the resubmission of the site security information solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

“(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans that may be applicable to all similarly situated facilities. The program would include the development of Program-Specific Handbooks for facilities to reference on site.

“(d) COMPLIANCE.—

“(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities for the purpose of determining compliance with this Act. The audit and inspection may be carried out by a non-Department or nongovernment entity, as approved by the Secretary.

“(B) REPORTING STRUCTURE.—Any audit or inspection conducted by an individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall be assigned in coordination with the head of audits and inspections for the region in which the audit or inspection is to be conducted. When in the field, any individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall report to the respective head of audits and inspections for the region in which the individual is operating.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONGOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.—If the Secretary arranges for an audit or inspection under subparagraph (A) to be carried out by a nongovernment entity, the Secretary shall require, as a condition of such arrangement, that any individual who conducts the audit or inspection be a citizen of the United States and shall prescribe standards for the qualification of the individuals who carry out such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for a Government auditor or inspector. Such standards shall include—

“(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors or inspectors;

“(ii) retraining requirements;

“(iii) minimum education and experience levels;

“(iv) the submission of information as required by the Secretary to enable determination of whether the auditor or inspector has a conflict of interest;

“(v) the maintenance of a secret security clearance;

“(vi) reporting any issue of non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

“(vii) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may establish.

“(D) TRAINING OF DEPARTMENT AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—The Secretary shall prescribe standards for the training and retraining of individuals employed by the Department as auditors and inspectors. Such standards shall include—

“(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors and inspectors;

“(ii) retraining requirements; and

“(iii) any additional requirements the Secretary may establish.

“(2) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

“(A) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility or a chemical facility of interest is not in compliance with this section, the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

“(I) written notification (including a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan) by not later than 14 days after the determination is made; and

“(II) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

“(ii) issue an order to comply by such date as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

“(B) CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the owner or operator continues to be in non-compliance after the date specified in such order, the Secretary may enter an order assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

“(3) PERSONNEL SURETY.—

“(A) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

“(i) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates to submit information about an individual more than one time;

“(ii) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with

feedback about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility's compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

“(iii) provides redress to an individual whose information was vetted against the terrorist screening database under the program and who believes that the personally identifiable information submitted to the Department for such vetting by a covered chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

“(B) PERSONNEL SURETY IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard under subsection (a) is directed toward identifying individuals with terrorist ties—

“(i) a covered chemical facility may satisfy its obligation under such standard with respect to an individual by utilizing any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor, including the Personnel Surety Program under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about such individual unless the individual—

“(I) is vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

“(II) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

“(C) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECURITY SCREENING COORDINATION OFFICE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Security Screening Coordination Office of the Department to coordinate with the National Protection and Programs Directorate to expedite the development of a common credential that screens against the terrorist screening database on a recurrent basis and meets all other screening requirements of this title.

“(ii) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in meeting the requirements of clause (i).

“(4) FACILITY ACCESS.—For purposes of the compliance of a covered chemical facility with a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a), the Secretary may not require the facility to submit any information about an individual who has been granted access to the facility unless the individual—

“(A) was vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

“(B) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

“(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility such information as the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

“(1) IDENTIFICATION OF FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, States and political subdivisions thereof, and relevant business associations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

“(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology that incorporates all relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

“(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SECURITY RISK.—The criteria for determining the security risk of terrorism associated with a facility shall include—

“(i) the relevant threat information;

“(ii) the potential economic consequences and the potential loss of human life in the event of the facility being subject to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation; and

“(iii) the vulnerability of the facility to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation.

“(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—Any time that tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed and the facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall maintain records to reflect the basis for this determination. The records shall include information on whether and how the information that was the basis for the determination was confirmed by the Secretary.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

“(1) The term ‘covered chemical facility’ means a facility that the Secretary identifies as a chemical facility of interest and, based upon review of a Top-Screen, as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of Code of Federal Regulations, determines meets the risk criteria developed pursuant subsection (e)(2)(B). Such term does not include any of the following:

“(A) A facility regulated pursuant to the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-295).

“(B) A Public Water System, as such term is defined by section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 93-523; 42 U.S.C. 300f).

“(C) A Treatment Works, as such term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92-500; 33 U.S.C. 12920).

“(D) Any facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy.

“(E) Any facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

“(2) The term ‘chemical facility of interest’ means a facility that holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a Chemical of Interest, as designated under in Appendix A of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations, at a threshold quantity that meets relevant risk-related criteria developed pursuant to subsection (e)(2)(B).

“SEC. 2102. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed pursuant to this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be given protections from public disclosure consistent with similar information developed by chemical facilities subject to regulation under section 70103 of title 46, United States Code.

“(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—This section does not prohibit the sharing of information developed pursuant to this title, as the Secretary deems appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title, if such information may not be disclosed pursuant to any State or local law.

“(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A(j)(1) of

this Act) and State and local government officials, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, such information as is necessary to help ensure that first responders are properly prepared and provided with the situational awareness needed to respond to incidents at covered chemical facilities. Such information shall be disseminated through the Homeland Security Information Network or the Homeland Secure Data Network, as appropriate.

“(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce this section, vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this section, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified material.

“SEC. 2103. CIVIL PENALTIES.

“(a) VIOLATIONS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

“(b) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this title confers upon any person except the Secretary a right of action against an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility to enforce any provision of this title.

“SEC. 2104. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

“The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department and in other materials made available to the public the whistleblower protections that an individual providing such information would have.

“SEC. 2105. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

“(a) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that regulates the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures.

“(b) STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—This title shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

“(c) RAIL TRANSIT.—

“(1) DUPLICATIVE REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to eliminate any provision of this title applicable to rail security that would duplicate any security measure under the Rail Transportation Security Rule under section 1580 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date of the enactment of this title. To the extent that there is a conflict between this title and any regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration, the regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration shall prevail.

“(2) EXEMPTION FROM TOP-SCREEN.—A rail transit facility or a rail facility, as such terms are defined in section 1580.3 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to which subpart 3 of such title applies pursuant to section 1580.100 of such title shall not be required to complete a Top-Screen as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

“SEC. 2106. REPORTS.

“(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of

this title, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Such report shall include each of the following:

“(1) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest pursuant to section 2101(e)(1), including a description of the steps taken to achieve such progress and the metrics used to measure it, information on whether facilities that submitted Top-Screens as a result of such efforts were tiered and in what tiers they were placed, and an action plan to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance.

“(2) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology pursuant to section 2101(e)(2).

“(3) An assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of any recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute’s Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RPI2-22-02).

“(b) SEMIANNUAL GAO REPORT.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a semiannual report to Congress containing the assessment of the Comptroller General of the implementation of this title. The Comptroller General shall submit the first such report by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

“SEC. 2107. CFATS REGULATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to promulgate regulations implementing the provisions of this title.

“(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—In carrying out the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall use the CFATS regulations, as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this title, that the Secretary determines carry out such requirements, and may issue new regulations or amend such regulations pursuant to the authority in subsection (a).

“(c) DEFINITION OF CFATS REGULATIONS.—In this section, the term ‘CFATS regulations’ means the regulations prescribed pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note), as well as all Federal Register notices and other published guidance concerning section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007.

“(d) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided in this title for determining compliance with this title in—

“(1) identifying chemicals of interest;

“(2) designating chemicals of interest; and

“(3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

“SEC. 2108. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing their physical security.

“(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on best

practices that may assist small chemical facilities, as defined by the Secretary, in development of physical security best practices.

“(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘small covered chemical facility’ means a covered chemical facility that has fewer than 350 employees employed at the covered chemical facility, and is not a branch or subsidiary of another entity.

“SEC. 2109. OUTREACH TO CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

“Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies and relevant business associations, to identify chemical facilities of interest and make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.

“SEC. 2110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$81,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS

“Sec. 2101. Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

“Sec. 2102. Protection and sharing of information.

“Sec. 2103. Civil penalties.

“Sec. 2104. Whistleblower protections.

“Sec. 2105. Relationship to other laws.

“Sec. 2106. Reports.

“Sec. 2107. CFATS regulations.

“Sec. 2108. Small covered chemical facilities.

“Sec. 2109. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest.

“Sec. 2110. Authorization of appropriations.”

(c) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 2110 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities to acts of terrorism associated with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program, as authorized pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note).

(d) METRICS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan for the utilization of metrics to assess the effectiveness of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack or other security risk to those citizens and communities surrounding covered chemical facilities. The plan shall include benchmarks on when the program will begin utilizing the metrics and how the Department of Homeland Security plans to use the information to inform the program.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. This bipartisan legislation continues our efforts to provide a sound plan and clear objectives for the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or what we call CFATS.

Before I discuss the merits of the bill, itself, I would like to extend a special debt of gratitude to Chairman UPTON and subcommittee Chairman SHIMKUS of the Energy and Commerce Committee, without whom H.R. 4007 would not be on the floor today.

The Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce share jurisdiction over the CFATS program, and our goal of ensuring that CFATS is doing what needs to be done to protect American chemical facilities from acts of terrorism is a common one. Therefore, our two committees work together to create this bill.

In fact, last summer, Chairman UPTON and Chairman MCCAUL sent a letter to then-Secretary Napolitano, expressing their frustration with the Department's delay in getting the CFATS program up and running. They vowed to work together as the program's authorizers to provide the guidance and direction the program needed and to do so immediately. H.R. 4007 represents the culmination of our collaborative efforts to fulfill the pledge.

Over the course of the past year, our two committees have worked in partnership with all of the CFATS key stakeholders, including both the regulated community and the Department itself, to assess the program's strengths and shortcomings, and develop a straightforward, practically minded piece of legislation to improve the CFATS program overall.

I am very proud of the partnership in getting H.R. 4007 done, and I am grateful for Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS and their support for allowing us to bring the bill to the floor swiftly in the interest of seeing this legislation enacted in this Congress.

I would like to note that the Energy and Commerce Committee's exchange of letters with the Homeland Security Committee in no way diminishes that

committee's jurisdictional claim to or authority over the CFATS program.

This bill represents the result of the legislative process done right: committees and Members of Congress working in partnership with one another to do what is best for America. I am proud to share the credit of the bill with Chairman UPTON and Chairman SHIMKUS, and my good friends and colleagues from the other side of the aisle. Good governance is represented here today.

CFATS was created by the Department of Homeland Security in 2007 after Congress authorized the Department to develop a set of vulnerability assessment standards for chemical plants and to implement a corresponding set of regulations that will protect the highest risk facilities from a physical attack.

Prior to the attacks on 9/11, Congress had established an array of laws aimed at preventing environmental disasters at facilities that produce or store potentially dangerous chemicals. While those laws remain, Congress and the Department of Homeland Security developed CFATS specifically to prevent an intentional attack on chemical facilities.

The program uses risk-based performance standards in order to provide individual facilities the flexibility to address their unique security challenges. Importantly, the Department developed a tiering structure that permits CFATS to focus their resources on the higher-risk facilities. By partnering with industry, CFATS requires the covered chemical facilities to prepare security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans that are based on those assessments.

Despite what we would all agree are the best of intentions, it is no secret that CFATS has struggled throughout its 7-year history. From implementation problems to management flaws to insufficient feedback from facilities, highlighted in the aftermath of the West, Texas, disaster, CFATS has had a rocky start. However, let's be mindful that mismanagement is not synonymous with policy failure.

Our goal has been to identify both the major problems with the program and the progress made by DHS to correct them. The assessment has given us the ability to craft a set of benchmarks that are complementary to the President's Executive Order No. 13650 that was released after the tragic explosion at the West Fertilizer plant in West, Texas, last spring.

For the past 4 years, CFATS has relied on appropriations with no official guidance or authorizing statute from Congress. Past attempts to reauthorize the program have failed due to either overly ambitious proposals or sweeping overhauls that expand the scope of its intent. Let's first fix the program before we debate granting greater responsibility.

We have taken a modest, practical approach to reauthorization. We have determined that the site security plan approval process needs greater efficiency. The compliance process is greatly in need of better coordination. Implementing a sensible and effective methodology in assessing risk will help DHS better communicate with State and local officials, as well as other Federal agencies and industry associations, to identify facilities. This is important as we talk about issues like the West, Texas, plant. CFATS must remain on probation until the program proves its effectiveness. Therefore, the Government Accountability Office should continue to assess the program and report to Congress its findings on a biannual basis—all parts that are included in that bill.

The resulting legislation, H.R. 4007, does all of these things and, therefore, enjoys support from a wide array of stakeholders. Republicans and Democrats have voiced their support for the bill. In addition to having two Democratic cosponsors, Representatives GENE GREEN and FILEMON VELA, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed H.R. 4007 in February of this year. We have worked with the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to produce legislation that puts the security of Americans above politics and jurisdictional values.

This bill has support from the House; the Senate, which is in the process of crafting a companion bill, which they plan to mark up this month; DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson; and industry stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the American Chemistry Council, CropLife America, and a coalition comprised of a broad spectrum of agricultural, mining, petroleum, and transport organizations. At this time, I would like to enter those support letters into the RECORD.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
*Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, In-
frastructure Protection, and Security Tech-
nologies, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMEN MCCAUL AND MEEHAN: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) would like to thank you and your colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for your work and leadership on the authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014, H.R. 4007. ACC strongly supports this bill, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to help secure final passage of this important and much needed legislation. Long term authorization of CFATS is critical to helping safeguard chemical facilities, and this bill would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a \$770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance in the United States thanks to the increase in shale gas production, and our members have announced over \$100 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program. A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

We are committed to continuing our work with you and your staff to help move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*Democratic Leader of the House of Representa-
tives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a \$770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over \$110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemi-

cals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike_meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249-6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, In-
frastructure Protection, and Security Tech-
nologies, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEHAN: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014."

This bill is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's dual-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would both enhance the efficiency of site security plan approvals and provide the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority. Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure

APRIL 29, 2014.

would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address "outlier" sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends you and your staff for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber encourages Homeland Security Committee members to support H.R. 4007 and looks forward to working with you as the bill advances in the House.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014," as reported out of committee by voice vote.

H.R. 4007 is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for three years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's three-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would enhance both the efficiency of site security plan approvals and the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority.

Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address "outlier" sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends the Homeland Security Committee for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 4007, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Re Vote yes on H.R. 4007 today.

To Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing to you today to urge you to support H.R. 4007, the

"Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014." H.R. 4007 is a bipartisan, streamlined, bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The bill provides clear and important guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

As the trade association representing the domestic fertilizer industry, The Fertilizer Institute's members are producers, wholesalers, and retailers of crop nutrients, some of which are classified by DHS as chemicals of interest and thus covered by the CFATS program

H.R. 4007 addresses several important policy goals that will help ensure an efficient and effective CFATS program. First, it provides companies with a necessary level of flexibility that will facilitate improved security by ensuring that standards for facility access can be modified to meet site-specific conditions. Specifically, the bill allows for third-party inspections and the utilization of DHS approved site security plans by covered facilities. This is important to the fertilizer industry due to the broad diversity in the types and sizes of facilities our members operate.

Additionally, H.R. 4007 addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety program which establishes requirements needed for facility access. It directs DHS to leverage existing federal security programs that require screening through the Terrorist Screening Database to satisfy compliance under the CFATS program and avoid needlessly requiring additional background security checks or resubmission of workers' personal identifying information.

Also of importance, the legislation ensures better coordination between DHS and state and local officials. Communication and coordination at all levels is key to ensuring that facilities and communities are prepared to respond to an incident at a chemical facility.

The CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 will also eliminate the need for year-to-year program budget extensions, which are subject to the annual appropriations process, and provide industry with the certainty needed to make long-term planning and investment decisions regarding facility security. In addition, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be able to effectively establish programs and make necessary changes to existing ones without worrying about whether or not the resources to administer them will be available in the future.

While the CFATS program has certainly had its share of flaws in the past, we believe that this bipartisan legislation will provide DHS with the necessary tools to improve implementation while at the same time providing Congress with the ability to conduct proper oversight of the program by monitoring implementation activities and making necessary changes when the program is subject to reauthorization.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, The Fertilizer Institute urges you to vote YES on H.R. 4007.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. CLARK MICA.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil

Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

APRIL 1, 2014.

Hon. MIKE MCCAUL,
Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER: As the Committee on Homeland Security considers legislation to promote the security of chemical facilities, we would like you to know that we share your interest and support your efforts to ensure that homeland security and the protection of America's food supply is a top priority. The nation's agricultural industry continues to take proactive steps to properly secure crops and livestock as well as vital crop input materials such as fertilizer and pesticides throughout the distribution chain. The agricultural industry has worked closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials in order to establish appropriate standards and ensure compliance with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulations.

Because agribusiness is unique in its use, distribution and storage of chemicals, so are its security needs. To address these unique needs, agricultural companies and trade associations formed an Agribusiness Security Working Group in 2002 to address security concerns. The members of this working group participate in DHS workgroups, such as the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council, to help coordinate agribusiness' response to DHS's requests for comments and to facilitate our industry's ability to communicate threat information, report suspicious activity and respond to emergencies.

America's agricultural industry supports passage of H.R. 4007, "The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014" introduced by Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Meehan. We believe the extension of the current CFATS program for two years will help create regulatory certainty for the agricultural community and we support a workable Personnel Surety Program included in the bill.

The regulatory and economic impact on American agriculture and the consumer for whom essential food, fiber and bioenergy is provided is of great concern to the agricultural industry. It is our hope that any bill that comes out of the Committee on Homeland Security will recognize these unique challenges and seek to mitigate the costs of regulation to our agricultural producers while also ensuring facility security.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and perspectives shared within the broader agriculture sector. We look forward to working with you to pass chemical facility legislation that ensures the security of our vital infrastructure and that does not

have unintended consequences for American agriculture.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation, Agricultural Retailers Association, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology, CropLife America, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, The Fertilizer Institute.

JULY 8, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge you to vote in favor of the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

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We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure.

We support H.R. 4007, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology CropLife America, Global Cold Chain Alliance, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses.

International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation

Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

□ 1645

Mr. MEEHAN. I would specifically like to thank my cosponsors, as well as Homeland Security Committee staff, for their hard work and tireless efforts to ensure that the views of the regulated community and the administration were properly reflected and implemented in a realistic and achievable way, with strict goals which will lift this program from stagnation to success.

I am proud of this legislation and its bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 4007, so we can ensure that the proper measures are in place to secure our communities from the devastating potential of a terrorist attack.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4007 authorizes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program within the Department of Homeland Security. At the outset, I would acknowledge that, during consideration in committee, a somewhat inclusive approach was taken, and, as a result, a number of amendments offered by Democratic Members were accepted.

It is regrettable that, now that H.R. 4007 is before us today, this same opportunity is not being afforded to my colleagues in the House. The decision of the Republican leadership to bring this measure up under suspension of the rules limits debate on the measure and effectively prevents any Member from offering an amendment to make further improvements to the bill.

Despite my reservations about process, I am generally supportive of H.R. 4007, as it would give DHS and chemical facility owners and operators some measure of confidence about the program's future. Since coauthoring legislation in the 109th Congress to grant DHS authority to regulate the chemical sector for security, I have consistently supported efforts at enacting a comprehensive freestanding authorization bill.

As those who have followed the CFATS program know, jurisdictional challenges have consistently complicated authorization efforts. As a result, renewal of the program has been at the mercy of the appropriations process since 2006.

H.R. 4007 is the Committee on Homeland Security's latest effort at achieving the goal of enacting CFATS legislation. The most significant prior effort was back in the 111th Congress, when the House approved H.R. 2868, legislation that I introduced with then-Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, after a year and a half of intense negotiations.

That bill eliminated the regulatory exemptions on water and wastewater facilities that have been a major concern of every Secretary of Homeland Security, especially Secretary Michael Chertoff in the Bush administration.

The bill under consideration today bears little resemblance to H.R. 2868, but, I suppose, reflects the political realities of the 113th Congress. I am disappointed that it does not directly tackle the water and wastewater exemptions that put communities and neighborhoods that are near these facilities at risk, though I note that the bill requires a security assessment of those exemptions, so that the next time Congress looks at reauthorizing CFATS, the debate will be better informed.

I am pleased that, in response to the deadly April 2013 explosion at a plant in West, Texas, H.R. 4007 gives DHS now authority to compel action by facilities that, to date, have not participated in the program that DHS views as potentially high-risk facilities.

I am also pleased that H.R. 4007 includes language authored by Representative YVETTE CLARKE to ensure the Department takes a commonsense approach to vetting transportation workers who service chemical facility shipping needs.

That said, there are a couple of areas that should be addressed before this measure reaches the President's desk. Specifically, H.R. 4007 should provide adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensure workers have a meaningful role in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promote greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act introduced by Chairman MEEHAN and myself, along with my good friend, Representative GENE GREEN from Texas. I want to thank Chairman Meehan for his very

hard work on this legislation over the last year to get to the point where we are today.

I also want to thank Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS on the Energy and Commerce Committee for allowing this bill to go forward for a vote today, as well. Finally, we don't thank our staff enough for what they do every day. Joan O'Hara on our staff worked tirelessly on this bill with both the administration and industry to, I think, deliver a very good product.

This bipartisan bill provides the stability and the certainty that both the Department and industry have been calling for, while also making fundamental improvements to the CFATS program.

It is no secret that CFATS has had a troubled history, but this bill will allow the Department to build off its successes while correcting many of its shortcomings. After the tragic events of West, Texas, in my home State, it is imperative that we pass this bill.

Specifically, the bill ensures that DHS coordinates with other Federal agencies, State and local officials, and industry associations to make sure facilities aren't off the grid and ensure first responders are properly trained to deal with emergency incidents at CFATS facilities.

It also improves the site security plan approval and DHS accountability by requiring the Secretary to certify the Department's progress and by authorizing GAO to regularly conduct assessments and report to Congress.

In addition to being good policy, this bill enjoys widespread support by the stakeholder community and was passed unanimously out of both the subcommittee and the full committee, something I think, Mr. Chairman, is almost unheard of in this Congress here today, and I am glad that it came out of our committee, the Homeland Security Committee.

In fact, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed this bill in his first appearance testifying on the Hill before our committee.

I would also finally like to, again, thank Chairman MEEHAN, as well as all the cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation, and I urge their support.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE, the ranking member on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the ranking member who has done a yeoman's job in helping alongside our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move this forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Homeland Security has a great stake and a long history of trying to help the troubled Chemical Facility Anti-Ter-

rorism Standards, or CFATS, program succeed. Consideration of H.R. 4007 today is our latest effort.

While I feel that it would have been better to bring this bill before the full House under a rule, so that Members could offer amendments, I want to commend my counterpart on the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee, Mr. MEEHAN, for his diligence and commitment to moving the legislation through regular order in committee.

Upon introduction of this bill, I had a number of concerns with the bill. Amazingly, the original legislation had a requirement that required CFATS to terminate after 2 years.

It also did not provide an authorization of appropriations or codify the critical infrastructure protection program within the Homeland Security Act. This was corrected by Democratic amendments, many of which I offered, that were accepted in committee.

A major impetus for action to authorize the CFATS program was certainly the explosion last April in West, Texas, at a fertilizer facility containing a huge amount of ammonium nitrate. As we later learned, the facility was willfully off the regulatory grid and unknown to DHS.

Through the committee process, language was adopted to give DHS new authority to bring so-called outlier facilities into compliance. We had an energetic debate at subcommittee with respect to whether nongovernmental third-party contractors should be utilized to carry out compliance visits and inspections.

I appreciate the majority's view that augmenting the DHS inspector workforce in this fashion could be helpful with respect to the massive backlog of security inspections that exist in the CFATS program. However, there are other ways to increase capacity without contracting out jobs.

Further, there is a troubled history with the CFATS program of overreliance on contractors. I believe that, if DHS goes down this path, there need to be structures in place to ensure that work done by contractors is promptly and accurately fed into the regulatory system. That is why I offered language in committee to build in oversight and accountability. I am pleased to say that it was accepted.

A lingering concern—underscored by the Steelworkers, Teamsters, and others—is even if there is broad recognition that, for CFATS to work, we need chemical workers to come forward to report security vulnerabilities and CFATS compliance issues, no guaranteed whistleblower protections attach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Men and women that risk their positions and paychecks to make their workplace, their communities, and the Nation more secure deserve access to meaningful whistleblower protections. Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I would put whistleblower protections high on the to-do list for the Senate.

Then there is the matter of the statutory exemptions barring DHS from regulatory water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure chemical facilities. The bill perpetuates the exemption without consideration of the arguments that former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and others have made about the risks.

Encouragingly, the committee accepted the amendment offered by Ranking Member THOMPSON to require an independent study of the terrorism vulnerabilities associated with the limited authority granted to DHS and the exemption on water and wastewater facilities. The results of that study will be important to inform Congress when the CFATS is up for reauthorization in 3 years.

Overall, I would say that, through the committee process, the bill has been improved. Is there more work to be done? Certainly—that is why I am profoundly disappointed that H.R. 4007 is being considered on suspension.

Many Members of this body that do not have the privilege to sit on the Homeland Security Committee have concerns about the vital, critical infrastructure program that affects their districts, towns, and neighborhoods.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, since before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, experts have been concerned about the vulnerability of chemical plants to attack. These facilities hold large stores of industrial chemicals which pose a safety and security risk to the American people if they are released or detonated.

A recent report found that more than 134 million Americans live in the vulnerability zones around these chemical facilities. I have such a facility in my district, which is a very serious concern for the surrounding community.

These risks have not been addressed adequately, and this bill falls short of what is needed. The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program at the Department of Homeland Security has not been successful. It was set up through an appropriations rider that did not give the Department the tools it needed to succeed.

The original statute blocked effective enforcement, leading to a lack of compliance. We saw the dangers of non-compliance when the West Fertilizer Company facility in West, Texas, exploded. Unfortunately, those limitations on enforcement would be preserved by this bill.

The original statute blocked the Department from requiring measures to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack and, in the process, created serious obstacles to disapproving site security plans that failed to meet the program's standards.

□ 1700

This led to an approval process so complicated that it took more than 5 years for the Department to complete its review of the first facility. This bill preserves those obstacles.

There have been significant issues with the background check requirements promulgated under the existing program, and this bill would preserve and codify some of those problems.

The President should be commended for recognizing this program's deficiencies and taking strong action to address them, including issuing an executive order on chemical safety and security last year. The working group created by that executive order has looked at how best to secure these facilities with fresh eyes, and the administration is now moving to revise and improve the program.

These reforms are important and necessary, but they are not reflected in this bill. Instead, this bill could limit the Department's ability to improve the program. That just doesn't make sense.

In its current form, this bill is simply not adequate to provide real protections for the public. My view is that we should strengthen this bill before sending it to the Senate. If this bill passes today, we should work with the Senate to strengthen the bill and enact legislation we can all support.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, and I thank him for working with me on H.R. 4007. I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act, legislation I introduced with Congressman MEEHAN and my friend Chairman MCCAUL.

This bipartisan legislation would, for the first time, codify the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program that DHS has been operating through appropriations funding since 2007.

Last October, during the government shutdown, the American people saw that without authorization of the CFATS program there would be no

legal binding regulations in place to protect our Nation's chemical facilities from criminal and terrorist attacks once the appropriations expired.

I have the honor of representing north and east Harris County and the Houston Ship Channel, at the heart of our Nation's petrochemical industry. The expiration of the CFATS program puts the safety of my constituents who work in and live in the communities that surround these facilities in danger, and it is our obligation as the people's elected representatives to do everything we can to protect them from harm's way.

I have heard the concern of those on my side of the aisle who do not support this legislation. I agree that this is not perfect legislation. It does not solve every problem that exists in the CFATS program, but a number of Congresses since 2007 have had the opportunity to do this but we haven't.

The main purpose of this bill is to reauthorize CFATS for 3 years and give Congress the opportunity to oversee DHS' progress or lack thereof. This bill will solve the personnel surety issue by allowing workers who have TWIC or HME cards to have access to chemical facilities without having to get another Federal credential. Representing those plants, I saw what happened with the TWIC card and the concern of folks who have to pay more money for another Federal ID card. This bill, if passed, would protect the folks who work in those plants. That is important to my constituents who already have TWIC cards and work in the petrochemical plants and drive the trucks that deliver the raw materials and products they produce.

I urge my colleagues to join the Homeland Security Committee, which passed this legislation by voice vote, and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who has been vocal in support of the legislation, and vote in support of H.R. 4007.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no more speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, while I am supportive of advancing this legislation to the Senate in the hopes of moving the process forward to provide a multiyear authorization for the CFATS program, there is more work to be done.

Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I will work with my colleagues in the other body to work towards ensuring that the legislation provides adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensures workers have a meaningful role

in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promotes greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to express my deep appreciation to my colleagues on my side of the aisle, but particularly to my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee and subcommittee, the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlelady from New York. As both have articulated, there is more work to be done, and nobody disputes that particular issue; but we also appreciate that this is an issue which has been laying for a long period of time without resolution, and we are taking very responsible steps to take a big step forward in the authorization of this program.

We worked with both sides of the aisle to try to handle as many issues as we could. As has been articulated, 15 Democratic amendments have been made part of this bill. The wastewater issue was an important one, but mature security programs do exist for that. It is one of the original critical infrastructures as part of the Sector Coordinating Council for DHS. But I agree, there is still more work to be done in that particular area.

We are worried about outliers as well. One of the gentlemen raised the issue of the chemical facilities that have avoided scrutiny, which led to the West, Texas, situation, but it is for that reason that this bill is so critically important and we act now. It is because it gives DHS the ability to affirmatively reach out to those facilities that are not compliant, and what this bill does is it rewards those who have taken responsible steps towards identifying and creating the kinds of plans that are contemplated underneath this bill, but it also calls to challenge those who have been avoiding scrutiny.

So the issues still may be there for future resolution, but we will, in 3 years, be able to bring this bill back up for reconsideration, and during that period of time we can work together on both sides of the aisle to ensure that it is done appropriately. I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act is a step forward in securing our nation from potential terrorist attacks or threats to the homeland.

I want to acknowledge the work of Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member THOMPSON that resulted in this bill being considered by the Full House.

During Full Committee consideration of H.R. 4007, two Jackson Lee Amendments were unanimously agreed to for inclusion in the bill.

The first Jackson Lee Amendment directs the Secretary to: establish an outreach plan to facilitate collaboration between the Department and the owners and operators of small chemical facilities for the purpose of assisting them with the development of physical security best practices.

This collaboration will begin with established relationships, which exists among local and state authorities; and small chemical facility owners and operators.

The Secretary will create opportunities to incorporate Regional Directors and Protective Security Advisors within the collaborative framework that is developed with the full co-operation and input of small chemical facility owners and operators who elect to participate.

Large chemical facilities will have access to nearly unlimited resources to meet their own security needs, but smaller chemical facilities may not have the resources to protect themselves from similar terrorist threats.

The second Jackson Lee Amendment creates opportunities for small chemical facility operators and owners to gain more insight or guidance on improving their facility's physical security.

The third Jackson Lee Amendment allows the Secretary Homeland Security to consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability of a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans.

This amendment would allow chemical facility owners and operators to devise challenging tests, and exercises that pit their knowledge against what terrorists may attempt to do should their facility become a target.

These amendment's will assist chemical facility security experts in thinking of potential threats before terrorists do so that they may take steps to eliminate them before terrorists could exploit discovered vulnerabilities.

Since September 11, 2001, security experts have warned of vulnerabilities that exist should terrorists plan to attack a chemical facility located within the United States or far worse use unlawful access to a facility, pipelines, or transit routes to steal chemicals for an attack.

The 18th Congressional District which I serve is home to some of the world's largest Chemical producers which employ thousands of Houston area residents to provide the nation with products are vital to our nation and its economy.

Chemicals are a vital and common presence in the lives of all of our nation's citizens, but we often forget how dangerous they can be under the wrong conditions.

On April 17, of last year the small town of West Texas felt the power and destructive force of ammonium nitrate when an accidental fire ignited what is believed to have been between 140 to 160 tons of the chemical.

This was no terrorist attack, but a very tragic accident.

The accident in the town of West Texas reminded all of us who represent districts that

count chemical plants or their owners and operators as constituents—that these facilities should have the resources necessary to protect their property from potential terrorists' threats or attacks.

H.R. 4007 reestablishes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program, under which the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) is required to: establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities from acts of terrorism; require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans; review and approve or disapprove each such assessment and plan; arrange for the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities to determine compliance with this Act; and notify, and issue an order to comply to, the owner or operator of a facility not in compliance.

The legislation is based upon feedback and information the Homeland Security Committee and the Committee on Energy and Commerce received through countless meetings with industry stakeholders, the regulated community, first responders, union representatives, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and the Department of Homeland Security itself.

Among the benefits H.R. 4007 provides are:

Greatly improved coordination and communication between DHS and the owners and operators of chemical facilities.

Enhanced information sharing with the first responders who put themselves in harms way dealing with chemical facility incidents, like the tragedy at West, TX.

A more workable employee-screening methodology, that allows facility owners and operators to implement procedures that make sense and ensure maximum security.

The elimination of the problem of "outlier" chemical facilities (currently, there are thousands of facilities still unknown to DHS) to ensure no facility remains "off the grid".

The certainty that chemical infrastructure security will no longer hang in the balance with each year's appropriations cycle.

Ensures that whistleblower protections available to facility workers who report security issues to DHS are clearly articulated in all CFATS media and materials.

Greater Department accountability through mandatory biannual GAO audits of the CFATS program to provide for informed and thorough Congressional oversight.

I ask my colleagues from both side of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill, which received strong support from the Committee on Homeland Security.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE:

We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.
Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives.

International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a \$770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over \$110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike.meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249-6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4007, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4263

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Social Media Working Group Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

"(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the 'Group').

"(b) *PURPOSE.*—In order to enhance information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders, the Group shall provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

"(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

"(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

"(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

"(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

"(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(F) The American Red Cross.

"(G) The Forest Service.

"(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(I) The United States Geological Survey.

"(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"(2) *ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.*—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

"(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

"(B) include—

“(i) not fewer than three representatives from the private sector; and

“(ii) representatives from—

“(I) State, local, and tribal entities, including from—

“(aa) law enforcement;

“(bb) fire services;

“(cc) emergency management services; and

“(dd) public health entities;

“(II) universities and academia; and

“(III) non-profit disaster relief organizations.

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bodies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

“(e) MEETINGS.—

“(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial meeting may be held virtually.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chairperson. Such subsequent meetings may be held virtually.

“(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Group.

“(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

“(1) A review of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

“(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during the response to terrorist attacks and other emergencies that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

“(3) Recommendations to improve the Department's use of social media for emergency management purposes.

“(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media, and how to access such information, during a terrorist attack or other emergency.

“(5) Recommendations to improve information sharing among the Department and its components.

“(6) Recommendations to improve information sharing among State and local governments.

“(7) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social media in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency.

“(8) A summary of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new item:

“Sec. 318. Social media working group.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014. As chairwoman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I introduced this bill, along with Ranking Member PAYNE, Chairman MCCAUL, and Representatives PALAZZO and SWALWELL, in response to testimony we received at two social media hearings the subcommittee held last year.

Social media is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after a disaster. There are countless examples from recent disasters of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram for public safety information to comfort survivors and request assistance. We have seen how vital social media is becoming in preparedness and response efforts, particularly during Superstorm Sandy and in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

I recently sent out tweets to inform my own constituents about a tornado warning and recommended that they follow local news outlets for the most up-to-date information. And just last week, FEMA, the National Weather Service, and emergency management agencies along the east coast used social media to alert citizens about Hurricane Arthur, the first named storm of the 2014 hurricane season.

This morning I had the opportunity, along with Chairman MCCAUL, to visit the American Red Cross' Digital Operations Center, the first ever social media center for humanitarian relief. I was impressed to hear that during Superstorm Sandy, the Red Cross analyzed over 2.5 million pieces of social data and sent over 300 different pieces of information to operation teams to help with decisionmaking.

Last year, the subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new reality. One of the key takeaways from these hearings was that during and after a disaster there needs to be better communication between the public and private sector, specifically with how to utilize social media as a communications tool. H.R. 4263 addresses this recommendation by authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's Virtual Social Media Working Group to ensure information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and the leveraging of best practices.

Additionally, this bill will increase stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and Federal response agencies, creating a “whole

community” dialogue on this issue. The bill will require the group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations.

Lastly, this bill will require the group to meet in person or virtually at least twice a year and will not be a financial burden on the Department.

In today's day and age where new social media platforms and technologies can change the game almost instantly, we must ensure our first responders are nimble enough to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. This group is but one way to help facilitate this.

The Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 4263 last month by a bipartisan voice vote. I certainly appreciate the manner in which my ranking member, Mr. PAYNE, has worked with me on passage of this with our committee. I urge Members to join me and the rest of our committee in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014.

The Internet has changed the world. It has changed how the government serves its citizens, how businesses serve their customers, and how the public engages in activism.

□ 1715

The responses to the Boston Marathon bombings and Hurricane Sandy, which devastated my State, underscore the power and the potential of social media. After each of these devastating events, we saw the Internet used to galvanize ordinary citizens into action.

In the wake of the Boston bombings, Boston residents used Google Docs to let marathoners know that their homes were open to those who were unable to return to their hotels. After Hurricane Sandy, survivors posted the horrific images of homes washed away on Twitter and Facebook to help the world understand the strength of the storm. Survivors also used social media to reconnect with loved ones and to share information about which gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies were open.

In my district, the local utility PSE&G used social media to communicate with customers about how to prepare for the storm to mitigate damage and about power restoration afterwards. Public Service Electric and Gas' use of social media was so effective that it was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a “best practice.” And CS Week, a nonprofit that focuses on customer service for utilities, gave PSE&G an award for innovation and customer service.

Although PSE&G's use of social media was incredibly successful, there were important lessons learned that

should be shared among organizations utilizing social media during a disaster response. For example, PSE&G exceeded the allowable number of tweets per day and needed to reach out to Twitter leadership for a temporary expansion of capacity. In addition to spikes in social media use during the disaster, PSE&G learned important lessons related to the tone of communications and the demand for information during a disaster.

H.R. 4263 would authorize the Social Media Working Group that sits with the Science and Technology Directorate to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned related to the use of social media during disasters. The measure would also ensure that the Federal Government and first responders continue to fully utilize the capabilities of the Internet and social media to communicate with more people during disasters.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS on the success of her efforts to ensure the way government officials and first responders communicate with the public before, during, and after disaster strikes keeps pace with evolving technology.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4263.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rise in the use of social media both before, during, and after disasters. This legislation will help to ensure we are leveraging best practices, sharing and incorporating lessons learned for the use of social media in this area.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4263, "The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014," would establish within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a social media working group.

The Social Media Working Group would provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack.

Today, people are relying more on Internet enabled communications to engage and be engaged in communications.

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has committed resources toward the preparation of our first responders and citizens in preventing, mitigating and responding to terrorist events.

As these efforts continue, we must keep up with the times. Part of that requires that Congress makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency can engage citizens in ways that they receive and send information.

In 2012, smartphones, most particularly phones running Apple Computer's iOS and the open source Android operating system, accounted for at least 40 percent of the mobile devices used in the United States.

In the first quarter of 2012, mobile phone consumers spent over \$109 billion, while consumers of landline-telephone service spent \$64.4 billion.

The Federal Communication Commission reports that this trend is expected accelerate as United States consumers participate in a worldwide trend towards mobile communication devices and away from traditional means of receiving and sending information.

Electronic tablet computers and e-readers, the other fully enabled portable Internet devices, smartphones are increasingly a resource for people to access information, share content, and communicate their views.

Social media is quickly emerging as a major source of information that citizens rely upon to receive news and engage government.

The number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008.

In a 2011, a Pew Internet Center Research Project reported that 79 percent of American adults said they used the Internet and 59 percent of all Internet users say they use at least one of social networking service, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act.

Since I arrived in Congress, I have seen the destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters.

From the September 11th attacks—to Hurricane Katrina—to the mass shootings that have devastated communities across America, one truism that has repeatedly been identified is that early alerts and timely information saves lives.

Toward that end, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked hard to support the Department's efforts to harness all means of communication to ensure that that public can take appropriate action before, during, and after disaster strikes.

To date, Federal efforts have focused on the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System.

But, as we have seen during recent disasters, social media allows the government and private sector to disseminate useful information to hundreds of thousands of people.

I support the innovative use of social media in disaster preparedness and response because it has the ability to make more people safer, faster.

It can also help first responders work more quickly and more efficiently.

That said, we must work to implement practices to ensure that social media is used appropriately and effectively, and that the information distributed is reliable.

It is critical that information after a disaster must be accurate. There needs to be guidance and policies in place to ensure that widely-distributed disaster-related information is accurate, or to correct the information when it is not.

I am hopeful that H.R. 4263 would provide a forum for government officials and the private sector to come together to address this and other challenges related to the use of social media during disasters and to share best practices.

I congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS and Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. on their work to ensure that government officials and first responders take full advantage of the technology available to communicate with the public during a disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4263, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4289

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act" or the "DHS Interoperable Communications Act".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: "including policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'interoperable communications' means the ability of components of the Department to communicate with each other as necessary, utilizing information technology systems and radio communications systems to exchange

voice, data, and video in real time, as necessary, for acts of terrorism, daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.”.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications (as such term is defined in subsection (d) of section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act) among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes, at a minimum the following:

(1) An assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the components of the Department, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Information on efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, of the Department since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department, and planned efforts and activities of the Department to achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

(3) An assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(4) Information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary for Management to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(5) Guidance provided to the components of the Department to implement interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(6) The total amount of funds expended by the Department since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications, including on equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance.

(7) Dates upon which Department-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones that correspond to the achievement of each such mode of communication.

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL.—Together with the strategy required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated certain responsibilities by the Under Secretary relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department by the dates referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a), and on who, within each such component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to so achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on

Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of efforts, since the issuance of the strategy required under section 3, to implement such strategy, including the following:

(1) Progress on each interim milestone referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) toward achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(2) Information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary.

(3) An assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the components of the Department with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among such components.

(4) Information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Mr. PAYNE. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation, which the Committee on Homeland Security also approved last month by a bipartisan voice vote.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include, among the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Management, achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the Department's components.

H.R. 4289 addresses the findings and recommendations of a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which stated that the Department does not have the appropriate oversight or governance structure to ensure communications interoperability among its own components.

The Department has been in the forefront on working with stakeholders to provide our Nation's first responders

with the resources and tools needed to have effective interoperable communications. Now the Department needs to practice what they preach. It is vital that the Department's own components are able to effectively communicate day to day and, most importantly, during emergencies.

In order to ensure the Department is taking the necessary steps to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities, H.R. 4289 requires the Department's Under Secretary for Management to submit an interoperable communications strategy to the Department of Homeland Security no later than 120 days after enactment.

I applaud the ranking member for his work and leadership on bringing this to the floor.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Mr. Speaker, when I began my work on this subcommittee last year, I was shocked to learn how much money had been spent on interoperable communications since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nationwide, we have spent over \$13 billion to achieve interoperable communications at the State and local level, and we are not there yet.

Given the degree of attention that the Federal Government, in general, and DHS, in particular, have devoted to interoperability, I was surprised to learn that DHS has not achieved Department-wide interoperability.

Police officers and firefighters from Newark to Jersey City and across the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey never leave my office without reminding me how important interoperable communications are. Nevertheless, according to a November 2012 inspector general report, DHS has invested over \$430 million into communications capabilities for its 123,000 radio users since 2003, but Department “personnel do not have reliable interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.”

Indeed, the inspector general testified before the committee in May that in 2012 it asked 479 DHS field radio users to access and use the specified channel to communicate. Only one of those 479 radio users—one of 479—could get on the common channel. That is a 99.8 percent failure rate.

The problem is not technology. Instead, the inspector general found that the Department had not established and implemented protocols to ensure that components put practices in place to achieve interoperability.

H.R. 4289, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, which I introduced with my colleague on the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, Chairwoman BROOKS, requires that certain actions be taken by DHS leadership to drive components in the field towards interoperability. The legislation directs the Under Secretary for Management to issue policies and directives related to interoperability, develop a strategy to achieve DHS-wide interoperability, and report to Congress biannually on the Department's progress.

Interoperable communications capabilities are critical to the mission DHS carries out and to first responders across the United States. DHS must lead by example.

Toward that end, I was encouraged that the Department's acting Under Secretary for Management, Chris Cumiskey, expressed his commitment to addressing this issue when he appeared before the subcommittee last month. It is my hope that this legislation will bolster his efforts and make it clear to everyone in the Department that Congress is looking to DHS to achieve interoperability.

Before reserving my time, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS for working with me on this measure. We have found that there are many issues in terms of this matter, and we have worked in a bipartisan manner to make sure that interoperability is achieved.

I would also like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their help in addressing this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this issue. We continue to talk to first responders throughout my district and throughout the Nation. We know that these issues around homeland security are bipartisan, and we have been able to work on this committee in a manner which we all have the same goal, which is to make sure this Nation is safe and the homeland is secure.

I urge my colleagues to support improving the interoperable communications at DHS by voting for H.R. 4289. Our communities are safer when DHS has the capabilities necessary to effectively carry out its mission. Mr. Speaker, we always have to make sure that we keep our first responders safe.

Mr. Speaker, interoperable communications capabilities are essential to DHS' ability to carry out its mission on a day-to-day basis when disaster strikes. H.R. 4289 would put DHS on the path to achieving cross-component interoperable communications, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure. We must protect our protectors. Our first responders deserve the ability to communicate with each other.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the various component agencies of the Department of Homeland Security are able to communicate on a daily basis, and particularly in times of crisis. As the ranking member has pointed out, it is not only our first responders, but all of our Federal agencies that deal with crisis daily.

Right now, numerous components, including being led in part by ICE, FEMA, and CBP, are working together to respond to the influx of unaccompanied alien children across our southern border. They must communicate together with one another. It is so important as they address this crisis. This is just one example of the latest reason why communications interoperability must be achieved and maintained between and among Department of Homeland Security's components.

I urge all Members to join the ranking member and myself in supporting this very important bipartisan legislation.

□ 1730

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me just indicate that I have just arrived and I wanted to support all of the bills, including yours.

If I might just make one comment about the preclearance bill, which we have all worked very hard on. I want to thank Mr. PAYNE and Mrs. BROOKS for their leadership, and just make the point that we have worked in a bipartisan manner in Homeland Security very effectively.

I also wanted to make mention in particular of the bill that I worked on extensively, H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act, and to indicate that this is a bill in which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations. It is imperative, as we seek to push out our Nation's borders.

So we have had a vigorous discussion about how you utilize these preclearance sites. I think it comes to mind with some of the sites in the Middle East. And in light of where we are today, with TSA having to put in place new requirements because of the potential threat, I think this is a very positive step, as I do of all the bills, including ones dealing with interoperability, which we dealt with during the tragedy of 9/11.

I want to again thank Ranking Member PAYNE and the full committee chair and ranking member for their leadership.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I reiterate that I urge all Members to join Ranking Member

PAYNE and I in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The gentlewoman from Texas has been very involved as well on the issues involving the unaccompanied alien children and interoperable communications issues. I appreciate her comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4289, the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act."

One of the major lessons of the September 11th attacks was that operable and interoperable communications are imperative to an effective response.

Simply put, when law enforcement and other first responders have interoperable communications during an incident or disaster, lives are saved.

As a Nation, we have invested over \$13 billion on interoperable communications. However, the goal of achieving interoperability continues to evade us—even at the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal agency that is in charge of driving efforts to achieve interoperability at the Federal, State, and local levels.

In November 2012, the Office of the Inspector General reported that DHS' interoperable communications capability was deficient.

For example, of the radios examined during the OIG's audit, only 20 percent of them were set up to use the common channel.

The Inspector General recommended that stronger Departmental governance be established to ensure communications policies are fully implemented.

At the time, DHS explicitly rejected the OIG recommendation that a stronger governing structure be established and, instead, insisted that its existing structures were sufficient.

Nevertheless, the interoperability problem at DHS persists to this day.

This past May, Inspector General John Roth appeared before the Committee on Homeland Security and said: "I am frankly concerned that as we speak today a Secret Service agent in New York can't get on his radio and talk to a Federal Protective Service officer in New York or a CBP officer in El Paso can't talk to a Homeland Security Investigations Agent in the same city."

H.R. 4289 would require the Department to undertake the planning and oversight necessary to ensure that achievement of interoperability within DHS.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. and Chairwoman BROOKS for their commitment to addressing this critical issue. I wish them success in their efforts and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4289.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4289, the "Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act," which will help ensure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) achieves cross-component interoperability.

This bill implements several recommendations contained in a 2012 report of the DHS Inspector General on the status and quality of interoperable radio communications.

A major finding of the report is that DHS has spent over \$430 million in the past 9 years for communication purposes but it still does not “have interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.”

The IG report also found that 99% (478 out of 479) of radio users surveyed could not find the DHS common channel because the components did not “effectively inform them” of the correct channel.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following specific recommendations from the report:

1. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

2. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

Because the mission of DHS is to ensure that our homeland is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards, effective communication within the organization is crucial.

According to the IG, the reason for this lack of communication is that DHS's efforts to achieve department-wide interoperable communications capability have been undermined by excessive reliance upon on Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and voluntary participation by communications task forces and working groups.

This means that various agencies within DHS do not have a standardized set of policies regarding radios and the department's leadership has not been successful in enforcing adherence to those policies by all department components.

Although the IG urged DHS to implement a stronger enforcement structure, DHS has not adopted this recommendation, insisting instead that its existing structure is effective.

Plainly, it is not.

H.R. 4289 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that DHS can achieve cross-component interoperability by:

Directing the Undersecretary to submit to Congress a strategy for achieving Department-wide interoperability within 120 days of enactment.

Report to Congress within 220 days, and bi-annually thereafter, on the progress of efforts to implement the Department-wide interoperability strategy.

Since its founding, the Department of Homeland Security has overcome many challenges as an organization but much more progress must be made regarding effective inter-operable communication between the federal, state, and local agencies.

Although not a panacea, H.R. 4289 is a step in the right direction because it will help improve DHS' overall functions so that it can more effectively protect our people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4289.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-128)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian operations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 pro-

vides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

The targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of, arms and related materiel, including military aircraft and equipment, or advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any armed group, that has, or

whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of (i) any of the activities described above or (ii) any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413; or

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 8, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4263, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4289, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 19, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 369]

YEAS—375

Amodio	Davis (CA)	Herrera Beutler
Bachmann	Davis, Danny	Higgins
Barber	Davis, Rodney	Himes
Barletta	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Barr	DeGette	Holding
Barrow (GA)	Delaney	Holt
Bass	DeLauro	Honda
Beatty	DelBene	Horsford
Becerra	Denham	Hoyer
Benish	Dent	Hudson
Bentivolio	DeSantis	Huelskamp
Bera (CA)	DesJarlais	Huffman
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Huizenga (MI)
Bishop (GA)	Dingell	Hultgren
Bishop (NY)	Doggett	Hunter
Bishop (UT)	Duckworth	Hurt
Black	Duffy	Israel
Blackburn	Duncan (SC)	Issa
Blumenauer	Duncan (TN)	Jackson Lee
Bonamici	Edwards	Jeffries
Boustany	Ellison	Jenkins
Brady (TX)	Ellmers	Johnson (GA)
Braley (IA)	Engel	Johnson (OH)
Brooks (AL)	Enyart	Johnson, E. B.
Brooks (IN)	Eshoo	Johnson, Sam
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Jolly
Buchanan	Farenthold	Jordan
Bucshon	Farr	Joyce
Burgess	Fattah	Kaptur
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Keating
Butterfield	Fleischmann	Kelly (IL)
Byrne	Fleming	Kelly (PA)
Calvert	Flores	Kennedy
Camp	Forbes	Kildee
Cantor	Foster	Kilmer
Capito	Fox	King (IA)
Capuano	Frankel (FL)	King (NY)
Cárdenas	Franks (AZ)	Kinzinger (IL)
Carney	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Carson (IN)	Fudge	Kuster
Cartwright	Gabbard	Lamborn
Castor (FL)	Galleo	Lance
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Langevin
Chabot	Garcia	Larsen (WA)
Chaffetz	Gardner	Larson (CT)
Chu	Garrett	Latham
Cicilline	Gibbs	Latta
Clark (MA)	Gibson	Lee (CA)
Clarke (NY)	Gingrey (GA)	Levin
Clawson (FL)	Gohmert	Lewis
Clay	Goodlatte	Lipinski
Cleaver	Gosar	LoBiondo
Clyburn	Gowdy	Loeb
Coble	Granger	Lofgren
Coffman	Graves (GA)	Long
Cohen	Grayson	Lowenthal
Cole	Green, Al	Lowey
Collins (GA)	Green, Gene	Lucas
Collins (NY)	Griffin (AR)	Luetkemeyer
Connolly	Griffith (VA)	Lujan Grisham
Conyers	Grijalva	(NM)
Cook	Grimm	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cooper	Guthrie	(NM)
Cotton	Hahn	Lynch
Courtney	Hall	Maffei
Cramer	Hanna	Maloney, Sean
Crawford	Harper	Marino
Crenshaw	Harris	Matheson
Crowley	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Cuellar	Hastings (WA)	McAllister
Cummings	Heck (NV)	McCarthy (CA)
Daines	Heck (WA)	McCauley

McCollum	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)
McDermott	Quigley	Southerland
McGovern	Rangel	Speier
McHenry	Reed	Stewart
McIntyre	Reichert	Stivers
McKeon	Renacci	Stutzman
McKinley	Rigell	Swalwell (CA)
McMorris	Roby	Takano
Rodgers	Roe (TN)	Terry
Meadows	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Meehan	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
Meeks	Rogers (MI)	Thompson (PA)
Meng	Rokita	Thornberry
Messer	Rooney	Tiberi
Mica	Ros-Lehtinen	Tierney
Michaud	Roskam	Tipton
Miller (FL)	Ross	Titus
Miller (MI)	Rothfus	Tonko
Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Tsongas
Moore	Ruiz	Turner
Moran	Runyan	Upton
Mulvaney	Ruppersberger	Valadao
Murphy (FL)	Ryan (WI)	Van Hollen
Murphy (PA)	Salmon	Vargas
Nadler	Sánchez, Linda	Veasey
Napolitano	T.	Vela
Neal	Sanchez, Loretta	Velázquez
Negrete McLeod	Sanford	Visclosky
Noem	Sarbanes	Wagner
Nolan	Scalise	Walberg
Nugent	Schakowsky	Walden
Nunes	Schiff	Walorski
O'Rourke	Schneider	Walz
Olson	Schock	Wasserman
Owens	Schrader	Schultz
Palazzo	Schwartz	Waters
Pallone	Schweikert	Waxman
Pascarella	Scott (VA)	Weber (TX)
Paulsen	Scott, Austin	Webster (FL)
Payne	Scott, David	Welch
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Wenstrup
Pelosi	Serrano	Whitfield
Perry	Sessions	Williams
Peters (CA)	Sewell (AL)	Wilson (FL)
Peters (MI)	Shea-Porter	Wilson (SC)
Peterson	Shimkus	Wittman
Petri	Shuster	Wolf
Pingree (ME)	Simpson	Womack
Pittenger	Sinema	Woodall
Pitts	Sires	Yarmuth
Pocan	Slaughter	Yoder
Poe (TX)	Smith (MO)	Yoho
Pompeo	Smith (NE)	Young (AK)
Posey	Smith (NJ)	Young (IN)
Price (GA)	Smith (TX)	

NAYS—19

Amash	Hensarling	McClintock
Barton	Jones	Mullin
Bridenstine	Labrador	Ribble
Broun (GA)	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)
Conaway	Lankford	Stockman
Fincher	Lummis	
Hartzler	Massie	

NOT VOTING—38

Aderholt	Gerlach	Neugebauer
Bachus	Graves (MO)	Nunnelee
Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Pastor (AZ)
Brown (FL)	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Campbell	Kind	Polis
Capps	Kingston	Rahall
Carter	Kirkpatrick	Richmond
Cassidy	Maloney,	Rohrabacher
Costa	Carolyn	Royce
Culberson	Marchant	Rush
Deutch	McCarthy (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Doyle	McNerney	Sherman
Fortenberry	Miller, Gary	Westmoreland

□ 1857

Messrs. BRIDENSTINE, RICE of South Carolina, AMASH, FINCHER, and HENSARLING changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. PETERS of California and MEEKS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 370]

YEAS—393

Amash	Clarke (NY)	Fattah
Amodei	Clawson (FL)	Fincher
Bachmann	Clay	Fitzpatrick
Barber	Cleaver	Fleischmann
Barletta	Clyburn	Fleming
Barr	Coble	Flores
Barrow (GA)	Cohen	Forbes
Barton	Cole	Foster
Bass	Collins (GA)	Fox
Beatty	Collins (NY)	Frankel (FL)
Becerra	Conaway	Franks (AZ)
Benishek	Connolly	Frelinghuysen
Bentivolio	Conyers	Fudge
Bera (CA)	Cook	Gabbard
Bilirakis	Cooper	Galleo
Bishop (GA)	Cotton	Garamendi
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Garcia
Bishop (UT)	Cramer	Gardner
Black	Crawford	Garrett
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Gibbs
Blumenauer	Crowley	Gibson
Bonamici	Cuellar	Gingrey (GA)
Boustany	Cummings	Gohmert
Brady (TX)	Daines	Goodlatte
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Gosar
Bridenstine	Davis, Danny	Gowdy
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Rodney	Granger
Brooks (IN)	DeFazio	Graves (GA)
Broun (GA)	DeGette	Grayson
Brownley (CA)	Delaney	Green, Al
Buchanan	DeLauro	Green, Gene
Bucshon	DelBene	Griffin (AR)
Burgess	Denham	Griffith (VA)
Bustos	Dent	Grimm
Butterfield	DeSantis	Guthrie
Byrne	DesJarlais	Hahn
Calvert	Diaz-Balart	Hall
Camp	Dingell	Hanna
Cantor	Doggett	Harper
Capito	Duckworth	Harris
Capuano	Duffy	Hartzler
Cárdenas	Duncan (SC)	Hastings (FL)
Carney	Duncan (TN)	Hastings (WA)
Carson (IN)	Edwards	Heck (NV)
Cartwright	Ellison	Heck (WA)
Castor (FL)	Ellmers	Hensarling
Castro (TX)	Engel	Herrera Beutler
Chabot	Enyart	Higgins
Chaffetz	Eshoo	Himes
Chu	Esty	Hinojosa
Ciilline	Farenthold	Holding
Clark (MA)	Farr	Holt

Honda	McMorris	Scalise
Horsford	Rodgers	Schakowsky
Hoyer	Meadows	Schiff
Hudson	Meehan	Schneider
Huelskamp	Meeks	Schock
Huffman	Meng	Schrader
Huizenga (MI)	Messer	Schwartz
Hultgren	Mica	Schweikert
Hunter	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Hurt	Miller (FL)	Scott, Austin
Israel	Miller (MI)	Scott, David
Issa	Miller, George	Sensenbrenner
Jackson Lee	Moore	Serrano
Jeffries	Moran	Sessions
Jenkins	Mullin	Sewell (AL)
Johnson (GA)	Mulvaney	Shea-Porter
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (FL)	Shimkus
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (PA)	Shuster
Johnson, Sam	Nadler	Simpson
Jolly	Napolitano	Sinema
Jones	Neal	Sires
Jordan	Negrete McLeod	Slaughter
Joyce	Noem	Smith (MO)
Kaptur	Nolan	Smith (NE)
Keating	Nugent	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (IL)	Nunes	Smith (TX)
Kelly (PA)	O'Rourke	Smith (WA)
Kennedy	Olson	Southerland
Kildee	Owens	Speier
Kilmer	Palazzo	Stewart
King (IA)	Pallone	Stivers
King (NY)	Pascrell	Stockman
Kinzinger (IL)	Paulsen	Stutzman
Kline	Payne	Swalwell (CA)
Kuster	Pearce	Takano
Labrador	Pelosi	Terry
LaMalfa	Perry	Thompson (CA)
Lamborn	Peters (CA)	Thompson (MS)
Lance	Peters (MI)	Thompson (PA)
Langevin	Peterson	Thornberry
Lankford	Petri	Tiberi
Larsen (WA)	Pingree (ME)	Tierney
Larson (CT)	Pittenger	Tipton
Latham	Pitts	Titus
Latta	Pocan	Tonko
Lee (CA)	Poe (TX)	Tsongas
Levin	Pompeo	Turner
Lewis	Posey	Upton
Lipinski	Price (GA)	Valadao
LoBiondo	Price (NC)	Van Hollen
Loebsock	Quigley	Vargas
Loftgren	Rangel	Veasey
Long	Reed	Vela
Lowenthal	Reichert	Velázquez
Lowe	Renacci	Visclosky
Lucas	Ribble	Wagner
Luetkemeyer	Rice (SC)	Walberg
Lujan Grisham	Rigell	Walden
(NM)	Roby	Walorski
Luján, Ben Ray	Roe (TN)	Walz
(NM)	Rogers (AL)	Wasserman
Lummis	Rogers (KY)	Schultz
Lynch	Rogers (MI)	Waters
Maffei	Rokita	Waxman
Maloney, Sean	Rooney	Weber (TX)
Marino	Ros-Lehtinen	Webster (FL)
Massie	Roskam	Welch
Matheson	Ross	Wenstrup
Matsui	Rothfus	Whitfield
McAllister	Roybal-Allard	Williams
McCarthy (CA)	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
McCaul	Runyan	Wilson (SC)
McClintock	Ruppersberger	Wittman
McCollum	Ryan (OH)	Wolf
McDermott	Ryan (WI)	Womack
McGovern	Salmon	Woodall
McHenry	Sánchez, Linda	Yarmuth
McIntyre	T.	Yoder
McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta	Yoho
McKinley	Sanford	Young (AK)
	Sarbanes	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—39

Aderholt	Doyle	Marchant
Bachus	Fortenberry	McCarthy (NY)
Brady (PA)	Gerlach	McNerney
Brown (FL)	Graves (MO)	Miller, Gary
Campbell	Grijalva	Neugebauer
Capps	Gutiérrez	Nunnelee
Carter	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Cassidy	Kind	Perlmutter
Coffman	Kingston	Polis
Costa	Kirkpatrick	Rahall
Culberson	Maloney,	
Deutch	Carolyn	

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEMCO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize FEMCO, a small business located in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, which later this month will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1964, FEMCO began as a technical services company catering to the coal industry. During the past two decades, the company has diversified to keep pace with the growing demand in oil and gas, construction, recycling, and industrial manufacturing.

Over the years, FEMCO has relied upon a strong local workforce, which includes welders, engineers, mechanics, business managers, and support staff, among other positions. These talented professionals manufacture and rebuild a wide range of technical components, including drilling rigs for the energy industry, balers, shears, and shredders for the recycling and scrap industry, and also sustain a full-service support team for a wide array of industries that rely on immediate technical expertise and support.

Today, FEMCO is a strong base of economic support for the Punxsutawney area and has over 130 employees.

I want to offer my praise to FEMCO for 50 years of constant innovation and offer my thanks to the extraordinary men and women who work to make their continued success possible.

ADDRESSING THE TRADE DEFICIT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration appears to be negotiating the latest job-killing trade deal, as happened under the prior two Bush administrations and the Clinton administration with NAFTA.

Our Nation can't employ the nearly 20 million unemployed and underemployed citizens without addressing what is happening to growing imports and lessening exports.

Here is a bumper sticker: Out of a Job Yet? Keep Buying Foreign.

That was on a car in Michigan as we came back here today.

In 2013, America imported—get this—\$369 billion in petroleum products alone, \$309 billion in automotive vehicles, and \$533 billion in consumer goods, which are not completely offset by exports. We are exporting jobs and importing products from other places.

Think of the jobs we could create here if we could really live the slogan, “Made in America.”

For every \$1 billion in goods exported, our economy creates 5,000 jobs; but for every \$1 billion in goods imported, we lose 9,000 jobs. That is why we have been in the hole for the last 25 years.

Our middle class is shrinking. People are struggling out there. They can’t make ends meet. We have a budget deficit because we have a trade deficit. America doesn’t need any more job-killing trade deals.

HAMAS MUST BE STOPPED ONCE AND FOR ALL

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an email from a friend who is in Israel with his wife right now. He writes:

Hamas has been sending rockets into Israel for days now trying to kill any Israeli they can—120 in the last 2 days.

Just a few minutes ago, the red alert was sounded. Thank God Congress wanted to build the Iron Dome, as it brought down that rocket.

Will we hear the red alert tonight as we sleep? Will we get to the bomb room in time? What about tomorrow night?

Speak out on the floor of the House: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

My friend, Hamas must be stopped once and for all. President Obama, please say these words with us: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 22 years ago, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor stated:

The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.

Over the past week, that fact has not only been lost by the Supreme Court, it has been under attack. The Court’s decisions undermine women’s ability to pursue economic opportunity and equality.

Tonight, thousands of people are rallying in Boston to protect these basic rights. I stand in solidarity with them. We will not back down and will not accept anything less than full equality in our access to health care, the workplace, and the ability to determine the trajectory of our own lives.

This esteemed body would do well to heed Justice O’Connor’s words, because the women of America will settle for no less.

□ 1915

PRESIDENT OBAMA NEEDS TO VISIT THE BORDER

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the President needs to come to the Texas border. There is a crisis occurring there.

I just returned from a trip to McAllen. The situation is grave. The influx of people is putting a strain on our resources and threatening our system of public health.

Last week marked my second trip to tour the processing and holding facilities. I know other Members of the Texas delegation have made the trip as well. But President Obama, despite being in Texas for fundraising this week, refuses to come to the Texas border.

The President’s remarks from the Rose Garden last week did little to deter Central Americans from sending their children to the Texas border. His message was correct, but his tone was wrong. The President needs to be clear and direct. He needs to send a clear and direct message to the parents in Central America: Don’t send your children across the deserts of Mexico into Texas.

As a Texan, I felt compelled to make this trip, but I realize my influence in this realm is limited. The President has the bully pulpit. The President can make the point.

The President of the United States needs to come to the border and speak in a clear and direct fashion to the parents of Central America.

HELP THE CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last week, besides wishing this wonderful Nation a happy birthday over the Fourth of July, I spent time in Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen visiting the detention centers. Most importantly, I saw the faces of innocent children who have come because of fear for their lives.

In a hearing in Homeland Security, I listened to State officials and to a bishop from El Paso who indicated that the world is watching. These children need our help. They are not America’s enemy. They are not a threat to national security.

I want to thank those many cities who have offered places. I believe the

President is right to seek the amount of money to enforce the border and to provide more judges, more immigration lawyers, and resources for these cities for these children. I believe that we have it in our heart to do it, and we can protect the border.

I will say as well, Mr. Speaker, that children come in all sizes. I want to say that the crisis in Nigeria with the kidnapped girls still remains on our minds—#bringbackourgirls. Let us put an end to the terrorism of Boko Haram, and let us help children wherever they are.

SKILLS ACT

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, each year, hardworking American taxpayers send \$18 billion to Washington for Federal job training and workforce development programs. While training unemployed Americans is a worthy goal, even after spending billions of dollars, only a fraction of workers receive and complete the necessary training to get a job.

That is not only an unacceptable return on investment, Mr. Speaker, but that is an unacceptable outcome for the millions of Americans who are trying to get ahead in this economy.

A bipartisan majority in the House and Senate are working to take action to close the skills gap that is keeping Americans from filling the nearly 4 million American jobs right now. This week, the House will finalize work on a bill that originated in this Chamber. We will vote on final passage of the SKILLS Act, which modernizes and reforms Federal job training programs to be more efficient and effective.

This bipartisan action is a true jobs bill. I hope this serves as a starting point for further Senate action on the dozens of other jobs bills waiting in that Chamber that would invest in our Nation’s competitiveness.

MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 48 years ago this August marks my first practice as a football player for the famed Meridian, Mississippi High School Wildcats. After almost a half century, I still remember the fragrance of freshly cut dew-covered grass juxtaposed against the pungent odor of skin balm and the human stink of a sweaty locker room.

1966 was the first year of our newly appointed head coach, Bob Tyler, from a small town in north Mississippi. My initial thought and first reading of him was a Meridian Star news article in which he was quoted as saying he believed in maintaining a high level of physical conditioning. I immediately knew that meant we would be running our butts off. And we did.

Our first August practice was everything I expected, and much more. We practiced twice a day, sometimes three times a day, first in shorts and then in full pads. Temperatures approached 100 degrees, with 100 percent humidity. Prayers for a quenching rain usually went unanswered.

Coach Tyler kept some of the existing assistants such as Jerry Foshee and the late Earl Morgan, and brought in new ones, including Charles Garrett and Robert Turnage. Charles McComb, Jim Redgate, Don Evans, and Doug Marshal were also assistants under Tyler.

August, 1966, practices under Coach Tyler and staff seemed unique, even from the beginning. The level of organization, the level of excitement of over 100 young men coming out to join our team, and the professionalism and commitment to a strong work ethic and Christian principles were evident from the beginning.

There was also something else quite unique in the history of the football program. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Meridian, Mississippi, deep in the segregationist South, began to slowly integrate its public schools.

That first Tyler August of 1966, we were joined by James Williams, the first black athlete in the Wildcat football program's history. The following year, several more African Americans, including Robert Bell, a defensive tackle, joined us. Not very tall, but very wide and athletic, Bell proved to be quite immovable, and hitting him seemed like slamming into rebar filled with concrete. He went on to play for Mississippi State.

Our relatively unknown head coach then, Bob Tyler, led Meridian High to a fully undefeated season in his first year. The championship game was also quite unique in a couple of ways. Our opponent, the Jackson Provine Rams, still ran the old single-wing offense popular during the 1930s. The secret to Provine's success was high school coaches of the 1960s had no experience defending against the—even then—archaic style of football.

Bob Tyler had an old secret weapon, too, which was defensive line coach Earl Morgan, who played college football during the single-wing era. He knew exactly how to destroy it.

The other surprise of the game was a touchdown from the very first play of scrimmage when a "long bomb" was lobbed from Bob White to George

Ranager. Meridian High won the game and the Big Eight championship, equivalent to today's 6-A championship.

The 1967 season under Tyler went much the same way. We had another perfect season, except for a tie game with Columbus. Nonetheless, we went to the State championship and defeated Biloxi High to make it two State championships in a row.

With such a sterling resume, Bob Tyler received considerable notice from colleges, as you can imagine. SEC coaches pursued him, and the great Johnny Vaught, head coach of Ole Miss, recruited Tyler to become assistant at Tyler's alma mater and favorite team ever.

It was rumored that Vaught was grooming Tyler to succeed him as head coach. Vaught ultimately retired with health problems, and Tyler left for the opportunity to coach under the legendary Bear Bryant of the famed Crimson Tide. It wasn't long before Bob got his shot to become head coach of an SEC football team. He went on to Mississippi State, where he found great success during his 5-year tenure.

Bob Tyler was not only noted for his coaching, but for the talent he developed. Smylie Gebhart, a great defensive end, went on to become an All-American at Georgia Tech. David Bailey, a wide receiver, went on to set reception records under Bear Bryant. George Ranager caught the winning touchdown for Alabama in the famous 33-32 shootout with Ole Miss in 1969.

Coach Charles Garrett, Tyler's right-hand man, took the helm for the 1968 season and had big shoes to fill. With Tyler promoted to the SEC, Garrett proved he had what it takes. Meridian High School had a third undefeated regular season, but lost out in the State championship rematch against a very fast Biloxi High School team.

Garrett developed stars, too. In his 3 years as an Ole Miss running back, Greg Ainsworth ran for 1,361 yards and 17 touchdowns. Mac Barnes, Garrett's quarterback for the 1969 season, became a coaching star in his own right. He went on to coach Meridian High championship teams as well.

Mr. Speaker, though of mediocre athletic ability, I gained tremendously from my experience as a Meridian High Wildcat under both Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and their very able assistant coaches. Any achievements I have made in my life and career must be credited to a large extent to what I learned on the practice field—concepts such as personal discipline, commitment to excellence, personal sacrifice for a unified team goal, preparation for success, and the meaning of teamwork.

Morris Stamm said:

It is a commitment to a bigger goal, an opportunity for a young man to learn more than blocking and tackling.

Don May offered this:

My life lessons learned from the MHS football days proved positive. Hard work and

dedication can enable an individual to accomplish any goal and achieve success throughout a lifetime. Applying those lessons to my career and personal relationships has helped me achieve things I would not have thought possible.

I now look forward, Mr. Speaker, to the scheduled gathering with many of my teammates and coaches of the Meridian High Wildcats who coached or played under Tyler during the football season of 1966 and 1967. Therefore, I now hereby declare the period of 1966 and 1967 to be the "Coach Bob Tyler Era."

What is likely to be our final roll call will be held on August 23, 2014, Meridian. Amazingly, most of the coaches and players, including Tyler himself, after nearly a half century, are still living and will attend the reunion.

Some have gone on to glory before us, however, and will miss that final roll call and we will miss them. They include coaches Earl Morgan and Byron McMullen, as well as players such as Smylie Gebhart, David Bailey, Mike Cumberland, David Murray, Gary Saget, Maurice Ross, Mike Magee, Woodson Emmons, and possibly others.

Mr. Speaker, I now close with these words.

To a man, each of my brother Wildcats, I am sure, feel as I do that every moment of the hard work, sweat, pain, and sometimes disappointment was worth it, and we are all better men because of it. Such a common experience even a half century ago bonds us together forever. Indeed, we were then, as we are today, and always, even when we no longer answer that roll call, will be known as the Meridian High Wildcats, a true "band of brothers."

Mr. Speaker, today I want to express a heartfelt tribute to the leaders of our Wildcat band of brothers—Coaches Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and all Wildcat coaches, living and not, and to all of my brother players living and not—for all you have done for our town, our school, and especially for me.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1930

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM WITHIN A CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 50 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to take up these topics that I appreciate your attention to.

As the other Members disperse across this Hill and over to their offices and as their staffs are tuned in on television and for those who are here in

person, we have got some serious issues to discuss. This country has been led down a path that has been, I think, in the end, destructive to our Republic, and it is important that we focus on these issues that are getting out of hand.

We are a great country. For the Fourth of July, I sent out a tweet that morning to celebrate the Fourth of July: "Happy Independence Day."

The United States of America is the unchallenged greatest nation in the world, and we derive our strength from Western civilization, Judeo Christianity, and free enterprise capitalism. There are many other components to those three parts that I mentioned. Of course, as I send out that message, there are those who disagree.

First, they don't think of America as an exceptional nation. They don't believe in American exceptionalism. Our President makes the statement that: oh, yes, I believe in American exceptionalism in the way the British believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism.

That is an entirely different concept. There are many countries out there that are proud of who they are, and they should be. They are proud of their nationalities. They are proud of the history of who they are. Borders, culture, and language are what tie a country together.

The other countries that see themselves as such and are proud to be so, as the British and as the Greeks are, are not like the United States of America. They do have borders, they do have culture, they do have language, but none of them were formed around an ideal, an ideal of God-given liberty.

None of them were formed around the idea of the rule of law. None of them have a bill of rights like we have a Bill of Rights, where you can look at the pillars of American exceptionalism and read most of them as you read down through the first 10 amendments, our Bill of Rights.

Pillars of American exceptionalism: freedom of speech, religion, the press, and the right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for the redress of grievances—there are four pillars in one, in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The right to keep and bear arms is another pillar of American exceptionalism. Whatever our pain is as the result of people who are dying due to gun violence—and if I counted the casualties right, in Chicago, over the Fourth of July weekend, it was 14 murdered and 82 wounded in gun violence. It is a product of lawless people who are violating gun laws.

They don't respect their gun laws, but we have the right to keep and bear arms because it is an obligation to keep our society in a position where we can defend against tyranny; yet some

don't understand that. They think, somehow, the Second Amendment is about having the right to defend ourselves or the right to hunt or the right to collect or the right to target shoot.

All of those things are ancillary benefits that come along with the Second Amendment, and they are necessary so that we continue the culture of respect for arms and gun safety, but the real reason that we have the right to keep and bear arms is to defend against tyranny.

So far, we haven't seen a tyrant emerge in America who has brought about the need to utilize our Second Amendment, to defend ourselves from a tyrant who would lord over us and our God-given liberty.

Now, history moves on, and different personalities emerge, so I couldn't rule that out for the future, and I couldn't rule it out, actually, for the current either, Mr. Speaker.

With all of these pillars of American exceptionalism—the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the property rights that used to exist with utter clarity in the Fifth Amendment, but, because of the Kelo decision, have been somewhat eroded—and along through our protection against double jeopardy and a quick and speedy trial and a right to face a jury of our peers and the powers of the Federal Government that devolve down to the States or the people respectively in the Ninth and 10th Amendments—we couldn't have built a country without these.

We couldn't have built a great country, Mr. Speaker, if we didn't have that foundation that I mentioned in the beginning—if we didn't have the core of Western civilization that emerged here on this continent at the dawn of the industrial revolution, if we didn't have the age of reason that accompanied old English common law, which is a descendant of Roman law, which is a descendant of Mosaic law—if we hadn't had those pieces, America would have never been, just as if we were not a Judeo-Christian nation, with a sense of morality and a sense of justice, a sense of forgiveness, a sense of redemption—yes, and a sense of confession.

If we hadn't had those pieces that are part and parcel of our culture and our civilization, America would have never been. We wouldn't have held together, and we wouldn't have been formed in the first place, so we wouldn't have sustained ourselves through all of these trials and tribulations of the centuries in the 238 years since the founding of our Republic.

That is how important this country is; yet we have many who don't understand this, many who refuse to believe the reality of history that has brought us to this point, many who don't respect this reality of history.

When I say that our Founding Fathers were almost universally of a solid faith—in fact, of a solid Christian

faith—I hear from the other side of the aisle over here that: no, they were deists, they really had a different way of looking at this.

Thomas Jefferson a deist? Go look at the memorial. You will find more references to God in the Jefferson Memorial than you will see as typos in there, and there are two typos.

Thomas Jefferson was a moral and a religious man, and it anchored much of what he did as was true for all of our Founders. They were not atheists, they were not agnostics, they were not deists. They were rooted in a strong faith and a deep understanding of history, and they understood the flow of history.

On one of my trips out here to Washington—before I came here, Mr. Speaker, to serve in this Congress—I went to the National Archives. There was a long line waiting to see the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, which are on display underneath glass at the Archives today—8 inches of glass in between there and 8 inches of.

It is that Declaration of Independence in which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. As I waited to walk through there to see the original documents—for me, it was the first time—I read through the display that was at the National Archives. This was a display of artifacts from the Greek city-state era.

There, I learned with the real examples before me of how the Greek city-states had the purist form of democracy, at least at the time, and that men of age had an opportunity to speak and to have their voices heard with their votes in the Greek city-states, but they had a problem with this pure form of democracy, and our Founding Fathers understood this.

They learned that, if it is just the masses, if the majority can rule over the minority and if there are no foundational or fundamental rights, then it is the tyranny of the majority that rules over the minority.

There was also the tyranny of the demagogues, the demagogues that had perfected their artful oratory in such a way that they could move the masses in an emotional way, often against the best interests of the Greek city-states.

When a demagogue emerged who drove the city-state in a direction that wasn't prudent, but was emotional and put the city-state at risk, then they had the Greek blackball system. The blackball system was that they would all line up to vote. There would be a gourd here or a piece of pottery here that had a little neck in it and enough room to contain all of the marbles, and there was a discard pottery as well.

When the Greeks decided they were going to see if they were going to banish a demagogue from the city-state, each one of those in the city-state who

could vote—each one of these adult males—got a white marble and a black marble in his hand.

As they walked through—one of these potteries was the voting one, and the other one was a discard, and no one could tell whether they voted to keep this demagogue in our city-state by voting white or to banish this demagogue from our city-state by voting black.

It was maybe 100, maybe 1,000, or however many were there to vote in the Greek city-state—maybe several thousand. As they walked through, if three of them voted a blackball in the voting pottery—in that voting container—and discarded their marbles in the other one, if only three of them said banish this demagogue from the city-state, they would banish him for 7 years because he was a poisonous influence on their civilization, on their culture, and on their society.

That was one of the ways they held in check this raw, pure democracy that existed back during the Greek era, and our Founding Fathers understood that.

They understood also that these pure democracies had a way of essentially imploding and expiring. They understood that they had a limited lifespan—they thought, perhaps, a couple hundred years, so they didn't devise a democracy, Mr. Speaker. America was not devised to be a democracy.

As a matter of fact, you can take a look here in this Constitution and read in here that it guarantees a republican form of government. That is a representative form of government. It is not that everybody goes to the city center—to the coliseum—and votes on national policy.

We had that proposal, by the way. Let's see. We had a Presidential candidate from Texas who pledged that we should actually go on the Internet and all vote these policies, so America could become close to a pure democracy. I didn't like that. I thought that that was a bad idea.

Our Founding Fathers had a bright idea. It was a good, solid, principled idea: give us a republican form of government.

When Benjamin Franklin walked out of the Constitutional Convention, a lady there asked him: What have you given us? His answer was: A republic, ma'am, if you can keep it.

The Republic is a representative form of government where you elect Representatives to come to the House and be reelected or not every 2 years and go to the United States Senate for 6-year terms, with the idea that we would be a quick reaction force here in the House and of a longer-term view, maybe a little cooling effect, over in the Senate, with the balance of these two bodies.

In article I of our Constitution, the most powerful and influential component of our three branches of govern-

ment is Congress—the United States Congress. That is why it is article I. All legislative power exists here between the House and the Senate.

In article I, the legislative powers of the United States Government are here—here, Mr. Speaker, in this House and over at the other end of the Capitol building, which is through the rotunda—over to the United States Senate—all legislative powers, article I.

Our Founding Fathers started, when they drafted the Constitution, with article I because our power comes from God, and it is granted to those of us who represent this government from the people—of, by, and for the people of the United States.

Their powers that they derived from God are transferred here into this Congress, so that we can express their will and bring forth the policies that they believe are the best and most prudent for the United States of America. It isn't just our being a reactionary force—a barometer, a taking of the temperature of our constituents—and somehow come here and reflect that in national policy. That is not exactly the definition of our job, Mr. Speaker.

Here is what I owe my constituents—and I would entreat all of my colleagues to adopt this policy and philosophy—I owe everyone whom I have the honor and privilege to represent my best effort and my best judgment.

My best judgment includes be home; be among the people whom I have the privilege to represent; listen, listen, listen; take into account their concerns, their dreams, their aspirations, their grievances; and bring that back here with the best ideas that have emerged from that and couple with that the things that I am able to have the time to pay attention to on policy to analyze because I have the privilege to represent a lot of constituents who work for a living.

They are busy. They turn in 50, 60, 70, 80, or more hours a week. They do that to take care of their families. They do that to build a nest egg. They do that to prepare for their futures and, perhaps, for their retirements. They do that to build the capital so that they can reinvest, which creates jobs and increases the standard of living.

The people I have the privilege to represent are busy. They don't have time to spend 60, 70, 80 hours a week paying attention to public policy, but they do have time to pay attention to whether I am paying attention to public policy.

That is my pledge: my best effort and my best judgment, including incorporating all of their best judgments into the things that I can do and all of the other things that I have the opportunity to learn.

If I find myself at odds with the constituents in my district, it is time to have an eye-to-eye, heart-to-heart conversation. I should do what is right for

God and country and State and district—in that order.

I have never found a conflict between that order of priority. When my mother was alive, I had told her: Mom, if there is a policy that is not so great for you, but that is right for America, sorry, but we are going to do what is right for America, and we are going to find another way to take care of you, Mom.

That is the way we need to do business in this country. We need to look to the long-term best interests of the United States of America.

We need to look back in our rearview mirror and say: How did we get here? What made us this great Nation? What were the principles that our predecessors adhered to that became such a foundational rock that we could be this unchallenged, greatest nation in the world? What were they? What are they? What are they that exist today? What are those principles that are being eroded, so that America isn't as strong in some of these areas as we used to be?

□ 1945

Do we still have this freedom of speech?

Well, maybe not quite, Mr. Speaker. And I say maybe not quite because this freedom of speech that used to compel us to utter the things that we believed to be true is now restrained by the political correctness, the political correctness where a CEO of a major corporation donated \$1,000 to support a man or woman joined together in, hopefully, holy matrimony, and loses his job as a CEO because there are people that believe that marriage is something other than between a man and a woman.

That is not what you call a free speech. That erodes us all when you see that happen.

When you see the attacks that come—and I see them come primarily from the left. There will be people that will take issue with the tone of remarks or the word choices of remarks, but they aren't so much aggrieved by the actual function of what we are describing.

For example, there are people that don't like the way some of us talk about abortion. They don't like to be reminded that I and millions of Americans believe that human life is sacred in all of its forms, that it begins at a moment, and that is the moment of conception, and it needs to be protected with that great reverence for that sacred unique human life created in God's image from every moment of its conception until natural death. They don't like that kind of dialogue. You will never see a video of an actual abortion performed because the very sight of it is so appalling that the other side would object to the freedom of speech to demonstrate such a thing.

They don't like the idea that we call illegal immigrants "illegal immigrants." They don't like the idea that

they get labeled as “illegal aliens” or “criminal aliens,” but never mind that this is actually the legal term for those who are breaking our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, you will know that one of the top topics that we are faced with, as we went back to the Fourth of July, as we go across this country, is the immigration issue. It is in front of us now again.

It is not a new experience for a lot of us. We were at this topic at this time last year. We went through this debate in 2005, 2006, and 2007 before it finally died away and we bought a little bit more time to come back and revere and respect the rule of law again. But it has been so eroded.

Wherever I go, the immigration topic comes up, Mr. Speaker. And we are watching the video now of the images of people coming across the border, many of them at McAllen, Texas.

Now, I would take people back to what we have experienced in the past in that intense immigration debate that took place, started when President George W. Bush gave his amnesty speech, his comprehensive immigration reform speech.

My memory says that it was January 5, 2004. It was the launch of his reelection campaign. It was a calculation that he needed to reach out to the Hispanic community and, therefore, calculated that if he would grant some form of amnesty and start the process of legalizing people that are here illegally, that somehow they would embrace him as a Presidential candidate.

I think it was an overreaction to what they saw happen in the year 2000 when George W. Bush and Al Gore ran against each other, and when they got down to the recount in Florida, with 537 votes being the deciding difference between who would be the President of the United States and who would drift off into history, that election, I believe, they looked at the county-by-county election returns on which counties went for George Bush and which counties went for Al Gore and saw, I believe, what I know I saw, Mr. Speaker. It was the blue, southern tip of Texas. South Texas went for Al Gore.

Now, how could it be that a Presidential candidate of the stature of George W. Bush, a favorite son of Texas, a Governor of Texas, could lose such a big chunk of Texas on a county-by-county basis to Al Gore? I think they drew a conclusion that it was the Hispanic vote that he had not done very well with in Texas and decided this is how we are going to do better with the Hispanic vote, and so they turned it up.

They announced, after George W. Bush was reelected in 2004, that George W. Bush had carried 44 percent of the Hispanic electorate. But, upon further analysis, by the time you slice and dice and take that formula apart and put it

back together, it comes down to an objective analysis that it couldn't have been 44 percent. It had to have fallen between 38 and 40 percent. Whatever that real number is, I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't 44.

But we then saw JOHN MCCAIN, who was long known as an “open borders” JOHN MCCAIN, run for President, and he picked up 31 percent of the Hispanic vote. So 7 percent—or 8 or maybe as much as 9 percent—of the Hispanic vote was lost between George W. Bush and JOHN MCCAIN. It never was 44. If it was, it was even a lot more. Then it was 13. But I am going to say instead that I will pick that number at 39 and say that JOHN MCCAIN watched an 8 percent drop in the Hispanic vote from George W. Bush's high watermark, where he reached out in a very positive and proactive way, down to JOHN MCCAIN at 31 percent.

Four years later, for the reelection of Barack Obama, Presidential candidate Mitt Romney came forward and he garnered 27 percent of the Hispanic vote. That is really not disputed. So he dropped 4 percent from the 31 percent of JOHN MCCAIN, the “open borders” JOHN MCCAIN, to 27 percent for Mitt Romney.

What happened, Mr. Speaker?

We ended up with an autopsy report that said that somehow it was a calamity, a free fall, a loss of a big chunk of the Hispanic vote because Mitt Romney had said a couple of words that seemingly allegedly had offended people, those two words being “self-deport.”

Now, if the language is so sensitive that you can't use a term like “self-deport” without losing the Presidency, how in the world, Mr. Speaker, are we going to enforce the law? How are we going to reinforce the respect for the rule of law if we can't, in a delicate way, say, you know, if we really do enforce the law, a lot of people will decide that they don't have a legal presence here and they might decide they are happier if they would wake up in their home country. Somehow that is offensive to people?

Instead, I would say there has been a loss in the Hispanic vote, certainly not from 44 percent for George W. Bush but from, say, 39 percent down to JOHN MCCAIN. That is an 8 percent loss—31 percent for JOHN MCCAIN, 8 percent loss. Only a 4 percent drop from that down to Mitt Romney. Who knows which direction that is going to go, but it completely disregards, Mr. Speaker, the tens of millions of dollars that Democrats spent calling Republicans racists and getting a return on their investment by watching that be an effective, however sinful tactic it is.

I have watched this for a number of election cycles. I have watched it in my own race.

When you pit people against each other, Mr. Speaker, when you identify

people and say you are in one class here, you are in another class here, you are in a group here, you are in a group over here—and the Democrats know. They will sort you out. They will say, well, your hair is blonde and your eyes are blue, so you belong here; and yours is dark and your eyes are brown, you belong over here; and you have a melanin content in your skin, and I am going to put you there.

We are all created in God's image, every one of us, and He has given us the distinction so we can tell each other apart. For us to identify those distinctions that are God-given identifying characteristics and use those to categorize people as something different than other people for political gain, Mr. Speaker, I believe is a sin. It is against the interests of this country, and we have fallen prey to those kind of tactics, and we have a President who falls prey to those kind of tactics.

I would remind you, when you had Officer Crowley and Professor Gates and that instance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when the President jumped in on what looked like was a home burglary circumstance, upon review, Officer Crowley conducted himself just fine; Professor Gates got a little bit out of control. The President jumped in on something he never should have weighed in on and concluded that, because the professor was of one skin color and the officer was of Irish descent, that somehow there had to be some kind of racism involved rather than the humanity of an officer who puts his life on the line to bring our safety to us and to protect and preserve the rule of law. So the President, to get out of that deal, had to have a beer summit at the White House.

Well, that lasted a little while, until Arizona passed its S.B. 1070 law, which is their immigration law that was designed to exactly mirror Federal law—not exceed it, not go beyond it, but exactly mirror Federal law. And what happened? The President weighs in and says, well, you know, if are you a mother, a Hispanic mother taking your daughter out for ice cream, you could potentially be pulled over and checked for your papers. That was a statement that brought a focus on to race and ethnicity, and the law specifically prohibits such a thing, but he brought race into this equation again.

Now we have a President who has two of his family members who have received some form of amnesty, his Auntie Onyango and Uncle Omar. Auntie Onyango has now passed away, but she lived in public housing for a long time on the government dole. She was adjudicated for deportation at least once, perhaps more times than that. The President's presence in this country and hers in this country got her an amnesty.

So did drunken Omar, President Obama's uncle, who nearly ran over a

police officer up in that same neighborhood and received his form of amnesty, too, because, after all, if you send him back to Kenya and he happens to be related to the President, somebody will kidnap him and maybe he becomes held hostage for profit. So we surely couldn't send somebody back, no matter how many times they had been adjudicated for deportation, no matter how much they were on the government dole, no matter what kind of an unexemplary citizen—well, a resident of the United States. I have to retract that citizen piece. A resident of the United States.

Illegal immigrants, the President's uncle, the President's aunt, they get asylum. They get amnesty. And the President reaches out and says, essentially to the world, we are not going to enforce immigration law. It is a progression on his part.

It was Bill Clinton that did the most deportations. In the year 2000, he had more deportations than anybody in history, before or since, more than George W. Bush, more than Ronald Reagan, more than George H.W. Bush. But those high deportations that took place under Bill Clinton diminished substantially under this President. They diminished under George W. Bush. They diminished again substantially under this President.

Mr. Speaker, this President has put the welcome mat out. He has essentially advertised to people in foreign countries: if you can get into America, you get to stay in America. That has been his policy. While they will announce that he has more deportations than anybody else, it wasn't true the moment they uttered that. It is not true today. The President has confessed that they count differently than any other administration.

We have a circumstance on the southern border that adopts involuntary return. If someone sneaks into America and they are caught at the border, they are offered a couple of options.

One of them is, well, today, we will take your prints and your picture. But if you will voluntarily return to your home country, then you will not be barred from coming back into the United States on either a 3- or a 10-year bar. That is the deal. So a lot of them take that voluntary return and go back to Mexico and try again.

In fact, we checked the records down at Nogales at the border station, and this was several years ago. They had a single individual that had attempted to come into the United States and had been caught 27 times. No penalty. Here are your prints. We will take your picture. We will send you back to Mexico. You can go. Sometimes they come back in the same day and they are caught again the same day.

We had testimony before the Judiciary Committee in the Immigration

Subcommittee where the Border Patrol came before us, and I asked them: What percentage of illegal immigrants do you interdict, do you stop at the border? Their testimony said, well, perhaps 25 percent. Well, 25 percent is an abysmally low number, Mr. Speaker. Only 25 percent interdiction at the border.

Now, I go down to the border and I ask them down there, the Border Patrol, Customs, Border Patrol and ICE: What percentage are you interdicting here at the border? Are you getting—are you stopping 25 percent? They would laugh and say 10 percent has to come first. Ten percent was the most consistent number that I heard, sector after sector, agent after agent. They think they are stopping about 10 percent. One of the ICE supervisors said: I think it is 2 to 3 percent.

So this 25 percent number, even if we accept it, then you have to multiply it times four to come up with the number of people that are coming across our border. If we stop 25 percent, that means 25 people come across, there is really 100 of them. When you do the math, at the peak of our interdictions, which was during the Bush administration, that came to about 11,000 a night, 11,000 illegal aliens, criminal aliens coming into the United States across our southern border every night.

That traffic has slowed down a little bit because there are fewer economic opportunities. So that 11,000 was about twice the size of Santa Anna's army. Now the nightly border traffic is about exactly the size of Santa Anna's army.

Now, of course, they aren't all armed. In fact, very few of them are. But we are watching what is going on in McAllen as we are watching tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors come into the United States.

□ 2000

And that number was predicted more than 6 months ago by Chris Crane, the president of the ICE union, who has said, we are going to see more than 50,000—I believe the number he gave was actually 60,000—unaccompanied minors coming into the United States in the next year. Well, we have already crossed over 50,000. And for this full year, we are going to see that number—July, August, September—and that number is increasing. We think in the next fiscal year, it is predicted that it will be 120,000, not this 50,000 that we have crossed so far.

And, by the way, these unaccompanied minors, these are kids under the age of 18. These unaccompanied minors represent about 20 percent of the illegal aliens that are coming into America. And those are the ones that we catch.

So that is 100,000. Perhaps that number, approaching 120,000 illegal aliens that they catch, it is a number bigger than that. We have got a number that

goes to some 300,000 criminal aliens to be interdicted in this fiscal year, and I think that number will go higher. That is one of those snapshot estimates. I am going to predict that it is going to be closer to 600,000.

But still, this President has refused to send people back. If you come into the United States, if you are able to set a foot in the United States, get into America, if you get into the interior, you are almost home-free. If you are not caught at the border, you are almost home free.

But something less than 2 percent of those who come into the United States who are interdicted, who get caught, are actually sent back home. And now, when you slice and dice that number down, you see the trend: that is going down to something like 0.1 percent that are faced with the enforcement of the law against them.

This is the wholesale destruction of the rule of law, Mr. Speaker. The wholesale destruction of the rule of law. This is a President who has rolled out the welcome mat and has sent the message across the continent, across the hemisphere and, actually, the world: if you can get into America, we aren't going to bother to remove you from America.

He has prohibited local law enforcement from enforcing Federal immigration law. He has gone to court to enforce such a thing. They have canceled 287(g) agreements, which are cooperative agreements between political subdivisions and the Federal Government so that local government could help enforce immigration law. He has sent his Attorney General hither and yon to file lawsuits against political subdivisions that simply want to enforce the rule of law and reflect Federal immigration law.

There is no other law that I know in this country that doesn't ask for, receive, and appreciate the full cooperation of all levels of law enforcement, whether they are city police, county sheriffs, whether they are State officers, criminal investigation personnel, or Federal officers of any kind. All levels cooperate at all levels, with the exception of immigration law, which has been carved out to be separate by this President.

And now we have a President that a year ago last summer, in the middle of the summer, some time in July, introduced what we call the DACA language, or the Morton Memos. And those memos are written in a bit of a—let's say a deft, convoluted, legalistic way, signed by John Morton, presented by Janet Napolitano. I promised her that she would be sued over them, and she is.

But these Morton Memos create four different classes of people. They grant an effective de facto. That is, they grant an amnesty to people that are in the United States. And it is the idea

that if you came into America, and you were under the age of 18, you weren't responsible for your actions.

Some people on my side of the aisle will argue that you can't form intent if you are young. If you are too young to form an intent, then you can't be held accountable for breaking the law. I would point out, how young is that? Because a 2-year-old who reaches their hand in the cookie jar in my house knows that is wrong. And if you holler at them and say, Johnny, they will hide that cookie behind them and act like they didn't do anything wrong. You can't convince me that a 17-year-old can't form an intent when a 2-year-old can at the cookie jar and know it is wrong.

But this President somehow believes that if you came into this country before you were 18 years old, or at least say you did, that it was through no fault of your own that somehow your parents brought you in. And now, we have 50,000 kids from countries other than Mexico—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras—who are being pushed up into the United States of America, who are attracted to come here. Why? Because of the powerful magnet of no enforcement of the law, no effective enforcement of the law here in the United States. The magnet of family members that have already been beneficiaries of no enforcement of the law.

We had a case that was decided in December of 2013. I introduced it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the Judiciary Committee a couple of weeks ago. An illegal alien mother in Virginia had abandoned her 10-year-old daughter in Guatemala. She had hired a human smuggling coyote to smuggle her 10-year-old daughter across Mexico into the United States. They were supposed to deliver this child to this illegal home in Virginia. They were caught at the border. The human smuggler had charges brought against her. She had been in trouble for this same kind of activity in the past. So they brought charges for trafficking and human smuggling against the coyote, the human coyote. But the 10-year-old girl, what did she do with her? They loaded her up—she is an illegal alien, too—and delivered her up to Virginia, to her illegal alien mother into a household full of illegal aliens. ICE completed the crime. Immigration and Customs Enforcement completed the crime.

And when the judge rendered his decision on the prosecution of the human trafficker, he wrote that he had had a case like that in each preceding week in the previous month, at least four of those similar cases where ICE had completed the crime of human trafficking and had delivered this child—which may or may not be the daughter of the resident of the illegal household in Virginia—delivered this child into that household.

Now, that message went out, Mr. Speaker, all over Central America: If

you are from somewhere other than Mexico, send your children to America. And they are coming across. They are climbing up on trains. They are riding that dangerous track. Some of them are walking. All of them are subject to being victims of the drug cartels and the violence. And yes, they are leaving violent countries.

The violent death rate in Guatemala, according to a Web site that tracks that, is 74.9 violent deaths per 100,000. The U.S. violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. That will tell you about the ratio of how much more dangerous it is in a place like Guatemala. Honduras, according to the United Nations report that just came out a few months ago, has the highest murder rate in the world, with 92 homicides per 100,000. But their numbers have grown in the last couple of years. They don't show the violent deaths rates as being that high.

But we do know by the U.N. records that eight of the 10 most violent countries in the world are in the Western Hemisphere. They are in Central America or northern South America, not Mexico.

America's violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. Mexico's violent death rate is 18.2 per 100,000. It is not quite three times that of the United States. But still, if you think of a country that has triple the violent death rate, and you send a lot of their young men here, there are going to be people in this country that die as a result of those decisions. And I am not picking on Mexico because it is far more violent south of Mexico, multiple times more violent south of Mexico.

In Honduras, there are 92 homicides per 100,000, compared to Mexico's 18.2. In Guatemala, the rate is 74.9 in violent deaths, not homicides. And in El Salvador, some years you don't get records because it is so violent there.

However, when you look at those countries and the homicide rates that they have, only Honduras has a higher violent death rate than Detroit. We should put this in perspective, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to move kids out of Central America to the United States of America because they live in a violent society, we dare not send them to Detroit because we would be putting them in an environment that is more dangerous than the one they left. But if you look at the universe of unaccompanied minors, let alone those who are accompanied coming into America that are getting this Presidential de facto asylum, you will see a reflection of what showed up in the Guatemala newspaper here a couple of weeks ago, a Spanish language newspaper, interpreted to say thus: 80 percent of the unaccompanied minors are male; 83 percent of the unaccompanied minors are the ages of 15, 16, or 17. When they turn 18, they are no longer an unaccompanied minor—15, 16, or 17.

Mr. Speaker, I would challenge anyone to go anywhere in the world and identify a demographic group of people that are more likely to become gangbangers, to be violent, to perpetrate and prey upon innocence, than those that come from the most violent societies in the world. Eight of the 10 most violent societies in the world are south of Mexico, and they are coming here as OTMs, "other than Mexicans."

If you pick 15-, 16-, and 17-year-olds from the most violent societies in the world and you drop them into another society by the tens of thousands and perhaps substantially more than that, there isn't any rational person that would think that there aren't going to be victims in the United States as a result of this policy.

And yet, the policy that I talked about, that had ICE completing the crime of hauling the 10-year-old illegal alien to Virginia to be rejoined with her illegal alien mother in Virginia, completing the crime, that has happened dozens or scores of times until now.

So now the President has his administration that is doing this thousands of times. They are taking these unaccompanied minors, housing them, coming through McAllen, in particular, but a lot of other places as well, putting them in temporary warehouses, loading them on buses and hauling them to places where they can process them. And then picking them up and, if they have a phone number in their pocket, some of them have a phone number memorized, wherever they say a relative or an extended family lives, ICE, or now Health and Human Services, delivers them there.

They pull up in front of a household. It might be a crack house. It might be a meth house. It might be a gangbanger's house. This is the address. They slide the door of the van open. Boom, out you go, you 17-year-old unaccompanied minor that we don't have a provision where we can deport you back to your home country. Let's see if we can get you to be a productive member of society by dropping you in this environment.

There are no checks and balances on this. There is no prudence to this. And, in fact, the ones younger than 14, they are not even printed. They don't have their fingerprints taken. They don't have their pictures taken. We don't know who they are. And about 50 percent of them were not born in a hospital so they don't have a birth certificate. They don't have a legal existence in their home country. There is not a way to track them. We don't know who we are handing them over to. We don't know who they are. We don't know if we pick them up next week or next year or 10 years from now if they actually were somebody that was processed through a warehouse in McAllen. These kids cannot be spread across this society in this fashion and infused across

the illegal households in America. You grow more lawlessness, more lawlessness.

We are not relieving the pain and suffering. It is the parents that have abandoned their children. It is the parents that have endangered their children.

There was a little child in my district about 3 years old, a little girl who walked out of her house during the day. Her mother was working in the packing plant at night, and she needed to sleep during the day.

Yes, I trusted her mother was an immigrant—legal or illegal, I don't know. But this little girl wandered down the street several blocks. And somebody found this little girl and picked her up. And they looked around and asked questions and finally found out that, well, she came from this house where this mother was sleeping. So our Department of Human Services, our Iowa HHS, sat this mother down and said, this can't continue. You have got to care for this child. You can't let this child wander off on the street. Even while you are sleeping during the day—she needed to because she was working at night. But the child could not be left to wander because it is child endangerment. It is child abandonment. And they told this mother, you take care of your child, or we will take your child and put your child into foster care. And if you don't shape up, we will put this child into adoption so this child has a real chance in life.

We do not tolerate people who abandon or endanger their children in Iowa, and I don't believe we do that in any other State in this Union.

But the people who send their children across 1,000 miles of Mexico on the death train, exposed to drug cartels and human trafficking and the kind of slavery and exploitation that takes place on the victims that are coming up here, the parents who sent them along that path, they have abandoned their children. They have endangered their children. Over 1,000 miles of Mexico, not a few blocks down the street in a little safe Iowa town; 1,000 miles in Mexico.

□ 2015

And we, this great, benevolent Obama administration, will pick these children up and deliver them anywhere in America that they want to go because they have a phone number in their pocket, or an address that they memorized, and pull the van up in front of the crack house, open the sliding door and say, okay, here you are, fend for yourself? We should never put those children back in a household, an illegal household, never back into a law-violating environment.

These kids need to go home. There is another solution if we can't send them home. But putting them in these illegal households is not the right thing to do.

The President can solve this problem. Mr. Speaker, this is all in the President's head. The President sent out the advertisement that we are not going to enforce immigration law against you. He sent out the advertising that this government will take care of you, that we will make sure that you are living in a house where you have heat subsidy, rent subsidy, where you have food stamps, where you get an education, where you have health care, all paid for by somebody else, the sweat of somebody else's brow. And, by the way, now he wants \$3.7 billion from Congress so he can hire every one of them a lawyer. Give them ObamaCare and hire them a lawyer, and now they will have everything that is the dream of every American—your own lawyer, your own government-issued health insurance policy, a rent subsidy, a heat subsidy, oh, and an Obama phone. Who wouldn't come to America if they believe all that is true? That is what this President is doing.

If he needed a place to put these kids back to their home countries, we have a bill. In fact, I have a bill here, and I will include it for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

H.R. _____

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Families Together Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or in the case that a child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, safely removed to a country described in paragraph (6)”

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: “, or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, remove such child to another country described in paragraph (6)”;

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: “AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES”;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “countries contiguous to the United States” and inserting the following “any foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate”;

(iii) in clause (i), by inserting after “last habitual residence” the following: “or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)”;

(iv) in clause (ii)—

(I) by inserting after “last habitual residence” the following: “or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)”;

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(v) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(vi) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) subject to clauses (i) and (ii), a child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence, or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, removed to a country described in paragraph (6) not later than 5 days after a determination is made under paragraph (4) that the child meets the criteria listed in subparagraph (A); and”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “48 hours” and inserting “10 days”;

(B) by inserting after “last habitual residence,” the following: “or removing the child to a country described in paragraph (6).”;

(C) by striking “or if no determination can be made within 48 hours of apprehension.”; and

(D) by inserting at the end the following: “If no determination can be made within 10 days of apprehension, the child shall be treated as though the child meets the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A).”

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after “last habitual residence,” the following: “and the safe and sustainable removal of unaccompanied alien children to countries described in paragraph (6).”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after “repatriate” the following: “or remove”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)(iii), by inserting after “last habitual residence,” the following: “or safely and humanely removed to a country described in paragraph (6).”;

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a),” and inserting “who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”;

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “not later than 5 days after the Secretary of Homeland Security makes the determination to seek removal of the child”;

(5) by inserting at the end the following:

“(6) COUNTRY TO WHICH AN UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD MAY BE REMOVED DESCRIBED.—A country is described in this paragraph if—

“(A) the government of the country will accept an unaccompanied alien child into that country; and

“(B) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines that—

“(i) there is no credible evidence that the child is at risk of being trafficked in the country; and

“(ii) there is no credible evidence that the child will be persecuted in that country.”.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the title of the bill is the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, an amendment to it, and it addresses this topic. The topic is how we reach an agreement with the countries that are noncontiguous like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; just to be able to get an agreement to send their children back to their home country.

We can maybe direct this out of Congress if you get HARRY REID to go along

with it, Mr. Speaker, but the President can do this on his own. All he needs to do is call up the president of any one of those three countries and say that you need to be on the tarmac in, say, Guatemala City airport; I am sending a planeload of your unaccompanied minors back. You repatriate them back into your country and your society. If you don't do that, we are going to freeze up the foreign aid, and we are going to freeze up the trade. We are not going to be subsidizing a country that won't cooperate and sends their children up here for us to put on the public dole.

The President can solve this thing. It wouldn't take one day to solve this. It has taken him 5½ years to create this problem. It is the President's problem. The President refuses to solve it. He just wants more money to expand government and hire more lawyers and more judges, but he has no intention of resolving this.

He is going to infuse tens of thousands—in the end hundreds of thousands—of people into America in an effort to turn Texas blue, to do what the Bush administration feared would happen if they didn't do that outreach in the first place.

I don't believe we should do identity politics. I think we should reach out to everybody and say that you are created in God's image, that is good enough for me. You are one of us if you want to work and earn your way, if you want to pay some taxes and carry your share of the load, because when you shoulder that harness, you make the load lighter for everyone else, and you increase the average per capita GDP of our people. When that happens, we all live better. But there are 104.1 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce.

That is going in the wrong direction. And the last thing we need to do is have tens of millions of unskilled and especially illiterate people who are going to compete for the lowest skills jobs. This country is going exactly in the wrong direction. We need a President who will move this country in the right direction. The President can fix this problem he created. He can fix it. This Congress probably can't force the President to fix the problem, but the bill that I have just filed into the RECORD takes us a ways along that, Mr. Speaker, and judging from the time, I appreciate your attention.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH INVESTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we have just heard a very interesting 1 hour on an issue that is important, and I would like to bring to this floor another issue that affects every American family either directly or indirectly, but in a very profound, and in most cases, a very sad, very sad way. One in five American seniors are affected by this disease called Alzheimer's.

I know it has affected my family. My wife's mother at the age of 92 died of Alzheimer's. She spent the last 2 years of her life living with my wife and me in our home, where we were able to provide care for her. I think that that is just one story among the millions of American families that are trying to find a way of dealing with this devastating disease.

In the last years of her life, my mother-in-law always had what seemed to be a bright outlook. She was never a complainer, and she always seemed to recognize her grandchildren, particularly the very young grandchildren. I will never forget a day where our youngest grandchild—her youngest great-grandchild—was climbing into bed with her, and my mother-in-law was, what I thought, was babbling. And that young child who could just barely speak was translating in a very real way what my mother-in-law was saying. It was my wife and I that were unable to understand. Just one moment in a long period of time that my mother-in-law lived with us in her final years.

This story is replicated time after time across America. One in five seniors will have Alzheimer's and will die of it.

If we take a look at the well known diseases that affect Americans, here is the death rate: cancer, clearly, clearly a problem. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Over the last 10 years, we are seeing a decline in the death rate for all of these well known and devastating diseases. We have seen the progress of research and the application of medical practices to these diseases, cancer, heart disease, and stroke, all declining, stroke by some 23 percent. HIV/AIDS, another devastating disease in this country, an incredible 42 percent decline in the death rate between 2000 and 2010.

And here is Alzheimer's, the same period of time, a 68 percent increase. My mother-in-law was one of the people that made up this statistic.

Deaths from major diseases. This is a clear indication of what happens when the public, acting through Congress, and governments, State, local, and private organizations, put their shoulder to the wheel and decide that it is time to do something about cancer, heart disease, stroke, and HIV/AIDS.

What is happening here? What is happening with Alzheimer's? Well, part of the answer is the aging population, the baby boomers. That is part of the answer, but it is not the complete answer.

What does this mean to the American taxpayer and the American families? It means it is a very, very expensive disease. In fact, it is the most expensive disease in America. Medicare, the principal source of health insurance for the elderly, 1 in 5 dollars in Medicare is spent on Alzheimer's, well over \$240 billion a year for Medicare and Medicaid alone.

And where is this going? Well, here is where the costs are going. The cost of Medicare and Medicaid, 2010, \$122 billion; 2022, \$195 billion; 2050, \$880 billion. So what are we going to do here? Well, we are going to spend an awful lot of money unless we get ahead of this devastating disease.

Looking at it another way, a different graph, same story, the skyrocketing cost of Alzheimer's care. This is not the peak, this is just where we stop counting in 2050. Baby boomers coming on and then this disease taking hold and literally bankrupting the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

So what do we do? Well, here is what we are doing, a neat little chart here, treatment shown here, this is the Medicare portion, this is the Medicaid portion. We are looking at a huge expenditure, \$150 billion. This is from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Oh, down here, this is the comparison for research. This year, \$566 million of research. Extraordinary expense, a lot of research, but not nearly enough to address the problem.

For example, back to that first graph that showed the decline in cancer research, HIV, heart—I wonder why it happened? Look where we are investing: cancer research, \$5.481 billion; HIV/AIDS, \$2.978 billion; cardiovascular, \$2.15 billion; Alzheimer's, \$566 million.

This is a very, very good graph. This is what happens when we invest in research and treatment protocols. Let me remind you of what those investments have meant. Cancer, decline in death rate; heart disease, decline in death rate; stroke, decline in death rate; HIV, decline in death rate. The major reason for it is the investment in research and treatment protocols. Cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular, Alzheimer's.

So where are we going to go here? Are we going to stay with this and see an increase in Alzheimer's disease and death over the next years? Or are we going to go with something that can solve the problem? And that is investment, investment by the people of America and around the world in addressing this devastating illness for which today there is no cure, there is no way to slow down the progress, and we don't know when it is coming on until it is with us.

And so families across this Nation find themselves in a devastating situation. I would like to recount just one devastating situation. It was on National Public Radio in the Sacramento

region. A gentleman from the State park system retired at the age of 65, thinking that he and his wife would be able to spend their next years traveling, enjoying themselves and the benefit of the years of work they had put in.

□ 2030

His wife was 1 year younger. No soon-er had he retired, his wife came down with early onset of Alzheimer's. The result is a devastation in their family, obviously, to the lady. She doesn't even know today that she is married to her husband of 42 years, but he cares for her, day in and day out, every day, 24/7.

There are many pieces of legislation that are here in the Congress that deal with this caregiving situation. There is also legislation that would ramp up the research necessary to get at the disease to fully understand what it is all about and how we might treat it and prevent it. These pieces of legislation deserve our attention.

Joining me tonight is a colleague from California who is carrying one of those pieces of legislation, a woman who has spent her entire career—public and private—in Congress and in the California legislature, addressing the problems of health care, the problems of the underinsured and the under-served, an incredible woman who has her own story to tell.

Let me introduce to you MAXINE WATERS, my colleague from California.

Ms. WATERS. I would first like to thank my colleague from California, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, for this time, and I congratulate him for organizing this evening's Special Order on Alzheimer's disease.

JOHN, I would like to tell you that those charts that you just presented tell the story very clearly. It identifies the extent of this disease, and it also lays out that we need to do more with research.

We need to invest more in research, but you also showed, for those diseases where we have invested in, that they have reduced the death rates dramatically. I think your presentation needs to be seen by everybody because it does paint the picture of what is going on with this disease.

As the cochair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know how devastating this disease can be on patients, families, and caregivers. The task force works on a bipartisan basis to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, strengthen the Federal commitment to improving the lives of those affected by the disease, and assist the caregivers who provide their needed support.

I am pleased that the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) has decided to take an active role in the work of the task force, and what a great job he has done.

Alzheimer's disease has touched millions of American families. However, most of us are probably unaware of the statistics behind the disease and the significant public health threat it poses to our Nation.

In the United States, someone develops Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. According to recent data, women have a one in six estimated lifetime risk of developing the disease at age 65, while the risk for men is nearly one in 11.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates as many as 16 million Americans over age 65 could suffer from Alzheimer's by 2050. It is now the fifth leading cause of death in California.

Right now, nearly 15 million people—mostly family members—provide unpaid care for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia, a market value of more than \$220.2 billion.

In California alone, approximately 1.5 million unpaid caregivers grapple with the tremendous challenges of Alzheimer's disease or dementia every day. Caregivers include spouses, children, even grandchildren.

Caregivers face a variety of challenges, ranging from assisting patients with feeding, bathing, and dressing, to helping them take care of their medications, manage finances, and make legal decisions.

I want you to know that I have friends who are taking care of both their father and their mother who have Alzheimer's. Caregiving is something that we have to pay attention to.

We have to give support to these families because not only is it a tremendous responsibility that so many people are taking on—as compared to caregivers for other diseases, Alzheimer's caregivers disproportionately report being forced to miss work, reduce work hours, quit their jobs, and change jobs due to caregiving demands. They are more likely to experience financial hardship, report health difficulties, experience emotional stress, and suffer from sleep disturbance.

These are just some of the reasons why I introduced the Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Act, H.R. 2975, last year. This bill authorizes grants to public and nonprofit organizations to expand training and support services for families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

With the majority of Alzheimer's patients living at home under the care of family and friends, it is important that we ensure these caregivers have access to the training and resources needed to provide proper care.

The families and communities facing Alzheimer's also must deal with the difficult problem of wandering. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's patients are likely to wander away from home. In addition to being distracting for law enforcement, wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather

conditions, traffic hazards, and people who prey on vulnerable seniors.

In fact, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that up to 50 percent of wandering Alzheimer's patients will become seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure from home.

To combat this, I have introduced H.R. 2976, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, a small but effective Department of Justice program that helps local communities and law enforcement agencies quickly identify persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families.

The program is a valuable resource for first responders, and it enables law enforcement officers to focus their attention on other security concerns in our communities.

Of course, nothing can be more valuable for Alzheimer's patients, their families, caregivers, and communities than a cure for this terrible disease.

To that end, we must significantly expand the government's insufficient investment in Alzheimer's research. It is essential that Congress appropriate robust funding for cutting-edge research at the National Institutes of Health.

The private sector also has a role to play in funding Alzheimer's research, as do donations from concerned individuals. A simple way for Congress to encourage the public to contribute is to require the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell a semipostal stamp, with the proceeds helping to fund Alzheimer's research at NIH.

This would be similar to the popular and successful breast cancer research semipostal stamp. A bill to do this, H.R. 1508, was introduced by now-Senator ED MARKEY prior to his election to the Senate, and I am working very hard to pass it.

So as we continue to search for a cure, our Nation is at a critical crossroads that requires decisive action to ensure the safety and welfare of the millions of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Together, let us commit to take every possible action to improve treatment for Alzheimer's patients, support caregivers, and invest in research to find a cure for this disease.

Once again, I want to thank my colleague, JOHN GARAMENDI from California, for organizing tonight's Special Order. It is important that we do as much as we can to educate the public, to gain widespread support, to make sure that we have the support that is necessary to get more funding for research.

You are doing a fine job of getting us focused. I appreciate that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank Congresswoman WATERS. A couple of things come to mind as we were talking about the research effort.

We will very soon appropriate well over \$80 billion—\$80 billion—for ongoing military actions in Afghanistan. We make choices here, and it seems to me that we need to understand the import and the importance of the choices we make.

Now, that does not include the CIA and the State Department and the USAID—those are additional expenses over and above that the military will be using—at a time when, presumably, we are pulling out of Afghanistan. What would \$1 billion of that \$80 billion mean to the Alzheimer's research programs here in the United States?

Well, first of all, we shouldn't appropriate \$1 billion because you can't ramp up that fast; but if we spread that over 2, 3, 4 years and go from \$566 million to \$1.5 billion, what could be accomplished?

I know that, in my own district in the Sacramento Valley, the University of California, Davis, has a very robust and breakthrough opportunity on brain research. I know in your own area of Los Angeles, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California are, together, operating major research programs on the mind, on the human brain, and how it is harmed, what is it that sets off Alzheimer's.

We can do this, but these are choices that your Representatives, the American people, your Representatives are making choices here in this House about how to spend your money. When one in five seniors comes down with Alzheimer's and we make a choice to spend \$80 billion in Afghanistan, you should be questioning this. As to our rationality, are we making the right choice? I think not.

Let me just comment on your legislation, Congresswoman WATERS. Your Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act, H.R. 2975, I am thinking what it would have meant to Patty and I as we took upon the task of caring for her mother.

We really didn't know much about Alzheimer's and really didn't know much about the kind of care and the kind of reaction and different things we might do and she might do.

It would have been so helpful to us to have had that kind of information available, that kind of support. Now, we got through it very well. We had a lot of ability to search out information, and we are not unique, but I think the general public who is facing this personal crisis of a husband or a wife—and as you said, two out of three are going to be women—as they face that crisis, if they had the support that your bill would give to them, here is what you should expect, here is what you can do, here is where you can get help.

It is a good bill. We ought to pass it. We ought to pass this bill. So, Congresswoman WATERS, thank you for doing that. If you want to comment

back on how you came to put this bill in, what was your motivation? How did you come to see it, from your own experiences? I know you have friends and, perhaps, even family that faced this situation.

Ms. WATERS. Absolutely. I have been watching for some time what caregivers go through in an attempt to provide the care that is needed by Alzheimer's patients, and you hit it on the head when you said: If only these individuals had had a little help in understanding the disease—what is it like? What is likely to happen? What can you anticipate? How should you react, and what can you do to get some help?

If that information simply was available, it would be of tremendous help to caregivers, but in addition to that, many of the caregivers put their own well-being at risk in so many ways.

Not only do they oftentimes have to lose time from work—which causes difficulties—but many times, the caregivers themselves have health problems that they are addressing that are exacerbated by the fact that they have additional responsibilities in giving care to their Alzheimer's relatives.

Yes, I have seen a lot of this, and I know the pain that families go through. As I saw my own mother age—and they said: Ms. WATERS, what you are seeing now is dementia.

I watched this very vibrant, energetic woman, who lived to be 97 years old, eventually go into a state of being that certainly was not the woman that I had known that had reared me, had been so energetic all of her life.

The lapses in memory and finally, toward the end, the inability to recognize her family was a very traumatic and heartbreaking thing to see.

□ 2045

So I want for every family the ability to deal with this. I want their government to be of help to them. As you have said, we have got to get our priorities in order. That \$80 billion that you mention is a tremendous amount of American taxpayer money that is going toward an effort that most of us don't even understand. There is no reason that we should be in this situation.

I am looking at this chart, "Investments in Health Research." That is shameful what I am looking at, only \$566 million as compared to what we are putting into other diseases. We don't mind the money that is being put into other diseases. We see how it has reduced debt. We just want attention also to Alzheimer's. I think you have made it very clear this evening with the information that you have presented.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, this chart clearly shows—clearly shows—what happens when you make an investment: cancer, HIV, cardiovascular. I remember, 20 years ago, nobody thought you could solve HIV. It was there and

it was going to devastate the entire planet, but research—research—paid off. While this disease is not under control and is still all too prevalent, there is an ability to stem the impact of it and to be able to live with that disease. We can make progress here.

I am just thinking again about your piece of legislation, about the kind of help that people need and, really, education beyond just what you have talked about in your bill. Every family goes through this in either their own family or a neighboring family in the early onset, early in the progress of the disease. The change in the way in which a person functions and works and interacts with the family is profoundly disturbing to the family, even more so if the family doesn't understand and doesn't know what is happening.

So the ability to diagnose Alzheimer's early becomes very, very important to the well-being of the family, as you said. If that family understands what is happening, they are better able to cope with a very, very difficult situation. If they have no idea and Mama or Dad just suddenly seems to be off in some strange and unimaginable direction, the family can be torn apart. I know we have seen this many, many places across the people that I have known over the years. But your bill ought to be law, and we ought to be funding those kinds of nonprofit and social organizations that can address and help an individual understand what is going on in the Alzheimer's situation.

Another one, your second bill dealing with the Patient Alert Program, I remember very well a situation that occurred years ago where a neighbor simply wandered off and it created a community crisis: Where did he go? Where is he? After a couple of days, it turned out to not be a devastating situation. Your bill would provide assistance in tracking and keeping track of and finding those men and women that will and have wandered off. This is very much a part of this illness. So thank you for introducing these pieces of legislation.

My plea to my colleagues here is let's focus on this. There are many, many things we focus on here. All too often it is just political one-upmanship. This is not a Democratic issue; it is not a Republican issue. This is an American issue affecting nearly every American family. I like your legislation. I would hope the President would have this on his desk tomorrow morning, would sign this and get the help that people need.

There are several other pieces of legislation that are also introduced. I would like to introduce my colleague, who is carrying a piece of legislation on this matter, and yield to him for his exposition. So if you would care to join us, we will hear from, actually, the other side of the aisle. It is a bipartisan 1-hour, so please.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you very much. I want to thank you for yielding and thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

To your point, Alzheimer's is a devastating illness, and it is absolutely ravaging our Nation. Five million Americans are suffering from it, and the cost of Alzheimer's is in the billions and billions and billions of dollars. In fact, there are some estimates that suggest it will be in the trillions of dollars between 2010 and 2050.

There is some good news and there is some hopeful news that we are on the verge of some new treatments, but we need effective coordination to ensure that the money is spent on research that is being utilized effectively. The devastating cost of this disease is proof in the numbers.

Nearly 1 in 5 Medicare dollars is spent on a person with Alzheimer's and other dementias. This year, the total cost of Alzheimer's will be \$214 billion, including \$150 billion on Medicare and Medicaid expenditures, and this will skyrocket in the years ahead.

This is not just a dollars-and-cents issue. Yes, it is very important, and, yes, we discuss dollars and cents in this Chamber and we all bring strong feelings and strong opinions, but setting aside, for a moment, the dollars-and-cents issue, this is inextricably linked to the health of our families, to the health of our communities, and the burden that goes not just on the person who is struck with Alzheimer's, but the burden on the caregiver and the family that has to come along. It is an overwhelming thing. Frankly, it is too overwhelming to bear alone.

So we all have stories of either family members or people that we are close to or people that we knew. I think fondly of a schoolteacher and a Sunday school teacher of mine growing up who was struck down by this disease. To watch her just atrophy over the years was an incredible heartache, and to watch her family come around and love her and care for her and do everything they could to lift that burden and to bear that burden alongside from her.

Now we have an opportunity. We have an opportunity in this Chamber to do something that is transformational, that brings us all together, that brings a sense of hope and optimism and possibility about trying to wrestle this disease to the ground. What an incredible time to see the science come together in ways that transcend normal partisan politics, and we can put those things aside and really cling to this notion of giving hope to people.

I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership. I want to thank him for his attention in driving this issue and to bringing all of us together around it. I definitely, on behalf of myself and my constituents in Illinois' Sixth Congressional District, want to be part of the solution moving forward.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you so very, very much.

One of the challenges that I find in the House, there are 435 of us, and I never had the opportunity to work with you directly on committees. We just are not on the same committees, so I hardly know you, but I already like where you are headed. I like the way in which you speak to this issue and the way in which you show your compassion. I really look forward to working with you. These are bipartisan issues.

If you just hang on a few seconds, there are about seven bills that have been introduced thus far. Representative MARKEY, who is now a Senator, introduced H.R. 1507, which I think one of our colleagues has picked up here. That deals with the Social Security Act and makes this illness, a comprehensive Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, part of the Medicare program.

There is a bill introduced by a Republican, Mr. GUTHRIE. It is the Alzheimer's Accountability Act. This one basically says, okay, there is a plan. How are we doing with the plan? What is the plan to deal with Alzheimer's research, the support necessary? And it would require that a report be prepared every year so that we can keep track of progress or lack thereof. I like that bill because I think accountability is really important for us. Ultimately, these will be our decisions.

You can jump in on any one of these you may be involved in.

Mr. ROSKAM. I am a cosponsor of both of those pieces of legislation, one authored by a Republican, one authored by a Democrat.

I think the point is there has got to be a sense of clarity. We have limited resources here. There is an incredible upside in the outyears in particular if we wrestle this disease to the ground and that notion of a holistic approach, because that is really what you are talking about. You are talking about not taking a rifle shot, not saying, well, let's do this, that, or the other thing, but, instead, take a step back, look at it in its entirety; let's use the full weight and influence of research dollars and health care dollars on the Federal side and leverage this to the best of our ability.

If you begin to think that way about some of these problems and we begin to think about, well, what is it that brings us together, there is real optimism here. Unfortunately, people look at Congress and say why can't you people get along and so forth, yet they don't see maybe some of this type of work where we are able to come together and we are able to represent constituents who are struggling mightily under this.

I think both of those bills that you referenced, I am honored to cosponsor them and to support the Members that are playing a leadership role. One of

the things that you and I can do as Members of Congress is to bring attention to things and to talk to our colleagues and to lead our districts and to persuade people and try and bring people together.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we are doing some of that tonight.

There is another one. This issue is not an American issue. This issue is a worldwide issue. Every society, every ethnic group in the world faces Alzheimer's, some more severely than others. There is another piece of legislation introduced by CHRIS SMITH, who is the cochair of the Alzheimer's Caucus here in Congress. This one is H. Res. 489, the Global Alzheimer's resolution by Mr. SMITH. It says it is the policy of the U.S. Government to encourage and facilitate the following efforts concerning Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This goes to the World Health Organization and other nations that are involved in research, the sharing of knowledge and research.

We can, as you just said, leverage, leverage what we are doing with what is going on in other countries—certainly the European countries; we know China is doing a lot of research on this—together the whole world facing a common issue, and perhaps we can find a much better and a faster solution.

Mr. ROSKAM. Can you imagine what it would be like if, instead of waiting for this disease to wake up with a slow awakening or a realization that either you have been struck with Alzheimer's yourself or you are observing this in a loved one, if, instead, there is a day that would come in the future where there was a cure for this and you are able to anticipate it and say: Look, you don't have to walk this journey. You don't have to walk that difficulty and that turmoil and bear that burden. There is something that, based on the work that people did in 2014 and the predecessor years and all the incredible progress that has been made, that there is some day in the future. That was sort of pie-in-the-sky talk a few years ago. That is not pie in the sky anymore. That is a possibility.

If we are advancing this legislation that you referenced earlier, the legislation on a global basis that brings in worldwide partners that Congressman SMITH is advocating, the cumulative effect of all of those things can lead to, really, a transformational moment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. No doubt about it. There is research going on all around the world. Major drug companies are involved. Countries are doing their own research. It is all possible.

One other bill that I would like to bring up, this one is introduced again by CHRIS SMITH, and this is called the PACE Pilot Act. This is a program for all-inclusive care for the elderly, which currently helps those over 55, to provide a continuity of care and comprehensive care for them. It is more

than just Alzheimer's. We know that nursing home care is extraordinarily expensive. This is an effort to try and keep people in their home with appropriate care and support.

So this is another piece of the puzzle, together with the two bills that our colleague MAXINE WATERS had introduced, giving us a package of legislation that we ought to work on.

The other piece of legislation which is not among these bills is the annual appropriation bill. Last year, we increased Alzheimer's research by \$100 million, a very, very good thing.

□ 2100

But, again, we could do much more. And if we were to do that, I am convinced we would be able to advance the knowledge, the early detection, and, as you said a moment ago, a cure for this devastating illness. It is there. The only thing we need is to focus our attention and the world's attention on this, put the money into research, and then we can see a solution.

If you would care to wrap up, I have had my say on this.

Mr. ROSKAM. I want to compliment you and say thank you to the gentleman from California for your leadership on this issue, your leadership on the Alzheimer's Task Force, and your bringing people together on both sides of the aisle and trying to leverage re-

sources, be wise in how we do this, but recognizing the responsibility that you and I and our colleagues have—and that responsibility is to do everything that we can to try and alleviate this burden and ultimately drive towards a cure.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative ROSKAM, it is a pleasure working with you this evening. We will call this a beginning, working across the aisle on a program that affects everyone and every family in this Nation.

We can deal with Alzheimer's. We just need to put our shoulder to the wheel and push forward with the programs that we know are successful, many of them introduced by our colleagues here. I, too, am happy to be a cosponsor of all of these pieces of legislation.

So much for this night on this very, very important piece of legislation. We will come back to it in a few weeks and see what progress has been made in perhaps the appropriations process or in the passage of these pieces of legislation.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have had our discussion this evening on this important illness, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 7, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2388. To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PATRICK CONROY, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 11 AND MAY 19, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rev. Pat Conroy	5/12	5/13	Turkey		1,530.00		(³)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/14	Jordan		403.00		(³)				403.00
	5/15	5/17	UAE		1,608.00		(³)				1,608.00
	5/18	5/18	Italy		325.00		(³)				325.00
Committee total					3,866.00						3,866.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

REV. PATRICK CONROY, June 18, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 6 AND JUNE 9, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Bill Huizenga	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		1,481.00				2,378.00
Hon. Bill Owens	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Hon. Tom Petri	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Hon. Paul Tonko	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Janice Robinson	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Joske Bautista	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Eric Jacobstein	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Committee total					5,681.00		5,421.00				11,102.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL HUIZENGA, June 24, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO LITHUANIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 28 AND JUNE 2, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Turner	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Tom Marino	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Janice Robinson	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Jeff Dressler	5/29	6/2	Lithuania		1,216.00		5,962.00				7,178.00
Ed Rice	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Committee total					4,256.00		44,658.00				48,914.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, June 26, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/20	4/22	Japan		374.00		(³)				374.00
	4/22	4/23	South Korea		120.00		(³)				120.00
	4/23	4/23	China		331.00		(³)				331.00
Karen Robb	4/12	4/18	Tanzania		1,236.00		6,817.50				8,053.50
Committee total					2,061		6,817.50				8,878.50

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, June 18, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6251. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6252. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Brigadier General John P. Horner, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6253. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith C. Walker, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6254. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6255. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the 2011 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Reserve Component Members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6256. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Integration of National Bank and Savings Association Regulations: Interagency Rules [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0006] (RIN: 1557-AD75) received May 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6257. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's report on export credit competition and the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6258. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2012-C-0900] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6259. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band; Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones, and the Digital Television Transition; Amendment of Parts 15, 74 and 90 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones [WT Docket No.: 08-166] [WT Docket No.: 08-167] [ET Docket No.: 10-24] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6260. A letter from the Chairman, Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, transmitting the Commission's 2012-2013 Annual Report and Annual Audit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6261. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-16, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6262. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting

Transmittal No. 14-25, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6263. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Corrections and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations: Conforming Changes to the EAR Based on Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations [Docket No.: 140221165-4165-01] (RIN: 0694-AG11) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6264. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6265. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6266. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6267. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6268. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6269. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0056] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6270. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BMA Media Group Fireworks, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0258] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6271. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Fifth Coast Guard District Fireworks Display Cape Fear River; Wilmington, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0148] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6272. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Jones Beach Air Show; Atlantic Ocean, Sloop Channel through East Bay, and Zach's Bay; Wantagh, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0250] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6273. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Belt Parkway Bridge Construction, Gerritsen Inlet; Brooklyn, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0471] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6274. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Stuart Sailfish Regatta, Indian River; Stuart, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0089] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6275. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Elizabeth River, Elizabeth, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0285] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6276. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0134] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6277. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Captain of the Port Boston Fireworks Display Zones, Boston Harbor, Boston, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0503] (RIN: 1625-

AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6278. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0731; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASO-18] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6279. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the final report on the Medicare Gainsharing Demonstration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6280. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members (Rev. Proc. 2014-35) received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 5020. A bill to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with eligible Indian tribes to manage land buy-back programs, to authorize that certain amounts be deposited into interest bearing accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself and Mr. SHUSTER):

H.R. 5021. A bill to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dental health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide additional points to competitive service entrance exam of preference eligibles applying for positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. GRUJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 5024. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit prospectively individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the re-

ceipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5026. A bill to prohibit closing or repurposing any propagation fish hatchery or aquatic species propagation program of the Department of the Interior unless such action is expressly authorized by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 5027. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028. A bill to establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5029. A bill to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself,

Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MICA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GARCIA):

H.R. 5030. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the "Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself,

Ms. ESTY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5031. A bill to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 657. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 658. A resolution expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ENYART, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. FOSTER):

H. Res. 659. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the Committee on Ethics from waiving any requirement that Members, officers, and employees of the House include information on reimbursements for travel in the financial disclosure reports such individuals are required to file under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 7, and Clause 18.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To raise and support Armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12 and 13 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 5023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces" and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5024.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the Spending Clause). The Supreme Court, in *South Dakota v. Dole* (1987), reasoned that conditions and limitations on funds were constitutional and within the power of Congress under the Spending Clause. Thus, conditioning the use of federal funds in order to direct appropriate spending goals and purposes are constitutionally permissible. As the spending is national in scope and pertains to all National Fish Hatcheries, and the conditions are clear, the legislation is constitutional.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress the authority to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to carry into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5029.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5030.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post Roads"

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 5031.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 50: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 118: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 217: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 270: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 279: Mr. KEATING, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 281: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 425: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 463: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 494: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 543: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 692: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 702: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 715: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 920: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 958: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 1020: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 1125: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1129: Mr. ROSS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1179: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 1225: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1226: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1239: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1250: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 1252: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1289: Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1318: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 1339: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 1354: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1449: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1461: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1462: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1507: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 1563: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1594: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1795: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 1812: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1827: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1852: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1893: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1905: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1918: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 1998: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 2012: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 2084: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 2116: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2144: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 2313: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2315: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2317: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2376: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2415: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 2453: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 2500: Mr. McALLISTER.

H.R. 2502: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2529: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2536: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 2538: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2543: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 2553: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2607: Mr. MICA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DENT, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 2638: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2647: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 2673: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 2697: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2734: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2745: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2791: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2852: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 2856: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2869: Mr. WALDEN.
 H.R. 2874: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 2955: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 3040: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 3077: Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 3082: Mr. COTTON and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
 H.R. 3229: Mr. HECK of Washington.
 H.R. 3245: Mr. SCHRADER.
 H.R. 3318: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 3320: Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
 H.R. 3367: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 3391: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 3485: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 3490: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 3531: Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 3556: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3579: Ms. FOXX.
 H.R. 3690: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 3710: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 3712: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 3717: Mr. PIERLUISI.
 H.R. 3899: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 3930: Mr. COHEN and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 3978: Mr. HIGGINS.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 3992: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mrs. NOEM.
 H.R. 4041: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4103: Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 4119: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. RICHMOND.
 H.R. 4122: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 4188: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 4190: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 4208: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 4234: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 4250: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 4252: Mr. BARR.
 H.R. 4333: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4351: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4365: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 4385: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 4395: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 4411: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 4423: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 4427: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HOLDING.
 H.R. 4462: Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 4469: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 4510: Mr. HANNA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DENT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 4577: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 4590: Mr. BENISHEK.
 H.R. 4605: Mr. COOK and Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4608: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 4612: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 4623: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 4625: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 4651: Mr. VELA.
 H.R. 4653: Mr. PITTENGER.
 H.R. 4678: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
 H.R. 4706: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 4720: Mr. HOLDING.
 H.R. 4749: Mr. LATTI.
 H.R. 4771: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
 H.R. 4775: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 4781: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 4782: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4783: Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 4790: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 4792: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. STEWART.
 H.R. 4808: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
 H.R. 4814: Ms. BASS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4837: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 4853: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
 H.R. 4864: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 4882: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 4885: Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 4920: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 4934: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 4942: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 4948: Mr. ENYART, Mr. JONES, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 4962: Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 4964: Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 4965: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 4966: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 4970: Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 4971: Mr. HURT, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
 H.R. 4979: Mr. MCCAUL.
 H.R. 4988: Mr. JONES and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 4999: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 5002: Mr. NEAL.
 H.J. Res. 68: Mr. HONDA.
 H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. RUSH.
 H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. CRAMER.
 H. Res. 35: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H. Res. 109: Mr. HONDA and Mr. RANGEL.
 H. Res. 281: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H. Res. 456: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H. Res. 480: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. GRIMM.
 H. Res. 536: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H. Res. 587: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 588: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H. Res. 612: Mr. STIVERS.
 H. Res. 620: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H. Res. 621: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. FLEMING.
 H. Res. 623: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUNYAN, and Ms. DELAURO.
 H. Res. 644: Mr. MARINO.
 H. Res. 652: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. STEWART.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. ELLISON

AMENDMENT No. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act.".

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 8: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT No. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee to carry out section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 16421a; added by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)).

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. WALORSKI

AMENDMENT No. 10: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT No. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT No. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act for Project 99-D-143, Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, may be used for any purpose other than placing the facility in cold standby.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,808,000)”.

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$14,712,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 59, beginning on line 8, strike section 506.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 24, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)”.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$150,000,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. LUMMIS

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)) and all public notice and comment requirements under chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, that are applicable to carrying out such section.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. KILMER

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 28, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$59,658,000)”.

Page 29, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$59,658,000)”.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CARPENTER/
WALDEN FAMILY REUNION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Carpenter/Walden Family Reunion, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful occasion. This reunion affirms the importance of family gatherings, drawing together relatives from Atlanta and as far away as Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Washington, DC, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. They are continually reaching out for more relatives to come from all parts of the United States to reunite for a weekend of activities to reconnect and celebrate the meaning of "Family."

The Carpenter family celebrates the matrimonial union of Pason Carpenter (born 1828) to his wife, who predeceased him, and from this union, nine children were born and raised by his second wife, Henrietta. From this union, there have been at least 100 direct descendants and hundreds of other relatives who bear the Surnames of Carpenter and Walden. We are the descendants of Pason Carpenter, whose son, Charlie Carpenter, bore a son named John H. Carpenter (who married Arie) and among 7 children, their grandfather, Willie Carpenter (who married Estelle Moody) and their 8 children were: Leroy, Florence, Naomi, Hawthorne, Georgetta, Willie Jr., Earl, and Curley. This reunion committee is largely comprised of the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren of Leroy Carpenter.

The Carpenter/Walden's first reunion was started by Emma Shands, who hosted mass cook-outs in her backyard many years ago during the 1950s in Hopewell, Virginia. In July each year, all of the Carpenters and Waldens along with friends and relatives came. This "cook-out" tradition still goes on today and serves as a traditional homecoming that takes place on the first Sunday of August and everyone gathers in Virginia to celebrate. The Carpenters and Waldens connect with family and friends and worship at Diamond Grove Baptist Church in Skippers, Virginia. One of the family's most senior members, Emma's brother, Buddy Walden, has extended his efforts to link the family, and his research of the family roots entailed venturing from state to state. This tradition prompts an inquiry at each reunion closeout for a family volunteer to host the next reunion held bi-annually in that family's hometown. This has been the Carpenter/Walden tradition for the past 10–20 years where hundreds of relatives from all corners of the United States reunite for a weekend of activities, reconnecting, and celebrating. Youth filled with exuberance along with the elders sea-

soned by wisdom of years will unite because of this occasion. They honor Johnny Walden, the oldest of the family's seasoned elders at the age of 90+, twins Jeff and Kaiser Carpenter who are our Carpenter/Walden history/storytellers, and the family now welcomes the youngest additions, Simone Carpenter and Jerome Goode, Jr.

The Governor of the State of Georgia, Nathan Deal, recognizes this momentous gathering with a welcome letter and the host city of Stockbridge, GA, issued a proclamation to honor the Carpenter/Walden reunion. I ask that this great legislative body stand with me and add to these acknowledgements by honoring the Carpenter and Walden families. I am proud to represent the Carpenter/Walden family members who call the 13th Congressional District of Georgia home.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey. Established in 1984, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is a faith-based, nonprofit social service agency providing aid to individuals and families in the four California Central Coast counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo. Formed with a mission to assist individuals and families of all backgrounds and beliefs by providing them with tools, training, and resources to help meet basic necessities for life, Catholic Charities also provides information and referrals to social service agencies in each community it serves.

The people of California's Central Coast are fortunate to be served by this distinguished organization. Serving over 20,000 individuals annually, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey provides help and creates hope through its three core areas of service: Mental Health Counseling, Immigration and Citizenship, and Family Supportive Services. By taking into account the whole person as well as the family and life situation, the organization takes a holistic approach to helping people change their lives, rise up out of poverty, and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is affiliated with Catholic Charities USA, the nation's largest social services network that serves more than seven million people each year. Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey is dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty and participates in the Campaign to Cut Poverty, part of a nationwide effort started by Catholic Charities USA, and collaboration

with coalitions of community-based organizations, interfaith allies, government representatives, and business leaders in the four counties of the Diocese of Monterey to cut poverty in half by 2020.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is one of the few non-profit organizations in the region that is certified by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which is the highest administrative body responsible for recognizing and accrediting organizations that practice before the immigration courts. They provide guidance for those who struggle in achieving lawful permanent residence status and those who wish to become citizens of our nation. Catholic Charities staff are a significant resource in our communities known for their experience in the processes of becoming legal residents and/or citizens. Staff ensures full and accurate assistance for the current and ever growing, caseload of 5,000 clients annually in addition to over 9,000 services for consultation, replacement of legal permanent cards, work authorization renewal, applications for U.S. citizenship and English translation of certificates of birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption. In the fall of 2013, Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey assisted 400 youth and young adults with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and work authorization applications. No doubt those numbers will continue to grow given the recent extension of the program. Catholic Charities is one of the few trusted organizations in our community and we are lucky to have them.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey on its 30th anniversary, and commend the organization for its many contributions and quality of service to the public.

PASTOR DUONG KIM KHAI DUONG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1990s, Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong has been detained or arrested thirteen times, usually for organizing prayer sessions.

Most recently, he was arrested in August 2010 for his efforts to advocate for religious freedom and social justice. The trumped up charge? Attempting to overthrow the government.

Following his arrest, it took over two months for authorities to tell his family where he was being detained.

Now, he faces five years in prison followed by five years of house arrest.

In 2011, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that the Vietnam government's detention and conviction of Pastor Duong Kim Khai and six other activists were in violation of international law.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

But the State Department continues to ignore the situation, refusing to include Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for religious freedom.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong looks forward to the day he meets his Maker but that will be an awful day for the Communist government of Vietnam.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE APACHES' NJCAA DIVISION III WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend most heartfelt congratulations to the Tyler Junior College Apaches Baseball Team in completing an outstanding season which concluded with the team's triumph in the 2014 NJCAA Division III World Series baseball tournament.

Through hard work and determination, the TJC Apaches defeated Cumberland County (New Jersey) Community College in front of a wildly enthusiastic crowd with a final score of 6-3.

In spite of a rain delay which lasted two and a half hours, hundreds of devoted fans remained to cheer on the Apaches in a game which lasted until after midnight.

The TJC Apaches made history for their school by bringing home the second national baseball championship title, and the fiftieth national championship for TJC since athletics was first organized back in the 1940s.

The TJC Apaches exemplify what it means to work seamlessly as a team, with remarkable victorious results. Their sportsmanship, humility, determination, hard work, and skill are to be commended, admired, and emulated.

The national championship team was led to victory by an outstanding coaching and administrative staff including: Head Baseball Coach Doug Wren; Assistant Coaches Travis Chick and Josh Salmon; Training Staff Eddy McGuire, Jeff Derrick, MacKenzie Stilwell, Daniel Garcia, and Martha Rascon; and Student Support Staff consisting of Trenton Buchhorn, Talyn Callucci, and Chad Cunningham.

Great praise goes to the team members Manny Galvan, Tim Hunter, Daniel Brown, Dusty Lynch, Gunnar Quick, Cody Broussard, Kevin Kubeczka, Collin Lawrence, Justin Monsour, Dynas Doud, Brandon Webb, Garrett Johnston, Reid Russell, Kevin Williams, Anthony Soriano, Jarrett Dooley, Travis Johnson, Eric Polivka, Zane Otten, Will Abbott, Eric Stegent, Brandon Koncaba, Brent Ellerbee, Connor Wrye, Cody Brown, Kash Armstrong, Grant Freels, Jacob Hickman, Lane Norwood, and Tyler Gaines.

Tyler Junior College has a rich history of academic and athletic achievement, and once again students and staff have risen to the pinnacle of success under the expert leadership of TJC President Dr. L. Michael Metke; Athletic

Director Dr. Tim Drain; Assistant Athletic Director Chuck Smith; and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia.

Accolades must also be given to the players' families and the entire community of supporters who reside in east Texas and beyond, who embraced the warrior spirit for which the team was named. Without these devoted fans' support and encouragement, the Apaches' road to yet another national championship would have been much more difficult.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2014 NJCAA Division III World Series National Champions, the TJC Apaches Baseball Team. Their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING MS. FRANCES DUNHAM CATLETT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett. Known throughout the Bay Area as a writer, painter, social worker, poet and devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother, Ms. Catlett has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on April 22, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work.

Born on July 3, 1908 in Hartford, Connecticut, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett was raised with an acute awareness of slavery in America. Her mother was formerly enslaved and her father was the son of a white slave trader. As the youngest of ten siblings, Ms. Catlett always proved to be an excellent student. Graduating high school in 1926, she received a four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago.

In 1945, Ms. Catlett and her two sons, Kaye Lawrence and Michael Andrew, moved to San Francisco, where she worked at the Welfare Department. Breaking racial barriers, she was known as one of the first African American social workers in San Francisco. In addition, she later enrolled in Mills College and was one of the first African Americans to earn a graduate degree from that university. Ms. Catlett went on to teach social welfare at California State University, Sacramento.

After moving to Berkeley, California, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett enrolled in an art class at the de Young Museum in San Francisco and discovered her love of painting. Her artwork was showcased at the Oakland Museum of California and other galleries in Oakland and San Francisco.

In addition, she published her third person autobiography in a compilation of stories entitled "Black Women Stirring the Waters." Her entry, "Soft Colors, Bold Statements," acknowledged the strong role her family and supportive church community played in her success in life.

Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett was an inspiration to many African American women. At

the age of 103, Carolyn Schlam painted Ms. Catlett's portrait to share her character and life story with others. This portrait, "Frances at 103," was displayed in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC and will move to the National Museum of African American History and Culture when it opens in 2015.

With an adventurous spirit, Ms. Catlett traveled extensively, hiked with the Sierra Club, did Tai Chi into her 90's and bowled and painted until she was 102. She was featured as one of six women in the documentary "Still Kicking: Six Artistic Women of Project Arts & Longevity," which challenged the perception and attitudes about aging. She was truly a woman for all seasons.

Several years ago, I visited Frances at her apartment in Berkeley. We talked about many things, including politics and art. She showed me many of her beautiful paintings, which inspired me to purchase one and hang in my office for my constituents to admire. This painting is a reminder of her artistic genius, her lively and beautiful spirit and her big heart.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett. Ms. Catlett's contributions have truly impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Frances' loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BABCOCK & WILCOX COMPANY

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more important to our Nation's security than its nuclear deterrent. And yet, most of us give little thought to the care, attention, and expertise required to keep these aging machines safe, secure, and reliable.

It is my honor to represent a substantial number of the people who make sure that our nuclear deterrent can be trusted. Those who work at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo cannot talk much about their work because it is classified, but every day they do extraordinary work that is central to keeping our country safe.

For the last 13 years, the management team at the Pantex Plant, as well as the Y-12 facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has been led by the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Company. In my view—and it is proven by their record—B&W has done an outstanding job of managing these very important facilities under quite difficult circumstances.

With tight or declining budgets and constant demands to find ways to cut costs yet having no room for error in carrying out the mission, B&W has helped ensure that workers were safe, that the weapons and material were secure, and that our Nation's security was protected. At Pantex, they received a number of awards for worker safety, security certification, and outstanding performance.

All along, B&W also supported the community by donating more than half a million dollars annually to worthwhile charities and causes.

Usually, when we hear about government contractors, it is when something has gone wrong. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to take a moment to recognize more than a decade of contributions to our Nation's security at these key facilities.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for nearly two decades, one of my primary missions in Congress has been a simple one—to make our federal government a better partner to our local communities. Specifically, I believe we need to focus on making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure by dealing with low-tech, high-impact, inexpensive solutions to some of society's most expensive problems. In many instances that means making the communities that our landscape architects know how to create, a reality. As an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and humble recipient of the Olmsted Medal, it's an honor to highlight the importance of National Landscape Architecture Month and the many men and women who carry out this critical and visionary work.

National Landscape Architecture Month (NLAM) provides all of us—the professionals, the outside advocates like myself, and future designers—with an opportunity to more fully appreciate landscape architecture's benefits and contributions. In recognition of NLAM, I would like to highlight the landscape architecture profession and how landscape architects utilize design to make our lives not only better and more enjoyable by creating engaging public spaces, but also more secure by creating efficient, cost-effective infrastructure solutions. Landscape architecture connects the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments through science and design. The presence of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and landscape architect professionals in our communities has always been positive, and as the desire for livable spaces grows and the natural environment continues to get squeezed by increased urbanization, this profession will get significantly more attention.

During the month of April, landscape architects in my hometown of Portland, Oregon and across the country held public events showcasing the work of the profession that directly engage the public through local projects, speaking engagements, and in-school presentations. This year's theme, Career Discovery, introduced young people to landscape architecture as a possible career path and focused on introducing underrepresented minorities to the profession, illustrating the fundamentals of landscape architecture and design, and dem-

onstrating how the profession can unlock human creativity and imagination to develop sustainable, livable spaces in communities across the Nation.

In addition to beautifying and making our communities more livable, in which people can walk, bike, or take public transportation, landscape architecture is a critical tool for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and responding to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. The field is also making new strides to improve America's aging transportation infrastructure. Landscape architects are now incorporating multiuse transportation corridors that accommodate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, people with disabilities, and people who rely on public transportation.

Landscape architecture also touches our everyday lives in the design of residential communities, commercial developments, and streetscapes. Landscape architects manage storm water and other water quality issues through green infrastructure practices—reducing runoff, improving water quality, and recharging groundwater supplies. The use of trees and vegetation in urban design are critical to a sustainable environment, and are major combatants to ground and water pollution.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Landscape Architecture Month and the contributions landscape architects are making to transform our aging infrastructure into well-planned communities across the Nation. Every day, these well-qualified, licensed professionals continue to lead the way in improving the lives and safety of the American people for generations, both present and future.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS BOUCHER
2014 PAUL BUNYAN "SERVICE
ABOVE SELF" AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on "National Paul Bunyan Day," it is fitting to announce the incredibly deserving winner of the 2014 Paul Bunyan "Service Above Self" Award. Wisconsin's 7th District is home to the final resting place of Paul Bunyan, but the legend of this larger-than-life lumberjack is alive and well. Paul Bunyan is a symbol of might, the willingness to work hard, and the resolve to overcome all obstacles. This year's Paul Bunyan "Service Above Self" Award winner is Dennis Boucher of Marshfield. He embodies the larger-than-life spirit of Paul Bunyan and has gone above and beyond to improve our 7th District community.

Rural homelessness is a prevalent issue in our area. About 2 years ago, a group of community leaders, including Dennis, got together to brainstorm ways to address this issue. Discussions led to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, which had a plot of land available that could be used to build transitional housing.

Dennis took up the mighty challenge of leading the effort to establish a transition housing facility for those in need in Marshfield.

According to his nominator, "From the moment of his involvement, Dennis has never wavered. He has, with quiet confidence and supreme faith, pushed the project forward such that today there is a fourteen apartment family homeless shelter in Marshfield. Currently, there are nine families housed there; soon to be eleven.

Dennis has spent hours as a volunteer, charitable donation coordinator, construction worker, janitor, cook, and now as a volunteer to provide oversight to the shelter as we build a base of volunteers and paid staff to assure 24/7 supervision of the facility. There is no task too big or too small for Dennis to address with all of his energy. Dennis Boucher's impact on our community will continue for years to come."

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize this honorable man. On behalf of this body and my constituents, I'd offer to Dennis our congratulations and thanks for his invaluable commitment to our community and the people we strive to serve.

CONGRATULATING MR. HARRY C.
McCANN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the retirement of Harry C. McCann, Bucks County Director of Law Enforcement Training, I acknowledge his 25 years of exemplary service and commitment to the County of Bucks and his many contributions as an educator of municipal police officers and administration of justice students. As director, he developed, coordinated, and implemented training programs for more than 800 law enforcement officers in Bucks County's 42 outstanding police departments. These officers went on to save countless lives in South-eastern Pennsylvania—a lasting legacy well beyond his own retirement. Harry served as project manager for the county's DUI and expansive highway safety programs and was responsible for oversight of the Bucks County Department of Corrections In-Service and Correctional Academy programs. In wearing many hats, Harry McCann has demonstrated tireless service and leadership and, in so doing, has set an example for others who may follow in his path. I wish him happiness and continued success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DIANA POTEAT STALLINGS HOBBY: SCHOLAR, PHILANTHROPIST, PUBLIC SERVANT AND PATRON OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember the late Diana

Hobby, wife of former Texas Lt. Governor William P. Hobby, Jr. and one of the most accomplished and public spirited women in the history of the great State of Texas.

Diana Hobby died on Friday, July 4, 2014, in Houston, Texas after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease and cancer, with her beloved husband and four children at her bedside.

Diana Poteat Stallings Hobby, was born April 22, 1931, in New York, New York to Helen Poteat and Laurence Tucker Stallings and raised in North Carolina.

She was a brilliant student, graduating from the Chatham Hall School in 1948 and with honors from Radcliffe College in 1952 where she was also admitted to Phi Beta Kappa—the oldest honor society for Liberal Arts and Sciences in the United States.

On September 11, 1954, she married the love of her life, the dashing William P. "Bill" Hobby, the future Lt. Governor of Texas, who was then an ensign in the U.S. Navy, and moved to his duty station in Washington, DC.

The young couple lived in Washington until 1957 during which time Diana earned an M.A. in English Literature from Georgetown University and worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1957, the couple moved to Houston, Texas, when Bill's father, former Texas Governor William P. Hobby, Sr., fell into declining health, necessitating Bill Jr. to assume managerial control of his publication, the "Houston Post."

Diana Hobby supported and helped her husband greatly during this time, serving as the book editor of the Houston Post from 1957 to 1971.

While in Houston, Diana Hobby earned her Ph.D. in English Literature from Rice University and served as Associate Editor of Studies in English Literature from 1979 until her retirement in 1991.

Diana Hobby, a noted scholar of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, had a great passion for the English language and literature. She was a lifelong supporter of libraries and the humanities in Texas.

Diana Hobby also served on the board of directors for many organizations such as St. John's School, Memorial Park Conservancy, Friends of Hermann Park, Harry Ransom Center, Texas Institute of Letters, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Alpine, and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

Diana Hobby was also passionate about natural beauty and environment conservation. She was a founding member for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and served on the selection committee for the Johnson Highway Beautification Awards.

Diana Hobby is survived by her husband of 60 years, William P. Hobby, Jr.; their four children Laura, Paul, Andrew and Kate; and many grandchildren.

Together with her husband, Lt. Governor William P. Hobby, Jr., Diana has truly left a legacy of excellence in education, in the arts, and in literature that continue to yield benefits to the Houston community and the State of Texas.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of my friend, Diana Poteat

Stallings Hobby, one of the great ladies in the history of Texas.

COMMEMORATING CLIFTON
SORENSEN'S 14 YEARS OF SERVICE
AT THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Clifton Sorenson's service as Eau Claire County's Veterans Service Officer. Clifton is a native Wisconsinite from the Chippewa Valley area. After high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, majoring in Business Administration, before entering the U.S. Air Force. He served honorably in the USAF at four bases in the United States and two bases in the Republic of Vietnam.

Clifton devoted much of his time to caring for veterans. For four years before joining the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs in Madison, Wisconsin, Clifton served as the Barron County Veterans Service Officer. There he provided veterans counseling and information for medical, education, and housing benefits—striving to assist veterans and their families in any way possible. Additionally, he began a special and continuing interest in serving the aging, homeless, and incarcerated veterans. Clifton would continue those added duties for over two decades.

Since 2000, Clifton has served as Eau Claire County's Veterans Service Officer, counseling veterans, active servicemembers, dependents, and survivors of veterans on benefits available. As an advocate, he worked extensively with other veterans' service offices, veterans' service organizations, and civic organizations in an effort to provide the best service possible to veterans in the Chippewa Valley and throughout the State of Wisconsin. Clifton is a member of numerous service and professional organizations, including the American Legion and the National Coalition for Homeless veterans.

Clifton served on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Hospital Committees at the department level. On the national level he served as Vice Chairman of the National Foreign Relations Council and is a member of the National Legislative Council. He has been awarded the National Homeless Veterans Outreach Award and a National Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance to the homeless veteran population.

It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Clifton for his years of service to the men and women of our armed services and their families, and I congratulate him on his retirement after 14 years of service at the Eau Claire County Veterans Service Office.

CONGRATULATING SPENCER HAIK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glendale High School senior Spencer Haik for being the first Class 4 athlete to win the 1,600-meter run state title three years in a row.

Spencer led the race from start to finish and finished a full two seconds ahead of the competition. Spencer finished with a personal best time of 4 minutes, 9.41 seconds. He also won the 3,200-meter state championship.

Furthermore, I want to congratulate Spencer on his win at the Nike Festival of Miles in St. Louis on June 5. His time was 4:04.55, which is to date the second fastest 1600-meter in the Nation this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Spencer's coaches, Ron Hamilton and Jeff Berryessa, for their dedication and leadership.

I wish Spencer the best as he continues his track career at Columbia University.

I am honored to recognize Spencer Haik for his Class 4 State Championship in both the 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER
MURPHY OF MURPHY'S AUTO
BODY SHOP

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Christopher Murphy of Murphy's Auto Body Shop, the recipient of my 2014 D.C. Small Business of the Year award. The award is given each year to an outstanding D.C. small business at my annual Small Business Fair. I commend Murphy's Auto Body Shop for its accomplishments and service to our city.

Murphy's Auto Body Shop is a family and minority owned small business located in Ward 8. During its time in the District, Murphy's Auto Body Shop has grown to become one of the largest auto repair facilities in the national capital region. The business prides itself on quality craftsmanship, integrity and customer service. The business has 28 highly skilled, well-trained technicians and support staff, who are known for honesty, integrity and customer service. Murphy's understands the importance of reliability, timeliness, and hard work.

Christopher Murphy opened Murphy's Auto Body Shop in 1993 in Forestville, Maryland along with his father and a small staff. In 1997, Christopher Murphy, a lifelong resident of Ward 7, moved his burgeoning auto body shop to his hometown of the District of Columbia—where it remains to this day.

We are particularly proud that Murphy's Auto Body Shop established itself at an accessible location in the heart of a neighborhood

east of the Anacostia River. Yet it has attracted official affiliations with multiple insurance companies and towing services. Murphy's also has performed work in the District of Columbia and the region for government agencies, such as the General Services Administration (GSA), the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the D.C. Department of Public Works, and Potomac Jobs Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Christopher Murphy and Murphy's Auto Body Shop as this year's recipient of the 2014 D.C. Small Business of the Year award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 27th and missed roll Nos. 360 through 368. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on roll Nos. 361, 362, 363, 364, 366, and 367. I would have voted "nay" on roll Nos. 360, 365, and 368.

SALUTE TO MR. RICHARD A. ENNIS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to salute the career accomplishments and community service of Mr. Richard A. Ennis on the occasion of his retirement as the Executive Director of the Melbourne International Airport, a position which he has held for the past nine years.

Our community credits an increase in tourism and airline traffic to Richard's tireless work and advocacy for our airport. He is noted for positioning Melbourne International Airport as a prime location for the aviation and the aerospace industry. Due to his strategic plans, the airport is now one of the world's fastest growing aviation and aerospace manufacturing and maintenance hubs.

Our economy has been positively impacted by Richard's efforts to increase the airport's capital improvements by more than \$150 million which has led to the expansion of new manufacturing and maintenance facilities and resulted in the creation of hundreds of new jobs.

Richard's community service includes serving as the Chairman of the Babcock Street Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee.

I also commend Richard's service to the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970.

Richard holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry which he earned while attending the University of Florida. He also attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Rollins College.

Previously Richard was employed with Hoyman, Dobson & Company in 1982 where he audited the City of Melbourne and Melbourne International Airport's records for two years. He then served as the Assistant Finance Director with the City of Melbourne in January 1984 and served as the Deputy Director of Finance and Administration with the Melbourne International Airport in 1992.

Mr. Ennis received his national certification as a Certified Public Finance Officer in 2001 and assumed additional duties of Deputy Director of Finance and Administration and Operations.

Richard was promoted to interim Executive Director of the Melbourne International Airport in February 2005 and officially became the Executive Director on August 17, 2005.

I urge my Colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Richard A. Ennis for his dedication to our community and his exceptional service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE BROOK HILL BOYS VARSITY GOLF TEAM AS 2014 STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an esteemed honor to recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill Boys Varsity Golf Team on capturing the top title as TAPPS AAA Texas State Champions for 2014.

The Brook Hill Boys Golf Team overcame a seven stroke deficit entering the second and final round at the course of Clear Creek in Killeen, Texas, to ultimately win the TAPPS AAA State Golf Championship for the second year in a row by twenty strokes over second place Midland Trinity.

The talented athletes at Brook Hill have brought home numerous championship titles to east Texas over the years, including the State AAA Golf Championship in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 under the experienced and skillful leadership of Head Coach Tim Moore along with the unwavering support of Athletic Director Wally Dawkins and Headmaster Rod Fletcher.

Senior Team Captain Jeffrey Yeager led the way to the championship crown, shooting a 169, ranking him as the 4th place medalist. Sophomore Nutchapon Pattamakijakul was the 7th place medalist, shooting a 171.

Brook Hill varsity team members also included Matt Webb—182, Brooks Garner—178, Austin Savage—184, and Jacob Yeager—alternate.

It is a great privilege to extend my enthusiastic and most sincere congratulations to the 2014 TAPPS Division III State Golf Champions, as their back to back championship legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

CONGRATULATING OUR NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2014. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The oath ceremony was a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2014, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Lucy Lucia Griffith, Susete Margarida Psimos, Ricarda Kurzinski, Salma Mardi, Sulka Tyagi, Andrija Cesljarev, Mira Cesljarev, Juana Cruz Lopez, Teodoro Obien Abadilla, Daliborka Nonkovic, Maria Del Rosari Gonzalez Carrillo, Tyson Francis, Irene Garcia Garcia, Ilija Trajanoski, Jagoda Markovska, Mary Ugonwa Hardin, Daniel Lodewikus Smith, Sophia Johanna Ca Smith, Alma Delia Torres De Gonzalez, Toni Kitevski, Jefferson Marcos Caldeira, Esther Mukabacondo, Alejandro Escobedo Roman, Majid Latif, Xuan Loc Thi Hoang, Paulina Joanna Jagodzinska, Ivy Mwansa Chirwa Cox, Philip Papai Muturi, Maria Soledad Araos De La Fuente, Manuel Garza, Hector Javier Balza Medina, Wladyslaw Skauba, John Munene Njiru, Rosendo Hernandez Fierros, Noreen Nothando Ncube, Dolores Irene De Santiago Martinez, Dmitri Valentinov Boulanov, Haralambos Nikolaos Kladis, Meilute Ona Zinkus, Severo Ramirez Madera, Tatiana Silvia Sanjines Del Llano, Danica Rnic, Jannette Atillo Jasmin-Wallace, Ana Ma Galicia Reyes, Angelica Maria Saucedo De La Cruz, Ma Teresa Valdovinos, Gerald Joseph Oblina Rinon, Darshan Lal Wadhwa, and Mustafa Musleh.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place

where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2014, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,586,595,427,577.23. We've added \$6,959,718,378,664.15 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR TATOUL MARKARIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a bittersweet farewell to Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's long-serving Ambassador to the United States and a man with whom I have had the pleasure of working for much of the past decade, since his appointment as Ambassador to the United States in March 2005.

The last nine years have been challenging ones for Armenia. Turkey and Azerbaijan have continued their campaign to isolate Armenia diplomatically and economically, even as the country has worked to move forward on the path to full democracy, while also seeking to develop its economy and bring needed services and opportunity to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. I have been proud to work with Ambassador Markarian and his team at the embassy on these and many other challenging issues, including recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the United States Congress, and on behalf of the tens of thousands of Armenian-Americans in my district, I wish him all the best as he takes up his position in Brussels as Armenia's Ambassador to the European Union.

Prior to taking up his post in Washington, Ambassador Markarian served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia since June 2000. In that capacity, his responsibilities included the Ministry's Departments of Politico-

Military Affairs; International Organizations; CIS Countries; and Asia-Pacific and Africa. He was also the Armenian coordinator for the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Dialogue as well as the NATO-Armenia Political-Military Dialogue. In 2002–2004, Ambassador Markarian was also Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations. In 1999–2000, he served as Advisor to Foreign Minister.

The United States has had a great friend in Ambassador Markarian and the U.S.-Armenian relationship has been greatly strengthened by his work here.

HONORING THE FRENCH LAUNDRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The French Laundry, a renowned fine-dining restaurant in Yountville, California, as it celebrates twenty years of service on July 6th. Since its opening, The French Laundry has consistently served diners only the most delectable, high-quality and inventive dishes. This exemplary establishment certainly deserves to be recognized and honored today.

Under the leadership of Chef Thomas Keller, The French Laundry has earned worldwide acclaim. By September 1994, Michael Bauer of the San Francisco Chronicle awarded The French Laundry a four-star rating. Since then, The French Laundry has continued to receive awards and recognition at an impressive pace. The French Laundry has earned a 3-star rating from the Michelin Guide every year since 2007. Wine Spectator has bestowed its Grand Award upon The French Laundry for seven consecutive years. The restaurant has been named as one of the "Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants" by the San Francisco Chronicle in addition to being ranked #1 in "The World's 50 Best Restaurants" by Restaurant Magazine. And this just to name a few of The French Laundry's impressive accolades.

Mr. Speaker, The French Laundry has contributed to, if not defined, Napa Valley's tradition of, and reputation for, fine dining. On behalf of a grateful district, I thank Chef Thomas Keller and his entire staff for their unwavering dedication, passion and creativity.

HONORING MARY KASTEN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kasten who is receiving the Southeast Missourian "Spirit of American Award" in recognition of her outstanding service to the community of Cape Girardeau and the state of Missouri.

Mary's service expands from God, family, country and her fellow man. She volunteered

much of her time as a Sunday school teacher and choir member in the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Mary also served as a member of the Cape Girardeau School Board and held various offices on the board for 20 years. Mary continued to be dedicated to education by serving on the Board of Regents at Southeast Missouri State University, her alma mater. Mary also served in the Missouri General Assembly for nearly 20 years where she represented her family, friends and neighbors with distinction.

One of Mary's greatest works for others was the beginning of the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council. Her vision of this program began in Southern Missouri and is now being replicated in the rest of the State and nationwide.

If anyone deserves the "Spirit of American Award" it would be Mary Kasten. I applaud her for her achievements and service.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID K. PAGE AND HIS PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF BUILDING A STRONGER GREATER DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness to mark the passing of an incredible leader in the Greater Detroit community and a dear friend to my family, David Page.

From early in life, David charted a course of excellence—graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. In addition to these degrees, he studied at the London School of Economics as a Fulbright Scholar.

At Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where David worked for more than 50 years, he brought his considerable talents to bear in the field of law. While there, David developed a reputation of tireless service to his clients and a commitment to providing excellent counsel.

While David's legal career came into focus, he became an active leader in the Greater Detroit community, where he was a force in the effort to revitalize the region. Throughout his decades of loyal service to the community, David served on the boards of many community organizations that have improved the quality of life for the residents of Southeast Michigan. The boards he served on included: the Detroit Zoological Society, City Year Detroit and the Detroit Chamber Music Society. David was a founding trustee of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and was directly engaged in the efforts that led to the creation of endowments that will power the work of future generations of community organizations in the Greater Detroit region. As a committed leader of the Jewish community, David served as president of the Jewish Fund, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and Temple Beth El. David also served as chair of the board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation and as chairman of the hospital's board for almost a decade of his

more than 40 years of tenure with that organization.

While David provided invaluable leadership to many organizations in Southeast Michigan and helped empower them to magnify their impact, one of his most satisfying endeavors was his work with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, where he served as vice chair of the board. With a prominent view of the Detroit River from his office, David leveraged his position as vice chair and trustee of the Kresge Foundation to build the public-private partnership that would become the Conservancy, which is transforming the Detroit riverfront. With a focus on a 5.5 mile stretch of riverfront between Belle Isle and the Ambassador Bridge, the Conservancy has realized the revitalization of Gabriel Richard Park, Rivard Plaza, and the Dequindre Cut greenway linking Eastern Market to the riverfront and one of Michigan's crown jewels, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor—the first urban state park in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, over the years my wife, Colleen, and I have been so fortunate to work with David and share many warm memories with him and his family. All of us who have had the fortune to know him will greatly miss his leadership and indomitable spirit. David's passion for helping others was rivaled only by his passion for his family, and my thoughts are with his loving wife, Andrea, their children: Jason, Mark and Sarah, and their grandchildren during this difficult time. However, even amidst the sadness, there is so much from which David's family may take solace—a legacy of dedicated service toward building a brighter future for the Greater Detroit region, which continues to impact the lives of so many across our community. I am confident his legacy will be a beacon that continues to inspire not only those of us who currently seek to strengthen and revitalize the Southeast Michigan region, but to future generations of leaders and community activists as well.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4812 "HONOR FLIGHT ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act of 2014.

H.R. 4812 authorizes the collaboration between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Honor Flight Network, as well as other non-profit organizations that transport veterans to visit memorials, to ensure continued expedited and dignified passenger screening for veterans travelling to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials and other tributes to their bravery, heroism, and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of veterans across the country fought to protect the freedoms we take for granted and to keep our nation safe. They are deserving of our gratitude for the

valor and courage they displayed in risking their lives to keep us free and to liberate captive peoples in other lands.

They are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars—Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

With each passing day, the number of World War II and Korea veterans declines by the hundreds. For many of these heroes, one of their last wishes is to visit the national war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Honoring and facilitating that request is the least we can do for those who did so much for us.

TSA works with the Honor Flight Network in expediting the screening process for veterans visiting the national war memorials, saving the veterans' time and showing them their due respect and appreciation.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting veterans on charter flights operated by commercial airlines to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials built in honor of their service.

Currently, the Honor Flight Network gives priority to WWII veterans and those from any war who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The Honor Flight Network plans to expand the program in the future to include the veterans who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Texas has the second largest number of veterans of any state in the nation, with just over 1.6 million veterans. My home city of Houston is proud to be the residence of more than 300,000 veterans.

I strongly support the bill before us because I strongly support the efforts of TSA and the Honor Flight Network in making real the dreams, and in many cases the last wishes, of thousands of veterans who wish to visit the memorials dedicated by the nation in their honor.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 4812 so that our veterans continue to receive the security accommodations they need and deserve as they travel to Washington, D.C. to view the national memorials consecrated by their sacrifice in defense of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I requested leave and was absent from the House on June 25 and June 26 due to a death in the family, and missed several rollcall votes during that time.

Had I been present on Wednesday, June 25, I would have voted as follows: Roll 355 on the Previous Question: "yea;" roll 356 on the Adoption of the Rule: "yea;" Roll 357 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 6: "nay;" roll 358 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6: "nay;" roll 359 on the Passage of H.R.

6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act: "yea."

Had I been present on Thursday, June 26, I would have voted as follows: Roll 360 on the Adoption of the Wittman Amendment to H.R. 4899: "yea;" roll 361 on the Adoption of the Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 4899: "nay;" roll 362 on the Adoption of the Capps Amendment to H.R. 4899: "nay;" roll 363 on the Adoption of the Deutch Amendment to H.R. 4899: "nay;" roll 364 on the Adoption of the Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 4899: "nay;" roll 365 on the Adoption of the Bishop of Utah Amendment to H.R. 4899: "yea;" roll 366 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 4899: "nay;" roll 367 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4899: "Nay;" roll 368 on the Passage of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014: "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I write to inform you that I was unable to be on the House floor for votes on June 25, 2014 related to H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act (rollcall No. 359). Had I been there, I would have voted in support of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL "MR. PAUL" S. AMOS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 5 funeral services were held for Paul "Mr. Paul" S. Amos. Mr. Amos, 88, was remembered as a man of "rock-solid integrity" and was the last surviving founder of Columbus-based Aflac Insurance. As a representative of South Carolina's Second District, I especially appreciate Aflac's extraordinary success and expansion acquiring Continental American Insurance Company led by CFO Chris Goodall in Columbia generating hundreds of jobs.

Funeral services were held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia, with interment following the service in Parkhill Cemetery.

His obituary in The Ledger-Enquirer of Columbus, Georgia, contained this tribute:

Paul S. Amos, who with his two brothers founded Aflac Incorporated nearly six decades ago, passed away late Wednesday night, July 2, 2014, after a lengthy illness. He was 88 years old. Funeral services will be held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, GA, at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 5, 2014. It will be preceded by public visitation beginning at 2:00 PM at the St. Luke United Methodist Church Ministry Center. There will be a private burial service following the funeral.

Paul S. Amos was born April 23, 1926 in Enterprise, Ala. the son of the late John Shelby

and Helen Mullins Amos. Mr. Amos was raised in Enterprise, Ala. and Milton, Fla. He and his wife, the former Jean Roberts, met in church when she was just 17 years old and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in October of last year. The couple's only child, Daniel P. Amos, is Aflac's current chairman and CEO. The Amos brothers founded Aflac in 1955 and, in its first year of business, the company had 6,426 policyholders and \$388,000 in assets. Today, it is a Fortune 500 company with more than \$121 billion in assets and insures more than 50 million people worldwide. Aflac is the leading provider of supplemental insurance products and pays cash directly to policyholders to use as needed. During his long tenure at Aflac, Mr. Amos held numerous positions, both at corporate headquarters and as a hands-on member of the sales force. He served as state sales manager for Alabama/West Florida, first vice president/director of marketing, president, vice chairman and chairman. Although he retired in 2001, he remained a familiar figure at Aflac and loved to be among the employees and sales team members who continued the company's legacy. Amos, who continued to make daily visits to Aflac's offices in Columbus, Ga., and served as Chairman Emeritus, was beloved by the insurer's more than 8,000 employees and 185,000 agents worldwide. He was known affectionately throughout the company as "Mr. Paul."

In addition to helping build the world's largest supplemental insurance company, Amos established a quiet history of philanthropy and community service. Through anonymous donations and the endowment of educational funds and scholarship programs, he and Jean touched thousands of lives with major financial commitments. Their efforts included the Paul and Jean Amos Educational Fund at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.; the Paul S. Amos Family Foundation at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.; the Scholarship Fund at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.; and many unheralded contributions to those in need. Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Cumberland College in May 2001. Columbus State University honored him with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in May 2002. In 2004, Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Amos is survived by his wife, Jean; their son Daniel P. Amos and his wife Kathleen; two grandchildren, Lauren Amos and her husband Tyler Clayton, and Paul S. Amos II and his wife, Courtney; and four great-grandchildren, Dan Amos, Mansell Amos, Knox Amos and Eden Amos.

In lieu of flowers, however, the family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorder Center in Atlanta or St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SSG
SCOTT R. STUDENMUND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Green Beret Staff Sergeant Scott R. Studenmund of Pasadena, California, who died on June 9, 2014 in Gaza Valley, Zabul Province, Afghanistan during a combat mission.

Born on June 26, 1989, Scott Richard Studenmund was fearless from birth and embraced life fully. Scott was known for his rambunctious spirit, good sense of humor, intelligence and humility. He attended Clairbourn School from nursery school until 6th grade, Flintridge Preparatory School for middle and high school, Occidental College and Pitzer College. In high school, Scott was an avid scholar, football star and a history aficionado. He was a National Merit Finalist, an All-Area and All-League Football player and an excellent sprinter. Interested in the military since a young child, Scott spent many days practicing his tactical maneuvers with family and friends while on vacation at Lake Arrowhead or the beach. He traveled to Thailand and Cambodia and performed community service as a part of the Rustic Pathways program with his fellow schoolmates. During his time at Flintridge Preparatory School, he made a tight-knit group of friends with whom he stayed in close contact after graduation. An intense competitor, Scott was also a true gentleman who would not participate in or abide hurtful comments against others. He was extremely close to his family and was protective and proud of his sister Connell; indeed his parents never recall the two siblings ever arguing.

In 2009, Scott left college to join the U.S. Army with the goal of becoming a Green Beret. Twenty-five months later, Scott earned his Green Beret, having completed 11 different rigorous training programs, passing each one on the first try. At his Green Beret ceremony, Scott won the Leadership Award in the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course. He also received an Army Achievement Medal for performing "with distinction" in a training exercise, and earned an Expert Infantryman Badge, also known as "The Mark of a Man," by completing a rigorous 40-part competition with over 100 Green Berets. In 2013, Scott completed the infamous Combat Dive School, which is considered to be the hardest school in the U.S. Army. He and his teammate won a top team award in the rigorous Special Forces Level II Sniper Course. Scott rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant while working in the 1st battalion of the 5th Special Forces Group, Bravo Company, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Scott received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Valor Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Scott is survived by his parents, Arnold H. and Jaynie Studenmund, sister, Connell, and half brother, Brent. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, next to his friend and fellow Green Beret. Scott will be near his grandfather, Jack R. Miller, who was a U.S. Senator and Brigadier General in the Air Force Reserve and his grandmother, Jerry Miller.

Staff Sergeant Studenmund was an athlete, scholar and soldier, who loved his family, his job and his country. I ask all Members to join with me in remembering Staff Sergeant Scott Richard Studenmund, a Green Beret in the U.S. Army, a hero who died while achieving the highest honor of serving our country.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 INTELLIGENCE
AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 1681)

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) (S. 1681).

The FY2014 IAA includes provisions to ensure that men and women of our Intelligence Community (IC) have the resources, capabilities, and authorities necessary to protect our nation and its citizens, while ensuring critical and continuous Congressional oversight of the IC.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) passed H.R. 3381, its companion bill to S. 1681, last November. Unfortunately, the House never acted on it, and the HPSCI passed a combined FY2014/FY2015 IAA (H.R. 4681) containing many of the same provisions as the HPSCI-passed FY14 IAA and S. 1681, with some important additional provisions. The FY2014/FY2015 IAA recently passed our body with overwhelming support.

The FY2014 IAA contains a provision I authored and was originally included in the HPSCI-passed bill, requiring a report, within 90 days of enactment, on the extent to which the IC has implemented the Inspector General of the IC's recommendations contained in the May 2013 report, entitled "Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices."

This provision is also included in FY2014/FY2015 IAA requiring a report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary. Because H.R. 4681 is unlikely to be enacted before this report is due, I encourage the Director of National Intelligence to submit this report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary.

Of great importance to the citizens of my district is another provision I authored for H.R. 4681, which directs the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) to conduct an assessment of the security of our nation's oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure. It directs I&A to make recommendations on how to improve intelligence collection and sharing of information to better protect those facilities and the surrounding communities from any harm.

My district is home to several oil refineries, which employ thousands of people and provide well-paying middle class jobs. They are a key part of the regional economy. As domestic oil production continues to increase in the region, I have heard from several of my constituents about their growing concerns regarding the security of the shipment and storage of crude oil and subsequent refined products.

Constituents have reported tanker cars parked in their communities covered in elaborate graffiti. If a vandal has the opportunity to deface a tanker car, imagine what could be done by someone with more sinister motives?

I take all concerns my constituents share with me seriously, and I believe we have the responsibility to protect our workers, our domestic refineries and our communities from potential threats.

While I support the passage of the FY2014 IAA, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the HPSCI and in the Senate to ensure that the FY2015 IAA continues my refinery and rail infrastructure security provision.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The parishioners, along with Parish Priest, Reverend Father Marko Matic, and Parish President, Mr. Mike Ajder, will be commemorating this momentous occasion with a special 3-day celebration taking place from November 21 through November 23, 2014. The event will honor all who have contributed to the success of Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

Founded in Gary, Indiana, Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is now located in Merrillville and is one of the oldest churches in the Midwest. In 1914, the church's founders declared their mission before the Secretary of the State in Indianapolis: "The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love and respect among its members."

In 1914, Saint Sava's first church-school congregation was organized. It was named after Saint Sava, the first Archbishop of the Serbian Church. The church was built on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. After a devastating fire in 1978, Saint Sava relocated to their previously built chapel and parish hall located in Hobart, where the congregation held services until 1991. Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich led committed efforts in the construction of their current place of worship in Merrillville, which was completed in May of 1991. Today, the parishioners and church leaders gather together in this magnificent building to worship, celebrate, and continue the mission of the founding fathers.

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service and charitable work. Most recently, parishioners and church leaders participated in a relief effort to raise funds and collect needed supplies to help the victims in Serbia and surrounding communities recover from devastating floods. In addition, the members of this parish continue to preserve the traditions of the Serbian culture and the Orthodox faith through the church's historical society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana on its 100th anniversary. The members and church leaders have dedicated themselves to upholding Serbian heritage, tradition, and the Orthodox faith. For their noteworthy commitment to serving so

many in need, the congregation is worthy of the highest praise.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR ALAN J. DIXON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life and service of former United States Senator to the State of Illinois, Alan J. Dixon, who recently passed away at his home in Fairview Heights, Illinois, on Sunday, July 6, 2014, one day short of his 87th birthday.

Sen. Dixon, born in Belleville, Illinois, on July 7, 1927, led a life dedicated to service to the great State of Illinois and to our nation. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He also served our nation in the Navy Air Corps during World War II.

Sen. Dixon began his political career as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, for which he served from 1951 to 1963. He followed that by serving as a member of the Illinois State Senate from 1963 to 1971. In 1970 he was elected Illinois State Treasurer and then Illinois Secretary of State from 1976 until 1981. In 1981, Sen. Dixon took office as the U.S. Senator from Illinois, a position he held until 1993.

Sen. Alan Dixon, who served the State of Illinois for more than four decades, was known as someone who got along with everyone. He happily would work with his colleagues across the aisle in order to get things done, a characteristic that is in short supply today. He also was recognized for his hard work, honesty, and gentlemanly conduct. Following his career as a public servant, Sen. Dixon returned to practice law with the Bryan Cave law firm in St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to again commemorate the life and service of Senator Alan J. Dixon. I am very grateful for his service to our State and Nation. His passing weighs especially heavy on my family and I, as my father had the distinct honor to serve as his Chief of Staff for 23 years. Sen. Dixon is survived by his wife, Jody, three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. It is my hope that I can live up to the example he has set forth as a statesman.

CONGRATULATING DANSBY SWANSON, 2014 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES' MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Marietta native and Vanderbilt second baseman, Dansby Swanson, on

his accomplishments in the 2014 NCAA College World Series.

Swanson was awarded the College World Series' Most Outstanding Player Award and was an incredible asset in helping Vanderbilt clinch its first College World Series Championship.

Throughout the 2014 season, Swanson became one of the key players on Vanderbilt's tremendously talented roster and was key in Vandy's 3-2 victory over the University of Virginia in the final to cap off a landmark 50 win season.

Just a sophomore, Swanson batted .323 with five runs scored and two RBI in Omaha—the most impressive performance of any player in the tournament.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I applaud Dansby for his achievement and look forward to his future successes. I extend my enthusiastic congratulations to him on achieving the highest level of recognition possible in the NCAA College World Series.

IN HONOR OF ESTONIA'S SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Estonia who from July 4 to 6 completed their remarkable Song and Dance Festival in the capital of Tallinn. The festival, which takes place once every five years and attracts roughly 100,000 visitors and participants, is a cornerstone of Estonian cultural tradition and has been named one of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage events. It is something the Estonian people, and indeed the entire Baltic region, should be rightly proud of.

Such celebrations of independence are particularly important during this time. We continue to support our friends in Estonia, and indeed our friends and allies in all of Europe, as they face the threat of increased Russian aggression. Now is as important a time as any for the U.S. to reaffirm its commitment to Estonia and the Baltic states.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have a long and proud history of supporting Estonians as they rejected authoritarianism, gained their independence and built the vibrant, modern country they have today. Estonia has likewise been a great friend to the United States. I am certain that this relationship will continue far into the future. Once more, congratulations to all of Estonia on such a successful festival.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MR. MICHAEL MURPHY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Murphy, and offer my

condolences to his family and friends in light of his passing.

In his time as Grays Harbor County Commissioner and his years at the Washington State Auditor's Office he worked tirelessly for the community and local governments. His voice and support will be greatly missed.

Murphy graduated from Central Washington University and began his public service as a Radarman in the U.S. Navy. After his service he came to Washington, DC, and worked as an aide to U.S. Representative Don Bonker.

In 1977, he was elected to the Grays Harbor County Commission where he served for 11 years. During his tenure he worked to establish Vance Creek Park, the Grays Harbor County Fairground Pavilion, and helped pre-

serve Grays Harbor's public forests. Under his leadership Grays Harbor became the only county in the state to manage its own tax-title timberlands, rather than grant that authority to the state.

After his time as a county commissioner, Murphy joined the Washington State Auditor's Office in 1996, and as Local Government Liaison worked closely with local governments who trusted him as a result of his excellent reputation and his intimate knowledge with the challenges of local government.

Murphy was an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, and a dedicated public servant. He had a passion for his work, for the people he served, and for the Pacific Northwest. He served for a time as Chairman of the State

Liquor Control Board, and helped found what would become Venture Bank. As President of the Washington State Association of Counties he also advocated on behalf of local governments at the state legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Washington State and our nation owe a debt of gratitude to Michael Murphy for his dedication to serving the needs of those he worked for while helping local governments remain effective and efficient. His work and his experience left Washington better able to provide for its citizens. I am pleased to recognize his service to the community and honor his legacy today in the United States Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 9, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have an unusual prospect tomorrow where a proposal to raise money for the highway trust fund is opposed by the very interests strongly identified with the need for more transportation funding.

How did we get to this point? Why do we need the money? And why would the very interests that seem to benefit be opposed?

This is the latest chapter in the strange saga of congressional irresponsibility on transportation funding that started when the last Congress refused to meaningfully address the funding crisis. You see, the funding has fallen in the highway trust fund that is based on gallons of fuel consumed, but the need continues.

The United States is now spending far less on infrastructure than our competing countries, and the vital Federal partnership, which can be a third or more of the funding in our States, is falling further and further behind.

But Congress put its head in the sand. There has not even been a hearing on the needs of transportation finance by the Ways and Means Committee, which is the House committee with primary jurisdiction. I am afraid my friend DAVE CAMP, the chair of that committee, has it exactly wrong. He is proposing a short-term fix tomorrow, saying it is time for the committees of the entire House and Senate to have the influence they deserve by kicking it into the next Congress. Well, wait a minute, by refusing to have a hearing for 3½ years on transportation financing, this has produced the backroom maneuvering with no public discussion that he says he is opposed to.

Now the results of the last Congress' failure to deal meaningfully are coming sharply into focus. The already inadequate highway trust fund will not even last through the end of the 27-month extension, which expires September 30. By draining every last dime out of the highway trust fund, they have lost the capacity to manage it, and the Federal Government is preparing to cut back. That means State and local projects will be on hold later this summer.

This pending crisis has finally sparked action, but because we have never bothered to listen to the businesses and labor unions—Pete Ruane of Road Builders, Terry O'Sullivan of the Laborers', Tom Donohue of the U.S. Chamber, Rich Trumka of the AFL-CIO, Bill Graves of the American Trucking Assoc.—these are people who could have told Congress why it actually could be even worse than allowing the trust fund to temporarily go dry. That would be to punt this into the next Congress.

We have a long-term funding crisis. To kick this can to the next Congress makes it a virtual certainty we will continue to wrestle far beyond the next 2 years. Remember, in the next Congress, the Senate will be more evenly divided no matter who is in charge; we will be in the middle of a heated Presidential campaign, which seems like it has already started and half the Members of the other body are running for President. There is no realistic opportunity for the meaningful help America needs. It will be put on hold until another Presidential election is past and, hopefully, a stronger Congress elected. But that is 3 years or more. America deserves better.

That is why, almost without exception, the people who care the most and know the most, simply want a solution

that gets us past the summer shutdown, enough money to tide us towards the end of the next year so this Congress can act. Then this Congress can take action that is sustainable with dedicated funding and that is robust enough to have a 6-year transportation bill that America needs.

There was a time when transportation and infrastructure brought America together to produce the finest roads, bridges, transit, and railroads in the world. We can do this again. It is time to start down this path.

I have been working with these stakeholders for years. We are open to solutions to the transportation problems. Let's listen to the needs that others have. Let's reject a proposal to punt to the next Congress. Let's get down to business and not adjourn this year until this Congress has met its responsibilities.

BORDER ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the gap between political hype and reality is so great it demands a rebuttal. The Obama administration's border security hype is a case in point.

In February 2013, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano proclaimed, "the border is secure." Rarely has the gap between hype and reality been so great.

Similarly, my Democrat friends and their media allies repeatedly boast about Obama's border security prowess. For example, PBS recently ran a fluff piece boasting:

In one term, the Obama administration has deported roughly 80 percent the number of immigrants the George W. Bush administration deported in two.

PBS failed to mention that deportations are only half the border enforcement picture. The other half is "catch and returns," whereby Border Patrol catches illegal aliens at the border and promptly escorts them back without the time-consuming and costly deportation process.

So, how does the Obama administration stack up if the full picture is examined?

According to Homeland Security data, in 2012, President Obama's catch and return record was way below average, with Border Patrol catching and immediately returning 230,000 illegal aliens. In contrast, in 2008, the Bush

administration caught and immediately returned 811,000 illegal aliens, almost four times more than Obama in 2012. Similarly, in 1993, the Clinton administration caught and immediately returned 1.2 million illegal aliens, more than five times than Obama in 2012.

Why are Obama's catch and return numbers so bad?

A Border Patrol agent told me on Capitol Hill that Obama pushes catch and return illegal aliens into the much slower and far costlier deportation process to inflate Obama's deportation numbers to artificially make Obama's border security record look better.

The best indicator of a President's border enforcement record is the whole picture: deportations plus catch and returns. In 2012, the Obama administration deported or caught and returned 649,000 illegal aliens. In contrast, in 2008, the Bush administration deported or caught and returned 1.2 million illegal aliens, 80 percent more than President Obama in 2012. Similarly, in 1993, the Clinton administration deported or caught and returned 1.3 million illegal aliens, 98 percent more than the Obama administration in 2012.

According to Department of Homeland Security data, and contrary to what my Democrat friends and their media allies would have the public believe, Obama's border security enforcement record is the worst in more than two decades.

But there is more. President Obama repeatedly promises amnesty to illegal aliens. As 1986's failed amnesty experiment proves, amnesty begets more illegal immigration. Mr. Speaker, amnesty promises must stop because they make things worse, not better.

Further, this administration must stop paying foreigners to illegally cross our borders. This is a no-brainer. America cannot give free food, free clothing, free shelter, free health care, free transportation, and billions of dollars a year in fraudulent tax returns and refunds to illegal aliens and then wonder why we have an illegal alien crisis.

These failings contribute to America's poorest borders and produce millions of illegal aliens competing for American jobs, thereby creating income inequality via wage suppression and lost job opportunities for American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, to solve the immigration problem, America must vigorously enforce immigration laws, stop promising illegal aliens amnesty, and stop giving illegal aliens stuff paid for with tax dollars forcefully taken from struggling American families. If America will be smart and do these things, there will be no immigration crisis, there won't be illegal aliens competing with Americans for jobs, and American families can better participate in the American Dream.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I intend to talk about transportation, but I must say to my friend who just spoke, there is a more humane and enlightened approach to comprehensive immigration reform that would address the issues he says he is concerned about. Railing against people because of their status when there are 11 million people who are here without documentation, a problem that hardly initiated with this administration, I don't think is helpful. It may rile up one's base, but it doesn't solve problems; and it is not the best of America, especially as we celebrate our Independence Day.

The urgency for Congress, Mr. Speaker, to address the shortfall in the highway trust fund grows with every passing day. Road and, eventually, mass transit improvements in every State are at risk of grinding to a halt in a matter of weeks in the heart of the summer construction time. Secretary Foxx notified all States last week that their Federal funding will drop by an average of 28 percent starting next month.

In my home State of Virginia, nearly every mode of transportation will be negatively affected. More than half of next year's road and transit projects were supposed to be funded with Federal dollars. If we don't replenish the trust fund, just in Virginia alone, 149 bridge replacements will be put on hold, 175 aging buses and train cars will not be replaced, 44 smaller transit systems will not be able to maintain service, and 350 transportation projects will grind to a halt.

When I hear my friends on the other side of the aisle say, "No, no, we are concerned about jobs," well, 43,000 jobs in Virginia alone will be lost if we do not replenish the trust fund.

In addition, many States have advanced projects based solely on the Federal Government's participation, including private activity bonds used to finance such projects. If that money dries up, States would have to put projects on hold or redirect other precious State resources to cover the debt service or risk default.

I was relieved when my House Republican friends backed away from their reckless proposal to hold the highway trust fund hostage unless their demands were met to eliminate Saturday mail delivery service by the Postal Service. Set aside for a moment that paying for an on-budget transfer into the trust fund with off-budget cuts to the Postal Service violates both PAYGO and CutGo budget rules here in the House, that fundamentally flawed, nongermane proposal would have undermined a trillion-dollar American mailing industry that supports more than 8 million jobs and represents 7

percent of our GDP. There is simply no nexus between funding transportation and the Postal Service, despite the efforts of Republican leadership to suggest otherwise.

□ 1015

While the focus now has shifted to finding a short-term funding fix, I would argue that simply patching it over will not help our State DOTs, which need much more certainty as they do long-range planning. Transportation is not a short-term proposition. It is long-term planning and long-term investment streams that are needed.

The Federal Government historically has been a key partner in funding our Nation's infrastructure, but that level of investment has eroded over time. Just look at the recent Transportation Appropriations bill. It provides less funding for highway and transit construction than last year, and far less than the administration proposed for a 21st century transportation system in America. Public spending on infrastructure as a share of GDP now is half what it was in the sixties and seventies. No great country can walk away from infrastructure investment and stay great.

I commend Senators MURPHY and CORKER for tabling a bipartisan proposal to increase the gas tax by 12 cents over 2 years and then index it to inflation. It has been more than 20 years since the Federal gas tax was last adjusted, and those dollars have lost 40 percent of their value in that time period. I know some of my colleagues will cringe at such a proposal, but funding for transportation is not going to miraculously fall from the sky.

Many of us have supported efforts to advance innovative financing solutions but, at the end of the day, what we really need is more funding. The 495 Express Lanes here in the Nation's capital, built under a public-private partnership in my district, are considered a model for innovation. But 4 out of 5 dollars used to fund that project were Federal dollars in some fashion, whether it was Federal trust fund dollars, a federally subsidized loan, or the sale of bonds that receive a federally preferred tax deduction.

Again, looking at Virginia, last year, the Virginia General Assembly, with a Republican house of delegates, a Democratic senate, and a Republican Governor, came together for the first time in over 27 years and actually funded transportation long term, which was a multibillion-dollar effort. If the Virginia General Assembly can do it on a bipartisan basis, so can we.

PASSAGE OF WORKFORCE TRAINING PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we must achieve stronger economic growth, and we must train and educate Americans to succeed in a modern economy.

Last year, the House advanced the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills, or SKILLS, Act, another House-passed jobs bill which reforms our Federal workforce development programs and will help Americans acquire the skills, education, and training that they need to climb the ladder of opportunity.

Despite Senate Leader REID's opposition to acting on any of the more than 40 House-passed jobs bills, we recently saw light at the end of the tunnel when movement began on a compromise package of Federal job training reforms. In late May, congressional leaders announced a bipartisan agreement on this package, which passed the Senate in June, and will be considered by the House today.

As a member of the House Education Committee's Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee, I am proud to have worked to help advance these commonsense reforms. I also want to thank my friend and colleague, subcommittee Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX, for her tireless work on this legislation.

Job training is the best strategy and solution for opportunity and access to jobs. America's competitiveness depends on a qualified and trained workforce.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM R. RAUP

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember William R. Raup.

As we walk our way through life, many times we meet individuals who have an impact on our lives in significant ways. Bill Raup was such a person. He was a 1947 graduate of Sunbury High School and a 1951 graduate of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Bill was an Eagle Scout, and, following college, he worked as a Boy Scout executive in various locations, including the Juniata Valley Council that serves the Pennsylvania counties of Centre, Huntingdon, Mifflin, and Juniata. It was in this capacity that our paths crossed on the scouting trail in the 1970s.

When I was a Scout growing up in the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, Bill was the council executive. As I advanced into youth leadership positions in the Council, I had the good fortune to work with Bill. His commitment and love for scouting was evident and continuous for more than 70 years.

After ending his professional service with the Boy Scouts, he and his wife Ruth owned and operated the Awards Centre in State College and Recognition Engraving in Lewistown. He at-

tended First United Methodist Church in Lewistown and was a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Lewistown.

Bill lost a battle with Alzheimer's on June 10, after a lifetime of service to others. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter, Kristin; and his son, Jeffrey.

Happy trails, and well done, Scouter.

USDA SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to talk about good government. I am also here to talk about a program that everybody in this Chamber should be proud of; indeed, every American should be proud of. It is the USDA Summer Food Service Program. This is a program, to put it very simply, that attempts to make sure that no child in this country goes hungry during the summer months.

For a lot of kids, Mr. Speaker, who receive free or reduced breakfasts or lunches, hunger doesn't magically go away during the summer months. This program is important on a number of levels, but it is important for my colleagues to understand that hunger and food insecurity in this country is also a health issue.

Kids who don't have enough to eat, who miss meals on a regular basis, who don't have access to nutritious food, are more likely to get sick. Kids who don't have access to good, nutritious foods are not able to learn in school. Too often, kids who are struggling and in poverty end up filling their stomachs by relying on junk food because that is the cheapest food that is available in so many communities across this country.

The summer feeding program that USDA champions tries to change that. It tries to make sure that kids not only have good access to nutritious food during the school year, but also during the summer months.

I had the great privilege on Monday to tour through my congressional district in Massachusetts and visit a number of these summer feeding sites. I was joined by local leaders, leaders in USDA, and representatives from a number of NGOs. We also had the Secretary of Health and Human Services of Massachusetts, John Polanowicz, join us as we went through various sites throughout Massachusetts.

We began at a YMCA in Greenfield. We had an event at the Pavilion at Silver Lake in Athol. We then went to the Spanish American Center in Leominster. We ended up at the Worcester Public Library in Worcester, Massachusetts.

What we have learned is that it is important to make sure that these feed-

ing programs are where kids are at. We have a program at the library in Worcester because kids come to the library during the summer months to read and partake of a lot of the activities in the library. We were in Greenfield at the YMCA because a lot of kids go to the YMCA. This program only works if the eligible kids can take advantage of it.

While this has been very successful for those kids who have been able to take advantage of this program, nationwide, on average, only about 18 percent of the kids who are eligible for free or reduced breakfasts and lunches during the school year actually take advantage of this program.

Part of the challenge in the past has been that it has been difficult for families to be able to get their kids to the sites where food is given out. In Massachusetts, community leaders are working with USDA to make sure that they give out food at sites where kids are.

In Massachusetts, we have seen the enrollment rate for the summer feeding programs actually increase. We are told, Mr. Speaker, that nationwide enrollment in this program has increased. But the fact of the matter is that still one child in seven who needs food in the summer isn't getting it. That means a whole bunch of kids aren't getting it.

I would urge my colleagues to do what I did on Monday and go throughout your district to remind people that this program exists and to make sure that people understand how they can take advantage of this.

I would urge those who are listening to go to USDA's Web site and learn more about this program. The Web site is usda.gov. Then look under the Summer Food Service Program. Learn about this program. Learn about how you can get your kids access to this program. Learn about how you can encourage other kids to get access to this program.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by making this observation. We live in the richest country in the history of the world, yet we have close to 50 million people who are hungry or food insecure, and 17 million of them are kids.

We all should be ashamed of that fact. In this country, we should make sure that everybody has access not just to food, but to good, nutritious food. That is what this Summer Food Program is about. That is what the school feeding programs are about. That is what SNAP is about. That is what WIC is about. That is what these nutrition programs are all about. We should make sure that these programs are properly funded and that every eligible person takes advantage of them.

Next year, this Congress will be reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act. I would hope that we would learn from the best practices all across the country and implement them so that we

have maximum participation. I want 100 percent of those eligible for these feeding programs to be enrolled.

TIME TO GET AMERICA BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get America back to work. The people of my State, West Virginia, want to work. They want to provide for their families and they want to build a better future. But in today's economy, finding a job has been very, very difficult.

That is why I am pleased to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which the House will vote on later today. We will make sure that American workers will have the training they need for the jobs available in their communities and an efficient use of the resources so that that will be the best way to train for the jobs of tomorrow.

Employers want to hire in their communities. Workers want to have the skills and training to secure good-paying jobs in their communities. In West Virginia, this means getting additional resources to train workers for jobs available in our growing natural gas industry or to provide health care services for our elderly citizens.

We can use existing resources like community colleges and career and technical centers to offer group training that directly addresses the needs of local employers, as this bill would do.

By aligning workers' skills with employers' needs, we can help get West Virginia and America working again.

CRIB ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Massachusetts, and in many other States across the country, we are battling a crisis that is blind to income, race, gender, and politics. That crisis is opiate addiction. It is happening at a deadly rate across the country, increasing by nearly 60 percent over the last decade.

Today, I want to focus on the youngest of those affected by this epidemic.

Every hour, a baby is born in the United States addicted to opiates. In Massachusetts, the number of babies born with this condition has risen to five times the national rate. In Kentucky, the rate has increased thirtyfold; in Ohio, sixfold; and in Colorado, as many as 6 percent of the babies born will experience these addiction symptoms.

Babies born with the condition known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or NAS, are born into the pain of opiate withdrawal, which adults report as the worst pain they have experienced in their lives. These babies may suffer from seizures, breathing problems, fevers, tremors, or difficulty feeding. These symptoms can last for months and lead to weeks of hospitalization. One boy suffering from NAS in my district experienced such severe seizures that he suffered a detached retina.

In an urgent response to the surge of NAS diagnoses, hospitals across the country have begun piecing together the best methods to diagnose and treat NAS. But incomplete and uncoordinated data collection hampers a State's ability to identify the scope of the problem and apply solutions and treatment effectively.

I am asking my colleagues to join me in taking a critically important first step in caring for these newborns by supporting the Coordinated Recovery Initiative for Babies Act, known as the CRIB Act.

□ 1030

I have partnered with my good colleague from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) to introduce this bipartisan legislation.

The CRIB Act is the first proposed bill to take proactive steps to help hospitals diagnose and treat newborns suffering from opiate dependency. It will give the Department of Health and Human Services 1 year to collect the data necessary to assemble a portfolio of the best practices.

The final product will be based on the most successful models in the country and will be accessible to every State and the medical community. In addition to being the right thing to do for newborns, this bill will save us money.

NAS births are five times more expensive than healthy births, and Medicaid has been paying for 75 percent of these costs. This bill will help us identify the best ways to diagnose and treat these newborns, and it provides an important tool for addressing the opiate epidemic.

I urge my colleagues to join national medical groups, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and support the CRIB Act.

CONGRATULATIONS, TOM SUITER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Suiter, a sports reporter for WRAL News in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Recently, Mr. Suiter was inducted into the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He was

honored for his long, successful career, filled with quality work and many achievements that include two regional Emmy Awards and 17 overall nominations.

Mr. Suiter was hired by the late Senator Jesse Helms, who was then the vice president of WRAL. Mr. Suiter later became the station's lead sports anchor in 1981.

Over the past 33 years, his coverage of all levels of sports, from high school to college to pro, has made him a local legend in Raleigh and the Triangle. He is the host of the award-winning sports show "Football Friday," which airs coverage and highlights of local high school football games on WRAL. The television segment will be in its 34th year this fall.

Mr. Suiter makes a point to recognize the achievements of high school athletes, both on and off the field. During a segment each week, he hands out the Extra Effort Award, recognizing local students for their achievements not only on the playing field, but in the classroom and in the community.

Referring to his love of high school sports, Suiter said, "I had such a good experience playing high school sports. I felt like there was a need, and we should highlight these kids who work so hard every day."

Mr. Suiter has interviewed numerous legendary coaches, such as UCLA's John Wooden and Duke's Coach K. In his time at WRAL, he covered 37 ACC basketball tournaments and 25 Final Fours. He did so with passion and professionalism and influenced the community greatly.

Suiter's passion and support of athletes on all levels make him one of the many bright stars in our community back in North Carolina, and I extend to him a heartfelt congratulations.

Thank you, Tom Suiter.

GI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, 70 years ago, on June 22, 1944, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act became law. This was a tremendous step forward in the care of American veterans and the economic development of our country. It opened new doors to veterans and allowed them to reach their potential, and it injected into our economy talent, skills, and creativity.

We know this law better as the GI Bill. For 70 years, those words have evoked our commitment to the brave men and women who defend our shores and our freedoms. Today, I am proud to celebrate that history and contribute to that legacy.

I introduced the GI Internship Program Act to expand the Post-9/11 GI Bill in order to allow veterans to collect their benefits while participating in an internship program.

These internships, many with small businesses or manufacturers, will allow our veterans to learn the practical skills and to gain valuable experience, and they will help our employers overcome the skills gap and find uniquely talented proven leaders to hire. That is a win-win proposition for businesses and for veterans.

Seventy years ago, the original GI Bill opened new doors of opportunity and helped our country secure success in the second half of the American century.

Today, we need another concentrated effort to boost the talent and skills in our economy, and like always, I think our veterans are ready to answer the call.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. George Dillard, Peachtree City Christian Church, Peachtree City, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You with praise and thanksgiving because You are the giver and the sustainer of life.

We thank You for freedom; help us to use it well, to bless and not curse. We thank You for justice; help us to be righteous in its use. We thank You for an abundance of food; help us to be generous. We thank You for life; help us to give it the value it deserves. We thank You for Your truth; help us use it as a light to see the path back to You.

Bless the Members of this House with wisdom, and watch over those who serve in our Armed Forces as they protect our liberty. Forgive us for the error of our ways. Thank You for the grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love that provide a path to You, through Jesus the Christ, our King.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of our friend and ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Since Israel's disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Gaza has been a lawless region and, since 2007, has been under the rule of the U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization, Hamas. Hamas' sole reason for existence is to wipe Israel off the face of the planet.

Over these past few weeks, Hamas kidnapped and killed Gilad, Eyal, and Naftali—three Israeli teens—and launched hundreds of rockets at innocent Israeli civilian population centers, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. No nation would allow terrorists to take aim at its citizens so indiscriminately, and Israel cannot be expected to allow Hamas to continue this attack unabated.

The U.S. must support our ally, Israel, as she seeks to protect her citizens, and we must call for the PA to divorce itself from Hamas. No U.S. funding until Abu Mazen does so.

MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past few years, Buffalo's Inner Harbor has undergone a startling transformation. This summer, Canalside will host over 1,000 public events, drawing in a million visitors.

The same possibility exists for Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation will host public meetings, starting tonight, to support public discussion about the future of the Outer Harbor.

The successful growth of Canalside has been attributed to Federal highway dollars and the New York Power Authority's \$279 million Federal reli-

censing settlement, which is now financing the reconstruction of Buffalo's long-neglected waterfront.

Likewise, putting in place the infrastructure to bring western New Yorkers to the water's edge at the Outer Harbor will open it up to public access and private development. A good start would be to remove the structurally deficient Skyway Bridge and to build a new pedestrian-friendly Buffalo Harbor Bridge, which is now in its final stages of environmental review.

Buffalo has several waterfront master plans. Each say the same thing: Get to work.

The attraction to Buffalo's waterfront is the water itself. It is our responsibility to build the infrastructure to make that vision a reality.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, there is no bigger problem facing our country right now than getting hardworking Americans back to work with the skills they need to compete in a very tough economy.

The biggest travesty is that June marked the 49th month in the last 50 months when more people gave up looking for a job than found one, and that the only increase in hiring is for part-time employees.

That is why the House will vote this week on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, based on the foundation of the SKILLS Act we passed earlier this year.

This commonsense solution eliminates more than a dozen failing programs, saves taxpayer dollars, and provides skills training for in-demand jobs. Such key, in-demand jobs are needed in my hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.

It is time we start investing in nurses, medical assistants, manufacturing technicians, and computer support specialists and stop wasting billions of dollars every year on ineffective government programs that do little to train individuals with the skills they need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for more opportunity, "yes" for more jobs, and "yes" for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMISSION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

Rhode Island has more than 16,000 historic buildings—more per square mile than any other State in the country. The First District, which I am proud to represent, is home to some of Rhode Island's most cherished places, such as the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Slater Mill in Pawtucket, and the Beavertail Lighthouse in Jamestown.

These sites also provide an economic boost to our local economy by attracting tourists from across New England, the country, and the entire world.

Led by Executive Director Ted Sanderson, the talented and dedicated staff of Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission has worked hard to protect and preserve our national historic treasures.

Just last week, I joined Executive Director Sanderson in celebrating more than \$2.5 million in Federal funds that were awarded to restore historic properties across the State that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

I am proud to support their efforts, which in turn support jobs in Rhode Island's construction and tourism industries, and thank their staff for working to preserve our State's rich history for future generations to enjoy.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will vote on H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a bill to reform our Nation's mishmash of workforce development programs.

Today is the culmination of an 18-month bipartisan and bicameral process. The House passed H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, over a year ago. The Senate passed an amended version of H.R. 803 two weeks ago and renamed it the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

This bill turns the bipartisan consensus that our workforce development system is broken into action and will provide a long overdue reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act.

In short, this legislation will increase access, eliminate waste, promote accountability, and empower job creators. Most importantly, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will give Americans access to the resources needed to fill in-demand jobs.

COMPREHENSIVE DOT RAIL REGULATIONS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I attended a vigil in remembrance of

the 47 people that lost their lives in the Lac-Mégantic railway tragedy in Quebec last July. This event drew a tremendous crowd, particularly from Albany's South End residents, who see dozens of oil tank cars move and idle outside their homes on a daily basis before entering the Port of Albany.

My constituents are concerned about the potential for another fatal accident in one of our communities, as the trail of oil cars crosses over many communities that I represent. That is why I have been urging DOT all year to implement comprehensive regulations to address these safety concerns.

We need a higher safety standard on new tank car orders and an aggressive phaseout of the old DOT-111s, which have no business transporting hazardous materials. The rail industry has taken voluntary steps to account for the DOT-111's inadequacies, but higher Federal standards are still needed.

We also need to make sure shippers and oil producers are properly handling, degasifying, and classifying hazardous materials, particularly volatile Bakken crude, before it is even loaded into a tank car.

I continue to urge DOT to make these much-needed, commonsense, and meaningful steps as quickly as possible. Inaction is inexcusable.

EPA OVERREACH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, I mentioned how the EPA has overreached on making every drop of water that basically falls in the United States under its jurisdiction. Whether it falls on your field, on your driveway, or on your roof and is collected in a rain barrel or in a puddle, they seem to want to be in control of it.

Before our Independence Day holiday, they added another rule into the Federal Register where they seek to be the judge, jury, and executioner on deciding what the fines are going to be and how they are going to carry them out without jurisprudence or oversight by an independent party. They seek to, instead, be the ones that collect the fines after finding somebody guilty of a possible alleged violation.

EPA has already nearly tripled the amount of fines it has taken in since 2009, so is this really about the environment or is it about revenue generation and putting the people that are out there trying to make a living and make things happen in the United States on the defensive?

I think they need to pull back this rule and hear from the American people, Mr. Speaker, about how devastating this is for the economy and for the well-being of Americans.

NATIONAL FREIGHT NETWORK TRUST ACT

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation suffers from an infrastructure crisis, but if we want to remain globally competitive, goods movement is the ticket to our Nation's economic success.

Although I understand we are going to do a short-term fix for the highway trust fund, I have come up with an idea for a long-term fix that creates a dedicated funding source to better serve our roads and railways that connect the freight network to the ports of entry into this country.

This dedicated freight network trust fund will help fund critical infrastructure like dedicated truck lanes on the highways, better bridges, and on-dock rail.

The trust fund will be made up of existing fees that we already collect at our Nation's ports and will be at no new cost to businesses or taxpayers.

This fund will infuse nearly \$2 billion back into the economy every year. It will help create good-paying American jobs, keep our Nation's ports strong and globally competitive.

I believe this idea is a win-win for our ports, our small businesses, and for our Nation's economy. I urge my colleagues to support the National Freight Network Trust Act.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. GEORGE DILLARD

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome today Pastor George Dillard to the U.S. House floor. I am proud that he hails from Georgia's Third Congressional District.

I have known Pastor Dillard; his wife, Renee; and their three children, Tiffany, Alexis, and Stewart, for many years. They are very good friends. He is a godly man, serving as senior minister at the Peachtree City Christian Church, and has touched many souls and hearts through his ministry and his book, "Seven Things that God Desires for Us."

This morning, I had a chance to visit with George and his son. I am thankful that they traveled all the way from the Third District of Georgia to share God's message with us today in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I hope the faithful message that he gave today will remind us of our true purpose here in Washington and that it helps carry our Nation through the week because Lord only knows that we need it.

Thank you again, Pastor Dillard. We appreciate your friendship and your sermon this morning.

□ 1215

INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, if you drive down Interstate 95 in my home State of Delaware right now, you will see license plates from up and down the Northeast corridor that are crawling at a snail's pace. As a result of structural damage, a bridge that carries 90,000 cars a day is closed until after Labor Day.

In Delaware, we are feeling the importance of investing in our Nation's infrastructure firsthand. It is critical for public safety, but it is also important for commerce, tourism, and our quality of life. Just as important, building roads and bridges creates jobs for workers right here in America.

If Congress does nothing, the highway trust fund won't have enough money to pay its bills come the end of the summer. That is the source of money that pays for building and repairing roads and bridges all throughout the country. Finding the funds to fix our Nation's crumbling infrastructure will not be easy, but putting it off is not an option.

I urge my colleagues to find the political will to fund the highway trust fund and ensure that our Nation's infrastructure reflects our 21st century needs.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the House is back in session to continue our work, but millions of hardworking Americans still find it difficult to get those good-paying jobs to keep their American Dreams alive.

Small businesses, responsible for two-thirds of all new jobs created in our economy, continue to struggle to stay afloat. That is why the House must pass pro-jobs legislation to provide economic opportunities for all Americans to succeed.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have passed 40 bills that reduce red tape for businesses, lower electric bills for American families, cut regulatory burdens, and reform the Tax Code. Sadly, these bills are held up in the Senate.

Now, we can continue to help hardworking Americans by passing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—bipartisan legislation that promotes needed job skills training for high-demand jobs, streamlines burdensome Federal mandates, reduces administrative costs and unnecessary bureaucracy, and provides more accountability when spending tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation. These are the kinds of pro-growth, pro-jobs bills the American people expect from their Congress.

ECONOMY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned that employers added 1.4 million jobs in the first 6 months of this year. That is the strongest 6 months for growth since 2006, and it is great news for many American families, but there is more we can and that we should be doing.

The other day, I was fortunate enough to attend the White House Summit on Working Families, where business leaders, advocates, legislators, and Americans from all walks of life all came together to discuss issues facing working parents.

Mr. Speaker, the American workforce has changed dramatically in recent decades, and the workplace must change with it. More and more women are now the primary breadwinners for their families, but they still lack the support they need to balance work with their responsibilities at home.

Sadly, instead of considering initiatives to improve the lives of working families and of strengthening the middle class, this House is stuck playing politics. This week, the House majority announced plans for a 3-week process to sue President Obama—no word yet on what they plan to sue him for.

The American people deserve better. We need to move ahead on the issues that concern the American people.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the world to join together, as we refuse to let the abducted Nigerian girls vanish from the international headlines, by tweeting every day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., eastern standard time, using #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson.

We have heard President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria speak about the resources his country used to try to find the girls, and we have read about your role in developing a concealed rescue plan.

Mr. Speaker, we know that these are excuses from Nigeria. We have seen unconscionable acts of terror committed almost daily. We have seen the military officially wrap up its investigation into the kidnapping, without locating the girls.

We have seen President Jonathan spend over \$1 million in a public rela-

tions campaign in an attempt to reshape his image.

President Jonathan, we are still waiting to see you bring home those kidnapped girls.

Tweet, tweet, tweet. Tweet, tweet, tweet. Bring back our girls.

LET THIS HOUSE WORK ITS WILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, like so many of us, I was home last week, listening to my constituents talk and be concerned about dysfunction, and I discovered that there is a great deal of confusion about what dysfunction is.

My friend from the other side of the aisle just said they have sent all kinds of bills over to the Senate where they are held up—held up in the Senate. This is not dysfunction.

It may not be happy for my friends on the other side of the aisle, but the Senate is held by the Democrats. If you send them legislation that is inspired by the Tea Party, they are not going to pass that. That is not dysfunction. That is a refusal to govern.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, over here, there are five bills, and if they were brought to the floor today, they would pass with significant majorities. Each and every one of them would help the economy and create jobs.

The reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank, comprehensive immigration reform, topping up the highway trust fund, extending unemployment insurance, and terrorism risk insurance are five bills that we could pass today.

The American people need to understand, as they think about dysfunction, that those bills will not be brought up. This House will not work its will. It will not be allowed to work its will.

Mr. Speaker, let this House work its will.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, the highway trust fund will become insolvent. Now, that sounds shocking, but it is really not news. In fact, we were warned of this possibility in a GAO report issued in March of 2012; yet here we are, with just a few weeks to go before we fall off yet another manmade cliff, and still no solution has been brought to the floor for a vote.

This irresponsible inaction by my colleagues from across the aisle is inflicting damage on the Nation's economy and on States across the country. In Nevada alone, over 100 projects are in danger of being delayed or canceled,

affecting some 6,000 construction workers, their families, and ancillary businesses that are associated with them.

This includes six multimillion-dollar improvements to I-15, which is the main north-south corridor that runs through the heart of Las Vegas.

We cannot afford, nor can we risk kicking this can down an already deteriorated road. It is time for Congress to step up, to come together, and to offer real solutions that invest in our future.

NIGERIA

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that we continue to address the threat of Boko Haram and to make sure we continue to work with the country of Nigeria.

It has been over 2 months since Boko Haram kidnapped nearly 300 girls from their school in northern Nigeria. To many Americans, this was the first time they had heard of Boko Haram, even though the organization has been attacking, kidnapping, and killing innocent Nigerians since 2009, but Nigeria is much more than Boko Haram.

I recently traveled to Nigeria with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and 20 American companies on an energy business development trade mission. Nigeria is Africa's economic powerhouse that has incredible potential for partnership with American businesses.

Nigeria recently surpassed South Africa as the largest economy in Africa, and with a population of nearly 170 million people, partnering with Nigerian businesses will benefit the American economy.

Although we must continue our efforts to fight Boko Haram, we need to also make sure we engage Nigeria as our partner.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, millions of Americans across the country need emergency unemployment insurance to support their families—to provide for their very basic needs—as those hardworking Americans have lost their previous jobs and are simply in search of their next opportunities, through no fault of their own.

Somehow, this issue has been turned into a partisan issue. It is not a partisan issue back home. There is no such thing as a Democratic or a Republican unemployed person. They are unemployed, and they are looking for all the help they can get.

The week before last, I and three of my Democratic colleagues and Mr.

LoBiondo—a Republican—and three of his colleagues introduced a bipartisan unemployment insurance extension. It is a mirror image of the language that has been introduced by Mr. REED and Mr. HELLER in the Senate. This is a bipartisan bill. We can take this up right now.

Is it the bill that I would have written by myself? No. In fact, I did submit an extension of unemployment that the House has not taken up, but we have compromised. We ought to do the work of the American people.

We have a bipartisan bill to extend unemployment insurance. The House should take it up immediately. Millions of Americans need it, and it is upon us to take this action.

LINKS, INC.

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with others across the Nation to ask Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act.

I had the distinct pleasure to join near our Capitol last week with some 3,000 members of Links, Incorporated, at the national assembly and with the 15th national president and chair of KeyBank, Margot James Copeland, and with the national legislative chair and OhioHealth's president, Karen Morrison, of their foundation to lead a resolution to support the Voting Rights Act of America.

Links members proudly voted in support of a resolution, calling on Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act, H.R. 3899.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

Our feet are tired, but our souls are rested. Let us say the same of ourselves as we continue the unfinished work of ensuring that every American cannot only vote, but has the freedom, the justice, and the dignity that all individuals rightly deserve.

Let us join together as Democrats and Republicans and pass the Voting Rights Act.

HOLY LAND BAKERY AND DELI

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a small business in my community on its 25 great years.

Holy Land Bakery and Deli has become a quintessential part of our town of Minneapolis. Holy Land is not only a good place to go to have a bite, but it is also a great place for social space.

Recently, they expanded their facility in honor of their 21st anniversary, and they really feel proud about that because they have been providing jobs and opportunities for so many years.

The CEO of Holy Land restaurant is Mr. Majdi Wadi and his brother, Wajdi Wadi; and they provide really excellent food that they prepare based on recipes that their mother gave them when she emigrated from Palestine many years ago.

For every small business person in America, including the Holy Land Bakery and Deli, happy 25 years to them. May you have another 25 years of serving your great treats and of offering a wonderful social space.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

This bipartisan legislation being debated today reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act, which has been instrumental in helping workers get the skills they need for the jobs of today.

In my visits with the Newark Workforce Investment Board and the Essex County Workforce Investment Board, it is clear that we must emphasize the improving of career pathways for our workers.

Further, when we implement jobs training, it is critical we include local input from stakeholders, like our community colleges, faith-based organizations, and labor—to truly break down barriers to employment.

I commend my colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and on the Senate HELP Committee for their continued commitment to the reauthorization of WIA. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

□ 1230

IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of immigration reform, but I also want to talk about the humanitarian disaster that continues to unfold on the Nation's southern borders.

Tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors are fleeing to America from the drug war raging in the streets of the cities and towns where they live, in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Those children fortunate enough to survive the treacherous journey to America are not illegals. They are children who need America's mercy and

our humanitarian assistance. Immediate deportation without a chance for a fair hearing on their refugee status is morally repugnant and just plain wrong.

This week, the President requested over \$3 billion to deal with this crisis that is a direct consequence of the drug war which America is waging south of the border. Congress must act. America should act as the Good Samaritan.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 660

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Clawson.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Clawson.

Ms. FOXX (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—System Alignment

CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. State workforce development boards.

Sec. 102. Unified State plan.

Sec. 103. Combined State plan.

CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 106. Workforce development areas.

Sec. 107. Local workforce development boards.

Sec. 108. Local plan.

CHAPTER 3—BOARD PROVISIONS

Sec. 111. Funding of State and local boards.

CHAPTER 4—PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 116. Performance accountability system.

Subtitle B—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

Sec. 121. Establishment of one-stop delivery systems.

Sec. 122. Identification of eligible providers of training services.

Sec. 123. Eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities.

CHAPTER 2—YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 126. General authorization.

Sec. 127. State allotments.

Sec. 128. Within State allocations.

Sec. 129. Use of funds for youth workforce investment activities.

CHAPTER 3—ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Sec. 131. General authorization.

Sec. 132. State allotments.

Sec. 133. Within State allocations.

Sec. 134. Use of funds for employment and training activities.

CHAPTER 4—GENERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROVISIONS

Sec. 136. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Job Corps

Sec. 141. Purposes.

Sec. 142. Definitions.

Sec. 143. Establishment.

Sec. 144. Individuals eligible for the Job Corps.

Sec. 145. Recruitment, screening, selection, and assignment of enrollees.

Sec. 146. Enrollment.

Sec. 147. Job Corps centers.

Sec. 148. Program activities.

Sec. 149. Counseling and job placement.

Sec. 150. Support.

Sec. 151. Operations.

Sec. 152. Standards of conduct.

Sec. 153. Community participation.

Sec. 154. Workforce councils.

Sec. 155. Advisory committees.

Sec. 156. Experimental projects and technical assistance.

Sec. 157. Application of provisions of Federal law.

Sec. 158. Special provisions.

Sec. 159. Management information.

Sec. 160. General provisions.

Sec. 161. Job Corps oversight and reporting.

Sec. 162. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle D—National Programs

Sec. 166. Native American programs.

Sec. 167. Migrant and seasonal farmworker programs.

Sec. 168. Technical assistance.

Sec. 169. Evaluations and research.

Sec. 170. National dislocated worker grants.

Sec. 171. YouthBuild program.

Sec. 172. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle E—Administration

Sec. 181. Requirements and restrictions.

Sec. 182. Prompt allocation of funds.

Sec. 183. Monitoring.

Sec. 184. Fiscal controls; sanctions.

Sec. 185. Reports; recordkeeping; investigations.

Sec. 186. Administrative adjudication.

Sec. 187. Judicial review.

Sec. 188. Nondiscrimination.

Sec. 189. Secretarial administrative authorities and responsibilities.

Sec. 190. Workforce flexibility plans.

Sec. 191. State legislative authority.

Sec. 192. Transfer of Federal equity in State employment security agency real property to the States.

Sec. 193. Continuation of State activities and policies.

Sec. 194. General program requirements.

Sec. 195. Restrictions on lobbying activities.

TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Purpose.

Sec. 203. Definitions.

Sec. 204. Home schools.

Sec. 205. Rule of construction regarding post-secondary transition and concurrent enrollment activities.

Sec. 206. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

Sec. 211. Reservation of funds; grants to eligible agencies; allotments.

Sec. 212. Performance accountability system.

Subtitle B—State Provisions

Sec. 221. State administration.

Sec. 222. State distribution of funds; matching requirement.

Sec. 223. State leadership activities.

Sec. 224. State plan.

Sec. 225. Programs for corrections education and other institutionalized individuals.

Subtitle C—Local Provisions

Sec. 231. Grants and contracts for eligible providers.

Sec. 232. Local application.

Sec. 233. Local administrative cost limits.

Subtitle D—General Provisions

Sec. 241. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 242. National leadership activities.

Sec. 243. Integrated English literacy and civics education.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT

Sec. 301. Employment service offices.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Sec. 303. Federal and State employment service offices.

Sec. 304. Allotment of sums.

Sec. 305. Use of sums.

Sec. 306. State plan.

Sec. 307. Performance measures.

Sec. 308. Workforce and labor market information system.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Subtitle A—Introductory Provisions

Sec. 401. References.

Sec. 402. Findings, purpose, policy.

Sec. 403. Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Sec. 404. Definitions.

Sec. 405. Administration of the Act.
 Sec. 406. Reports.
 Sec. 407. Evaluation and information.
 Sec. 408. Carryover.
 Sec. 409. Traditionally underserved populations.

Subtitle B—Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Sec. 411. Declaration of policy; authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 412. State plans.
 Sec. 413. Eligibility and individualized plan for employment.
 Sec. 414. Vocational rehabilitation services.
 Sec. 415. State Rehabilitation Council.
 Sec. 416. Evaluation standards and performance indicators.
 Sec. 417. Monitoring and review.
 Sec. 418. Training and services for employers.
 Sec. 419. State allotments.
 Sec. 420. Payments to States.
 Sec. 421. Client assistance program.
 Sec. 422. Pre-employment transition services.
 Sec. 423. American Indian vocational rehabilitation services.
 Sec. 424. Vocational rehabilitation services client information.

Subtitle C—Research and Training

Sec. 431. Purpose.
 Sec. 432. Authorization of appropriations.
 Sec. 433. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.
 Sec. 434. Interagency committee.
 Sec. 435. Research and other covered activities.
 Sec. 436. Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council.

Sec. 437. Definition of covered school.

Subtitle D—Professional Development and Special Projects and Demonstration

Sec. 441. Purpose; training.
 Sec. 442. Demonstration, training, and technical assistance programs.
 Sec. 443. Migrant and seasonal farmworkers; recreational programs.

Subtitle E—National Council on Disability

Sec. 451. Establishment.
 Sec. 452. Report.
 Sec. 453. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle F—Rights and Advocacy

Sec. 456. Interagency Committee, Board, and Council.
 Sec. 457. Protection and advocacy of individual rights.
 Sec. 458. Limitations on use of subminimum wage.

Subtitle G—Employment Opportunities for Individuals With Disabilities

Sec. 461. Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Subtitle H—Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living

CHAPTER 1—INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

SUBCHAPTER A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 471. Purpose.
 Sec. 472. Administration of the independent living program.
 Sec. 473. Definitions.
 Sec. 474. State plan.
 Sec. 475. Statewide Independent Living Council.
 Sec. 475A. Responsibilities of the Administrator.

SUBCHAPTER B—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES
 Sec. 476. Administration.

SUBCHAPTER C—CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Sec. 481. Program authorization.
 Sec. 482. Centers.

Sec. 483. Standards and assurances.
 Sec. 484. Authorization of appropriations.

CHAPTER 2—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

Sec. 486. Independent living services for older individuals who are blind.
 Sec. 487. Program of grants.
 Sec. 488. Independent living services for older individuals who are blind authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle I—General Provisions

Sec. 491. Transfer of functions regarding independent living to Department of Health and Human Services, and savings provisions.
 Sec. 492. Table of contents.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Workforce Investment

Sec. 501. Privacy.
 Sec. 502. Buy-American requirements.
 Sec. 503. Transition provisions.
 Sec. 504. Reduction of reporting burdens and requirements.
 Sec. 505. Report on data capability of Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements.
 Sec. 506. Effective dates.
Subtitle B—Amendments to Other Laws
 Sec. 511. Repeal of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
 Sec. 512. Conforming amendments.
 Sec. 513. References.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To increase, for individuals in the United States, particularly those individuals with barriers to employment, access to and opportunities for the employment, education, training, and support services they need to succeed in the labor market.

(2) To support the alignment of workforce investment, education, and economic development systems in support of a comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality workforce development system in the United States.

(3) To improve the quality and labor market relevance of workforce investment, education, and economic development efforts to provide America's workers with the skills and credentials necessary to secure and advance in employment with family-sustaining wages and to provide America's employers with the skilled workers the employers need to succeed in a global economy.

(4) To promote improvement in the structure of and delivery of services through the United States workforce development system to better address the employment and skill needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers.

(5) To increase the prosperity of workers and employers in the United States, the economic growth of communities, regions, and States, and the global competitiveness of the United States.

(6) For purposes of subtitle A and B of title I, to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide and local workforce development systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, increase economic self-sufficiency, meet the skill requirements of employers, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, and the core program provisions that are not in this Act, except as otherwise expressly provided:

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The term “administrative costs” means expenditures incurred by State boards and local boards, direct recipi-

ents (including State grant recipients under subtitle B of title I and recipients of awards under subtitles C and D of title I), local grant recipients, local fiscal agents or local grant subrecipients, and one-stop operators in the performance of administrative functions and in carrying out activities under title I that are not related to the direct provision of workforce investment services (including services to participants and employers). Such costs include both personnel and non-personnel costs and both direct and indirect costs.

(2) **ADULT.**—Except as otherwise specified in section 132, the term “adult” means an individual who is age 18 or older.

(3) **ADULT EDUCATION; ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The terms “adult education” and “adult education and literacy activities” have the meanings given the terms in section 203.

(4) **AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.**—The term “area career and technical education school” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(5) **BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT.**—The term “basic skills deficient” means, with respect to an individual—

(A) who is a youth, that the individual has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test; or

(B) who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.

(6) **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**—The term “career and technical education” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(7) **CAREER PATHWAY.**—The term “career pathway” means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that—

(A) aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the State or regional economy involved;

(B) prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including apprenticeships registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) (referred to individually in this Act as an “apprenticeship”, except in section 171);

(C) includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual's education and career goals;

(D) includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(E) organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;

(F) enables an individual to attain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary credential; and

(G) helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

(8) **CAREER PLANNING.**—The term “career planning” means the provision of a client-centered approach in the delivery of services, designed—

(A) to prepare and coordinate comprehensive employment plans, such as service strategies, for

participants to ensure access to necessary workforce investment activities and supportive services, using, where feasible, computer-based technologies; and

(B) to provide job, education, and career counseling, as appropriate during program participation and after job placement.

(9) **CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL.**—The term “chief elected official” means—

(A) the chief elected executive officer of a unit of general local government in a local area; and

(B) in a case in which a local area includes more than 1 unit of general local government, the individuals designated under the agreement described in section 107(c)(1)(B).

(10) **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.**—The term “community-based organization” means a private nonprofit organization (which may include a faith-based organization), that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that has demonstrated expertise and effectiveness in the field of workforce development.

(11) **COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT.**—The term “competitive integrated employment” has the meaning given the term in section 7 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 705), for individuals with disabilities.

(12) **CORE PROGRAM.**—The term “core programs” means a program authorized under a core program provision.

(13) **CORE PROGRAM PROVISION.**—The term “core program provision” means—

(A) chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B of title I (relating to youth workforce investment activities and adult and dislocated worker employment and training activities);

(B) title II (relating to adult education and literacy activities);

(C) sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) (relating to employment services); and

(D) title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) (relating to vocational rehabilitation services).

(14) **CUSTOMIZED TRAINING.**—The term “customized training” means training—

(A) that is designed to meet the specific requirements of an employer (including a group of employers);

(B) that is conducted with a commitment by the employer to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training; and

(C) for which the employer pays—

(i) a significant portion of the cost of training, as determined by the local board involved, taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the local board determines to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in training, wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), relation of the training to the competitiveness of a participant, and other employer-provided training and advancement opportunities; and

(ii) in the case of customized training (as defined in subparagraphs (A) and (B)) involving an employer located in multiple local areas in the State, a significant portion of the cost of the training, as determined by the Governor of the State, taking into account the size of the employer and such other factors as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

(15) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—The term “dislocated worker” means an individual who—

(A)(i) has been terminated or laid off, or who has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;

(ii)(I) is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; or

(II) has been employed for a duration sufficient to demonstrate, to the appropriate entity

at a one-stop center referred to in section 121(e), attachment to the workforce, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a State unemployment compensation law; and

(iii) is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation;

(B)(i) has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;

(ii) is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or

(iii) for purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training services described in section 134(c)(3), career services described in section 134(c)(2)(A)(xii), or supportive services, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close;

(C) was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters;

(D) is a displaced homemaker; or

(E)(i) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code), and who has experienced a loss of employment as a direct result of relocation to accommodate a permanent change in duty station of such member; or

(ii) is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and who meets the criteria described in paragraph (16)(B).

(16) **DISPLACED HOMEMAKER.**—The term “displaced homemaker” means an individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who—

(A)(i) has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; or

(ii) is the dependent spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code) and whose family income is significantly reduced because of a deployment (as defined in section 991(b) of title 10, United States Code, or pursuant to paragraph (4) of such section), a call or order to active duty pursuant to a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, a permanent change of station, or the service-connected (as defined in section 101(16) of title 38, United States Code) death or disability of the member; and

(B) is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.

(17) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.**—The term “economic development agency” includes a local planning or zoning commission or board, a community development agency, or another local agency or institution responsible for regulating, promoting, or assisting in local economic development.

(18) **ELIGIBLE YOUTH.**—Except as provided in subtitles C and D of title I, the term “eligible youth” means an in-school youth or out-of-school youth.

(19) **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITY.**—The term “employment and training activity” means an activity described in section 134 that is carried out for an adult or dislocated worker.

(20) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The term “English language acquisition program” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(21) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.**—The term “English language learner” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(22) **GOVERNOR.**—The term “Governor” means the chief executive of a State or an outlying area.

(23) **IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “in-demand industry sector or occupation” means—

(i) an industry sector that has a substantial current or potential impact (including through jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate, and that contributes to the growth or stability of other supporting businesses, or the growth of other industry sectors; or

(ii) an occupation that currently has or is projected to have a number of positions (including positions that lead to economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement) in an industry sector so as to have a significant impact on the State, regional, or local economy, as appropriate.

(B) **DETERMINATION.**—The determination of whether an industry sector or occupation is in-demand under this paragraph shall be made by the State board or local board, as appropriate, using State and regional business and labor market projections, including the use of labor market information.

(24) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT.**—The term “individual with a barrier to employment” means a member of 1 or more of the following populations:

(A) Displaced homemakers.

(B) Low-income individuals.

(C) Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, as such terms are defined in section 166.

(D) Individuals with disabilities, including youth who are individuals with disabilities.

(E) Older individuals.

(F) Ex-offenders.

(G) Homeless individuals (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 1403e–2(6))), or homeless children and youths (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))).

(H) Youth who are in or have aged out of the foster care system.

(I) Individuals who are English language learners, individuals who have low levels of literacy, and individuals facing substantial cultural barriers.

(J) Eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, as defined in section 167(i).

(K) Individuals within 2 years of exhausting lifetime eligibility under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(L) Single parents (including single pregnant women).

(M) Long-term unemployed individuals.

(N) Such other groups as the Governor involved determines to have barriers to employment.

(25) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “individual with a disability” means an individual with a disability as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102).

(B) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term “individuals with disabilities” means more than 1 individual with a disability.

(26) **INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “industry or sector partnership” means a workforce collaborative, convened by or acting in partnership with a State board or local board, that—

(A) organizes key stakeholders in an industry cluster into a working group that focuses on the shared goals and human resources needs of the industry cluster and that includes, at the appropriate stage of development of the partnership—

(i) representatives of multiple businesses or other employers in the industry cluster, including small and medium-sized employers when practicable;

(ii) 1 or more representatives of a recognized State labor organization or central labor council, or another labor representative, as appropriate; and

(iii) 1 or more representatives of an institution of higher education with, or another provider of, education or training programs that support the industry cluster; and

(B) may include representatives of—

(i) State or local government;

(ii) State or local economic development agencies;

(iii) State boards or local boards, as appropriate;

(iv) a State workforce agency or other entity providing employment services;

(v) other State or local agencies;

(vi) business or trade associations;

(vii) economic development organizations;

(viii) nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, or intermediaries;

(ix) philanthropic organizations;

(x) industry associations; and

(xi) other organizations, as determined to be necessary by the members comprising the industry or sector partnership.

(27) **IN-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—The term “in-school youth” means a youth described in section 129(a)(1)(C).

(28) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 102(a)(1), of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001, 1002(a)(1)).

(29) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term “integrated education and training” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(30) **LABOR MARKET AREA.**—The term “labor market area” means an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance or can readily change employment without changing their place of residence. Such an area shall be identified in accordance with criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor in defining such areas or similar criteria established by a Governor.

(31) **LITERACY.**—The term “literacy” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(32) **LOCAL AREA.**—The term “local area” means a local workforce investment area designated under section 106, subject to sections 106(c)(3)(A), 107(c)(4)(B)(i), and 189(i).

(33) **LOCAL BOARD.**—The term “local board” means a local workforce development board established under section 107, subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i).

(34) **LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.**—The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(35) **LOCAL PLAN.**—The term “local plan” means a plan submitted under section 108, subject to section 106(c)(3)(B).

(36) **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “low-income individual” means an individual who—

(i) receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received, assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families program under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), or the supplemental security income program established under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or State or local income-based public assistance;

(ii) is in a family with total family income that does not exceed the higher of—

(I) the poverty line; or

(II) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level;

(iii) is a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e–2(6))), or a homeless child or youth (as defined under section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)));

(iv) receives or is eligible to receive a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(v) is a foster child on behalf of whom State or local government payments are made; or

(vi) is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (ii), but who is a member of a family whose income does not meet this requirement.

(B) **LOWER LIVING STANDARD INCOME LEVEL.**—The term “lower living standard income level” means that income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor based on the most recent lower living family budget issued by the Secretary.

(37) **NONTRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT.**—The term “nontraditional employment” refers to occupations or fields of work, for which individuals from the gender involved comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work.

(38) **OFFENDER.**—The term “offender” means an adult or juvenile—

(A) who is or has been subject to any stage of the criminal justice process, and for whom services under this Act may be beneficial; or

(B) who requires assistance in overcoming artificial barriers to employment resulting from a record of arrest or conviction.

(39) **OLDER INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “older individual” means an individual age 55 or older.

(40) **ONE-STOP CENTER.**—The term “one-stop center” means a site described in section 121(e)(2).

(41) **ONE-STOP OPERATOR.**—The term “one-stop operator” means 1 or more entities designated or certified under section 121(d).

(42) **ONE-STOP PARTNER.**—The term “one-stop partner” means—

(A) an entity described in section 121(b)(1); and

(B) an entity described in section 121(b)(2) that is participating, with the approval of the local board and chief elected official, in the operation of a one-stop delivery system.

(43) **ONE-STOP PARTNER PROGRAM.**—The term “one-stop partner program” means a program or activities described in section 121(b) of a one-stop partner.

(44) **ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.**—The term “on-the-job training” means training by an employer that is provided to a paid participant while engaged in productive work in a job that—

(A) provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job;

(B) is made available through a program that provides reimbursement to the employer of up to 50 percent of the wage rate of the participant, except as provided in section 134(c)(3)(H), for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision related to the training; and

(C) is limited in duration as appropriate to the occupation for which the participant is being trained, taking into account the content of the training, the prior work experience of the participant, and the service strategy of the participant, as appropriate.

(45) **OUTLYING AREA.**—The term “outlying area” means—

(A) American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

(B) the Republic of Palau, except during any period for which the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education determine that a Compact of Free Association is in effect and contains provisions for training and education assistance prohibiting the assistance provided under this Act.

(46) **OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—The term “out-of-school youth” means a youth described in section 129(a)(1)(B).

(47) **PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY.**—The term “pay-for-performance contract strategy” means a procurement strategy that uses pay-for-performance contracts in the provision of training services described in section 134(c)(3) or activities described in section 129(c)(2), and includes—

(A) contracts, each of which shall specify a fixed amount that will be paid to an eligible service provider (which may include a local or national community-based organization or intermediary, community college, or other training provider, that is eligible under section 122 or 123, as appropriate) based on the achievement of specified levels of performance on the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) for target populations as identified by the local board (including individuals with barriers to employment), within a defined time-table, and which may provide for bonus payments to such service provider to expand capacity to provide effective training;

(B) a strategy for independently validating the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) a description of how the State or local area will reallocate funds not paid to a provider because the achievement of the performance described in subparagraph (A) did not occur, for further activities related to such a procurement strategy, subject to section 189(g)(4).

(48) **PLANNING REGION.**—The term “planning region” means a region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 106(a)(2), subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i).

(49) **POVERTY LINE.**—The term “poverty line” means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved.

(50) **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.**—The term “public assistance” means Federal, State, or local government cash payments for which eligibility is determined by a needs or income test.

(51) **RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITY.**—The term “rapid response activity” means an activity provided by a State, or by an entity designated by a State, with funds provided by the State under section 134(a)(1)(A), in the case of a permanent closure or mass layoff at a plant, facility, or enterprise, or a natural or other disaster, that results in mass job dislocation, in order to assist dislocated workers in obtaining reemployment as soon as possible, with services including—

(A) the establishment of onsite contact with employers and employee representatives—

(i) immediately after the State is notified of a current or projected permanent closure or mass layoff; or

(ii) in the case of a disaster, immediately after the State is made aware of mass job dislocation as a result of such disaster;

(B) the provision of information on and access to available employment and training activities;

(C) assistance in establishing a labor-management committee, voluntarily agreed to by labor and management, with the ability to devise and implement a strategy for assessing the employment and training needs of dislocated workers and obtaining services to meet such needs;

(D) the provision of emergency assistance adapted to the particular closure, layoff, or disaster; and

(E) the provision of assistance to the local community in developing a coordinated response and in obtaining access to State economic development assistance.

(52) **RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL.**—The term “recognized postsecondary credential” means a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by the State involved or Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.

(53) **REGION.**—The term “region”, used without further description, means a region identified under section 106(a), subject to section 107(c)(4)(B)(i) and except as provided in section 106(b)(1)(B)(ii).

(54) **SCHOOL DROPOUT.**—The term “school dropout” means an individual who is no longer attending any school and who has not received a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.

(55) **SECONDARY SCHOOL.**—The term “secondary school” has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(56) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(57) **STATE BOARD.**—The term “State board” means a State workforce development board established under section 101.

(58) **STATE PLAN.**—The term “State plan”, used without further description, means a unified State plan under section 102 or a combined State plan under section 103.

(59) **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**—The term “supportive services” means services such as transportation, child care, dependent care, housing, and needs-related payments, that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in activities authorized under this Act.

(60) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—The term “training services” means services described in section 134(c)(3).

(61) **UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “unemployed individual” means an individual who is without a job and who wants and is available for work. The determination of whether an individual is without a job, for purposes of this paragraph, shall be made in accordance with the criteria used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor in defining individuals as unemployed.

(62) **UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**—The term “unit of general local government” means any general purpose political subdivision of a State that has the power to levy taxes and spend funds, as well as general corporate and police powers.

(63) **VETERAN; RELATED DEFINITION.**—

(A) **VETERAN.**—The term “veteran” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) **RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERAN.**—The term “recently separated veteran” means any veteran who applies for participation under this Act within 48 months after the discharge or release from active military, naval, or air service.

(64) **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM.**—The term “vocational rehabilitation program” means a program authorized under a provision covered under paragraph (13)(D).

(65) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY.**—The term “workforce development activity” means an activity carried out through a workforce development program.

(66) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.**—The term “workforce development program” means a program made available through a workforce development system.

(67) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—The term “workforce development system” means a

system that makes available the core programs, the other one-stop partner programs, and any other programs providing employment and training services as identified by a State board or local board.

(68) **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITY.**—The term “workforce investment activity” means an employment and training activity, and a youth workforce investment activity.

(69) **WORKFORCE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workforce preparation activities” has the meaning given the term in section 203.

(70) **WORKPLACE LEARNING ADVISOR.**—The term “workplace learning advisor” means an individual employed by an organization who has the knowledge and skills necessary to advise other employees of that organization about the education, skill development, job training, career counseling services, and credentials, including services provided through the workforce development system, required to progress toward career goals of such employees in order to meet employer requirements related to job openings and career advancements that support economic self-sufficiency.

(71) **YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITY.**—The term “youth workforce investment activity” means an activity described in section 129 that is carried out for eligible youth (or as described in section 129(a)(3)(A)).

TITLE I—WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Subtitle A—System Alignment

CHAPTER 1—STATE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce development board to carry out the functions described in subsection (d).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The State board shall include—

(A) the Governor;

(B) a member of each chamber of the State legislature (to the extent consistent with State law), appointed by the appropriate presiding officers of such chamber; and

(C) members appointed by the Governor, of which—

(i) a majority shall be representatives of businesses in the State, who—

(I) are owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, and who, in addition, may be members of a local board described in section 107(b)(2)(A)(i);

(II) represent businesses (including small businesses), or organizations representing businesses described in this subclause, that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the State; and

(III) are appointed from among individuals nominated by State business organizations and business trade associations;

(ii) not less than 20 percent shall be representatives of the workforce within the State, who—

(I) shall include representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by State labor federations;

(II) shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such joint program exists in the State, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the State;

(III) may include representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of

individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

(IV) may include representatives of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth; and

(iii) the balance—

(I) shall include representatives of government, who—

(aa) shall include the lead State officials with primary responsibility for the core programs; and

(bb) shall include chief elected officials (collectively representing both cities and counties, where appropriate); and

(II) may include such other representatives and officials as the Governor may designate, such as—

(aa) the State agency officials from agencies that are one-stop partners not specified in subclause (I) (including additional one-stop partners whose programs are covered by the State plan, if any);

(bb) State agency officials responsible for economic development or juvenile justice programs in the State;

(cc) individuals who represent an Indian tribe or tribal organization, as such terms are defined in section 166(b); and

(dd) State agency officials responsible for education programs in the State, including chief executive officers of community colleges and other institutions of higher education.

(2) **DIVERSE AND DISTINCT REPRESENTATION.**—The members of the State board shall represent diverse geographic areas of the State, including urban, rural, and suburban areas.

(3) **NO REPRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.**—No person shall serve as a member for more than 1 of—

(A) the category described in paragraph (1)(C)(i); or

(B) 1 category described in a subclause of clause (ii) or (iii) of paragraph (1)(C).

(c) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Governor shall select a chairperson for the State board from among the representatives described in subsection (b)(1)(C)(i).

(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The State board shall assist the Governor in—

(1) the development, implementation, and modification of the State plan;

(2) consistent with paragraph (1), the review of statewide policies, of statewide programs, and of recommendations on actions that should be taken by the State to align workforce development programs in the State in a manner that supports a comprehensive and streamlined workforce development system in the State, including the review and provision of comments on the State plans, if any, for programs and activities of one-stop partners that are not core programs;

(3) the development and continuous improvement of the workforce development system in the State, including—

(A) the identification of barriers and means for removing barriers to better coordinate, align, and avoid duplication among the programs and activities carried out through the system;

(B) the development of strategies to support the use of career pathways for the purpose of providing individuals, including low-skilled adults, youth, and individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities), with workforce investment activities, education, and supportive services to enter or retain employment;

(C) the development of strategies for providing effective outreach to and improved access for individuals and employers who could benefit from

services provided through the workforce development system;

(D) the development and expansion of strategies for meeting the needs of employers, workers, and jobseekers, particularly through industry or sector partnerships related to in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

(E) the identification of regions, including planning regions, for the purposes of section 106(a), and the designation of local areas under section 106, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials;

(F) the development and continuous improvement of the one-stop delivery system in local areas, including providing assistance to local boards, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and providers with planning and delivering services, including training services and supportive services, to support effective delivery of services to workers, jobseekers, and employers; and

(G) the development of strategies to support staff training and awareness across programs supported under the workforce development system;

(4) the development and updating of comprehensive State performance accountability measures, including State adjusted levels of performance, to assess the effectiveness of the core programs in the State as required under section 116(b);

(5) the identification and dissemination of information on best practices, including best practices for—

(A) the effective operation of one-stop centers, relating to the use of business outreach, partnerships, and service delivery strategies, including strategies for serving individuals with barriers to employment;

(B) the development of effective local boards, which may include information on factors that contribute to enabling local boards to exceed negotiated local levels of performance, sustain fiscal integrity, and achieve other measures of effectiveness; and

(C) effective training programs that respond to real-time labor market analysis, that effectively use direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure an individual's prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, and that evaluate such skills, and competencies for adaptability, to support efficient placement into employment or career pathways;

(6) the development and review of statewide policies affecting the coordinated provision of services through the State's one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e), including the development of—

(A) objective criteria and procedures for use by local boards in assessing the effectiveness and continuous improvement of one-stop centers described in such section;

(B) guidance for the allocation of one-stop center infrastructure funds under section 121(h); and

(C) policies relating to the appropriate roles and contributions of entities carrying out one-stop partner programs within the one-stop delivery system, including approaches to facilitating equitable and efficient cost allocation in such system;

(7) the development of strategies for technological improvements to facilitate access to, and improve the quality of, services and activities provided through the one-stop delivery system, including such improvements to—

(A) enhance digital literacy skills (as defined in section 202 of the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101); referred to in this Act as "digital literacy skills");

(B) accelerate the acquisition of skills and recognized postsecondary credentials by participants;

(C) strengthen the professional development of providers and workforce professionals; and

(D) ensure such technology is accessible to individuals with disabilities and individuals residing in remote areas;

(8) the development of strategies for aligning technology and data systems across one-stop partner programs to enhance service delivery and improve efficiencies in reporting on performance accountability measures (including the design and implementation of common intake, data collection, case management information, and performance accountability measurement and reporting processes and the incorporation of local input into such design and implementation, to improve coordination of services across one-stop partner programs);

(9) the development of allocation formulas for the distribution of funds for employment and training activities for adults, and youth workforce investment activities, to local areas as permitted under sections 128(b)(3) and 133(b)(3);

(10) the preparation of the annual reports described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 116(d);

(11) the development of the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)); and

(12) the development of such other policies as may promote statewide objectives for, and enhance the performance of, the workforce development system in the State.

(e) **ALTERNATIVE ENTITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purposes of complying with subsections (a), (b), and (c), a State may use any State entity (including a State council, State workforce development board (within the meaning of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), combination of regional workforce development boards, or similar entity) that—

(A) was in existence on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998;

(B) is substantially similar to the State board described in subsections (a) through (c); and

(C) includes representatives of business in the State and representatives of labor organizations in the State.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—A reference in this Act, or a core program provision that is not in this Act, to a State board shall be considered to include such an entity.

(f) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—A member of a State board may not—

(1) vote on a matter under consideration by the State board—

(A) regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents); or

(B) that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or

(2) engage in any other activity determined by the Governor to constitute a conflict of interest as specified in the State plan.

(g) **SUNSHINE PROVISION.**—The State board shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the State board, including information regarding the State plan, or a modification to the State plan, prior to submission of the plan or modification of the plan, respectively, information regarding membership, and, on request, minutes of formal meetings of the State board.

(h) **AUTHORITY TO HIRE STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The State board may hire a director and other staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d) using funds available as described in section 129(b)(3) or 134(a)(3)(B)(i).

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The State board shall establish and apply a set of objective qualifica-

tions for the position of director, that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities, to meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the State board.

(3) **LIMITATION ON RATE.**—The director and staff described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the limitations on the payment of salary and bonuses described in section 194(15).

SEC. 102. UNIFIED STATE PLAN.

(a) **PLAN.**—For a State to be eligible to receive allotments for the core programs, the Governor shall submit to the Secretary of Labor for the approval process described under subsection (c)(2), a unified State plan. The unified State plan shall outline a 4-year strategy for the core programs of the State and meet the requirements of this section.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—

(1) **STRATEGIC PLANNING ELEMENTS.**—The unified State plan shall include strategic planning elements consisting of a strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce, that include—

(A) an analysis of the economic conditions in the State, including—

(i) existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(ii) the employment needs of employers, including a description of the knowledge, skills, and abilities, needed in those industries and occupations;

(B) an analysis of the current workforce, employment and unemployment data, labor market trends, and the educational and skill levels of the workforce, including individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities), in the State;

(C) an analysis of the workforce development activities (including education and training) in the State, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of such activities, and the capacity of State entities to provide such activities, in order to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in the State;

(D) a description of the State's strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including preparing youth and individuals with barriers to employment) and for meeting the skilled workforce needs of employers, including goals relating to performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), in order to support economic growth and economic self-sufficiency, and of how the State will assess the overall effectiveness of the workforce investment system in the State; and

(E) taking into account analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (C), a strategy for aligning the core programs, as well as other resources available to the State, to achieve the strategic vision and goals described in subparagraph (D).

(2) **OPERATIONAL PLANNING ELEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The unified State plan shall include the operational planning elements contained in this paragraph, which shall support the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of how the State board will implement the functions under section 101(d).

(B) **IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE STRATEGY.**—The unified State plan shall describe how the lead State agency with responsibility for the administration of a core program will implement the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of—

(i) the activities that will be funded by the entities carrying out the respective core programs to implement the strategy and how such activities will be aligned across the programs and among the entities administering the programs,

including using co-enrollment and other strategies;

(ii) how the activities described in clause (i) will be aligned with activities provided under employment, training, education, including career and technical education, and human services programs not covered by the plan, as appropriate, assuring coordination of, and avoiding duplication among, the activities referred to in this clause;

(iii) how the entities carrying out the respective core programs will coordinate activities and provide comprehensive, high-quality services including supportive services, to individuals;

(iv) how the State's strategy will engage the State's community colleges and area career and technical education schools as partners in the workforce development system and enable the State to leverage other Federal, State, and local investments that have enhanced access to workforce development programs at those institutions;

(v) how the activities described in clause (i) will be coordinated with economic development strategies and activities in the State; and

(vi) how the State's strategy will improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable).

(C) **STATE OPERATING SYSTEMS AND POLICIES.**—The unified State plan shall describe the State operating systems and policies that will support the implementation of the strategy described in paragraph (1)(E), including a description of—

(i) the State board, including the activities to assist members of the State board and the staff of such board in carrying out the functions of the State board effectively (but funds for such activities may not be used for long-distance travel expenses for training or development activities available locally or regionally);

(ii)(I) how the respective core programs will be assessed each year, including an assessment of the quality, effectiveness, and improvement of programs (analyzed by local area, or by provider), based on State performance accountability measures described in section 116(b); and

(II) how other one-stop partner programs will be assessed each year;

(iii) the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the core programs and other one-stop partner programs during the preceding 2-year period;

(iv) the methods and factors the State will use in distributing funds under the core programs, in accordance with the provisions authorizing such distributions;

(v)(I) how the lead State agencies with responsibility for the administration of the core programs will align and integrate available workforce and education data on core programs, unemployment insurance programs, and education through postsecondary education;

(II) how such agencies will use the workforce development system to assess the progress of participants that are exiting from core programs in entering, persisting in, and completing postsecondary education, or entering or remaining in employment; and

(III) the privacy safeguards incorporated in such system, including safeguards required by section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) and other applicable Federal laws;

(vi) how the State will implement the priority of service provisions for veterans in accordance with the requirements of section 4215 of title 38, United States Code;

(vii) how the one-stop delivery system, including one-stop operators and the one-stop partners, will comply with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.),

regarding the physical and programmatic accessibility of facilities, programs, services, technology, and materials, for individuals with disabilities, including complying through providing staff training and support for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(viii) such other operational planning elements as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines to be necessary for effective State operating systems and policies.

(D) **PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.**—The unified State plan shall include—

(i) with respect to activities carried out under subtitle B, a description of—

(I) State policies or guidance, for the statewide workforce development system and for use of State funds for workforce investment activities;

(II) the local areas designated in the State, including the process used for designating local areas, and the process used for identifying any planning regions under section 106(a), including a description of how the State consulted with the local boards and chief elected officials in determining the planning regions;

(III) the appeals process referred to in section 106(b)(5), relating to designation of local areas;

(IV) the appeals process referred to in section 121(h)(2)(E), relating to determinations for infrastructure funding; and

(V) with respect to youth workforce investment activities authorized in section 129, information identifying the criteria to be used by local boards in awarding grants for youth workforce investment activities and describing how the local boards will take into consideration the ability of the providers to meet performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance for the youth program as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii) in awarding such grants;

(ii) with respect to activities carried out under title II, a description of—

(I) how the eligible agency will, if applicable, align content standards for adult education with State-adopted challenging academic content standards, as adopted under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1));

(II) how the State will fund local activities using considerations specified in section 231(e) for—

(aa) activities under section 231(b);

(bb) programs for corrections education under section 225;

(cc) programs for integrated English literacy and civics education under section 243; and

(dd) integrated education and training;

(III) how the State will use the funds to carry out activities under section 223;

(IV) how the State will use the funds to carry out activities under section 243;

(V) how the eligible agency will assess the quality of providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II and take actions to improve such quality, including providing the activities described in section 223(a)(1)(B);

(iii) with respect to programs carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), the information described in section 101(a) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 721(a)); and

(iv) information on such additional specific requirements for a program referenced in any of clauses (i) through (iii) or the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) as the Secretary of Labor determines to be necessary to administer that program but cannot reasonably be applied across all such programs.

(E) **ASSURANCES.**—The unified State plan shall include assurances—

(i) that the State has established a policy identifying circumstances that may present a

conflict of interest for a State board or local board member, or the entity or class of officials that the member represents, and procedures to resolve such conflicts;

(ii) that the State has established a policy to provide to the public (including individuals with disabilities) access to meetings of State boards and local boards, and information regarding activities of State boards and local boards, such as data on board membership and minutes;

(iii)(I) that the lead State agencies with responsibility for the administration of core programs reviewed and commented on the appropriate operational planning elements of the unified State plan, and approved the elements as serving the needs of the populations served by such programs; and

(II) that the State obtained input into the development of the unified State plan and provided an opportunity for comment on the plan by representatives of local boards and chief elected officials, businesses, labor organizations, institutions of higher education, other primary stakeholders, and the general public and that the unified State plan is available and accessible to the general public;

(iv) that the State has established, in accordance with section 116(i), fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for, funds paid to the State through allotments made for adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs to carry out workforce investment activities under chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B;

(v) that the State has taken appropriate action to secure compliance with uniform administrative requirements in this Act, including that the State will annually monitor local areas to ensure compliance and otherwise take appropriate action to secure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements under section 184(a)(3);

(vi) that the State has taken the appropriate action to be in compliance with section 188, if applicable;

(vii) that the Federal funds received to carry out a core program will not be expended for any purpose other than for activities authorized with respect to such funds under that core program;

(viii) that the eligible agency under title II will—

(I) expend the funds appropriated to carry out that title only in a manner consistent with fiscal requirements under section 241(a) (regarding supplement and not supplant provisions); and

(II) ensure that there is at least 1 eligible provider serving each local area;

(ix) that the State will pay an appropriate share (as defined by the State board) of the costs of carrying out section 116, from funds made available through each of the core programs; and

(x) regarding such other matters as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines to be necessary for the administration of the core programs.

(3) **EXISTING ANALYSIS.**—As appropriate, a State may use an existing analysis in order to carry out the requirements of paragraph (1) concerning an analysis.

(c) **PLAN SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.**—

(I) **SUBMISSION.**—

(A) **INITIAL PLAN.**—The initial unified State plan under this section (after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) shall be submitted to the Secretary of Labor not later than 120 days prior to the commencement of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) **SUBSEQUENT PLANS.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (A), a unified State plan shall be submitted to the Secretary of Labor not later

than 120 days prior to the end of the 4-year period covered by the preceding unified State plan.

(2) **SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.**—

(A) **SUBMISSION.**—In approving a unified State plan under this section, the Secretary shall submit the portion of the unified State plan covering a program or activity to the head of the Federal agency that administers the program or activity for the approval of such portion by such head.

(B) **APPROVAL.**—A unified State plan shall be subject to the approval of both the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after approval of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration for the portion of the plan described in subsection (b)(2)(D)(iii). The plan shall be considered to be approved at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted, unless the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education makes a written determination, during the 90-day period, that the plan is inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the provisions authorizing the core programs, as appropriate.

(3) **MODIFICATIONS.**—

(A) **MODIFICATIONS.**—At the end of the first 2-year period of any 4-year unified State plan, the State board shall review the unified State plan, and the Governor shall submit modifications to the plan to reflect changes in labor market and economic conditions or in other factors affecting the implementation of the unified State plan.

(B) **APPROVAL.**—A modified unified State plan submitted for the review required under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the approval requirements described in paragraph (2). A Governor may submit a modified unified State plan at such other times as the Governor determines to be appropriate, and such modified unified State plan shall also be subject to the approval requirements described in paragraph (2).

(4) **EARLY IMPLEMENTERS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall establish a process for approving and may approve unified State plans that meet the requirements of this section and are submitted to cover periods commencing prior to the second full program year described in paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 103. COMBINED STATE PLAN.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT PLAN.**—A State may develop and submit to the appropriate Secretaries a combined State plan for the core programs and 1 or more of the programs and activities described in paragraph (2) in lieu of submitting 2 or more plans, for the programs and activities and the core programs.

(2) **PROGRAMS.**—The programs and activities referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) Career and technical education programs authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

(B) Programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

(C) Programs authorized under section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4)).

(D) Work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)).

(E) Activities authorized under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.).

(F) Activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

(G) Programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law).

(H) Programs authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(I) Employment and training activities carried out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(J) Employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.).

(K) Programs authorized under section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The portion of a combined plan covering the core programs shall be subject to the requirements of section 102 (including section 102(c)(3)). The portion of such plan covering a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) shall be subject to the requirements, if any, applicable to a plan or application for assistance for that program or activity, under the Federal law authorizing the program or activity. At the election of the State, section 102(c)(3) may apply to that portion.

(2) **ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION NOT REQUIRED.**—A State that submits a combined plan that is approved under subsection (c) shall not be required to submit any other plan or application in order to receive Federal funds to carry out the core programs or the program or activities described in subsection (a)(2) that are covered by the combined plan.

(3) **COORDINATION.**—A combined plan shall include—

(A) a description of the methods used for joint planning and coordination of the core programs and the other programs and activities covered by the combined plan; and

(B) an assurance that the methods included an opportunity for the entities responsible for planning or administering the core programs and the other programs and activities to review and comment on all portions of the combined plan.

(c) **APPROVAL BY THE APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.**—

(1) **JURISDICTION.**—The appropriate Secretary shall have the authority to approve the corresponding portion of a combined plan as described in subsection (d). On the approval of the appropriate Secretary, that portion of the combined plan, covering a program or activity, shall be implemented by the State pursuant to that portion of the combined plan, and the Federal law authorizing the program or activity.

(2) **APPROVAL OF CORE PROGRAMS.**—No portion of the plan relating to a core program shall be implemented until the appropriate Secretary approves the corresponding portions of the plan for all core programs.

(3) **TIMING OF APPROVAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), a portion of the combined State plan covering the core programs or a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) shall be considered to be approved by the appropriate Secretary at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted.

(B) **PLAN APPROVED BY 3 OR MORE APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.**—If an appropriate Secretary other than the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education has authority to approve a portion of a combined plan, that portion of the combined plan shall be considered to be approved by the appropriate Secretary at the end of the 120-day period beginning on the day the plan is submitted.

(C) **DISAPPROVAL.**—The portion shall not be considered to be approved if the appropriate Secretary makes a written determination, during the 90-day period (or the 120-day period, for an appropriate Secretary covered by subparagraph (B)), that the portion is not consistent with the requirements of the Federal law authorizing or applicable to the program or activity involved, including the criteria for approval of a plan or application, if any, under such law, or the plan

is not consistent with the requirements of this section.

(4) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In paragraph (3), the term “criteria for approval of a plan or application”, with respect to a State and a core program or a program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), includes a requirement for agreement between the State and the appropriate Secretaries regarding State performance measures or State performance accountability measures, as the case may be, including levels of performance.

(d) **APPROPRIATE SECRETARY.**—In this section, the term “appropriate Secretary” means—

(1) with respect to the portion of a combined plan relating to any of the core programs (including a description, and an assurance concerning that program, specified in subsection (b)(3)), the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education; and

(2) with respect to the portion of a combined plan relating to a program or activity described in subsection (a)(2) (including a description, and an assurance concerning that program or activity, specified in subsection (b)(3)), the head of the Federal agency who exercises plan or application approval authority for the program or activity under the Federal law authorizing the program or activity, or, if there are no planning or application requirements for such program or activity, exercises administrative authority over the program or activity under that Federal law.

CHAPTER 2—LOCAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 106. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS.

(a) **REGIONS.**—

(1) **IDENTIFICATION.**—Before the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act, in order for a State to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b) and as part of the process for developing the State plan, a State shall identify regions in the State after consultation with the local boards and chief elected officials in the local areas and consistent with the considerations described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

(2) **TYPES OF REGIONS.**—For purposes of this Act, the State shall identify—

(A) which regions are comprised of 1 local area that is aligned with the region;

(B) which regions are comprised of 2 or more local areas that are (collectively) aligned with the region (referred to as planning regions, consistent with section 3); and

(C) which, of the regions described in subparagraph (B), are interstate areas contained within 2 or more States, and consist of labor market areas, economic development areas, or other appropriate contiguous subareas of those States.

(b) **LOCAL AREAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **PROCESS.**—Except as provided in subsection (d), and consistent with paragraphs (2) and (3), in order for a State to receive an allotment under section 127(b) or 132(b), the Governor of the State shall designate local workforce development areas within the State—

(i) through consultation with the State board; and

(ii) after consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, and after consideration of comments received through the public comment process as described in section 102(b)(2)(E)(iii)(II).

(B) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Governor shall designate local areas (except for those local areas described in paragraphs (2) and (3)) based on considerations consisting of the extent to which the areas—

(i) are consistent with labor market areas in the State;

(ii) are consistent with regional economic development areas in the State; and

(iii) have available the Federal and non-Federal resources necessary to effectively administer activities under subtitle B and other applicable provisions of this Act, including whether the areas have the appropriate education and training providers, such as institutions of higher education and area career and technical education schools.

(2) **INITIAL DESIGNATION.**—During the first 2 full program years following the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor shall approve a request for initial designation as a local area from any area that was designated as a local area for purposes of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for the 2-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act, performed successfully, and sustained fiscal integrity.

(3) **SUBSEQUENT DESIGNATION.**—After the period for which a local area is initially designated under paragraph (2), the Governor shall approve a request for subsequent designation as a local area from such local area, if such area—

(A) performed successfully;

(B) sustained fiscal integrity; and

(C) in the case of a local area in a planning region, met the requirements described in subsection (c)(1).

(4) **DESIGNATION ON RECOMMENDATION OF STATE BOARD.**—The Governor may approve a request from any unit of general local government (including a combination of such units) for designation of an area as a local area if the State board determines, based on the considerations described in paragraph (1)(B), and recommends to the Governor, that such area should be so designated.

(5) **APPEALS.**—A unit of general local government (including a combination of such units) or grant recipient that requests but is not granted designation of an area as a local area under paragraph (2) or (3) may submit an appeal to the State board under an appeal process established in the State plan. If the appeal does not result in such a designation, the Secretary of Labor, after receiving a request for review from the unit or grant recipient and on determining that the unit or grant recipient was not accorded procedural rights under the appeals process described in the State plan, as specified in section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(III), or that the area meets the requirements of paragraph (2) or (3), may require that the area be designated as a local area under such paragraph.

(6) **REDESIGNATION ASSISTANCE.**—On the request of all of the local areas in a planning region, the State shall provide funding from funds made available under sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) to assist the local areas in carrying out activities to facilitate the redesignation of the local areas to a single local area.

(c) **REGIONAL COORDINATION.**—

(1) **REGIONAL PLANNING.**—The local boards and chief elected officials in each planning region described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (a)(2) shall engage in a regional planning process that results in—

(A) the preparation of a regional plan, as described in paragraph (2);

(B) the establishment of regional service strategies, including use of cooperative service delivery agreements;

(C) the development and implementation of sector initiatives for in-demand industry sectors or occupations for the region;

(D) the collection and analysis of regional labor market data (in conjunction with the State);

(E) the establishment of administrative cost arrangements, including the pooling of funds for administrative costs, as appropriate, for the region;

(F) the coordination of transportation and other supportive services, as appropriate, for the region;

(G) the coordination of services with regional economic development services and providers; and

(H) the establishment of an agreement concerning how the planning region will collectively negotiate and reach agreement with Governor on local levels of performance for, and report on, the performance accountability measures described in section 116(c), for local areas or the planning region.

(2) **REGIONAL PLANS.**—The State, after consultation with local boards and chief elected officials for the planning regions, shall require the local boards and chief elected officials within a planning region to prepare, submit, and obtain approval of a single regional plan that includes a description of the activities described in paragraph (1) and that incorporates local plans for each of the local areas in the planning region. The State shall provide technical assistance and labor market data, as requested by local areas, to assist with such regional planning and subsequent service delivery efforts.

(3) **REFERENCES.**—In this Act, and the core program provisions that are not in this Act:

(A) **LOCAL AREA.**—Except as provided in section 101(d)(9), this section, paragraph (1)(B) or (4) of section 107(c), or section 107(d)(12)(B), or in any text that provides an accompanying provision specifically for a planning region, the term “local area” in a provision includes a reference to a planning region for purposes of implementation of that provision by the corresponding local areas in the region.

(B) **LOCAL PLAN.**—Except as provided in this subsection, the term “local plan” includes a reference to the portion of a regional plan developed with respect to the corresponding local area within the region, and any regionwide provision of that plan that impacts or relates to the local area.

(d) **SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREAS.**—

(1) **CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS DESIGNATION.**—The Governor of any State that was a single State local area for purposes of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on July 1, 2013, may designate the State as a single State local area for purposes of this title. In the case of such designation, the Governor shall identify the State as a local area in the State plan.

(2) **EFFECT ON LOCAL PLAN AND LOCAL FUNCTIONS.**—In any case in which a State is designated as a local area pursuant to this subsection, the local plan prepared under section 108 for the area shall be submitted for approval as part of the State plan. In such a State, the State board shall carry out the functions of a local board, as specified in this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, but the State shall not be required to meet and report on a set of local performance accountability measures.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section:

(1) **PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY.**—The term “performed successfully”, used with respect to a local area, means the local area met or exceeded the adjusted levels of performance for primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) (or, if applicable, core indicators of performance described in section 136(b)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for each of the last 2 consecutive years for which data are available preceding the determination of performance under this paragraph.

(2) **SUSTAINED FISCAL INTEGRITY.**—The term “sustained fiscal integrity”, used with respect to a local area, means that the Secretary has not made a formal determination, during either of the last 2 consecutive years preceding the determination regarding such integrity, that either the grant recipient or the administrative entity of the area misexpended funds provided under subtitle B (or, if applicable, title I of the Work-

force Investment Act of 1998 as in effect prior to the effective date of such subtitle B) due to willful disregard of the requirements of the provision involved, gross negligence, or failure to comply with accepted standards of administration.

SEC. 107. LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Except as provided in subsection (c)(2)(A), there shall be established, and certified by the Governor of the State, a local workforce development board in each local area of a State to carry out the functions described in subsection (d) (and any functions specified for the local board under this Act or the provisions establishing a core program) for such area.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **STATE CRITERIA.**—The Governor, in partnership with the State board, shall establish criteria for use by chief elected officials in the local areas for appointment of members of the local boards in such local areas in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) **COMPOSITION.**—Such criteria shall require that, at a minimum—

(A) a majority of the members of each local board shall be representatives of business in the local area, who—

(i) are owners of businesses, chief executives or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority;

(ii) represent businesses, including small businesses, or organizations representing businesses described in this clause, that provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include high-quality, work-relevant training and development in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area; and

(iii) are appointed from among individuals nominated by local business organizations and business trade associations;

(B) not less than 20 percent of the members of each local board shall be representatives of the workforce within the local area, who—

(i) shall include representatives of labor organizations (for a local area in which employees are represented by labor organizations), who have been nominated by local labor federations, or (for a local area in which no employees are represented by such organizations) other representatives of employees;

(ii) shall include a representative, who shall be a member of a labor organization or a training director, from a joint labor-management apprenticeship program, or if no such joint program exists in the area, such a representative of an apprenticeship program in the area, if such a program exists;

(iii) may include representatives of community-based organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including organizations that serve veterans or that provide or support competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities; and

(iv) may include representatives of organizations that have demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the employment, training, or education needs of eligible youth, including representatives of organizations that serve out-of-school youth;

(C) each local board shall include representatives of entities administering education and training activities in the local area, who—

(i) shall include a representative of eligible providers administering adult education and literacy activities under title II;

(ii) shall include a representative of institutions of higher education providing workforce investment activities (including community colleges);

(iii) may include representatives of local educational agencies, and of community-based organizations with demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing the education or training needs of individuals with barriers to employment;

(D) each local board shall include representatives of governmental and economic and community development entities serving the local area, who—

(i) shall include a representative of economic and community development entities;

(ii) shall include an appropriate representative from the State employment service office under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) serving the local area;

(iii) shall include an appropriate representative of the programs carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), serving the local area;

(iv) may include representatives of agencies or entities administering programs serving the local area relating to transportation, housing, and public assistance; and

(v) may include representatives of philanthropic organizations serving the local area; and

(E) each local board may include such other individuals or representatives of entities as the chief elected official in the local area may determine to be appropriate.

(3) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The members of the local board shall elect a chairperson for the local board from among the representatives described in paragraph (2)(A).

(4) **STANDING COMMITTEES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board may designate and direct the activities of standing committees to provide information and to assist the local board in carrying out activities under this section. Such standing committees shall be chaired by a member of the local board, may include other members of the local board, and shall include other individuals appointed by the local board who are not members of the local board and who the local board determines have appropriate experience and expertise. At a minimum, the local board may designate each of the following:

(i) A standing committee to provide information and assist with operational and other issues relating to the one-stop delivery system, which may include as members representatives of the one-stop partners.

(ii) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with planning, operational, and other issues relating to the provision of services to youth, which shall include community-based organizations with a demonstrated record of success in serving eligible youth.

(iii) A standing committee to provide information and to assist with operational and other issues relating to the provision of services to individuals with disabilities, including issues relating to compliance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding providing programmatic and physical access to the services, programs, and activities of the one-stop delivery system, as well as appropriate training for staff on providing supports for or accommodations to, and finding employment opportunities for, individuals with disabilities.

(B) **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The local board may designate standing committees in addition to the standing committees specified in subparagraph (A).

(C) **DESIGNATION OF ENTITY.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the designation of an existing (as of the date of enactment of this Act) entity, such as an effective youth council, to fulfill the requirements of this

paragraph as long as the entity meets the requirements of this paragraph.

(5) **AUTHORITY OF BOARD MEMBERS.**—Members of the board that represent organizations, agencies, or other entities shall be individuals with optimum policymaking authority within the organizations, agencies, or entities. The members of the board shall represent diverse geographic areas within the local area.

(6) **SPECIAL RULE.**—If there are multiple eligible providers serving the local area by administering adult education and literacy activities under title II, or multiple institutions of higher education serving the local area by providing workforce investment activities, each representative on the local board described in clause (i) or (ii) of paragraph (2)(C), respectively, shall be appointed from among individuals nominated by local providers representing such providers or institutions, respectively.

(c) **APPOINTMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF BOARD.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The chief elected official in a local area is authorized to appoint the members of the local board for such area, in accordance with the State criteria established under subsection (b).

(B) **MULTIPLE UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AREA.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In a case in which a local area includes more than 1 unit of general local government, the chief elected officials of such units may execute an agreement that specifies the respective roles of the individual chief elected officials—

(I) in the appointment of the members of the local board from the individuals nominated or recommended to be such members in accordance with the criteria established under subsection (b); and

(II) in carrying out any other responsibilities assigned to such officials under this title.

(ii) **LACK OF AGREEMENT.**—If, after a reasonable effort, the chief elected officials are unable to reach agreement as provided under clause (i), the Governor may appoint the members of the local board from individuals so nominated or recommended.

(C) **CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.**—In the case of an area that was designated as a local area in accordance with section 116(a)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), and that remains a local area on that date, the governing body of the concentrated employment program involved shall act in consultation with the chief elected official in the local area to appoint members of the local board, in accordance with the State criteria established under subsection (b), and to carry out any other responsibility relating to workforce investment activities assigned to such official under this Act.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor shall, once every 2 years, certify 1 local board for each local area in the State.

(B) **CRITERIA.**—Such certification shall be based on criteria established under subsection (b), and for a second or subsequent certification, the extent to which the local board has ensured that workforce investment activities carried out in the local area have enabled the local area to meet the corresponding performance accountability measures and achieve sustained fiscal integrity, as defined in section 106(e)(2).

(C) **FAILURE TO ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION.**—Failure of a local board to achieve certification shall result in appointment and certification of a new local board for the local area pursuant to the process described in paragraph (1) and this paragraph.

(3) **DECERTIFICATION.**—

(A) **FRAUD, ABUSE, FAILURE TO CARRY OUT FUNCTIONS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Governor shall have the authority to decertify a local board at any time after providing notice and an opportunity for comment, for—

(i) fraud or abuse; or

(ii) failure to carry out the functions specified for the local board in subsection (d).

(B) **NONPERFORMANCE.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Governor may decertify a local board if a local area fails to meet the local performance accountability measures for such local area in accordance with section 116(c) for 2 consecutive program years.

(C) **REORGANIZATION PLAN.**—If the Governor decertifies a local board for a local area under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Governor may require that a new local board be appointed and certified for the local area pursuant to a reorganization plan developed by the Governor, in consultation with the chief elected official in the local area and in accordance with the criteria established under subsection (b).

(4) **SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREA.**—

(A) **STATE BOARD.**—Notwithstanding subsection (b) and paragraphs (1) and (2), if a State described in section 106(d) indicates in the State plan that the State will be treated as a single State local area, for purposes of the application of this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, the State board shall carry out any of the functions of a local board under this Act or the provisions authorizing a core program, including the functions described in subsection (d).

(B) **REFERENCES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), with respect to such a State, a reference in this Act or a core program provision to a local board shall be considered to be a reference to the State board, and a reference in the Act or provision to a local area or region shall be considered to be a reference to the State.

(ii) **PLANS.**—The State board shall prepare a local plan under section 108 for the State, and submit the plan for approval as part of the State plan.

(iii) **PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—The State shall not be required to meet and report on a set of local performance accountability measures.

(d) **FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL BOARD.**—Consistent with section 108, the functions of the local board shall include the following:

(1) **LOCAL PLAN.**—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area involved, shall develop and submit a local plan to the Governor that meets the requirements in section 108. If the local area is part of a planning region that includes other local areas, the local board shall collaborate with the other local boards and chief elected officials from such other local areas in the preparation and submission of a regional plan as described in section 106(c)(2).

(2) **WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS.**—In order to assist in the development and implementation of the local plan, the local board shall—

(A) carry out analyses of the economic conditions in the region, the needed knowledge and skills for the region, the workforce in the region, and workforce development activities (including education and training) in the region described in section 108(b)(1)(D), and regularly update such information;

(B) assist the Governor in developing the statewide workforce and labor market information system described in section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-2(e)), specifically in the collection, analysis, and utilization of workforce and labor market information for the region; and

(C) conduct such other research, data collection, and analysis related to the workforce needs of the regional economy as the board, after receiving input from a wide array of stakeholders, determines to be necessary to carry out its functions.

(3) **CONVENING, BROKERING, LEVERAGING.**—The local board shall convene local workforce development system stakeholders to assist in the development of the local plan under section 108 and in identifying non-Federal expertise and resources to leverage support for workforce development activities. The local board, including standing committees, may engage such stakeholders in carrying out the functions described in this subsection.

(4) **EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT.**—The local board shall lead efforts to engage with a diverse range of employers and with entities in the region involved—

(A) to promote business representation (particularly representatives with optimal policymaking or hiring authority from employers whose employment opportunities reflect existing and emerging employment opportunities in the region) on the local board;

(B) to develop effective linkages (including the use of intermediaries) with employers in the region to support employer utilization of the local workforce development system and to support local workforce investment activities;

(C) to ensure that workforce investment activities meet the needs of employers and support economic growth in the region, by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration among employers, economic development entities, and service providers; and

(D) to develop and implement proven or promising strategies for meeting the employment and skill needs of workers and employers (such as the establishment of industry and sector partnerships), that provide the skilled workforce needed by employers in the region, and that expand employment and career advancement opportunities for workforce development system participants in in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(5) **CAREER PATHWAYS DEVELOPMENT.**—The local board, with representatives of secondary and postsecondary education programs, shall lead efforts in the local area to develop and implement career pathways within the local area by aligning the employment, training, education, and supportive services that are needed by adults and youth, particularly individuals with barriers to employment.

(6) **PROVEN AND PROMISING PRACTICES.**—The local board shall lead efforts in the local area to—

(A) identify and promote proven and promising strategies and initiatives for meeting the needs of employers, and workers and jobseekers (including individuals with barriers to employment) in the local workforce development system, including providing physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), to the one-stop delivery system; and

(B) identify and disseminate information on proven and promising practices carried out in other local areas for meeting such needs.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY.**—The local board shall develop strategies for using technology to maximize the accessibility and effectiveness of the local workforce development system for employers, and workers and jobseekers, by—

(A) facilitating connections among the intake and case management information systems of the one-stop partner programs to support a comprehensive workforce development system in the local area;

(B) facilitating access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system involved, including facilitating the access in remote areas;

(C) identifying strategies for better meeting the needs of individuals with barriers to employment, including strategies that augment traditional service delivery, and increase access to services and programs of the one-stop delivery system, such as improving digital literacy skills; and

(D) leveraging resources and capacity within the local workforce development system, including resources and capacity for services for individuals with barriers to employment.

(8) **PROGRAM OVERSIGHT.**—The local board, in partnership with the chief elected official for the local area, shall—

(A)(i) conduct oversight for local youth workforce investment activities authorized under section 129(c), local employment and training activities authorized under subsections (c) and (d) of section 134, and the one-stop delivery system in the local area; and

(ii) ensure the appropriate use and management of the funds provided under subtitle B for the activities and system described in clause (i); and

(B) for workforce development activities, ensure the appropriate use, management, and investment of funds to maximize performance outcomes under section 116.

(9) **NEGOTIATION OF LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local performance accountability measures as described in section 116(c).

(10) **SELECTION OF OPERATORS AND PROVIDERS.**—

(A) **SELECTION OF ONE-STOP OPERATORS.**—Consistent with section 121(d), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official for the local area—

(i) shall designate or certify one-stop operators as described in section 121(d)(2)(A); and

(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

(B) **SELECTION OF YOUTH PROVIDERS.**—Consistent with section 123, the local board—

(i) shall identify eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities in the local area by awarding grants or contracts on a competitive basis (except as provided in section 123(b)), based on the recommendations of the youth standing committee, if such a committee is established for the local area under subsection (b)(4); and

(ii) may terminate for cause the eligibility of such providers.

(C) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.**—Consistent with section 122, the local board shall identify eligible providers of training services in the local area.

(D) **IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF CAREER SERVICES.**—If the one-stop operator does not provide career services described in section 134(c)(2) in a local area, the local board shall identify eligible providers of those career services in the local area by awarding contracts.

(E) **CONSUMER CHOICE REQUIREMENTS.**—Consistent with section 122 and paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 134(c), the local board shall work with the State to ensure there are sufficient numbers and types of providers of career services and training services (including eligible providers with expertise in assisting individuals with disabilities and eligible providers with expertise in assisting adults in need of adult education and literacy activities) serving the local area and providing the services involved in a manner that maximizes consumer choice, as well as providing opportunities that lead to competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

(11) **COORDINATION WITH EDUCATION PROVIDERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board shall coordinate activities with education and training

providers in the local area, including providers of workforce investment activities, providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II, providers of career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) and local agencies administering plans under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741).

(B) **APPLICATIONS AND AGREEMENTS.**—The coordination described in subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) consistent with section 232—

(I) reviewing the applications to provide adult education and literacy activities under title II for the local area, submitted under such section to the eligible agency by eligible providers, to determine whether such applications are consistent with the local plan; and

(II) making recommendations to the eligible agency to promote alignment with such plan; and

(ii) replicating cooperative agreements in accordance with subparagraph (B) of section 101(a)(11) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)), and implementing cooperative agreements in accordance with that section with the local agencies administering plans under title I of that Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) and subject to section 121(f)), with respect to efforts that will enhance the provision of services to individuals with disabilities and other individuals, such as cross training of staff, technical assistance, use and sharing of information, cooperative efforts with employers, and other efforts at cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

(C) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—In this paragraph, the term “cooperative agreement” means an agreement entered into by a State designated agency or State designated unit under subparagraph (A) of section 101(a)(11) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

(12) **BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **BUDGET.**—The local board shall develop a budget for the activities of the local board in the local area, consistent with the local plan and the duties of the local board under this section, subject to the approval of the chief elected official.

(B) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(i) **GRANT RECIPIENT.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The chief elected official in a local area shall serve as the local grant recipient for, and shall be liable for any misuse of, the grant funds allocated to the local area under sections 128 and 133, unless the chief elected official reaches an agreement with the Governor for the Governor to act as the local grant recipient and bear such liability.

(II) **DESIGNATION.**—In order to assist in administration of the grant funds, the chief elected official or the Governor, where the Governor serves as the local grant recipient for a local area, may designate an entity to serve as a local grant subrecipient for such funds or as a local fiscal agent. Such designation shall not relieve the chief elected official or the Governor of the liability for any misuse of grant funds as described in subclause (I).

(III) **DISBURSAL.**—The local grant recipient or an entity designated under subclause (II) shall disburse the grant funds for workforce investment activities at the direction of the local board, pursuant to the requirements of this title. The local grant recipient or entity designated under subclause (II) shall disburse the funds immediately on receiving such direction from the local board.

(ii) **GRANTS AND DONATIONS.**—The local board may solicit and accept grants and donations

from sources other than Federal funds made available under this Act.

(iii) **TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.**—For purposes of carrying out duties under this Act, local boards may incorporate, and may operate as entities described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that are exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(13) **ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The local board shall annually assess the physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), of all one-stop centers in the local area.

(e) **SUNSHINE PROVISION.**—The local board shall make available to the public, on a regular basis through electronic means and open meetings, information regarding the activities of the local board, including information regarding the local plan prior to submission of the plan, and regarding membership, the designation and certification of one-stop operators, and the award of grants or contracts to eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities, and on request, minutes of formal meetings of the local board.

(f) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The local board may hire a director and other staff to assist in carrying out the functions described in subsection (d) using funds available under sections 128(b) and 133(b) as described in section 128(b)(4).

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The local board shall establish and apply a set of objective qualifications for the position of director, that ensures that the individual selected has the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities, to meet identified benchmarks and to assist in effectively carrying out the functions of the local board.

(3) **LIMITATION ON RATE.**—The director and staff described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the limitations on the payment of salaries and bonuses described in section 194(15).

(g) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no local board may provide training services.

(B) **WAIVERS OF TRAINING PROHIBITION.**—The Governor of the State in which a local board is located may, pursuant to a request from the local board, grant a written waiver of the prohibition set forth in subparagraph (A) (relating to the provision of training services) for a program of training services, if the local board—

(i) submits to the Governor a proposed request for the waiver that includes—

(I) satisfactory evidence that there is an insufficient number of eligible providers of such a program of training services to meet local demand in the local area;

(II) information demonstrating that the board meets the requirements for an eligible provider of training services under section 122; and

(III) information demonstrating that the program of training services prepares participants for an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the local area;

(ii) makes the proposed request available to eligible providers of training services and other interested members of the public for a public comment period of not less than 30 days; and

(iii) includes, in the final request for the waiver, the evidence and information described in clause (i) and the comments received pursuant to clause (ii).

(C) **DURATION.**—A waiver granted to a local board under subparagraph (B) shall apply for a period that shall not exceed the duration of the local plan. The waiver may be renewed for additional periods under subsequent local plans, not to exceed the durations of such subsequent plans, pursuant to requests from the local

board, if the board meets the requirements of subparagraph (B) in making the requests.

(D) **REVOCATION.**—The Governor shall have the authority to revoke the waiver during the appropriate period described in subparagraph (C) if the Governor determines the waiver is no longer needed or that the local board involved has engaged in a pattern of inappropriate referrals to training services operated by the local board.

(2) **CAREER SERVICES; DESIGNATION OR CERTIFICATION AS ONE-STOP OPERATORS.**—A local board may provide career services described in section 134(c)(2) through a one-stop delivery system or be designated or certified as a one-stop operator only with the agreement of the chief elected official in the local area and the Governor.

(3) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide a local board with the authority to mandate curricula for schools.

(h) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—A member of a local board, or a member of a standing committee, may not—

(1) vote on a matter under consideration by the local board—

(A) regarding the provision of services by such member (or by an entity that such member represents); or

(B) that would provide direct financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member; or

(2) engage in any other activity determined by the Governor to constitute a conflict of interest as specified in the State plan.

(i) **ALTERNATIVE ENTITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of complying with subsections (a), (b), and (c), a State may use any local entity (including a local council, regional workforce development board, or similar entity) that—

(A) is established to serve the local area (or the service delivery area that most closely corresponds to the local area);

(B) was in existence on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, pursuant to State law; and

(C) includes—

(i) representatives of business in the local area; and

(ii) (I) representatives of labor organizations (for a local area in which employees are represented by labor organizations), nominated by local labor federations; or

(II) other representatives of employees in the local area (for a local area in which no employees are represented by such organizations).

(2) **REFERENCES.**—A reference in this Act or a core program provision to a local board, shall include a reference to such an entity.

SEC. 108. LOCAL PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each local board shall develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive 4-year local plan, in partnership with the chief elected official. The local plan shall support the strategy described in the State plan in accordance with section 102(b)(1)(E), and otherwise be consistent with the State plan. If the local area is part of a planning region, the local board shall comply with section 106(c) in the preparation and submission of a regional plan. At the end of the first 2-year period of the 4-year local plan, each local board shall review the local plan and the local board, in partnership with the chief elected official, shall prepare and submit modifications to the local plan to reflect changes in labor market and economic conditions or in other factors affecting the implementation of the local plan.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The local plan shall include—

(1) a description of the strategic planning elements consisting of—

(A) an analysis of the regional economic conditions including—

(i) existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(ii) the employment needs of employers in those industry sectors and occupations;

(B) an analysis of the knowledge and skills needed to meet the employment needs of the employers in the region, including employment needs in in-demand industry sectors and occupations;

(C) an analysis of the workforce in the region, including current labor force employment (and unemployment) data, and information on labor market trends, and the educational and skill levels of the workforce in the region, including individuals with barriers to employment;

(D) an analysis of the workforce development activities (including education and training) in the region, including an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of such services, and the capacity to provide such services, to address the identified education and skill needs of the workforce and the employment needs of employers in the region;

(E) a description of the local board's strategic vision and goals for preparing an educated and skilled workforce (including youth and individuals with barriers to employment), including goals relating to the performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) in order to support regional economic growth and economic self-sufficiency; and

(F) taking into account analyses described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), a strategy to work with the entities that carry out the core programs to align resources available to the local area, to achieve the strategic vision and goals described in subparagraph (E);

(2) a description of the workforce development system in the local area that identifies the programs that are included in that system and how the local board will work with the entities carrying out core programs and other workforce development programs to support alignment to provide services, including programs of study authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), that support the strategy identified in the State plan under section 102(b)(1)(E);

(3) a description of how the local board, working with the entities carrying out core programs, will expand access to employment, training, education, and supportive services for eligible individuals, particularly eligible individuals with barriers to employment, including how the local board will facilitate the development of career pathways and co-enrollment, as appropriate, in core programs, and improve access to activities leading to a recognized postsecondary credential (including a credential that is an industry-recognized certificate or certification, portable, and stackable);

(4) a description of the strategies and services that will be used in the local area—

(A) in order to—

(i) facilitate engagement of employers, including small employers and employers in in-demand industry sectors and occupations, in workforce development programs;

(ii) support a local workforce development system that meets the needs of businesses in the local area;

(iii) better coordinate workforce development programs and economic development; and

(iv) strengthen linkages between the one-stop delivery system and unemployment insurance programs; and

(B) that may include the implementation of initiatives such as incumbent worker training programs, on-the-job training programs, customized training programs, industry and sector strategies, career pathways initiatives, utilization of effective business intermediaries, and other business services and strategies, designed

to meet the needs of employers in the corresponding region in support of the strategy described in paragraph (1)(F);

(5) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with economic development activities carried out in the region in which the local area is located (or planning region), and promote entrepreneurial skills training and microenterprise services;

(6) a description of the one-stop delivery system in the local area, including—

(A) a description of how the local board will ensure the continuous improvement of eligible providers of services through the system and ensure that such providers meet the employment needs of local employers, and workers and job-seekers;

(B) a description of how the local board will facilitate access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system, including in remote areas, through the use of technology and through other means;

(C) a description of how entities within the one-stop delivery system, including one-stop operators and the one-stop partners, will comply with section 188, if applicable, and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) regarding the physical and programmatic accessibility of facilities, programs and services, technology, and materials for individuals with disabilities, including providing staff training and support for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities; and

(D) a description of the roles and resource contributions of the one-stop partners;

(7) a description and assessment of the type and availability of adult and dislocated worker employment and training activities in the local area;

(8) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with statewide rapid response activities, as described in section 134(a)(2)(A);

(9) a description and assessment of the type and availability of youth workforce investment activities in the local area, including activities for youth who are individuals with disabilities, which description and assessment shall include an identification of successful models of such youth workforce investment activities;

(10) a description of how the local board will coordinate education and workforce investment activities carried out in the local area with relevant secondary and postsecondary education programs and activities to coordinate strategies, enhance services, and avoid duplication of services;

(11) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out under this title in the local area with the provision of transportation, including public transportation, and other appropriate supportive services in the local area;

(12) a description of plans and strategies for, and assurances concerning, maximizing coordination of services provided by the State employment service under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) and services provided in the local area through the one-stop delivery system, to improve service delivery and avoid duplication of services;

(13) a description of how the local board will coordinate workforce investment activities carried out under this title in the local area with the provision of adult education and literacy activities under title II in the local area, including a description of how the local board will carry out, consistent with subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i) of section 107(d)(11) and section 232, the review of local applications submitted under title II;

(14) a description of the replicated cooperative agreements (as defined in section 107(d)(11)) between the local board or other local entities described in section 101(a)(11)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)(B)) and the local office of a designated State agency or designated State unit administering programs carried out under title I of such Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741) and subject to section 121(f)) in accordance with section 101(a)(11) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 721(a)(11)) with respect to efforts that will enhance the provision of services to individuals with disabilities and to other individuals, such as cross training of staff, technical assistance, use and sharing of information, cooperative efforts with employers, and other efforts at cooperation, collaboration, and coordination;

(15) an identification of the entity responsible for the disbursement of grant funds described in section 107(d)(12)(B)(i)(III), as determined by the chief elected official or the Governor under section 107(d)(12)(B)(i);

(16) a description of the competitive process to be used to award the subgrants and contracts in the local area for activities carried out under this title;

(17) a description of the local levels of performance negotiated with the Governor and chief elected official pursuant to section 116(c), to be used to measure the performance of the local area and to be used by the local board for measuring the performance of the local fiscal agent (where appropriate), eligible providers under subtitle B, and the one-stop delivery system, in the local area;

(18) a description of the actions the local board will take toward becoming or remaining a high-performing board, consistent with the factors developed by the State board pursuant to section 101(d)(6);

(19) a description of how training services under chapter 3 of subtitle B will be provided in accordance with section 134(c)(3)(G), including, if contracts for the training services will be used, how the use of such contracts will be coordinated with the use of individual training accounts under that chapter and how the local board will ensure informed customer choice in the selection of training programs regardless of how the training services are to be provided;

(20) a description of the process used by the local board, consistent with subsection (d), to provide an opportunity for public comment, including comment by representatives of businesses and comment by representatives of labor organizations, and input into the development of the local plan, prior to submission of the plan;

(21) a description of how one-stop centers are implementing and transitioning to an integrated, technology-enabled intake and case management information system for programs carried out under this Act and programs carried out by one-stop partners; and

(22) such other information as the Governor may require.

(c) **EXISTING ANALYSIS.**—As appropriate, a local area may use an existing analysis in order to carry out the requirements of subsection (b)(1) concerning an analysis.

(d) **PROCESS.**—Prior to the date on which the local board submits a local plan under this section, the local board shall—

(1) make available copies of a proposed local plan to the public through electronic and other means, such as public hearings and local news media;

(2) allow members of the public, including representatives of business, representatives of labor organizations, and representatives of education to submit to the local board comments on the proposed local plan, not later than the end of

the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the proposed local plan is made available; and

(3) include with the local plan submitted to the Governor under this section any such comments that represent disagreement with the plan.

(e) **PLAN SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.**—A local plan submitted to the Governor under this section (including a modification to such a local plan) shall be considered to be approved by the Governor at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the day the Governor receives the plan (including such a modification), unless the Governor makes a written determination during the 90-day period that—

(1) deficiencies in activities carried out under this subtitle or subtitle B have been identified, through audits conducted under section 184 or otherwise, and the local area has not made acceptable progress in implementing corrective measures to address the deficiencies;

(2) the plan does not comply with the applicable provisions of this Act; or

(3) the plan does not align with the State plan, including failing to provide for alignment of the core programs to support the strategy identified in the State plan in accordance with section 102(b)(1)(E).

CHAPTER 3—BOARD PROVISIONS

SEC. 111. FUNDING OF STATE AND LOCAL BOARDS.

(a) **STATE BOARDS.**—In funding a State board under this subtitle, a State—

(1) shall use funds available as described in section 129(b)(3) or 134(a)(3)(B); and

(2) may use non-Federal funds available to the State that the State determines are appropriate and available for that use.

(b) **LOCAL BOARDS.**—In funding a local board under this subtitle, the chief elected official and local board for the local area—

(1) shall use funds available as described in section 128(b)(4); and

(2) may use non-Federal funds available to the local area that the chief elected official and local board determine are appropriate and available for that use.

CHAPTER 4—PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 116. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to establish performance accountability measures that apply across the core programs to assess the effectiveness of States and local areas (for core programs described in subtitle B) in achieving positive outcomes for individuals served by those programs.

(b) **STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each State, the performance accountability measures for the core programs shall consist of—

(A)(i) the primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(ii) the additional indicators of performance (if any) identified by the State under paragraph (2)(B); and

(B) a State adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

(A) **PRIMARY INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The State primary indicators of performance for activities provided under the adult and dislocated worker programs authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, the program of adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II, the employment services program authorized under sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) (except that subclauses (IV) and (V) shall not apply to such program), and the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act

of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741), shall consist of—

(I) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(II) the percentage of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after exit from the program;

(III) the median earnings of program participants who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(IV) the percentage of program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to clause (iii)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program;

(V) the percentage of program participants who, during a program year, are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable skill gains toward such a credential or employment; and

(VI) the indicators of effectiveness in serving employers established pursuant to clause (iv).

(ii) PRIMARY INDICATORS FOR ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The primary indicators of performance for the youth program authorized under chapter 2 of subtitle B shall consist of—

(I) the percentage of program participants who are in education or training activities, or in unsubsidized employment, during the second quarter after exit from the program;

(II) the percentage of program participants who are in education or training activities, or in unsubsidized employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the program; and

(III) the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (III) through (VI) of subparagraph (A)(i).

(iii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), or clause (ii)(III) with respect to clause (i)(IV), program participants who obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such clause only if such participants, in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent, have obtained or retained employment or are in an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within 1 year after exit from the program.

(iv) INDICATOR FOR SERVICES TO EMPLOYERS.—Prior to the commencement of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act, for purposes of clauses (i)(VI), or clause (ii)(III) with respect to clause (i)(IV), the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with the representatives described in paragraph (4)(B), shall jointly develop and establish, for purposes of this subparagraph, 1 or more primary indicators of performance that indicate the effectiveness of the core programs in serving employers.

(B) ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—A State may identify in the State plan additional performance accountability indicators.

(3) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(A) STATE ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE FOR PRIMARY INDICATORS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For each State submitting a State plan, there shall be established, in accordance with this subparagraph, levels of performance for each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2) for each of the programs described in clause (ii).

(ii) INCLUDED PROGRAMS.—The programs included under clause (i) are—

(I) the youth program authorized under chapter 2 of subtitle B;

(II) the adult program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B;

(III) the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B;

(IV) the program of adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II;

(V) the employment services program authorized under sections 1 through 13 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.); and

(VI) the program authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.), other than section 112 or part C of that title (29 U.S.C. 732, 741).

(iii) IDENTIFICATION IN STATE PLAN.—Each State shall identify, in the State plan, expected levels of performance for each of the corresponding primary indicators of performance for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for the first 2 program years covered by the State plan.

(iv) AGREEMENT ON STATE ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(I) FIRST 2 YEARS.—The State shall reach agreement with the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education on levels of performance for each indicator described in clause (iii) for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for each of the first 2 program years covered by the State plan. In reaching the agreement, the State and the Secretary of Labor in conjunction with the Secretary of Education shall take into account the levels identified in the State plan under clause (iii) and the factors described in clause (v). The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the State adjusted levels of performance for the State for such program years and shall be incorporated into the State plan prior to the approval of such plan.

(II) THIRD AND FOURTH YEAR.—The State and the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall reach agreement, prior to the third program year covered by the State plan, on levels of performance for each indicator described in clause (iii) for each of the programs described in clause (ii) for each of the third and fourth program years covered by the State plan. In reaching the agreement, the State and Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall take into account the factors described in clause (v). The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the State adjusted levels of performance for the State for such program years and shall be incorporated into the State plan as a modification to the plan.

(v) FACTORS.—In reaching the agreements described in clause (iv), the State and Secretaries shall—

(I) take into account how the levels involved compare with the State adjusted levels of performance established for other States;

(II) ensure that the levels involved are adjusted, using the objective statistical model established by the Secretaries pursuant to clause (viii), based on—

(aa) the differences among States in actual economic conditions (including differences in unemployment rates and job losses or gains in particular industries); and

(bb) the characteristics of participants when the participants entered the program involved, including indicators of poor work history, lack of work experience, lack of educational or occupational skills attainment, dislocation from high-wage and high-benefit employment, low levels of literacy or English proficiency, disability status, homelessness, ex-offender status, and welfare dependency;

(III) take into account the extent to which the levels involved promote continuous improvement in performance accountability on the performance accountability measures by such State and ensure optimal return on the investment of Federal funds; and

(IV) take into account the extent to which the levels involved will assist the State in meeting the goals described in clause (vi).

(vi) GOALS.—In order to promote enhanced performance outcomes and to facilitate the process of reaching agreements with the States under clause (iv), the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall establish performance goals for the core programs, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62; 107 Stat. 285) and the amendments made by that Act, and in consultation with States and other appropriate parties. Such goals shall be long-term goals for the adjusted levels of performance to be achieved by each of the programs described in clause (ii) regarding the corresponding primary indicators of performance described in paragraph (2)(A).

(vii) REVISIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND INDIVIDUALS SERVED DURING THE PROGRAM YEAR.—The Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall, in accordance with the objective statistical model developed pursuant to clause (viii), revise the State adjusted levels of performance applicable for each of the programs described in clause (ii), for a program year and a State, to reflect the actual economic conditions and characteristics of participants (as described in clause (v)(II)) in that program during such program year in such State.

(viii) STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENT MODEL.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with the representatives described in paragraph (4)(B), shall develop and disseminate an objective statistical model that will be used to make the adjustments in the State adjusted levels of performance for actual economic conditions and characteristics of participants under clauses (v) and (vii).

(B) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE FOR ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.—The State may identify, in the State plan, State levels of performance for each of the additional indicators identified under paragraph (2)(B). Such levels shall be considered to be State adjusted levels of performance for purposes of this section.

(4) DEFINITIONS OF INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to ensure nationwide comparability of performance data, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with representatives described in subparagraph (B), shall issue definitions for the indicators described in paragraph (2).

(B) REPRESENTATIVES.—The representatives referred to in subparagraph (A) are representatives of States and political subdivisions, business and industry, employees, eligible providers of activities carried out through the core programs, educators, researchers, participants, the lead State agency officials with responsibility for the programs carried out through the core programs, individuals with expertise in serving individuals with barriers to employment, and other interested parties.

(c) LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR SUBTITLE B.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—For each local area in a State designated under section 106, the local performance accountability measures for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (III) of subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) shall consist of—

(A)(i) the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) that are applicable to such programs; and

(ii) additional indicators of performance, if any, identified by the State for such programs under subsection (b)(2)(B); and

(B) the local level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

(2) LOCAL LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE.—The local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall negotiate and reach agreement on local levels of performance based on the State

adjusted levels of performance established under subsection (b)(3)(A).

(3) **ADJUSTMENT FACTORS.**—In negotiating the local levels of performance, the local board, the chief elected official, and the Governor shall make adjustments for the expected economic conditions and the expected characteristics of participants to be served in the local area, using the statistical adjustment model developed pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(A)(viii). In addition, the negotiated local levels of performance applicable to a program year shall be revised to reflect the actual economic conditions experienced and the characteristics of the populations served in the local area during such program year using the statistical adjustment model.

(d) **PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall develop a template for performance reports that shall be used by States, local boards, and eligible providers of training services under section 122 to report on outcomes achieved by the core programs. In developing such templates, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, will take into account the need to maximize the value of the templates for workers, jobseekers, employers, local elected officials, State officials, Federal policymakers, and other key stakeholders.

(2) **CONTENTS OF STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The performance report for a State shall include, subject to paragraph (5)(C)—

(A) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) and the State adjusted levels of performance with respect to such indicators for each program;

(B) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii) with respect to individuals with barriers to employment, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age;

(C) the total number of participants served by each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(D) the number of participants who received career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years, and the amount of funds spent on each type of service;

(E) the number of participants who exited from career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(F) the average cost per participant of those participants who received career and training services, respectively, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(G) the percentage of participants in a program authorized under this subtitle who received training services and obtained unsubsidized employment in a field related to the training received;

(H) the number of individuals with barriers to employment served by each of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii), disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals;

(I) the number of participants who are enrolled in more than 1 of the programs described in subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(J) the percentage of the State's annual allotment under section 132(b) that the State spent on administrative costs;

(K) in the case of a State in which local areas are implementing pay-for-performance contract strategies for programs—

(i) the performance of service providers entering into contracts for such strategies, measured against the levels of performance specified in the contracts for such strategies; and

(ii) an evaluation of the design of the programs and performance of the strategies, and, where possible, the level of satisfaction with the strategies among employers and participants benefitting from the strategies; and

(L) other information that facilitates comparisons of programs with programs in other States.

(3) **CONTENTS OF LOCAL AREA PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The performance reports for a local area shall include, subject to paragraph (6)(C)—

(A) the information specified in subparagraphs (A) through (L) of paragraph (2), for each of the programs described in subclauses (I) through (III) of subsection (b)(3)(A)(ii);

(B) the percentage of the local area's allocation under sections 128(b) and 133(b) that the local area spent on administrative costs; and

(C) other information that facilitates comparisons of programs with programs in other local areas (or planning regions, as appropriate).

(4) **CONTENTS OF ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDERS PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The performance report for an eligible provider of training services under section 122 shall include, subject to paragraph (6)(C), with respect to each program of study (or the equivalent) of such provider—

(A) information specifying the levels of performance achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance described in subclauses (I) through (IV) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) with respect to all individuals engaging in the program of study (or the equivalent);

(B) the total number of individuals exiting from the program of study (or the equivalent);

(C) the total number of participants who received training services through each of the adult program and the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(D) the total number of participants who exited from training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years;

(E) the average cost per participant for the participants who received training services, disaggregated by the type of entity that provided the training, during the most recent program year and the 3 preceding program years; and

(F) the number of individuals with barriers to employment served by each of the adult program and the dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 3 of subtitle B, disaggregated by each subpopulation of such individuals, and by race, ethnicity, sex, and age.

(5) **DATA VALIDATION.**—In preparing the State reports described in this subsection, each State shall establish procedures, consistent with guidelines issued by the Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, to ensure the information contained in the reports is valid and reliable.

(6) **PUBLICATION.**—

(A) **STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall annually make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the performance reports for States containing the information described in paragraph (2).

(B) **LOCAL AREA AND ELIGIBLE TRAINING PROVIDER PERFORMANCE REPORTS.**—The State shall make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the performance reports for the local areas containing

the information described in paragraph (3) and the performance reports for eligible providers of training services containing the information described in paragraph (4).

(C) **RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.**—The disaggregation of data under this subsection shall not be required when the number of participants in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or when the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual participant.

(D) **DISSEMINATION TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall make available (including by electronic means) a summary of the reports, and the reports, required under this subsection to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. The Secretaries shall prepare and make available with the reports a set of recommendations for improvements in and adjustments to pay-for-performance contract strategies used under subtitle B.

(e) **EVALUATION OF STATE PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds authorized under a core program and made available to carry out this section, the State, in coordination with local boards in the State and the State agencies responsible for the administration of the core programs, shall conduct ongoing evaluations of activities carried out in the State under such programs. The State, local boards, and State agencies shall conduct the evaluations in order to promote, establish, implement, and utilize methods for continuously improving core program activities in order to achieve high-level performance within, and high-level outcomes from, the workforce development system. The State shall coordinate the evaluations with the evaluations provided for by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education under section 169, section 242(c)(2)(D), and sections 12(a)(5), 14, and 107 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 709(a)(5), 711, 727) (applied with respect to programs carried out under title I of that Act (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.)) and the investigations provided for by the Secretary of Labor under section 10(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49i(b)).

(2) **DESIGN.**—The evaluations conducted under this subsection shall be designed in conjunction with the State board, State agencies responsible for the administration of the core programs, and local boards and shall include analysis of customer feedback and outcome and process measures in the statewide workforce development system. The evaluations shall use designs that employ the most rigorous analytical and statistical methods that are reasonably feasible, such as the use of control groups.

(3) **RESULTS.**—The State shall annually prepare, submit to the State board and local boards in the State, and make available to the public (including by electronic means), reports containing the results of evaluations conducted under this subsection, to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce development system.

(4) **COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL EVALUATIONS.**—The State shall, to the extent practicable, cooperate in the conduct of evaluations (including related research projects) provided for by the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education under the provisions of Federal law identified in paragraph (1). Such cooperation shall include the provision of data (in accordance with appropriate privacy protections established by the Secretary of Labor), the provision of responses to surveys, and allowing site visits in a timely manner, for the Secretaries or their agents.

(f) **SANCTIONS FOR STATE FAILURE TO MEET STATE PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) STATES.—

(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—If a State fails to meet the State adjusted levels of performance relating to indicators described in subsection (b)(2)(A) for a program for any program year, the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall provide technical assistance, including assistance in the development of a performance improvement plan.

(B) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF GRANT.—If such failure continues for a second consecutive year, or (except in the case of exceptional circumstances as determined by the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate) a State fails to submit a report under subsection (d) for any program year, the percentage of each amount that would (in the absence of this paragraph) be reserved by the Governor under section 128(a) for the immediately succeeding program year shall be reduced by 5 percentage points until such date as the Secretary of Labor or the Secretary of Education, as appropriate, determines that the State meets such State adjusted levels of performance and has submitted such reports for the appropriate program years.

(g) SANCTIONS FOR LOCAL AREA FAILURE TO MEET LOCAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.—

(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—If a local area fails to meet local performance accountability measures established under subsection (c) for the youth, adult, or dislocated worker program authorized under chapter 2 or 3 of subtitle B for a program described in subsection (d)(2)(A) for any program year, the Governor, or upon request by the Governor, the Secretary of Labor, shall provide technical assistance, which may include assistance in the development of a performance improvement plan or the development of a modified local plan (or regional plan).

(2) CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If such failure continues for a third consecutive year, the Governor shall take corrective actions, which shall include development of a reorganization plan through which the Governor shall—

(i) require the appointment and certification of a new local board, consistent with the criteria established under section 107(b);

(ii) prohibit the use of eligible providers and one-stop partners identified as achieving a poor level of performance; or

(iii) take such other significant actions as the Governor determines are appropriate.

(B) APPEAL BY LOCAL AREA.—

(i) APPEAL TO GOVERNOR.—The local board and chief elected official for a local area that is subject to a reorganization plan under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 30 days after receiving notice of the reorganization plan, appeal to the Governor to rescind or revise such plan. In such case, the Governor shall make a final decision not later than 30 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(ii) SUBSEQUENT ACTION.—The local board and chief elected official for a local area may, not later than 30 days after receiving a decision from the Governor pursuant to clause (i), appeal such decision to the Secretary of Labor. In such case, the Secretary shall make a final decision not later than 30 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The decision made by the Governor under subparagraph (B)(i) shall become effective at the time the Governor issues the decision pursuant to such clause. Such decision shall remain effective unless the Secretary of Labor rescinds or revises such plan pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii).

(h) ESTABLISHING PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGY INCENTIVES.—Using non-Federal funds, the Governor may establish incentives for local boards to implement pay-for-

performance contract strategies for the delivery of training services described in section 134(c)(3) or activities described in section 129(c)(2) in the local areas served by the local boards.

(i) FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds authorized under a core program and made available to carry out this chapter, the Governor, in coordination with the State board, the State agencies administering the core programs, local boards, and chief elected officials in the State, shall establish and operate a fiscal and management accountability information system based on guidelines established by the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education after consultation with the Governors of States, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners. Such guidelines shall promote efficient collection and use of fiscal and management information for reporting and monitoring the use of funds authorized under the core programs and for preparing the annual report described in subsection (d).

(2) WAGE RECORDS.—In measuring the progress of the State on State and local performance accountability measures, a State shall utilize quarterly wage records, consistent with State law. The Secretary of Labor shall make arrangements, consistent with State law, to ensure that the wage records of any State are available to any other State to the extent that such wage records are required by the State in carrying out the State plan of the State or completing the annual report described in subsection (d).

(3) CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out the requirements of this Act, the State shall comply with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

Subtitle B—Workforce Investment Activities and Providers

CHAPTER 1—WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDERS

SEC. 121. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with an approved State plan, the local board for a local area, with the agreement of the chief elected official for the local area, shall—

(1) develop and enter into the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c) with one-stop partners;

(2) designate or certify one-stop operators under subsection (d); and

(3) conduct oversight with respect to the one-stop delivery system in the local area.

(b) ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—

(1) REQUIRED PARTNERS.—

(A) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE-STOP PARTNERS.—Each entity that carries out a program or activities described in subparagraph (B) in a local area shall—

(i) provide access through the one-stop delivery system to such program or activities carried out by the entity, including making the career services described in section 134(c)(2) that are applicable to the program or activities available at the one-stop centers (in addition to any other appropriate locations);

(ii) use a portion of the funds available for the program and activities to maintain the one-stop delivery system, including payment of the infrastructure costs of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

(iii) enter into a local memorandum of understanding with the local board, relating to the operation of the one-stop system, that meets the requirements of subsection (c);

(iv) participate in the operation of the one-stop system consistent with the terms of the memorandum of understanding, the requirements of this title, and the requirements of the Federal laws authorizing the program or activities; and

(v) provide representation on the State board to the extent provided under section 101.

(B) PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—The programs and activities referred to in subparagraph (A) consist of—

(i) programs authorized under this title;

(ii) programs authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.);

(iii) adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II;

(iv) programs authorized under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.) (other than section 112 or part C of title I of such Act (29 U.S.C. 732, 741));

(v) activities authorized under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.);

(vi) career and technical education programs at the postsecondary level authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

(vii) activities authorized under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.);

(viii) activities authorized under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code;

(ix) employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.);

(x) employment and training activities carried out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(xi) programs authorized under State unemployment compensation laws (in accordance with applicable Federal law);

(xii) programs authorized under section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532); and

(xiii) programs authorized under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), subject to subparagraph (C).

(C) DETERMINATION BY THE GOVERNOR.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An entity that carries out a program referred to in subparagraph (B)(xiii) shall be included in the one-stop partners for the local area, as a required partner, for purposes of this Act and the other core program provisions that are not part of this Act, unless the Governor provides the notification described in clause (ii).

(ii) NOTIFICATION.—The notification referred to in clause (i) is a notification that—

(I) is made in writing of a determination by the Governor not to include such entity in the one-stop partners described in clause (i); and

(II) is provided to the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this subtitle, and subtitles C through E, as the “Secretary”) and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) ADDITIONAL PARTNERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With the approval of the local board and chief elected official, in addition to the entities described in paragraph (1), other entities that carry out workforce development programs described in subparagraph (B) may be one-stop partners for the local area and carry out the responsibilities described in paragraph (1)(A).

(B) PROGRAMS.—The programs referred to in subparagraph (A) may include—

(i) employment and training programs administered by the Social Security Administration, including the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19);

(ii) employment and training programs carried out by the Small Business Administration;

(iii) programs authorized under section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(4));

(iv) work programs authorized under section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o));

(v) programs carried out under section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732);

(vi) programs authorized under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.); and

(vii) other appropriate Federal, State, or local programs, including employment, education, and training programs provided by public libraries or in the private sector.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official, shall develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding (between the local board and the one-stop partners), consistent with paragraph (2), concerning the operation of the one-stop delivery system in the local area.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each memorandum of understanding shall contain—

(A) provisions describing—

(i) the services to be provided through the one-stop delivery system consistent with the requirements of this section, including the manner in which the services will be coordinated and delivered through such system;

(ii) how the costs of such services and the operating costs of such system will be funded, including—

(I) funding through cash and in-kind contributions (fairly evaluated), which contributions may include funding from philanthropic organizations or other private entities, or through other alternative financing options, to provide a stable and equitable funding stream for ongoing one-stop delivery system operations; and

(II) funding of the infrastructure costs of one-stop centers in accordance with subsection (h);

(iii) methods of referral of individuals between the one-stop operator and the one-stop partners for appropriate services and activities;

(iv) methods to ensure the needs of workers and youth, and individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals with disabilities, are addressed in the provision of necessary and appropriate access to services, including access to technology and materials, made available through the one-stop delivery system; and

(v) the duration of the memorandum of understanding and the procedures for amending the memorandum during the duration of the memorandum, and assurances that such memorandum shall be reviewed not less than once every 3-year period to ensure appropriate funding and delivery of services; and

(B) such other provisions, consistent with the requirements of this title, as the parties to the agreement determine to be appropriate.

(d) ONE-STOP OPERATORS.—

(1) LOCAL DESIGNATION AND CERTIFICATION.—Consistent with paragraphs (2) and (3), the local board, with the agreement of the chief elected official, is authorized to designate or certify one-stop operators and to terminate for cause the eligibility of such operators.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive funds made available under this subtitle to operate a one-stop center referred to in subsection (e), an entity (which may be a consortium of entities)—

(A) shall be designated or certified as a one-stop operator through a competitive process; and

(B) shall be an entity (public, private, or non-profit), or consortium of entities (including a consortium of entities that, at a minimum, includes 3 or more of the one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1)), of demonstrated effectiveness, located in the local area, which may include—

(i) an institution of higher education;

(ii) an employment service State agency established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), on behalf of the local office of the agency;

(iii) a community-based organization, non-profit organization, or intermediary;

(iv) a private for-profit entity;

(v) a government agency; and

(vi) another interested organization or entity, which may include a local chamber of commerce or other business organization, or a labor organization.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Elementary schools and secondary schools shall not be eligible for designation or certification as one-stop operators, except that nontraditional public secondary schools and area career and technical education schools may be eligible for such designation or certification.

(4) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The State and local boards shall ensure that in carrying out activities under this title, one-stop operators—

(A) disclose any potential conflicts of interest arising from the relationships of the operators with particular training service providers or other service providers;

(B) do not establish practices that create disincentives to providing services to individuals with barriers to employment who may require longer-term services, such as intensive employment, training, and education services; and

(C) comply with Federal regulations, and procurement policies, relating to the calculation and use of profits.

(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in each local area in a State that receives an allotment under section 132(b) a one-stop delivery system, which shall—

(A) provide the career services described in section 134(c)(2);

(B) provide access to training services as described in section 134(c)(3), including serving as the point of access to training services for participants in accordance with section 134(c)(3)(G);

(C) provide access to the employment and training activities carried out under section 134(d), if any;

(D) provide access to programs and activities carried out by one-stop partners described in subsection (b); and

(E) provide access to the data, information, and analysis described in section 15(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l-2(a)) and all job search, placement, recruitment, and other labor exchange services authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.).

(2) ONE-STOP DELIVERY.—The one-stop delivery system—

(A) at a minimum, shall make each of the programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) accessible at not less than 1 physical center in each local area of the State; and

(B) may also make programs, services, and activities described in paragraph (1) available—

(i) through a network of affiliated sites that can provide 1 or more of the programs, services, and activities to individuals; and

(ii) through a network of eligible one-stop partners—

(I) in which each partner provides 1 or more of the programs, services, and activities to such individuals and is accessible at an affiliated site that consists of a physical location or an electronically or technologically linked access point; and

(II) that assures individuals that information on the availability of the career services will be available regardless of where the individuals initially enter the statewide workforce development system, including information made available through an access point described in subclause (I);

(C) may have specialized centers to address special needs, such as the needs of dislocated workers, youth, or key industry sectors or clusters; and

(D) as applicable and practicable, shall make programs, services, and activities accessible to individuals through electronic means in a manner that improves efficiency, coordination, and quality in the delivery of one-stop partner services.

(3) COLOCATION OF WAGNER-PEYSER SERVICES.—Consistent with section 3(d) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(d)), and in order to improve service delivery, avoid duplication of services, and enhance coordination of services, including location of staff to ensure access to services in underserved areas, the employment service offices in each State shall be colocated with one-stop centers established under this title.

(4) USE OF COMMON ONE-STOP DELIVERY SYSTEM IDENTIFIER.—In addition to using any State or locally developed identifier, each one-stop delivery system shall include in the identification of products, programs, activities, services, facilities, and related property and materials, a common one-stop delivery system identifier. The identifier shall be developed by the Secretary, in consultation with heads of other appropriate departments and agencies, and representatives of State boards and local boards and of other stakeholders in the one-stop delivery system, not later than the beginning of the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act. Such common identifier may consist of a logo, phrase, or other identifier that informs users of the one-stop delivery system that such products, programs, activities, services, facilities, property, or materials are being provided through such system. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit one-stop partners, States, or local areas from having additional identifiers.

(f) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to part C of title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 741).

(2) CLIENT ASSISTANCE.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require that any entity carrying out a client assistance program authorized under section 112 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 732)—

(A) be included as a mandatory one-stop partner under subsection (b)(1); or

(B) if the entity is included as an additional one-stop partner under subsection (b)(2)—

(i) violate the requirement of section 112(c)(1)(A) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 732(c)(1)(A)) that the entity be independent of any agency that provides treatment, services, or rehabilitation to individuals under that Act; or

(ii) carry out any activity not authorized under section 112 of that Act (including appropriate Federal regulations).

(g) CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF ONE-STOP CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive infrastructure funding described in subsection (h), the State board, in consultation with chief elected officials and local boards, shall establish objective criteria and procedures for use by local boards in assessing at least once every 3 years the effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and continuous improvement of one-stop centers and the one-stop delivery system, consistent with the requirements of section 101(d)(6).

(2) CRITERIA.—The criteria and procedures developed under this subsection shall include standards relating to service coordination achieved by the one-stop delivery system with respect to the programs administered by the one-stop partners at the one-stop centers. Such criteria and procedures shall—

(A) be developed in a manner that is consistent with the guidelines, guidance, and policies provided by the Governor and by the State board, in consultation with the chief elected officials and local boards, for such partners' participation under subsections (h)(1) and (i); and

(B) include such factors relating to the effectiveness, accessibility, and improvement of the one-stop delivery system as the State board determines to be appropriate, including at a minimum how well the one-stop center—

(i) supports the achievement of the negotiated local levels of performance for the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2) for the local area;

(ii) integrates available services; and

(iii) meets the workforce development and employment needs of local employers and participants.

(3) **LOCAL CRITERIA.**—Consistent with the criteria developed under paragraph (1) by the State, a local board in the State may develop additional criteria (or higher levels of service coordination than required for the State-developed criteria) relating to service coordination achieved by the one-stop delivery system, for purposes of assessments described in paragraph (1), in order to respond to labor market, economic, and demographic, conditions and trends in the local area.

(4) **EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.**—One-stop centers certified under this subsection shall be eligible to receive the infrastructure funding described in subsection (h).

(5) **REVIEW AND UPDATE.**—The criteria and procedures established under this subsection shall be reviewed and updated by the State board or the local board, as the case may be, as part of the biennial process for review and modification of State and local plans described in sections 102(c)(2) and 108(a).

(h) **FUNDING OF ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **OPTIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.**—

(i) **LOCAL OPTIONS.**—The local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1) in a local area may fund the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in the local area through—

(I) methods agreed on by the local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners (and described in the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c)); or

(II) if no consensus agreement on methods is reached under subclause (I), the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2).

(ii) **FAILURE TO REACH CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON FUNDING METHODS.**—Beginning July 1, 2016, if the local board, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners described in subsection (b)(1) in a local area fail to reach consensus agreement on methods of sufficiently funding the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers for a program year, the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2) shall be applicable to such local area for that program year and for each subsequent program year for which those entities and individuals fail to reach such agreement.

(B) **GUIDANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.**—In addition to carrying out the requirements relating to the State infrastructure funding mechanism described in paragraph (2), the Governor, after consultation with chief elected officials, local boards, and the State board, and consistent with the guidance and policies provided by the State board under subparagraphs (B) and (C)(i) of section 101(d)(7), shall provide, for the use of local areas under subparagraph (A)(i)(I)—

(i) guidelines for State-administered one-stop partner programs, for determining such programs' contributions to a one-stop delivery sys-

tem, based on such programs' proportionate use of such system consistent with chapter II of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling), including determining funding for the costs of infrastructure, which contributions shall be negotiated pursuant to the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c); and

(ii) guidance to assist local boards, chief elected officials, and one-stop partners in local areas in determining equitable and stable methods of funding the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in such areas.

(2) **STATE ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING.**—

(A) **DEFINITION.**—In this paragraph, the term "covered portion", used with respect to funding for a fiscal year for a program described in subsection (b)(1), means a portion determined under subparagraph (C) of the Federal funds provided to a State (including local areas within the State) under the Federal law authorizing that program described in subsection (b)(1) for the fiscal year (taking into account the availability of funding for purposes related to infrastructure from philanthropic organizations, private entities, or other alternative financing options).

(B) **PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS.**—Subject to subparagraph (D), for local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), the covered portions of funding for a fiscal year shall be provided to the Governor from the programs described in subsection (b)(1), to assist in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers in those local areas of the State not adequately funded under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I).

(C) **DETERMINATION OF GOVERNOR.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to clause (ii) and subparagraph (D), the Governor, after consultation with chief elected officials, local boards, and the State board, shall determine the portion of funds to be provided under subparagraph (B) by each one-stop partner from each program described in subparagraph (B). In making such determination for the purpose of determining funding contributions, for funding pursuant to clause (i)(II) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A) by each partner, the Governor shall calculate amounts for the proportionate use of the one-stop centers in the State, consistent with chapter II of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any corresponding similar regulation or ruling), taking into account the costs of administration of the one-stop delivery system for purposes not related to one-stop centers, for each partner. The Governor shall exclude from such determination of funds the amounts for proportionate use of one-stop centers attributable to the programs of one-stop partners for those local areas of the State where the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers are funded under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I). The Governor shall also take into account the statutory requirements for each partner program and the partner program's ability to fulfill such requirements.

(ii) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In a State in which the State constitution or a State statute places policymaking authority that is independent of the authority of the Governor in an entity or official with respect to the funds provided for adult education and literacy activities authorized under title II, postsecondary career and technical education activities authorized under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), or vocational rehabilitation services offered under a provision covered by section 3(13)(D), the determination described in clause (i) with respect to the programs authorized under that title, Act, or provision shall be made by the chief officer of the entity, or the official, with such authority in consultation with the Governor.

(D) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(i) **PROVISION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subclause (II), the funds provided under this paragraph by each one-stop partner shall be provided only from funds available for the costs of administration under the program administered by such partner, and shall be subject to the program's limitations with respect to the portion of funds under such program that may be used for administration.

(II) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Nothing in this clause shall be construed to apply to the programs carried out under this title, or under title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.).

(ii) **CAP ON REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS.**—For local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), the following rules shall apply:

(I) **WIA FORMULA PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.**—The portion of funds required to be contributed under this paragraph from a program authorized under chapter 2 or 3, or the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) shall not exceed 3 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out that program in the State for a fiscal year.

(II) **OTHER ONE-STOP PARTNERS.**—The portion of funds required to be contributed under this paragraph from a program described in subsection (b)(1) other than the programs described in subclause (I) shall not exceed 1.5 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out that program in the State for a fiscal year.

(III) **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.**—Notwithstanding subclauses (I) and (II), an entity administering a program described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) shall not be required to provide from that program, under this paragraph, a portion that exceeds—

(aa) 0.75 percent of the amount of Federal funds provided to carry out such program in the State for the second full program year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act;

(bb) 1.0 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the third full program year that begins after such date;

(cc) 1.25 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the fourth full program year that begins after such date; and

(dd) 1.5 percent of the amount provided to carry out such program in the State for the fifth and each succeeding full program year that begins after such date.

(iii) **FEDERAL DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.**—For local areas in a State that are not covered by paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), an entity administering a program funded with direct spending as defined in section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as in effect on February 15, 2014 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)(8)) shall not be required to provide, for purposes of this paragraph, an amount in excess of the amount determined under subparagraph (C)(i) to be equivalent to the cost of the proportionate use of the one-stop centers for the one-stop partner for such program in the State.

(iv) **NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.**—One-stop partners for Native American programs established under section 166 shall not be subject to the provisions of this subsection (other than this clause) or subsection (i). For purposes of subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii)(II), the method for determining the appropriate portion of funds to be provided by such partners to pay for the costs of infrastructure of a one-stop center shall be determined as part of the development of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c) for the one-stop center and shall be stated in the memorandum.

(E) **APPEAL BY ONE-STOP PARTNERS.**—The Governor shall establish a process, described

under section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(IV), for a one-stop partner administering a program described in subsection (b)(1) to appeal a determination regarding the portion of funds to be provided under this paragraph. Such a determination may be appealed under the process on the basis that such determination is inconsistent with the requirements of this paragraph. Such process shall ensure prompt resolution of the appeal in order to ensure the funds are distributed in a timely manner, consistent with the requirements of section 182(e).

(3) **ALLOCATION BY GOVERNOR.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds provided under paragraph (1), the Governor shall allocate the funds to local areas described in subparagraph (B) in accordance with the formula established under subparagraph (B) for the purposes of assisting in paying the costs of infrastructure of one-stop centers.

(B) **ALLOCATION FORMULA.**—The State board shall develop a formula to be used by the Governor to allocate the funds provided under paragraph (1) to local areas not funding costs of infrastructure under the option described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I). The formula shall be based on factors including the number of one-stop centers in a local area, the population served by such centers, the services provided by such centers, and other factors relating to the performance of such centers that the State board determines are appropriate.

(4) **COSTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE.**—In this subsection, the term “costs of infrastructure”, used with respect to a one-stop center, means the nonpersonnel costs that are necessary for the general operation of the one-stop center, including the rental costs of the facilities, the costs of utilities and maintenance, equipment (including assessment-related products and assistive technology for individuals with disabilities), and technology to facilitate access to the one-stop center, including the center's planning and outreach activities.

(i) **OTHER FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the memorandum of understanding described in subsection (c) for the one-stop delivery system involved, in addition to the funds provided to carry out subsection (h), a portion of funds made available under Federal law authorizing the programs described in subsection (b) and administered by one-stop partners, or the noncash resources available under such programs, shall be used to pay the additional costs relating to the operation of the one-stop delivery system that are not paid from the funds provided under subsection (h), as determined in accordance with paragraph (3), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved. Such costs shall include the costs of the provision of career services described in section 134(c)(2) applicable to each program and may include common costs that are not paid from the funds provided under subsection (h).

(2) **SHARED SERVICES.**—The costs described under paragraph (1) may include costs of services that are authorized for and may be commonly provided through the one-stop partner programs to any individual, such as initial intake, assessment of needs, appraisal of basic skills, identification of appropriate services to meet such needs, referrals to other one-stop partners, and other similar services.

(3) **DETERMINATION AND GUIDANCE.**—The method for determining the appropriate portion of funds and noncash resources to be provided by the one-stop partner for each program under paragraph (1) for a one-stop center shall be determined as part of the development of the memorandum of understanding under subsection (c) for the one-stop center and shall be stated in the memorandum. The State board shall provide guidance to facilitate the deter-

mination, for purposes of the memorandum of understanding, of an appropriate allocation of the funds and noncash resources in local areas, consistent with the requirements of section 101(d)(6)(C).

SEC. 122. IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (h), the Governor, after consultation with the State board, shall establish criteria, information requirements, and procedures regarding the eligibility of providers of training services to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services in local areas in the State.

(2) **PROVIDERS.**—Subject to the provisions of this section, to be eligible to receive those funds for the provision of training services, the provider shall be—

(A) an institution of higher education that provides a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential;

(B) an entity that carries out programs registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”); 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.; or

(C) another public or private provider of a program of training services, which may include joint labor-management organizations, and eligible providers of adult education and literacy activities under title II if such activities are provided in combination with occupational skills training.

(3) **INCLUSION IN LIST OF ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.**—A provider described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (2) shall comply with the criteria, information requirements, and procedures established under this section to be included on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d). A provider described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be included and maintained on the list of eligible providers of training services described in subsection (d) for so long as the corresponding program of the provider remains registered as described in paragraph (2)(B).

(b) **CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **STATE CRITERIA.**—In establishing criteria pursuant to subsection (a), the Governor shall take into account each of the following:

(A) The performance of providers of training services with respect to—

(i) the performance accountability measures and other matters for which information is required under paragraph (2); and

(ii) other appropriate measures of performance outcomes determined by the Governor for those participants receiving training services under this subtitle (taking into consideration the characteristics of the population served and relevant economic conditions), and the outcomes of the program through which those training services were provided for students in general with respect to employment and earnings as defined under section 116(b)(2).

(B) The need to ensure access to training services throughout the State, including in rural areas, and through the use of technology.

(C) Information reported to State agencies with respect to Federal and State programs involving training services (other than the program carried out under this subtitle), including one-stop partner programs.

(D) The degree to which the training programs of such providers relate to in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State.

(E) The requirements for State licensing of providers of training services, and the licensing status of providers of training services if applicable.

(F) Ways in which the criteria can encourage, to the extent practicable, the providers to use industry-recognized certificates or certifications.

(G) The ability of the providers to offer programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials.

(H) The quality of a program of training services, including a program of training services that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

(I) The ability of the providers to provide training services to individuals who are employed and individuals with barriers to employment.

(J) Such other factors as the Governor determines are appropriate to ensure—

(i) the accountability of the providers;

(ii) that the one-stop centers in the State will ensure that such providers meet the needs of local employers and participants;

(iii) the informed choice of participants among training services providers; and

(iv) that the collection of information required to demonstrate compliance with the criteria is not unduly burdensome or costly to providers.

(2) **STATE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The information requirements established by the Governor shall require that a provider of training services submit appropriate, accurate, and timely information to the State, to enable the State to carry out subsection (d), with respect to participants receiving training services under this subtitle in the applicable program, including—

(A) information on the performance of the provider with respect to the performance accountability measures described in section 116 for such participants (taking into consideration the characteristics of the population served and relevant economic conditions), and information specifying the percentage of such participants who entered unsubsidized employment in an occupation related to the program, to the extent practicable;

(B) information on recognized postsecondary credentials received by such participants;

(C) information on cost of attendance, including costs of tuition and fees, for participants in the program;

(D) information on the program completion rate for such participants; and

(E) information on the criteria described in paragraph (1).

(3) **LOCAL CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—A local board in the State may establish criteria and information requirements in addition to the criteria and information requirements established by the Governor, or may require higher levels of performance than required for the criteria established by the Governor, for purposes of determining the eligibility of providers of training services to receive funds described in subsection (a) for the provision of training services in the local area involved.

(4) **CRITERIA AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TO ESTABLISH INITIAL ELIGIBILITY.**—

(A) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this paragraph is to enable the providers of programs carried out under chapter 3 to offer the highest quality training services and be responsive to in-demand and emerging industries by providing training services for those industries.

(B) **INITIAL ELIGIBILITY.**—Providers may seek initial eligibility under this paragraph as providers of training services and may receive that initial eligibility for only 1 fiscal year for a particular program. The criteria and information requirements established by the Governor under this paragraph shall require that a provider who has not previously been an eligible provider of training services under this section (or section 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) provide the information described in subparagraph (C).

(C) **INFORMATION.**—The provider shall provide verifiable program-specific performance information based on criteria established by the State

as described in subparagraph (D) that supports the provider's ability to serve participants under this subtitle.

(D) **CRITERIA.**—The criteria described in subparagraph (C) shall include at least—

(i) a factor related to indicators described in section 116;

(ii) a factor concerning whether the provider is in a partnership with business;

(iii) other factors that indicate high-quality training services, including the factor described in paragraph (1)(H); and

(iv) a factor concerning alignment of the training services with in-demand industry sectors and occupations, to the extent practicable.

(E) **PROVISION.**—The provider shall provide the information described in subparagraph (C) to the Governor and the local board in a manner that will permit the Governor and the local board to make a decision on inclusion of the provider on the list of eligible providers described in subsection (d).

(F) **LIMITATION.**—A provider that receives initial eligibility under this paragraph for a program shall be subject to the requirements under subsection (c) for that program after such initial eligibility expires.

(c) **PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **APPLICATION PROCEDURES.**—The procedures established under subsection (a) shall identify the application process for a provider of training services to become eligible to receive funds provided under section 133(b) for the provision of training services. The procedures shall identify the respective roles of the State and local areas in receiving and reviewing the applications and in making determinations of such eligibility based on the criteria, information, and procedures established under this section. The procedures shall also establish a process for a provider of training services to appeal a denial or termination of eligibility under this section that includes an opportunity for a hearing and prescribes appropriate time limits to ensure prompt resolution of the appeal.

(2) **RENEWAL PROCEDURES.**—The procedures established by the Governor shall also provide for biennial review and renewal of eligibility under this section for providers of training services.

(d) **LIST AND INFORMATION TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN CHOOSING PROVIDERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to facilitate and assist participants in choosing employment and training activities and in choosing providers of training services, the Governor shall ensure that an appropriate list of providers determined to be eligible under this section to offer a program in the State (and, as appropriate, in a local area), accompanied by information identifying the recognized postsecondary credential offered by the provider and other appropriate information, is prepared. The list shall be provided to the local boards in the State, and made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

(2) **ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION.**—The accompanying information shall—

(A) with respect to providers described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of subsection (a)(2), consist of information provided by such providers, disaggregated by local areas served, as applicable, in accordance with subsection (b);

(B) with respect to providers described in subsection (b)(4), consist of information provided by such providers in accordance with subsection (b)(4); and

(C) such other information as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

(3) **AVAILABILITY.**—The list and the accompanying information shall be made available to such participants and to members of the public through the one-stop delivery system in the

State, in a manner that does not reveal personally identifiable information about an individual participant.

(4) **LIMITATION.**—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no personally identifiable information regarding a student, including a Social Security number, student identification number, or other identifier, may be disclosed without the prior written consent of the parent or student in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(e) **OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.**—In establishing, under this section, criteria, information requirements, procedures, and the list of eligible providers described in subsection (d), the Governor shall provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to make recommendations and submit comments regarding such criteria, information requirements, procedures, and list.

(f) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The procedures established under this section shall provide the following:

(A) **INTENTIONALLY SUPPLYING INACCURATE INFORMATION.**—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services, or individual providing information on behalf of the provider, violated this section (or section 122 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) by intentionally supplying inaccurate information under this section, the eligibility of such provider to receive funds under chapter 3 shall be terminated for a period of time that is not less than 2 years.

(B) **SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATIONS.**—Upon a determination, by an individual or entity specified in the procedures, that a provider of training services substantially violated any requirement under this title (or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment), the eligibility of such provider to receive funds under chapter 3 for the program involved shall be terminated for a period of not less than 2 years.

(C) **REPAYMENT.**—A provider of training services whose eligibility is terminated under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable for the repayment of funds received under chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, or chapter 3 of this subtitle during a period of violation described in such subparagraph.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall be construed to provide remedies and penalties that supplement, but shall not supplant, civil and criminal remedies and penalties specified in other provisions of law.

(g) **AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.**—States may enter into agreements, on a reciprocal basis, to permit eligible providers of training services to accept individual training accounts provided in another State.

(h) **ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, CUSTOMIZED TRAINING, INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING, AND OTHER TRAINING EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, and paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, or transitional employment shall not be subject to the requirements of subsections (a) through (f).

(2) **COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.**—A one-stop operator in a local area shall collect such performance information from providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid work experience opportunities, and transitional employment as the Governor may require, and use the information to determine whether the providers meet such per-

formance criteria as the Governor may require. The one-stop operator shall disseminate information identifying such providers that meet the criteria as eligible providers, and the performance information, through the one-stop delivery system. Providers determined to meet the criteria shall be considered to be identified as eligible providers of training services.

(i) **TRANSITION PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Governor and local boards shall implement the requirements of this section not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In order to facilitate early implementation of this section, the Governor may establish transition procedures under which providers eligible to provide training services under chapter 5 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as such chapter was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, may continue to be eligible to provide such services until December 31, 2015, or until such earlier date as the Governor determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 123. ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS OF YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds allocated under section 128(b) to a local area, the local board for such area shall award grants or contracts on a competitive basis to providers of youth workforce investment activities identified based on the criteria in the State plan (including such quality criteria as the Governor shall establish for a training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential), and taking into consideration the ability of the providers to meet performance accountability measures based on primary indicators of performance for the youth program as described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), as described in section 102(b)(2)(D)(i)(V), and shall conduct oversight with respect to such providers.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—A local board may award grants or contracts on a sole-source basis if such board determines there is an insufficient number of eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities in the local area involved (such as a rural area) for grants and contracts to be awarded on a competitive basis under subsection (a).

CHAPTER 2—YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 126. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary shall make an allotment under section 127(b)(1)(C) to each State that meets the requirements of section 102 or 103 and a grant under section 127(b)(1)(B) to each outlying area that complies with the requirements of this title, to assist the State or outlying area, and to enable the State or outlying area to assist local areas, for the purpose of providing workforce investment activities for eligible youth in the State or outlying area and in the local areas.

SEC. 127. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) for each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under section 136(a) exceeds \$925,000,000, reserve 4 percent of the excess amount to provide youth workforce investment activities under section 167 (relating to migrant and seasonal farmworkers); and

(2) use the remainder of the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year to make allotments and grants in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) **ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.**—

(1) **YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—From the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year that is not reserved under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1½ percent of such amount to provide youth workforce investment activities under section 166 (relating to Native Americans).

(B) OUTLYING AREAS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for each fiscal year that is not reserved under subsection (a)(1) and subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of such amount to provide assistance to the outlying areas to carry out youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **LIMITATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(I) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall use funds reserved under clause (i) to award grants to outlying areas to carry out youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(II) **AWARD BASIS.**—The Secretary shall award grants pursuant to subclause (I) on a competitive basis and pursuant to the recommendations of experts in the field of employment and training, working through the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii.

(III) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The Secretary may provide not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for grants under subclause (I) to pay the administrative costs of the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii, regarding activities assisted under this clause.

(iii) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The provisions of section 501 of Public Law 95-134 (48 U.S.C. 1469a), permitting the consolidation of grants by the outlying areas, shall not apply to assistance provided to those areas, including Palau, under this subparagraph.

(C) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the remainder of the amount appropriated under section 136(a) for a fiscal year that exists after the Secretary determines the amounts to be reserved under subsection (a)(1) and subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall make allotments to the States in accordance with clause (ii) for youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clauses (iii) and (iv), of the remainder—

(I) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

(II) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged youth in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged youth in all States, except as described in clause (iii).

(iii) **CALCULATION.**—In determining an allotment under clause (ii)(III) for any State in which there is an area that was designated as a local area as described in section 107(c)(1)(C), the allotment shall be based on the higher of—

(I) the number of individuals who are age 16 through 21 in families with an income below the low-income level in such area; or

(II) the number of disadvantaged youth in such area.

(iv) **MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.**—In making allotments under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is less than the greater of—

(aa) an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year; or

(bb) 100 percent of the allotments of the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) for fiscal year 2014.

(II) **SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclauses (I), (III), and (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this subparagraph that is less than the total of—

(aa) $\frac{3}{10}$ of 1 percent of \$1,000,000,000 of the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year; and

(bb) if the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year exceeds \$1,000,000,000, $\frac{2}{5}$ of 1 percent of the excess.

(III) **MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(IV) **MINIMUM FUNDING.**—In any fiscal year in which the remainder described in clause (i) does not exceed \$1,000,000,000, the minimum allotments under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be calculated by the methodology specified in section 127(b)(1)(C)(iv)(IV) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purpose of the formula specified in paragraph (1)(C):

(A) **ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.**—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the remainder described in paragraph (1)(C)(i) that is received through an allotment made under paragraph (1)(C) for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means the percentage of the amount allotted to States under section 127(b)(1)(C) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that is received under such section by the State involved for fiscal year 2014.

(B) **AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.**—The term “area of substantial unemployment” means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 6.5 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this subparagraph, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

(C) **DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.**—Subject to paragraph (3), the term “disadvantaged youth” means an individual who is age 16 through 21 who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

(i) the poverty line; or

(ii) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

(D) **EXCESS NUMBER.**—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the higher of—

(i) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State; or

(ii) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in areas of substantial unemployment in such State.

(E) **LOW-INCOME LEVEL.**—The term “low-income level” means \$7,000 with respect to income in 1969, and for any later year means that amount that bears the same relationship to \$7,000 as the Consumer Price Index for that year bears to the Consumer Price Index for 1969, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

(3) **SPECIAL RULE.**—For the purpose of the formula specified in paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, exclude college students and members of the Armed Forces from the determination of the number of disadvantaged youth.

(c) **REALLOTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible States amounts that are made available to States from allotments made under this section or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for youth workforce investment activities and statewide workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “State allotment”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) **AMOUNT.**—The amount available for reallocation for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the State allotment, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allotment for the prior program year.

(3) **REALLOTMENT.**—In making reallocations to eligible States of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount based on the relative amount of the State allotment for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the State allotments for all eligible States for such program year.

(4) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible State means a State that does not have an amount available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

(5) **PROCEDURES.**—The Governor shall prescribe uniform procedures for the obligation of funds by local areas within the State in order to avoid the requirement that funds be made available for reallocation under this subsection. The Governor shall further prescribe equitable procedures for making funds available from the State and local areas in the event that a State is required to make funds available for reallocation under this subsection.

SEC. 128. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

(a) **RESERVATIONS FOR STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor shall reserve not more than 15 percent of each of the amounts allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) and paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b) for a fiscal year for statewide workforce investment activities.

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Regardless of whether the reserved amounts were allotted under section 127(b)(1)(C), or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b), the Governor may use the reserved amounts to carry out statewide activities under section 129(b) or statewide employment and training activities, for adults or dislocated workers, under section 134(a).

(b) **WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.**—

(1) **METHODS.**—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials and local boards in the local areas, shall allocate the funds that are allotted to the State for youth activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 127(b)(1)(C) and are not reserved under subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3).

(2) **FORMULA ALLOCATION.**—(A) **YOUTH ACTIVITIES.**—

(i) **ALLOCATION.**—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas, a State may allocate—

(I) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 127(b)(1)(C)(ii)(I);

(II) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 127(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II); and

(III) 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the funds on the basis described in clauses (ii)(III) and (iii) of section 127(b)(1)(C).

(ii) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for a fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iii) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph, for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2013 or 2014, means a percentage of the funds referred to in section 128(b)(1) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 128(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as so in effect), for the fiscal year 2013 or 2014, respectively.

(B) **APPLICATION.**—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) references in section 127(b) to a State shall be deemed to be references to a local area;

(ii) references in section 127(b) to all States shall be deemed to be references to all local areas in the State involved; and

(iii) except as described in clause (i), references in section 127(b)(1) to the term “excess number” shall be considered to be references to the term as defined in section 127(b)(2).

(3) **YOUTH DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATION.**—In lieu of making the allocation described in paragraph (2), in allocating the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas, a State may distribute—

(A) a portion equal to not less than 70 percent of the funds in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) the remaining portion of the funds on the basis of a formula that—

(i) incorporates additional factors (other than the factors described in paragraph (2)(A)) relating to—

(I) excess youth poverty in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(II) excess unemployment above the State average in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(ii) was developed by the State board and approved by the Secretary as part of the State plan.

(4) **LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMIT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount allocated to a local area under this subsection and section 133(b) for a fiscal year, not more than 10 percent of the amount may be used by the local board involved for the administrative costs of carrying out local workforce investment activities under this chapter or chapter 3.

(B) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Funds made available for administrative costs under subparagraph (A) may be used for the administrative costs of any of the local workforce investment activities described in this chapter or chapter 3, regardless of whether the funds were allocated under this subsection or section 133(b).

(C) **REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection and after consultation with the State board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are made available to local areas from allocations made under this section or a corresponding

provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for youth workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “local allocation”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) **AMOUNT.**—The amount available for reallocation for a program year is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year.

(3) **REALLOCATION.**—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.

(4) **ELIGIBILITY.**—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means a local area that does not have an amount available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

SEC. 129. USE OF FUNDS FOR YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **YOUTH PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.**—

(I) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to participate in activities carried out under this chapter during any program year an individual shall, at the time the eligibility determination is made, be an out-of-school youth or an in-school youth.

(B) **OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—In this title, the term “out-of-school youth” means an individual who is—

(i) not attending any school (as defined under State law);

(ii) not younger than age 16 or older than age 24; and

(iii) one or more of the following:

(I) A school dropout.

(II) A youth who is within the age of compulsory school attendance, but has not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter.

(III) A recipient of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent who is a low-income individual and is—

(aa) basic skills deficient; or

(bb) an English language learner.

(IV) An individual who is subject to the juvenile or adult justice system.

(V) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement.

(VI) An individual who is pregnant or parenting.

(VII) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

(VIII) A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

(C) **IN-SCHOOL YOUTH.**—In this section, the term “in-school youth” means an individual who is—

(i) attending school (as defined by State law);

(ii) not younger than age 14 or (unless an individual with a disability who is attending school under State law) older than age 21;

(iii) a low-income individual; and

(iv) one or more of the following:

(I) Basic skills deficient.

(II) An English language learner.

(III) An offender.

(IV) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, in foster care or has aged out of the foster care system, a child eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677), or in an out-of-home placement.

(V) Pregnant or parenting.

(VI) A youth who is an individual with a disability.

(VII) An individual who requires additional assistance to complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE.**—For the purpose of this subsection, the term “low-income”, used with respect to an individual, also includes a youth living in a high-poverty area.

(3) **EXCEPTION AND LIMITATION.**—

(A) **EXCEPTION FOR PERSONS WHO ARE NOT LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.**—

(i) **DEFINITION.**—In this subparagraph, the term “covered individual” means an in-school youth, or an out-of-school youth who is described in subclause (III) or (VIII) of paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

(ii) **EXCEPTION.**—In each local area, not more than 5 percent of the individuals assisted under this section may be persons who would be covered individuals, except that the persons are not low-income individuals.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—In each local area, not more than 5 percent of the in-school youth assisted under this section may be eligible under paragraph (1) because the youth are in-school youth described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv)(VII).

(4) **OUT-OF-SCHOOL PRIORITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For any program year, not less than 75 percent of the funds allotted under section 127(b)(1)(C), reserved under section 128(a), and available for statewide activities under subsection (b), and not less than 75 percent of funds available to local areas under subsection (c), shall be used to provide youth workforce investment activities for out-of-school youth.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—A State that receives a minimum allotment under section 127(b)(1) in accordance with section 127(b)(1)(C)(iv) or under section 132(b)(1) in accordance with section 132(b)(1)(B)(iv) may decrease the percentage described in subparagraph (A) to not less than 50 percent for a local area in the State, if—

(i) after an analysis of the in-school youth and out-of-school youth populations in the local area, the State determines that the local area will be unable to use at least 75 percent of the funds available for activities under subsection (c) to serve out-of-school youth due to a low number of out-of-school youth; and

(ii)(I) the State submits to the Secretary, for the local area, a request including a proposed percentage decreased to not less than 50 percent for purposes of subparagraph (A), and a summary of the analysis described in clause (i); and

(II) the request is approved by the Secretary.

(5) **CONSISTENCY WITH COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS.**—In providing assistance under this section to an individual who is required to attend school under applicable State compulsory school attendance laws, the priority in providing such assistance shall be for the individual to attend school regularly.

(b) **STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES.**—

(I) **REQUIRED STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.**—Funds reserved by a Governor as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) shall be used, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to

the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b) for statewide activities, which shall include—

(A) conducting evaluations under section 116(e) of activities authorized under this chapter and chapter 3 in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 169(a);

(B) disseminating a list of eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities, as determined under section 123;

(C) providing assistance to local areas as described in subsections (b)(6) and (c)(2) of section 106, for local coordination of activities carried out under this title;

(D) operating a fiscal and management accountability information system under section 116(i);

(E) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter and chapter 3, which may include a review comparing the services provided to male and female youth; and

(F) providing additional assistance to local areas that have high concentrations of eligible youth.

(2) **ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE YOUTH ACTIVITIES.**—Funds reserved by a Governor as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) may be used, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b), for statewide activities, which may include—

(A) conducting—

(i) research related to meeting the education and employment needs of eligible youth; and

(ii) demonstration projects related to meeting the education and employment needs of eligible youth;

(B) supporting the development of alternative, evidence-based programs and other activities that enhance the choices available to eligible youth and encourage such youth to reenter and complete secondary education, enroll in postsecondary education and advanced training, progress through a career pathway, and enter into unsubsidized employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency;

(C) supporting the provision of career services described in section 134(c)(2) in the one-stop delivery system in the State;

(D) supporting financial literacy, including—

(i) supporting the ability of participants to create household budgets, initiate savings plans, and make informed financial decisions about education, retirement, home ownership, wealth building, or other savings goals;

(ii) supporting the ability to manage spending, credit, and debt, including credit card debt, effectively;

(iii) increasing awareness of the availability and significance of credit reports and credit scores in obtaining credit, including determining their accuracy (and how to correct inaccuracies in the reports and scores), and their effect on credit terms;

(iv) supporting the ability to understand, evaluate, and compare financial products, services, and opportunities; and

(v) supporting activities that address the particular financial literacy needs of non-English speakers, including providing the support through the development and distribution of multilingual financial literacy and education materials; and

(E) providing technical assistance to, as appropriate, local boards, chief elected officials, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, in local areas, which provision of technical assistance shall include the development and training of staff, the development of exemplary program activities, the provision of technical assistance to local areas that fail to

meet local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c), and the provision of technology to facilitate remote access to services provided through the one-stop delivery system in the State.

(3) **LIMITATION.**—Not more than 5 percent of the funds allotted to a State under section 127(b)(1)(C) shall be used by the State for administrative activities carried out under this subsection or section 134(a).

(c) **LOCAL ELEMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PROGRAM DESIGN.**—Funds allocated to a local area for eligible youth under section 128(b) shall be used to carry out, for eligible youth, programs that—

(A) provide an objective assessment of the academic levels, skill levels, and service needs of each participant, which assessment shall include a review of basic skills, occupational skills, prior work experience, employability, interests, aptitudes (including interests and aptitudes for nontraditional jobs), supportive service needs, and developmental needs of such participant, for the purpose of identifying appropriate services and career pathways for participants, except that a new assessment of a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program;

(B) develop service strategies for each participant that are directly linked to 1 or more of the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), and that shall identify career pathways that include education and employment goals (including, in appropriate circumstances, nontraditional employment), appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate services for the participant taking into account the assessment conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A), except that a new service strategy for a participant is not required if the provider carrying out such a program determines it is appropriate to use a recent service strategy developed for the participant under another education or training program;

(C) provide—

(i) activities leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, or a recognized postsecondary credential;

(ii) preparation for postsecondary educational and training opportunities;

(iii) strong linkages between academic instruction (based on State academic content and student academic achievement standards established under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311)) and occupational education that lead to the attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials;

(iv) preparation for unsubsidized employment opportunities, in appropriate cases; and

(v) effective connections to employers, including small employers, in in-demand industry sectors and occupations of the local and regional labor markets; and

(D) at the discretion of the local board, implement a pay-for-performance contract strategy for elements described in paragraph (2), for which the local board may reserve and use not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under section 128(b).

(2) **PROGRAM ELEMENTS.**—In order to support the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, entry into postsecondary education, and career readiness for participants, the programs described in paragraph (1) shall provide elements consisting of—

(A) tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies that lead to completion of the requirements for a secondary school diploma or

its recognized equivalent (including a recognized certificate of attendance or similar document for individuals with disabilities) or for a recognized postsecondary credential;

(B) alternative secondary school services, or dropout recovery services, as appropriate;

(C) paid and unpaid work experiences that have as a component academic and occupational education, which may include—

(i) summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;

(ii) pre-apprenticeship programs;

(iii) internships and job shadowing; and

(iv) on-the-job training opportunities;

(D) occupational skill training, which shall include priority consideration for training programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved, if the local board determines that the programs meet the quality criteria described in section 123;

(E) education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;

(F) leadership development opportunities, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social and civic behaviors, as appropriate;

(G) supportive services;

(H) adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;

(I) followup services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, as appropriate;

(J) comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate;

(K) financial literacy education;

(L) entrepreneurial skills training;

(M) services that provide labor market and employment information about in-demand industry sectors or occupations available in the local area, such as career awareness, career counseling, and career exploration services; and

(N) activities that help youth prepare for and transition to postsecondary education and training.

(3) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **INFORMATION AND REFERRALS.**—Each local board shall ensure that each participant shall be provided—

(i) information on the full array of applicable or appropriate services that are available through the local board or other eligible providers or one-stop partners, including those providers or partners receiving funds under this subtitle; and

(ii) referral to appropriate training and educational programs that have the capacity to serve the participant either on a sequential or concurrent basis.

(B) **APPLICANTS NOT MEETING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS.**—Each eligible provider of a program of youth workforce investment activities shall ensure that an eligible applicant who does not meet the enrollment requirements of the particular program or who cannot be served shall be referred for further assessment, as necessary, and referred to appropriate programs in accordance with subparagraph (A) to meet the basic skills and training needs of the applicant.

(C) **INVOLVEMENT IN DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.**—The local board shall ensure that parents, participants, and other members of the community with experience relating to programs for youth are involved in the design and implementation of the programs described in paragraph (1).

(4) **PRIORITY.**—Not less than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area as described in

paragraph (1) shall be used to provide in-school youth and out-of-school youth with activities under paragraph (2)(C).

(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require that each of the elements described in subparagraphs of paragraph (2) be offered by each provider of youth services.

(6) **PROHIBITIONS.**—

(A) **PROHIBITION AGAINST FEDERAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION.**—No provision of this Act shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution, school, or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks, or other printed or published instructional materials by any educational institution, school, or school system.

(B) **NONINTERFERENCE AND NONREPLACEMENT OF REGULAR ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.**—No funds described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide an activity for eligible youth who are not school dropouts if participation in the activity would interfere with or replace the regular academic requirements of the youth.

(7) **LINKAGES.**—In coordinating the programs authorized under this section, local boards shall establish linkages with local educational agencies responsible for services to participants as appropriate.

(8) **VOLUNTEERS.**—The local board shall make opportunities available for individuals who have successfully participated in programs carried out under this section to volunteer assistance to participants in the form of mentoring, tutoring, and other activities.

CHAPTER 3—ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

SEC. 131. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary shall make allotments under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of section 132(b) to each State that meets the requirements of section 102 or 103 and grants under paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of section 132(b) to each outlying area that complies with the requirements of this title, to assist the State or outlying area, and to enable the State or outlying area to assist local areas, for the purpose of providing workforce investment activities for adults, and dislocated workers, in the State or outlying area and in the local areas.

SEC. 132. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) make allotments and grants from the amount appropriated under section 136(b) for a fiscal year in accordance with subsection (b)(1); and

(2)(A) reserve 20 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year for use under subsection (b)(2)(A), and under sections 168(b) (relating to dislocated worker technical assistance), 169(c) (relating to dislocated worker projects), and 170 (relating to national dislocated worker grants); and

(B) make allotments from 80 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year in accordance with subsection (b)(2)(B).

(b) **ALLOTMENT AMONG STATES.**—

(1) **ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of such amount to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

(ii) **APPLICABILITY OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—From the amount reserved under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide assistance to the

outlying areas for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with the requirements of section 127(b)(1)(B).

(B) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—After determining the amount to be reserved under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of the amount made available under subsection (a)(1) for that fiscal year to the States pursuant to clause (ii) for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clauses (iii) and (iv), of the remainder—

(I) $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in areas of substantial unemployment in all States;

(II) $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of disadvantaged adults in each State, compared to the total number of disadvantaged adults in all States, except as described in clause (iii).

(iii) **CALCULATION.**—In determining an allotment under clause (ii)(III) for any State in which there is an area that was designated as a local area as described in section 107(c)(1)(C), the allotment shall be based on the higher of—

(I) the number of adults in families with an income below the low-income level in such area; or

(II) the number of disadvantaged adults in such area.

(iv) **MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.**—In making allotments under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) **MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclause (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(II) **SMALL STATE MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.**—Subject to subclauses (I), (III), and (IV), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment under this subparagraph that is less than the total of—

(aa) $\frac{3}{10}$ of 1 percent of \$960,000,000 of the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year; and

(bb) if the remainder described in clause (i) for the fiscal year exceeds \$960,000,000, $\frac{2}{5}$ of 1 percent of the excess.

(III) **MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.**—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(IV) **MINIMUM FUNDING.**—In any fiscal year in which the remainder described in clause (i) does not exceed \$960,000,000, the minimum allotments under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be calculated by the methodology specified in section 132(b)(1)(B)(iv)(IV) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(v) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purpose of the formula specified in this subparagraph:

(I) **ADULT.**—The term “adult” means an individual who is not less than age 22 and not more than age 72.

(II) **ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.**—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a

percentage of the remainder described in clause (i) that is received through an allotment made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means the percentage of the amount allotted to States under section 132(b)(1)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) that is received under such section by the State involved for fiscal year 2014.

(III) **AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT.**—The term “area of substantial unemployment” means any area that is of sufficient size and scope to sustain a program of workforce investment activities carried out under this subtitle and that has an average rate of unemployment of at least 6.5 percent for the most recent 12 months, as determined by the Secretary. For purposes of this subclause, determinations of areas of substantial unemployment shall be made once each fiscal year.

(IV) **DISADVANTAGED ADULT.**—Subject to subclause (V), the term “disadvantaged adult” means an adult who received an income, or is a member of a family that received a total family income, that, in relation to family size, does not exceed the higher of—

(aa) the poverty line; or

(bb) 70 percent of the lower living standard income level.

(V) **DISADVANTAGED ADULT SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary shall, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, exclude college students and members of the Armed Forces from the determination of the number of disadvantaged adults.

(VI) **EXCESS NUMBER.**—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the higher of—

(aa) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State; or

(bb) the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in areas of substantial unemployment in such State.

(VII) **LOW-INCOME LEVEL.**—The term “low-income level” means \$7,000 with respect to income in 1969, and for any later year means that amount that bears the same relationship to \$7,000 as the Consumer Price Index for that year bears to the Consumer Price Index for 1969, rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

(2) **DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(A) **RESERVATION FOR OUTLYING AREAS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—From the amount made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 136(c) for the fiscal year to provide assistance to the outlying areas.

(ii) **APPLICABILITY OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—From the amount reserved under clause (i), the Secretary shall provide assistance to the outlying areas for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with the requirements of section 127(b)(1)(B).

(B) **STATES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall allot the amount referred to in subsection (a)(2)(B) for a fiscal year to the States pursuant to clause (ii) for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities.

(ii) **FORMULA.**—Subject to clause (iii), of the amount—

(I) $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total number of unemployed individuals in all States;

(II) $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative excess number of unemployed individuals in each State, compared to the total

excess number of unemployed individuals in all States; and

(III) 33⅓ percent shall be allotted on the basis of the relative number of individuals in each State who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more, compared to the total number of individuals in all States who have been unemployed for 15 weeks or more.

(iii) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PERCENTAGES AND MINIMUM ALLOTMENTS.—In making allotments under this subparagraph, for fiscal year 2016 and each subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(I) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE AND ALLOTMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment for a fiscal year that is an amount based on 90 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(II) MAXIMUM PERCENTAGE.—Subject to subclause (I), the Secretary shall ensure that no State shall receive an allotment percentage for a fiscal year that is more than 130 percent of the allotment percentage of the State for the preceding fiscal year.

(iv) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of the formula specified in this subparagraph:

(I) ALLOTMENT PERCENTAGE.—The term “allotment percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the amount described in clause (i) that is received through an allotment made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year.

(II) EXCESS NUMBER.—The term “excess number” means, used with respect to the excess number of unemployed individuals within a State, the number that represents the number of unemployed individuals in excess of 4.5 percent of the civilian labor force in the State.

(c) REALLOTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in accordance with this subsection, reallocate to eligible States amounts that are made available to States from allotments made under this section or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “State allotment”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount available for reallocation for a program year for programs funded under subsection (b)(1)(B) (relating to adult employment and training) or for programs funded under subsection (b)(2)(B) (relating to dislocated worker employment and training) is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the State allotments for adult employment and training activities or dislocated worker employment and training activities, respectively, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this paragraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allotments for the prior program year.

(3) REALLOTMENT.—In making reallocations to eligible States of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible State an amount based on the relative amount of the State allotment under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of subsection (b) for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the State allotments under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B), respectively, of subsection (b) for all eligible States for such program year.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible State means—

(A) with respect to funds allotted through a State allotment for adult employment and training activities, a State that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and

(B) with respect to funds allotted through a State allotment for dislocated worker employment and training activities, a State that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

(5) PROCEDURES.—The Governor shall prescribe uniform procedures for the obligation of funds by local areas within the State in order to avoid the requirement that funds be made available for reallocation under this subsection. The Governor shall further prescribe equitable procedures for making funds available from the State and local areas in the event that a State is required to make funds available for reallocation under this subsection.

SEC. 133. WITHIN STATE ALLOCATIONS.

(a) RESERVATIONS FOR STATE ACTIVITIES.—

(1) STATEWIDE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Governor shall make the reservation required under section 128(a).

(2) STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.—The Governor shall reserve not more than 25 percent of the total amount allotted to the State under section 132(b)(2)(B) for a fiscal year for statewide rapid response activities described in section 134(a)(2)(A).

(b) WITHIN STATE ALLOCATION.—

(1) METHODS.—The Governor, acting in accordance with the State plan, and after consulting with chief elected officials and local boards in the local areas, shall allocate—

(A) the funds that are allotted to the State for adult employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 132(b)(1)(B) and are not reserved under subsection (a)(1), in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3); and

(B) the funds that are allotted to the State for dislocated worker employment and training activities and statewide workforce investment activities under section 132(b)(2)(B) and are not reserved under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) FORMULA ALLOCATIONS.—

(A) ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(i) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State may allocate—

(I) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 132(b)(1)(B)(ii)(I);

(II) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in section 132(b)(1)(B)(ii)(II); and

(III) 33⅓ percent of the funds on the basis described in clauses (ii)(III) and (iii) of section 132(b)(1)(B).

(ii) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for a fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph, for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2013 or 2014, means a percentage of the amount allocated to local areas under paragraphs (2)(A) and (3) of section 133(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of that section for fiscal year 2013 or 2014, respectively.

(B) DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(i) ALLOCATION.—In allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(B) to local areas, a State shall allocate the funds based on an allocation formula prescribed by the Governor of the State. Such formula may be amended by the Governor not more than once for each program year. Such formula shall utilize the most appropriate information available to the Governor to distribute amounts to address the State's worker readjustment assistance needs.

(ii) INFORMATION.—The information described in clause (i) shall include insured unemployment data, unemployment concentrations, plant closing and mass layoff data, declining industries data, farmer-rancher economic hardship data, and long-term unemployment data.

(iii) MINIMUM PERCENTAGE.—The local area shall not receive an allocation percentage for fiscal year 2016 or a subsequent fiscal year that is less than 90 percent of the average allocation percentage of the local area for the 2 preceding fiscal years. Amounts necessary for increasing such allocations to local areas to comply with the preceding sentence shall be obtained by ratably reducing the allocations to be made to other local areas under this subparagraph.

(iv) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term “allocation percentage”, used with respect to fiscal year 2015 or a subsequent fiscal year, means a percentage of the funds referred to in clause (i), received through an allocation made under this subparagraph for the fiscal year. The term, used with respect to fiscal year 2014, means a percentage of the amount allocated to local areas under section 133(b)(2)(B) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), received through an allocation made under that section for fiscal year 2014.

(C) APPLICATION.—For purposes of carrying out subparagraph (A)—

(i) references in section 132(b) to a State shall be deemed to be references to a local area;

(ii) references in section 132(b) to all States shall be deemed to be references to all local areas in the State involved; and

(iii) except as described in clause (i), references in section 132(b)(1) to the term “excess number” shall be considered to be references to the term as defined in section 132(b)(1).

(3) ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING DISCRETIONARY ALLOCATIONS.—In lieu of making the allocation described in paragraph (2)(A), in allocating the funds described in paragraph (1)(A) to local areas, a State may distribute—

(A) a portion equal to not less than 70 percent of the funds in accordance with paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) the remaining portion of the funds on the basis of a formula that—

(i) incorporates additional factors (other than the factors described in paragraph (2)(A)) relating to—

(I) excess poverty in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(II) excess unemployment above the State average in urban, rural, and suburban local areas; and

(ii) was developed by the State board and approved by the Secretary as part of the State plan.

(4) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—A local board may transfer, if such a transfer is approved by the Governor, up to and including 100 percent of the funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), and up to and including 100 percent of the funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2)(B), for a fiscal year between—

(A) adult employment and training activities; and

(B) dislocated worker employment and training activities.

(5) ALLOCATION.—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Governor shall allocate the funds described in paragraph (1) to local areas under paragraphs (2) and (3) for the purpose of providing a single system of employment and training activities for adults and dislocated workers in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of section 134.

(B) *ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.*—

(i) *ADULTS.*—Funds allocated under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) shall be used by a local area to contribute to the costs of the one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) as determined under section 121(h) and to pay for employment and training activities provided to adults in the local area, consistent with section 134.

(ii) *DISLOCATED WORKERS.*—Funds allocated under paragraph (2)(B) shall be used by a local area to contribute to the costs of the one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) as determined under section 121(h) and to pay for employment and training activities provided to dislocated workers in the local area, consistent with section 134.

(C) *REALLOCATION AMONG LOCAL AREAS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Governor may, in accordance with this subsection and after consultation with the State board, reallocate to eligible local areas within the State amounts that are made available to local areas from allocations made under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for adult employment and training activities, or under subsection (b)(2)(B) or a corresponding provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 for dislocated worker employment and training activities (referred to individually in this subsection as a “local allocation”) and that are available for reallocation.

(2) *AMOUNT.*—The amount available for reallocation for a program year—

(A) for adult employment and training activities is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b) for such activities, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subparagraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year; and

(B) for dislocated worker employment and training activities is equal to the amount by which the unobligated balance of the local allocation under subsection (b)(2)(B) for such activities, at the end of the program year prior to the program year for which the determination under this subparagraph is made, exceeds 20 percent of such allocation for the prior program year.

(3) *REALLOCATION.*—In making reallocations to eligible local areas of amounts available pursuant to paragraph (2) for a program year, the Governor shall allocate to each eligible local area within the State—

(A) with respect to such available amounts that were allocated under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), as appropriate, for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of subsection (b), as appropriate, for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year; and

(B) with respect to such available amounts that were allocated under subsection (b)(2)(B), an amount based on the relative amount of the local allocation under subsection (b)(2)(B) for the program year for which the determination is made, as compared to the total amount of the local allocations under subsection (b)(2)(B) for all eligible local areas in the State for such program year.

(4) *ELIGIBILITY.*—For purposes of this subsection, an eligible local area means—

(A) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for adult employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made; and

(B) with respect to funds allocated through a local allocation for dislocated worker employment and training activities, a local area that does not have an amount of such funds available for reallocation under paragraph (2) for the program year for which the determination under paragraph (2) is made.

SEC. 134. USE OF FUNDS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

(A) *STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Funds reserved by a Governor—

(A) as described in section 133(a)(2) shall be used to carry out the statewide rapid response activities described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1)—

(i) shall be used to carry out the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (2)(B); and

(ii) may be used to carry out any of the statewide employment and training activities described in paragraph (3), regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

(2) *REQUIRED STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.*—

(A) *STATEWIDE RAPID RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.*—

(i) *IN GENERAL.*—A State shall carry out statewide rapid response activities using funds reserved by the Governor for the State under section 133(a)(2), which activities shall include—

(1) provision of rapid response activities, carried out in local areas by the State or by an entity designated by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas; and

(2) provision of additional assistance to local areas that experience disasters, mass layoffs, or plant closings, or other events that precipitate substantial increases in the number of unemployed individuals, carried out in local areas by the State, working in conjunction with the local boards and the chief elected officials for the local areas.

(ii) *USE OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.*—Funds reserved by a Governor under section 133(a)(2), and section 133(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act), to carry out this subparagraph that remain unobligated after the first program year for which such funds were allotted may be used by the Governor to carry out statewide activities authorized under subparagraph (B) or paragraph (3)(A), in addition to activities under this subparagraph.

(B) *STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.*—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the States under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) shall be used for statewide employment and training activities, including—

(i) providing assistance to—

(1) State entities and agencies, local areas, and one-stop partners in carrying out the activities described in the State plan, including the coordination and alignment of data systems used to carry out the requirements of this Act;

(2) local areas for carrying out the regional planning and service delivery efforts required under section 106(c);

(3) local areas by providing information on and support for the effective development, convening, and implementation of industry or sector partnerships; and

(4) local areas, one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers, including the development and training of staff, which may include the development and training of staff to provide opportunities for individuals with barriers to employment to enter in-demand industry sectors or occupations and nontraditional occupations, the development of exemplary program activities, and the provision of technical assistance to local areas that fail to meet local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(ii) providing assistance to local areas as described in section 106(b)(6);

(iii) operating a fiscal and management accountability information system in accordance with section 116(i);

(iv) carrying out monitoring and oversight of activities carried out under this chapter and chapter 2;

(v) disseminating—

(1) the State list of eligible providers of training services, including eligible providers of nontraditional training services and eligible providers of apprenticeship programs described in section 122(a)(2)(B);

(2) information identifying eligible providers of on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, internships, paid or unpaid worker experience opportunities, or transitional jobs;

(3) information on effective outreach to, partnerships with, and services for, business;

(4) information on effective service delivery strategies to serve workers and job seekers;

(5) performance information and information on the cost of attendance (including tuition and fees) for participants in applicable programs, as described in subsections (d) and (h) of section 122; and

(6) information on physical and programmatic accessibility, in accordance with section 188, if applicable, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), for individuals with disabilities; and

(vi) conducting evaluations under section 116(e) of activities authorized under this chapter and chapter 2 in coordination with evaluations carried out by the Secretary under section 169(a).

(3) *ALLOWABLE STATEWIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.*—

(A) *IN GENERAL.*—Funds reserved by a Governor under sections 128(a)(1) and 133(a)(1) and not used under paragraph (1)(A) or (2)(B) (regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1)(C) or paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) of section 132(b)) may be used to carry out additional statewide employment and training activities, which may include—

(i) implementing innovative programs and strategies designed to meet the needs of all employers (including small employers) in the State, which programs and strategies may include incumbent worker training programs, customized training, sectoral and industry cluster strategies and implementation of industry or sector partnerships, career pathway programs, microenterprise and entrepreneurial training and support programs, utilization of effective business intermediaries, layoff aversion strategies, activities to improve linkages between the one-stop delivery system in the State and all employers (including small employers) in the State, and other business services and strategies that better engage employers in workforce investment activities and make the workforce development system more relevant to the needs of State and local businesses, consistent with the objectives of this title;

(ii) developing strategies for effectively serving individuals with barriers to employment and for coordinating programs and services among one-stop partners;

(iii) the development or identification of education and training programs that respond to real-time labor market analysis, that utilize direct assessment and prior learning assessment to measure and provide credit for prior knowledge, skills, competencies, and experiences, that evaluate such skills and competencies for adaptability, that ensure credits are portable and stackable for more skilled employment, and that accelerate course or credential completion;

(iv) implementing programs to increase the number of individuals training for and placed in nontraditional employment;

(v) carrying out activities to facilitate remote access to services, including training services described in subsection (c)(3), provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

(vi) supporting the provision of career services described in subsection (c)(2) in the one-stop delivery systems in the State;

(vii) coordinating activities with the child welfare system to facilitate provision of services for children and youth who are eligible for assistance under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677);

(viii) activities—

(I) to improve coordination of workforce investment activities with economic development activities;

(II) to improve coordination of employment and training activities with—

(aa) child support services, and assistance provided by State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(bb) cooperative extension programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture;

(cc) programs carried out in local areas for individuals with disabilities, including programs carried out by State agencies relating to intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, activities carried out by Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d), programs funded under part B of chapter 1 of title VII of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796e et seq.), and activities carried out by centers for independent living, as defined in section 702 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796a);

(dd) adult education and literacy activities, including those provided by public libraries;

(ee) activities in the corrections system that assist ex-offenders in reentering the workforce; and

(ff) financial literacy activities including those described in section 129(b)(2)(D); and

(III) consisting of development and dissemination of workforce and labor market information;

(ix) conducting research and demonstration projects related to meeting the employment and education needs of adult and dislocated workers;

(x) implementing promising services for workers and businesses, which may include providing support for education, training, skill upgrading, and statewide networking for employees to become workplace learning advisors and maintain proficiency in carrying out the activities associated with such advising;

(xi) providing incentive grants to local areas for performance by the local areas on local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c);

(xii) adopting, calculating, or commissioning for approval an economic self-sufficiency standard for the State that specifies the income needs of families, by family size, the number and ages of children in the family, and substate geographical considerations;

(xiii) developing and disseminating common intake procedures and related items, including registration processes, materials, or software; and

(xiv) providing technical assistance to local areas that are implementing pay-for-performance contract strategies, which technical assistance may include providing assistance with data collection, meeting data entry requirements, identifying levels of performance, and conducting evaluations of such strategies.

(B) LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds allotted to a State under sections 127(b) and 132(b) and reserved as described in sections 128(a) and 133(a)(1) for a fiscal year—

(I) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 127(b)(1);

(II) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(1); and

(III) not more than 5 percent of the amount allotted under section 132(b)(2),

may be used by the State for the administration of statewide youth workforce investment activities carried out under section 129 and statewide employment and training activities carried out under this section.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available for administrative costs under clause (i) may be used for the administrative cost of any of the statewide youth workforce investment activities or statewide employment and training activities, regardless of whether the funds were allotted to the State under section 127(b)(1) or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 132(b).

(b) LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to a local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B)—

(I) shall be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (c) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively; and

(2) may be used to carry out employment and training activities described in subsection (d) for adults or dislocated workers, respectively.

(c) REQUIRED LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ALLOCATED FUNDS.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), shall be used—

(i) to establish a one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e);

(ii) to provide the career services described in paragraph (2) to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, through the one-stop delivery system in accordance with such paragraph;

(iii) to provide training services described in paragraph (3) to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, described in such paragraph;

(iv) to establish and develop relationships and networks with large and small employers and their intermediaries; and

(v) to develop, convene, or implement industry or sector partnerships.

(B) OTHER FUNDS.—Consistent with subsections (h) and (i) of section 121, a portion of the funds made available under Federal law authorizing the programs and activities described in section 121(b)(1)(B), including the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), shall be used as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), to the extent not inconsistent with the Federal law involved.

(2) CAREER SERVICES.—

(A) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Funds described in paragraph (1) shall be used to provide career services, which shall be available to individuals who are adults or dislocated workers through the one-stop delivery system and shall, at a minimum, include—

(i) determinations of whether the individuals are eligible to receive assistance under this subtitle;

(ii) outreach, intake (which may include worker profiling), and orientation to the information and other services available through the one-stop delivery system;

(iii) initial assessment of skill levels (including literacy, numeracy, and English language proficiency), aptitudes, abilities (including skills gaps), and supportive service needs;

(iv) labor exchange services, including—

(I) job search and placement assistance and, in appropriate cases, career counseling, including—

(aa) provision of information on in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and

(bb) provision of information on nontraditional employment; and

(II) appropriate recruitment and other business services on behalf of employers, including small employers, in the local area, which services may include services described in this subsection, such as providing information and referral to specialized business services not traditionally offered through the one-stop delivery system;

(v) provision of referrals to and coordination of activities with other programs and services, including programs and services within the one-stop delivery system and, in appropriate cases, other workforce development programs;

(vi) provision of workforce and labor market employment statistics information, including the provision of accurate information relating to local, regional, and national labor market areas, including—

(I) job vacancy listings in such labor market areas;

(II) information on job skills necessary to obtain the jobs described in subclause (I); and

(III) information relating to local occupations in demand and the earnings, skill requirements, and opportunities for advancement for such occupations; and

(vii) provision of performance information and program cost information on eligible providers of training services as described in section 122, provided by program, and eligible providers of youth workforce investment activities described in section 123, providers of adult education described in title II, providers of career and technical education activities at the postsecondary level, and career and technical education activities available to school dropouts, under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and providers of vocational rehabilitation services described in title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.);

(viii) provision of information, in formats that are usable by and understandable to one-stop center customers, regarding how the local area is performing on the local performance accountability measures described in section 116(c) and any additional performance information with respect to the one-stop delivery system in the local area;

(ix)(I) provision of information, in formats that are usable by and understandable to one-stop center customers, relating to the availability of supportive services or assistance, including child care, child support, medical or child health assistance under title XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq. and 1397aa et seq.), benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), assistance through the earned income tax credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and assistance under a State program for temporary assistance for needy families funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et

seq.) and other supportive services and transportation provided through funds made available under such part, available in the local area; and

(II) referral to the services or assistance described in subclause (I), as appropriate;

(x) provision of information and assistance regarding filing claims for unemployment compensation;

(xi) assistance in establishing eligibility for programs of financial aid assistance for training and education programs that are not funded under this Act;

(xii) services, if determined to be appropriate in order for an individual to obtain or retain employment, that consist of—

(I) comprehensive and specialized assessments of the skill levels and service needs of adults and dislocated workers, which may include—

(aa) diagnostic testing and use of other assessment tools; and

(bb) in-depth interviewing and evaluation to identify employment barriers and appropriate employment goals;

(II) development of an individual employment plan, to identify the employment goals, appropriate achievement objectives, and appropriate combination of services for the participant to achieve the employment goals, including providing information on eligible providers of training services pursuant to paragraph (3)(F)(ii), and career pathways to attain career objectives;

(III) group counseling;

(IV) individual counseling;

(V) career planning;

(VI) short-term prevocational services, including development of learning skills, communication skills, interviewing skills, punctuality, personal maintenance skills, and professional conduct, to prepare individuals for unsubsidized employment or training;

(VII) internships and work experiences that are linked to careers;

(VIII) workforce preparation activities;

(IX) financial literacy services, such as the activities described in section 129(b)(2)(D);

(X) out-of-area job search assistance and relocation assistance; or

(XI) English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs; and

(xiii) followup services, including counseling regarding the workplace, for participants in workforce investment activities authorized under this subtitle who are placed in unsubsidized employment, for not less than 12 months after the first day of the employment, as appropriate.

(B) **USE OF PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS.**—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct a new interview, evaluation, or assessment of a participant under subparagraph (A)(xii) if the one-stop operator or one-stop partner determines that it is appropriate to use a recent interview, evaluation, or assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

(C) **DELIVERY OF SERVICES.**—The career services described in subparagraph (A) shall be provided through the one-stop delivery system—

(i) directly through one-stop operators identified pursuant to section 121(d); or

(ii) through contracts with service providers, which may include contracts with public, private for-profit, and private nonprofit service providers, approved by the local board.

(3) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—

(i) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), shall be used to provide training services to adults and dislocated workers, respectively—

(I) who, after an interview, evaluation, or assessment, and career planning, have been determined by a one-stop operator or one-stop partner, as appropriate, to—

(aa) be unlikely or unable to obtain or retain employment, that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment, through the career services described in paragraph (2)(A)(xii);

(bb) be in need of training services to obtain or retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency or wages comparable to or higher than wages from previous employment; and

(cc) have the skills and qualifications to successfully participate in the selected program of training services;

(II) who select programs of training services that are directly linked to the employment opportunities in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which the adults or dislocated workers are willing to commute or relocate;

(III) who meet the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

(IV) who are determined to be eligible in accordance with the priority system in effect under subparagraph (E).

(ii) **USE OF PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS.**—A one-stop operator or one-stop partner shall not be required to conduct a new interview, evaluation, or assessment of a participant under clause (i) if the one-stop operator or one-stop partner determines that it is appropriate to use a recent interview, evaluation, or assessment of the participant conducted pursuant to another education or training program.

(iii) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to mean an individual is required to receive career services prior to receiving training services.

(B) **QUALIFICATION.**—

(i) **REQUIREMENT.**—Notwithstanding section 479B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087uu) and except as provided in clause (ii), provision of such training services shall be limited to individuals who—

(I) are unable to obtain other grant assistance for such services, including Federal Pell Grants established under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.); or

(II) require assistance beyond the assistance made available under other grant assistance programs, including Federal Pell Grants.

(ii) **REIMBURSEMENTS.**—Training services may be provided under this paragraph to an individual who otherwise meets the requirements of this paragraph while an application for a Federal Pell Grant is pending, except that if such individual is subsequently awarded a Federal Pell Grant, appropriate reimbursement shall be made to the local area from such Federal Pell Grant.

(iii) **CONSIDERATION.**—In determining whether an individual requires assistance under clause (i)(II), a one-stop operator (or one-stop partner, where appropriate) may take into consideration the full cost of participating in training services, including the costs of dependent care and transportation, and other appropriate costs.

(C) **PROVIDER QUALIFICATION.**—Training services shall be provided through providers identified in accordance with section 122.

(D) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—Training services may include—

(i) occupational skills training, including training for nontraditional employment;

(ii) on-the-job training;

(iii) incumbent worker training in accordance with subsection (d)(4);

(iv) programs that combine workplace training with related instruction, which may include cooperative education programs;

(v) training programs operated by the private sector;

(vi) skill upgrading and retraining;

(vii) entrepreneurial training;

(viii) transitional jobs in accordance with subsection (d)(5);

(ix) job readiness training provided in combination with services described in any of clauses (i) through (viii);

(x) adult education and literacy activities, including activities of English language acquisition and integrated education and training programs, provided concurrently or in combination with services described in any of clauses (i) through (vi); and

(xi) customized training conducted with a commitment by an employer or group of employers to employ an individual upon successful completion of the training.

(E) **PRIORITY.**—With respect to funds allocated to a local area for adult employment and training activities under paragraph (2)(A) or (3) of section 133(b), priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance, other low-income individuals, and individuals who are basic skills deficient for receipt of career services described in paragraph (2)(A)(xii) and training services. The appropriate local board and the Governor shall direct the one-stop operators in the local area with regard to making determinations related to such priority.

(F) **CONSUMER CHOICE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Training services provided under this paragraph shall be provided in a manner that maximizes consumer choice in the selection of an eligible provider of such services.

(ii) **ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.**—Each local board, through one-stop centers, shall make available the list of eligible providers of training services described in section 122(d), and accompanying information, in accordance with section 122(d).

(iii) **INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.**—An individual who seeks training services and who is eligible pursuant to subparagraph (A), may, in consultation with a career planner, select an eligible provider of training services from the list of providers described in clause (ii). Upon such selection, the one-stop operator involved shall, to the extent practicable, refer such individual to the eligible provider of training services, and arrange for payment for such services through an individual training account.

(iv) **COORDINATION.**—Each local board may, through one-stop centers, coordinate funding for individual training accounts with funding from other Federal, State, local, or private job training programs or sources to assist the individual in obtaining training services.

(v) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—Priority consideration shall, consistent with clause (i), be given to programs that lead to recognized postsecondary credentials that are aligned with in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the local area involved.

(G) **USE OF INDIVIDUAL TRAINING ACCOUNTS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), training services provided under this paragraph shall be provided through the use of individual training accounts in accordance with this paragraph, and shall be provided to eligible individuals through the one-stop delivery system.

(ii) **TRAINING CONTRACTS.**—Training services authorized under this paragraph may be provided pursuant to a contract for services in lieu of an individual training account if—

(I) the requirements of subparagraph (F) are met;

(II) such services are on-the-job training, customized training, incumbent worker training, or transitional employment;

(III) the local board determines there are an insufficient number of eligible providers of training services in the local area involved (such

as in a rural area) to accomplish the purposes of a system of individual training accounts;

(IV) the local board determines that there is a training services program of demonstrated effectiveness offered in the local area by a community-based organization or another private organization to serve individuals with barriers to employment;

(V) the local board determines that—

(aa) it would be most appropriate to award a contract to an institution of higher education or other eligible provider of training services in order to facilitate the training of multiple individuals in in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

(bb) such contract does not limit customer choice; or

(VI) the contract is a pay-for-performance contract.

(iii) **LINKAGE TO OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND.**—Training services provided under this paragraph shall be directly linked to an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the local area or the planning region, or in another area to which an adult or dislocated worker receiving such services is willing to relocate, except that a local board may approve training services for occupations determined by the local board to be in sectors of the economy that have a high potential for sustained demand or growth in the local area.

(iv) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the combined use of individual training accounts and contracts in the provision of training services, including arrangements that allow individuals receiving individual training accounts to obtain training services that are contracted for under clause (ii).

(H) **REIMBURSEMENT FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.**—

(i) **REIMBURSEMENT LEVEL.**—For purposes of the provision of on-the-job training under this paragraph, the Governor or local board involved may increase the amount of the reimbursement described in section 3(44) to an amount of up to 75 percent of the wage rate of a participant for a program carried out under chapter 2 or this chapter, if, respectively—

(I) the Governor approves the increase with respect to a program carried out with funds reserved by the State under that chapter, taking into account the factors described in clause (ii); or

(II) the local board approves the increase with respect to a program carried out with funds allocated to a local area under such chapter, taking into account those factors.

(ii) **FACTORS.**—For purposes of clause (i), the Governor or local board, respectively, shall take into account factors consisting of—

(I) the characteristics of the participants;

(II) the size of the employer;

(III) the quality of employer-provided training and advancement opportunities; and

(IV) such other factors as the Governor or local board, respectively, may determine to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in the training, wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), and relation of the training to the competitiveness of a participant.

(d) **PERMISSIBLE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **ACTIVITIES.**—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system involved (and through collaboration with the local board, for the purpose of the activities described in clauses (vii) and (ix))—

(i) customized screening and referral of qualified participants in training services described in subsection (c)(3) to employers;

(ii) customized employment-related services to employers, employer associations, or other such organizations on a fee-for-service basis;

(iii) implementation of a pay-for-performance contract strategy for training services, for which the local board may reserve and use not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the local area under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 133(b);

(iv) customer support to enable individuals with barriers to employment (including individuals with disabilities) and veterans, to navigate among multiple services and activities for such populations;

(v) technical assistance for one-stop operators, one-stop partners, and eligible providers of training services, regarding the provision of services to individuals with disabilities in local areas, including the development and training of staff, the provision of outreach, intake, assessments, and service delivery, the coordination of services across providers and programs, and the development of performance accountability measures;

(vi) employment and training activities provided in coordination with—

(I) child support enforcement activities of the State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(II) child support services, and assistance, provided by State and local agencies carrying out part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.);

(III) cooperative extension programs carried out by the Department of Agriculture; and

(IV) activities to facilitate remote access to services provided through a one-stop delivery system, including facilitating access through the use of technology;

(vii) activities—

(I) to improve coordination between workforce investment activities and economic development activities carried out within the local area involved, and to promote entrepreneurial skills training and microenterprise services;

(II) to improve services and linkages between the local workforce investment system (including the local one-stop delivery system) and employers, including small employers, in the local area, through services described in this section; and

(III) to strengthen linkages between the one-stop delivery system and unemployment insurance programs;

(viii) training programs for displaced homemakers and for individuals training for nontraditional occupations, in conjunction with programs operated in the local area;

(ix) activities to provide business services and strategies that meet the workforce investment needs of area employers, as determined by the local board, consistent with the local plan under section 108, which services—

(I) may be provided through effective business intermediaries working in conjunction with the local board, and may also be provided on a fee-for-service basis or through the leveraging of economic development, philanthropic, and other public and private resources in a manner determined appropriate by the local board; and

(II) may include—

(aa) developing and implementing industry sector strategies (including strategies involving industry partnerships, regional skills alliances, industry skill panels, and sectoral skills partnerships);

(bb) developing and delivering innovative workforce investment services and strategies for area employers, which may include career pathways, skills upgrading, skill standard develop-

ment and certification for recognized postsecondary credential or other employer use, apprenticeship, and other effective initiatives for meeting the workforce investment needs of area employers and workers;

(cc) assistance to area employers in managing reductions in force in coordination with rapid response activities provided under subsection (a)(2)(A) and with strategies for the aversion of layoffs, which strategies may include early identification of firms at risk of layoffs, use of feasibility studies to assess the needs of and options for at-risk firms, and the delivery of employment and training activities to address risk factors; and

(dd) the marketing of business services offered under this title, to appropriate area employers, including small and mid-sized employers;

(x) activities to adjust the economic self-sufficiency standards referred to in subsection (a)(3)(A)(xii) for local factors, or activities to adopt, calculate, or commission for approval, economic self-sufficiency standards for the local areas that specify the income needs of families, by family size, the number and ages of children in the family, and substate geographical considerations;

(xi) improved coordination between employment and training activities and programs carried out in the local area for individuals with disabilities, including programs carried out by State agencies relating to intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, activities carried out by Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796d), programs funded under part B of chapter 1 of title VII of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796e et seq.), and activities carried out by centers for independent living, as defined in section 702 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 796a); and

(xii) implementation of promising services to workers and businesses, which may include support for education, training, skill upgrading, and statewide networking for employees to become workplace learning advisors and maintain proficiency in carrying out the activities associated with such advising.

(B) **WORK SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide, through the one-stop delivery system involved, work support activities designed to assist low-wage workers in retaining and enhancing employment. The one-stop partners of the system shall coordinate the appropriate programs and resources of the partners with the activities and resources provided under this subparagraph.

(ii) **ACTIVITIES.**—The work support activities described in clause (i) may include the provision of activities described in this section through the one-stop delivery system in a manner that enhances the opportunities of such workers to participate in the activities, such as the provision of activities described in this section during nontraditional hours and the provision of onsite child care while such activities are being provided.

(2) **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.**—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide supportive services to adults and dislocated workers, respectively—

(A) who are participating in programs with activities authorized in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (c); and

(B) who are unable to obtain such supportive services through other programs providing such services.

(3) NEEDS-RELATED PAYMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds allocated to a local area for adults under paragraph (2)(A) or (3), as appropriate, of section 133(b), and funds allocated to the local area for dislocated workers under section 133(b)(2)(B), may be used to provide needs-related payments to adults and dislocated workers, respectively, who are unemployed and do not qualify for (or have ceased to qualify for) unemployment compensation for the purpose of enabling such individuals to participate in programs of training services under subsection (c)(3).

(B) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

In addition to the requirements contained in subparagraph (A), a dislocated worker who has ceased to qualify for unemployment compensation may be eligible to receive needs-related payments under this paragraph only if such worker was enrolled in the training services—

(i) by the end of the 13th week after the most recent layoff that resulted in a determination of the worker's eligibility for employment and training activities for dislocated workers under this subtitle; or

(ii) if later, by the end of the 8th week after the worker is informed that a short-term layoff will exceed 6 months.

(C) LEVEL OF PAYMENTS.—The level of a needs-related payment made to a dislocated worker under this paragraph shall not exceed the greater of—

(i) the applicable level of unemployment compensation; or

(ii) if such worker did not qualify for unemployment compensation, an amount equal to the poverty line, for an equivalent period, which amount shall be adjusted to reflect changes in total family income.

(4) INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) STANDARD RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The local board may reserve and use not more than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the local area involved under section 133(b) to pay for the Federal share of the cost of providing training through a training program for incumbent workers, carried out in accordance with this paragraph.

(ii) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—For the purpose of determining the eligibility of an employer to receive funding under clause (i), the local board shall take into account factors consisting of—

(I) the characteristics of the participants in the program;

(II) the relationship of the training to the competitiveness of a participant and the employer; and

(III) such other factors as the local board may determine to be appropriate, which may include the number of employees participating in the training, the wage and benefit levels of those employees (at present and anticipated upon completion of the training), and the existence of other training and advancement opportunities provided by the employer.

(iii) STATEWIDE IMPACT.—The Governor or State board involved may make recommendations to the local board for providing incumbent worker training that has statewide impact.

(B) TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—The training program for incumbent workers carried out under this paragraph shall be carried out by the local board in conjunction with the employers or groups of employers of such workers (which may include employers in partnership with other entities for the purposes of delivering training) for the purpose of assisting such workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment or avert layoffs.

(C) EMPLOYER PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Employers participating in the program carried out under this paragraph shall be re-

quired to pay for the non-Federal share of the cost of providing the training to incumbent workers of the employers.

(D) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(i) FACTORS.—Subject to clause (ii), the local board shall establish the non-Federal share of such cost (taking into consideration such other factors as the number of employees participating in the training, the wage and benefit levels of the employees (at the beginning and anticipated upon completion of the training), the relationship of the training to the competitiveness of the employer and employees, and the availability of other employer-provided training and advancement opportunities.

(ii) LIMITS.—The non-Federal share shall not be less than—

(I) 10 percent of the cost, for employers with not more than 50 employees;

(II) 25 percent of the cost, for employers with more than 50 employees but not more than 100 employees; and

(III) 50 percent of the cost, for employers with more than 100 employees.

(iii) CALCULATION OF EMPLOYER SHARE.—The non-Federal share provided by an employer participating in the program may include the amount of the wages paid by the employer to a worker while the worker is attending a training program under this paragraph. The employer may provide the share in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated.

(5) TRANSITIONAL JOBS.—The local board may use not more than 10 percent of the funds allocated to the local area involved under section 133(b) to provide transitional jobs under subsection (c)(3) that—

(A) are time-limited work experiences that are subsidized and are in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors for individuals with barriers to employment who are chronically unemployed or have an inconsistent work history;

(B) are combined with comprehensive employment and supportive services; and

(C) are designed to assist the individuals described in subparagraph (A) to establish a work history, demonstrate success in the workplace, and develop the skills that lead to entry into and retention in unsubsidized employment.

CHAPTER 4—GENERAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 136. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 127(a), \$820,430,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$883,800,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$902,139,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$922,148,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$943,828,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$963,837,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(b) ADULT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(1), \$766,080,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$825,252,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$842,376,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$861,060,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$881,303,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$899,987,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(c) DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in section 132(a)(2), \$1,222,457,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$1,316,880,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$1,344,205,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$1,374,019,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$1,406,322,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$1,436,137,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle C—Job Corps

SEC. 141. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this subtitle are—

(1) to maintain a national Job Corps program, carried out in partnership with States and communities, to—

(A) assist eligible youth to connect to the labor force by providing them with intensive so-

cial, academic, career and technical education, and service-learning opportunities, in primarily residential centers, in order for such youth to obtain secondary school diplomas or recognized postsecondary credentials leading to—

(i) successful careers, in in-demand industry sectors or occupations or the Armed Forces, that will result in economic self-sufficiency and opportunities for advancement; or

(ii) enrollment in postsecondary education, including an apprenticeship program; and

(B) support responsible citizenship;

(2) to set forth standards and procedures for selecting individuals as enrollees in the Job Corps;

(3) to authorize the establishment of Job Corps centers in which enrollees will participate in intensive programs of activities described in this subtitle; and

(4) to prescribe various other powers, duties, and responsibilities incident to the operation and continuing development of the Job Corps.

SEC. 142. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPLICABLE LOCAL BOARD.—The term “applicable local board” means a local board—

(A) that provides information for a Job Corps center on local employment opportunities and the job skills needed to obtain the opportunities; and

(B) that serves communities in which the graduates of the Job Corps center seek employment.

(2) APPLICABLE ONE-STOP CENTER.—The term “applicable one-stop center” means a one-stop center that provides services, such as referral, assessment, recruitment, and placement, to support the purposes of the Job Corps.

(3) ENROLLEE.—The term “enrollee” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program, and remains with the program, but has not yet become a graduate.

(4) FORMER ENROLLEE.—The term “former enrollee” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program, but left the program prior to becoming a graduate.

(5) GRADUATE.—The term “graduate” means an individual who has voluntarily applied for, been selected for, and enrolled in the Job Corps program and who, as a result of participation in the Job Corps program, has received a secondary school diploma or recognized equivalent, or completed the requirements of a career and technical education and training program that prepares individuals for employment leading to economic self-sufficiency or entrance into postsecondary education or training.

(6) JOB CORPS.—The term “Job Corps” means the Job Corps described in section 143.

(7) JOB CORPS CENTER.—The term “Job Corps center” means a center described in section 147.

(8) OPERATOR.—The term “operator” means an entity selected under this subtitle to operate a Job Corps center.

(9) REGION.—The term “region” means an area defined by the Secretary.

(10) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “service provider” means an entity selected under this subtitle to provide services described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center.

SEC. 143. ESTABLISHMENT.

There shall be within the Department of Labor a “Job Corps”.

SEC. 144. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR THE JOB CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to become an enrollee, an individual shall be—

(1) not less than age 16 and not more than age 21 on the date of enrollment, except that—

(A) not more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be not less than age 22 and not more than age 24 on the date of enrollment; and

(B) either such maximum age limitation may be waived by the Secretary, in accordance with regulations of the Secretary, in the case of an individual with a disability;

(2) a low-income individual; and

(3) an individual who is one or more of the following:

(A) Basic skills deficient.

(B) A school dropout.

(C) A homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))), a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))), a runaway, an individual in foster care, or an individual who was in foster care and has aged out of the foster care system.

(D) A parent.

(E) An individual who requires additional education, career and technical education or training, or workforce preparation skills to be able to obtain and retain employment that leads to economic self-sufficiency.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE FOR VETERANS.**—Notwithstanding the requirement of subsection (a)(2), a veteran shall be eligible to become an enrollee under subsection (a) if the individual—

(1) meets the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (3) of such subsection; and

(2) does not meet the requirement of subsection (a)(2) because the military income earned by such individual within the 6-month period prior to the individual's application for Job Corps prevents the individual from meeting such requirement.

SEC. 145. RECRUITMENT, SCREENING, SELECTION, AND ASSIGNMENT OF ENROLLEES.

(a) **STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall prescribe specific standards and procedures for the recruitment, screening, and selection of eligible applicants for the Job Corps, after considering recommendations from Governors of States, local boards, and other interested parties.

(2) **METHODS.**—In prescribing standards and procedures under paragraph (1), the Secretary, at a minimum, shall—

(A) prescribe procedures for informing enrollees that drug tests will be administered to the enrollees and the results received within 45 days after the enrollees enroll in the Job Corps;

(B) establish standards for recruitment of Job Corps applicants;

(C) establish standards and procedures for—

(i) determining, for each applicant, whether the educational and career and technical education and training needs of the applicant can best be met through the Job Corps program or an alternative program in the community in which the applicant resides; and

(ii) obtaining from each applicant pertinent data relating to background, needs, and interests for determining eligibility and potential assignment;

(D) where appropriate, take measures to improve the professional capability of the individuals conducting screening of the applicants; and

(E) assure appropriate representation of enrollees from urban areas and from rural areas.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The standards and procedures shall be implemented through arrangements with—

(A) applicable one-stop centers;

(B) organizations that have a demonstrated record of effectiveness in serving at-risk youth and placing such youth into employment, including community action agencies, business organizations, or labor organizations; and

(C) child welfare agencies that are responsible for children and youth eligible for benefits and services under section 477 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 677).

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—The standards and procedures shall provide for necessary consultation with individuals and organizations, including court, probation, parole, law enforcement, education, welfare, and medical authorities and advisers.

(5) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with and make payments to individuals and organizations for the cost of conducting recruitment, screening, and selection of eligible applicants for the Job Corps, as provided for in this section. The Secretary shall make no payment to any individual or organization solely as compensation for referring the names of applicants for the Job Corps.

(b) **SPECIAL LIMITATIONS ON SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No individual shall be selected as an enrollee unless the individual or organization implementing the standards and procedures described in subsection (a) determines that—

(A) there is a reasonable expectation that the individual considered for selection can participate successfully in group situations and activities, and is not likely to engage in behavior that would prevent other enrollees from receiving the benefit of the Job Corps program or be incompatible with the maintenance of sound discipline and satisfactory relationships between the Job Corps center to which the individual might be assigned and communities surrounding the Job Corps center;

(B) the individual manifests a basic understanding of both the rules to which the individual will be subject and of the consequences of failure to observe the rules, and agrees to comply with such rules; and

(C) the individual has passed a background check conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary and with applicable State and local laws.

(2) **INDIVIDUALS ON PROBATION, PAROLE, OR SUPERVISED RELEASE.**—An individual on probation, parole, or supervised release may be selected as an enrollee only if release from the supervision of the probation or parole official involved is satisfactory to the official and the Secretary and does not violate applicable laws (including regulations). No individual shall be denied a position in the Job Corps solely on the basis of individual contact with the criminal justice system except for a disqualifying conviction as specified in paragraph (3).

(3) **INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN CRIMES.**—An individual shall not be selected as an enrollee if the individual has been convicted of a felony consisting of murder (as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code), child abuse, or a crime involving rape or sexual assault.

(c) **ASSIGNMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Every 2 years, the Secretary shall develop and implement a plan for assigning enrollees to Job Corps centers. In developing the plan, the Secretary shall, based on the analysis described in paragraph (2), establish targets, applicable to each Job Corps center, for—

(A) the maximum attainable percentage of enrollees at the Job Corps center that reside in the State in which the center is located; and

(B) the maximum attainable percentage of enrollees at the Job Corps center that reside in the region in which the center is located, and in surrounding regions.

(2) **ANALYSIS.**—In order to develop the plan described in paragraph (1), every 2 years the Secretary, in consultation with operators of Job Corps centers, shall analyze relevant factors relating to each Job Corps center, including—

(A) the size of the population of individuals eligible to participate in Job Corps in the State and region in which the Job Corps center is located, and in surrounding regions;

(B) the relative demand for participation in the Job Corps in the State and region, and in surrounding regions;

(C) the capacity and utilization of the Job Corps center, including the education, training, and supportive services provided through the center; and

(D) the performance of the Job Corps center relating to the expected levels of performance for the indicators described in section 159(c)(1), and whether any actions have been taken with respect to such center pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 159(f).

(d) **ASSIGNMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENROLLEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After an individual has been selected for the Job Corps in accordance with the standards and procedures of the Secretary under subsection (a), the enrollee shall be assigned to the Job Corps center that offers the type of career and technical education and training selected by the individual and, among the centers that offer such education and training, is closest to the home of the individual. The Secretary may waive this requirement if—

(A) the enrollee would be unduly delayed in participating in the Job Corps program because the closest center is operating at full capacity; or

(B) the parent or guardian of the enrollee requests assignment of the enrollee to another Job Corps center due to circumstances in the community of the enrollee that would impair prospects for successful participation in the Job Corps program.

(2) **ENROLLEES WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN 18.**—An enrollee who is younger than 18 shall not be assigned to a Job Corps center other than the center closest to the home that offers the career and technical education and training desired by the enrollee pursuant to paragraph (1) if the parent or guardian of the enrollee objects to the assignment.

SEC. 146. ENROLLMENT.

(a) **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENROLLMENT AND MILITARY OBLIGATIONS.**—Enrollment in the Job Corps shall not relieve any individual of obligations under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.).

(b) **PERIOD OF ENROLLMENT.**—No individual may be enrolled in the Job Corps for more than 2 years, except—

(1) in a case in which completion of an advanced career training program under section 148(c) would require an individual to participate in the Job Corps for not more than one additional year;

(2) in the case of an individual with a disability who would reasonably be expected to meet the standards for a Job Corps graduate, as defined under section 142(5), if allowed to participate in the Job Corps for not more than 1 additional year;

(3) in the case of an individual who participates in national service, as authorized by a Civilian Conservation Center program, who would be granted an enrollment extension in the Job Corps for the amount of time equal to the period of national service; or

(4) as the Secretary may authorize in a special case.

SEC. 147. JOB CORPS CENTERS.

(a) **OPERATORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—

(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—

(A) **OPERATORS.**—The Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a Federal, State, or local agency, an area career and technical education school, a residential career and technical education school, or a private organization, for the operation of each Job Corps center.

(B) **PROVIDERS.**—The Secretary may enter into an agreement with a local entity, or other entity with the necessary capacity, to provide activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center.

(2) **SELECTION PROCESS.**—

(A) **COMPETITIVE BASIS.**—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of section 3304 of title

41, United States Code, the Secretary shall select on a competitive basis an entity to operate a Job Corps center and entities to provide activities described in this subtitle to the Job Corps center. In developing a solicitation for an operator or service provider, the Secretary shall consult with the Governor of the State in which the center is located, the workforce council for the Job Corps center (if established), and the applicable local board regarding the contents of such solicitation, including elements that will promote the consistency of the activities carried out through the center with the objectives set forth in the State plan or in a local plan.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—

(i) OPERATORS.—In selecting an entity to operate a Job Corps center, the Secretary shall consider—

(I) the ability of the entity to coordinate the activities carried out through the Job Corps center with activities carried out under the appropriate State plan and local plans;

(II) the ability of the entity to offer career and technical education and training that has been proposed by the workforce council under section 154(c), and the degree to which such education and training reflects employment opportunities in the local areas in which enrollees at the center intend to seek employment;

(III) the degree to which the entity demonstrates relationships with the surrounding communities, employers, labor organizations, State boards, local boards, applicable one-stop centers, and the State and region in which the center is located;

(IV) the performance of the entity, if any, relating to operating or providing activities described in this subtitle to a Job Corps center, including information regarding the entity in any reports developed by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor and the entity's demonstrated effectiveness in assisting individuals in achieving the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); and

(V) the ability of the entity to demonstrate a record of successfully assisting at-risk youth to connect to the workforce, including providing them with intensive academics and career and technical education and training.

(ii) PROVIDERS.—In selecting a service provider for a Job Corps center, the Secretary shall consider the factors described in clause (i).

(3) ADDITIONAL SELECTION FACTORS.—To be eligible to operate a Job Corps center, an entity shall submit to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, information related to additional selection factors, which shall include the following:

(A) A description of the program activities that will be offered at the center and how the academics and career and technical education and training reflect State and local employment opportunities, including opportunities in in-demand industry sectors and occupations recommended by the workforce council under section 154(c)(2)(A).

(B) A description of the counseling, placement, and support activities that will be offered at the center, including a description of the strategies and procedures the entity will use to place graduates into unsubsidized employment or education leading to a recognized postsecondary credential upon completion of the program.

(C) A description of the demonstrated record of effectiveness that the entity has in placing at-risk youth into employment and postsecondary education, including past performance of operating a Job Corps center under this subtitle or subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and as appropriate, the entity's demonstrated effectiveness in assisting

individuals in achieving the indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(D) A description of the relationships that the entity has developed with State boards, local boards, applicable one-stop centers, employers, labor organizations, State and local educational agencies, and the surrounding communities in which the center is located, in an effort to promote a comprehensive statewide workforce development system.

(E) A description of the entity's ability to coordinate the activities carried out through the Job Corps center with activities carried out under the appropriate State plan and local plans.

(F) A description of the strong fiscal controls the entity has in place to ensure proper accounting of Federal funds, and a description of how the entity will meet the requirements of section 159(a).

(G) A description of the steps to be taken to control costs in accordance with section 159(a)(3).

(H) A detailed budget of the activities that will be supported using funds under this subtitle and non-Federal resources.

(I) An assurance the entity is licensed to operate in the State in which the center is located.

(J) An assurance the entity will comply with basic health and safety codes, which shall include the disciplinary measures described in section 152(b).

(K) Any other information on additional selection factors that the Secretary may require.

(b) HIGH-PERFORMING CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an entity meets the requirements described in paragraph (2) as applied to a particular Job Corps center, such entity shall be allowed to compete in any competitive selection process carried out for an award to operate such center.

(2) HIGH PERFORMANCE.—An entity shall be considered to be an operator of a high-performing center if the Job Corps center operated by the entity—

(A) is ranked among the top 20 percent of Job Corps centers for the most recent preceding program year; and

(B) meets the expected levels of performance established under section 159(c)(1) and, with respect to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii)—

(i) for the period of the most recent preceding 3 program years for which information is available at the time the determination is made, achieved an average of 100 percent, or higher, of the expected level of performance established under section 159(c)(1) for the indicator; and

(ii) for the most recent preceding program year for which information is available at the time the determination is made, achieved 100 percent, or higher, of the expected level of performance established under such section for the indicator.

(3) TRANSITION.—If any of the program years described in paragraph (2)(B) precedes the implementation of the establishment of expected levels of performance under section 159(c) and the application of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii), an entity shall be considered an operator of a high-performing center during that period if the Job Corps center operated by the entity—

(A) meets the requirements of paragraph (2)(B) with respect to such preceding program years using the performance of the Job Corps center regarding the national goals or targets established by the Office of the Job Corps under the previous performance accountability system for—

(i) the 6-month follow-up placement rate of graduates in employment, the military, education, or training;

(ii) the 12-month follow-up placement rate of graduates in employment, the military, education, or training;

(iii) the 6-month follow-up average weekly earnings of graduates;

(iv) the rate of attainment of secondary school diplomas or their recognized equivalent;

(v) the rate of attainment of completion certificates for career and technical training;

(vi) average literacy gains; and

(vii) average numeracy gains; or

(B) is ranked among the top 5 percent of Job Corps centers for the most recent preceding program year.

(c) CHARACTER AND ACTIVITIES.—Job Corps centers may be residential or nonresidential in character, and shall be designed and operated so as to provide enrollees, in a well-supervised setting, with access to activities described in this subtitle. In any year, no more than 20 percent of the individuals enrolled in the Job Corps may be nonresidential participants in the Job Corps.

(d) CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Job Corps centers may include Civilian Conservation Centers, operated under an agreement between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Agriculture, that are located primarily in rural areas. Such centers shall provide, in addition to academics, career and technical education and training, and workforce preparation skills training, programs of work experience to conserve, develop, or manage public natural resources or public recreational areas or to develop community projects in the public interest.

(2) ASSISTANCE DURING DISASTERS.—Enrollees in Civilian Conservation Centers may provide assistance in addressing national, State, and local disasters, consistent with current child labor laws (including regulations). The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that with respect to the provision of such assistance the enrollees are properly trained, equipped, supervised, and dispatched consistent with standards for the conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife established under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

(3) NATIONAL LIAISON.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate a Job Corps National Liaison to support the agreement under this section between the Departments of Labor and Agriculture.

(e) INDIAN TRIBES.—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may enter into agreements with Indian tribes to operate Job Corps centers for Indians.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms "Indian" and "Indian tribe" have the meanings given such terms in subsections (d) and (e), respectively, of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(f) LENGTH OF AGREEMENT.—The agreement described in subsection (a)(1)(A) shall be for not more than a 2-year period. The Secretary may exercise any contractual option to renew the agreement in 1-year increments for not more than 3 additional years, consistent with the requirements of subsection (g).

(g) RENEWAL CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall not renew the terms of an agreement for any 1-year additional period described in subsection (f) for an entity to operate a particular Job Corps center if, for both of the 2 most recent preceding program years for which information is available at the time the determination is made, or if a second program year is not available, the preceding year for which information is available, such center—

(A) has been ranked in the lowest 10 percent of Job Corps centers; and

(B) failed to achieve an average of 50 percent or higher of the expected level of performance

under section 159(c)(1) with respect to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may exercise an option to renew the agreement for no more than 2 additional years if the Secretary determines such renewal would be in the best interest of the Job Corps program, taking into account factors including—

(A) significant improvements in program performance in carrying out a performance improvement plan under section 159(f)(2);

(B) that the performance is due to circumstances beyond the control of the entity, such as an emergency or disaster, as defined in section 170(a)(1);

(C) a significant disruption in the operations of the center, including in the ability to continue to provide services to students, or significant increase in the cost of such operations; or

(D) a significant disruption in the procurement process with respect to carrying out a competition for the selection of a center operator.

(3) **DETAILED EXPLANATION.**—If the Secretary exercises an option under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall provide, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a detailed explanation of the rationale for exercising such option.

(4) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Secretary shall only renew the agreement of an entity to operate a Job Corps center if the entity—

(A) has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;

(B) has adequate financial resources to perform the agreement;

(C) has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills; and

(D) is otherwise qualified and eligible under applicable laws and regulations, including that the contractor is not under suspension or debarred from eligibility for Federal contracts.

SEC. 148. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

(a) **ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY JOB CORPS CENTERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees with an intensive, well organized, and fully supervised program of education, including English language acquisition programs, career and technical education and training, work experience, work-based learning, recreational activities, physical rehabilitation and development, driver's education, and counseling, which may include information about financial literacy. Each Job Corps center shall provide enrollees assigned to the center with access to career services described in clauses (i) through (xi) of section 134(c)(2)(A).

(2) **RELATIONSHIP TO OPPORTUNITIES.**—The activities provided under this subsection shall be targeted to helping enrollees, on completion of their enrollment—

(A) secure and maintain meaningful unsubsidized employment;

(B) enroll in and complete secondary education or postsecondary education or training programs, including other suitable career and technical education and training, and apprenticeship programs; or

(C) satisfy Armed Forces requirements.

(3) **LINK TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—The career and technical education and training provided shall be linked to employment opportunities in in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the State or local area in which the Job Corps center is located and, to the extent practicable, in the State or local area in which the enrollee intends to seek employment after graduation.

(b) **ACADEMIC AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The Secretary may

arrange for career and technical education and training of enrollees through local public or private educational agencies, career and technical educational institutions, technical institutes, or national service providers, whenever such entities provide education and training substantially equivalent in cost and quality to that which the Secretary could provide through other means.

(c) **ADVANCED CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may arrange for programs of advanced career training for selected enrollees in which the enrollees may continue to participate for a period of not to exceed 1 year in addition to the period of participation to which the enrollees would otherwise be limited. The advanced career training may be provided through the eligible providers of training services identified under section 122.

(2) **BENEFITS.**—During the period of participation in an advanced career training program, an enrollee shall be eligible for full Job Corps benefits, or a monthly stipend equal to the average value of the residential support, food, allowances, and other benefits provided to enrollees assigned to residential Job Corps centers.

(3) **DEMONSTRATION.**—The Secretary shall develop standards by which any operator seeking to enroll additional enrollees in an advanced career training program shall demonstrate, before the operator may carry out such additional enrollment, that—

(A) participants in such program have achieved a satisfactory rate of completion and placement in training-related jobs; and

(B) for the most recently preceding 2 program years, such operator has, on average, met or exceeded the expected levels of performance under section 159(c)(1) for each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(d) **GRADUATE SERVICES.**—In order to promote the retention of graduates in employment or postsecondary education, the Secretary shall arrange for the provision of job placement and support services to graduates for up to 12 months after the date of graduation. Multiple resources, including one-stop partners, may support the provision of these services, including services from the State vocational rehabilitation agency, to supplement job placement and job development efforts for Job Corps graduates who are individuals with disabilities.

(e) **CHILD CARE.**—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, provide child care at or near Job Corps centers, for individuals who require child care for their children in order to participate in the Job Corps.

SEC. 149. COUNSELING AND JOB PLACEMENT.

(a) **ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING.**—The Secretary shall arrange for assessment and counseling for each enrollee at regular intervals to measure progress in the academic and career and technical education and training programs carried out through the Job Corps.

(b) **PLACEMENT.**—The Secretary shall arrange for assessment and counseling for enrollees prior to their scheduled graduations to determine their capabilities and, based on their capabilities, shall place the enrollees in employment leading to economic self-sufficiency for which the enrollees are trained or assist the enrollees in participating in further activities described in this subtitle. In arranging for the placement of graduates in jobs, the Secretary shall utilize the one-stop delivery system to the maximum extent practicable.

(c) **STATUS AND PROGRESS.**—The Secretary shall determine the status and progress of enrollees scheduled for graduation and make every effort to assure that their needs for further activities described in this subtitle are met.

(d) **SERVICES TO FORMER ENROLLEES.**—The Secretary may provide such services as the Sec-

retary determines to be appropriate under this subtitle to former enrollees.

SEC. 150. SUPPORT.

(a) **PERSONAL ALLOWANCES.**—The Secretary may provide enrollees assigned to Job Corps centers with such personal allowances as the Secretary may determine to be necessary or appropriate to meet the needs of the enrollees.

(b) **TRANSITION ALLOWANCES.**—The Secretary shall arrange for a transition allowance to be paid to graduates. The transition allowance shall be incentive-based to reflect a graduate's completion of academic, career and technical education or training, and attainment of recognized postsecondary credentials.

(c) **TRANSITION SUPPORT.**—The Secretary may arrange for the provision of 3 months of employment services for former enrollees.

SEC. 151. OPERATIONS.

(a) **OPERATING PLAN.**—The provisions of the contract between the Secretary and an entity selected to operate a Job Corps center shall, at a minimum, serve as an operating plan for the Job Corps center.

(b) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The Secretary may require the operator, in order to remain eligible to operate the Job Corps center, to submit such additional information as the Secretary may require, which shall be considered part of the operating plan.

(c) **AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall make the operating plan described in subsections (a) and (b), excluding any proprietary information, available to the public.

SEC. 152. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

(a) **PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The Secretary shall provide, and directors of Job Corps centers shall stringently enforce, standards of conduct within the centers. Such standards of conduct shall include provisions forbidding the actions described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(b) **DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To promote the proper behavioral standards in the Job Corps, the directors of Job Corps centers shall have the authority to take appropriate disciplinary measures against enrollees if such a director determines that an enrollee has committed a violation of the standards of conduct. The director shall dismiss the enrollee from the Job Corps if the director determines that the retention of the enrollee in the Job Corps will jeopardize the enforcement of such standards, threaten the safety of staff, students, or the local community, or diminish the opportunities of other enrollees.

(2) **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AND DRUG TESTING.**—

(A) **GUIDELINES.**—The Secretary shall adopt guidelines establishing a zero tolerance policy for an act of violence, for use, sale, or possession of a controlled substance, for abuse of alcohol, or for other illegal or disruptive activity.

(B) **DRUG TESTING.**—The Secretary shall require drug testing of all enrollees for controlled substances in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary under section 145(a).

(C) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

(i) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.**—The term "controlled substance" has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(ii) **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.**—The term "zero tolerance policy" means a policy under which an enrollee shall be automatically dismissed from the Job Corps after a determination by the director that the enrollee has carried out an action described in subparagraph (A).

(c) **APPEAL.**—A disciplinary measure taken by a director under this section shall be subject to expeditious appeal in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

SEC. 153. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.

(a) **BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.**—The director of each Job Corps center

shall ensure the establishment and development of the mutually beneficial business and community relationships and networks described in subsection (b), including the use of local boards, in order to enhance the effectiveness of such centers.

(b) **NETWORKS.**—The activities carried out by each Job Corps center under this section shall include—

(1) establishing and developing relationships and networks with—

(A) local and distant employers, to the extent practicable, in coordination with entities carrying out other Federal and non-Federal programs that conduct similar outreach to employers;

(B) applicable one-stop centers and applicable local boards, for the purpose of providing—

(i) information to, and referral of, potential enrollees; and

(ii) job opportunities for Job Corps graduates; and

(C)(i) entities carrying out relevant apprenticeship programs and youth programs;

(ii) labor-management organizations and local labor organizations;

(iii) employers and contractors that support national training contractor programs; and

(iv) community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and intermediaries providing workforce development-related services; and

(2) establishing and developing relationships with members of the community in which the Job Corps center is located, informing members of the community about the projects of the Job Corps center and changes in the rules, procedures, or activities of the center that may affect the community, and planning events of mutual interest to the community and the Job Corps center.

(c) **NEW CENTERS.**—The director of a Job Corps center that is not yet operating shall ensure the establishment and development of the relationships and networks described in subsection (b) at least 3 months prior to the date on which the center accepts the first enrollee at the center.

SEC. 154. WORKFORCE COUNCILS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each Job Corps center shall have a workforce council, appointed by the director of the center, in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

(b) **WORKFORCE COUNCIL COMPOSITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A workforce council shall be comprised of—

(A) a majority of members who shall be owners of business concerns, chief executives or chief operating officers of nongovernmental employers, or other private sector employers, who—

(i) have substantial management, hiring, or policy responsibility; and

(ii) represent businesses with employment opportunities that reflect the employment opportunities of the applicable local areas in which enrollees will be seeking employment;

(B) representatives of labor organizations (where present) and representatives of employees; and

(C) enrollees and graduates of the Job Corps.

(2) **LOCAL BOARD.**—The workforce council may include members of the applicable local boards who meet the requirements described in paragraph (1).

(3) **EMPLOYERS OUTSIDE OF LOCAL AREA.**—The workforce council for a Job Corps center may include, or otherwise provide for consultation with, employers from outside the local area who are likely to hire a significant number of enrollees from the Job Corps center.

(4) **SPECIAL RULE FOR SINGLE STATE LOCAL AREAS.**—In the case of a single State local area designated under section 106(d), the workforce council shall include a representative of the State Board.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The responsibilities of the workforce council shall be—

(1) to work closely with all applicable local boards in order to determine, and recommend to the Secretary, appropriate career and technical education and training for the center;

(2) to review all the relevant labor market information, including related information in the State plan or the local plan, to—

(A) recommend the in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the area in which the Job Corps center operates;

(B) determine the employment opportunities in the local areas in which the enrollees intend to seek employment after graduation;

(C) determine the skills and education that are necessary to obtain the employment opportunities; and

(D) recommend to the Secretary the type of career and technical education and training that should be implemented at the center to enable the enrollees to obtain the employment opportunities; and

(3) to meet at least once every 6 months to re-evaluate the labor market information, and other relevant information, to determine, and recommend to the Secretary, any necessary changes in the career and technical education and training provided at the center.

(d) **NEW CENTERS.**—The workforce council for a Job Corps center that is not yet operating shall carry out the responsibilities described in subsection (c) at least 3 months prior to the date on which the center accepts the first enrollee at the center.

SEC. 155. ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

The Secretary may establish and use advisory committees in connection with the operation of the Job Corps program, and the operation of Job Corps centers, whenever the Secretary determines that the availability of outside advice and counsel on a regular basis would be of substantial benefit in identifying and overcoming problems, in planning program or center development, or in strengthening relationships between the Job Corps and agencies, institutions, or groups engaged in related activities.

SEC. 156. EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **PROJECTS.**—The Secretary may carry out experimental, research, or demonstration projects relating to carrying out the Job Corps program. The Secretary may waive any provisions of this subtitle that the Secretary finds would prevent the Secretary from carrying out the projects if the Secretary informs the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, in writing, not less than 90 days in advance of issuing such waiver.

(b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—From the funds provided under section 162 (for the purposes of administration), the Secretary may reserve ¼ of 1 percent to provide, directly or through grants, contracts, or other agreements or arrangements as the Secretary considers appropriate, technical assistance for the Job Corps program for the purpose of improving program quality. Such assistance shall include—

(1) assisting Job Corps centers and programs—

(A) in correcting deficiencies under, and violations of, this subtitle;

(B) in meeting or exceeding the expected levels of performance under section 159(c)(1) for the indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A);

(C) in the development of sound management practices, including financial management procedures; and

(2) assisting entities, including entities not currently operating a Job Corps center, in developing the additional selection factors information described in section 147(a)(3).

SEC. 157. APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF FEDERAL LAW.

(a) **ENROLLEES NOT CONSIDERED TO BE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and in section 8143(a) of title 5, United States Code, enrollees shall not be considered to be Federal employees and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including such provisions regarding hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

(2) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO TAXES AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), enrollees shall be deemed to be employees of the United States and any service performed by an individual as an enrollee shall be deemed to be performed in the employ of the United States.

(3) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMPENSATION TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FOR WORK INJURIES.**—For purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries), enrollees shall be deemed to be civil employees of the Government of the United States within the meaning of the term “employee” as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of such subchapter shall apply as specified in section 8143(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(4) **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS PROVISIONS.**—For purposes of the Federal tort claims provisions in title 28, United States Code, enrollees shall be considered to be employees of the Government.

(b) **ADJUSTMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS.**—Whenever the Secretary finds a claim for damages to a person or property resulting from the operation of the Job Corps to be a proper charge against the United States, and the claim is not cognizable under section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, the Secretary may adjust and settle the claim in an amount not exceeding \$1,500.

(c) **PERSONNEL OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**—Personnel of the uniformed services who are detailed or assigned to duty in the performance of agreements made by the Secretary for the support of the Job Corps shall not be counted in computing strength under any law limiting the strength of such services or in computing the percentage authorized by law for any grade in such services.

SEC. 158. SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

(a) **ENROLLMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that women and men have an equal opportunity to participate in the Job Corps program, consistent with section 145.

(b) **STUDIES, EVALUATIONS, PROPOSALS, AND DATA.**—The Secretary shall assure that all studies, evaluations, proposals, and data produced or developed with Federal funds in the course of carrying out the Job Corps program shall become the property of the United States.

(c) **TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, and any other provision of law, the Secretary and the Secretary of Education shall receive priority by the Secretary of Defense for the direct transfer, on a nonreimbursable basis, of the property described in paragraph (2) for use in carrying out programs under this Act or under any other Act.

(2) **PROPERTY.**—The property described in this paragraph is real and personal property under the control of the Department of Defense that is not used by such Department, including property that the Secretary of Defense determines is in excess of current and projected requirements of such Department.

(d) **GROSS RECEIPTS.**—Transactions conducted by a private for-profit or nonprofit entity that is an operator or service provider for a Job Corps

center shall not be considered to be generating gross receipts. Such an operator or service provider shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, to any State or subdivision of a State (nor to any person acting on behalf of such a State or subdivision) for any gross receipts taxes, business privilege taxes measured by gross receipts, or any similar taxes imposed on, or measured by, gross receipts in connection with any payments made to or by such entity for operating or providing services to a Job Corps center. Such an operator or service provider shall not be liable to any State or subdivision of a State to collect or pay any sales, excise, use, or similar tax imposed on the sale to or use by such operator or service provider of any property, service, or other item in connection with the operation of or provision of services to a Job Corps center.

(e) **MANAGEMENT FEE.**—The Secretary shall provide each operator and (in an appropriate case, as determined by the Secretary) service provider with an equitable and negotiated management fee of not less than 1 percent of the amount of the funding provided under the appropriate agreement specified in section 147.

(f) **DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept on behalf of the Job Corps or individual Job Corps centers charitable donations of cash or other assistance, including equipment and materials, if such donations are available for appropriate use for the purposes set forth in this subtitle.

(g) **SALE OF PROPERTY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Administrator of General Services sells a Job Corps center facility, the Administrator shall transfer the proceeds from the sale to the Secretary, who shall use the proceeds to carry out the Job Corps program.

SEC. 159. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION.

(a) **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that each operator, and each service provider, maintains a financial management information system that will provide—

(A) accurate, complete, and current disclosures of the costs of Job Corps operations; and

(B) sufficient data for the effective evaluation of activities carried out through the Job Corps program.

(2) **ACCOUNTS.**—Each operator and service provider shall maintain funds received under this subtitle in accounts in a manner that ensures timely and accurate reporting as required by the Secretary.

(3) **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.**—Operators shall remain fiscally responsible and control costs, regardless of whether the funds made available for Job Corps centers are incrementally increased or decreased between fiscal years.

(b) **AUDIT.**—

(1) **ACCESS.**—The Secretary, the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, the Comptroller General of the United States, and any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the operators and service providers described in subsection (a) that are pertinent to the Job Corps program, for purposes of conducting surveys, audits, and evaluations of the operators and service providers.

(2) **SURVEYS, AUDITS, AND EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary shall survey, audit, or evaluate, or arrange for the survey, audit, or evaluation of, the operators and service providers, using Federal auditors or independent public accountants. The Secretary shall conduct such surveys, audits, or evaluations not less often than once every 3 years.

(c) **INFORMATION ON INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.**—

(1) **LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE AND INDICATORS.**—The Secretary shall annually establish

expected levels of performance for a Job Corps center and the Job Corps program relating to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) **PERFORMANCE OF RECRUITERS.**—The Secretary shall also establish performance indicators, and expected levels of performance on the performance indicators, for recruitment service providers serving the Job Corps program. The performance indicators shall relate to—

(A) the number of enrollees recruited, compared to the established goals for such recruitment, and the number of enrollees who remain committed to the program for 90 days after enrollment; and

(B) the measurements described in subparagraphs (I), (L), and (M) of subsection (d)(1).

(3) **PERFORMANCE OF CAREER TRANSITION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—The Secretary shall also establish performance indicators, and expected performance levels on the performance indicators, for career transition service providers serving the Job Corps program. The performance indicators shall relate to—

(A) the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii); and

(B) the measurements described in subparagraphs (D), (E), (H), (J), and (K) of subsection (d)(1).

(4) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall collect, and annually submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report including—

(A) information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, based on the performance indicators described in paragraph (1), as compared to the expected level of performance established under such paragraph for each performance indicator; and

(B) information on the performance of the service providers described in paragraphs (2) and (3) on the performance indicators established under such paragraphs, as compared to the expected level of performance established for each performance indicator.

(d) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall also collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (c)(4), information on the performance of each Job Corps center, and the Job Corps program, regarding—

(A) the number of enrollees served;

(B) demographic information on the enrollees served, including age, race, gender, and education and income level;

(C) the number of graduates of a Job Corps center;

(D) the number of graduates who entered the Armed Forces;

(E) the number of graduates who entered apprenticeship programs;

(F) the number of graduates who received a regular secondary school diploma;

(G) the number of graduates who received a State recognized equivalent of a secondary school diploma;

(H) the number of graduates who entered unsubsidized employment related to the career and technical education and training received through the Job Corps program and the number who entered unsubsidized employment not related to the education and training received;

(I) the percentage and number of former enrollees, including the number dismissed under the zero tolerance policy described in section 152(b);

(J) the percentage and number of graduates who enter postsecondary education;

(K) the average wage of graduates who enter unsubsidized employment—

(i) on the first day of such employment; and
(ii) on the day that is 6 months after such first day;

(L) the percentages of enrollees described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 145(c)(1), as compared to the percentage targets established by the Secretary under such section for the center;

(M) the cost per enrollee, which is calculated by comparing the number of enrollees at the center in a program year to the total budget for such center in the same program year;

(N) the cost per graduate, which is calculated by comparing the number of graduates of the center in a program year compared to the total budget for such center in the same program year; and

(O) any additional information required by the Secretary.

(2) **RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.**—The disaggregation of data under this subsection shall not be required when the number of individuals in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information or when the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual.

(e) **METHODS.**—The Secretary shall collect the information described in subsections (c) and (d), using methods described in section 116(i)(2) and consistent with State law, by entering into agreements with the States to access such data for Job Corps enrollees, former enrollees, and graduates.

(f) **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The Secretary shall conduct an annual assessment of the performance of each Job Corps center. Based on the assessment, the Secretary shall take measures to continuously improve the performance of the Job Corps program.

(2) **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.**—With respect to a Job Corps center that fails to meet the expected levels of performance relating to the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall develop and implement a performance improvement plan. Such a plan shall require action to be taken during a 1-year period, including—

(A) providing technical assistance to the center;

(B) changing the career and technical education and training offered at the center;

(C) changing the management staff of the center;

(D) replacing the operator of the center;

(E) reducing the capacity of the center;

(F) relocating the center; or

(G) closing the center.

(3) **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT.**—In addition to the performance improvement plans required under paragraph (2), the Secretary may develop and implement additional performance improvement plans. Such a plan shall require improvements, including the actions described in such paragraph, for a Job Corps center that fails to meet criteria established by the Secretary other than the expected levels of performance described in such paragraph.

(4) **CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTERS.**—With respect to a Civilian Conservation Center that fails to meet the expected levels of performance relating to the primary indicators of performance specified in subsection (c)(1) or fails to improve performance as described in paragraph (2) after 3 program years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall select an entity to operate the Civilian Conservation Center on a competitive basis, in accordance with the requirements of section 147.

(g) **PARTICIPANT HEALTH AND SAFETY.**—

(1) **CENTER.**—The Secretary shall ensure that a review by an appropriate Federal, State, or

local entity of the physical condition and health-related activities of each Job Corps center occurs annually.

(2) **WORK-BASED LEARNING LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall require that an entity that has entered into a contract to provide work-based learning activities for any Job Corps enrollee under this subtitle shall comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) or, as appropriate, under the corresponding State Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 requirements in the State in which such activities occur.

(h) **BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.**—The Secretary shall collect, and submit in the report described in subsection (c)(4), information regarding the state of Job Corps buildings and facilities. Such report shall include—

(1) a review of requested construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition projects, by each Job Corps center; and

(2) a review of new facilities under construction.

(i) **NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.**—The Secretary shall include in the report described in subsection (c)(4) available information regarding the national and community service activities of enrollees, particularly those enrollees at Civilian Conservation Centers.

(j) **CLOSURE OF JOB CORPS CENTER.**—Prior to the closure of any Job Corps center, the Secretary shall ensure—

(1) that the proposed decision to close the center is announced in advance to the general public through publication in the Federal Register or other appropriate means;

(2) the establishment of a reasonable comment period, not to exceed 30 days, for interested individuals to submit written comments to the Secretary; and

(3) that the Member of Congress who represents the district in which such center is located is notified within a reasonable period of time in advance of any final decision to close the center.

SEC. 160. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

The Secretary is authorized to—

(1) disseminate, with regard to the provisions of section 3204 of title 39, United States Code, data and information in such forms as the Secretary shall determine to be appropriate, to public agencies, private organizations, and the general public;

(2) subject to section 157(b), collect or compromise all obligations to or held by the Secretary and exercise all legal or equitable rights accruing to the Secretary in connection with the payment of obligations until such time as such obligations may be referred to the Attorney General for suit or collection; and

(3) expend funds made available for purposes of this subtitle—

(A) for printing and binding, in accordance with applicable law (including regulation); and

(B) without regard to any other law (including regulation), for rent of buildings and space in buildings and for repair, alteration, and improvement of buildings and space in buildings rented by the Secretary, except that the Secretary shall not expend funds under the authority of this subparagraph—

(i) except when necessary to obtain an item, service, or facility, that is required in the proper administration of this subtitle, and that otherwise could not be obtained, or could not be obtained in the quantity or quality needed, or at the time, in the form, or under the conditions in which the item, service, or facility is needed; and

(ii) prior to having given written notification to the Administrator of General Services (if the expenditure would affect an activity that otherwise would be under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration) of the intention of

the Secretary to make the expenditure, and the reasons and justifications for the expenditure.

SEC. 161. JOB CORPS OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING.

(a) **TEMPORARY FINANCIAL REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During the periods described in paragraphs (2) and (3)(B), the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the applicable committees financial reports regarding the Job Corps program under this subtitle. Each such financial report shall include—

(A) information regarding the implementation of the financial oversight measures suggested in the May 31, 2013, report of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Labor entitled “The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration Needs to Strengthen Controls over Job Corps Funds”;;

(B) a description of any budgetary shortfalls for the program for the period covered by the financial report, and the reasons for such shortfalls; and

(C) a description and explanation for any approval for contract expenditures that are in excess of the amounts provided for under the contract.

(2) **TIMING OF REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall submit a financial report under paragraph (1) once every 6 months beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, for a 3-year period. After the completion of such 3-year period, the Secretary shall submit a financial report under such paragraph once a year for the next 2 years, unless additional reports are required under paragraph (3)(B).

(3) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN CASES OF BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS.**—If any financial report required under this subsection finds that the Job Corps program under this subtitle has a budgetary shortfall for the period covered by the report, the Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 90 days after the budgetary shortfall was identified, submit a report to the applicable committees explaining how the budgetary shortfall will be addressed; and

(B) submit an additional financial report under paragraph (1) for each 6-month period subsequent to the finding of the budgetary shortfall until the Secretary demonstrates, through such report, that the Job Corps program has no budgetary shortfall.

(b) **THIRD-PARTY REVIEW.**—Every 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide for a third-party review of the Job Corps program under this subtitle that addresses all of the areas described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 169(a)(2). The results of the review shall be submitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(c) **CRITERIA FOR JOB CORPS CENTER CLOSURES.**—By not later than December 1, 2014, the Secretary shall establish written criteria that the Secretary shall use to determine when a Job Corps center supported under this subtitle is to be closed and how to carry out such closure, and shall submit such criteria to the applicable committees.

(d) **DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE COMMITTEES.**—In this section, the term “applicable committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee of Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(4) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies of the Committee of Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 162. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle—

- (1) \$1,688,155,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$1,818,548,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$1,856,283,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$1,897,455,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$1,942,064,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$1,983,236,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle D—National Programs

SEC. 166. NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The purpose of this section is to support employment and training activities for Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian individuals in order—

(A) to develop more fully the academic, occupational, and literacy skills of such individuals;

(B) to make such individuals more competitive in the workforce and to equip them with the entrepreneurial skills necessary for successful self-employment; and

(C) to promote the economic and social development of Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities in accordance with the goals and values of such communities.

(2) **INDIAN POLICY.**—All programs assisted under this section shall be administered in a manner consistent with the principles of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) and the government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribal governments.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—As used in this section:

(1) **ALASKA NATIVE.**—The term “Alaska Native” includes a Native and a descendant of a Native, as such terms are defined in subsections (b) and (r) of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(b), (r)).

(2) **INDIAN, INDIAN TRIBE, AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “Indian”, “Indian tribe”, and “tribal organization” have the meanings given such terms in subsections (d), (e), and (l), respectively, of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(3) **NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.**—The terms “Native Hawaiian” and “Native Hawaiian organization” have the meanings given such terms in section 7207 of the Native Hawaiian Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7517).

(c) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—Every 4 years, the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians, or Native Hawaiian organizations to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (d).

(d) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds made available under subsection (c) shall be used to carry out the activities described in paragraph (2) that—

(A) are consistent with this section; and

(B) are necessary to meet the needs of Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians preparing to enter, reenter, or retain unsubsidized employment leading to self-sufficiency.

(2) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds made available under subsection (c) shall be used for—

(i) comprehensive workforce development activities for Indians, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians, including training on entrepreneurial skills; or

(ii) supplemental services for Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian youth on or near Indian reservations and in Oklahoma, Alaska, or Hawaii.

(B) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, individuals who

were eligible to participate in programs under section 401 of the Job Training Partnership Act (as such section was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998) shall be eligible to participate in an activity assisted under this section.

(e) **PROGRAM PLAN.**—In order to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity described in subsection (c) shall submit to the Secretary a program plan that describes a 4-year strategy for meeting the needs of Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian individuals, as appropriate, in the area served by such entity. Such plan shall—

(1) be consistent with the purpose of this section;

(2) identify the population to be served;

(3) identify the education and employment needs of the population to be served and the manner in which the activities to be provided will strengthen the ability of the individuals served to obtain or retain unsubsidized employment leading to self-sufficiency;

(4) describe the activities to be provided and the manner in which such activities are to be integrated with other appropriate activities; and

(5) describe, after the entity submitting the plan consults with the Secretary, the performance accountability measures to be used to assess the performance of entities in carrying out the activities assisted under this section, which shall include the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) and expected levels of performance for such indicators, in accordance with subsection (h).

(f) **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS.**—Each entity receiving assistance under subsection (c) may consolidate such assistance with assistance received from related programs in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.).

(g) **NONDUPLICATIVE AND NONEXCLUSIVE SERVICES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to limit the eligibility of any entity described in subsection (c) to participate in any activity offered by a State or local entity under this Act; or

(2) to preclude or discourage any agreement, between any entity described in subsection (c) and any State or local entity, to facilitate the provision of services by such entity or to the population served by such entity.

(h) **PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**—

(1) **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND STANDARDS.**—

(A) **DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS AND STANDARDS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Native American Employment and Training Council, shall develop a set of performance indicators and standards that is in addition to the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A) and that shall be applicable to programs under this section.

(B) **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—Such performance indicators and standards shall take into account—

(i) the purpose of this section as described in subsection (a)(1);

(ii) the needs of the groups served by this section, including the differences in needs among such groups in various geographic service areas; and

(iii) the economic circumstances of the communities served, including differences in circumstances among various geographic service areas.

(2) **AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary and the entity described in subsection (c) shall reach agreement on the levels of performance for each of the pri-

mary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), taking into account economic conditions, characteristics of the individuals served, and other appropriate factors and using, to the extent practicable, the statistical adjustment model under section 116(b)(3)(A)(viii). The levels agreed to shall be the adjusted levels of performance and shall be incorporated in the program plan.

(i) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT ESTABLISHED.**—The Secretary shall designate a single organizational unit within the Department of Labor that shall have primary responsibility for the administration of the activities authorized under this section.

(2) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with the entities described in subsection (c) in—

(A) establishing regulations to carry out this section, including regulations relating to the performance accountability measures for entities receiving assistance under this section; and

(B) developing a funding distribution plan that takes into consideration previous levels of funding (prior to the date of enactment of this Act) to such entities.

(3) **WAIVERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to an entity described in subsection (c), the Secretary, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may, pursuant to a request submitted by such entity that meets the requirements established under subparagraph (B), waive any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of this title that are inconsistent with the specific needs of the entity described in such subsection, except that the Secretary may not waive requirements relating to wage and labor standards, worker rights, participation and protection of workers and participants, grievance procedures, and judicial review.

(B) **REQUEST AND APPROVAL.**—An entity described in subsection (c) that requests a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall submit a plan to the Secretary to improve the program of workforce investment activities carried out by the entity, which plan shall meet the requirements established by the Secretary and shall be generally consistent with the requirements of section 189(i)(3)(B).

(4) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Using funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a Native American Employment and Training Council to facilitate the consultation described in paragraph (2) and to provide the advice described in subparagraph (C).

(B) **COMPOSITION.**—The Council shall be composed of individuals, appointed by the Secretary, who are representatives of the entities described in subsection (c).

(C) **DUTIES.**—The Council shall advise the Secretary on the operation and administration of the programs assisted under this section, including the selection of the individual appointed as head of the unit established under paragraph (1).

(D) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.**—

(i) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

(ii) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

(iii) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Secretary shall provide the Council with such administrative support as may be necessary to perform the functions of the Council.

(E) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Council shall select a chairperson from among its members.

(F) **MEETINGS.**—The Council shall meet not less than twice each year.

(G) **APPLICATION.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.

(5) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary, acting through the unit established under paragraph (1), is authorized to provide technical assistance to entities described in subsection (c) that receive assistance under such subsection to enable such entities to improve the activities authorized under this section that are provided by such entities.

(6) **AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE PROGRAM.**—A federally recognized Indian tribe that administers funds provided under this section and funds provided by more than one State under other sections of this title may enter into an agreement with the Secretary and the Governors of the affected States to transfer the funds provided by the States to the program administered by the tribe under this section.

(j) **COMPLIANCE WITH SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS; RELATED REQUIREMENT.**—Grants made and contracts and cooperative agreements entered into under this section shall be subject to the requirements of chapter 75 of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, and charging of costs under this section shall be subject to appropriate circulars issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

(k) **ASSISTANCE TO UNIQUE POPULATIONS IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to entities with demonstrated experience and expertise in developing and implementing programs for the unique populations who reside in Alaska or Hawaii, including public and private nonprofit organizations, tribal organizations, American Indian tribal colleges or universities, institutions of higher education, or consortia of such organizations or institutions, to improve job training and workforce investment activities for such unique populations.

(2) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

(A) \$461,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(B) \$497,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(C) \$507,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(D) \$518,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(E) \$530,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(F) \$542,000 for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 167. MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Every 4 years, the Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract under this section, an entity shall have an understanding of the problems of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers (including dependents), a familiarity with the area to be served, and the ability to demonstrate a capacity to administer and deliver effectively a diversified program of workforce investment activities (including youth workforce investment activities) and related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

(c) **PROGRAM PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract under this section, an entity described in subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary a plan that describes a 4-year strategy for meeting the needs of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the area to be served by such entity.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Such plan shall—

(A) describe the population to be served and identify the education and employment needs of the population to be served and the manner in which the services to be provided will strengthen the ability of the eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers and dependents to obtain or retain unsubsidized employment, or stabilize their unsubsidized employment, including upgraded employment in agriculture;

(B) describe the related assistance and supportive services to be provided and the manner in which such assistance and services are to be integrated and coordinated with other appropriate services;

(C) describe the performance accountability measures to be used to assess the performance of such entity in carrying out the activities assisted under this section, which shall include the expected levels of performance for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A);

(D) describe the availability and accessibility of local resources, such as supportive services, services provided through one-stop delivery systems, and education and training services, and how the resources can be made available to the population to be served; and

(E) describe the plan for providing services under this section, including strategies and systems for outreach, career planning, assessment, and delivery through one-stop delivery systems.

(3) **AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.**—The Secretary and the entity described in subsection (b) shall reach agreement on the levels of performance for each of the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A), taking into account economic conditions, characteristics of the individuals served, and other appropriate factors, and using, to the extent practicable, the statistical adjustment model under section 116(b)(3)(A)(viii). The levels agreed to shall be the adjusted levels of performance and shall be incorporated in the program plan.

(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Grants and contracts awarded under this section shall be centrally administered by the Department of Labor and competitively awarded by the Secretary using procedures consistent with standard Federal Government competitive procurement policies.

(d) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Funds made available under this section and section 127(a)(1) shall be used to carry out workforce investment activities (including youth workforce investment activities) and provide related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, which may include—

(1) outreach, employment, training, educational assistance, literacy assistance, English language and literacy instruction, pesticide and worker safety training, housing (including permanent housing), supportive services, and school dropout prevention and recovery activities;

(2) followup services for those individuals placed in employment;

(3) self-employment and related business or micro-enterprise development or education as needed by eligible individuals as identified pursuant to the plan required by subsection (c);

(4) customized career and technical education in occupations that will lead to higher wages, enhanced benefits, and long-term employment in agriculture or another area; and

(5) technical assistance to improve coordination of services and implement best practices relating to service delivery through one-stop delivery systems.

(e) **CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNORS AND LOCAL BOARDS.**—In making grants and entering into contracts under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Governors and local boards of the States in which the eligible entities will carry out the activities described in subsection (d).

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall consult with eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers groups and States in establishing regulations to carry out this section, including regulations relating to how economic and demographic barriers to employment of eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers should be considered and included in the negotiations leading to the adjusted levels of performance described in subsection (c)(3).

(g) **COMPLIANCE WITH SINGLE AUDIT REQUIREMENTS; RELATED REQUIREMENT.**—Grants made and contracts entered into under this section shall be subject to the requirements of chapter 75 of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code and charging of costs under this section shall be subject to appropriate circulars issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

(h) **FUNDING ALLOCATION.**—From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent for discretionary purposes, such as providing technical assistance to eligible entities.

(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS.**—The term “eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers” means individuals who are eligible migrant farmworkers or are eligible seasonal farmworkers.

(2) **ELIGIBLE MIGRANT FARMWORKER.**—The term “eligible migrant farmworker” means—

(A) an eligible seasonal farmworker described in paragraph (3)(A) whose agricultural labor requires travel to a job site such that the farmworker is unable to return to a permanent place of residence within the same day; and

(B) a dependent of the farmworker described in subparagraph (A).

(3) **ELIGIBLE SEASONAL FARMWORKER.**—The term “eligible seasonal farmworker” means—

(A) a low-income individual who—

(i) for 12 consecutive months out of the 24 months prior to application for the program involved, has been primarily employed in agricultural or fish farming labor that is characterized by chronic unemployment or underemployment; and

(ii) faces multiple barriers to economic self-sufficiency; and

(B) a dependent of the person described in subparagraph (A).

SEC. 168. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **GENERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the Department has sufficient capacity to, and does, provide, coordinate, and support the development of, appropriate training, technical assistance, staff development, and other activities, including—

(A) assistance in replicating programs of demonstrated effectiveness, to States and localities;

(B) the training of staff providing rapid response services;

(C) the training of other staff of recipients of funds under this title, including the staff of local boards and State boards;

(D) the training of members of State boards and local boards;

(E) assistance in the development and implementation of integrated, technology-enabled intake and case management information systems for programs carried out under this Act and programs carried out by one-stop partners, such as standard sets of technical requirements for the systems, offering interfaces that States could use in conjunction with their current (as of the first date of implementation of the systems) intake and case management information systems that would facilitate shared registration across programs;

(F) assistance regarding accounting and program operations to States and localities (when such assistance would not supplant assistance provided by the State);

(G) peer review activities under this title; and

(H) in particular, assistance to States in making transitions to implement the provisions of this Act.

(2) **FORM OF ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out paragraph (1) on behalf of a State or recipient of financial assistance under section 166 or 167, the Secretary, after consultation with the State or grant recipient, may award grants or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements.

(B) **LIMITATION.**—Grants or contracts awarded under paragraph (1) to entities other than States or local units of government that are for amounts in excess of \$100,000 shall only be awarded on a competitive basis.

(b) **DISLOCATED WORKER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY.**—Of the amounts available pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 5 percent of such amounts to provide technical assistance to States that do not meet the State performance accountability measures for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) with respect to employment and training activities for dislocated workers. Using such reserved funds, the Secretary may provide such assistance to other States, local areas, and other entities involved in providing assistance to dislocated workers, to promote the continuous improvement of assistance provided to dislocated workers, under this title.

(2) **TRAINING.**—Amounts reserved under this subsection may be used to provide for the training of staff, including specialists, who provide rapid response services. Such training shall include instruction in proven methods of promoting, establishing, and assisting labor-management committees. Such projects shall be administered through the Employment and Training Administration of the Department.

(c) **PROMISING AND PROVEN PRACTICES COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) establish a system through which States may share information regarding promising and proven practices with regard to the operation of workforce investment activities under this Act;

(2) evaluate and disseminate information regarding such promising and proven practices and identify knowledge gaps; and

(3) commission research under section 169(b) to address knowledge gaps identified under paragraph (2).

SEC. 169. EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.

(a) **EVALUATIONS.**—

(1) **EVALUATIONS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THIS TITLE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For the purpose of improving the management and effectiveness of programs and activities carried out under this title, the Secretary, through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall provide for the continuing evaluation of the programs and activities under this title, including those programs and activities carried out under this section.

(B) **PERIODIC INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.**—The evaluations carried out under this paragraph shall include an independent evaluation, at least once every 4 years, of the programs and activities carried out under this title.

(2) **EVALUATION SUBJECTS.**—Each evaluation carried out under paragraph (1) shall address—

(A) the general effectiveness of such programs and activities in relation to their cost, including the extent to which the programs and activities—

(i) improve the employment competencies of participants in comparison to comparably-situated individuals who did not participate in such programs and activities; and

(ii) to the extent feasible, increase the level of total employment over the level that would have existed in the absence of such programs and activities;

(B) the effectiveness of the performance accountability measures relating to such programs and activities;

(C) the effectiveness of the structure and mechanisms for delivery of services through such programs and activities, including the coordination and integration of services through such programs and activities;

(D) the impact of such programs and activities on the community, businesses, and participants involved;

(E) the impact of such programs and activities on related programs and activities;

(F) the extent to which such programs and activities meet the needs of various demographic groups; and

(G) such other factors as may be appropriate.

(3) **EVALUATIONS OF OTHER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may conduct evaluations of other federally funded employment-related programs and activities under other provisions of law.

(4) **TECHNIQUES.**—Evaluations conducted under this subsection shall utilize appropriate and rigorous methodology and research designs, including the use of control groups chosen by scientific random assignment methodologies. The Secretary shall conduct at least 1 multisite control group evaluation under this subsection by the end of fiscal year 2019, and thereafter shall ensure that such an analysis is included in the independent evaluation described in paragraph (1)(B) that is conducted at least once every 4 years.

(5) **REPORTS.**—The entity carrying out an evaluation described in paragraph (1) or (2) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a draft report and a final report containing the results of the evaluation.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after the completion of a draft report under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall transmit the draft report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate. Not later than 60 days after the completion of a final report under such paragraph, the Secretary shall transmit the final report to such committees.

(7) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary transmits the final report as described in paragraph (6), the Secretary shall make that final report available to the general public on the Internet, on the Web site of the Department of Labor.

(8) **PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.**—If an entity that enters into a contract or other arrangement with the Secretary to conduct an evaluation of a program or activity under this subsection requests permission from the Secretary to publish a report resulting from the evaluation, such entity may publish the report unless the Secretary denies the request during the 90-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives such request.

(9) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure the coordination of evaluations carried out by States pursuant to section 116(e) with the evaluations carried out under this subsection.

(b) **RESEARCH, STUDIES, AND MULTISTATE PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—After consultation with States, localities, and other interested parties, the Secretary shall, every 2 years, publish in the Federal Register, a plan that describes the research, studies, and multistate project priorities of the Department of Labor concerning employment and training for the 5-year period following the submission of the plan. The plan shall be consistent with the purposes of this title, including the purpose of aligning and coordinating core programs with other one-stop partner programs. Copies of the plan shall be

transmitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Department of Education, and other relevant Federal agencies.

(2) **FACTORS.**—The plan published under paragraph (1) shall contain strategies to address national employment and training problems and take into account factors such as—

(A) the availability of existing research (as of the date of the publication);

(B) the need to ensure results that have interstate validity;

(C) the benefits of economies of scale and the efficiency of proposed projects; and

(D) the likelihood that the results of the projects will be useful to policymakers and stakeholders in addressing employment and training problems.

(3) **RESEARCH PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall, through grants or contracts, carry out research projects that will contribute to the solution of employment and training problems in the United States and that are consistent with the priorities specified in the plan published under paragraph (1).

(4) **STUDIES AND REPORTS.**—

(A) **NET IMPACT STUDIES AND REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and other relevant Federal agencies, may conduct studies to determine the net impact and best practices of programs, services, and activities carried out under this Act.

(B) **STUDY ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST DISCONNECTED YOUTH.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study examining the characteristics of eligible youth that result in such youth being significantly disconnected from education and workforce participation, the ways in which such youth could have greater opportunities for education attainment and obtaining employment, and the resources available to assist such youth in obtaining the skills, credentials, and work experience necessary to become economically self-sufficient.

(C) **STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN MEETING BUSINESS NEEDS.**—Using funds available to carry out this subsection jointly with funds available to the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study of the effectiveness of the workforce development system in meeting the needs of business, such as through the use of industry or sector partnerships, with particular attention to the needs of small business, including in assisting workers to obtain the skills needed to utilize emerging technologies.

(D) **STUDY ON PARTICIPANTS ENTERING NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct a study examining the number and percentage of individuals who receive employment and training activities and who enter nontraditional occupations, successful strategies to place and support the retention of individuals in nontraditional employment (such as by providing post-placement assistance to participants in the form of exit interviews, mentoring, networking, and leadership development), and the degree to which recipients of employment and training activities are informed of the possibility of, or directed to begin, training or education needed for entrance into nontraditional occupations.

(E) **STUDY ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, may conduct studies to

determine the feasibility of, and potential means to replicate, measuring the compensation, including the wages, benefits, and other incentives provided by an employer, received by program participants by using data other than or in addition to data available through wage records, for potential use as a performance indicator.

(F) **STUDY ON JOB TRAINING FOR RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, may conduct studies to assist public housing authorities to provide, to recipients of public housing assistance, job training programs that successfully upgrade job skills and employment in, and access to, jobs with opportunity for advancement and economic self-sufficiency for such recipients.

(G) **STUDY ON IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may conduct studies that lead to better design and implementation of, in conjunction with employers, local boards or State boards, community colleges or area career and technical education schools, and other organizations, effective evidence-based strategies to provide services to workers who are low-income, low-skilled older individuals that increase the workers' skills and employment prospects.

(H) **STUDY ON PRIOR LEARNING.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with other heads of Federal agencies, as appropriate, may conduct studies that, through convening stakeholders from the fields of education, workforce, business, labor, defense, and veterans services, and experts in such fields, develop guidelines for assessing, accounting for, and utilizing the prior learning of individuals, including dislocated workers and veterans, in order to provide the individuals with postsecondary educational credit for such prior learning that leads to the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential identified under section 122(d) and employment.

(I) **STUDY ON CAREER PATHWAYS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PROVIDERS OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.**—The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall conduct a multistate study to develop, implement, and build upon career advancement models and practices for low-wage health care providers or providers of early education and child care, including faculty education and distance education programs.

(J) **STUDY ON EQUIVALENT PAY.**—The Secretary shall conduct a multistate study to develop and disseminate strategies for ensuring that programs and activities carried out under this Act are placing individuals in jobs, education, and training that lead to equivalent pay for men and women, including strategies to increase the participation of women in high-wage, high-demand occupations in which women are underrepresented.

(K) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and to the public, including through electronic means, reports containing the results of the studies conducted under this paragraph.

(5) **MULTISTATE PROJECTS.**—

(A) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may, through grants or contracts, carry out multistate projects that require demonstrated expertise that is available at the national level to effectively disseminate best practices and models for implementing employment and training services, address the specialized employment and training needs of particular service populations, or address industry-wide skill shortages, to the extent

such projects are consistent with the priorities specified in the plan published under paragraph (1).

(B) **DESIGN OF GRANTS.**—Agreements for grants or contracts awarded under this paragraph shall be designed to obtain information relating to the provision of services under different economic conditions or to various demographic groups in order to provide guidance at the national and State levels about how best to administer specific employment and training services.

(6) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(A) **COMPETITIVE AWARDS.**—A grant or contract awarded for carrying out a project under this subsection in an amount that exceeds \$100,000 shall be awarded only on a competitive basis, except that a noncompetitive award may be made in the case of a project that is funded jointly with other public or private sector entities that provide a substantial portion of assistance under the grant or contract for the project.

(B) **TIME LIMITS.**—A grant or contract shall not be awarded under this subsection to the same organization for more than 3 consecutive years unless such grant or contract is competitively reevaluated within such period.

(C) **PEER REVIEW.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall utilize a peer review process—

(I) to review and evaluate all applications for grants in amounts that exceed \$500,000 that are submitted under this section; and

(II) to review and designate exemplary and promising programs under this section.

(ii) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary is authorized to use funds provided under this section to carry out peer review activities under this subparagraph.

(D) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants or contracts under this subsection, priority shall be provided to entities with recognized expertise in the methods, techniques, and knowledge of workforce investment activities. The Secretary shall establish appropriate time limits for the duration of such projects.

(c) **DISLOCATED WORKER PROJECTS.**—Of the amount made available pursuant to section 132(a)(2)(A) for any program year, the Secretary shall use not more than 10 percent of such amount to carry out demonstration and pilot projects, multiservice projects, and multistate projects relating to the employment and training needs of dislocated workers. Of the requirements of this section, such projects shall be subject only to the provisions relating to review and evaluation of applications under subsection (b)(6)(C). Such projects may include demonstration and pilot projects relating to promoting self-employment, promoting job creation, averting dislocations, assisting dislocated farmers, assisting dislocated fishermen, and promoting public works. Such projects shall be administered by the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.

SEC. 170. NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **EMERGENCY OR DISASTER.**—The term “emergency or disaster” means—

(A) an emergency or a major disaster, as defined in paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively, of section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 (1) and (2)); or

(B) an emergency or disaster situation of national significance that could result in a potentially large loss of employment, as declared or otherwise recognized by the chief official of a Federal agency with authority for or jurisdiction over the Federal response to the emergency or disaster situation.

(2) **DISASTER AREA.**—The term “disaster area” means an area that has suffered or in which has occurred an emergency or disaster.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary is authorized to award national dislocated worker grants—

(A) to an entity described in subsection (c)(1)(B) to provide employment and training assistance to workers affected by major economic dislocations, such as plant closures, mass layoffs, or closures and realignments of military installations;

(B) to provide assistance to—

(i) the Governor of any State within the boundaries of which is a disaster area, to provide disaster relief employment in the disaster area; or

(ii) the Governor of any State to which a substantial number of workers from an area in which an emergency or disaster has been declared or otherwise recognized have relocated;

(C) to provide additional assistance to a State board or local board for eligible dislocated workers in a case in which the State board or local board has expended the funds provided under this section to carry out activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and can demonstrate the need for additional funds to provide appropriate services for such workers, in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Secretary; and

(D) to provide additional assistance to a State board or local board serving an area where—

(i) a higher-than-average demand for employment and training activities for dislocated members of the Armed Forces, spouses described in section 3(15)(E), or members of the Armed Forces described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(iv), exceeds State and local resources for providing such activities; and

(ii) such activities are to be carried out in partnership with the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs transition assistance programs.

(2) **DECISIONS AND OBLIGATIONS.**—The Secretary shall issue a final decision on an application for a national dislocated worker grant under this subsection not later than 45 calendar days after receipt of the application. The Secretary shall issue a notice of obligation for such grant not later than 10 days after the award of such grant.

(c) **EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **GRANT RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY.**—

(A) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (b)(1)(A), an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this paragraph, the term “entity” means a State, a local board, an entity described in section 166(c), an entity determined to be eligible by the Governor of the State involved, and any other entity that demonstrates to the Secretary the capability to effectively respond to the circumstances relating to particular dislocations.

(2) **PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to be eligible to receive employment and training assistance under a national dislocated worker grant awarded pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A), an individual shall be—

(i) a dislocated worker;

(ii) a civilian employee of the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy employed at a military installation that is being closed, or that will undergo realignment, within the next 24 months after the date of the determination of eligibility;

(iii) an individual who is employed in a non-managerial position with a Department of Defense contractor, who is determined by the Secretary of Defense to be at risk of termination from employment as a result of reductions in defense expenditures, and whose employer is con-

verting operations from defense to nondefense applications in order to prevent worker layoffs; or

(iv) a member of the Armed Forces who—

(I) was on active duty or full-time National Guard duty;

(II)(aa) is involuntarily separated (as defined in section 1141 of title 10, United States Code) from active duty or full-time National Guard duty; or

(bb) is separated from active duty or full-time National Guard duty pursuant to a special separation benefits program under section 1174a of title 10, United States Code, or the voluntary separation incentive program under section 1175 of that title;

(III) is not entitled to retired or retained pay incident to the separation described in subclause (II); and

(IV) applies for such employment and training assistance before the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of that separation.

(B) **RETRAINING ASSISTANCE.**—The individuals described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be eligible for retraining assistance to upgrade skills by obtaining marketable skills needed to support the conversion described in subparagraph (A)(iii).

(C) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall establish and publish additional requirements related to eligibility for employment and training assistance under the national dislocated worker grants to ensure effective use of the funds available for this purpose.

(D) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph, the terms “military installation” and “realignment” have the meanings given the terms in section 2910 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

(d) **DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds made available under subsection (b)(1)(B)—

(A) shall be used, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as applicable, to provide disaster relief employment on projects that provide food, clothing, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance for emergency and disaster victims, and projects regarding demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures, facilities, and lands located within the disaster area and in offshore areas related to the emergency or disaster;

(B) may be expended through public and private agencies and organizations engaged in such projects; and

(C) may be expended to provide employment and training activities.

(2) **ELIGIBILITY.**—An individual shall be eligible to be offered disaster relief employment under subsection (b)(1)(B) if such individual—

(A) is a dislocated worker;

(B) is a long-term unemployed individual;

(C) is temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of the emergency or disaster; or

(D) in the case of an individual who is self-employed, becomes unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the emergency or disaster.

(3) **LIMITATIONS ON DISASTER RELIEF EMPLOYMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no individual shall be employed under subsection (b)(1)(B) for more than 12 months for work related to recovery from a single emergency or disaster.

(B) **EXTENSION.**—At the request of a State, the Secretary may extend such employment, related to recovery from a single emergency or disaster involving the State, for not more than an additional 12 months.

(4) **USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.**—Funds made available under subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be

available to assist workers described in paragraph (2) who are affected by an emergency or disaster, including workers who have relocated from an area in which an emergency or disaster has been declared or otherwise recognized, as appropriate. Under conditions determined by the Secretary and following notification to the Secretary, a State may use such funds, that are appropriated for any fiscal year and available for expenditure under any grant awarded to the State under this section, to provide any assistance authorized under this subsection. Funds used pursuant to the authority provided under this paragraph shall be subject to the liability and reimbursement requirements described in paragraph (5).

(5) **LIABILITY AND REIMBURSEMENT.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to relieve liability, by a responsible party that is liable under Federal law, for any costs incurred by the United States under subsection (b)(1)(B) or this subsection, including the responsibility to provide reimbursement for such costs to the United States.

SEC. 171. YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.

(a) **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enable disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency in occupations in demand and postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(2) to provide disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities;

(3) to foster the development of employment and leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in low-income communities;

(4) to expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and low-income families by utilizing the energies and talents of disadvantaged youth; and

(5) to improve the quality and energy efficiency of community and other nonprofit and public facilities, including those facilities that are used to serve homeless and low-income families.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADJUSTED INCOME.**—The term “adjusted income” has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(2) **APPLICANT.**—The term “applicant” means an eligible entity that has submitted an application under subsection (c).

(3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means a public or private nonprofit agency or organization (including a consortium of such agencies or organizations), including—

(A) a community-based organization;

(B) a faith-based organization;

(C) an entity carrying out activities under this title, such as a local board;

(D) a community action agency;

(E) a State or local housing development agency;

(F) an Indian tribe or other agency primarily serving Indians;

(G) a community development corporation;

(H) a State or local youth service or conservation corps; and

(I) any other entity eligible to provide education or employment training under a Federal program (other than the program carried out under this section).

(4) **HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “homeless individual” means a homeless individual (as defined in section 41403(6) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2(6))) or a homeless child or youth (as defined in section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2))).

(5) **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.**—The term “housing development agency” means any

agency of a State or local government, or any private nonprofit organization, that is engaged in providing housing for homeless individuals or low-income families.

(6) **INCOME.**—The term “income” has the meaning given the term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(7) **INDIAN; INDIAN TRIBE.**—The terms “Indian” and “Indian tribe” have the meanings given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(8) **LOW-INCOME FAMILY.**—The term “low-income family” means a family described in section 3(b)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(2)).

(9) **QUALIFIED NATIONAL NONPROFIT AGENCY.**—The term “qualified national nonprofit agency” means a nonprofit agency that—

(A) has significant national experience providing services consisting of training, information, technical assistance, and data management to YouthBuild programs or similar projects; and

(B) has the capacity to provide those services.

(10) **REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.**—The term “registered apprenticeship program” means an apprenticeship program—

(A) registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

(B) that meets such other criteria as may be established by the Secretary under this section.

(11) **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.**—The term “transitional housing” has the meaning given the term in section 401(29) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(29)).

(12) **YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM.**—The term “YouthBuild program” means any program that receives assistance under this section and provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities for employment, education, leadership development, and training through the rehabilitation (which, for purposes of this section, shall include energy efficiency enhancements) or construction of housing for homeless individuals and low-income families, and of public facilities.

(c) **YOUTHBUILD GRANTS.**—

(1) **AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.**—The Secretary is authorized to make grants to applicants for the purpose of carrying out YouthBuild programs approved under this section.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—An entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to carry out a YouthBuild program, which may include the following activities:

(A) Education and workforce investment activities including—

(i) work experience and skills training (coordinated, to the maximum extent feasible, with preapprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs) in the activities described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) related to rehabilitation or construction, and, if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates;

(ii) occupational skills training;

(iii) other paid and unpaid work experiences, including internships and job shadowing;

(iv) services and activities designed to meet the educational needs of participants, including—

(I) basic skills instruction and remedial education;

(II) language instruction educational programs for participants who are English language learners;

(III) secondary education services and activities, including tutoring, study skills training, and school dropout prevention and recovery ac-

tivities, designed to lead to the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including recognized certificates of attendance or similar documents for individuals with disabilities);

(IV) counseling and assistance in obtaining postsecondary education and required financial aid; and

(V) alternative secondary school services;

(v) counseling services and related activities, such as comprehensive guidance and counseling on drug and alcohol abuse and referral;

(vi) activities designed to develop employment and leadership skills, which may include community service and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors, and activities related to youth policy committees that participate in decision-making related to the program;

(vii) supportive services and provision of need-based stipends necessary to enable individuals to participate in the program and to assist individuals, for a period not to exceed 12 months after the completion of training, in obtaining or retaining employment, or applying for and transitioning to postsecondary education or training; and

(viii) job search and assistance.

(B) Supervision and training for participants in the rehabilitation or construction of housing, including residential housing for homeless individuals or low-income families, or transitional housing for homeless individuals, and, if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates.

(C) Supervision and training for participants—

(i) in the rehabilitation or construction of community and other public facilities, except that not more than 15 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section may be used for such supervision and training; and

(ii) if approved by the Secretary, in additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region in which the program operates.

(D) Payment of administrative costs of the applicant, including recruitment and selection of participants, except that not more than 10 percent of the amount of assistance provided under this subsection to the grant recipient may be used for such costs.

(E) Adult mentoring.

(F) Provision of wages, stipends, or benefits to participants in the program.

(G) Ongoing training and technical assistance that are related to developing and carrying out the program.

(H) Follow-up services.

(3) **APPLICATION.**—

(A) **FORM AND PROCEDURE.**—To be qualified to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall require that the application contain, at a minimum—

(i) labor market information for the labor market area where the proposed program will be implemented, including both current data (as of the date of submission of the application) and projections on career opportunities in construction and in-demand industry sectors or occupations;

(ii) a request for the grant, specifying the amount of the grant requested and its proposed uses;

(iii) a description of the applicant and a statement of its qualifications, including a description of the applicant's relationship with local boards, one-stop operators, local unions, entities carrying out registered apprenticeship programs, other community groups, and employers, and

the applicant's past experience, if any, with rehabilitation or construction of housing or public facilities, and with youth education and employment training programs;

(iv) a description of the proposed site for the proposed program;

(v) a description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, postsecondary education and training opportunities, and other services that will be provided to participants, and how those activities, opportunities, and services will prepare youth for employment in in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the labor market area described in clause (i);

(vi)(I) a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken under the grant related to rehabilitation or construction, and, in the case of an applicant requesting approval from the Secretary to also carry out additional activities related to in-demand industry sectors or occupations, a description of such additional proposed activities; and

(II) the anticipated schedule for carrying out all activities proposed under subclause (I);

(vii) a description of the manner in which eligible youth will be recruited and selected as participants, including a description of arrangements that will be made with local boards, one-stop operators, faith- and community-based organizations, State educational agencies or local educational agencies (including agencies of Indian tribes), public assistance agencies, the courts of jurisdiction, agencies operating shelters for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve youth who are homeless individuals, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and private agencies;

(viii) a description of the special outreach efforts that will be undertaken to recruit eligible young women (including young women with dependent children) as participants;

(ix) a description of the specific role of employers in the proposed program, such as their role in developing the proposed program and assisting in service provision and in placement activities;

(x) a description of how the proposed program will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local activities and activities conducted by Indian tribes, such as local workforce investment activities, career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, activities conducted by public schools, activities conducted by community colleges, national service programs, and other job training provided with funds available under this title;

(xi) assurances that there will be a sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory personnel in the proposed program;

(xii) a description of the levels of performance to be achieved with respect to the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii);

(xiii) a description of the applicant's relationship with local building trade unions regarding their involvement in training to be provided through the proposed program, the relationship of the proposed program to established registered apprenticeship programs and employers, the ability of the applicant to grant an industry-recognized certificate or certification through the program, and the quality of the program leading to the certificate or certification;

(xiv) a description of activities that will be undertaken to develop the leadership skills of participants;

(xv) a detailed budget and a description of the system of fiscal controls, and auditing and accountability procedures, that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness for the proposed program;

(xvi) a description of the commitments for any additional resources (in addition to the funds

made available through the grant) to be made available to the proposed program from—

(I) the applicant;

(II) recipients of other Federal, State, or local housing and community development assistance that will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation or construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

(III) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

(xvii) information identifying, and a description of, the financing proposed for any—

(I) rehabilitation of the property involved;

(II) acquisition of the property; or

(III) construction of the property;

(xviii) information identifying, and a description of, the entity that will operate and manage the property;

(xix) information identifying, and a description of, the data collection systems to be used;

(xx) a certification, by a public official responsible for the housing strategy for the State or unit of general local government within which the proposed program is located, that the proposed program is consistent with the housing strategy; and

(xxi) a certification that the applicant will comply with the requirements of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) and will affirmatively further fair housing.

(4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—For an applicant to be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the applicant and the applicant's proposed program shall meet such selection criteria as the Secretary shall establish under this section, which shall include criteria relating to—

(A) the qualifications or potential capabilities of an applicant;

(B) an applicant's potential for developing a successful YouthBuild program;

(C) the need for an applicant's proposed program, as determined by the degree of economic distress of the community from which participants would be recruited (measured by indicators such as poverty, youth unemployment, and the number of individuals who have dropped out of secondary school) and of the community in which the housing and community and public facilities proposed to be rehabilitated or constructed is located (measured by indicators such as incidence of homelessness, shortage of affordable housing, and poverty);

(D) the commitment of an applicant to providing skills training, leadership development, and education to participants;

(E) the focus of a proposed program on preparing youth for in-demand industry sectors or occupations, or postsecondary education and training opportunities;

(F) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities to be carried out through the proposed program with local boards, one-stop operators, and one-stop partners participating in the operation of the one-stop delivery system involved, or the extent of the applicant's good faith efforts in achieving such coordination;

(G) the extent of the applicant's coordination of activities with public education, criminal justice, housing and community development, national service, or postsecondary education or other systems that relate to the goals of the proposed program;

(H) the extent of an applicant's coordination of activities with employers in the local area involved;

(I) the extent to which a proposed program provides for inclusion of tenants who were pre-

viously homeless individuals in the rental housing provided through the program;

(J) the commitment of additional resources (in addition to the funds made available through the grant) to a proposed program by—

(i) an applicant;

(ii) recipients of other Federal, State, or local housing and community development assistance who will sponsor any part of the rehabilitation or construction, operation and maintenance, or other housing and community development activities undertaken as part of the proposed program; or

(iii) entities carrying out other Federal, State, or local activities or activities conducted by Indian tribes, including career and technical education and training programs, adult and language instruction educational programs, and job training provided with funds available under this title;

(K) the applicant's potential to serve different regions, including rural areas and States that have not previously received grants for YouthBuild programs; and

(L) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for purposes of carrying out the proposed program in an effective and efficient manner.

(5) APPROVAL.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall notify each applicant, not later than 5 months after the date of receipt of the application by the Secretary, whether the application is approved or not approved.

(d) USE OF HOUSING UNITS.—Residential housing units rehabilitated or constructed using funds made available under subsection (c), shall be available solely—

(1) for rental by, or sale to, homeless individuals or low-income families; or

(2) for use as transitional or permanent housing, for the purpose of assisting in the movement of homeless individuals to independent living.

(e) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an individual may participate in a YouthBuild program only if such individual is—

(i) not less than age 16 and not more than age 24, on the date of enrollment;

(ii) a member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care (including youth aging out of foster care), a youth offender, a youth who is an individual with a disability, a child of incarcerated parents, or a migrant youth; and

(iii) a school dropout, or an individual who was a school dropout and has subsequently re-enrolled.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT MEETING INCOME OR EDUCATIONAL NEED REQUIREMENTS.—Not more than 25 percent of the participants in such program may be individuals who do not meet the requirements of clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (A), but who—

(i) are basic skills deficient, despite attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (including recognized certificates of attendance or similar documents for individuals with disabilities); or

(ii) have been referred by a local secondary school for participation in a YouthBuild program leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma.

(2) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION.—An eligible individual selected for participation in a YouthBuild program shall be offered full-time participation in the program for a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 24 months.

(3) MINIMUM TIME DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—A YouthBuild program receiving assistance under subsection (c) shall be structured so that participants in the program are offered—

(A) education and related services and activities designed to meet educational needs, such as those specified in clauses (iv) through (vii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 50 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program; and

(B) work and skill development activities, such as those specified in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (viii) of subsection (c)(2)(A), during at least 40 percent of the time during which the participants participate in the program.

(4) **AUTHORITY RESTRICTION.**—No provision of this section may be construed to authorize any agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the curriculum, program of instruction, administration, or personnel of any educational institution (including a school) or school system, or over the selection of library resources, textbooks, or other printed or published instructional materials by any educational institution or school system.

(5) **STATE AND LOCAL STANDARDS.**—All educational programs and activities supported with funds provided under subsection (c) shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards. Standards and procedures for the programs and activities that relate to awarding academic credit for and certifying educational attainment in such programs and activities shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards.

(f) **LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE AND INDICATORS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall annually establish expected levels of performance for YouthBuild programs relating to each of the primary indicators of performance for eligible youth activities described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(ii).

(2) **ADDITIONAL INDICATORS.**—The Secretary may establish expected levels of performance for additional indicators for YouthBuild programs, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(g) **MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **SECRETARY ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may enter into contracts with 1 or more entities to provide assistance to the Secretary in the management, supervision, and coordination of the program carried out under this section.

(2) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall enter into contracts with or make grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies, in order to provide training, information, technical assistance, program evaluation, and data management to recipients of grants under subsection (c).

(B) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts available under subsection (i) to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent to carry out subparagraph (A).

(3) **CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In each fiscal year, the Secretary may use not more than 3 percent of the amounts available under subsection (i) to award grants to 1 or more qualified national nonprofit agencies to pay for the Federal share of the cost of capacity building activities.

(B) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) shall be 25 percent. The non-Federal share shall be provided from private sources.

(h) **SUBGRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—Each recipient of a grant under subsection (c) to carry out a YouthBuild program shall provide the services and activities described in this section directly or through subgrants, contracts, or other arrangements with local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, State or local housing development agencies, other public agencies, including agencies of Indian tribes, or private organizations.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

- (1) \$77,534,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$83,523,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$85,256,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$87,147,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$89,196,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$91,087,000 for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 172. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 166 (not including subsection (k) of such section)—

- (1) \$46,082,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$49,641,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$50,671,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$51,795,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$53,013,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$54,137,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(b) **MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER PROGRAMS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 167—

- (1) \$81,896,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$88,222,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$90,052,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$92,050,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$94,214,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$96,211,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 168—

- (1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$3,232,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$3,299,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$3,372,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$3,451,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$3,524,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(d) **EVALUATIONS AND RESEARCH.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 169—

- (1) \$91,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (2) \$98,029,000 for fiscal year 2016;
- (3) \$100,063,000 for fiscal year 2017;
- (4) \$102,282,000 for fiscal year 2018;
- (5) \$104,687,000 for fiscal year 2019; and
- (6) \$106,906,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(e) **ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS.**—If, as of the date of enactment of this Act, any unobligated funds appropriated to carry out section 168 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, remain available, the Secretary of Labor shall continue to use such funds to carry out such section, as in effect on such day, until all of such funds are expended.

(f) **ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE WORKERS.**—If, as of the date of enactment of this Act, any unobligated funds appropriated to carry out subsections (f) and (g) of section 173 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, remain available, the Secretary of Labor shall continue to use such funds to carry out such subsections, as in effect on such day, until all of such funds are expended.

Subtitle E—Administration

SEC. 181. REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS.

(a) **BENEFITS.**—

(1) **WAGES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Individuals in on-the-job training or individuals employed in activities under this title shall be compensated at the same rates, including periodic increases, as trainees or employees who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience, and skills, and such rates shall be in accordance with applicable law, but in no event less than the higher of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the applicable State or local minimum wage law.

(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The reference in subparagraph (A) to section 6(a)(1) of the Fair

Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall not be applicable for individuals in territorial jurisdictions in which section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) does not apply.

(2) **TREATMENT OF ALLOWANCES, EARNINGS, AND PAYMENTS.**—Allowances, earnings, and payments to individuals participating in programs under this title shall not be considered as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of income transfer and in-kind aid furnished under any Federal or federally assisted program based on need, other than as provided under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).

(b) **LABOR STANDARDS.**—

(1) **LIMITATIONS ON ACTIVITIES THAT IMPACT WAGES OF EMPLOYEES.**—No funds provided under this title shall be used to pay the wages of incumbent employees during their participation in economic development activities provided through a statewide workforce development system.

(2) **DISPLACEMENT.**—

(A) **PROHIBITION.**—A participant in a program or activity authorized under this title (referred to in this section as a “specified activity”) shall not displace (including a partial displacement, such as a reduction in the hours of nonovertime work, wages, or employment benefits) any currently employed employee (as of the date of the participation).

(B) **PROHIBITION ON IMPAIRMENT OF CONTRACTS.**—A specified activity shall not impair an existing contract for services or collective bargaining agreement, and no such activity that would be inconsistent with the terms of a collective bargaining agreement shall be undertaken without the written concurrence of the labor organization and employer concerned.

(3) **OTHER PROHIBITIONS.**—A participant in a specified activity shall not be employed in a job if—

(A) any other individual is on layoff from the same or any substantially equivalent job;

(B) the employer has terminated the employment of any regular employee or otherwise reduced the workforce of the employer with the intention of filling the vacancy so created with the participant; or

(C) the job is created in a promotional line that will infringe in any way upon the promotional opportunities of currently employed individuals (as of the date of the participation).

(4) **HEALTH AND SAFETY.**—Health and safety standards established under Federal and State law otherwise applicable to working conditions of employees shall be equally applicable to working conditions of participants engaged in specified activities. To the extent that a State workers’ compensation law applies, workers’ compensation shall be provided to participants on the same basis as the compensation is provided to other individuals in the State in similar employment.

(5) **EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.**—Individuals in on-the-job training or individuals employed in programs and activities under this title shall be provided benefits and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other trainees or employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work.

(6) **OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT COMMENTS.**—Interested members of the public, including representatives of businesses and of labor organizations, shall be provided an opportunity to submit comments to the Secretary with respect to programs and activities proposed to be funded under subtitle B.

(7) **NO IMPACT ON UNION ORGANIZING.**—Each recipient of funds under this title shall provide to the Secretary assurances that none of such funds will be used to assist, promote, or deter union organizing.

(c) **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State and local area receiving an allotment or allocation under this title shall establish and maintain a procedure for grievances or complaints alleging violations of the requirements of this title from participants and other interested or affected parties. Such procedure shall include an opportunity for a hearing and be completed within 60 days after the filing of the grievance or complaint.

(2) **INVESTIGATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall investigate an allegation of a violation described in paragraph (1) if—

(i) a decision relating to such violation has not been reached within 60 days after the date of the filing of the grievance or complaint and either party appeals to the Secretary; or

(ii) a decision relating to such violation has been reached within such 60 days and the party to which such decision is adverse appeals such decision to the Secretary.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall make a final determination relating to an appeal made under subparagraph (A) no later than 120 days after receiving such appeal.

(3) **REMEDIES.**—Remedies that may be imposed under this section for a violation of any requirement of this title shall be limited—

(A) to suspension or termination of payments under this title;

(B) to prohibition of placement of a participant under an employer that has violated any requirement under this title;

(C) where applicable, to reinstatement of an employee, payment of lost wages and benefits, and reestablishment of other relevant terms, conditions, and privileges of employment; and

(D) where appropriate, to other equitable relief.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in paragraph (3) shall be construed to prohibit a grievant or complainant from pursuing a remedy authorized under another Federal, State, or local law for a violation of this title.

(d) **RELOCATION.**—

(1) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO ENCOURAGE OR INDUCE RELOCATION.**—No funds provided under this title shall be used, or proposed for use, to encourage or induce the relocation of a business or part of a business if such relocation would result in a loss of employment for any employee of such business at the original location and such original location is within the United States.

(2) **PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS AFTER RELOCATION.**—No funds provided under this title for an employment or training activity shall be used for customized or skill training, on-the-job training, incumbent worker training, transitional employment, or company-specific assessments of job applicants or employees, for any business or part of a business that has relocated, until the date that is 120 days after the date on which such business commences operations at the new location, if the relocation of such business or part of a business results in a loss of employment for any employee of such business at the original location and such original location is within the United States.

(3) **REPAYMENT.**—If the Secretary determines that a violation of paragraph (1) or (2) has occurred, the Secretary shall require the State that has violated such paragraph (or that has provided funding to an entity that has violated such paragraph) to repay to the United States an amount equal to the amount expended in violation of such paragraph.

(e) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—No funds available to carry out an activity under this title shall be used for employment generating activities, investment in revolving loan funds, capitalization of businesses, investment in contract bidding resource centers, economic development

activities, or similar activities, that are not directly related to training for eligible individuals under this title. No funds received to carry out an activity under subtitle B shall be used for foreign travel.

(f) **TESTING AND SANCTIONING FOR USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State shall not be prohibited by the Federal Government from—

(A) testing participants in programs under subtitle B for the use of controlled substances; and

(B) sanctioning such participants who test positive for the use of such controlled substances.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **PERIOD OF SANCTION.**—In sanctioning participants in a program under subtitle B who test positive for the use of controlled substances—

(i) with respect to the first occurrence for which a participant tests positive, a State may exclude the participant from the program for a period not to exceed 6 months; and

(ii) with respect to the second occurrence and each subsequent occurrence for which a participant tests positive, a State may exclude the participant from the program for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(B) **APPEAL.**—The testing of participants and the imposition of sanctions under this subsection shall be subject to expeditious appeal in accordance with due process procedures established by the State.

(C) **PRIVACY.**—A State shall establish procedures for testing participants for the use of controlled substances that ensure a maximum degree of privacy for the participants.

(3) **FUNDING REQUIREMENT.**—In testing and sanctioning of participants for the use of controlled substances in accordance with this subsection, the only Federal funds that a State may use are the amounts made available for the administration of statewide workforce investment activities under section 134(a)(3)(B).

(g) **SUBGRANT AUTHORITY.**—A recipient of grant funds under this title shall have the authority to enter into subgrants in order to carry out the grant, subject to such conditions as the Secretary may establish.

SEC. 182. PROMPT ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

(a) **ALLOTMENTS BASED ON LATEST AVAILABLE DATA.**—All allotments to States and grants to outlying areas under this title shall be based on the latest available data and estimates satisfactory to the Secretary. All data relating to disadvantaged adults and disadvantaged youth shall be based on the most recent satisfactory data from the Bureau of the Census.

(b) **PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER RELATING TO FORMULA FUNDS.**—Whenever the Secretary allots funds required to be allotted under this title, the Secretary shall publish in a timely fashion in the Federal Register the amount proposed to be distributed to each recipient of the funds.

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR FUNDS DISTRIBUTED BY FORMULA.**—All funds required to be allotted under section 127 or 132 shall be allotted within 45 days after the date of enactment of the Act appropriating the funds, except that, if such funds are appropriated in advance as authorized by section 189(g), such funds shall be allotted or allocated not later than the March 31 preceding the program year for which such funds are to be available for obligation.

(d) **PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER RELATING TO DISCRETIONARY FUNDS.**—Whenever the Secretary utilizes a formula to allot or allocate funds made available for distribution at the Secretary's discretion under this title, the Secretary shall, not later than 30 days prior to such allotment or allocation, publish for comment in the Federal Register the formula, the rationale

for the formula, and the proposed amounts to be distributed to each State and local area. After consideration of any comments received, the Secretary shall publish final allotments and allocations in the Federal Register.

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds shall be made available under section 128, and funds shall be made available under section 133, for a local area not later than 30 days after the date the funds are made available to the Governor involved, under section 127 or 132 (as the case may be), or 7 days after the date the local plan for the area is approved, whichever is later.

SEC. 183. MONITORING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to monitor all recipients of financial assistance under this title to determine whether the recipients are complying with the provisions of this title, including the regulations issued under this title.

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS.**—The Secretary may investigate any matter the Secretary determines to be necessary to determine the compliance of the recipients with this title, including the regulations issued under this title. The investigations authorized by this subsection may include examining records (including making certified copies of the records), questioning employees, and entering any premises or onto any site in which any part of a program or activity of such a recipient is conducted or in which any of the records of the recipient are kept.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—For the purpose of any investigation or hearing conducted under this title by the Secretary, the provisions of section 9 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 49) (relating to the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents) apply to the Secretary, in the same manner and to the same extent as the provisions apply to the Federal Trade Commission.

SEC. 184. FISCAL CONTROLS; SANCTIONS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL CONTROLS BY STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State shall establish such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to assure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds allocated to local areas under subtitle B. Such procedures shall ensure that all financial transactions carried out under subtitle B are conducted and records maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable in each State.

(2) **COST PRINCIPLES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State (including the Governor of the State), local area (including the chief elected official for the area), and provider receiving funds under this title shall comply with the applicable uniform cost principles included in appropriate circulars or rules of the Office of Management and Budget for the type of entity receiving the funds.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—The funds made available to a State for administration of statewide workforce investment activities in accordance with section 134(a)(3)(B) shall be allocable to the overall administration of workforce investment activities, but need not be specifically allocable to—

(i) the administration of adult employment and training activities;

(ii) the administration of dislocated worker employment and training activities; or

(iii) the administration of youth workforce investment activities.

(3) **UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State (including the Governor of the State), local area (including the chief elected official for the area), and provider receiving funds under this title shall comply with the appropriate uniform administrative requirements for grants and agreements applicable

for the type of entity receiving the funds, as promulgated in circulars or rules of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Procurement transactions under this title between local boards and units of State or local governments shall be conducted only on a cost-reimbursable basis.

(4) **MONITORING.**—Each Governor of a State shall conduct on an annual basis onsite monitoring of each local area within the State to ensure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) **ACTION BY GOVERNOR.**—If the Governor determines that a local area is not in compliance with the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3), the Governor shall—

(A) require corrective action to secure prompt compliance with the requirements; and

(B) impose the sanctions provided under subsection (b) in the event of failure to take the required corrective action.

(6) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Governor shall, every 2 years, certify to the Secretary that—

(A) the State has implemented the uniform administrative requirements referred to in paragraph (3);

(B) the State has monitored local areas to ensure compliance with the uniform administrative requirements as required under paragraph (4); and

(C) the State has taken appropriate action to secure compliance with the requirements pursuant to paragraph (5).

(7) **ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.**—If the Secretary determines that the Governor has not fulfilled the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary shall—

(A) require corrective action to secure prompt compliance with the requirements of this subsection; and

(B) impose the sanctions provided under subsection (e) in the event of failure of the Governor to take the required appropriate action to secure compliance with the requirements.

(b) **SUBSTANTIAL VIOLATION.**—

(1) **ACTION BY GOVERNOR.**—If, as a result of financial and compliance audits or otherwise, the Governor determines that there is a substantial violation of a specific provision of this title, and corrective action has not been taken, the Governor shall—

(A) issue a notice of intent to revoke approval of all or part of the local plan affected; or

(B) impose a reorganization plan, which may include—

(i) decertifying the local board involved;

(ii) prohibiting the use of eligible providers;

(iii) selecting an alternative entity to administer the program for the local area involved;

(iv) merging the local area into one or more other local areas; or

(v) making such other changes as the Secretary or Governor determines to be necessary to secure compliance with the provision.

(2) **APPEAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The actions taken by the Governor pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) may be appealed to the Secretary and shall not become effective until—

(i) the time for appeal has expired; or

(ii) the Secretary has issued a decision.

(B) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall make a final decision under subparagraph (A) not later than 45 days after the receipt of the appeal.

(3) **ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.**—If the Governor fails to take promptly an action required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take such action.

(c) **REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS TO THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Every recipient of funds under this title shall repay to the United States

amounts found not to have been expended in accordance with this title.

(2) **OFFSET OF REPAYMENT AMOUNT.**—If the Secretary determines that a State has expended funds received under this title in a manner contrary to the requirements of this title, the Secretary may require repayment by offsetting the amount of such expenditures against any other amount to which the State is or may be entitled under this title, except as provided under subsection (d)(1).

(3) **REPAYMENT FROM DEDUCTION BY STATE.**—If the Secretary requires a State to repay funds as a result of a determination that a local area of the State has expended funds in a manner contrary to the requirements of this title, the Governor of the State may use an amount deducted under paragraph (4) to repay the funds, except as provided under subsection (e).

(4) **DEDUCTION BY STATE.**—The Governor may deduct an amount equal to the misexpenditure described in paragraph (3) from subsequent program year (subsequent to the program year for which the determination was made) allocations to the local area from funds reserved for the administrative costs of the local programs involved, as appropriate.

(5) **LIMITATIONS.**—A deduction made by a State as described in paragraph (4) shall not be made until such time as the Governor has taken appropriate corrective action to ensure full compliance with this title within such local area with regard to appropriate expenditures of funds under this title.

(d) **REPAYMENT OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each recipient of funds under this title shall be liable to repay the amounts described in subsection (c)(1), from funds other than funds received under this title, upon a determination by the Secretary that the misexpenditure of the amounts was due to willful disregard of the requirements of this title, gross negligence, failure to observe accepted standards of administration, or a pattern of misexpenditure described in subsection (c)(1). No such determination shall be made under this subsection or subsection (c) until notice and opportunity for a fair hearing have been given to the recipient.

(2) **FACTORS IN IMPOSING SANCTIONS.**—In determining whether to impose any sanction authorized by this section against a recipient of funds under this title for violations of this title (including applicable regulations) by a subgrantee or contractor of such recipient, the Secretary shall first determine whether such recipient has adequately demonstrated that the recipient has—

(A) established and adhered to an appropriate system, for entering into and monitoring subgrant agreements and contracts with subgrantees and contractors, that contains acceptable standards for ensuring accountability;

(B) entered into a written subgrant agreement or contract with such a subgrantee or contractor that established clear goals and obligations in unambiguous terms;

(C) acted with due diligence to monitor the implementation of the subgrant agreement or contract, including carrying out the appropriate monitoring activities (including audits) at reasonable intervals; and

(D) taken prompt and appropriate corrective action upon becoming aware of any evidence of a violation of this title, including regulations issued under this title, by such subgrantee or contractor.

(3) **WAIVER.**—If the Secretary determines that the recipient has demonstrated substantial compliance with the requirements of paragraph (2), the Secretary may waive the imposition of sanctions authorized by this section upon such recipient. The Secretary is authorized to impose any sanction consistent with the provisions of

this title and with any applicable Federal or State law directly against any subgrantee or contractor for violation of this title, including regulations issued under this title.

(e) **IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**—In emergency situations, if the Secretary determines it is necessary to protect the integrity of the funds or ensure the proper operation of the program or activity involved, the Secretary may immediately terminate or suspend financial assistance, in whole or in part, to the recipient if the recipient is given prompt notice and the opportunity for a subsequent hearing within 30 days after such termination or suspension. The Secretary shall not delegate any of the functions or authority specified in this subsection, other than to an officer whose appointment is required to be made by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(f) **DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PARTICIPANTS.**—If the Secretary determines that any recipient under this title has discharged or in any other manner discriminated against a participant or against any individual in connection with the administration of the program involved, or against any individual because such individual has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this title, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or an investigation under or related to this title, or otherwise unlawfully denied to any individual a benefit to which that individual is entitled under the provisions of this title, including regulations issued under this title, the Secretary shall, within 30 days, take such action or order such corrective measures, as necessary, with respect to the recipient or the aggrieved individual, or both.

(g) **REMEDIES.**—The remedies described in this section shall not be considered to be the exclusive remedies available for violations described in this section.

SEC. 185. REPORTS; RECORDKEEPING; INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) **RECIPIENT RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Recipients of funds under this title shall keep records that are sufficient to permit the preparation of reports required by this title and to permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditure adequate to ensure that the funds have not been spent unlawfully.

(2) **RECORDS AND REPORTS REGARDING GENERAL PERFORMANCE.**—Every such recipient shall maintain such records and submit such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Secretary may require regarding the performance of programs and activities carried out under this title. Such records and reports shall be submitted to the Secretary but shall not be required to be submitted more than once each quarter unless specifically requested by Congress or a committee of Congress, in which case an estimate regarding such information may be provided.

(3) **MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDIZED RECORDS.**—In order to allow for the preparation of the reports required under subsection (c), such recipients shall maintain standardized records for all individual participants and provide to the Secretary a sufficient number of such records to provide for an adequate analysis of the records.

(4) **AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), records maintained by such recipients pursuant to this subsection shall be made available to the public upon request.

(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to—

(i) information, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and

(ii) trade secrets, or commercial or financial information, that is—

- (I) obtained from a person; and
- (II) privileged or confidential.

(C) **FEES TO RECOVER COSTS.**—Such recipients may charge fees sufficient to recover costs applicable to the processing of requests for records under subparagraph (A).

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS OF USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **SECRETARY.**—In order to evaluate compliance with the provisions of this title, the Secretary shall conduct, in several States, in each fiscal year, investigations of the use of funds received by recipients under this title.

(B) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States may conduct investigations of the use of funds received under this title by any recipient.

(2) **PROHIBITION.**—In conducting any investigation under this title, the Secretary or the Comptroller General of the United States may not request the compilation of any information that the recipient is not otherwise required to compile and that is not readily available to such recipient.

(3) **AUDITS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out any audit under this title (other than any initial audit survey or any audit investigating possible criminal or fraudulent conduct), either directly or through grant or contract, the Secretary, the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, or the Comptroller General of the United States shall furnish to the State, recipient, or other entity to be audited, advance notification of the overall objectives and purposes of the audit, and any extensive recordkeeping or data requirements to be met, not later than 14 days (or as soon as practicable) prior to the commencement of the audit.

(B) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—If the scope, objectives, or purposes of the audit change substantially during the course of the audit, the entity being audited shall be notified of the change as soon as practicable.

(C) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The reports on the results of such audits shall cite the law, regulation, policy, or other criteria applicable to any finding contained in the reports.

(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing contained in this title shall be construed so as to be inconsistent with the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) or government auditing standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(c) **GRANTEE INFORMATION RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Each State, each local board, and each recipient (other than a subrecipient, subgrantee, or contractor of a recipient) receiving funds under this title—

(1) shall make readily accessible such reports concerning its operations and expenditures as shall be prescribed by the Secretary;

(2) shall prescribe and maintain comparable management information systems, in accordance with guidelines that shall be prescribed by the Secretary, designed to facilitate the uniform compilation, cross tabulation, and analysis of programmatic, participant, and financial data, on statewide, local area, and other appropriate bases, necessary for reporting, monitoring, and evaluating purposes, including data necessary to comply with section 188;

(3) shall monitor the performance of providers in complying with the terms of grants, contracts, or other agreements made pursuant to this title; and

(4) shall, to the extent practicable, submit or make available (including through electronic means) any reports, records, plans, or any other data that are required to be submitted or made available, respectively, under this title.

(d) **INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The reports required in subsection (c) shall include information regarding programs and activities carried out under this title pertaining to—

(A) the relevant demographic characteristics (including race, ethnicity, sex, and age) and other related information regarding participants;

(B) the programs and activities in which participants are enrolled, and the length of time that participants are engaged in such programs and activities;

(C) outcomes of the programs and activities for participants, including the occupations of participants, and placement for participants in nontraditional employment;

(D) specified costs of the programs and activities; and

(E) information necessary to prepare reports to comply with section 188.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that all elements of the information required for the reports described in paragraph (1) are defined and that the information is reported uniformly.

(e) **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each local board in a State shall submit quarterly financial reports to the Governor with respect to programs and activities carried out under this title. Such reports shall include information identifying all program and activity costs by cost category in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and by year of the appropriation involved.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Each State shall submit to the Secretary, and the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, on a quarterly basis, a summary of the reports submitted to the Governor pursuant to paragraph (1).

(f) **MAINTENANCE OF ADDITIONAL RECORDS.**—Each State and local board shall maintain records with respect to programs and activities carried out under this title that identify—

(1) any income or profits earned, including such income or profits earned by subrecipients; and

(2) any costs incurred (such as stand-in costs) that are otherwise allowable except for funding limitations.

(g) **COST CATEGORIES.**—In requiring entities to maintain records of costs by cost category under this title, the Secretary shall require only that the costs be categorized as administrative or programmatic costs.

SEC. 186. ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Whenever any applicant for financial assistance under this title is dissatisfied because the Secretary has made a determination not to award financial assistance in whole or in part to such applicant, the applicant may request a hearing before an administrative law judge of the Department of Labor. A similar hearing may also be requested by any recipient for whom a corrective action has been required or a sanction has been imposed by the Secretary under section 184.

(b) **APPEAL.**—The decision of the administrative law judge shall constitute final action by the Secretary unless, within 20 days after receipt of the decision of the administrative law judge, a party dissatisfied with the decision or any part of the decision has filed exceptions with the Secretary specifically identifying the procedure, fact, law, or policy to which exception is taken. Any exception not specifically urged during the 20-day period shall be deemed to have been waived. After the 20-day period the decision of the administrative law judge shall become the final decision of the Secretary unless

the Secretary, within 30 days after such filing, notifies the parties that the case involved has been accepted for review.

(c) **TIME LIMIT.**—Any case accepted for review by the Secretary under subsection (b) shall be decided within 180 days after such acceptance. If the case is not decided within the 180-day period, the decision of the administrative law judge shall become the final decision of the Secretary at the end of the 180-day period.

(d) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—The provisions of section 187 shall apply to any final action of the Secretary under this section.

SEC. 187. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **PETITION.**—With respect to any final order by the Secretary under section 186 by which the Secretary awards, declines to award, or only conditionally awards, financial assistance under this title, or any final order of the Secretary under section 186 with respect to a corrective action or sanction imposed under section 184, any party to a proceeding that resulted in such final order may obtain review of such final order in the United States Court of Appeals having jurisdiction over the applicant for or recipient of the funds involved, by filing a review petition within 30 days after the date of issuance of such final order.

(2) **ACTION ON PETITION.**—The clerk of the court shall transmit a copy of the review petition to the Secretary, who shall file the record on which the final order was entered as provided in section 2112 of title 28, United States Code. The filing of a review petition shall not stay the order of the Secretary, unless the court orders a stay. Petitions filed under this subsection shall be heard expeditiously, if possible within 10 days after the date of filing of a reply to the petition.

(3) **STANDARD AND SCOPE OF REVIEW.**—No objection to the order of the Secretary shall be considered by the court unless the objection was specifically urged, in a timely manner, before the Secretary. The review shall be limited to questions of law and the findings of fact of the Secretary shall be conclusive if supported by substantial evidence.

(b) **JUDGMENT.**—The court shall have jurisdiction to make and enter a decree affirming, modifying, or setting aside the order of the Secretary in whole or in part. The judgment of the court regarding the order shall be final, subject to certiorari review by the Supreme Court as provided in section 1254(1) of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 188. NONDISCRIMINATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—For the purpose of applying the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), on the basis of disability under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), on the basis of sex under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), or on the basis of race, color, or national origin under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.), programs and activities funded or otherwise financially assisted in whole or in part under this Act are considered to be programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance.

(2) **PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION REGARDING PARTICIPATION, BENEFITS, AND EMPLOYMENT.**—No individual shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, subjected to discrimination under, or denied employment in the administration of or in connection with, any such program or activity because of race, color, religion, sex (except as otherwise permitted under title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation or belief.

(3) **PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE FOR FACILITIES FOR SECTARIAN INSTRUCTION OR RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.**—Participants shall not be employed under this title to carry out the construction, operation, or maintenance of any part of any facility that is used or to be used for sectarian instruction or as a place for religious worship (except with respect to the maintenance of a facility that is not primarily or inherently devoted to sectarian instruction or religious worship, in a case in which the organization operating the facility is part of a program or activity providing services to participants).

(4) **PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION ON BASIS OF PARTICIPANT STATUS.**—No person may discriminate against an individual who is a participant in a program or activity that receives funds under this title, with respect to the terms and conditions affecting, or rights provided to, the individual, solely because of the status of the individual as a participant.

(5) **PROHIBITION ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CERTAIN NONCITIZENS.**—Participation in programs and activities or receiving funds under this title shall be available to citizens and nationals of the United States, lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens, refugees, asylees, and parolees, and other immigrants authorized by the Attorney General to work in the United States.

(b) **ACTION OF SECRETARY.**—Whenever the Secretary finds that a State or other recipient of funds under this title has failed to comply with a provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(1), or with paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a), including an applicable regulation prescribed to carry out such provision or paragraph, the Secretary shall notify such State or recipient and shall request that the State or recipient comply. If within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 60 days, the State or recipient fails or refuses to comply, the Secretary may—

(1) refer the matter to the Attorney General with a recommendation that an appropriate civil action be instituted; or

(2) take such other action as may be provided by law.

(c) **ACTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—When a matter is referred to the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (b)(1), or whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that a State or other recipient of funds under this title is engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination in violation of a provision of law referred to in subsection (a)(1) or in violation of paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a), the Attorney General may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States for such relief as may be appropriate, including injunctive relief.

(d) **JOB CORPS.**—For the purposes of this section, Job Corps members shall be considered to be the ultimate beneficiaries of Federal financial assistance.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall issue regulations necessary to implement this section not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Such regulations shall adopt standards for determining discrimination and procedures for enforcement that are consistent with the Acts referred to in subsection (a)(1), as well as procedures to ensure that complaints filed under this section and such Acts are processed in a manner that avoids duplication of effort.

SEC. 189. SECRETARIAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary may prescribe rules and regulations to carry out this title, only to the extent necessary to administer and ensure compliance with the requirements of this title. Such rules and regulations

may include provisions making adjustments authorized by section 6504 of title 31, United States Code. All such rules and regulations shall be published in the Federal Register at least 30 days prior to their effective dates. Copies of each such rule or regulation shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees of Congress on the date of such publication and shall contain, with respect to each material provision of such rule or regulation, a citation to the particular substantive section of law that is the basis for the provision.

(b) **ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AND SERVICES.**—The Secretary is authorized, in carrying out this title, to accept, purchase, or lease in the name of the Department of Labor, and employ or dispose of in furtherance of the purposes of this title, any money or property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, received by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to accept voluntary and uncompensated services notwithstanding the provisions of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN AGREEMENTS AND TO MAKE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES.**—The Secretary may make such grants, enter into such contracts or agreements, establish such procedures, and make such payments, in installments and in advance or by way of reimbursement, or otherwise allocate or expend such funds under this title, as may be necessary to carry out this title, including making expenditures for construction, repairs, and capital improvements, and including making necessary adjustments in payments on account of overpayments or underpayments.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate an annual report regarding the programs and activities funded under this title. The Secretary shall include in such report—

(1) a summary of the achievements, failures, and challenges of the programs and activities in meeting the objectives of this title;

(2) a summary of major findings from research, evaluations, pilot projects, and experiments conducted under this title in the fiscal year prior to the submission of the report;

(3) recommendations for modifications in the programs and activities based on analysis of such findings; and

(4) such other recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) **UTILIZATION OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES.**—The Secretary is authorized, in carrying out this title, under the same procedures as are applicable under subsection (c) or to the extent permitted by law other than this title, to accept and use the services and facilities of departments, agencies, and establishments of the United States. The Secretary is also authorized, in carrying out this title, to accept and use the services and facilities of the agencies of any State or political subdivision of a State, with the consent of the State or political subdivision.

(f) **OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary shall have no authority to enter into contracts, grant agreements, or other financial assistance agreements under this title, except to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

(g) **PROGRAM YEAR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **PROGRAM YEAR.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), appropriations for any fiscal year for programs and activities funded under this title shall be available for obligation only on the basis of a program year. The program year shall begin on July 1 in the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made.

(B) **YOUTH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may make available for obligation, beginning April 1 of any fiscal year, funds appropriated for such fiscal year to carry out youth workforce investment activities under subtitle B and activities under section 171.

(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds obligated for any program year for a program or activity funded under subtitle B may be expended by each State receiving such funds during that program year and the 2 succeeding program years. Funds received by local areas from States under subtitle B during a program year may be expended during that program year and the succeeding program year.

(B) **CERTAIN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Funds obligated for any program year for any program or activity carried out under section 169 shall remain available until expended.

(ii) **INCREMENTAL FUNDING BASIS.**—A contract or arrangement entered into under the authority of subsection (a) or (b) of section 169 (relating to evaluations, research projects, studies and reports, and multistate projects), including a long-term, nonseverable services contract, may be funded on an incremental basis with annual appropriations or other available funds.

(C) **SPECIAL RULE.**—No amount of the funds obligated for a program year for a program or activity funded under this title shall be deobligated on account of a rate of expenditure that is consistent with a State plan, an operating plan described in section 151, or a plan, grant agreement, contract, application, or other agreement described in subtitle D, as appropriate.

(D) **FUNDS FOR PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE CONTRACT STRATEGIES.**—Funds used to carry out pay-for-performance contract strategies by local areas shall remain available until expended.

(h) **ENFORCEMENT OF MILITARY SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each individual participating in any program or activity established under this title, or receiving any assistance or benefit under this title, has not violated section 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 453) by not presenting and submitting to registration as required pursuant to such section. The Director of the Selective Service System shall cooperate with the Secretary to enable the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

(i) **WAIVERS.**—

(1) **SPECIAL RULE REGARDING DESIGNATED AREAS.**—A State that has enacted, not later than December 31, 1997, a State law providing for the designation of service delivery areas for the delivery of workforce investment activities, may use such areas as local areas under this title, notwithstanding section 106.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE REGARDING SANCTIONS.**—A State that has enacted, not later than December 31, 1997, a State law providing for the sanctioning of such service delivery areas for failure to meet performance accountability measures for workforce investment activities, may use the State law to sanction local areas for failure to meet State performance accountability measures under this title.

(3) **GENERAL WAIVERS OF STATUTORY OR REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may waive for a State, or a local area in a State, pursuant to a request submitted by the Governor of the State (in consultation with appropriate local elected officials) with a plan that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B)—

(i) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of subtitle A, subtitle B, or this subtitle (except for requirements relating to wage and labor standards, including nondisplacement protections, worker rights, participation and protection of workers and participants, grievance

procedures and judicial review, nondiscrimination, allocation of funds to local areas, eligibility of providers or participants, the establishment and functions of local areas and local boards, the funding of infrastructure costs for one-stop centers, and procedures for review and approval of plans, and other requirements relating to the basic purposes of this title); and

(ii) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements of sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g through 49i) (excluding requirements relating to the provision of services to unemployment insurance claimants and veterans, and requirements relating to universal access to basic labor exchange services without cost to jobseekers).

(B) REQUESTS.—A Governor requesting a waiver under subparagraph (A) shall submit a plan to the Secretary to improve the statewide workforce development system that—

(i) identifies the statutory or regulatory requirements that are requested to be waived and the goals that the State or local area in the State, as appropriate, intends to achieve as a result of the waiver;

(ii) describes the actions that the State or local area, as appropriate, has undertaken to remove State or local statutory or regulatory barriers;

(iii) describes the goals of the waiver and the expected programmatic outcomes if the request is granted;

(iv) describes the individuals impacted by the waiver; and

(v) describes the process used to monitor the progress in implementing such a waiver, and the process by which notice and, in the case of a waiver for a local area, an opportunity to comment on such request has been provided to the local board for the local area for which the waiver is requested.

(C) CONDITIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the original submission of a request for a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide a waiver under this subsection if and only to the extent that—

(i) the Secretary determines that the requirements requested to be waived impede the ability of the State or local area, as appropriate, to implement the plan described in subparagraph (B); and

(ii) the State has executed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary requiring such State to meet, or ensure that the local area for which the waiver is requested meets, agreed-upon outcomes and to implement other appropriate measures to ensure accountability.

(D) EXPEDITED DETERMINATION REGARDING PROVISION OF WAIVERS.—If the Secretary has approved a waiver of statutory or regulatory requirements for a State or local area pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary shall expedite the determination regarding the provision of that waiver, for another State or local area if such waiver is in accordance with the approved State or local plan, as appropriate.

SEC. 190. WORKFORCE FLEXIBILITY PLANS.

(a) PLANS.—A State may submit to the Secretary, and the Secretary may approve, a workforce flexibility plan under which the State is authorized to waive, in accordance with the plan—

(1) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under this title to local areas, pursuant to applications for such waivers from the local areas, except for requirements relating to the basic purposes of this title, wage and labor standards, grievance procedures and judicial review, nondiscrimination, eligibility of participants, allocation of funds to local areas, establishment and functions of local areas and local boards, procedures for review and approval of local plans, and worker rights, participation, and protection;

(2) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g through 49i) to the State (excluding requirements relating to the provision of services to unemployment insurance claimants and veterans, and requirements relating to universal access to basic labor exchange services without cost to jobseekers); and

(3) any of the statutory or regulatory requirements applicable under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to State agencies on aging with respect to activities carried out using funds allotted under section 506(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056d(b)), except for requirements relating to the basic purposes of such Act, wage and labor standards, eligibility of participants in the activities, and standards for grant agreements.

(b) CONTENT OF PLANS.—A workforce flexibility plan implemented by a State under subsection (a) shall include descriptions of—

(1)(A) the process by which local areas in the State may submit and obtain approval by the State of applications for waivers of requirements applicable under this title; and

(B) the requirements described in subparagraph (A) that are likely to be waived by the State under the plan;

(2) the requirements applicable under sections 8 through 10 of the Wagner-Peyser Act that are proposed to be waived, if any;

(3) the requirements applicable under the Older Americans Act of 1965 that are proposed to be waived, if any;

(4) the outcomes to be achieved by the waivers described in paragraphs (1) through (3); and

(5) other measures to be taken to ensure appropriate accountability for Federal funds in connection with the waivers.

(c) PERIODS.—The Secretary may approve a workforce flexibility plan for a period of not more than 5 years.

(d) OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.—Prior to submitting a workforce flexibility plan to the Secretary for approval, the State shall provide to all interested parties and to the general public adequate notice of and a reasonable opportunity for comment on the waiver requests proposed to be implemented pursuant to such plan.

SEC. 191. STATE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY OF STATE LEGISLATURE.—Nothing in this title shall be interpreted to preclude the enactment of State legislation providing for the implementation, consistent with the provisions of this title, of the activities assisted under this title. Any funds received by a State under this title shall be subject to appropriation by the State legislature, consistent with the terms and conditions required under this title.

(b) INTERSTATE COMPACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In the event that compliance with provisions of this title would be enhanced by compacts and cooperative agreements between States, the consent of Congress is given to States to enter into such compacts and agreements to facilitate such compliance, subject to the approval of the Secretary.

SEC. 192. TRANSFER OF FEDERAL EQUITY IN STATE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AGENCY REAL PROPERTY TO THE STATES.

(a) TRANSFER OF FEDERAL EQUITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal equity acquired in real property through grants to States awarded under title III of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.) or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) is transferred to the States that used the grants for the acquisition of such equity. The portion of any real property that is attributable to the Federal equity transferred under this sec-

tion shall be used to carry out activities authorized under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act. Any disposition of such real property shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Secretary and the portion of the proceeds from the disposition of such real property that is attributable to the Federal equity transferred under this section shall be used to carry out activities authorized under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act.

(b) LIMITATION ON USE.—A State shall not use funds awarded under this Act, title III of the Social Security Act, or the Wagner-Peyser Act to amortize the costs of real property that is purchased by any State on or after the date of enactment of the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007.

SEC. 193. CONTINUATION OF STATE ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may not deny approval of a State plan for a covered State, or an application of a covered State for financial assistance, under this title, or find a covered State (including a State board or Governor), or a local area (including a local board or chief elected official) in a covered State, in violation of a provision of this title, on the basis that—

(1)(A) the State proposes to allocate or disburse, allocates, or disburses, within the State, funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 in accordance with the allocation formula for the type of activities involved, or in accordance with a disbursement procedure or process, used by the State under prior consistent State laws; or

(B) a local board in the State proposes to disburse, or disburses, within the local area, funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 in accordance with a disbursement procedure or process used by a private industry council under prior consistent State law;

(2) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which local areas use, as fiscal agents for funds made available to the State under section 127 or 132 and allocated within the State, fiscal agents selected in accordance with a process established under prior consistent State laws;

(3) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which the local boards in the State (or the local boards, the chief elected officials in the State, and the Governor) designate or select the one-stop partners and one-stop operators of the statewide system in the State under prior consistent State laws, in lieu of making the designation or certification described in section 121 (regardless of the date the one-stop delivery systems involved have been established);

(4) the State proposes to carry out or carries out a State procedure through which the persons responsible for selecting eligible providers for purposes of subtitle B are permitted to determine that a provider shall not be selected to provide both intake services under section 134(c)(2) and training services under section 134(c)(3), under prior consistent State laws;

(5) the State proposes to designate or designates a State board, or proposes to assign or assigns functions and roles of the State board (including determining the time periods for development and submission of a State plan required under section 102 or 103), for purposes of subtitle A in accordance with prior consistent State laws; or

(6) a local board in the State proposes to use or carry out, uses, or carries out a local plan (including assigning functions and roles of the local board) for purposes of subtitle A in accordance with the authorities and requirements applicable to local plans and private industry councils under prior consistent State laws.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED STATE.**—The term “covered State” means a State that enacted State laws described in paragraph (2).

(2) **PRIOR CONSISTENT STATE LAWS.**—The term “prior consistent State laws” means State laws, not inconsistent with the Job Training Partnership Act or any other applicable Federal law, that took effect on September 1, 1993, September 1, 1995, and September 1, 1997.

SEC. 194. GENERAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, the following conditions apply to all programs under this title:

(1) Each program under this title shall provide employment and training opportunities to those who can benefit from, and who are most in need of, such opportunities. In addition, the recipients of Federal funding for programs under this title shall make efforts to develop programs that contribute to occupational development, upward mobility, development of new careers, and opportunities for nontraditional employment.

(2) Funds provided under this title shall only be used for activities that are in addition to activities that would otherwise be available in the local area in the absence of such funds.

(3)(A) Any local area may enter into an agreement with another local area (including a local area that is a city or county within the same labor market) to pay or share the cost of educating, training, or placing individuals participating in programs assisted under this title, including the provision of supportive services.

(B) Such agreement shall be approved by each local board for a local area entering into the agreement and shall be described in the local plan under section 108.

(4) On-the-job training contracts under this title, shall not be entered into with employers who have received payments under previous contracts under this Act or the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and have exhibited a pattern of failing to provide on-the-job training participants with continued long-term employment as regular employees with wages and employment benefits (including health benefits) and working conditions at the same level and to the same extent as other employees working a similar length of time and doing the same type of work.

(5) No person or organization may charge an individual a fee for the placement or referral of the individual in or to a workforce investment activity under this title.

(6) The Secretary shall not provide financial assistance for any program under this title that involves political activities.

(7)(A) Income under any program administered by a public or private nonprofit entity may be retained by such entity only if such income is used to continue to carry out the program.

(B) Income subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) receipts from goods or services (including conferences) provided as a result of activities funded under this title;

(ii) funds provided to a service provider under this title that are in excess of the costs associated with the services provided; and

(iii) interest income earned on funds received under this title.

(C) For purposes of this paragraph, each entity receiving financial assistance under this title shall maintain records sufficient to determine the amount of such income received and the purposes for which such income is expended.

(8)(A) The Secretary shall notify the Governor and the appropriate local board and chief elected official of, and consult with the Governor and such board and official concerning, any activity to be funded by the Secretary under this title within the corresponding State or local area.

(B) The Governor shall notify the appropriate local board and chief elected official of, and consult with such board and official concerning, any activity to be funded by the Governor under this title within the corresponding local area.

(9)(A) All education programs for youth supported with funds provided under chapter 2 of subtitle B shall be consistent with applicable State and local educational standards.

(B) Standards and procedures with respect to awarding academic credit and certifying educational attainment in programs conducted under such chapter shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable State and local law, including regulation.

(10) No funds available under this title may be used for public service employment except as specifically authorized under this title.

(11) The Federal requirements governing the title, use, and disposition of real property, equipment, and supplies purchased with funds provided under this title shall be the corresponding Federal requirements generally applicable to such items purchased through Federal grants to States and local governments.

(12) Nothing in this title shall be construed to provide an individual with an entitlement to a service under this title.

(13) Services, facilities, or equipment funded under this title may be used, as appropriate, on a fee-for-service basis, by employers in a local area in order to provide employment and training activities to incumbent workers—

(A) when such services, facilities, or equipment are not in use for the provision of services for eligible participants under this title;

(B) if such use for incumbent workers would not have an adverse effect on the provision of services to eligible participants under this title; and

(C) if the income derived from such fees is used to carry out the programs authorized under this title.

(14) Funds provided under this title shall not be used to establish or operate a stand-alone fee-for-service enterprise in a situation in which a private sector employment agency (as defined in section 701 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e)) is providing full access to similar or related services in such a manner as to fully meet the identified need. For purposes of this paragraph, such an enterprise does not include a one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e).

(15)(A) None of the funds available under this title shall be used by a recipient or subrecipient of such funds to pay the salary and bonuses of an individual, either as direct costs or indirect costs, at a rate in excess of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) The limitation described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to vendors providing goods and services as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. In a case in which a State is a recipient of such funds, the State may establish a lower limit than is provided in subparagraph (A) for salaries and bonuses of those receiving salaries and bonuses from a subrecipient of such funds, taking into account factors including the relative cost of living in the State, the compensation levels for comparable State or local government employees, and the size of the organizations that administer the Federal programs involved.

SEC. 195. RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

(a) **PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No funds provided under this Act shall be used for—

(A) publicity or propaganda purposes; or

(B) the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, elec-

tronic communication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat—

(i) the enactment of legislation before Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body; or

(ii) any proposed or pending regulation, administrative action, or order issued by the executive branch of any State or local government.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships;

(B) the preparation, distribution, or use of the materials described in paragraph (1)(B) in presentation to Congress or any State or local legislature or legislative body; or

(C) such preparation, distribution, or use of such materials in presentation to the executive branch of any State or local government.

(b) **SALARY RESTRICTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No funds provided under this Act shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence the enactment or issuance of legislation, appropriations, regulations, administrative action, or an Executive order proposed or pending before Congress or any State government, or a State or local legislature or legislative body.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships; or

(B) participation by an agency or officer of a State, local, or tribal government in policymaking and administrative processes within the executive branch of that government.

TITLE II—ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Adult Education and Family Literacy Act”.

SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to create a partnership among the Federal Government, States, and localities to provide, on a voluntary basis, adult education and literacy activities, in order to—

(1) assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and economic self-sufficiency;

(2) assist adults who are parents or family members to obtain the education and skills that—

(A) are necessary to becoming full partners in the educational development of their children; and

(B) lead to sustainable improvements in the economic opportunities for their family;

(3) assist adults in attaining a secondary school diploma and in the transition to postsecondary education and training, including through career pathways; and

(4) assist immigrants and other individuals who are English language learners in—

(A) improving their—

(i) reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension skills in English; and

(ii) mathematics skills; and

(B) acquiring an understanding of the American system of Government, individual freedom, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ADULT EDUCATION.**—The term “adult education” means academic instruction and education services below the postsecondary level that increase an individual’s ability to—

(A) read, write, and speak in English and perform mathematics or other activities necessary for the attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;

(B) transition to postsecondary education and training; and

(C) obtain employment.

(2) **ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term “adult education and literacy activities” means programs, activities, and services that include adult education, literacy, workplace adult education and literacy activities, family literacy activities, English language acquisition activities, integrated English literacy and civics education, workforce preparation activities, or integrated education and training.

(3) **ELIGIBLE AGENCY.**—The term “eligible agency” means the sole entity or agency in a State or an outlying area responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and literacy activities in the State or outlying area, respectively, consistent with the law of the State or outlying area, respectively.

(4) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “eligible individual” means an individual—

(A) who has attained 16 years of age;

(B) who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school under State law; and

(C) who—

(i) is basic skills deficient;

(ii) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an equivalent level of education; or

(iii) is an English language learner.

(5) **ELIGIBLE PROVIDER.**—The term “eligible provider” means an organization that has demonstrated effectiveness in providing adult education and literacy activities that may include—

(A) a local educational agency;

(B) a community-based organization or faith-based organization;

(C) a volunteer literacy organization;

(D) an institution of higher education;

(E) a public or private nonprofit agency;

(F) a library;

(G) a public housing authority;

(H) a nonprofit institution that is not described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) and has the ability to provide adult education and literacy activities to eligible individuals;

(I) a consortium or coalition of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H); and

(J) a partnership between an employer and an entity described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (I).

(6) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRAM.**—The term “English language acquisition program” means a program of instruction—

(A) designed to help eligible individuals who are English language learners achieve competence in reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of the English language; and

(B) that leads to—

(i) attainment of a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

(ii) transition to postsecondary education and training; or

(iii) employment.

(7) **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER.**—The term “English language learner” when used with respect to an eligible individual, means an eligible individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and—

(A) whose native language is a language other than English; or

(B) who lives in a family or community environment where a language other than English is the dominant language.

(8) **ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF READING INSTRUCTION.**—The term “essential components of reading instruction” has the meaning given the term in section 1208 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6368).

(9) **FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term “family literacy activities” means activities that

are of sufficient intensity and quality, to make sustainable improvements in the economic prospects for a family and that better enable parents or family members to support their children’s learning needs, and that integrate all of the following activities:

(A) Parent or family adult education and literacy activities that lead to readiness for postsecondary education or training, career advancement, and economic self-sufficiency.

(B) Interactive literacy activities between parents or family members and their children.

(C) Training for parents or family members regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.

(D) An age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

(10) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(11) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term “integrated education and training” means a service approach that provides adult education and literacy activities concurrently and contextually with workforce preparation activities and workforce training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

(12) **INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.**—The term “integrated English literacy and civics education” means education services provided to English language learners who are adults, including professionals with degrees and credentials in their native countries, that enables such adults to achieve competency in the English language and acquire the basic and more advanced skills needed to function effectively as parents, workers, and citizens in the United States. Such services shall include instruction in literacy and English language acquisition and instruction on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic participation, and may include workforce training.

(13) **LITERACY.**—The term “literacy” means an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, compute, and solve problems, at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual, and in society.

(14) **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “postsecondary educational institution” means—

(A) an institution of higher education that provides not less than a 2-year program of instruction that is acceptable for credit toward a bachelor’s degree;

(B) a tribally controlled college or university; or

(C) a nonprofit educational institution offering certificate or apprenticeship programs at the postsecondary level.

(15) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(16) **WORKPLACE ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workplace adult education and literacy activities” means adult education and literacy activities offered by an eligible provider in collaboration with an employer or employee organization at a workplace or an off-site location that is designed to improve the productivity of the workforce.

(17) **WORKFORCE PREPARATION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “workforce preparation activities” means activities, programs, or services designed to help an individual acquire a combination of basic academic skills, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and self-management skills, including competencies in utilizing resources, using information, working with others, understanding systems, and obtaining skills necessary for successful transition into and completion of postsecondary education or training, or employment.

SEC. 204. HOME SCHOOLS.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to affect home schools, whether a home school is treated as a home school or a private school under State law, or to compel a parent or family member engaged in home schooling to participate in adult education and literacy activities.

SEC. 205. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION AND CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT ACTIVITIES.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit or discourage the use of funds provided under this title for adult education and literacy activities that help eligible individuals transition to postsecondary education and training or employment, or for concurrent enrollment activities.

SEC. 206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$577,667,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$622,286,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$635,198,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$649,287,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$664,552,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$678,640,000 for fiscal year 2020.

Subtitle A—Federal Provisions

SEC. 211. RESERVATION OF FUNDS; GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES; ALLOTMENTS.

(a) **RESERVATION OF FUNDS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

(1) shall reserve 2 percent to carry out section 242, except that the amount so reserved shall not exceed \$15,000,000; and

(2) shall reserve 12 percent of the amount that remains after reserving funds under paragraph (1) to carry out section 243.

(b) **GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award a grant to each eligible agency having a unified State plan approved under section 102 or a combined State plan approved under section 103 in an amount equal to the sum of the initial allotment under subsection (c)(1) and the additional allotment under subsection (c)(2) for the eligible agency for the fiscal year, subject to subsections (f) and (g), to enable the eligible agency to carry out the activities assisted under this title.

(2) **PURPOSE OF GRANTS.**—The Secretary may award a grant under paragraph (1) only if the eligible entity involved agrees to expend the grant for adult education and literacy activities in accordance with the provisions of this title.

(c) **ALLOTMENTS.**—

(1) **INITIAL ALLOTMENTS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206 and not reserved under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency having a unified State plan approved under section 102 or a combined State plan approved under section 103—

(A) \$100,000, in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area; and

(B) \$250,000, in the case of any other eligible agency.

(2) **ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS.**—From the sum appropriated under section 206, not reserved under subsection (a), and not allotted under paragraph (1), for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each eligible agency that receives an initial allotment under paragraph (1) an additional amount that bears the same relationship to such sum as the number of qualifying adults in the State or outlying area served by the eligible agency bears to the number of such adults in all States and outlying areas.

(d) **QUALIFYING ADULT.**—For the purpose of subsection (c)(2), the term “qualifying adult” means an adult who—

(1) is at least 16 years of age;

(2) is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the law of the State or outlying area;

(3) does not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; and

(4) is not enrolled in secondary school.

(e) **SPECIAL RULE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—From amounts made available under subsection (c) for the Republic of Palau, the Secretary shall award grants to Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Republic of Palau to carry out activities described in this title in accordance with the provisions of this title, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) **AWARD BASIS.**—The Secretary shall award grants pursuant to paragraph (1) on a competitive basis and pursuant to the recommendations from the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii.

(3) **TERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Republic of Palau shall be eligible to receive a grant under this title except during the period described in section 3(45).

(4) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—The Secretary may provide not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for grants under this subsection to pay the administrative costs of the Pacific Region Educational Laboratory regarding activities assisted under this subsection.

(f) **HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsection (c), for fiscal year 2015 and each succeeding fiscal year, no eligible agency shall receive an allotment under this section that is less than 90 percent of the allotment the eligible agency received for the preceding fiscal year under this section.

(2) **RATABLE REDUCTION.**—If for any fiscal year the amount available for allotment under this title is insufficient to satisfy the provisions of paragraph (1) the Secretary shall ratably reduce the payments to all eligible agencies, as necessary.

(g) **REALLOTMENT.**—The portion of any eligible agency's allotment under this title for a fiscal year that the Secretary determines will not be required for the period such allotment is available for carrying out activities under this title, shall be available for reallocation from time to time, on such dates during such period as the Secretary shall fix, to other eligible agencies in proportion to the original allotments to such agencies under this title for such year.

SEC. 212. PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

Programs and activities authorized in this title are subject to the performance accountability provisions described in section 116.

Subtitle B—State Provisions

SEC. 221. STATE ADMINISTRATION.

Each eligible agency shall be responsible for the State or outlying area administration of activities under this title, including—

(1) the development, implementation, and monitoring of the relevant components of the unified State plan in section 102 or the combined State plan in section 103;

(2) consultation with other appropriate agencies, groups, and individuals that are involved in, or interested in, the development and implementation of activities assisted under this title; and

(3) coordination and nonduplication with other Federal and State education, training, corrections, public housing, and social service programs.

SEC. 222. STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS; MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

(a) **STATE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—Each eligible agency receiving a grant under section 211(b) for a fiscal year—

(1) shall use not less than 82.5 percent of the grant funds to award grants and contracts under section 231 and to carry out section 225, of which not more than 20 percent of such

amount shall be available to carry out section 225;

(2) shall use not more than 12.5 percent of the grant funds to carry out State leadership activities under section 223; and

(3) shall use not more than 5 percent of the grant funds, or \$85,000, whichever is greater, for the administrative expenses of the eligible agency.

(b) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to receive a grant from the Secretary under section 211(b) each eligible agency shall provide, for the costs to be incurred by the eligible agency in carrying out the adult education and literacy activities for which the grant is awarded, a non-Federal contribution in an amount that is not less than—

(A) in the case of an eligible agency serving an outlying area, 12 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and literacy activities in the outlying area, except that the Secretary may decrease the amount of funds required under this subparagraph for an eligible agency; and

(B) in the case of an eligible agency serving a State, 25 percent of the total amount of funds expended for adult education and literacy activities in the State.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.**—An eligible agency's non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (1) may be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, and shall include only non-Federal funds that are used for adult education and literacy activities in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of this title.

SEC. 223. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

(a) **ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **REQUIRED.**—Each eligible agency shall use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for the following adult education and literacy activities to develop or enhance the adult education system of the State or outlying area:

(A) The alignment of adult education and literacy activities with other core programs and one-stop partners, including eligible providers, to implement the strategy identified in the unified State plan under section 102 or the combined State plan under section 103, including the development of career pathways to provide access to employment and training services for individuals in adult education and literacy activities.

(B) The establishment or operation of high quality professional development programs to improve the instruction provided pursuant to local activities required under section 231(b), including instruction incorporating the essential components of reading instruction as such components relate to adults, instruction related to the specific needs of adult learners, instruction provided by volunteers or by personnel of a State or outlying area, and dissemination of information about models and promising practices related to such programs.

(C) The provision of technical assistance to eligible providers of adult education and literacy activities receiving funds under this title, including—

(i) the development and dissemination of instructional and programmatic practices based on the most rigorous or scientifically valid research available and appropriate, in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, English language acquisition programs, distance education, and staff training;

(ii) the role of eligible providers as a one-stop partner to provide access to employment, education, and training services; and

(iii) assistance in the use of technology, including for staff training, to eligible providers, especially the use of technology to improve system efficiencies.

(D) The monitoring and evaluation of the quality of, and the improvement in, adult edu-

cation and literacy activities and the dissemination of information about models and proven or promising practices within the State.

(2) **PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.**—Each eligible agency may use funds made available under section 222(a)(2) for 1 or more of the following adult education and literacy activities:

(A) The support of State or regional networks of literacy resource centers.

(B) The development and implementation of technology applications, translation technology, or distance education, including professional development to support the use of instructional technology.

(C) Developing and disseminating curricula, including curricula incorporating the essential components of reading instruction as such components relate to adults.

(D) Developing content and models for integrated education and training and career pathways.

(E) The provision of assistance to eligible providers in developing and implementing programs that achieve the objectives of this title and in measuring the progress of those programs in achieving such objectives, including meeting the State adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(b)(3).

(F) The development and implementation of a system to assist in the transition from adult education to postsecondary education, including linkages with postsecondary educational institutions or institutions of higher education.

(G) Integration of literacy and English language instruction with occupational skill training, including promoting linkages with employers.

(H) Activities to promote workplace adult education and literacy activities.

(I) Identifying curriculum frameworks and aligning rigorous content standards that—

(i) specify what adult learners should know and be able to do in the areas of reading and language arts, mathematics, and English language acquisition; and

(ii) take into consideration the following:

(I) State adopted academic standards.

(II) The current adult skills and literacy assessments used in the State or outlying area.

(III) The primary indicators of performance described in section 116.

(IV) Standards and academic requirements for enrollment in nonremedial, for-credit courses in postsecondary educational institutions or institutions of higher education supported by the State or outlying area.

(V) Where appropriate, the content of occupational and industry skill standards widely used by business and industry in the State or outlying area.

(J) Developing and piloting of strategies for improving teacher quality and retention.

(K) The development and implementation of programs and services to meet the needs of adult learners with learning disabilities or English language learners, which may include new and promising assessment tools and strategies that are based on scientifically valid research, where appropriate, and identify the needs and capture the gains of such students at the lowest achievement levels.

(L) Outreach to instructors, students, and employers.

(M) Other activities of statewide significance that promote the purpose of this title.

(b) **COLLABORATION.**—In carrying out this section, eligible agencies shall collaborate where possible, and avoid duplicating efforts, in order to maximize the impact of the activities described in subsection (a).

(c) **STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS.**—Whenever a State or outlying area implements any rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of a program authorized under this

title that has the effect of imposing a requirement that is not imposed under Federal law (including any rule or policy based on a State or outlying area interpretation of a Federal statute, regulation, or guideline), the State or outlying area shall identify, to eligible providers, the rule or policy as being imposed by the State or outlying area.

SEC. 224. STATE PLAN.

Each State desiring to receive funds under this title for any fiscal year shall submit and have approved a unified State plan in accordance with section 102 or a combined State plan in accordance with section 103.

SEC. 225. PROGRAMS FOR CORRECTIONS EDUCATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONALIZED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—From funds made available under section 222(a)(1) for a fiscal year, each eligible agency shall carry out corrections education and education for other institutionalized individuals.

(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—The funds described in subsection (a) shall be used for the cost of educational programs for criminal offenders in correctional institutions and for other institutionalized individuals, including academic programs for—

- (1) adult education and literacy activities;
- (2) special education, as determined by the eligible agency;
- (3) secondary school credit;
- (4) integrated education and training;
- (5) career pathways;
- (6) concurrent enrollment;
- (7) peer tutoring; and
- (8) transition to re-entry initiatives and other postrelease services with the goal of reducing recidivism.

(c) **PRIORITY.**—Each eligible agency that is using assistance provided under this section to carry out a program for criminal offenders within a correctional institution shall give priority to serving individuals who are likely to leave the correctional institution within 5 years of participation in the program.

(d) **REPORT.**—In addition to any report required under section 116, each eligible agency that receives assistance provided under this section shall annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report on the progress, as described in section 116, of the eligible agency with respect to the programs and activities carried out under this section, including the relative rate of recidivism for the criminal offenders served.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “correctional institution” means any—

- (A) prison;
- (B) jail;
- (C) reformatory;
- (D) work farm;
- (E) detention center; or
- (F) halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

(2) **CRIMINAL OFFENDER.**—The term “criminal offender” means any individual who is charged with or convicted of any criminal offense.

Subtitle C—Local Provisions

SEC. 231. GRANTS AND CONTRACTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS.

(a) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—From grant funds made available under section 222(a)(1), each eligible agency shall award multiyear grants or contracts, on a competitive basis, to eligible providers within the State or outlying area to enable the eligible providers to develop, implement, and improve adult education and literacy activities within the State.

(b) **REQUIRED LOCAL ACTIVITIES.**—The eligible agency shall require that each eligible provider receiving a grant or contract under subsection

(a) use the grant or contract to establish or operate programs that provide adult education and literacy activities, including programs that provide such activities concurrently.

(c) **DIRECT AND EQUITABLE ACCESS; SAME PROCESS.**—Each eligible agency receiving funds under this title shall ensure that—

(1) all eligible providers have direct and equitable access to apply and compete for grants or contracts under this section; and

(2) the same grant or contract announcement process and application process is used for all eligible providers in the State or outlying area.

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Each eligible agency awarding a grant or contract under this section shall not use any funds made available under this title for adult education and literacy activities for the purpose of supporting or providing programs, services, or activities for individuals who are not individuals described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 203(4), except that such agency may use such funds for such purpose if such programs, services, or activities are related to family literacy activities. In providing family literacy activities under this title, an eligible provider shall attempt to coordinate with programs and services that are not assisted under this title prior to using funds for adult education and literacy activities under this title for activities other than activities for eligible individuals.

(e) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In awarding grants or contracts under this section, the eligible agency shall consider—

(1) the degree to which the eligible provider would be responsive to—

(A) regional needs as identified in the local plan under section 108; and

(B) serving individuals in the community who were identified in such plan as most in need of adult education and literacy activities, including individuals—

- (i) who have low levels of literacy skills; or
- (ii) who are English language learners;
- (2) the ability of the eligible provider to serve eligible individuals with disabilities, including eligible individuals with learning disabilities;
- (3) past effectiveness of the eligible provider in improving the literacy of eligible individuals, to meet State-adjusted levels of performance for the primary indicators of performance described in section 116, especially with respect to eligible individuals who have low levels of literacy;

(4) the extent to which the eligible provider demonstrates alignment between proposed activities and services and the strategy and goals of the local plan under section 108, as well as the activities and services of the one-stop partners;

(5) whether the eligible provider's program—

(A) is of sufficient intensity and quality, and based on the most rigorous research available so that participants achieve substantial learning gains; and

(B) uses instructional practices that include the essential components of reading instruction;

(6) whether the eligible provider's activities, including whether reading, writing, speaking, mathematics, and English language acquisition instruction delivered by the eligible provider, are based on the best practices derived from the most rigorous research available and appropriate, including scientifically valid research and effective educational practice;

(7) whether the eligible provider's activities effectively use technology, services, and delivery systems, including distance education in a manner sufficient to increase the amount and quality of learning and how such technology, services, and systems lead to improved performance;

(8) whether the eligible provider's activities provide learning in context, including through integrated education and training, so that an individual acquires the skills needed to transi-

tion to and complete postsecondary education and training programs, obtain and advance in employment leading to economic self-sufficiency, and to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;

(9) whether the eligible provider's activities are delivered by well-trained instructors, counselors, and administrators who meet any minimum qualifications established by the State, where applicable, and who have access to high quality professional development, including through electronic means;

(10) whether the eligible provider's activities coordinate with other available education, training, and social service resources in the community, such as by establishing strong links with elementary schools and secondary schools, postsecondary educational institutions, institutions of higher education, local workforce investment boards, one-stop centers, job training programs, and social service agencies, business, industry, labor organizations, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and intermediaries, for the development of career pathways;

(11) whether the eligible provider's activities offer flexible schedules and coordination with Federal, State, and local support services (such as child care, transportation, mental health services, and career planning) that are necessary to enable individuals, including individuals with disabilities or other special needs, to attend and complete programs;

(12) whether the eligible provider maintains a high-quality information management system that has the capacity to report measurable participant outcomes (consistent with section 116) and to monitor program performance; and

(13) whether the local areas in which the eligible provider is located have a demonstrated need for additional English language acquisition programs and civics education programs.

SEC. 232. LOCAL APPLICATION.

Each eligible provider desiring a grant or contract from an eligible agency shall submit an application to the eligible agency containing such information and assurances as the eligible agency may require, including—

(1) a description of how funds awarded under this title will be spent consistent with the requirements of this title;

(2) a description of any cooperative arrangements the eligible provider has with other agencies, institutions, or organizations for the delivery of adult education and literacy activities;

(3) a description of how the eligible provider will provide services in alignment with the local plan under section 108, including how such provider will promote concurrent enrollment in programs and activities under title I, as appropriate;

(4) a description of how the eligible provider will meet the State adjusted levels of performance described in section 116(b)(3), including how such provider will collect data to report on such performance indicators;

(5) a description of how the eligible provider will fulfill one-stop partner responsibilities as described in section 121(b)(1)(A), as appropriate;

(6) a description of how the eligible provider will provide services in a manner that meets the needs of eligible individuals; and

(7) information that addresses the considerations described under section 231(e), as applicable.

SEC. 233. LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE COST LIMITS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), of the amount that is made available under this title to an eligible provider—

(1) not less than 95 percent shall be expended for carrying out adult education and literacy activities; and

(2) the remaining amount, not to exceed 5 percent, shall be used for planning, administration

(including carrying out the requirements of section 116), professional development, and the activities described in paragraphs (3) and (5) of section 232.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE.**—In cases where the cost limits described in subsection (a) are too restrictive to allow for the activities described in subsection (a)(2), the eligible provider shall negotiate with the eligible agency in order to determine an adequate level of funds to be used for noninstructional purposes.

Subtitle D—General Provisions

SEC. 241. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title shall supplement and not supplant other State or local public funds expended for adult education and literacy activities.

(b) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **DETERMINATION.**—An eligible agency may receive funds under this title for any fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of such eligible agency for activities under this title, in the second preceding fiscal year, were not less than 90 percent of the fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures of such eligible agency for adult education and literacy activities in the third preceding fiscal year.

(B) **PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION.**—Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), for any fiscal year with respect to which the Secretary determines under subparagraph (A) that the fiscal effort or the aggregate expenditures of an eligible agency for the preceding program year were less than such effort or expenditures for the second preceding program year, the Secretary—

(i) shall determine the percentage decreases in such effort or in such expenditures; and

(ii) shall decrease the payment made under this title for such program year to the agency for adult education and literacy activities by the lesser of such percentages.

(2) **COMPUTATION.**—In computing the fiscal effort and aggregate expenditures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall exclude capital expenditures and special one-time project costs.

(3) **DECREASE IN FEDERAL SUPPORT.**—If the amount made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title for a fiscal year is less than the amount made available for adult education and literacy activities under this title for the preceding fiscal year, then the fiscal effort per student and the aggregate expenditures of an eligible agency required in order to avoid a reduction under paragraph (1)(B) shall be decreased by the same percentage as the percentage decrease in the amount so made available.

(4) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may waive the requirements of this subsection for not more than 1 fiscal year, if the Secretary determines that a waiver would be equitable due to exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as a natural disaster or an unforeseen and precipitous decline in the financial resources of the State or outlying area of the eligible agency. If the Secretary grants a waiver under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year, the level of effort required under paragraph (1) shall not be reduced in the subsequent fiscal year because of the waiver.

SEC. 242. NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a program of national leadership activities to enhance the quality and outcomes of adult education and literacy activities and programs nationwide.

(b) **REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**—The national leadership activities described in subsection (a) shall include technical assistance, including—

(1) assistance to help States meet the requirements of section 116;

(2) upon request by a State, assistance provided to eligible providers in using performance accountability measures based on indicators described in section 116, and data systems for the improvement of adult education and literacy activities;

(3) carrying out rigorous research and evaluation on effective adult education and literacy activities, as well as estimating the number of adults functioning at the lowest levels of literacy proficiency, which shall be coordinated across relevant Federal agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences; and

(4) carrying out an independent evaluation at least once every 4 years of the programs and activities under this title, taking into consideration the evaluation subjects referred to in section 169(a)(2).

(c) **ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.**—The national leadership activities described in subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) **Technical assistance, including—**

(A) assistance related to professional development activities, and assistance for the purposes of developing, improving, identifying, and disseminating the most successful methods and techniques for providing adult education and literacy activities, based on scientifically valid research where available;

(B) assistance in distance education and promoting and improving the use of technology in the classroom, including instruction in English language acquisition for English language learners;

(C) assistance in the development and dissemination of proven models for addressing the digital literacy needs of adults, including older adults; and

(D) supporting efforts aimed at strengthening programs at the State and local levels, such as technical assistance in program planning, assessment, evaluation, and monitoring of activities carried out under this title.

(2) **Funding national leadership activities** either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded on a competitive basis to or with postsecondary educational institutions, institutions of higher education, public or private organizations or agencies (including public libraries), or consortia of such institutions, organizations, or agencies, which may include—

(A) developing, improving, and identifying the most successful methods and techniques for addressing the education needs of adults, including instructional practices using the essential components of reading instruction based on the work of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development;

(B) supporting national, regional, or local networks of private nonprofit organizations, public libraries, or institutions of higher education to strengthen the ability of such networks' members to meet the performance requirements described in section 116 of eligible providers;

(C) increasing the effectiveness, and improving the quality, of adult education and literacy activities, which may include—

(i) carrying out rigorous research;

(ii) carrying out demonstration programs;

(iii) accelerating learning outcomes for eligible individuals with the lowest literacy levels;

(iv) developing and promoting career pathways for eligible individuals;

(v) promoting concurrent enrollment programs in adult education and credit bearing postsecondary coursework;

(vi) developing high-quality professional development activities for eligible providers; and

(vii) developing, replicating, and disseminating information on best practices and innovative programs, such as—

(1) the identification of effective strategies for working with adults with learning disabilities

and with adults who are English language learners;

(II) integrated education and training programs;

(III) workplace adult education and literacy activities; and

(IV) postsecondary education and training transition programs;

(D) providing for the conduct of an independent evaluation and assessment of adult education and literacy activities through grants and contracts awarded on a competitive basis, which shall include descriptions of—

(i) the effect of performance accountability measures and other measures of accountability on the delivery of adult education and literacy activities;

(ii) the extent to which the adult education and literacy activities increase the literacy skills of eligible individuals, lead to involvement in education and training, enhance the employment and earnings of such participants, and, if applicable, lead to other positive outcomes, such as success in re-entry and reductions in recidivism in the case of prison-based adult education and literacy activities;

(iii) the extent to which the provision of support services to eligible individuals enrolled in adult education and literacy activities increase the rate of enrollment in, and successful completion of, such programs; and

(iv) the extent to which different types of providers measurably improve the skills of eligible individuals in adult education and literacy activities;

(E) collecting data, such as data regarding the improvement of both local and State data systems, through technical assistance and development of model performance data collection systems;

(F) determining how participation in adult education and literacy activities prepares eligible individuals for entry into postsecondary education and employment and, in the case of programs carried out in correctional institutions, has an effect on recidivism; and

(G) other activities designed to enhance the quality of adult education and literacy activities nationwide.

SEC. 243. INTEGRATED ENGLISH LITERACY AND CIVICS EDUCATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From funds made available under section 211(a)(2) for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants to States, from allotments under subsection (b), for integrated English literacy and civics education, in combination with integrated education and training activities.

(b) **ALLOTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), from amounts made available under section 211(a)(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate—

(A) 65 percent to the States on the basis of a State's need for integrated English literacy and civics education, as determined by calculating each State's share of a 10-year average of the data of the Office of Immigration Statistics of the Department of Homeland Security for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence for the 10 most recent years; and

(B) 35 percent to the States on the basis of whether the State experienced growth, as measured by the average of the 3 most recent years for which the data of the Office of Immigration Statistics of the Department of Homeland Security for immigrants admitted for legal permanent residence are available.

(2) **MINIMUM.**—No State shall receive an allotment under paragraph (1) in an amount that is less than \$60,000.

(c) **GOAL.**—Each program that receives funding under this section shall be designed to—

(1) prepare adults who are English language learners for, and place such adults in, unsubsidized employment in in-demand industries and

occupations that lead to economic self-sufficiency; and

(2) integrate with the local workforce development system and its functions to carry out the activities of the program.

(d) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and make available to the public, a report on the activities carried out under this section.

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGNER-PEYSEY ACT

SEC. 301. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES.

Section 1 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49) is amended by inserting “service” before “offices”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49a) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the terms ‘chief elected official’, ‘institution of higher education’, ‘one-stop center’, ‘one-stop partner’, ‘training services’, ‘workforce development activity’, and ‘workplace learning advisor’, have the meaning given the terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “investment board” each place it appears and inserting “development board”; and

(B) by striking “section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “134(c)” and inserting “121(e)”; and

(B) by striking “Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) the term ‘employment service office’ means a local office of a State agency; and

“(7) except in section 15, the term ‘State agency’, used without further description, means an agency designated or authorized under section 4.”.

SEC. 303. FEDERAL AND STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES.

(a) **COORDINATION.**—Section 3(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(a)) is amended by striking “services” and inserting “service offices”.

(b) **PUBLIC LABOR EXCHANGE SERVICES SYSTEM.**—Section 3(c) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking the semicolon and inserting “, and identify and disseminate information on best practices for such system; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) in coordination with the State agencies and the staff of such agencies, assist in the planning and implementation of activities to enhance the professional development and career advancement opportunities of such staff, in order to strengthen the provision of a broad range of career guidance services, the identification of job openings (including providing intensive outreach to small and medium-sized employers and enhanced employer services), the provision of technical assistance and training to other providers of workforce development activities (including workplace learning advisors) relating to counseling and employment-related

services, and the development of new strategies for coordinating counseling and technology.”.

(c) **ONE-STOP CENTERS.**—Section 3 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49b) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) In order to improve service delivery, avoid duplication of services, and enhance coordination of services, including location of staff to ensure access to services under section 7(a) statewide in underserved areas, employment service offices in each State shall be colocated with one-stop centers.

“(e) The Secretary, in consultation with States, is authorized to assist the States in the development of national electronic tools that may be used to improve access to workforce information for individuals through—

“(1) the one-stop delivery systems established as described in section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; and

“(2) such other delivery systems as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

SEC. 304. ALLOTMENT OF SUMS.

Section 6 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “amounts appropriated pursuant to section 5” and inserting “funds appropriated and (except for Guam) certified under section 5 and made available for allotments under this section”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before “the Secretary” the following “after making the allotments required by subsection (a),”; and

(ii) by striking “sums” and all that follows through “this Act” and inserting “funds described in subsection (a)”;

(B) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “sums” and inserting “remainder”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘State’ does not include Guam or the Virgin Islands.”.

SEC. 305. USE OF SUMS.

(a) **IMPROVED COORDINATION.**—Section 7(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “, including unemployment insurance claimants,” after “seekers”.

(b) **RESOURCES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS.**—Section 7(a)(3) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by inserting “, including making eligibility assessments,” after “system”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) providing unemployment insurance claimants with referrals to, and application assistance for, training and education resources and programs, including Federal Pell Grants under subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.), educational assistance under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Montgomery GI Bill), and chapter 33 of that title (Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance), student assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), State student higher education assistance, and training and education programs provided under titles I and II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.).”.

(c) **STATE ACTIVITIES.**—Section 7(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “performance standards established by the Secretary” and in-

serting “the performance accountability measures that are based on indicators described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “offices” after “employment service”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, and models for enhancing professional development and career advancement opportunities of State agency staff, as described in section 3(c)(4)” after “subsection (a)”.

(d) **PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—Subsections (c)(2) and (d) of section 7 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f) are amended by striking “the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(e) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 7(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49f(e)) is amended by striking “labor employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information”.

SEC. 306. STATE PLAN.

Section 8 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49g) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. Any State desiring to receive assistance under section 6 shall prepare and submit to, and have approved by, the Secretary and the Secretary of Education, a State plan in accordance with section 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

SEC. 307. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Section 13(a) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The activities carried out pursuant to section 7 shall be subject to the performance accountability measures that are based on indicators described in section 116(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

SEC. 308. WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) **HEADING.**—The section heading for section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l–2) is amended by striking “EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS” and inserting “WORKFORCE AND LABOR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM”.

(b) **NAME OF SYSTEM.**—Section 15(a)(1) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l–2(a)(1)) is amended by striking “employment statistics system of employment statistics” and inserting “workforce and labor market information system”.

(c) **SYSTEM RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Section 15(b) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49l–2(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) **STRUCTURE.**—The workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) shall be evaluated and improved by the Secretary, in consultation with the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in subsection (d).

“(B) **GRANTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out the provisions of this section in a timely manner, through grants to or agreements with States.

“(ii) **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—Using amounts appropriated under subsection (g), the Secretary shall provide funds through those grants and agreements. In distributing the funds (relating to workforce and labor market information funding) for fiscal years 2015 through 2020, the Secretary shall continue to distribute the funds to States in the manner in which the Secretary distributed funds to the States under this section for fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **DUTIES.**—The Secretary, with respect to data collection, analysis, and dissemination of workforce and labor market information for the system, shall carry out the following duties:

“(A) Assign responsibilities within the Department of Labor for elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) to ensure that the statistical and administrative data collected is consistent with appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics standards and definitions, and that the information is accessible and understandable to users of such data.

“(B) Actively seek the cooperation of heads of other Federal agencies to establish and maintain mechanisms for ensuring complementarity and nonduplication in the development and operation of statistical and administrative data collection activities.

“(C) Solicit, receive, and evaluate the recommendations from the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in subsection (d) concerning the evaluation and improvement of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and respond in writing to the Council regarding the recommendations.

“(D) Eliminate gaps and duplication in statistical undertakings.

“(E) Through the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Employment and Training Administration, and in collaboration with States, develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a), including the development of consistent procedures and definitions for use by the States in collecting the data and information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

“(F) Establish procedures for the system to ensure that—

“(i) such data and information are timely; and

“(ii) paperwork and reporting for the system are reduced to a minimum.”.

(d) **TWO-YEAR PLAN.**—Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) **TWO-YEAR PLAN.**—The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, and in consultation with the Workforce Information Advisory Council described in subsection (d) and heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall prepare a 2-year plan for the workforce and labor market information system. The plan shall be developed and implemented in a manner that takes into account the activities described in State plans submitted by States under section 102 or 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and shall be submitted to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. The plan shall include—

“(1) a description of how the Secretary will work with the States to manage the nationwide workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and the statewide workforce and labor market information systems that comprise the nationwide system;

“(2) a description of the steps to be taken in the following 2 years to carry out the duties described in subsection (b)(2);

“(3) an evaluation of the performance of the system, with particular attention to the improvements needed at the State and local levels;

“(4) a description of the involvement of States in the development of the plan, through consultation by the Secretary with the Workforce Information Advisory Council in accordance with subsection (d); and

“(5) a description of the written recommendations received from the Workforce Information Advisory Council established under subsection (d), and the extent to which those recommendations were incorporated into the plan.”.

(e) **WORKFORCE INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—Section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) **WORKFORCE INFORMATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, through the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, shall formally consult at least twice annually with the Workforce Information Advisory Council established in accordance with paragraph (2). Such consultations shall address the evaluation and improvement of the nationwide workforce and labor market information system described in subsection (a) and the statewide workforce and labor market information systems that comprise the nationwide system and how the Department of Labor and the States will cooperate in the management of such systems. The Council shall provide written recommendations to the Secretary concerning the evaluation and improvement of the nationwide system, including any recommendations regarding the 2-year plan described in subsection (c).

“(2) **ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council that shall be known as the Workforce Information Advisory Council (referred to in this section as the ‘Council’) to participate in the consultations and provide the recommendations described in paragraph (1).

“(B) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Secretary shall appoint the members of the Council, which shall consist of—

“(i) 4 members who are representatives of lead State agencies with responsibility for workforce investment activities, or State agencies described in section 4, who have been nominated by such agencies or by a national organization that represents such agencies;

“(ii) 4 members who are representatives of the State workforce and labor market information directors affiliated with the State agencies that perform the duties described in subsection (e)(2), who have been nominated by the directors;

“(iii) 1 member who is a representative of providers of training services under section 122 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;

“(iv) 1 member who is a representative of economic development entities;

“(v) 1 member who is a representative of businesses, who has been nominated by national business organizations or trade associations;

“(vi) 1 member who is a representative of labor organizations, who has been nominated by a national labor federation;

“(vii) 1 member who is a representative of local workforce development boards, who has been nominated by a national organization representing such boards; and

“(viii) 1 member who is a representative of research entities that utilize workforce and labor market information.

“(C) **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Council is geographically diverse and that no 2 of the members appointed under clauses (i), (ii), and (vii) represent the same State.

“(D) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Each member of the Council shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that the initial terms for members may be 1, 2, or 3 years in order to establish a rotation in which one-third of the members are selected each year. Any such member may be appointed for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(ii) **VACANCIES.**—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member’s term until a successor has taken office.

“(E) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Council shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Council, but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Council.

“(F) **PERMANENT COUNCIL.**—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Council.”.

(f) **STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.**—Section 15(e) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “employment statistics” each place it appears and inserting “workforce and labor market information”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking “annual plan” and inserting “plan described in subsection (c)”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by inserting “and” at the end;

(B) by striking subparagraph (H);

(C) in subparagraph (I), by striking “section 136(f)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 116(i)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H).

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 15(g) of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2(g)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2004” and inserting “\$60,153,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$64,799,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$66,144,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$67,611,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$69,200,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$70,667,000 for fiscal year 2020”.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973

Subtitle A—Introductory Provisions

SEC. 401. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision, the amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to a provision of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

SEC. 402. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, POLICY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Section 2(a) (29 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “workforce investment systems under title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “workforce development systems defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(7)(A) a high proportion of students with disabilities is leaving secondary education without being employed in competitive integrated employment, or being enrolled in postsecondary education; and

“(B) there is a substantial need to support such students as they transition from school to postsecondary life.”.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—Section 2(b) (29 U.S.C. 701(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment systems implemented in accordance with title 1 of the Workforce Investment

Act of 1998" and inserting "workforce development systems defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) at the end of subparagraph (F), by striking "and";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with significant disabilities, for competitive integrated employment;"

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) to increase employment opportunities and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, including through encouraging meaningful input by employers and vocational rehabilitation service providers on successful and prospective employment and placement strategies; and

"(5) to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that youth with disabilities and students with disabilities who are transitioning from receipt of special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) and receipt of services under section 504 of this Act have opportunities for postsecondary success."

SEC. 403. REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.

Section 3 (29 U.S.C. 702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting "in the Department of Education" after "Secretary";

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting "Such Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Commissioner shall be the principal officer, of the Department for purposes of carrying out titles I, III, VI, and chapter 2 of title VII."; and

(C) in the fourth and sixth sentences, by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary" the first place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary".

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.

Section 7 (29 U.S.C. 705) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking the semicolon and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(v) to the maximum extent possible, relies on information obtained from experiences in integrated employment settings in the community, and other integrated community settings;"

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

"(3) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TERMS.—

"(A) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'assistive technology' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002).

"(B) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.—The term 'assistive technology device' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, except that the reference in such section to the term 'individuals with disabilities' shall be deemed to mean more than 1 individual with a disability as defined in paragraph (20)(A)).

"(C) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE.—The term 'assistive technology service' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, except that the reference in such section—

"(i) to the term 'individual with a disability' shall be deemed to mean an individual with a disability, as defined in paragraph (20)(A); and

"(ii) to the term 'individuals with disabilities' shall be deemed to mean more than 1 such individual.";

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4);

(4) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (O) through (Q) as subparagraphs (P) through (R), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (N) the following:

"(O) customized employment;" and

(C) in subparagraph (R), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking "(P)" and inserting "(Q)";

(5) by inserting before paragraph (6) the following:

"(5) COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT.—The term 'competitive integrated employment' means work that is performed on a full-time or part-time basis (including self-employment)—

"(A) for which an individual—

"(i) is compensated at a rate that—

"(I)(aa) shall be not less than the higher of the rate specified in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) or the rate specified in the applicable State or local minimum wage law; and

"(bb) is not less than the customary rate paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by other employees who are not individuals with disabilities, and who are similarly situated in similar occupations by the same employer and who have similar training, experience, and skills; or

"(II) in the case of an individual who is self-employed, yields an income that is comparable to the income received by other individuals who are not individuals with disabilities, and who are self-employed in similar occupations or on similar tasks and who have similar training, experience, and skills; and

"(ii) is eligible for the level of benefits provided to other employees;

"(B) that is at a location where the employee interacts with other persons who are not individuals with disabilities (not including supervisory personnel or individuals who are providing services to such employee) to the same extent that individuals who are not individuals with disabilities and who are in comparable positions interact with other persons; and

"(C) that, as appropriate, presents opportunities for advancement that are similar to those for other employees who are not individuals with disabilities and who have similar positions.";

(6) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking "includes" and all that follows through "fees" and inserting "includes architects' fees";

(7) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT.—The term

'customized employment' means competitive integrated employment, for an individual with a significant disability, that is based on an individualized determination of the strengths, needs, and interests of the individual with a significant disability, is designed to meet the specific abilities of the individual with a significant disability and the business needs of the employer, and is carried out through flexible strategies, such as—

"(A) job exploration by the individual;

"(B) working with an employer to facilitate placement, including—

"(i) customizing a job description based on current employer needs or on previously unidentified and unmet employer needs;

"(ii) developing a set of job duties, a work schedule and job arrangement, and specifics of supervision (including performance evaluation and review), and determining a job location;

"(iii) representation by a professional chosen by the individual, or self-representation of the individual, in working with an employer to facilitate placement; and

"(iv) providing services and supports at the job location.";

(8) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary"; and

(ii) by inserting "customized employment," before "self-employment,";

(9) in paragraph (12), by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary" each place it appears;

(10) in paragraph (14)(C), by inserting "of Education" after "Secretary";

(11) in paragraph (17)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) services that—

"(i) facilitate the transition of individuals with significant disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community-based residences, with the requisite supports and services;

"(ii) provide assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community; and

"(iii) facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities, who were eligible for individualized education programs under section 614(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)), and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.";

(12) in paragraph (18), by striking "term" and all that follows through "includes—" and inserting "term 'independent living services' includes—";

(13) in paragraph (19)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the period the following: "and includes a Native and a descendant of a Native, as such terms are defined in subsections (b) and (r) of section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: "and a tribal organization (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)))";

(14) in paragraph (23), by striking "section 101" and inserting "section 102";

(15) by striking paragraph (25) and inserting the following:

"(25) LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BOARD.—The term 'local workforce development board' means a local board, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.";

(16) by striking paragraph (37);

(17) by redesignating paragraphs (29) through (39) as paragraphs (31) through (36), and (38) through (41), respectively;

(18) by inserting after paragraph (28) the following:

"(30) PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERV-

ICES.—The term 'pre-employment transition services' means services provided in accordance with section 113.";

(19) by striking paragraph (33), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

"(33) SECRETARY.—Unless where the context

otherwise requires, the term 'Secretary'—

"(A) used in title I, III, IV, V, VI, or chapter 2 of title VII, means the Secretary of Education; and

"(B) used in title II or chapter 1 of title VII, means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.";

(20) by striking paragraphs (35) and (36), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

“(35) **STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**—The term ‘State workforce development board’ means a State board, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”

“(36) **STATEWIDE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.**—The term ‘statewide workforce development system’ means a workforce development system, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”

(21) by inserting after that paragraph (36) the following:

“(37) **STUDENT WITH A DISABILITY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘student with a disability’ means an individual with a disability who—

“(i)(I)(aa) is not younger than the earliest age for the provision of transition services under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)); or

“(bb) if the State involved elects to use a lower minimum age for receipt of pre-employment transition services under this Act, is not younger than that minimum age; and

“(II)(aa) is not older than 21 years of age; or

“(bb) if the State law for the State provides for a higher maximum age for receipt of services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), is not older than that maximum age; and

“(ii)(I) is eligible for, and receiving, special education or related services under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

“(II) is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504.

“(B) **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term ‘students with disabilities’ means more than 1 student with a disability.”

(22) by striking paragraphs (38) and (39), as redesignated by paragraph (17), and inserting the following:

“(38) **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT.**—The term ‘supported employment’ means competitive integrated employment, including customized employment, or employment in an integrated work setting in which individuals are working on a short-term basis toward competitive integrated employment, that is individualized and customized consistent with the strengths, abilities, interests, and informed choice of the individuals involved, for individuals with the most significant disabilities—

“(A)(i) for whom competitive integrated employment has not historically occurred; or

“(ii) for whom competitive integrated employment has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a significant disability; and

“(B) who, because of the nature and severity of their disability, need intensive supported employment services and extended services after the transition described in paragraph (13)(C), in order to perform the work involved.

“(39) **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.**—The term ‘supported employment services’ means ongoing support services, including customized employment, needed to support and maintain an individual with a most significant disability in supported employment, that—

“(A) are provided singly or in combination and are organized and made available in such a way as to assist an eligible individual to achieve competitive integrated employment;

“(B) are based on a determination of the needs of an eligible individual, as specified in an individualized plan for employment; and

“(C) are provided by the designated State unit for a period of not more than 24 months, except that period may be extended, if necessary, in order to achieve the employment outcome identi-

fied in the individualized plan for employment.”

(23) in paragraph (41), as redesignated by paragraph (17), by striking “as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(24) by inserting after paragraph (41), as redesignated by paragraph (17), the following:

“(42) **YOUTH WITH A DISABILITY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘youth with a disability’ means an individual with a disability who—

“(i) is not younger than 14 years of age; and

“(ii) is not older than 24 years of age.

“(B) **YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term ‘youth with disabilities’ means more than 1 youth with a disability.”

SEC. 405. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT.

(a) **PROMULGATION.**—Section 8(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 706(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”.

(b) **PRIVACY.**—Section 11 (29 U.S.C. 708) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “The provisions”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Section 501 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act shall apply, as specified in that section, to amendments to this Act that were made by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 12 (29 U.S.C. 709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) provide technical assistance to the designated State units on developing successful partnerships with local and multi-State businesses in an effort to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities;

“(C) provide technical assistance to providers and organizations on developing self-employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with disabilities; and

“(D) provide technical assistance to entities carrying out community rehabilitation programs to build their internal capacity to provide individualized services and supports leading to competitive integrated employment, and to transition individuals with disabilities away from nonintegrated settings;”

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, centers for independent living;”

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “Commissioner” the first place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Education”;

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” each place it appears and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”;

(5) in subsection (f), by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary”;

(6)(A) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)” and inserting “(c)(1)”;

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “(d)” and inserting “(d)(1)”;

(C) in subsection (e), by striking “(e)” and inserting “(2)”;

(D) in subsection (f), by striking “(f)” and inserting “(2)”; and

(E) by moving paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (D)) to the end of subsection (c); and

(7) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e)(1) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Administrator’) may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Commissioner described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) through (4) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), except that, for purposes of applying subsections (a) and (b), a reference in those subsections—

“(A) to facilitating meaningful and effective participation shall be considered to be a reference to facilitating meaningful and effective collaboration with independent living programs, and promoting a philosophy of independent living for individuals with disabilities in community activities; and

“(B) to training for personnel shall be considered to be a reference to training for the personnel of centers for independent living and Statewide Independent Living Councils.

“(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Education described in subsections (c) and (d).

“(f)(1) In subsections (a) through (d), a reference to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Education has authority to carry out; and

“(2) In subsection (e), for purposes of applying subsections (a) through (d), a reference in those subsections to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to carry out.”

SEC. 406. REPORTS.

Section 13 (29 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in section (c)—

(A) by striking “(c)” and inserting “(c)(1)”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “section 136(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 116(d)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) The Commissioner shall ensure that the report described in this section is made publicly available in a timely manner, including through electronic means, in order to inform the public about the administration and performance of programs under this Act.”

SEC. 407. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION.

(a) **EVALUATION.**—Section 14 (29 U.S.C. 711) is amended—

(1) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by inserting “competitive” before “integrated employment”;

(3)(A) in subsection (b), by striking “(b)” and inserting “(b)(1)”;

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “(c)” and inserting “(2)”;

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “(d)” and inserting “(3)”; and

(D) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (3)(D), the following:

“(e)(1) The Secretary of Health and Human Services may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Education described in subsections (a) and (b).

“(2) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living may carry out the authorities and shall carry out the responsibilities of the Commissioner described in subsections (a) and (d)(1), except that, for purposes of applying those subsections, a reference in those subsections to exemplary practices shall be considered to be a reference to exemplary practices concerning independent living services and centers for independent living.

“(f)(1) In subsections (a) through (d), a reference to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Education has authority to carry out; and

“(2) In subsection (e), for purposes of applying subsections (a), (b), and (d), a reference in those subsections to ‘this Act’ means a provision of this Act that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has authority to carry out.”.

(b) **INFORMATION.**—Section 15 (29 U.S.C. 712) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “of Education” after “Secretary” each place it appears; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “State workforce investment boards” and inserting “State workforce development boards”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Secretary” and inserting “Secretary of Education”.

SEC. 408. CARRYOVER.

Section 19(a)(1) (29 U.S.C. 716(a)(1)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”.

SEC. 409. TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS.

Section 21 (29 U.S.C. 718) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “racial” and inserting “demographic”; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking “rate of increase” the first place it appears and inserting “percentage increase from 2000 to 2010”; and

(II) by striking “is 3.2” and inserting “was 9.7”; and

(III) by striking “rate of increase” and inserting “percentage increase”; and

(IV) by striking “is much” and inserting “was much”; and

(V) by striking “38.6” and inserting “43.0”; and

(VI) by striking “14.6” and inserting “12.3”; and

(VII) by striking “40.1” and inserting “43.2”; and

(VIII) by striking “and other ethnic groups”; and

(iii) by striking the last sentence; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following: “In 2011—

“(A) among Americans ages 16 through 64, the rate of disability was 12.1 percent;

“(B) among African-Americans in that age range, the disability rate was more than twice as high, at 27.1 percent; and

“(C) for American Indians and Alaska Natives in the same age range, the disability rate was also more than twice as high, at 27.0 percent.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “Director” and inserting “Director of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”.

Subtitle B—Vocational Rehabilitation Services

SEC. 411. DECLARATION OF POLICY; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **FINDINGS; PURPOSE; POLICY.**—Section 100(a) (29 U.S.C. 720(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “integrated” and inserting “competitive integrated employment”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(iii), by striking “medicare and medicaid” and inserting “Medicare and Medicaid”; and

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking “investment” and inserting “development”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)—

(i) by striking “workforce investment systems” and inserting “workforce development systems”; and

(ii) by striking “workforce investment activities” and inserting “workforce development activities”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and informed choice,” and inserting “informed choice, and economic self-sufficiency,”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “gainful employment in integrated settings” and inserting “competitive integrated employment”; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “should” before “facilitate”.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 100(b)(1) (29 U.S.C. 720(b)(1)) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1999 through 2003” and inserting “\$3,302,053,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2020”.

SEC. 412. STATE PLANS.

(a) **PLAN REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 101(a) (29 U.S.C. 721(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “to participate” and all that follows and inserting “to receive funds under this title for a fiscal year, a State shall submit, and have approved by the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor, a unified State plan in accordance with section 102, or a combined State plan in accordance with section 103, of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The unified or combined State plan shall include, in the portion of the plan described in section 102(b)(2)(D) of such Act (referred to in this subsection as the ‘vocational rehabilitation services portion’), the provisions of a State plan for vocational rehabilitation services, described in this subsection.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “in the State plan for vocational rehabilitation services,” and inserting “as part of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the unified or combined State plan submitted in accordance with subparagraph (A).”; and

(ii) by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “The State plan shall remain in effect subject to the submission of such modifications” and inserting “The vocational rehabilitation services portion of the unified or combined State plan submitted in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall remain in effect until the State submits and receives approval of a new State plan in accordance with subparagraph (A), or until the submission of such modifications”; and

(ii) by striking “, until the State submits and receives approval of a new State plan”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “The State plan” and inserting “The State plan for vocational rehabilitation services”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(i) in subclause (II), by inserting “who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the vocational rehabilitation program” before the semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subclause (IV), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(V) has the sole authority and responsibility within the designated State agency described in subparagraph (A) to expend funds made available under this title in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of this title.”;

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) notwithstanding subparagraph (C), permit the State, in its discretion, to elect to serve eligible individuals (whether or not receiving vocational rehabilitation services) who require specific services or equipment to maintain employment; and”;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(v)—

(i) in subclause (I), after “rehabilitation technology” insert the following: “, including training implemented in coordination with entities carrying out State programs under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003)”;

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) the establishment and maintenance of education and experience requirements, to ensure that the personnel have a 21st century understanding of the evolving labor force and the needs of individuals with disabilities, including requirements for—

“(I)(aa) attainment of a baccalaureate degree in a field of study reasonably related to vocational rehabilitation, to indicate a level of competency and skill demonstrating basic preparation in a field of study such as vocational rehabilitation counseling, social work, psychology, disability studies, business administration, human resources, special education, supported employment, customized employment, economics, or another field that reasonably prepares individuals to work with consumers and employers; and

“(bb) demonstrated paid or unpaid experience, for not less than 1 year, consisting of—

“(AA) direct work with individuals with disabilities in a setting such as an independent living center;

“(BB) direct service or advocacy activities that provide such individual with experience and skills in working with individuals with disabilities; or

“(CC) direct experience as an employer, as a small business owner or operator, or in self-employment, or other experience in human resources, recruitment, or experience in supervising employees, training, or other activities that provide experience in competitive integrated employment environments; or

“(II) attainment of a master’s or doctoral degree in a field of study such as vocational rehabilitation counseling, law, social work, psychology, disability studies, business administration, human resources, special education, management, public administration, or another field that reasonably provides competence in the employment sector, in a disability field, or in both business-related and rehabilitation-related fields; and”;

(5) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(i) by inserting “an accommodation or auxiliary aid or service or” after “prior to providing”; and

(ii) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(I) by striking “medicaid” and inserting “Medicaid”;

(II) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(III) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(IV) by inserting “and, if appropriate, accommodations or auxiliary aids and services,” before “that are included”; and

(V) by striking “provision of such vocational rehabilitation services” and inserting “provision of such vocational rehabilitation services (including, if appropriate, accommodations or auxiliary aids and services)”;

(ii) in clause (iv)—

(I) by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(II) by inserting “, and accommodations or auxiliary aids and services” before the period; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(6) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “annual” and all that follows through “of 1998” and inserting “annual reporting of information, on eligible individuals receiving the services, that is necessary to assess the State’s performance on the standards and indicators described in section 106(a)”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, from each State,” after “additional data”;

(ii) by striking clause (i) and inserting:

“(i) the number of applicants and the number of individuals determined to be eligible or ineligible for the program carried out under this title, including the number of individuals determined to be ineligible (disaggregated by type of disability and age);”;

(iii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by striking “(5)(D)” and inserting “(5)(E)”;

(II) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) the number of individuals with open cases (disaggregated by those who are receiving training and those who are in postsecondary education), and the type of services the individuals are receiving (including supported employment);”;

“(V) the number of students with disabilities who are receiving pre-employment transition services under this title; and

“(VI) the number of individuals referred to State vocational rehabilitation programs by one-stop operators (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and the number of individuals referred to such one-stop operators by State vocational rehabilitation programs;”;

(iv) in clause (iv)(I), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “and, for those who achieved employment outcomes, the average length of time to obtain employment”;

(C) in subparagraph (D)(i), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(D) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “of the State” and all that follows and inserting “of the State in meeting the standards and indicators established pursuant to section 106.”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) RULES FOR REPORTING OF DATA.—The disaggregation of data under this Act shall not be required within a category if the number of individuals in a category is insufficient to yield statistically reliable information, or if the results would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual.

“(H) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The State plan shall specify that the Commissioner will provide an annual comprehensive report that includes the reports and data required under this section, as well as a summary of the reports and data, for each fiscal year. The Commissioner shall submit the report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year involved.”;

(7) in paragraph (11)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SYSTEMS” and inserting “WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS”;

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(iii) in clause (i)(II)—

(I) by striking “investment” and inserting “development”; and

(II) by inserting “(including programmatic accessibility and physical accessibility)” after “program accessibility”;

(iv) in clause (ii), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(v) in clause (v), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “the State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003),” after “including”;

(ii) by inserting “, noneducational agencies serving out-of-school youth,” after “Agriculture”; and

(iii) by striking “such agencies and programs” and inserting “such Federal, State, and local agencies and programs”; and

(iv) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “, including pre-employment transition services,” before “under this title”;

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting “, which may be provided using alternative means for meeting participation (such as video conferences and conference calls),” after “consultation and technical assistance”; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking “completion” and inserting “implementation”;

(E) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (H), respectively;

(F) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) COORDINATION WITH EMPLOYERS.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State unit will work with employers to identify competitive integrated employment opportunities and career exploration opportunities, in order to facilitate the provision of—

“(i) vocational rehabilitation services; and

“(ii) transition services for youth with disabilities and students with disabilities, such as pre-employment transition services.”;

(G) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph—

(i) by inserting “chapter 1 of” after “part C of”; and

(ii) by inserting “, as appropriate” before the period;

(H) by inserting after subparagraph (F), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph, the following:

“(G) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT REGARDING INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit has entered into a formal cooperative agreement with the State agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and the State agency with primary responsibility for providing services and sup-

ports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals with developmental disabilities, with respect to the delivery of vocational rehabilitation services, including extended services, for individuals with the most significant disabilities who have been determined to be eligible for home and community-based services under a Medicaid waiver, Medicaid State plan amendment, or other authority related to a State Medicaid program.”;

(I) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated by subparagraph (E) of this paragraph—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) by inserting “on or” before “near”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) strategies for the provision of transition planning, by personnel of the designated State unit, the State educational agency, and the recipient of funds under part C, that will facilitate the development and approval of the individualized plans for employment under section 102; and”;

(J) by adding at the end the following:

“(I) COORDINATION WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit, and the lead agency and implementing entity (if any) designated by the Governor of the State under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003), have developed working relationships and will enter into agreements for the coordination of their activities, including the referral of individuals with disabilities to programs and activities described in that section.

“(J) COORDINATION WITH TICKET TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM.—The State plan shall include an assurance that the designated State unit will coordinate activities with any other State agency that is functioning as an employment network under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-19).

“(K) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The State plan shall describe how the designated State agency or agencies (if more than 1 agency is designated under paragraph (2)(A)) will collaborate with the State agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the State agency responsible for providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities, and the State agency responsible for providing mental health services, to develop opportunities for community-based employment in integrated settings, to the greatest extent practicable.”;

(8) in paragraph (14)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking “ANNUAL” and inserting “SEMIANNUAL”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “an annual” and inserting “a semiannual”;

(ii) by striking “has achieved an employment outcome” and inserting “is employed”;

(iii) by striking “achievement of the outcome” and all that follows through “representative)” and inserting “beginning of such employment, and annually thereafter”;

(iv) by striking “to competitive” and all that follows and inserting the following: “to competitive integrated employment or training for competitive integrated employment.”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (C), by striking “the individuals described” and all that follows and inserting “individuals described in subparagraph (A) in attaining competitive integrated employment; and”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) an assurance that the State will report the information generated under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), for each of the individuals, to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for each fiscal year, not later than 60 days after the end of the fiscal year.”;

(9) in paragraph (15)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in subclause (III)—

(aa) by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(bb) by adding “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) youth with disabilities, and students with disabilities, including their need for pre-employment transition services or other transition services.”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) include an assessment of the needs of individuals with disabilities for transition services and pre-employment transition services, and the extent to which such services provided under this Act are coordinated with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) in order to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(II) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the number of individuals who are eligible for services under this title, but are not receiving such services due to an order of selection; and”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (iii) through (v) as clauses (iv) through (vi), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) the methods to be used to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities, including the coordination of services designed to facilitate the transition of such students from the receipt of educational services in school to postsecondary life (including the receipt of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, postsecondary education, employment, and pre-employment transition services).”; and

(iii) in clause (vi), as redesignated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(10) in paragraph (20), in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(i), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(11) in paragraph (22), by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(12) by adding at the end the following:

“(25) **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The State plan shall provide an assurance that, with respect to students with disabilities, the State—

“(A) has developed and will implement—

“(i) strategies to address the needs identified in the assessments described in paragraph (15); and

“(ii) strategies to achieve the goals and priorities identified by the State, in accordance with paragraph (15), to improve and expand vocational rehabilitation services for students with disabilities on a statewide basis; and

“(B) has developed and will implement strategies to provide pre-employment transition services.”.

“(26) **JOB GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.**—The State plan shall provide an assurance describing how the State will utilize initiatives involving in-demand industry sectors or occupations under sections 106(c) and 108 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to increase competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.”.

(b) **APPROVAL.**—Section 101(b) (29 U.S.C. 721(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **SUBMISSION; APPROVAL; MODIFICATION.**—The State plan for vocational rehabilitation services shall be subject to—

“(1) subsection (c) of section 102 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in a case in which that plan is a portion of the unified State plan described in that section 102; and

“(2) subsection (b), and paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c), of section 103 of such Act in a case in which that State plan for vocational rehabilitation services is a portion of the combined State plan described in that section 103.”.

(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Section 101 (29 U.S.C. 721) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this part shall be construed to reduce the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) of a local educational agency or any other agency to provide or pay for any transition services that are also considered special education or related services and that are necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities within the State involved.”.

SEC. 413. ELIGIBILITY AND INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT.

(a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 102(a) (29 U.S.C. 722(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “is an” and inserting “has undergone an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs and as a result has been determined to be an”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or regain employment.” and inserting “advance in, or regain employment that is consistent with the individual’s strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of an assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs under this Act, an individual shall be presumed to have a goal of an employment outcome.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “DEMONSTRATION” and inserting “APPLICANTS”; and

(ii) by striking “, unless” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the subparagraph header, by striking “METHODS” and inserting “RESPONSIBILITIES”; and

(ii) in the first sentence—

(I) by striking “In making the demonstration required under subparagraph (A),” and inserting “Prior to determining under this subsection that an applicant described in subparagraph (A) is unable to benefit due to the severity of the individual’s disability or that the individual is ineligible for vocational rehabilitation services.”; and

(II) by striking “, except under” and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking “individual or to determine” and all that follows and inserting “individual. In providing the trial experiences, the designated State unit shall pro-

vide the individual with the opportunity to try different employment experiences, including supported employment, and the opportunity to become employed in competitive integrated employment.”;

(3) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “outcome from” and all that follows and inserting “outcome due to the severity of the individual’s disability (as of the date of the determination).”; and

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “If an individual” and inserting “If, after the designated State unit carries out the activities described in paragraph (2)(B), a review of existing data, and, to the extent necessary, the assessment activities described in section 7(2)(A)(ii), an individual”; and

(ii) by striking “title is determined” and all that follows through “not to be” and inserting “title is determined not to be”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as subparagraphs (B) through (E), respectively;

(C) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the following:

“(A) the ineligibility determination shall be an individualized one, based on the available data, and shall not be based on assumptions about broad categories of disabilities.”; and

(D) in clause (i) of subparagraph (C), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by inserting after “determination” the following: “, including the clear and convincing evidence that forms the basis for the determination of ineligibility”.

(b) **DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND RELATED INFORMATION.**—Section 102(b) (29 U.S.C. 722(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking “, to the extent determined to be appropriate by the eligible individual,”; and

(B) by inserting “or, as appropriate, a disability advocacy organization” after “counselor”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE.**—For an individual entitled to benefits under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) on the basis of a disability or blindness, the designated State unit shall provide to the individual general information on additional supports and assistance for individuals with disabilities desiring to enter the workforce, including assistance with benefits planning.”;

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) amended, as necessary, to include the postemployment services and service providers that are necessary for the individual to maintain or regain employment, consistent with the individual’s strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) **TIMEFRAME FOR COMPLETING THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT.**—The individualized plan for employment shall be developed as soon as possible, but not later than a deadline of 90 days after the date of the determination of eligibility described in paragraph (1), unless the designated State unit and the eligible individual agree to an extension of that

deadline to a specific date by which the individualized plan for employment shall be completed.”; and

(5) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “choice of the” and all that follows and inserting “choice of the eligible individual, consistent with the general goal of competitive integrated employment (except that in the case of an eligible individual who is a student, the description may be a description of the student’s projected postschool employment outcome);”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III); and

(ii) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) needed to achieve the employment outcome, including, as appropriate—

“(aa) the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services (including referrals described in section 103(a)(3) to the device reutilization programs and demonstrations described in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 4(e)(2) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3003(e)(2)) through agreements developed under section 101(a)(11)(I); and

“(bb) personal assistance services (including training in the management of such services);

“(II) in the case of a plan for an eligible individual that is a student, the specific transition services and supports needed to achieve the student’s employment outcome or projected post-school employment outcome; and”;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) for an individual who also is receiving assistance from an employment network under the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program established under section 1148 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–19), a description of how responsibility for service delivery will be divided between the employment network and the designated State unit.”.

(c) **PROCEDURES.**—Section 102(c) (29 U.S.C. 722(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: “The procedures shall allow an applicant or an eligible individual the opportunity to request mediation, an impartial due process hearing, or both procedures.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (iii), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) any applicable State limit on the time by which a request for mediation under paragraph (4) or a hearing under paragraph (5) shall be made, and any required procedure by which the request shall be made.”; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) **OFFICER.**—A due process hearing described in paragraph (2) shall be conducted by an impartial hearing officer who, on reviewing the evidence presented, shall issue a written decision based on the provisions of the approved State plan, requirements specified in this Act (including regulations implementing this Act), and State regulations and policies that are consistent with the Federal requirements specified in this title. The officer shall provide the written decision to the applicant or eligible individual, or, as appropriate, the applicant’s representative or individual’s representative, and to the designated State unit. The impartial hearing officer shall have the authority to render a deci-

sion and require actions regarding the applicant’s or eligible individual’s vocational rehabilitation services under this title.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “in laws” and inserting “about Federal laws”.

SEC. 414. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

Section 103 (29 U.S.C. 723) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (13), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”;

(B) by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following:

“(15) transition services for students with disabilities, that facilitate the transition from school to postsecondary life, such as achievement of an employment outcome in competitive integrated employment, or pre-employment transition services;”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (17) and (18) as paragraphs (19) and (20), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (16) the following:

“(17) customized employment;

“(18) encouraging qualified individuals who are eligible to receive services under this title to pursue advanced training in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, medicine, law, or business;”.

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “(A)”; and

(II) by striking the second sentence and inserting “Such programs shall be used to provide services described in this section that promote integration into the community and that prepare individuals with disabilities for competitive integrated employment, including supported employment and customized employment.”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) Technical assistance to businesses that are seeking to employ individuals with disabilities.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) Consultation and technical assistance services to assist State educational agencies and local educational agencies in planning for the transition of students with disabilities from school to postsecondary life, including employment.

“(7) Transition services to youth with disabilities and students with disabilities, for which a vocational rehabilitation counselor works in concert with educational agencies, providers of job training programs, providers of services under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), entities designated by the State to provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, centers for independent living (as defined in section 702), housing and transportation authorities, workforce development systems, and businesses and employers.

“(8) The establishment, development, or improvement of assistive technology demonstration, loan, reutilization, or financing programs in coordination with activities authorized under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) to promote access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and employers.

“(9) Support (including, as appropriate, tuition) for advanced training in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, medicine, law, or business, provided after an individual eligible to receive services under this title, demonstrates—

“(A) such eligibility;

“(B) previous completion of a bachelor’s degree program at an institution of higher education or scheduled completion of such degree program prior to matriculating in the program for which the individual proposes to use the support; and

“(C) acceptance by a program at an institution of higher education in the United States that confers a master’s degree in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (including computer science) field, a juris doctor degree, a master of business administration degree, or a doctor of medicine degree,

except that the limitations of subsection (a)(5) that apply to training services shall apply to support described in this paragraph, and nothing in this paragraph shall prevent any designated State unit from providing similar support to individuals with disabilities within the State who are eligible to receive support under this title and who are not served under this paragraph.”.

SEC. 415. STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

Section 105 (29 U.S.C. 725) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking clause (ix) and inserting the following:

“(ix) in a State in which one or more projects are funded under section 121, at least one representative of the directors of the projects located in such State;”;

(B) in clause (xi), by striking “State workforce investment board” and inserting “State workforce development board”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “State workforce investment board” and inserting “State workforce development board”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “Service Act” and all that follows and inserting “Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–3(a)) and the State workforce development board, and with the activities of entities carrying out programs under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.)”.

SEC. 416. EVALUATION STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.

Section 106 (29 U.S.C. 726) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) **STANDARDS AND INDICATORS.**—The evaluation standards and performance indicators for the vocational rehabilitation program carried out under this title shall be subject to the performance accountability provisions described in section 116(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS.**—A State may establish and provide information on additional performance accountability indicators, which shall be identified in the State plan submitted under section 101.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), by striking “review the program” and all that follows through “request the State” and inserting “on a biannual basis, review the program improvement efforts of the State and, if the State has not improved its performance to acceptable levels, as determined by the Commissioner, direct the State”.

SEC. 417. MONITORING AND REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 107 (29 U.S.C. 727) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(E), by inserting before the period the following: “, including personnel of a client assistance program under section 112, and past or current recipients of vocational rehabilitation services”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) the eligibility process, including the process related to the determination of ineligibility under section 102(a)(5);

“(B) the provision of services, including supported employment services and pre-employment transition services, and, if applicable, the order of selection;”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) data reported under section 101(a)(10)(C)(i); and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) provide technical assistance to programs under this title to—

“(A) promote high-quality employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities;

“(B) integrate veterans who are individuals with disabilities into their communities and to support the veterans to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment;

“(C) develop, improve, and disseminate information on procedures, practices, and strategies, including for the preparation of personnel, to better enable individuals with intellectual disabilities and other individuals with disabilities to participate in postsecondary educational experiences and to obtain and retain competitive integrated employment; and

“(D) apply evidence-based findings to facilitate systemic improvements in the transition of youth with disabilities to postsecondary life.”;

(b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 108(a) (29 U.S.C. 728(a)) is amended by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”.

SEC. 418. TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS.

Section 109 (29 U.S.C. 728a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 109. TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR EMPLOYERS.

“A State may expend payments received under section 111 to educate and provide services to employers who have hired or are interested in hiring individuals with disabilities under programs carried out under this title, including—

“(1) providing training and technical assistance to employers regarding the employment of individuals with disabilities, including disability awareness, and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and other employment-related laws;

“(2) working with employers to—

“(A) provide opportunities for work-based learning experiences (including internships, short-term employment, apprenticeships, and fellowships), and opportunities for pre-employment transition services;

“(B) recruit qualified applicants who are individuals with disabilities;

“(C) train employees who are individuals with disabilities; and

“(D) promote awareness of disability-related obstacles to continued employment;

“(3) providing consultation, technical assistance, and support to employers on workplace accommodations, assistive technology, and facilities and workplace access through collaboration with community partners and employers, across States and nationally, to enable the employers to recruit, job match, hire, and retain qualified individuals with disabilities who are recipients of vocational rehabilitation services under this title, or who are applicants for such services; and

“(4) assisting employers with utilizing available financial support for hiring or accommodating individuals with disabilities.”.

SEC. 419. STATE ALLOTMENTS.

Section 110 (29 U.S.C. 730) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Subject to the provisions of subsection (c)” and inserting “Subject to the provisions of subsections (c) and (d),”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1987” and inserting “2015”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Secretary” and all that follows through “(B)” and inserting “Secretary,”; and

(ii) by striking “2000 through 2003” and inserting “2015 through 2020”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) From any State allotment under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the State shall reserve not less than 15 percent of the allotted funds for the provision of pre-employment transition services.

“(2) Such reserved funds shall not be used to pay for the administrative costs of providing pre-employment transition services.”.

SEC. 420. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

Section 111(a)(2)(B) (29 U.S.C. 731(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking “For fiscal year 1994 and each fiscal year thereafter, the” and inserting “The”;

(2) by striking “this title for the previous” and inserting “this title for any previous”; and

(3) by striking “year preceding the previous” and inserting “year preceding that previous”.

SEC. 421. CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 112 (29 U.S.C. 732) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting “including under sections 113 and 511,” after “all available benefits under this Act,”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “not later than October 1, 1984,”;

(3) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “The Secretary shall allot” and inserting “After reserving funds under subparagraphs (E) and (F), the Secretary shall allot the remainder of”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(E)(i) The Secretary shall reserve funds appropriated under subsection (h) to make a grant to the protection and advocacy system serving the American Indian Consortium to provide services in accordance with this section. The amount of such a grant shall be the same amount as is provided to a territory under this subsection.

“(ii) In this subparagraph:

“(1) The term ‘American Indian Consortium’ has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002).

“(2) The term ‘protection and advocacy system’ means a protection and advocacy system established under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.).

“(F) For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under subsection (h) equals or exceeds \$14,000,000, the Secretary may reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2.2 percent of such amount to provide a grant for training and technical assistance for the programs established under this section. Such training and technical assistance shall be coordinated with activities provided under section 509(c)(1)(A).”; and

(4) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this section—

“(1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

“(2) \$12,927,000 for fiscal year 2016;

“(3) \$13,195,000 for fiscal year 2017;

“(4) \$13,488,000 for fiscal year 2018;

“(5) \$13,805,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

“(6) \$14,098,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 422. PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES.

Part B of title I (29 U.S.C. 730 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 113. PROVISION OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—From the funds reserved under section 110(d), and any funds made available from State, local, or private funding sources, each State shall ensure that the designated State unit, in collaboration with the local educational agencies involved, shall provide, or arrange for the provision of, pre-employment transition services for all students with disabilities in need of such services who are eligible or potentially eligible for services under this title.

“(b) **REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.**—Funds available under subsection (a) shall be used to make available to students with disabilities described in subsection (a)—

“(1) job exploration counseling;

“(2) work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, or experience outside the traditional school setting (including internships), that is provided in an integrated environment to the maximum extent possible;

“(3) counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education;

“(4) workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living; and

“(5) instruction in self-advocacy, which may include peer mentoring.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—Funds available under subsection (a) and remaining after the provision of the required activities described in subsection (b) may be used to improve the transition of students with disabilities described in subsection (a) from school to postsecondary education or an employment outcome by—

“(1) implementing effective strategies to increase the likelihood of independent living and inclusion in communities and competitive integrated workplaces;

“(2) developing and improving strategies for individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals with significant disabilities to live independently, participate in postsecondary education experiences, and obtain and retain competitive integrated employment;

“(3) providing instruction to vocational rehabilitation counselors, school transition personnel, and other persons supporting students with disabilities;

“(4) disseminating information about innovative, effective, and efficient approaches to achieve the goals of this section;

“(5) coordinating activities with transition services provided by local educational agencies under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

“(6) applying evidence-based findings to improve policy, procedure, practice, and the preparation of personnel, in order to better achieve the goals of this section;

“(7) developing model transition demonstration projects;

“(8) establishing or supporting multistate or regional partnerships involving States, local educational agencies, designated State units, developmental disability agencies, private businesses, or other participants to achieve the goals of this section; and

“(9) disseminating information and strategies to improve the transition to postsecondary activities of individuals who are members of traditionally unserved populations.

“(d) **PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION COORDINATION.**—Each local office of a designated State unit shall carry out responsibilities consisting of—

“(1) attending individualized education program meetings for students with disabilities, when invited;

“(2) working with the local workforce development boards, one-stop centers, and employers to develop work opportunities for students with disabilities, including internships, summer employment and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year, and apprenticeships;

“(3) work with schools, including those carrying out activities under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)), to coordinate and ensure the provision of pre-employment transition services under this section; and

“(4) when invited, attend person-centered planning meetings for individuals receiving services under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

“(e) **NATIONAL PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall support designated State agencies providing services under this section, highlight best State practices, and consult with other Federal agencies to advance the goals of this section.

“(f) **SUPPORT.**—In carrying out this section, States shall address the transition needs of all students with disabilities, including such students with physical, sensory, intellectual, and mental health disabilities.”

SEC. 423. AMERICAN INDIAN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.

Section 121 (29 U.S.C. 741) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by inserting before the period the following: “(referred to in this section as ‘eligible individuals’), consistent with such eligible individuals’ strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice, so that such individuals may prepare for, and engage in, high-quality employment that will increase opportunities for economic self-sufficiency”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) contains assurances that—

“(i) all decisions affecting eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services, the nature and scope of available vocational rehabilitation services and the provision of such services will, consistent with this title, be made by a representative of the tribal vocational rehabilitation program funded through the grant; and

“(ii) such decisions will not be delegated to another agency or individual.”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c)(1) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Commissioner shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide training and technical assistance to governing bodies described in subsection (a) for such fiscal year.

“(2) From the funds reserved under paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall make grants to, or enter into contracts or other cooperative agreements with, entities that have experience in the operation of vocational rehabilitation services programs under this section to provide such training and technical assistance with respect to

developing, conducting, administering, and evaluating such programs.

“(3) The Commissioner shall conduct a survey of the governing bodies regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“(4) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, such an entity shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, and containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information as the Commissioner may require. The Commissioner shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the operation of vocational rehabilitation services programs under this section.”

SEC. 424. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES CLIENT INFORMATION.

Section 131(a)(2) (29 U.S.C. 751(a)(2)) is amended by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

Subtitle C—Research and Training

SEC. 431. PURPOSE.

Section 200 (29 U.S.C. 760) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “technical assistance,” after “training,”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “technical assistance,” after “training,”;

(3) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “and use” after “transfer”; and

(B) by inserting “, in a timely and efficient manner,” after “disabilities”; and

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “distribution” and inserting “dissemination”;

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by inserting “, including individuals with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities,” after “disabilities”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(6) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(7) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) identify strategies for effective coordination of services to job seekers with disabilities available through programs of one-stop partners, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act;”;

(8) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) identify effective strategies for supporting the employment of individuals with disabilities in competitive integrated employment.”.

SEC. 432. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 201 (29 U.S.C. 761) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$103,970,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$112,001,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$114,325,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$116,860,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$119,608,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$122,143,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 433. NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.

Section 202 (29 U.S.C. 762) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “, INDEPENDENT LIVING,” after “DISABILITY”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Department of Education” and all

that follows through “which” and inserting “Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (referred to in this title as the ‘Institute’), which”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “and training; and” and inserting “, training, and technical assistance;”; and

(II) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(III) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) outreach and information that clarifies research implications for policy and practice; and”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “directly” and all that follows through the period and inserting “directly responsible to the Administrator for the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services.”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) private organizations engaged in research relating to—

“(i) independent living;

“(ii) rehabilitation; or

“(iii) providing rehabilitation or independent living services;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “in rehabilitation” and inserting “on disability, independent living, and rehabilitation”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “independent living,”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (D) and inserting the following:

“(A) public and private entities, including—

“(i) elementary schools and secondary schools (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)); and

“(ii) institutions of higher education;

“(B) rehabilitation practitioners;

“(C) employers and organizations representing employers with respect to employment-based educational materials or research;

“(D) individuals with disabilities (especially such individuals who are members of minority groups or of populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under this Act);

“(E) the individuals’ representatives for the individuals described in subparagraph (D); and

“(F) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;”;

(D) in paragraph (6)—

(i) by striking “advances in rehabilitation” and inserting “advances in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation”; and

(ii) by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “employment, independent living,”;

(E) by striking paragraph (7);

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively;

(G) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “health, income,” and inserting “health and wellness, income, education,”; and

(ii) by striking “and evaluation of vocational and other” and inserting “and evaluation of independent living, vocational, and”; and

(H) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by subparagraph (F), by striking “with vocational rehabilitation services for the purpose of identifying effective rehabilitation programs and policies that promote the independence of individuals with disabilities and achievement of long-

term vocational goals” and inserting “with independent living and vocational rehabilitation services for the purpose of identifying effective independent living and rehabilitation programs and policies that promote the independence of individuals with disabilities and achievement of long-term independent living and employment goals”; and

(I) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by subparagraph (F), by striking “and telecommuting; and” and inserting “, supported employment (including customized employment), and telecommuting; and”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Director shall be an individual with substantial knowledge of and experience in independent living, rehabilitation, and research administration.”;

(5) in subsection (f)(1), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The scientific peer review shall be conducted by individuals who are not Department of Health and Human Services employees. The Secretary shall consider for peer review individuals who are scientists or other experts in disability, independent living, and rehabilitation, including individuals with disabilities and the individuals’ representatives, and who have sufficient expertise to review the projects.”;

(6) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) by striking “priorities for rehabilitation research,” and inserting “priorities for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research,”; and

(ii) by inserting “dissemination,” after “training,”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “especially in the area of employment” and inserting “especially in the areas of employment and independent living”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “developed by the Director” and inserting “coordinated with the strategic plan required under section 203(c)”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “Rehabilitation” and inserting “Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”;

(IV) in clause (iv), by striking “researchers in the rehabilitation field” and inserting “researchers in the independent living and rehabilitation fields”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) be developed by the Director.”;

(v) in subparagraph (F), as redesignated by clause (iii), by inserting “and information that clarifies implications of the results for practice,” after “covered activities,”; and

(vi) in subparagraph (G), as redesignated by clause (iii), by inserting “and information that clarifies implications of the results for practice” after “covered activities”;

(7) in subsection (j), by striking paragraph (3); and

(8) by striking subsection (k) and inserting the following:

“(k) The Director shall make grants to institutions of higher education for the training of independent living and rehabilitation researchers, including individuals with disabilities and traditionally underserved populations of individuals with disabilities, as described in section 21, with particular attention to research areas that—

“(1) support the implementation and objectives of this Act; and

“(2) improve the effectiveness of services authorized under this Act.

“(l)(1) Not later than December 31 of each year, the Director shall prepare, and submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report on the activities funded under this title.

“(2) The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a compilation and summary of the information provided by recipients of funding for such activities under this title;

“(B) a summary describing the funding received under this title and the progress of the recipients of the funding in achieving the measurable goals described in section 204(d)(2); and

“(C) a summary of implications of research outcomes on practice.

“(m)(1) If the Director determines that an entity that receives funding under this title fails to comply with the applicable requirements of this Act, or to make progress toward achieving the measurable goals described in section 204(d)(2), with respect to the covered activities involved, the Director shall utilize available monitoring and enforcement measures.

“(2) As part of the annual report required under subsection (l), the Secretary shall describe each action taken by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and the outcomes of such action.”.

SEC. 434. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.

Section 203 (29 U.S.C. 763) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “conducting rehabilitation research” and inserting “conducting disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research”;

(ii) by striking “chaired by the Director” and inserting “chaired by the Secretary, or the Secretary’s designee,”;

(iii) by inserting “the Assistant Secretary for Labor for Disability Employment Policy, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living,” after “Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,”; and

(iv) by striking “and the Director of the National Science Foundation.” and inserting “the Director of the National Science Foundation and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, and for not less than 1 of such meetings at least every 2 years, the Committee shall invite policy-makers, representatives from other Federal agencies conducting relevant research, individuals with disabilities, organizations representing individuals with disabilities, researchers, and providers, to offer input on the Committee’s work, including the development and implementation of the strategic plan required under subsection (c)” after “each year”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “from targeted individuals” and inserting “individuals with disabilities”;

(ii) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “independent living research,” after “assistive technology research,”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, independent living research,” after “technology research”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and research that incorporates the principles of universal design” and inserting “, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design”;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and research that incorporates the principles of uni-

versal design.” and inserting “, independent living research, and research that incorporates the principles of universal design.”;

(3) by striking subsection (d);

(4) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(5) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c)(1) The Committee shall develop a comprehensive government wide strategic plan for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

“(2) The strategic plan shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) a description of the—

“(i) measurable goals and objectives;

“(ii) existing resources each agency will devote to carrying out the plan;

“(iii) timetables for completing the projects outlined in the plan; and

“(iv) assignment of responsible individuals and agencies for carrying out the research activities;

“(B) research priorities and recommendations;

“(C) a description of how funds from each agency will be combined, as appropriate, for projects administered among Federal agencies, and how such funds will be administered;

“(D) the development and ongoing maintenance of a searchable government wide inventory of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research for trend and data analysis across Federal agencies;

“(E) guiding principles, policies, and procedures, consistent with the best research practices available, for conducting and administering disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research across Federal agencies; and

“(F) a summary of underemphasized and duplicate areas of research.

“(3) The strategic plan described in this subsection shall be submitted to the President and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.”;

(6) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate” and inserting “Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) describes the progress of the Committee in fulfilling the duties described in subsections (b) and (c), and including specifically for subsection (c)—

“(A) a report of the progress made in implementing the strategic plan, including progress toward implementing the elements described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

“(B) detailed budget information.”; and

(7) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) the term ‘independent living’, used in connection with research, means research on issues and topics related to attaining maximum self-sufficiency and function by individuals with disabilities, including research on assistive technology and universal design, employment, education, health and wellness, and community integration and participation.”.

SEC. 435. RESEARCH AND OTHER COVERED ACTIVITIES.

Section 204 (29 U.S.C. 764) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “pay” and inserting “fund”;

(ii) by inserting “have practical applications and” before “maximize”;

(iii) by striking “employment, independent living,” and inserting “employment, education, independent living, health and wellness,”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and from which the research findings, conclusions, or recommendations can be transferred to practice” after “State agencies”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) studies and analyses of factors related to industrial, vocational, educational, employment, social, recreational, psychiatric, psychological, economic, and health and wellness variables affecting individuals with disabilities, including traditionally underserved populations as described in section 21, and how those variables affect such individuals’ ability to live independently and their participation in the work force.”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “are home-bound” and all that follows and inserting “have significant challenges engaging in community life outside their homes and individuals who are in institutional settings.”;

(III) in clause (iv), by inserting “, including the principles of universal design and the interoperability of products and services” after “disabilities”;

(IV) in clause (v), by inserting “, and to promoting employment opportunities in competitive integrated employment” after “employment”;

(V) in clause (vi), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(VI) in clause (vii), by striking “and assistive technology.” and inserting “, assistive technology, and communications technology; and”;

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) studies, analyses, and other activities affecting employment outcomes as defined in section 7(11), including self-employment and telecommuting, of individuals with disabilities.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In carrying out this section, the Director shall emphasize covered activities that include plans for—

“(A) dissemination of high-quality materials, of scientifically valid research results, or of findings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting from covered activities, including through electronic means (such as the website of the Department of Health and Human Services), so that such information is available in a timely manner to the general public; or

“(B) the commercialization of marketable products, research results, or findings, resulting from the covered activities.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(18)” both places the term appears and inserting “(17)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

“(i) be operated in collaboration with institutions of higher education, providers of rehabilitation services, developers or providers of assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, or information technology devices or services, as appropriate, or providers of other appropriate services; and

“(ii) serve as centers of national excellence and national or regional resources for individuals with disabilities, as well as providers, educators, and researchers.”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by adding “independent living and” after “research in”;

(bb) by adding “independent living and” after “will improve”;

(cc) by striking “alleviate or stabilize” and all that follows and inserting “maximize health and function (including alleviating or stabilizing conditions, or preventing secondary con-

ditions), and promote maximum social and economic independence of individuals with disabilities, including promoting the ability of the individuals to prepare for, secure, retain, regain, or advance in employment”;

(II) by redesignating clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), as clauses (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively;

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) conducting research in, and dissemination of, employer-based practices to facilitate the identification, recruitment, accommodation, advancement, and retention of qualified individuals with disabilities.”;

(IV) in clause (iii), as redesignated by subclause (II), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation services”;

(V) in clause (iv), as redesignated by subclause (II)—

(aa) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation” each place the term appears; and

(bb) by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(VI) by striking clause (v), as redesignated by subclause (II), and inserting the following:

“(v) serving as an informational and technical assistance resource to individuals with disabilities, as well as to providers, educators, and researchers, by providing outreach and information that clarifies research implications for practice and identifies potential new areas of research; and

“(vi) developing practical applications for the research findings of the Centers.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in clause (i), by inserting “, including research on assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices” after “research”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “and social” and inserting “, social, and economic”;

(bb) by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation”;

(III) by striking clauses (iii) and (iv);

(IV) by redesignating clauses (v) and (vi) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(V) in clause (iii), as redesignated by subclause (IV), by striking “to develop” and all that follows and inserting “that promotes the emotional, social, educational, and functional growth of children who are individuals with disabilities, as well as their integration in school, employment, and community activities.”;

(VI) in clause (iv), as redesignated by subclause (IV), by striking “that will improve” and all that follows and inserting “to develop and evaluate interventions, policies, and services that support families of those children and adults who are individuals with disabilities”;

and

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) continuation of research that will improve services and policies that foster the independence and social integration of individuals with disabilities, and enable individuals with disabilities, including individuals with intellectual disabilities and other developmental disabilities, to live in their communities; and

“(vi) research, dissemination, and technical assistance, on best practices in vocational rehabilitation, including supported employment and other strategies to promote competitive integrated employment for persons with the most significant disabilities.”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) Training of students preparing to be independent living or rehabilitation personnel or to provide independent living, rehabilitative, assistive, or supportive services (such as rehabilitation counseling, personal care services, direct care, job coaching, aides in school based

settings, or advice or assistance in utilizing assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and accessible electronic and information technology devices and services) shall be an important priority for each such Center.”;

(v) in subparagraph (E), by striking “comprehensive”;

(vi) in subparagraph (G)(i), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation-related”;

(vii) by striking subparagraph (I); and

(viii) by redesignating subparagraphs (J) through (O) as subparagraphs (I) through (N), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “independent living strategies and” before “rehabilitation technology”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)(I), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation problems”;

(II) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “employment” and inserting “educational, employment,”;

(III) in clause (iii)(II), by striking “employment” and inserting “educational, employment,”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)(i)(II), by striking “postschool” and inserting “postsecondary education, competitive integrated employment, and other age-appropriate”;

(iv) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by inserting “the impact of any commercialized product researched or developed through the Center,” after “individuals with disabilities,”;

(D) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(i) in clause (i)—

(I) by striking “vocational” and inserting “independent living, employment,”;

(II) by striking “special” and inserting “unique”;

(III) by inserting “social and functional needs, and” before “acute care”;

(ii) in clause (iv), by inserting “education, health and wellness,” after “employment,”;

(E) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) Grants may be used to conduct a program of joint projects with other administrations and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Labor, other Federal agencies, and private industry in areas of joint interest involving rehabilitation.”;

(F) by striking paragraphs (9) and (11);

(G) by redesignating paragraphs (10), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), and (18), as paragraphs (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), and (16), respectively;

(H) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by subparagraph (G)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “employment needs of individuals with disabilities, including” and inserting “employment needs, opportunities, and outcomes (including those relating to self-employment, supported employment, and telecommuting) of individuals with disabilities, including”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and employment related” after “the employment”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) develop models to facilitate the successful transition of individuals with disabilities from nonintegrated employment and employment that is compensated at a wage less than the Federal minimum wage to competitive integrated employment;

“(H) develop models to maximize opportunities for integrated community living, including employment and independent living, for individuals with disabilities;

“(I) provide training and continuing education for personnel involved with community living for individuals with disabilities;

“(J) develop model procedures for testing and evaluating the community living related needs of individuals with disabilities;

“(K) develop model training programs to teach individuals with disabilities skills which will lead to integrated community living and full participation in the community; and

“(L) develop new approaches for long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities, including supports necessary for competitive integrated employment.”;

(I) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by subparagraph (G)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “an independent living or” after “conduct”;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “independent living or” before “rehabilitation”; and

(iii) in the matter following subparagraph (E), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”;

(J) in paragraph (13), as redesignated by subparagraph (G), by inserting “independent living and” before “rehabilitation needs”; and

(K) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by subparagraph (G), by striking “and access to gainful employment.” and inserting “, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(I) In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under this title, the Director shall award the funding on a competitive basis.

“(2)(A) To be eligible to receive funds under this section for a covered activity, an entity described in subsection (a)(1) shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

“(B) The application shall include information describing—

“(i) measurable goals, as established through section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, and a timeline and specific plan for meeting the goals, that the applicant has established;

“(ii) how the project will address 1 or more of the following: commercialization of a marketable product, technology transfer (if applicable), dissemination of any research results, and other priorities as established by the Director; and

“(iii) how the applicant will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether such goals have been accomplished.

“(3)(A) In the case of an application for funding under this section to carry out a covered activity that results in the development of a marketable product, the application shall also include a commercialization and dissemination plan, as appropriate, containing commercialization and marketing strategies for the product involved, and strategies for disseminating information about the product. The funding received under this section shall not be used to carry out the commercialization and marketing strategies.

“(B) In the case of any other application for funding to carry out a covered activity under this section, the application shall also include a dissemination plan, containing strategies for disseminating educational materials, research results, or findings, conclusions, and recommendations, resulting from the covered activity.”.

SEC. 436. DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Section 205 (29 U.S.C. 765) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “**DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND**” before “**REHABILITATION**”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Department of Education a Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council” and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services a Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council”; and

(B) by inserting “not less than” after “composed of”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Members of the Council shall be generally representative of the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation professionals, the community of disability, independent living, and rehabilitation researchers, the directors of independent living centers and community rehabilitation programs, the business community (including a representative of the small business community) that has experience with the system of vocational rehabilitation services and independent living services carried out under this Act and with hiring individuals with disabilities, the community of stakeholders involved in assistive technology, the community of covered school professionals, and the community of individuals with disabilities, and the individuals’ representatives. At least one-half of the members shall be individuals with disabilities or the individuals’ representatives.”; and

(4) in subsection (g), by striking “Department of Education” and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services”.

SEC. 437. DEFINITION OF COVERED SCHOOL.

Title II (29 U.S.C. 760 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 206. DEFINITION OF COVERED SCHOOL.

“In this title, the term ‘covered school’ means an elementary school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) or an institution of higher education.”.

Subtitle D—Professional Development and Special Projects and Demonstration

SEC. 441. PURPOSE; TRAINING.

(a) **PURPOSE.**—Section 301(a) (29 U.S.C. 771(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (3); and

(4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking “workforce investment systems” and inserting “workforce development systems”.

(b) **TRAINING.**—Section 302 (29 U.S.C. 772) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking all after “deliver” and inserting “supported employment services and customized employment services to individuals with the most significant disabilities”;;

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) personnel trained in providing assistive technology services.”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “workforce investment system” and inserting “workforce development system”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.” and inserting “section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(i), by striking “or prosthetics and orthotics” and inserting “prosthetics and orthotics, vision rehabilitation therapy, orientation and mobility instruction, or low vision therapy”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by adding after the period the following: “Any technical assistance provided to community rehabilitation programs shall be focused on the employment outcome of competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (h), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”; and

(5) in subsection (i), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$33,657,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$36,257,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$37,009,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$37,830,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$38,719,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$39,540,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

SEC. 442. DEMONSTRATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

Section 303 (29 U.S.C. 773) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 306” and inserting “section 304”;

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research” and inserting “National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research”;

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) initiatives focused on improving transition from education, including postsecondary education, to employment, particularly in competitive integrated employment, for youth who are individuals with significant disabilities.”; and

(II) by striking clause (iii) and inserting the following:

“(iii) increasing competitive integrated employment for individuals with significant disabilities.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(viii), by striking “under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(D) by striking paragraph (6);

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) to provide support and guidance in helping individuals with significant disabilities, including students with disabilities, transition to competitive integrated employment; and”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(I) by inserting “the” after “closely with”; and

(II) by inserting “, the community parent resource centers established pursuant to section 672 of such Act, and the eligible entities receiving awards under section 673 of such Act” after

"Individuals with Disabilities Education Act"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ", and demonstrate the capacity for serving," after "shall serve"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) RESERVATION.—From the amount appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 20 percent of such amount or \$500,000, whichever is less, may be reserved to carry out paragraph (6)."; and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section there are authorized to be appropriated \$5,796,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$6,244,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$6,373,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$6,515,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$6,668,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$6,809,000 for fiscal year 2020.".

SEC. 443. MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS; RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking sections 304 and 305;

(2) by redesignating section 306 as section 304.

Subtitle E—National Council on Disability

SEC. 451. ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 400 (29 U.S.C. 780) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

"(A) There is established within the Federal Government a National Council on Disability (referred to in this title as the 'National Council'), which, subject to subparagraph (B), shall be composed of 9 members, of which—

"(i) 5 shall be appointed by the President;

"(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

"(iii) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

"(iv) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

"(v) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

"(B) The National Council shall transition from 15 members (as of the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) to 9 members as follows:

"(i) On the first 4 expirations of National Council terms (after that date), replacement members shall be appointed to the National Council in the following order and manner:

"(I) 1 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

"(II) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

"(III) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"(IV) 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

"(ii) On the next 6 expirations of National Council terms (after the 4 expirations described in clause (i) occur), no replacement members shall be appointed to the National Council.

"(C) For any vacancy on the National Council that occurs after the transition described in subparagraph (B), the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made."; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting "national leaders on disability policy," after "guardians of individuals with disabilities,"; and

(ii) by striking "policy or programs" and inserting "policy or issues that affect individuals with disabilities";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ", except" and all that follows and inserting a period; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "Eight" and inserting "Five".

SEC. 452. REPORT.

Section 401 (29 U.S.C. 781) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), by striking "National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research" and inserting "National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research"; and

(2) by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 453. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 405 (29 U.S.C. 785) is amended by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003." and inserting "\$3,186,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$3,432,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$3,503,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$3,581,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$3,665,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$3,743,000 for fiscal year 2020.".

Subtitle F—Rights and Advocacy

SEC. 456. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE, BOARD, AND COUNCIL.

(a) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—Section 501 (29 U.S.C. 791) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD.—Section 502(j) (29 U.S.C. 792(j)) is amended by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003." and inserting "\$7,448,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$8,023,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$8,190,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$8,371,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$8,568,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$8,750,000 for fiscal year 2020.".

(c) PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY.—Section 504(b)(2)(B) (29 U.S.C. 794(b)(2)(B)) is amended by striking "vocational education" and inserting "career and technical education".

(d) INTERAGENCY DISABILITY COORDINATING COUNCIL.—Section 507(a) (29 U.S.C. 794(c)(a)) is amended by inserting "the Chairperson of the National Council on Disability," before "and such other".

SEC. 457. PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

Section 509 (29 U.S.C. 794e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by inserting "a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement for" before "training";

(2) in subsection (f)(2)—

(A) by striking "general" and all that follows through "records" and inserting "general authorities, including the authority to access records"; and

(B) by inserting "of title I" after "subtitle C"; and

(3) in subsection (l), by striking "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003." and inserting "\$17,650,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$19,013,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$19,408,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$19,838,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$20,305,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$20,735,000 for fiscal year 2020.".

SEC. 458. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SUBMINIMUM WAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V (29 U.S.C. 791 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 511. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SUBMINIMUM WAGE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No entity, including a contractor or subcontractor of the entity, which holds a special wage certificate as described in section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)) may compensate an individual with a disability who is age 24 or younger at a wage (referred to in this section as a 'subminimum wage') that is less than the Fed-

eral minimum wage unless 1 of the following conditions is met:

"(1) The individual is currently employed, as of the effective date of this section, by an entity that holds a valid certificate pursuant to section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

"(2) The individual, before beginning work that is compensated at a subminimum wage, has completed, and produces documentation indicating completion of, each of the following actions:

"(A) The individual has received pre-employment transition services that are available to the individual under section 113, or transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) such as transition services available to the individual under section 614(d) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)).

"(B) The individual has applied for vocational rehabilitation services under title I, with the result that—

"(i)(I) the individual has been found ineligible for such services pursuant to that title and has documentation consistent with section 102(a)(5)(C) regarding the determination of ineligibility; or

"(II)(aa) the individual has been determined to be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services;

"(bb) the individual has an individualized plan for employment under section 102;

"(cc) the individual has been working toward an employment outcome specified in such individualized plan for employment, with appropriate supports and services, including supported employment services, for a reasonable period of time without success; and

"(dd) the individual's vocational rehabilitation case is closed; and

"(ii)(I) the individual has been provided career counseling, and information and referrals to Federal and State programs and other resources in the individual's geographic area that offer employment-related services and supports designed to enable the individual to explore, discover, experience, and attain competitive integrated employment; and

"(II) such counseling and information and referrals are not for employment compensated at a subminimum wage provided by an entity described in this subsection, and such employment-related services are not compensated at a subminimum wage and do not directly result in employment compensated at a subminimum wage provided by an entity described in this subsection.

"(b) CONSTRUCTION.—

"(1) RULE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

"(A) change the purpose of this Act described in section 2(b)(2), to empower individuals with disabilities to maximize opportunities for competitive integrated employment; or

"(B) preference employment compensated at a subminimum wage as an acceptable vocational rehabilitation strategy or successful employment outcome, as defined in section 7(11).

"(2) CONTRACTS.—A local educational agency (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) or a State educational agency (as defined in such section) may not enter into a contract or other arrangement with an entity described in subsection (a) for the purpose of operating a program for an individual who is age 24 or younger under which work is compensated at a subminimum wage.

"(3) VOIDABILITY.—The provisions in this section shall be construed in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), as amended before or after the effective date of this Act.

"(c) DURING EMPLOYMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The entity described in subsection (a) may not continue to employ an individual, regardless of age, at a subminimum wage

unless, after the individual begins work at that wage, at the intervals described in paragraph (2), the individual (with, in an appropriate case, the individual's parent or guardian)—

“(A) is provided by the designated State unit career counseling, and information and referrals described in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), delivered in a manner that facilitates independent decision-making and informed choice, as the individual makes decisions regarding employment and career advancement; and

“(B) is informed by the employer of self-advocacy, self-determination, and peer mentoring training opportunities available in the individual's geographic area, provided by an entity that does not have any financial interest in the individual's employment outcome, under applicable Federal and State programs or other sources.

“(2) TIMING.—The actions required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be carried out once every 6 months for the first year of the individual's employment at a subminimum wage, and annually thereafter for the duration of such employment.

“(3) SMALL BUSINESS EXCEPTION.—In the event that the entity described in subsection (a) is a business with fewer than 15 employees, such entity can satisfy the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) by referring the individual, at the intervals described in paragraph (2), to the designated State unit for the counseling, information, and referrals described in paragraph (1)(A) and the information described in paragraph (1)(B).

“(d) DOCUMENTATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The designated State unit, in consultation with the State educational agency, shall develop a new process or utilize an existing process, consistent with guidelines developed by the Secretary, to document the completion of the actions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2) by a youth with a disability who is an individual with a disability.

“(2) DOCUMENTATION PROCESS.—Such process shall require that—

“(A) in the case of a student with a disability, for documentation of actions described in subsection (a)(2)(A)—

“(i) if such a student with a disability receives and completes each category of required activities in section 113(b), such completion of services shall be documented by the designated State unit in a manner consistent with this section;

“(ii) if such a student with a disability receives and completes any transition services available for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including those provided under section 614(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII) (20 U.S.C. 1414(d)(1)(A)(i)(VIII)), such completion of services shall be documented by the appropriate school official responsible for the provision of such transition services, in a manner consistent with this section; and

“(iii) the designated State unit shall provide the final documentation, in a form and manner consistent with this section, of the completion of pre-employment transition services as described in clause (i), or transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as described in clause (ii), to the student with a disability within a reasonable period of time following the completion; and

“(B) when an individual has completed the actions described in subsection (a)(2)(B), the designated State unit shall provide the individual a document indicating such completion, in a manner consistent with this section, within a reasonable time period following the completion of the actions described in this subparagraph.

“(e) VERIFICATION.—

“(1) BEFORE EMPLOYMENT.—Before an individual covered by subsection (a)(2) begins work for an entity described in subsection (a) at a subminimum wage, the entity shall review such documentation received by the individual under subsection (d), and provided by the individual to the entity, that indicates that the individual has completed the actions described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2) and the entity shall maintain copies of such documentation.

“(2) DURING EMPLOYMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to continue to employ an individual at a subminimum wage, the entity described in subsection (a) shall verify completion of the requirements of subsection (c), including reviewing any relevant documents provided by the individual, and shall maintain copies of the documentation described in subsection (d).

“(B) REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION.—The entity described in subsection (a) shall be subject to review of individual documentation described in subsection (d) by a representative working directly for the designated State unit or the Department of Labor at such a time and in such a manner as may be necessary to fulfill the intent of this section, consistent with regulations established by the designated State unit or the Secretary of Labor.

“(f) FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE.—In this section, the term ‘Federal minimum wage’ means the rate applicable under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section takes effect 2 years after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Subtitle G—Employment Opportunities for Individuals With Disabilities

SEC. 461. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

Title VI (29 U.S.C. 795 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking part A;

(2) by striking the part heading relating to part B;

(3) by redesignating sections 621 through 628 as sections 602 through 609, respectively;

(4) in section 602, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “part” and inserting “title”; and

(B) by striking “individuals with the most significant disabilities” and all that follows and inserting “individuals with the most significant disabilities, including youth with the most significant disabilities, to enable such individuals to achieve an employment outcome of supported employment in competitive integrated employment.”;

(5) in section 603, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “part” and inserting “title”;;

(II) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “amount” after “whichever”; and

(III) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) by striking “part for the fiscal year” and inserting “title for the fiscal year”;;

(bb) by striking “this part in fiscal year 1992” and inserting “part B of this title (as in effect on September 30, 1992) in fiscal year 1992”; and

(cc) by inserting “amount” after “whichever”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “one-eighth of one percent” and inserting “1/4 of 1 percent”;;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by inserting “under subsection (a)” after “allotment to a State”;;

(ii) by striking “part” each place the term appears and inserting “title”; and

(iii) by striking “one or more” and inserting “1 or more”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATIONS ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State that receives an allotment under this title shall not use more than 2.5 percent of such allotment to pay for administrative costs.

“(d) SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES.—A State that receives an allotment under this title shall reserve and expend half of such allotment for the provision of supported employment services, including extended services, to youth with the most significant disabilities in order to assist those youth in achieving an employment outcome in supported employment.”;

(6) by striking section 604, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 604. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.

“(a) SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—Funds provided under this title may be used to provide supported employment services to individuals who are eligible under this title.

“(b) EXTENDED SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided under this title, or title I, may not be used to provide extended services to individuals under this title or title I.

“(2) EXTENDED SERVICES FOR YOUTH WITH THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES.—Funds allotted under this title, or title I, and used for the provision of services under this title to youth with the most significant disabilities pursuant to section 603(d), may be used to provide extended services to youth with the most significant disabilities. Such extended services shall be available for a period not to exceed 4 years.”;

(7) in section 605, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, including a youth with a disability,” after “An individual”; and

(ii) by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”;;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “under title I” after “rehabilitation services”;;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4);

(E) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) for purposes of activities carried out with funds described in section 603(d), the individual is a youth with a disability, as defined in section (7)(42); and”; and

(F) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by subparagraph (D), by striking “assessment of rehabilitation needs” and inserting “assessment of the rehabilitation needs”;;

(8) in section 606, as redesignated by paragraph (3)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”; and

(ii) by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “individuals”;;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “this part” and inserting “this title”;;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, including youth,” after “rehabilitation needs of individuals”;;

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “provided to individuals”; and

(II) by striking “section 622” and inserting “section 603”;;

(iv) by striking paragraph (7);

(v) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7);

(vi) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) describe the activities to be conducted pursuant to section 603(d) for youth with the most significant disabilities, including—

“(A) the provision of extended services for a period not to exceed 4 years; and

“(B) how the State will use the funds reserved in section 603(d) to leverage other public and private funds to increase resources for extended services and expand supported employment opportunities for youth with the most significant disabilities;”;

(vii) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by clause (v)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “under this part” both places the term appears and inserting “under this title”;

(II) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, including youth with the most significant disabilities,” after “significant disabilities”;

(III) in subparagraph (C)—

(aa) in clause (i), by inserting “, including, as appropriate, for youth with the most significant disabilities, transition services and pre-employment transition services” after “services to be provided”;

(bb) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including the extended services that may be provided to youth with the most significant disabilities under this title, in accordance with an approved individualized plan for employment, for a period not to exceed 4 years” after “services needed”; and

(cc) in clause (iii)—

(AA) by striking “identify the source of extended services,” and inserting “identify, as appropriate, the source of extended services,”;

(BB) by striking “or to the extent” and inserting “or indicate”; and

(CC) by striking “employment is developed” and all that follows and inserting “employment is developed;”

(IV) in subparagraph (D), by striking “under this part” and inserting “under this title”;

(V) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(VI) in subparagraph (G), by striking “for the maximum number of hours possible”; and

(VII) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) the State agencies designated under paragraph (1) will expend not more than 2.5 percent of the allotment of the State under this title for administrative costs of carrying out this title; and

“(I) with respect to supported employment services provided to youth with the most significant disabilities pursuant to section 603(d), the designated State agency will provide, directly or indirectly through public or private entities, non-Federal contributions in an amount that is not less than 10 percent of the costs of carrying out such services; and”;

(9) by striking section 607, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 607. RESTRICTION.

“Each State agency designated under section 606(b)(1) shall collect the information required by section 101(a)(10) separately for—

“(1) eligible individuals receiving supported employment services under this title;

“(2) eligible individuals receiving supported employment services under title I;

“(3) eligible youth receiving supported employment services under this title; and

“(4) eligible youth receiving supported employment services under title I.”;

(10) in section 608(b), as redesignated by paragraph (3), by striking “this part” both places the terms appears and inserting “this title”; and

(11) by striking section 609, as redesignated by paragraph (3), and inserting the following:

“SEC. 609. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INCREASING COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Secretary of Labor shall establish an Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities (referred to in this section as the ‘Committee’).

“(b) APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall appoint the members of the Committee described in subsection (c)(6), in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner, in accordance with the same paragraph of subsection (c), as the original appointment or designation was made.

“(c) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall be composed of—

“(1) the Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy, the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, and the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, of the Department of Labor;

“(2) the Commissioner of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, or the Commissioner’s designee;

“(3) the Director of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Director’s designee;

“(4) the Commissioner of Social Security, or the Commissioner’s designee;

“(5) the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, or the Commissioner’s designee; and

“(6) representatives from constituencies consisting of—

“(A) self-advocates for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(B) providers of employment services, including those that employ individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in competitive integrated employment;

“(C) representatives of national disability advocacy organizations for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(D) experts with a background in academia or research and expertise in employment and wage policy issues for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;

“(E) representatives from the employer community or national employer organizations; and

“(F) other individuals or representatives of organizations with expertise on increasing opportunities for competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.

“(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Committee shall elect a Chairperson of the Committee from among the appointed members of the Committee.

“(e) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less than 8 times.

“(f) DUTIES.—The Committee shall study, and prepare findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the Secretary of Labor on—

“(1) ways to increase the employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or other individuals with significant disabilities in competitive integrated employment;

“(2) the use of the certificate program carried out under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 214(c)) for the employment of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or other individuals with significant disabilities; and

“(3) ways to improve oversight of the use of such certificates.

“(g) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

“(1) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Committee shall not receive compensation for

the performance of services for the Committee, but shall be allowed reasonable travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee. Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Committee.

“(2) STAFF.—The Secretary of Labor may designate such personnel as may be necessary to enable the Committee to perform its duties.

“(3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee, with the approval of the head of the appropriate Federal agency, may be detailed to the Committee without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

“(4) FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, AND SERVICES.—The Secretary of Labor shall make available to the Committee, under such arrangements as may be appropriate, necessary equipment, supplies, and services.

“(h) REPORTS.—

“(1) INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS.—The Committee shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Labor, as well as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives—

“(A) an interim report that summarizes the progress of the Committee, along with any interim findings, conclusions, and recommendations as described in subsection (f); and

“(B) a final report that states final findings, conclusions, and recommendations as described in subsection (f).

“(2) PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION.—The reports shall be prepared and submitted—

“(A) in the case of the interim report, not later than 1 year after the date on which the Committee is established under subsection (a); and

“(B) in the case of the final report, not later than 2 years after the date on which the Committee is established under subsection (a).

“(i) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate on the day after the date on which the Committee submits the final report.

“SEC. 610. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$27,548,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$29,676,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$30,292,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$30,963,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$31,691,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$32,363,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subtitle H—Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living

CHAPTER 1—INDIVIDUALS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES

Subchapter A—General Provisions

SEC. 471. PURPOSE.

Section 701 (29 U.S.C. 796) is amended, in paragraph (3)—

(1) by striking “part B of title VI” and inserting “title VI”; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: “, with the goal of improving the independence of individuals with disabilities”.

SEC. 472. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

Title VII (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 701 the following:

“SEC. 701A. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM.

“There is established within the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services, an Independent Living Administration. The Independent Living Administration shall be headed by a Director

(referred to in this section as the ‘Director’) appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The Director shall be an individual with substantial knowledge of independent living services. The Independent Living Administration shall be the principal agency, and the Director shall be the principal officer, to carry out this chapter. In performing the functions of the office, the Director shall be directly responsible to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Secretary shall ensure that the Independent Living Administration has sufficient resources (including designating at least 1 individual from the Office of General Counsel who is knowledgeable about independent living services) to provide technical assistance and support to, and oversight of, the programs funded under this chapter.”.

SEC. 473. DEFINITIONS.

Section 702 (29 U.S.C. 796a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by inserting “for individuals with significant disabilities (regardless of age or income)” before “that—”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “, including, at a minimum, independent living core services as defined in section 7(17).”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting the following: “, in terms of the management, staffing, decisionmaking, operation, and provisions of services, of the center.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(4) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services.”.

SEC. 474. STATE PLAN.

Section 704 (29 U.S.C. 796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting after “State plan” the following: “developed and signed in accordance with paragraph (2).”; and

(ii) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “developed and signed by”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) developed by the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the directors of the centers for independent living in the State, after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State; and

“(B) signed by—

“(i) the chairperson of the Statewide Independent Living Council, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council;

“(ii) the director of the designated State entity described in subsection (c); and

“(iii) not less than 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living in the State.”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “State independent living services” and inserting “independent living services in the State”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) working relationships and collaboration between—

“(i) centers for independent living; and

“(ii) (I) entities carrying out programs that provide independent living services, including those serving older individuals;

“(II) other community-based organizations that provide or coordinate the provision of

housing, transportation, employment, information and referral assistance, services, and supports for individuals with significant disabilities; and

“(III) entities carrying out other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.”.

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) STATEWIDENESS.—The State plan shall describe strategies for providing independent living services on a statewide basis, to the greatest extent possible.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “UNIT” and inserting “ENTITY”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the designated State unit of such State” and inserting “a State entity of such State (referred to in this title as the ‘designated State entity’)”;

(C) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under part B, for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).”; and

(3) in subsection (i), by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Statewide Independent Living Council;

“(2) centers for independent living;

“(3) the designated State entity; and

“(4) other State agencies or entities represented on the Council, other councils that address the needs and issues of specific disability populations, and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the Council.”;

(4) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(o) PROMOTING FULL ACCESS TO COMMUNITY LIFE.—The plan shall describe how the State will provide independent living services described in section 7(18) that promote full access to community life for individuals with significant disabilities.”.

SEC. 475. STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL.

Section 705 (29 U.S.C. 796d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and maintain” after “shall establish”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting “among its voting members,” before “at least”; and

(II) by striking “one” and inserting “1”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

“(B) among its voting members, for a State in which 1 or more centers for independent living are run by, or in conjunction with, the governing bodies of American Indian tribes located on Federal or State reservations, at least 1 representative of the directors of such centers; and

“(C) as ex officio, nonvoting members, a representative of the designated State entity, and representatives from State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (F) as subparagraphs (D) through (G), respectively;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “parents and guardians of”; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (B) the following:

“(C) parents and guardians of individuals with disabilities;”; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(D) in paragraph (6)(B), by inserting “, other than a representative described in paragraph (2)(A) if there is only one center for independent living within the State,” after “the Council”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—

“(1) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

“(A) develop the State plan as provided in section 704(a)(2);

“(B) monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan;

“(C) meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings of the Council are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;

“(D) submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and

“(E) as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complementary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

“(2) AUTHORITIES.—The Council may, consistent with the State plan described in section 704, unless prohibited by State law—

“(A) in order to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with centers for independent living to coordinate services with public and private entities;

“(B) conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in this subsection or to support the provision of independent living services by centers for independent living; and

“(C) perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this chapter and comparable to other functions described in this subsection, as the Council determines to be appropriate.

“(3) LIMITATION.—The Council shall not provide independent living services directly to individuals with significant disabilities or manage such services.”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking “prepare” and all that follows through “a plan” and inserting “prepare, in conjunction with the designated State entity, a plan”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “State agency” and inserting “State entity”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “such resources” and inserting “available resources”; and

(B) by striking “(including)” and all that follows through “compensation” and inserting “(such as personal assistance services), and to pay reasonable compensation”.

SEC. 475A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.

Section 706 (29 U.S.C. 796d-1) is amended—

(1) by striking the title of the section and inserting the following:

“SEC. 706. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and
 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—
 (I) in clause (i)—
 (aa) by inserting “or the Commissioner” after “to the Secretary”; and
 (bb) by striking “to the Commissioner; and” and inserting “to the Administrator;”;
 (II) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:
 “(ii) to the State agency shall be deemed to be references to the designated State entity; and”;
 (3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) INDICATORS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Administrator shall develop and publish in the Federal Register indicators of minimum compliance for centers for independent living (consistent with the standards set forth in section 725), and indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils.”;

(4) in subsection (c)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and
 (ii) by striking the last sentence;

(B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “such a review” and inserting “a review described in paragraph (1)”;

(iii) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “Department” each place it appears and inserting “Department of Health and Human Services”; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) REPORTS.—
 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director described in section 701A shall provide to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and the Administrator shall include, in an annual report, information on the extent to which centers for independent living receiving funds under part C have complied with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725. The Director may identify individual centers for independent living in the analysis contained in that information. The Director shall include in the report the results of onsite compliance reviews, identifying individual centers for independent living and other recipients of assistance under part C.
 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall ensure that the report described in this subsection is made publicly available in a timely manner, including through electronic means, in order to inform the public about the administration and performance of programs under this Act.”.

“(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall ensure that the report described in this subsection is made publicly available in a timely manner, including through electronic means, in order to inform the public about the administration and performance of programs under this Act.”.

Subchapter B—Independent Living Services

SEC. 476. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 711 (29 U.S.C. 796e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—
 (i) by striking “Except” and inserting “After the reservation required by section 711A is made, and except”; and
 (ii) by inserting “the remainder of the” before “sums appropriated”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “amounts made available for purposes of this part” and inserting “remainder described in paragraph (1)(A)”;

(2) in subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Funds allotted or made available to a State under this section shall be administered by the designated State entity, in accordance with the approved State plan.”.

(b) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Part B of chapter 1 of title VII is amended by inserting after section 711 (29 U.S.C. 796e) the following:

“TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

“SEC. 711A. (a) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Administrator shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, training and technical assistance to Statewide Independent Living Councils established under section 705 for such fiscal year.

“(b) The Administrator shall conduct a survey of such Statewide Independent Living Councils regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such training and technical assistance.

“(c) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information, as the Administrator may require. The Administrator shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the operation of such Statewide Independent Living Councils.”.

(c) PAYMENTS.—Section 712(a) (29 U.S.C. 796e-1(a)) is amended by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”.

(d) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—Section 713 (29 U.S.C. 796e-2) is amended—

(1) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The State may use funds received under this part to provide the resources described in section 705(e) (but may not use more than 30 percent of the funds paid to the State under section 712 for such resources unless the State specifies that a greater percentage of the funds is needed for such resources in a State plan approved under section 706), relating to the Statewide Independent Living Council, may retain funds under section 704(c)(5), and shall distribute the remainder of the funds received under this part in a manner consistent with the approved State plan for the activities described in subsection (b).

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The State may use the remainder of the funds described in subsection (a)—”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, particularly those in unserved areas of the State” after “disabilities”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 714 (29 U.S.C. 796e-3) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$22,878,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$24,645,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$25,156,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$25,714,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$26,319,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$26,877,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subchapter C—Centers for Independent Living

SEC. 481. PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 721 (29 U.S.C. 796f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
 (A) by striking “1999” and inserting “2015”;
 (B) by striking “Commissioner shall allot” and inserting “Administrator shall make available”; and

(C) by inserting “, centers for independent living,” after “States”;
 (2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “OTHER ARRANGEMENTS” and inserting “COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS”;

(ii) by striking “For” and all that follows through “Commissioner” and inserting “From the funds appropriated to carry out this part for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Administrator”;

(iii) by striking “reserve from such excess” and inserting “reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds”; and
 (iv) by striking “eligible agencies” and all that follows and inserting “centers for independent living and eligible agencies for such fiscal year.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) by striking “Commissioner shall make grants to, and enter into contracts and other arrangements with,” and inserting “Administrator shall make grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with,”; and
 (ii) by inserting “fiscal management of,” before “planning.”;

(C) in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “Statewide Independent Living Councils and”;

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “other arrangement” and inserting “cooperative agreement”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

(5) in subsection (d), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 482. CENTERS.

(a) CENTERS IN STATES IN WHICH FEDERAL FUNDING EXCEEDS STATE FUNDING.—Section 722 (29 U.S.C. 796f-1) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(2) in subsection (c)—
 (A) by striking “grants” and inserting “grants for a fiscal year”; and
 (B) by striking “by September 30, 1997” and inserting “for the preceding fiscal year”;

(3) in subsection (d)—
 (A) in paragraph (1)—
 (i) by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and

(ii) by striking “region, consistent” and all that follows and inserting “region. The Administrator’s determination of the most qualified applicant shall be consistent with the provisions in the State plan setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.”; and
 (B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and
 (ii) by striking “region, consistent” and all that follows and inserting “region. The Administrator’s determination of the most qualified applicant shall be consistent with the provisions in the State plan setting forth the design of the State for establishing a statewide network of centers for independent living.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—
 (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Commissioner” and inserting “Administrator”; and
 (ii) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) shall consider comments regarding the application—
 “(i) by individuals with disabilities and other interested parties within the new region proposed to be served; and
 “(ii) if any, by the Statewide Independent Living Council in the State in which the applicant is located.”; and

(4) in subsections (e) and (g) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

(b) CENTERS IN STATES IN WHICH STATE FUNDING EXCEEDS FEDERAL FUNDING.—Section 723 (29 U.S.C. 796f-2) is amended—

(1) in subsections (a), (b), (g), (h), and (i), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), by inserting “of a designated State unit” after “director”; and

(B) in the heading of paragraph (3), by striking “COMMISSIONER” and inserting “ADMINISTRATOR”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “grants” and inserting “grants for a fiscal year”; and

(B) by striking “by September 30, 1997” and inserting “for the preceding fiscal year”.

(c) CENTERS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCIES.—Section 724 (29 U.S.C. 796f-3) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “1993” and inserting “2015”; and

(B) by striking “Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998” and inserting “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(C) by striking “1994” and inserting “2015”; and

(2) by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 483. STANDARDS AND ASSURANCES.

Section 725 (29 U.S.C. 796f-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(D)—

(A) by striking “access of” and inserting “access for”; and

(B) by striking “to society and” and inserting “, within their communities,”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “Commissioner” each place it appears and inserting “Administrator”.

SEC. 484. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 727 (29 U.S.C. 796f-6) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$78,305,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$84,353,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$86,104,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$88,013,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$90,083,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$91,992,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

CHAPTER 2—INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

SEC. 486. INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND.

Chapter 2 of title VII (29 U.S.C. 796j et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 751 the following:

“TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

“SEC. 751A. (a) From the funds appropriated and made available to carry out this chapter for any fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the Commissioner shall first reserve not less than 1.8 percent and not more than 2 percent of the funds to provide, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, training and technical assistance to designated State agencies, or other providers of independent living services for older individuals who are blind, that are funded under this chapter for such fiscal year.

“(b) The Commissioner shall conduct a survey of designated State agencies that receive grants under section 752 regarding training and technical assistance needs in order to determine funding priorities for such training and technical assistance.

“(c) To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Commissioner at such time, in such manner, containing a proposal to provide such training and technical assistance, and containing such additional information, as the Commissioner may require. The Commissioner shall provide for peer review of applications by panels that include persons who are not government employees and who have experience in the

provision of services to older individuals who are blind.”.

SEC. 487. PROGRAM OF GRANTS.

Section 752 (29 U.S.C. 796k) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h);

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively;

(3) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking “subsection (j)” and inserting “subsection (i)”; and

(B) by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (h)”; and

(4) in subsection (g), by inserting “, or contracts or cooperative agreements with,” after “grants to”;

(5) in subsection (h), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (j)(4)” and inserting “subsection (i)(4)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(vi), by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(III), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(6) in subsection (i), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii), by inserting “, and not reserved under section 751A,” after “section 753”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “, and not reserved under section 751A,” after “section 753”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)(B)(i), by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsection (h)”.

SEC. 488. INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 753 (29 U.S.C. 796l) is amended by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.” and inserting “\$33,317,000 for fiscal year 2015, \$35,890,000 for fiscal year 2016, \$36,635,000 for fiscal year 2017, \$37,448,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$38,328,000 for fiscal year 2019, and \$39,141,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

Subtitle I—General Provisions

SEC. 491. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS REGARDING INDEPENDENT LIVING TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context—

(1) the term “Administration for Community Living” means the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) the term “Federal agency” has the meaning given to the term “agency” by section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term “function” means any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

(4) the term “Rehabilitation Services Administration” means the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the Department of Education.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are transferred to the Administration for Community Living, all functions which the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of that Administration) under chapter 1 of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.).

(c) PERSONNEL DETERMINATIONS BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—The Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) ensure that this section does not result in any net increase in full-time equivalent employ-

ees at any Federal agency impacted by this section; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, certify compliance with this subsection to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(d) DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Except where otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided by this section, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living may delegate any of the functions transferred to the Administrator of such Administration by subsection (b) and any function described in subsection (b) that was transferred or granted to such Administrator after the effective date of this section to such officers and employees of such Administration as the Administrator may designate, and may authorize successive re-delegations of such functions described in subsection (b) as may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of such functions by the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living under this subsection or under any other provision of this section shall relieve such Administrator of responsibility for the administration of such functions.

(e) REORGANIZATION.—Except where otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided by this Act, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to allocate or reallocate any function transferred under subsection (b) among the officers of such Administration, and to consolidate, alter, or discontinue such organizational entities in such Administration as may be necessary or appropriate.

(f) RULES.—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to prescribe, in accordance with the provisions of chapters 5 and 6 of title 5, United States Code, such rules and regulations as that Administrator determines necessary or appropriate to administer and manage the functions described in subsection (b) of that Administration.

(g) TRANSFER AND ALLOCATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS AND PERSONNEL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the personnel employed in connection with, and the assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred by subsection (b), subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, shall be transferred to the Administration for Community Living. Unexpended funds transferred pursuant to this subsection shall be used only for the purposes for which the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

(h) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at such time or times as the Director shall provide, is authorized to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by subsection (b), and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide for the termination of the affairs of all entities terminated by this section and for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section, with respect to such functions.

(i) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) **CONTINUING EFFECT OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, privileges, and other administrative actions—

(A) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, any Federal agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of functions which are transferred under subsection (b); and

(B) which are in effect at the time this section takes effect, or were final before the effective date of this section and are to become effective on or after the effective date of this section, shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living or other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(2) **PROCEEDINGS NOT AFFECTED.**—The provisions of this section shall not affect any proceedings, including notices of proposed rulemaking, or any application for any license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending before the Rehabilitation Services Administration at the time this section takes effect, with respect to functions transferred by subsection (b) but such proceedings and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this section had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section had not been enacted.

(3) **SUITS NOT AFFECTED.**—The provisions of this section shall not affect suits commenced (with respect to functions transferred under subsection (b)) before the effective date of this section, and in all such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(4) **NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.**—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), shall abate by reason of the enactment of this section.

(5) **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS RELATING TO PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.**—Any administrative action relating to the preparation or promulgation of a regulation by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)) may be continued by the Administration for Community Living with the same effect as if this section had not been enacted.

(j) **SEPARABILITY.**—If a provision of this section or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, neither the remainder of this section nor the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall be affected.

(k) **REFERENCES.**—A reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or relating to—

(1) the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to func-

tions transferred under subsection (b)), shall be deemed to refer to the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living; and

(2) the Rehabilitation Services Administration (with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b)), shall be deemed to refer to the Administration for Community Living.

(l) **TRANSITION.**—The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living is authorized to utilize—

(1) the services of such officers, employees, and other personnel of the Rehabilitation Services Administration with regard to functions transferred under subsection (b); and

(2) funds appropriated to such functions, for such period of time as may reasonably be needed to facilitate the orderly implementation of this section.

(m) **ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING.**—

(1) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—There are transferred to the Administration for Community Living, all functions which the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of that Administration) under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—Subsections (d) through (l) shall apply to transfers described in paragraph (1).

(n) **NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.**—

(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, unless otherwise provided or indicated by the context—

(A) the term “NIDILRR” means the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research of the Administration for Community Living of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(B) the term “NIDRR” means the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the Department of Education.

(2) **TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.**—There are transferred to the NIDILRR, all functions which the Director of the NIDRR exercised before the effective date of this section (including all related functions of any officer or employee of the NIDRR).

(3) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsections (d) through (l) shall apply to transfers described in paragraph (2).

(B) **REFERENCES.**—For purposes of applying those subsections under subparagraph (A), those subsections—

(i) shall apply to the NIDRR and the Director of the NIDRR in the same manner and to the same extent as those subsections apply to the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Commissioner of that Administration; and

(ii) shall apply to the NIDILRR and the Director of the NIDILRR in the same manner and to the same extent as those subsections apply to the Administration for Community Living and the Administrator of that Administration.

(o) **REFERENCES IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.**—

(1) **SECRETARY.**—Section 3(13) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3002(13)) is amended by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

(2) **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.**—Section 6(d)(4) of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3005(d)(4)) is amended by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

(3) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 7 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3006) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “the Assistant Secretary” and all that follows through “Rehabilitation Services Administration,” and inserting “the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “The Assistant Secretary” and all that follows and inserting “The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living shall consult with the Office of Special Education Programs of the Department of Education, the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education, the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the Department of Labor, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and other appropriate Federal entities in the administration of this Act.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by striking “the Rehabilitation Services Administration” and inserting “the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living”;

(B) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “Education” and inserting “Health and Human Services”.

SEC. 492. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents in section 1(b) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 109 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 109. Training and services for employers.”;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 112 the following:

“Sec. 113. Provision of pre-employment transition services.”;

(3) by striking the item relating to section 202 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 202. National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research.”;

(4) by striking the item relating to section 205 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 205. Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council.”;

“Sec. 206. Definition of covered school.”;

(5) by striking the items relating to sections 304, 305, and 306 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 304. Measuring of project outcomes and performance.”.

(6) by inserting after the item relating to section 509 the following:

“Sec. 511. Limitations on use of subminimum wage.”;

(7) by striking the items relating to title VI and inserting the following:

“TITLE VI—EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

“Sec. 601. Short title.

“Sec. 602. Purpose.

“Sec. 603. Allotments.

“Sec. 604. Availability of services.

“Sec. 605. Eligibility.

“Sec. 606. State plan.

“Sec. 607. Restriction.

“Sec. 608. Savings provision.

“Sec. 609. Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities.

“Sec. 610. Authorization of appropriations.”; and

(8) in the items relating to title VII—

(A)(i) by inserting after the item relating to section 701 the following:

“Sec. 701A. Administration of the independent living program.”;

and

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 706 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 706. Responsibilities of the Administrator.”;

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following:

“Sec. 711A. Training and technical assistance.”;

and

(C) by inserting after the item relating to section 751 the following:

“Sec. 751A. Training and technical assistance.”.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Workforce Investment

SEC. 501. PRIVACY.

(a) SECTION 444 OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION PROVISIONS ACT.—Nothing in this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to supersede the privacy protections afforded parents and students under section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

(b) PROHIBITION ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL DATABASE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to permit the development of a national database of personally identifiable information on individuals receiving services under title I or under the amendments made by title IV.

(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to prevent the proper administration of national programs under subtitles C and D of title I, or the amendments made by title IV (as the case may be), or to carry out program management activities consistent with title I or the amendments made by title IV (as the case may be).

SEC. 502. BUY-AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH BUY AMERICAN ACT.—None of the funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the funds the entity will comply with sections 8301 through 8303 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the “Buy American Act”).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS; REQUIREMENT REGARDING NOTICE.—

(1) PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case of any equipment or product that may be authorized to be purchased with financial assistance provided using funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), it is the sense of Congress that entities receiving the assistance should, in expending the assistance, purchase only American-made equipment and products.

(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE.—In providing financial assistance using funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act, the head of each Federal agency shall provide to each recipient of the assistance a notice describing the statement made in paragraph (1) by Congress.

(c) PROHIBITION OF CONTRACTS WITH PERSONS FALSELY LABELING PRODUCTS AS MADE IN AMERICA.—If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a “Made in America” inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available under title I or II or under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), pursuant to the debarment, suspension,

and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, as such sections were in effect on August 7, 1998, or pursuant to any successor regulations.

SEC. 503. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

(a) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education shall take such actions as the Secretaries determine to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) to any authority under subtitle A of title I. Such actions shall include the provision of guidance related to unified State planning, combined State planning, and the performance accountability system described in such subtitle.

(b) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to any authority under subtitles B through E of title I.

(c) ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Education shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, as amended by this Act.

(d) EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Labor shall take such actions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended by this Act.

(e) VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall take such actions as the Secretaries determine to be appropriate to provide for the orderly transition from any authority under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, to any authority under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by this Act.

(f) REGULATIONS.—

(1) PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as appropriate, shall develop and publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations relating to the transition to, and implementation of, this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

(2) FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries described in paragraph (1), as appropriate, shall develop and publish in the Federal Register final regulations relating to the transition to, and implementation of, this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

(g) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS DURING TRANSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with regulations developed under subsection (f), States, grant recipients, administrative entities, and other recipients of financial assistance under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 may expend funds received under such Act in order to plan and implement programs and activities authorized under this Act.

(2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Not more than 2 percent of any allotment to any State from amounts appropriated under the Workforce

Investment Act of 1998 for fiscal year 2014 may be made available to carry out activities authorized under paragraph (1) and not less than 50 percent of any amount used to carry out activities authorized under paragraph (1) shall be made available to local entities for the purposes of the activities described in such paragraph.

SEC. 504. REDUCTION OF REPORTING BURDENS AND REQUIREMENTS.

In order to simplify reporting requirements and reduce reporting burdens, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish procedures and criteria under which a State board and local board may reduce reporting burdens and requirements under this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

SEC. 505. REPORT ON DATA CAPABILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE DATABASES AND DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to Congress regarding existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements, as of the date of the report, that contain job training information relevant to the administration of programs authorized under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) list existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) and, for each, describe—

(A) the purposes of the database or agreement;

(B) the data elements, such as wage and employment outcomes, contained in the database or accessible under the agreement;

(C) the data elements described in subparagraph (B) that are shared between States;

(D) the Federal and State workforce training programs from which each Federal and State database derives the data elements described in subparagraph (B);

(E) the number and type of Federal and State agencies having access to such data;

(F) the number and type of private research organizations having access to, through grants, contracts, or other agreements, such data; and

(G) whether the database or data exchange agreement provides for opt-out procedures for individuals whose data is shared through the database or data exchange agreement;

(2) study the effects that access by State workforce agencies and the Secretary of Labor to the databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) would have on efforts to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and on individual privacy;

(3) explore opportunities to enhance the quality, reliability, and reporting frequency of the data included in such databases and data exchange agreements;

(4) describe, for each database or data exchange agreement considered by the study described in subsection (a), the number of individuals whose data is contained in each database or accessible through the data agreement, and the specific data elements contained in each that could be used to personally identify an individual;

(5) include the number of data breaches having occurred since 2004 to data systems administered by Federal and State agencies;

(6) include the number of data breaches regarding any type of personal data having occurred since 2004 to private research organizations with whom Federal and State agencies contract for studies; and

(7) include a survey of the security protocols used for protecting personal data, including best practices shared amongst States for access to, and administration of, data elements stored and recommendations for improving security protocols for the safe warehousing of data elements.

(c) **TIMING OF REPORTS.**—

(1) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress an interim report regarding the initial findings of the report required under this section.

(2) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to Congress the final report required under this section.

SEC. 506. EFFECTIVE DATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the first day of the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **APPLICATION DATE FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply in lieu of section 116 of this Act, for the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**—For purposes of the application described in paragraph (1)—

(A) except as otherwise specified, a reference in section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to a provision in such Act (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than to a provision in such section or section 112 of such Act, shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act;

(B) the terms “local area”, “local board”, “one-stop partner”, and “State board” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of this Act;

(C) except as provided in subparagraph (B), terms used in such section 136 shall have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801);

(D) any agreement negotiated and reached under section 136(c)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2871(c)(2)) shall remain in effect, until a new agreement is so negotiated and reached, for that first full program year;

(E) if a State or local area fails to meet levels of performance under subsection (g) or (h), respectively, of section 136 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 during that first full program year, the sanctions provided under such subsection shall apply during the second full program year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(F) the Secretary shall use an amount retained, as a result of a reduction in an allotment to a State made under section 136(g)(1)(B) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871(g)(1)(B)), to provide technical assistance as described in subsections (f)(1) and (g)(1) of section 116 of this Act, in lieu of incentive grants under section 503 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9273) as provided in section 136(g)(2) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2871(g)(2)).

(c) **APPLICATION DATE FOR STATE AND LOCAL PLAN PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Sections 112 and 118 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822, 2833), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply to implementation of State and local plans, in lieu of sections 102 and 103, and section 108, respectively, of this Act, for the first full program year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**—For purposes of the application described in paragraph (1)—

(A) except as otherwise specified, a reference in section 112 or 118 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to a provision in such Act (29

U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than to a provision in or to either such section or to section 136 of such Act, shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act;

(B) the terms “local area”, “local board”, “one-stop partner”, and “State board” have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of this Act;

(C) except as provided in subparagraph (B), terms used in such section 112 or 118 shall have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801); and

(D) section 112(b)(18)(D) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b)(18)(D)) shall not apply.

(3) **SUBMISSION.**—Sections 102, 103, and 108 of this Act shall apply to plans for the second full program year after the date of enactment, including the development, submission, and approval of such plans during the first full program year after such date.

(d) **DISABILITY PROVISIONS.**—Except as otherwise provided in title IV of this Act, title IV, and the amendments made by title IV, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Amendments to Other Laws**SEC. 511. REPEAL OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.**

(a) **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998.**—The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) **GRANTS TO STATES FOR WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY TRANSITION TRAINING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.**—Section 821 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 1151) is repealed.

SEC. 512. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) **AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.**—Section 414(c)(3)(C) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2916a(3)(C)) is amended by striking “entities involved in administering the workforce investment system established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “entities involved in administering the workforce development system, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(b) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.**—The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 3(1)(C) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3002(1)(C)) is amended by striking “such as a one-stop partner, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)” and inserting “such as a one-stop partner, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 4 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3003) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(i)(IV), by striking “a representative of the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821)” and inserting “a representative of the State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (e)—
(i) in paragraph (2)(D)(i), by striking “such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801),” and inserting “such as one-stop partners, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)(I)(aa), by striking “with entities in the statewide and local workforce investment systems established under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.),” and inserting “with entities in the statewide and local workforce development systems established under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”.

(c) **ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE ACT.**—Section 113(a)(2) of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (15 U.S.C. 720k(a)(2)) is amended by striking “consistent with the vision and goals set forth in the State of Alaska Unified Plan, as developed pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “consistent with the vision and goals set forth in the State of Alaska unified plan or combined plan, as appropriate, as developed pursuant to section 102 or 103, as appropriate, of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(d) **ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACT.**—Section 4604(c)(6)(A) of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2704(c)(6)(A)) is amended by striking “programs carried out by the Secretary of Labor under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “programs carried out by the Secretary of Labor under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(e) **CARL D. PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2006.**—The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 118(d)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2328(d)(2)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “PUBLIC LAW 105–220” and inserting “WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT”; and

(B) by striking “functions and activities carried out under Public Law 105–220” and inserting “functions and activities carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 121(a)(4) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2341(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “activities undertaken by the State boards under section 111 of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “activities undertaken by the State boards under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the service delivery system under section 121 of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “the one-stop delivery system under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 122 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2342) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii), by striking “entities participating in activities described in section 111 of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “entities participating in activities described in section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(20), by striking “the description and information specified in sections 112(b)(8) and 121(c) of Public Law 105–220 concerning the provision of services only for post-secondary students and school dropouts” and inserting “the description and information specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C)(iii) of section 102(b)(2), and, as appropriate, section 103(b)(3)(A), and section 121(c), of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act concerning the provision of services only for post-secondary students and school dropouts”; and

(C) in subsection (d)(2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “501 PLAN” and inserting “COMBINED PLAN”; and

(ii) by striking “as part of the plan submitted under section 501 of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “as part of the plan submitted under section 103 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(4) Section 124(c)(13) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2344(c)(13)) is amended by striking “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(5) Section 134(b)(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)(5)) is amended by striking “entities participating in activities described in section 117 of Public Law 105–220 (if applicable)” and inserting “entities participating in activities described in section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (if applicable)”.

(6) Section 135(c)(16) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2355(c)(16)) is amended by striking “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of Public Law 105–220 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “such as through referral to the system established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(7) Section 321(b)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 2411(b)(1)) is amended by striking “Chapters 4 and 5 of subtitle B of title I of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “Chapters 2 and 3 of subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(f) **COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ACT.**—Section 676(b)(5) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9908(b)(5)) is amended by striking “the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 101 of such Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act”.

(g) **COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003.**—The Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 105(f)(1)(B)(iii) of such Act (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking “title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), other than subtitle C of that Act (29 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.) (Job Corps), title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.; commonly known as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act),” and inserting “titles I (other than subtitle C) and II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 108(a) of such Act (48 U.S.C. 1921g(a)) is amended by striking “subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2881 et seq.; relating to Job Corps)” and inserting “subtitle C of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (relating to Job Corps)”.

(h) **DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF 1973.**—Section 103(d) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(d)) is amended by striking “employment.” and all that follows and inserting the following: “employment. Whenever feasible, such efforts shall be coordinated with an appropriate local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.”.

(i) **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**—The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 1203(c)(2)(A) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6363(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) by striking “, in consultation with the National Institute for Literacy,”; and

(B) by striking clause (ii); and

(C) by redesignating clauses (iii) and (iv) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively.

(2) Section 1235(9)(B) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6381d(9)(B)) is amended by striking “any relevant programs under the Adult Education and

Family Literacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “any relevant programs under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 1423(9) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6453(9)) is amended by striking “a description of how the program under this subpart will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs, such as programs under title I of Public Law 105–220” and inserting “a description of how the program under this subpart will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local programs, such as programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(4) Section 1425(9) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6455(9)) is amended by striking “coordinate funds received under this subpart with other local, State, and Federal funds available to provide services to participating children and youth, such as funds made available under title I of Public Law 105–220,” and inserting “coordinate funds received under this subpart with other local, State, and Federal funds available to provide services to participating children and youth, such as funds made available under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(5) Section 7202(13)(H) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7512(13)(H)) is amended by striking “the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(j) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1984.**—Section 2(a) of the Environmental Programs Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 4368a(a)) is amended by striking “Funding for such grants or agreements may be made available from such programs or through title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Funding for such grants or agreements may be made available from such programs or through title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(k) **ENERGY CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION ACT.**—Section 414(b)(3) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6864(b)(3)) is amended by striking “securing, to the maximum extent practicable, the services of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “securing, to the maximum extent practicable, the services of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(l) **FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.**—The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 5(l) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2014(l)) is amended by striking “Notwithstanding section 181(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, earnings to individuals participating in on-the-job-training under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “Notwithstanding section 181(a)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, earnings to individuals participating in on-the-job training under title I of such Act”.

(2) Section 6 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2015) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(4)(M), by striking “activities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”;

(B) in subsection (e)(3)(A), by striking “a program under title I of the Workforce Investment

Act of 1998” and inserting “a program under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(C) in subsection (o)(1)(A), by striking “a program under the title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “a program under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 17(b)(2) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2026(b)(2)) is amended by striking “a program carried out under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “a program carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(m) **FULL EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCED GROWTH ACT OF 1978.**—Section 206 of the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3116) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Secretary of Labor shall, as appropriate, fully utilize the authority provided under the Job Training Partnership Act and title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the Secretary of Labor shall, as appropriate, fully utilize the authority provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “the President shall, as may be authorized by law, establish reservoirs of public employment and private nonprofit employment projects, to be approved by the Secretary of Labor, through expansion of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “the President shall, as may be authorized by law, establish reservoirs of public employment and private nonprofit employment projects, to be approved by the Secretary of Labor, through expansion of activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(n) **HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.**—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 418A of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070d–2) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii), by striking “section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking “section 167 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998” and inserting “section 167 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(2) Section 479(d)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087ss(d)(1)) is amended by striking “The term ‘dislocated worker’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)” and inserting “The term ‘dislocated worker’ has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(3) Section 479A(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087tt(a)) is amended by striking “a dislocated worker (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)” and inserting “a dislocated worker (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)”.

(4) Section 480(b)(1)(I) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(b)(1)(I)) is amended by striking “benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)” and inserting “benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act”.

(5) Section 803 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161c) is amended—

(A) in subsection (i)(1), by striking “for changes to this Act and related Acts, such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (including titles I and II), to help create and sustain business and industry workforce partnerships at institutions of higher education” and inserting “for changes to this Act

and related Acts, such as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (including titles I and II), to help create and sustain business and industry workforce partnerships at institutions of higher education"; and

(B) in subsection (j)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "local board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local board (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "a State board (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "a State board (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(6) Section 861(c)(1)(B) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161q(c)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "local boards (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local boards (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(7) Section 872(b)(2)(E) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1161s(b)(2)(E)) is amended by striking "local boards (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "local boards (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(o) HOUSING ACT OF 1949.—Section 504(c)(3) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474(c)(3)) is amended by striking "an insufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Older American Community Service Employment Act," and inserting "an insufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act".

(p) HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968.—Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(iii), by striking "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "participants in YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B)(iii), by striking "To YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "To YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "to YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "to YouthBuild programs receiving assistance under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(q) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 245A(h)(4)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255a(h)(4)(F)) is amended by striking "Title I of the Workforce Invest-

ment Act of 1998" and inserting "Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(r) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 7527(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting "(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)" after "of 1998".

(s) MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT.—Section 103(c)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(c)(2)) is amended by striking "a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "a homeless individual shall be eligible for assistance under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(t) MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT.—The Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 204(f)(3) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9103(f)(3)) is amended by striking "activities under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) (including activities under section 134(c) of such Act) (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "activities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (including activities under section 121(e) of such Act)".

(2) Section 224(b)(6)(C) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 9134(b)(6)(C)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "the activities carried out by the State workforce investment board under section 111(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2821(d))" and inserting "the activities carried out by the State workforce development board under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "the State's one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "the State's one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of such Act".

(u) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1990.—The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 112(a)(3)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12523(a)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "or who may participate in a Youthbuild program under section 173A of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918a)" and inserting "or who may participate in a Youthbuild program under section 171 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 199L(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12655m(a)) is amended by striking "coordinated with activities supported with assistance made available under programs administered by the heads of such agencies (including title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "coordinated with activities supported with assistance made available under programs administered by the heads of such agencies (including title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(v) NATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICY ACT.—Section 233 of the National Energy Conservation and Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 6873) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "a sufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Older American Community Service Employment Act" and inserting "a sufficient number of volunteers and training participants and public service employment workers, assisted pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act".

(w) OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 1965.—The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3013) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "In particular, the Secretary of Labor shall consult and cooperate with the Assistant Secretary in carrying out title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "In particular, the Secretary of Labor shall consult and cooperate with the Assistant Secretary in carrying out title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking "title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 321(a)(12) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)(12)) is amended by striking "including programs carried out under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "including programs carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (H), by striking "will coordinate activities with training and other services provided under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including utilizing the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce investment areas involved" and inserting "will coordinate activities with training and other services provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including utilizing the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce development areas involved";

(II) in subparagraph (O)—

(aa) by striking "through the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce investment areas involved as established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))," and inserting "through the one-stop delivery system of the local workforce development areas involved as established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(bb) by striking "and will be involved in the planning and operations of such system pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the local workforce investment board in accordance with section 121(e) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2841(c))" and inserting "and will be involved in the planning and operations of such system pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the local workforce development board in accordance with section 121(c) of such Act"; and

(III) in subparagraph (Q)—

(aa) in clause (i), by striking "paragraph (8), relating to coordination with other Federal programs, of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b))" and inserting "clauses (ii) and (viii) of paragraph (2)(B), relating to coordination with other Federal programs, of section 102(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(bb) in clause (ii), by striking "paragraph (14), relating to implementation of one-stop delivery systems, of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "paragraph (2)(C)(i), relating to implementation of one-stop delivery systems, of section 102(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking "An assessment and service strategy required by paragraph (1)(N) to be prepared for an eligible individual shall satisfy any condition for an assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan for an adult participant under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.), in order to determine whether such eligible individual also qualifies for intensive or training services described

in section 134(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(d))." and inserting "An assessment and service strategy required by paragraph (1)(N) to be prepared for an eligible individual shall satisfy any condition for an assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan for an adult participant under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in order to determine whether such eligible individual also qualifies for career or training services described in section 134(c) of such Act."; and

(II) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998" and inserting "WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT"; and

(bb) by striking "An assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan prepared under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)" and inserting "An assessment and service strategy or individual employment plan prepared under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (e)(2)(B)(ii), by striking "one-stop delivery systems established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "one-stop delivery systems established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(4) Section 503 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "the State and local workforce investment boards established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "the State and local workforce development boards established under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking "plans for facilitating the coordination of activities of grantees in the State under this title with activities carried out in the State under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "plans for facilitating the coordination of activities of grantees in the State under this title with activities carried out in the State under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking "with the program carried out under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "with the program carried out under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(5) Section 505(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 3056c(c)(1)) of such Act is amended by striking "activities carried out under other Acts, especially activities provided under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), including activities provided through one-stop delivery systems established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))." and inserting "activities carried out under other Acts, especially activities provided under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including activities provided through one-stop delivery systems established under section 121(e) of such Act".

(6) Section 510 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056h) is amended—

(A) by striking "by local workforce investment boards and one-stop operators established under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "by local workforce development boards and one-stop operators established under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) by striking "such title I" and inserting "such title".

(7) Section 511 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056i) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "Grantees under this title shall be one-stop partners as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(vi) of section 121(b)(1) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(b)(1)) in the one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2864(c)) for the appropriate local workforce investment areas" and inserting "Grantees under this title shall be one-stop partners as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)(v) of section 121(b)(1) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in the one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of such Act for the appropriate local workforce development areas"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "be signatories of the memorandum of understanding established under section 121(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2841(c))" and inserting "be signatories of the memorandum of understanding established under section 121(c) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(8) Section 518(b)(2)(F) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3056p(b)(2)(F)) is amended by striking "has failed to find employment after utilizing services provided under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "has failed to find employment after utilizing services provided under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(c) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996.—Section 403(c)(2)(K) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(c)(2)(K)) is amended by striking "Benefits under the title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Benefits under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(y) PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.—Section 5101(d)(3)(D) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 294q(d)(3)(D)) is amended by striking "other health care workforce programs, including those supported through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)," and inserting "other health care workforce programs, including those supported through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(z) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 399V(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–11(e)) is amended by striking "one-stop delivery systems under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "one-stop delivery systems under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 751(c)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 294a(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking "the applicable one-stop delivery system under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998," and inserting "the applicable one-stop delivery system under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 799B(23) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(23)) is amended by striking "one-stop delivery system described in section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "one-stop delivery system described in section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(aa) RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.—Section 322(a)(7) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–2(a)(7)) is amended by striking "(including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "(including services and programs for youth available under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(bb) SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007.—The Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17501 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 212 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 17532) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking "in coordination with the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))." and inserting "in coordination with the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(iii), by striking "the local workforce investment boards established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832))," and inserting "the local workforce development boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 231(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 17541(e)) is amended by striking "the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 134(c) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864(c))" and inserting "the one-stop partners and one-stop operators (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) that provide services at any center operated under a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(cc) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—Section 7(j)(13)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(13)(E)) is amended by striking "an institution eligible to provide skills training or upgrading under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "an institution eligible to provide skills training or upgrading under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(dd) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 403(a)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(vii)(I), by striking "chief elected official (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998)" and inserting "chief elected official (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking "local workforce investment board established for the service delivery area pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as appropriate" and inserting "local workforce development board established for the local workforce development area pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, as appropriate".

(2) Section 1148(f)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–19(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "a one-stop delivery system established under subtitle B of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)" and inserting "a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 1149(a)(3) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–20(a)(3)) is amended by striking "a one-stop delivery system established under subtitle B

of title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2811 et seq.)" and inserting "a one-stop delivery system established under section 121(e) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(4) Section 2008(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397g(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "the State workforce investment board established under section 111 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "the State workforce development board established under section 101 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking "a local workforce investment board established under section 117 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998," and inserting "a local workforce development board established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,".

(ee) TITLE 18 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 665 of title 18 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Whoever, being an officer, director, agent, or employee of, or connected in any capacity with any agency or organization receiving financial assistance or any funds under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Whoever, being an officer, director, agent, or employee of, or connected in any capacity with any agency or organization receiving financial assistance or any funds under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "a contract of employment in connection with a financial assistance agreement or contract under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "a contract of employment in connection with a financial assistance agreement or contract under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998"; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "Whoever willfully obstructs or impedes or willfully endeavors to obstruct or impede, an investigation or inquiry under the Job Training Partnership Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998," and inserting "Whoever willfully obstructs or impedes or willfully endeavors to obstruct or impede, an investigation or inquiry under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998,".

(ff) TITLE 31 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 6703(a)(4) of title 31 of the United States Code is amended by striking "Programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998." and inserting "Programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,".

(gg) TITLE 38 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 38 of the United States Code is amended as follows:

(1) Section 4101(9) of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking "The term 'intensive services' means local employment and training services of the type described in section 134(d)(3) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "The term 'career services' means local employment and training services of the type described in section 134(c)(2) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(2) Section 4102A of title 38 of the United States Code is amended—

(A) in subsection (d), by striking "participation of qualified veterans and eligible persons in employment and training opportunities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "participation of qualified veterans and eligible persons in employment and training opportunities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking "be consistent with State performance measures applicable under section 136(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "be consistent with State performance accountability measures applicable under section 116(b) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(3) Section 4104A of title 38 of the United States Code is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by striking "the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)"; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking "the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "the appropriate State boards and local boards (as such terms are defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(4) Section 4110B of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking "enter into an agreement with the Secretary regarding the implementation of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 that includes the description and information described in paragraphs (8) and (14) of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b))" and inserting "enter into an agreement with the Secretary regarding the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that includes the descriptions described in sections 102(b)(2)(B)(ii) and 103(b)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and a description of how the State board will carry out the activities described in section 101(d)(3)(F) of such Act".

(5) Section 4213(a)(4) of title 38 of the United States Code is amended by striking "Any employment or training program carried out under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "Any employment or training program carried out under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(hh) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—The Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 221(a) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2271) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(i) by striking ", one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801)) including State employment security agencies," and inserting ", one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) including State employment security agencies,"; and

(ii) by striking "or the State dislocated worker unit established under title I of such Act," and inserting "or a State dislocated worker unit,"; and

(B) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by striking "rapid response activities and appropriate core and intensive services (as described in section 134 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2864)) authorized under other Federal laws" and inserting "rapid response activities and appropriate career services (as described in section 134 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) authorized under other Federal laws".

(2) Section 222(d)(2)(A)(iv) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2272(d)(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking "one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801))" and inserting "one-stop operators or one-stop partners (as de-

fined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)".

(3) Section 236(a)(5) of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(5)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "any training program provided by a State pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "any training program provided by a State pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in the flush text following subparagraph (H), by striking "The Secretary may not limit approval of a training program under paragraph (1) to a program provided pursuant to title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)" and inserting "The Secretary may not limit approval of a training program under paragraph (1) to a program provided pursuant to title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act".

(4) Section 239 of such Act (19 U.S.C. 2311) is amended—

(A) in subsection (f), by striking "Any agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the coordination of the administration of the provisions for employment services, training, and supplemental assistance under sections 235 and 236 of this Act and under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "Any agreement entered into under this section shall provide for the coordination of the administration of the provisions for employment services, training, and supplemental assistance under sections 235 and 236 of this Act and under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act"; and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking "the description and information described in paragraphs (8) and (14) of section 112(b) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2822(b))" and inserting "the descriptions described in sections 102(b)(2)(B)(ii) and 103(b)(3)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a description of how the State board will carry out the activities described in section 101(d)(3)(F) of such Act,".

(ii) UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.—Section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by striking "lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998" and inserting "lack of supportive services accessible to eligible families, which shall include insufficient availability of resources for programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act";

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking "the local agencies (if any) responsible for carrying out programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act," and inserting "the local agencies (if any) responsible for carrying out programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act,"; and

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "any local agencies responsible for programs under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act" and inserting "any local agencies responsible for programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program under part F of title IV of the Social Security Act"; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(H), by striking "programs under title I of the Workforce Investment

Act of 1998 and any other relevant employment, child care, transportation, training, and education programs in the applicable area" and inserting "programs under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and any other relevant employment, child care, transportation, training, and education programs in the applicable area".

(jj) VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994.—Section 31113(a)(4)(C) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13823(a)(4)(C)) is amended by striking "job training programs authorized under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 or the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485)" and inserting "job training programs authorized under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act or the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485)".

(kk) WORKER ADJUSTMENT AND RETRAINING NOTIFICATION ACT.—Section 3(a)(2) of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2102(a)(2)) is amended by striking "the State or entity designated by the State to carry out rapid response activities under section 134(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998," and inserting "the State or entity designated by the State to carry out rapid response activities under section 134(a)(2)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,".

SEC. 513. REFERENCES.

(a) WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998 REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified, a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of this Act.

(b) WAGNER-PEYSER ACT REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified, a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of such Act, as amended by this Act.

(c) DISABILITY-RELATED REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise specified, a reference in a Federal law to a provision of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) shall be deemed to refer to the corresponding provision of such Act, as amended by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 803.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Men and women across the country are struggling to make ends meet. Many have lost a job, and others are working more for less. Learning a new skill or trade can open the door to that next opportunity a worker desperately needs, yet, too often, flawed policies stand in the way.

Quite frankly, our Nation's job training system is broken. We have too many ineffective programs, too much bureaucracy, and very little accountability. The voices of job creators are stifled, State and local leaders are tied up in red tape, and hard-earned taxpayer dollars are wasted.

We have known about these problems for years but have failed to act, until now. We have an opportunity to advance reforms that will help all Americans compete and succeed in today's workforce.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is based on four principles necessary for a modern, efficient, and effective job training system:

First, the bill streamlines a confusing maze of Federal programs and mandates. Let's make it easier for workers to access the support they need to get back to work.

Second, the bill promotes skills training for in-demand jobs. It is time to prepare workers for the jobs of the future, not the jobs of the past.

Third, the bill will reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and administrative costs. We need to stop squandering money on a bloated bureaucracy and start ensuring these limited resources go to workers in need.

Fourth and finally, this act provides strong accountability over the use of taxpayer dollars. We will know whether the taxpayer investment is paying off and impose real consequences when a program isn't getting the job done.

Last year, the House passed job training reform legislation known as the SKILLS Act. The bill incorporated these principles, and I am pleased they are reflected in the bipartisan, bicameral agreement before us today.

Is this a perfect solution? No, it is not. In some areas, I wish we could have done more. But will this agreement protect taxpayers and deliver the kind of employment support workers need to get back on their feet? I believe it will, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Before closing, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank some of my colleagues who helped make this possible. Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX, chair of the Workforce Training Subcommittee, is, without a doubt, the leading champion for a stronger, more accountable workforce development system.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER, senior Democrat on the Education and the Workforce Committee, is no stranger to this issue and remains a tireless advocate for America's workers.

I am grateful for the leadership of Senators TOM HARKIN and LAMAR ALEXANDER, the chairman and ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and hope this is one of many bicameral compromises we reach this year.

I would also like to thank Mr. BUCK MCKEON, former chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, as well as Representatives RUBEN HINOJOSA and JOE HECK.

And last but not least, Senator PATTY MURRAY and my good friend Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON were both instrumental in our work.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we wouldn't be here today without the hard work of our staffs. The majority and minority staffs of the relevant House and Senate committees put in more hours than they care to remember.

Unfortunately, there isn't time to recognize them all; however, a few stand out on our side of the aisle that merit mention.

Juliane Sullivan, the committee's staff director, is a trusted adviser who helped us navigate the choppy waters that arose along the way. Brad Thomas helped ensure the bill addresses the unique needs of Americans with disabilities. James Bergeron, our former director of education policy, left the committee before this compromise was announced, but his knowledge and expertise are present on every page of this agreement. And finally, Rosemary Lahasky, whose passion and dedication kept this effort moving forward when it seemed like it couldn't get done. There simply aren't enough words to describe Rosemary's incredible contribution. We are all grateful for her service.

With that, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

As my colleagues know, the Workforce Investment Act is the primary Federal law that governs the Nation's job training and workforce development system. Through this system, people of different ages and abilities can enter one of the career centers scattered throughout the country and obtain career counseling, skills assessments and training, all in the service of finding employment and providing a better future for themselves and their families.

Quite simply, the Workforce Investment Act is the Federal law that does two big things: one, it helps people acquire the skills, education, and training they need to get a job; and two, it ensures businesses can hire qualified personnel so they can grow and our economy can thrive. That is what it is all about.

Today, with consideration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, we appear to have reached the culmination of what has been a long process to extend and improve the Workforce Investment Act. So today I am pleased to join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, 100-plus diverse

stakeholder organizations, and 95 Members of the United States Senate in voicing my strong support for the bipartisan, bicameral Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

I also note that it includes many components of legislation that I have filed for the last 2 years, or two terms in Congress, H.R. 798 being this session's iteration. Both this bill and mine maintain the core structure of the WIA One-Stop System for the delivery of employment and training services. Both increase coordination and alignment of workforce development programs. Both eliminate the "sequence of services" requirement that currently prevents workers from receiving training until they receive other unnecessary services. Both preserve the integrity of the three State formula grant programs for youth, adults, and dislocated workers. Both maintain the current business majority requirement and specify that a minimum of 20 percent of the board be represented by the workforce. Both include nearly identical performance accountability measures, and both preserve and protect the adult literacy program in title II. Both maintain the current vocational rehabilitation administrative structure and delivery system and emphasize increasing the involvement of employers in the vocational rehab system. And the list goes on.

Madam Speaker, modernizing and strengthening the Workforce Investment Act has been one of my top priorities since being elected to Congress, and I am pleased that we are just about at the finish line and that the bill before us today includes much of what I have proposed and advocated.

Before reserving my time, I want to say this bill is likely to be the biggest jobs bill that passes the House and gets signed into law this session, but it is evidence also of what is achievable if we work together. I have long said that when it comes to the Workforce Investment Act, our areas of agreement far outnumber our areas of disagreement and that our differences were surmountable. Well, we finally got there.

I want to thank Chairman HARKIN, Senator MURRAY and Senator ALEXANDER, Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, Representative FOXX and Representative HINOJOSA, and all the staff who were involved for their unwavering commitment to getting this done. This is good bipartisan bill. It deserves the support of the House so it can be cleared and be signed into law by President Obama.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, now I am very, very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the principal author of the SKILLS Act, which got this ball rolling.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his support in this and all the members of the committee who helped work on this bill.

I would like to add my thanks to those that the chairman has made to the staff, in particular, Julianne Sullivan, James Bergeron, Brian Melnyk, and Rosemary Lahasky, for the incredible work that they have done.

I also want to thank ERIC CANTOR, our majority leader, and Senators ISAKSON and PATTY MURRAY for the wonderful support that they have given.

Madam Speaker, today's vote on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is important for the millions of Americans who are looking for work. It is also important for the employers who have 4.6 million job opportunities that remain unfilled due to the skills gap. Closing this gap will specifically improve the lives of many Americans who are currently looking for work while generally helping our economy grow.

Today's vote is the culmination of an 18-month process of legislating the old-fashioned way: discussion, negotiation and compromise. This has been a bipartisan and bicameral process. It has been a privilege to play a role in it.

Madam Speaker, as you know, last year, the House passed H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, a bill to reform our Nation's mishmash of workforce development programs. About 2 weeks ago, after much negotiation, the Senate passed an amended version of H.R. 803 and renamed it the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This bill will provide a long-overdue reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and will reform some of the broken aspects of that system.

There is longstanding bipartisan agreement that the current workforce development system is broken. Even President Obama recognizes that. In his 2012 State of the Union, President Obama called for cutting through the maze of training programs in order to do something about jobs going unfilled due to the lack of skilled workers. This bill turns that bipartisan consensus into action.

Madam Speaker, in short, this legislation will increase access, eliminate waste, promote accountability, empower job creators, and give Americans access to the resources needed to fill in-demand jobs.

Again, I want to thank all those who have been involved with helping get this legislation enacted. It is my hope that this process serves as a template to address some of the dozens of other House-passed jobs bills that still need a hearing in the Senate. Let this be the starting point for action on many other vital issues that need our attention.

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Working together, we can get things done. In that spirit, I urge my col-

leagues to join me in supporting H.R. 803 and sending this important bipartisan, bicameral legislation to the President's desk.

This bill turns that bipartisan consensus into action. It will remove bureaucratic hurdles to help people access services immediately and require that education programs focus on in-demand skills. Programs will be held to account through common performance metrics and face funding cuts if they fail to do their job. This legislation empowers state and local workforce leaders by providing funding flexibility to meet the unique needs of their communities and streamlines reporting requirements to ensure the focus is on services, rather than duplicative reports.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, who has been deeply involved in the passage of this bill.

Mr. HINOJOSA. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the underlying bill, H.R. 803, entitled the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, I applaud Senators HARKIN, MURRAY, ALEXANDER, and ISAKSON for their extraordinary leadership in advancing this bipartisan, bicameral legislation in the Senate, with a vote of 95-3. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is quite an accomplishment.

In the House of Representatives, I commend my colleagues from the Education and the Workforce Committee—our chairman, JOHN KLINE, and our U.S. Representatives GEORGE MILLER, VIRGINIA FOXX, and JOHN TIERNEY—for all working in a bipartisan manner on this vitally important piece of legislation.

In my view, helping Americans get back on track must be our top priority. Today, Congress has an opportunity to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act, known as WIA, and do more to support American workers in accessing good family-sustaining jobs and careers.

First and foremost, I am pleased that the underlying bill makes significant improvements to our Nation's public workforce training and adult education system. The bill promotes career pathways and utilizes sector strategies for delivering job training services, strategies that have been successful in south Texas.

This bill, H.R. 803, preserves national programs for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, as well as dislocated workers, disadvantaged youth, Native Americans, and people with disabilities. These are the populations that face significant barriers to employment and education.

In the area of adult education, this bill integrates adult education and workplace skills; it authorizes the integrated English literacy and civics education program for adult learners; and

it expands access to postsecondary education. Importantly, this bipartisan bill includes several key provisions from the Adult Education and Economic Growth Act, which I introduced. For these reasons, it is no surprise that there is overwhelming support from business groups, from labor unions, from State and local elected officials, community colleges, as well as workforce boards, adult education providers, youth organizations, and civil rights groups for this bill.

In closing, I strongly urge Members of the House of Representatives to join me and our Senate colleagues in supporting American workers by passing H.R. 803.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, it is now my great pleasure and honor to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the majority leader.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

For America to work, we need effective education and workforce development programs to strengthen the middle class. Today, however, too many Americans are looking for work without the necessary skills to match job openings. This skills gap is keeping our economy from recovering and reaching its full potential.

A recent study by Georgetown University indicated that we will be short by 11 million workers in the year 2022 because of the lack of postsecondary education or skills training. If we allow ourselves to continue down this dangerous path, we will only see feeble economic growth for the future. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to reverse that trend with this piece of legislation.

This bill before the House today will make it easier for Americans to find a job by consolidating 15 Federal workforce development programs and aligning them with skills training and education initiatives. Plain and simple, this bill is about putting people back to work.

I know these kinds of commonsense reforms will help Americans find a job because I have seen them succeed. On a recent trip to Siemens Energy with several of my colleagues—Representatives PITTENGER, MCHENRY, and FOXX—we met a young girl named Hope. Hope, along with others, is an apprentice at Siemens. In return for her commitment to work there, Siemens is paying for her education at a local community college, where she is receiving the skills needed for the manufacturing industry of today. This is a terrific example of how the public and private sectors can work together to keep our country competitive while training workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will make it easier for these partnerships to flourish around the country. Passing this bill is a small but important step towards strengthening our middle class, kick-starting our economy, and giving people a chance to climb the economic ladder of success.

American workers deserve to know that their government is making it easier for them, not harder. It is making it easier for them to keep a steady paycheck to increase those wages and provide for their families.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, for his long-term commitment to this issue of skills training, education, and development. He has been tireless in his advocacy.

I also want to thank our colleague, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina, who has also been a fierce advocate for skills education and making sure that those who don't have skills are given the opportunity to do so so that they, too, can climb the ladder of success.

The entire membership of the Education and the Workforce Committee deserves our thanks, too, for their hard work on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can, once again, create an America that works and works again for everybody.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, STENY HOYER, our Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, before the gentleman from Virginia leaves the floor, I want to say to the majority leader that I thank him, as well, for his leadership. The majority leader and I have discussed the SKILLS Act for a number of months, perhaps as long ago as when this bill passed the House.

This bill passed the House on a partisan vote. The majority leader observed numerous times—and I agreed with him—that this should not be a partisan issue. The good news today is that it will pass on a bipartisan vote. The system works today. And the American people are going to be advantaged. And all of those whom the majority leader spoke of will be advantaged as well.

The fact of the matter is, we passed a bill through this House. The Senate passed a bill. We went to conference. We worked out an agreement. And we are now going to support that in a bipartisan fashion. That will be a positive for our country.

So I am pleased to rise, Mr. Speaker, in support of this bill. It is an example of how Democrats and Republicans can work together to reauthorize important programs that support a strong economy and a growing middle class. We have an agenda on our side we call

“Make It In America.” Everybody in this House is for Americans making it in this country, succeeding.

This bill will provide job-seekers with the in-demand skills and training they need to get hired for the jobs that pay well and provide access to opportunities. In short, it will help more of our people make it in America.

While House Democrats were disappointed that Republicans passed a partisan bill last year, I am glad that a spirit of compromise has now prevailed. The Republicans agreed to work with us and the Senate to craft a bipartisan bill that incorporates key provisions of the Democratic alternative to last year's bill, which was part of House Democrats' Make It In America plan for jobs and competitiveness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TIERNEY. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. This bipartisan legislation will continue to ensure that adults, youth, and dislocated workers can receive the assistance they need to succeed in the job market. It will focus resources on essential programs that most effectively serve job-seekers while eliminating less effective ones. This is the kind of legislation that we ought to be passing.

I applaud the ranking member. I applaud the chairman of the committee for bringing this bill to the floor. And I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), the chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a bill born out of the substantial efforts of Chairman KLINE, Congresswoman FOXX, and the House Education and the Workforce Committee to help the unemployed train themselves for good-paying jobs.

In my Michigan district, there are hardworking individuals, businesses, and colleges committed to reinventing the State's workforce programs, but we need to provide the tools to support their efforts.

This bicameral compromise replaces a confusing maze of workforce programs. It also provides funds to State and local organizations to partner with local employers to highlight emerging career opportunities.

Most importantly, this legislation will provide the necessary training, retraining, and educational opportunities to help Americans get back to work, building a life of self-sufficiency and success.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and work towards growing a healthy economy and expanding opportunity for all.

I also encourage the Senate, with the 293 other bills that we have sent to them, to work out a compromise to send back jobs bills like this that will promote good opportunities in America.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), who is the ranking member of the committee and, as the chairman of the committee has said, is no stranger to this issue. He has been a champion of the Workforce Investment Act and its improvement all along.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan, bicameral Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives TIERNEY and HINOJOSA, for their commitment to improving our workforce training system, a job that they have labored at now for many years. And I want to thank Senators HARKIN, MURRAY, ALEXANDER, and ISAKSON for their leadership.

I also want to strongly thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. KLINE from Minnesota, and subcommittee chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX for their leadership and cooperation on this legislation and, of course, the professional staff on both sides of the aisle in the House and in the Senate.

This is a critical moment. With almost 20 million Americans still out of work, workers need help learning skills and finding good jobs. Each year, WIA and the vocational rehabilitation programs serve millions of Americans in need of job training and employment services. But with a rapidly changing workforce and a competitive global economy, we need to update and improve the workforce training programs.

For 40 years, these vital programs have been authorized and reauthorized through bipartisan collaboration, and I am happy to see that that tradition continues today. I am especially pleased that the bill maintains strong protections and funding for populations in need, while also streamlining programs and creating new accountability measures.

This bill improves job training programs and aligns the training with real-world labor market needs. It better aligns vocational rehabilitation programs with special education services to help youth with disabilities transition into college or the workforce. It empowers people with disabilities to succeed in competitive, integrated employment. And it emphasizes the needs of youth, dislocated workers, undereducated adults, and English learners.

But this bill also makes other critical changes. Similar to the Tierney-Hinojosa Democratic bill, this agreement makes job training programs more efficient and effective. It requires

that States develop unified workforce plans to coordinate their job training programs. It standardizes accountability metrics across all programs. It cuts the size of State and local boards so they can be more flexible and strategic. And it includes new benchmarks to help training program participants earn certifications that will allow them to find employment.

The bill also includes innovative policy solutions. Most importantly to me, this bill better connects job training programs with the needs of local employers and gives local employers a larger voice, and it requires sector initiatives at both the State and local levels.

□ 1300

It gives workers access to training for long-term job readiness and not just immediate employment. It helps prevent students with disabilities from being funneled into subminimum wage employment, and it includes competency-based education, so that adults can get credit for what they have already learned.

Now, some will say the bill doesn't cut enough programs, and others will say that it didn't create enough new programs, but this is compromise legislation that aims for the middle ground. I think it has been accomplished, and I think the efficiencies have also been accomplished in this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I ask for an "aye" vote on H.R. 803, and I think it will support much, much-needed improvements to the primary Federal program that invests in America's workforce. Again, I thank my colleagues on the committee for all their attention and all their hard work.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). The gentleman from Minnesota has 11 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, now, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE, the chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Today, 9.5 million Americans are out of work, despite 4.6 million job openings. As our economy changes, so too will the jobs available, and we will have seen more and more less-skilled workers and jobs being replaced by skills-intensive jobs. We have to make sure our workforce can keep up, or we will lose these jobs to countries that prioritize the development of these skills.

H.R. 803 works to close the skills gap that prevents our workers from securing a job in a number of ways. The bill makes the job training system easier to use, and at one point, there were 40 different jobs training programs in the Federal Government whose missions often overlapped and left jobseekers confused.

This legislation consolidates 15 ineffective or duplicative programs and makes the job of navigating a complicated bureaucracy easier for jobseekers.

We reform workforce training boards to ensure that a majority of board members are from the business community—the job creators who know best what skills they need in their workforce.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a good first step to helping the unemployed, particularly those who have been out of work for many, many months. I encourage my colleagues to support this conference report and help our friends and neighbors get back to work.

Mr. TIERNEY. At this time, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado, JARED POLIS.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Madam Speaker, 1998 was the last time the Workforce Investment Act was authorized. I recall I was on the State board of education in Colorado in 2000 and 2006. As the act expired in 2003, they said, Oh, Congress will do it next year. In 2004, they said, Maybe they will do it next year. In 2005, Maybe they will do it next year—well, next year, next year, next year.

Well, I am proud to say that thanks to the work of Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, Mr. TIERNEY, and others, we are finally at the point where we are reauthorizing the Workforce Investment program.

I am particularly thrilled to see that many aspects of my Women WIN Jobs program are included in this compromise. Women represent half of our Nation's workforce, yet their vital contributions are too often compensated at lower levels, and this bill will help ensure that women receive training for higher-paying jobs to help them reach pay parity with men.

The legislation's references to assisting women and minorities in succeeding in nontraditional careers will help women and minorities participate in higher wage jobs that open the doors of opportunity this country has to offer.

It is also great that we recognized the need for adult education, helping many of our new immigrants learn English, so they can live the American Dream. I applaud my colleagues and their staff in both the House and the Senate. I look forward to supporting this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from

Nevada, Dr. HECK, another key member of the committee.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Madam Speaker, with Nevada continuing to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, my number one priority in Congress remains strengthening our economy and getting Nevadans back to work.

That is why I strongly support the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which streamlines and strengthens local workforce investment boards and ensures they are training workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow, not the jobs of yesterday.

I proposed similar reforms as part of the local JOBS Act, which I introduced after hearing from countless employers that they were looking to hire, but unable to find workers with the skills they required. This bill will help solve that problem.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, and all those involved in this process for working with me to include these important changes that will help both unemployed and underemployed workers gain the skills and training they need to obtain a good-paying job and grow the middle class.

I urge support for this bill.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 1 minute to our colleague from Oregon, SUZANNE BONAMICI.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This bill shows that we can work together to adopt policies that will put our constituents back to work, give them opportunity, and keep our economy on the road to recovery.

One of the first bills I introduced in Congress was the WISE Investment Act that was designed to address the skills gap challenge by matching local businesses with workforce boards and community colleges to train our out-of-work constituents for in-demand occupations.

Although I was disappointed that that act was not included within this bill, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the bill does take steps to ensure that local businesses have a role in job training by including an important focus on sector partnerships.

Madam Speaker, this bill represents a strong step forward for our Nation's unemployed and for our economy. I commend Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, and my colleagues on the committee for their work to bring this bill to the floor, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, now, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), another member of the committee.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Workforce In-

novation and Opportunity Act, and it is important. When I first came to Congress, I was the sponsor of this bill when it was in our committee when I first came here.

My experience is I worked for 18 years before I came to Congress in my family's manufacturing business. I remember, when I first got there, we needed skilled workers. We were trying to find skilled workers, and we found out we had a plant full of very smart people who just didn't figure it out when they were in high school for some reason.

I have seen what additional training and education will do for adults—take some of the tool and diemakers in our world, robotics repairmen, and computer-controlled machine programmers to a high-wage, high-skilled job and lifestyle.

Also, as I travel through my district—I travel through my district all the time—and all of us do—go into businesses, and there is not a single business that I visited any time recently, even with the unemployment numbers where there are, not a single business, whether or not they are advertising in the paper for applications or not, but not a single one that says that, if the right person came today with the skills that I need, I would hire them.

This is why we are here today. This is what is happening. The process has worked. We are coming together as a country today, to make sure that the workers are getting a hand up, and we are going to make sure they have the opportunity to improve themselves.

I have seen it, Madam Speaker, I have seen it. When people go through these programs and they complete them successfully, they don't just become a more valuable employee. Each employee becomes more valuable to his and herself.

I am very proud to be here. I am very proud to support this. I appreciate our chairman and Ms. Foxx of North Carolina and all the work together through the House and the Senate, to give the workers of America a victory today.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, at this point, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut, JOE COURTNEY, who has been a strong member of the committee and an advocate of workforce investment for some time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan consensus bill, and I want to congratulate Mr. TIERNEY for his steadfast work going back years, in terms of getting this to this point here today.

I also want to congratulate the members from across the aisle who, in agreeing to this bill, rejected the sequester level of spending, which was in the original bill that was passed earlier this session.

That sequester level of spending was going to handcuff job training efforts,

so that we could not, in fact, achieve the goals that this bill will, in fact, get us to when it passes later today.

For example, the bill allows the employer support to go to 75 percent for on-the-job training and 20 percent support for incumbent worker training. Allowing that support to rise will give employers the flexibility and the opportunity to give new workers the skills that they need for advanced manufacturing and high-skilled jobs that they can't take that risk on for people with the cost that it would bear.

This bill gives them that support and that help, but it is because we rejected the unrealistic sequester levels, which the Ryan budget and which the original bill incorporate.

Now, let's do it for cancer research. Let's do it for law enforcement. Let's do it for homeland security. Let's get rid of sequester, and let's allow this economy and this country to get the resources it needs to grow and thrive for its middle class.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, now, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a member of the committee.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman. Listen, I am so glad to be here today, talking about the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. As we congratulate each other on this great work—this bipartisan work and bicameral, in saying, my, what a wonderful piece of legislation—because what we are really trying to do is get people back to work.

In Webster's definition of "education," the ultimate function of education is to prepare us for complete living. That is the key to this.

Do you know who the biggest winner in this program is? The hardworking American taxpayers who fund every penny of these programs—I think, sometimes, we forget about who it is that does this.

We think it actually takes place in this House. It doesn't. It takes place in houses, but it is the homes around the United States. It is these hardworking American taxpayers that deserve a much better return on their investment. It is just that simple.

If we are going to get people ready for the labor market, let's redirect those funds, and let's make sure that it is more effective, more efficient, and something that the people look at and say: Do you know what? I didn't mind putting money in those programs because there was a positive result from it.

From the standpoint of congratulating each other and patting each other on the back and saying how wonderful this is, what I really want to do is take this moment to thank the hardworking American taxpayers who fund every single penny of these programs.

I thank you all for your work on it; Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, at this point in time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for addressing this important matter. The purpose of this colloquy is to clarify the intent of section 225 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

As we know, correctional education and job training are greatly needed. They foster successful reentry through increased employment and decreased criminal behavior and save taxpayer money.

I am pleased that the bill before us broadens the use of funds for correctional education to include a range of education and job training activities needed by incarcerated individuals for educational and career advancement.

I want to make clear the congressional intent of section 225 to include activities that support transitions to postsecondary education, workforce training offered alongside adult education, or concurrent enrollment for the purpose of educational and career advancement, also attaining a recognized postsecondary credential, which may include an associate or baccalaureate degree.

Mr. TIERNEY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. TIERNEY. As I understand section 225, the definitions that you mentioned are as you stated.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for clarifying the congressional intent of section 225. I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), another member of the committee.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Americans who want to fill the 4.6 million open jobs that are in this country today.

I rise in support of the Hoosiers who want to fill 150 open jobs in the small community of Hartford City, Indiana, and I rise in support of this bipartisan SKILLS Act, the legislation that will help Americans get the skills they need to fill these job openings.

Employers tell me, day in and day out, that they can't find the workers with the skills necessary to fill open jobs, and by streamlining our bureaucratic Federal workforce training system, the SKILLS Act will provide workers faster access to in-demand job training.

I am proud to say the SKILLS Act also includes an amendment I offered, giving States and those local workforce

boards more flexibility to support local job training programs that demonstrate success.

Programs like EmployIndy's PriorITize program provides technology training to so many adults who lack the technology skills they need.

□ 1315

When it comes to our workforce training system, it is time to make smarter investments; this bill does that. It is time to choose people over paperwork; this bill does that.

Madam Speaker, there are 4.6 million open jobs in this country. Let's fill those jobs. Let's pass the SKILLS Act.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for all of his hard work on this bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. This reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act is absolutely critical to our economic recovery, and I am pleased this agreement came together in a truly bipartisan fashion.

I am also pleased that this bill contains large portions of the SECTORS Act, which I introduced to close the gap between the kinds of skills workers have and the skills that businesses need. As I meet with business leaders in Iowa, what I hear time and time again is that they are unable to find workers with the skill sets they need to hire. I also hear from many individuals who are out of a job and struggling to find work that matches their skills. This is why my SECTORS Act is so important. It brings together businesses, labor organizations, and education and training providers to target workforce development efforts, and it fosters the kinds of skills that local businesses need right now. This bill requires local workforce development agencies to implement these sector partnerships to get people back to work and move our economy forward.

I want to thank in particular Chairwoman FOXX, and I want to thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER and, beyond that, my friend TOM HARKIN.

I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), the chair of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

Mr. ROKITA. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman KLINE, Dr. FOXX, the entire staff of the Education and the Workforce Committee, and everyone for working together on what is in every respect better. This bill is better than what is in current law.

I think we need to take just a minute and recognize that, because in a lot of

ways and in a lot of different examples we don't recognize that. There are gains to be locked in, so let's do it. Let's start with this bill. If there is a gain to be locked in, let's lock it in and stand on the shoulders of that gain and continue working to improve not only this language, not only these programs, but everything we do around here.

As a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I know that a skilled workforce is essential for remaining economically competitive. In fact, every American knows that. If we are going to be competitive in a 21st century global world and win, then we need these programs and these precious dollars. Especially when we are at a time when we are \$17.5 trillion in debt with more on the way, we need these programs working well. This bill does that. It reduces red tape and aims to end the fragmented nature of workforce services provided at the Federal, State, and local level. It eliminates 15 ineffective and duplicative programs, ensuring that our workforce investment is targeted and efficient.

I know and I take to heart what Ranking Member MILLER said: some of us wish there are more programs reformed or even eliminated altogether; some of us wish there were 15 more programs added. But again, this is a step in the right direction. I urge my colleagues to lock in the gain. Let's stand on the shoulders of this and get to other matters.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. As our Nation continues to recover from the Great Recession, we must continue to prepare our Nation's workers for the jobs of the future.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act will make long-needed improvements in workforce investment programs and services, including many that will benefit those who are often left behind. The legislation contains an enhanced definition of "individuals with barriers to employment" that explicitly includes workers over the age of 55 as well as the long-term unemployed. This means State and local workforce plans must include goals and strategies for serving these and other disenfranchised groups.

Additionally, the bill requires that 75 percent of youth funding in the bill support out-of-school youth. Once a juvenile falls off of the right track, he or she will face a range of problems that taxpayers will be on the hook for, especially social services and possibly incarceration. By investing in out-of-school youth, we are investing money on the front end so we won't have to end up paying the bill on the back end.

This bill represents a good faith compromise, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I have two speakers who will apparently not make it to the floor, so I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Massachusetts, and I rise in support of this important bill. I want to point to one good aspect of it.

I am pleased that the bill recognizes libraries as an integral part of helping the unemployed and underemployed get good jobs. Libraries, often at their own expense, are already helping many reach work with literacy skills, resume writing, computer skills, and librarians are offering a wealth of experience in assisting individuals to take advantage of all of the things that libraries offer.

Specifically, this bill includes a number of provisions from my bill, the Workforce Investments through Local Libraries Act, known as the WILL Act. The bill before us today will allow libraries to receive funds to continue their great work.

The Workforce Investment Act became law in 1998 and has not been updated over all these years. For 16 years, the Workforce Investment Act has been an important, nonpartisan help to workers and employers. However, over those years, employers' needs have changed and the skills needed to obtain good jobs have changed. This bill modernizes the programs that keep America competitive.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act and the critical job training programs that help unemployed and underemployed Americans find work and get back on their feet. No investment is more critical than investment in our human capital. These job training programs make opportunity real. They benefit families and working people who need help, people who have played by the rules. Businesses rely on these programs to fill vacant positions with qualified and skilled workers.

This bill, the product of many years of bipartisan negotiations, takes what is already working and improves on it. It streamlines and provides stability to

these critical programs, while including important protections for workers with disabilities. It encourages partnerships between the workforce system and our community colleges while enhancing adult education and encouraging innovation in adult training.

Members of both parties have understood the vital role of the government in helping people help themselves by providing access to workforce development. The bill is a good compromise. It makes good on a critical promise to our workers and businesses. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I thank Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MILLER, and those on the other side of the aisle for coming together and passing this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have heard a lot of conversation today about the bipartisan and bicameral nature of this, and it certainly is. I want to take a couple of minutes to clear up a couple of misinformation items that are out there.

One, it was suggested that this paid no attention to sequestration; it was sort of a runaway spending. The funds authorized in this bill are entirely consistent with the Budget Control Act, I would like to reassure my colleagues on both sides.

And then someone said this was a conference report, and I understand where they might have that understanding because we are treating it much as a conference report. The technical facts are that the House passed a bill, the SKILLS Act. The Senate committee moved a bill, but it didn't move to the Senate floor. Even despite that, we were able to step forward and treat this in a very bipartisan, bicameral way, working towards a compromise so that we could pass it in the Senate.

Again, I want to thank all of my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working very, very hard to get this through the Senate and its quite interesting processes and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here for taking it up right away when it has come back from the Senate so that we can pass this bill and get it to the President for signature and help those 4.5 million Americans get back to work, help the employers get the employees they need, and we can help the American taxpayer, as my friend Mr. KELLY said, by making the system more accountable and more responsible.

With that, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in support to H.R. 803, the "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act."

I support this bipartisan legislation because it will modernize existing federal workforce de-

velopment programs and prepare workers for the global economy of the 21st century.

This bill represents a bicameral compromise between the SKILLS Act passed by the House in March 2013 and the workforce training bill reported by the Senate HELP Committee in July of the same year.

The Senate passed this bipartisan agreement on June 25, thus passage by the House today will send the bill to the President's desk for his signature.

Madam Speaker, by 2022, the United States will need 11 million workers with postsecondary education to stay competitive in the global economy.

Currently, 52 percent of adults between the ages of 16–65 in the United States lack the literacy skills necessary to succeed in postsecondary education and work.

Additionally, individuals with disabilities have the highest rate of unemployment of any group, and more than two-thirds do not participate in the workforce at all.

Madam Speaker, we need to help put more Americans back in the workforce.

This legislation will support access to real-world education in fields that are in demand locally and help more workers, including those with disabilities, across the country find a good job or train for a new career.

This bill invests in America's competitiveness by:

1. Providing adult education and workplace skills, such as English Literacy and Civic Education Program for adult learners;
2. Supporting programs and training for disconnected youth, Native Americans, migrant, and seasonal farm workers; and
3. Strengthening vocational rehabilitation programs to assist individuals with disabilities to enter the workforce.

In addition to helping workers attain the skills for 21st needed for the jobs of the 21st century, this bill will create a more streamlined workforce development system that will better coordinate services by:

1. Eliminating 15 existing programs;
2. Applying a single set of outcome metrics to every federal workforce programs;
3. Creating more strategic state and local workforce development boards; and
4. Eliminating the "sequence of services" to allow local areas to better meet the unique needs of individuals.

Madam Speaker, in Houston, Texas, we have three centers which help the economically disadvantaged learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job: Gary Job Corps Center, Job Corps, and Workforce Solutions.

H.R. 803 will provide much needed assistance to these centers and enable them to continue their good work of providing the technical and job training skills that will enable adults, dislocated workers, and youth residents to succeed in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan legislation will prepare workers for the 21st century workforce, while helping businesses find the skilled employees they need to compete.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 803.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

(WIOA). This bill passed the Senate by a vote of 95–3, and I hope it will clear the House with similar support so it can be quickly signed into law by the President.

It is expected that by 2022, the United States will face a shortage of 11 million workers with the necessary level of postsecondary education, including 6.8 million workers with bachelor's degrees, and 4.3 million workers with a postsecondary vocational certificate, some college credits or an associate's degree.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act has been one of my longstanding priorities. The Workforce Investment Act was originally passed in 1998 in an effort to improve federal job training programs. Since the law expired in 2003, it has been supported by annual appropriations, but funding levels have not been adjusted to reflect the many economic changes that have taken place over the past 16 years.

One of the biggest challenges confronting our economy is the skills gap. In conversations with businesses across my home state of Rhode Island, I constantly hear that they are unable to find workers with the skills necessary to succeed. WIOA modernizes and improves existing federal workforce development programs and helps workers attain skills for 21st century jobs, while helping businesses find the skilled employees they need to compete. Among its many provisions, the agreement also reauthorizes and amends the Rehabilitation Amendments of 1973 to improve disability-related workforce training, employment, independent living, and research programs.

Under this bill, workers, employers, and educators will be able to better coordinate on workforce development programs and skills training, and ensure that individuals with disabilities have the skills necessary to be successful in businesses that provide competitive, integrated employment. Meanwhile, local workforce investment boards will be able to tailor services to their region's employment and workforce needs.

WIOA also makes significant improvements to Job Corps. In Exeter, RI, we are fortunate to have one of the nation's top-performing Job Corps centers. Now we can build on our past successes through increased data collection and greater technical assistance from the Department of Labor, while allowing operators of high-performing facilities to compete for contract renewal.

The bill before us today is the product of bipartisan negotiations between the House and Senate. Both parties and both chambers have worked hard on this, and I am pleased that we are now taking action. Every community across the country benefits from workforce training programs to provide the skills necessary to drive job creation and economic growth. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, I submit the following explanation of Manager's Views for H.R. 803. The entire Statement of Managers to Accompany the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on June 25, 2014 (beginning on 10877) and on the Committee on Education and the Workforce website at www.edworkforce.house.gov.

IV. EXPLANATION OF THE BILL AND MANAGERS' VIEWS

Sections 1, 2, and 3. Sections 1, 2, and 3 describe the short title for the bill, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; include the purposes of the Act; and state the definitions for the Act, which are intended to have the same meaning under each program authorized under the Act unless otherwise stated. The definitions identify the "core programs" under the Act, which consist of title I State grant programs; title II adult education programs; the employment service under title III amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act; and State vocational rehabilitation programs under title IV.

Title I—Workforce Development Activities; Providers; Job Corps; National Programs; and Administration

Title I of the underlying bill includes the primary components of State and local area workforce development systems as well as several national programs for youth and special populations. In order to strengthen and streamline the workforce system, the title focuses on changes to governance, including reducing the number of required board members at the State and local level; requiring one, unified State plan; and promoting local workforce areas more closely aligned to labor markets and economic development regions while preserving a locally driven workforce system. The bill also promotes the themes of providing employment services and workforce development along a career pathway for participants, and education training in line with in-demand industry sectors and occupations for a region.

WORKFORCE BOARDS

In order for boards to be more strategic, the bill reduces the number of required board members at both the State and local level. The boards remain a business majority with a business chairperson, while the representation for the workforce is increased. At the local level, with the exception of the core programs under the Act, the one-stop partners are no longer required members.

WORKFORCE PLANS

To support a strategic, comprehensive, and streamlined system, the bill requires one, unified State plan, covering four years, to meet the requirements for each of the core programs. The plan also requires a description of the State's overall strategy for workforce development and how the strategy will help meet identified skill needs for workers, job seekers and employers in the State. This unified plan will improve service delivery to individuals as well as reduce administrative costs and reporting requirements at the State level. In order to promote a one-stop system that accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities, the State and local plans must include a description of how the one-stop system in the State will comply with the applicable requirements of section 188 and the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding the accessibility of programs and facilities for people with disabilities.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

In order to maintain the balance between governors and local elected officials, the bill requires States to consult with local boards and chief elected officials in order to identify local areas and planning regions that are in alignment with labor markets and regional economic development areas. The bill allows for initial and subsequent designations based on performance, fiscal integrity, and participation in regional coordination activities, including regional planning, information sharing, pooling of administrative costs, and coordination of service delivery.

PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

In order to promote increased transparency about the outcomes of Federal workforce programs, the bill includes six primary indicators of performance for adults served under programs authorized under the Act, and six primary indicators for youth served under the Act. Commonality among the indicators will allow policymakers, program users, and consumers to better understand the value and effectiveness of the services. The managers recognize that for those participants who have low levels of literacy skills, or who are English language learners, the acquisition of basic English literacy and numeracy skills are critical steps to obtaining employment and success in postsecondary education and training. Therefore, the term "measurable skill gains" referred to under indicator V in this section for adults and youth, is intended to encourage eligible providers under title II to serve all undereducated, low-level, and under prepared adults. The managers agree that reporting and evaluation requirements are important tools in measuring effectiveness, especially for the core programs. Therefore, the legislation includes performance reports to be provided at the State, local and eligible training provider levels, as well as evaluations of the core programs by States.

ONE-STOP INFRASTRUCTURE

To improve the quality of the one-stop delivery system, the bill requires the State board, in consultation with chief local elected officials and local boards, to establish criteria for use by the local board in assessing the effectiveness, physical and programmatic accessibility, and continuous improvement of one-stop centers and delivery systems at least every three years. Regarding infrastructure funding for one-stop centers, the bill maintains requirements for the mandatory one-stop partners in a local area to reach a voluntary agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, to fund the costs of infrastructure, other shared costs, and how the partners will deliver services under the system. If local areas fail to come to an agreement regarding sufficient funding of one-stop infrastructure costs, a State one-stop infrastructure funding mechanism can be imposed for those local areas. Mandatory partner program contributions, pursuant to the State one-stop infrastructure funding mechanism, are based on the proportionate use of the one-stop centers and subject to specified caps.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

For youth, the bill utilizes the existing formula to allot funds to States for youth services. It improves upon existing youth services by placing a priority on out-of-school youth (75 percent of funding at the State and local level), and focusing on career pathways for youth, drop-out recovery efforts, and education and training that lead to the attainment of a high school diploma and a recognized postsecondary credential. A priority is also included for work-based learning activities.

For adults and dislocated workers, the bill utilizes the existing formulas with the inclusion of a minimum and maximum allotment percentage for the dislocated worker formula beginning in fiscal year 2016. The managers believe the addition of the minimum and maximum percentages will help bring stability to the only formula that currently does not include such mechanisms, and will reduce funding volatility for States year to year. The bill preserves the governor's 15 percent set aside for statewide activities.

To eliminate the perceived “sequence of services” under current law, requiring an individual to proceed through core and intensive services before training eligibility can be determined, the bill consolidates core and intensive services into a new “career services” category. While the services remain similar to those under current law, the structure is intended to provide more flexibility to one-stop staff in determining a participant's need for training. Local boards are required to convene, use, or implement industry or sector partnerships. The bill also improves upon the mechanisms for local boards to provide education and training to eligible participants by adding the following optional methods, under certain guidelines, for training—contracting for classes of training for multiple participants or on a pay-for performance basis; incumbent worker training; and transitional jobs strategies. Finally, the title includes authorization levels for appropriations for the State grant programs

JOB CORPS

The bill improves upon the current Job Corps program by strengthening the contracting requirements for centers, requiring the program use the performance accountability indicators for youth described in section 116 and strengthening reporting requirements, and allowing the Department of Labor to provide technical assistance to centers. The bill includes requirements for a financial report and a third party review of the program every five years. The bill also includes a provision allowing operators of a high-performing center, defined by performance criteria, to be eligible to compete in any procurement process for that center. Where there is not sufficient performance information for the time period required under section 147(b)(2)(B) or section 147(b)(3) due to the effects of a natural disaster or the participation of the center in a performance pilot program, it is the intent of the managers the Secretary apply the provisions of that section to any performance information that is available to the Secretary from the relevant period preceding the time the determination under that provision is made. This would allow entities operating the center to have an opportunity to meet performance requirements allowing them to compete where the absence of complete information is not the fault of the operating entity.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The bill reauthorizes the Native American program; the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker program; and YouthBuild. It also includes provisions for National Dislocated Worker Grants; technical assistance under title I; and evaluations, research, studies and multistate projects conducted by the Secretary of Labor. The bill requires the Secretary of Labor to conduct a multistate study on strategies for placing individuals in jobs and education and training programs that lead to equivalent pay for men and women, including the participation of women in high-wage, high-demand occupations in which women are underrepresented. We believe this is important because a key element of raising women's wages is to provide access to occupations that are predominantly held by men, pay well, and are in demand in the economy. Many occupations today are still dominated by one gender, with more than 75 percent of the jobs in that occupation held by men or by women. Jobs that are predominantly held by men—in industries like transportation, manufacturing, or construction trades—often pay considerably more than jobs traditionally held by

women, such as child care workers, health care workers, clerical workers, or workers in retail or other service sectors industries. The managers expect the Secretary to review existing programs and research, State laws and initiatives, and any other relevant project, to determine successful strategies for placement and retention of women in relevant training or jobs and to provide States and localities with the information, tools, and assistance they need to develop programs and activities that will replicate such strategies. We request completion of this project within eighteen months of enactment.

The bill requires an independent evaluation of the activities under title I at least once every four years for the purpose of improving the management and effectiveness of programs and activities. In recognition of the changing demands of the economy, the bill allows the YouthBuild program to expand into additional in-demand industry sectors or occupations in the region.

The bill includes authorization of appropriations for the programs under subtitle D.

ADMINISTRATION

The bill adds restrictions against lobbying activities with funds under this title. The managers do not intend for these provisions to restrict awareness or outreach activities regarding services and activities under title I.

Title II—The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

In reauthorizing title II, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the bill places an emphasis on ensuring States and local providers offer basic skills, adult education, literacy activities, and English language acquisition concurrently or integrated with occupational skills training to accelerate attainment of secondary school diplomas and postsecondary credentials. Making sure these skills are solidly in place for all students is a priority. The bill also emphasizes utilization of a career pathway approach for adult learners to support transitions to postsecondary education or training and employment opportunities.

The bill requires all adult basic education and literacy programs to use the same set of primary indicators of performance accountability outlined for all employment and training activities authorized under this Act. Individuals receiving these services should be able to use these skills in obtaining a regular secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, obtaining full time employment, increasing their median earnings, and enrolling in postsecondary education or training, or earning a recognized postsecondary credential.

It is essential for adult educators to work closely with workforce development stakeholders in the State, including State and local workforce boards. To help in achieving a seamless statewide workforce development system, the bill requires title II programs to submit a unified State plan with the other core programs within this Act. The bill also provides funds for States to use in offering eligible providers of adult education technical assistance, providing professional development training to improve the instruction and outcomes for adult learners, and conducting evaluations. It encourages State and local leaders to provide activities contextually and concurrently with workforce preparation and training activities for a specific occupation or occupational cluster for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

The bill authorizes national activities to assist States and local providers in devel-

oping valid, measurable, and reliable performance data, and in using such performance information for the improvement of adult education and family literacy education programs. The bill also includes provisions to support research and evaluation of adult education activities at the national level. Finally, the bill places an emphasis on integrating English literacy with civics education, as well as adult education and occupational training activities.

Title III—Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act

Title III of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act makes amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, which authorizes the public employment services and the employment statistics system. Amendments to the Wagner-Peyser Act generally maintain current law but also reflect the need to align the statute with the other changes in the bill such as including the State employment services in the unified State plan; aligning performance accountability indicators with those indicators used for core programs—as described in section 116 of title I; renaming “employment statistics” to the “workforce and labor market information system” and updating the Workforce Information Council; and providing for staff professional development in order to strengthen the quality of services. Authorization of appropriations for the workforce and labor market information system and the workforce information council is provided for each of the fiscal years of 2015 through 2020.

Title IV—Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act amends and reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rehabilitation Act was last reauthorized in 1998.

The Rehabilitation Act is an important law for individuals with disabilities, particularly those with significant disabilities. It authorizes programs that affect the daily lives of many individuals with disabilities, including the vocational rehabilitation program (training, services, and supports for employment); the independent living program; and research and information on new technology to assist individuals with disabilities.

There remains a critical need for employment and training services for individuals with disabilities. Almost 25 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is still difficult for many individuals with significant disabilities to find full time employment that is commensurate with their skills, interests, and goals. Yet State vocational rehabilitation programs can play a significant role in meeting this need by providing training, services and supports for individuals with disabilities.

It is especially important to provide young people with disabilities more opportunities to practice and improve their workplace skills, to consider their career interests, and to get real world work experience. Those activities are prioritized in the amendments to the Act. For example, the bill requires State vocational rehabilitation agencies to make “pre-employment transition services” available to all students with disabilities, and to coordinate those services with transition services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. State vocational rehabilitation programs will set aside at least 15 percent of their Federal program funds to help young people with disabilities transition from secondary school to postsecondary education programs and employment.

In addition, these amendments establish a framework to ensure every young person with a disability, regardless of their level of disability, has the opportunity to experience competitive, integrated employment. These requirements will provide young people with disabilities with the opportunity to develop their skills and to use supports, available through State vocational rehabilitation programs, to experience competitive, integrated employment as they leave school and enter the workforce.

In order to better align the Independent Living program that serves individuals with significant disabilities living in the community with other similar efforts, the amendments transition the administration of the Independent Living program from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living. The transition moves the program to an agency with a lifespan and community focus and will better allow the program to fulfill its goal to support "independent living . . . and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society."

The amendments also incorporate "independent living" into the name and mission of the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research and similarly move that program's administration from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living in order to better align the program priorities with agency goals and priorities.

Title V—General Provisions

The bill repeals the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 in its entirety, replacing it with reforms to better serve unemployed and underemployed workers as well as employers. In doing so, authority is provided to the Secretaries of Labor, Education, and Health and Human Services to establish a smooth and orderly transition period to implement this Act.

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act maintains without change from the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 a nondiscrimination requirement. The requirement not only prohibits participating organizations from discriminating against those who need job training assistance, but it also requires faith-based organizations to stop considering religion when hiring staff as the price of partnering with the federal government to help these job seekers.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) prohibits the government from substantially burdening religious exercise. RFRA applies to every federal law, and it protects the right of religious hiring, notwithstanding the restrictive language we just affirmed. This specific use of RFRA is explained in an extensive Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) memorandum dated June 29, 2007.

This use of RFRA to protect religious hiring by religious organizations even when a federal grant program prohibits it was recently reaffirmed by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVAW) of the Department of Justice. In reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) last year, Congress inserted into the law a broad nondiscrimination requirement such as the one we maintain in today's workforce bill. On April 9, 2014, OVAW issued "Frequently Asked Questions" about [this new—should this read "the VAWA"] nondiscrimination requirement. In Q and A 6,

OVAW explained the OLC memorandum on RFRA's applicability and set out the way a religious organization that engaged in religious hiring may take part in VAWA-funded services despite the addition of the nondiscrimination requirement.

Q and A 6 further includes a link to a long-standing Department of Justice form, the Certificate of Exemption for Hiring Practices on the Basis of Religion, used by religious organizations to appeal under RFRA to participate in DOJ programs.

The religious hiring freedom is a vital freedom for religious organizations. Therefore I am pleased to stress this important protection found in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. I supported this legislation when it first passed the House last March, and I'm proud to stand here today as we vote to send to the President a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that will reform the nation's broken job training system and help put Americans back to work.

This legislation makes the necessary reforms to make our job training programs more efficient and effective. The bill empowers local boards to customize the services they provide to better reflect their region's employment and workforce needs and aligns workforce training and development programs with the needs of the local economy and education level of applicants.

Equally important, H.R. 803 takes important steps to ensure that Americans with disabilities have both the opportunity to develop the skills they need to succeed and have access to competitive and integrated workplaces. Too often, we overlook the fact that Americans with disabilities experience an unemployment rate that is double that of able-bodied Americans. More troubling is the fact that most of these Americans want to work and have the ability to work but don't have the opportunity. This bill starts to change the status quo. But, we can do more to empower all individuals with disabilities to fulfill their potential just like every American.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman KLINE for his good work on this and all disability issues.

Mr. MESSER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, which will help get people back to work in higher-wage jobs.

I want to commend Chairman KLINE and Subcommittee Chairwoman FOXX for their dedication and commitment to improving our nation's workforce training programs.

Our nation's current job training system is overly complex and failing hard-working Americans. Believe it or not, millions of jobs go unfilled simply because prospective employees lack the necessary knowledge and training. This bill will help address that challenge by bridging the gap between the skills workers have and those employers need, preparing workers to find good paying jobs.

This bill will also ensure hard-working taxpayers get more bang for their buck by demanding accountability and results from workforce training programs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which shows we can come

together and move America forward when we set our partisan differences aside.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 803.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 9, 2014 at 10:47 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 496.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4923, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4923.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1329

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the

consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BLACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is my distinct honor to present the fiscal year 2015 Energy and Water bill for consideration before the full House. I would like to recognize the efforts of our chairman, Mr. ROGERS, and Ranking Member LOWEY to bring this bill to the floor. Their efforts to bring the appropriations process back to regular order ensures that our Federal discretionary spending receives the full scrutiny of this body and our committee process.

□ 1330

I would also like to thank Ranking Member KAPTUR for all of her work. Her contributions and advice have made this legislation stronger.

The bill before us totals \$34.01 billion for activities for the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and other agencies under our jurisdiction. This is a \$50

million reduction from last year's funding levels.

The bill prioritizes investments in this Nation's infrastructure and national defense. As we do each year, we worked hard to incorporate priorities and perspectives from both sides of the aisle.

For instance, this bill overcomes the budget request's proposed cut of nearly \$1 billion to the critical programs of the Army Corps of Engineers. The request would have led to economic disruptions at our ports and waterways as our ports and waterways filled in and would have left our communities and businesses vulnerable to flooding. Instead, this bill recognizes the critical work of the Corps and provides \$5.492 billion for these activities, \$959 million above the request and \$25 million above last year.

This bill takes a strong stand against government overreach by prohibiting changes to the definitions of the "waters of the United States" and "fill material."

The bill also provides \$11.361 billion for the automatic security, nonproliferation, and naval reactors programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a \$154 million increase from fiscal year 2014.

This bill is clear about our concerns with Russia's recent activities in Eastern Europe. It eliminates all new funding for nonproliferation funding in Russia and requires that, before the Secretary of Energy funds any activity

in Russia, he must certify that the activity is in our national security interests.

Madam Chairman, Russia's activities in Ukraine have shown once again how important our nuclear security umbrella is to our allies. We have also seen how Russia has used Ukraine's reliance on natural gas to put pressure on its new leadership. The movements by insurgents to occupy Iraq threaten to drive oil prices through the roof.

Our country has abundant natural energy resources, and it is our national security and economic interest to ensure that they are fully and responsibly used. That is why this bill makes a strong, balanced investment in our energy sector to ensure that our constituents continue to have reliable, affordable energy.

Fossil energy, which provided more than 71 percent of our electricity production in 2013, receives \$593 million, a \$31 million increase above fiscal year 2014. Nuclear energy is increased by \$10 million above last year. Energy efficiency and renewable energy is slightly reduced by \$113 million from last year. This balanced investment prioritizes improvements to energy sources that we rely upon today while making long-term investments in alternative energy sources.

I appreciate the full committee's attention to this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2015 (H.R. 4923)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL					
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY					
Corps of Engineers - Civil					
Investigations.....	125,000	80,000	115,000	-10,000	+35,000
Construction.....	1,656,000	1,125,000	1,704,499	+48,499	+579,499
Mississippi River and Tributaries.....	307,000	245,000	260,000	-47,000	+15,000
Operations and Maintenance.....	2,861,000	2,600,000	2,905,000	+44,000	+305,000
Regulatory Program.....	200,000	200,000	200,000	---	---
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).....	103,499	100,000	100,000	-3,499	---
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.....	28,000	28,000	28,000	---	---
Expenses.....	182,000	178,000	178,000	-4,000	---
Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).....	5,000	5,000	2,000	-3,000	-3,000
Rescission.....	---	-28,000	---	---	+28,000
=====					
Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil... Appropriations.....	5,467,499 (5,467,499)	4,533,000 (4,561,000)	5,492,499 (5,492,499)	+25,000 (+25,000)	+959,499 (+931,499)
Rescissions.....	---	(-28,000)	---	---	(+28,000)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Central Utah Project Completion Account					
Central Utah Project Completion Account.....	8,725	---	9,874	+1,149	+9,874
Bureau of Reclamation					
Water and Related Resources.....	954,085	760,700	856,351	-97,734	+95,651
Central Valley Project Restoration Fund.....	53,288	56,995	56,995	+3,707	---
California Bay-Delta Restoration.....	37,000	37,000	37,000	---	---
Policy and Administration.....	60,000	59,500	53,849	-6,151	-5,651
Indian Water Rights Settlements.....	---	90,000	---	---	-90,000
San Joaquin River Restoration Fund.....	---	32,000	---	---	-32,000
Central Utah Project Completion Account.....	---	7,300	---	---	-7,300
Bureau of Reclamation Loan Program Account (Rescission).....	---	-500	-500	-500	---

Total, Bureau of Reclamation.....	1,104,373	1,042,995	1,003,695	-100,678	-39,300
=====					
Total, title II, Department of the Interior.... Appropriations.....	1,113,098 (1,113,098)	1,042,995 (1,043,495)	1,013,569 (1,014,069)	-99,529 (-99,029)	-29,426 (-29,426)
Rescissions.....	---	(-500)	(-500)	(-500)	---
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
Energy Programs					
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.....	1,912,104	2,316,749	1,789,000	-123,104	-527,749
Rescission.....	-10,418	---	---	+10,418	---

Subtotal, Energy efficiency.....	1,901,686	2,316,749	1,789,000	-112,686	-527,749
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.....					
Defense function.....	139,306	180,000	160,000	+20,694	-20,000
Defense function.....	8,000	---	---	-8,000	---

Subtotal.....	147,306	180,000	160,000	+12,694	-20,000
Nuclear Energy.....					
Defense function.....	795,190	753,386	795,000	-190	+41,614
Defense function.....	94,000	110,000	104,000	+10,000	-6,000

Subtotal.....	889,190	863,386	899,000	+9,810	+35,614
Fossil Energy Research and Development.....	562,065	475,500	593,000	+30,935	+117,500
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves.....	20,000	19,950	19,950	-50	---
Elk Hills School Lands Fund.....	---	15,580	15,580	+15,580	---

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2015 (H.R. 4923)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Strategic Petroleum Reserve.....	189,400	205,000	205,000	+15,600	---
Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.....	8,000	1,600	7,600	-400	+6,000
Rescission.....	---	---	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000
Subtotal.....	8,000	1,600	1,600	-6,400	---
Energy Information Administration.....	117,000	122,500	120,000	+3,000	-2,500
Non-defense Environmental Cleanup.....	231,765	226,174	241,174	+9,409	+15,000
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund.....	598,823	530,976	585,976	-12,847	+55,000
Science.....	5,071,000	5,111,155	5,071,000	---	-40,155
Nuclear Waste Disposal.....	---	---	150,000	+150,000	+150,000
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.....	280,000	325,000	280,000	---	-45,000
Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.....	---	16,000	---	---	-16,000
Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program. Offsetting collection.....	42,000 -22,000	42,000 -25,000	42,000 -25,000	---	---
Subtotal.....	20,000	17,000	17,000	-3,000	---
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans program.....	6,000	4,000	4,000	-2,000	---
Clean Coal Technology (Rescission).....	---	-6,600	-6,600	-6,600	---
Departmental Administration.....	234,637	248,223	255,171	+20,534	+6,948
Miscellaneous revenues.....	-108,188	-119,171	-119,171	-10,983	---
Net appropriation.....	126,449	129,052	136,000	+9,551	+6,948
Office of the Inspector General.....	42,120	39,868	42,120	---	+2,252
Total, Energy programs.....	10,210,804	10,592,890	10,323,800	+112,996	-269,090
Atomic Energy Defense Activities					
National Nuclear Security Administration					
Weapons Activities.....	7,845,000	8,314,902	8,204,209	+359,209	-110,693
Rescission.....	-64,000	---	---	+64,000	---
Subtotal.....	7,781,000	8,314,902	8,204,209	+423,209	-110,693
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.....	1,954,000	1,555,156	1,592,156	-361,844	+37,000
Rescission.....	---	---	-37,000	-37,000	-37,000
Subtotal.....	1,954,000	1,555,156	1,555,156	-398,844	---
Naval Reactors.....	1,095,000	1,377,100	1,215,342	+120,342	-161,758
Office of the Administrator.....	377,000	410,842	386,863	+9,863	-23,979
Total, National Nuclear Security Administration.....	11,207,000	11,658,000	11,361,570	+154,570	-296,430
Environmental and Other Defense Activities					
Defense Environmental Cleanup.....	5,000,000	4,864,538	4,801,280	-198,720	-63,258
Defense Environmental Cleanup (legislative proposal).. Other Defense Activities.....	---	463,000	---	---	-463,000
	755,000	753,000	754,000	-1,000	+1,000
Total, Environmental and Other Defense Activities.....	5,755,000	6,080,538	5,555,280	-199,720	-525,258
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities.....	16,962,000	17,738,538	16,916,850	-45,150	-821,688
Power Marketing Administrations /1					
Operation and maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration.....	7,750	7,220	7,220	-530	---
Offsetting collections.....	-7,750	-7,220	-7,220	+530	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2015 (H.R. 4923)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
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Operation and maintenance, Southwestern Power					
Administration.....	45,456	46,240	46,240	+784	---
Offsetting collections.....	-33,564	-34,840	-34,840	-1,276	---
Subtotal.....	11,892	11,400	11,400	-492	---
Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and					
Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration.....	299,919	304,402	304,402	+4,483	---
Offsetting collections.....	-203,989	-211,030	-211,030	-7,041	---
Subtotal.....	95,930	93,372	93,372	-2,558	---
Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund.....	5,331	4,727	4,727	-604	---
Offsetting collections.....	-4,911	-4,499	-4,499	+412	---
Subtotal.....	420	228	228	-192	---
Total, Power Marketing Administrations.....	108,242	105,000	105,000	-3,242	---
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	304,600	327,277	304,389	-211	-22,888
Revenues applied.....	-304,600	-327,277	-304,389	+211	+22,888
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General Provisions					
Sec. 309 Rescissions:					
Department of Energy:					
Energy Efficiency and Energy Reliability.....	---	---	-18,111	-18,111	-18,111
Science.....	---	---	-5,257	-5,257	-5,257
Nuclear Energy.....	---	---	-1,046	-1,046	-1,046
Fossil Energy Research and Development.....	---	---	-8,243	-8,243	-8,243
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy					
Reliability.....	---	---	-4,809	-4,809	-4,809
Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy.....	---	---	-619	-619	-619
Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and					
Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration..	---	---	-1,720	-1,720	-1,720
Subtotal.....	---	---	-39,805	-39,805	-39,805
<hr/>					
Total, title III, Department of Energy.....	27,281,046	28,436,428	27,305,845	+24,799	-1,130,583
Appropriations.....	(27,355,464)	(28,443,028)	(27,395,250)	(+39,786)	(-1,047,778)
Rescissions.....	(-74,418)	(-6,600)	(-89,405)	(-14,987)	(-82,805)
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TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Appalachian Regional Commission.....	80,317	68,200	80,317	---	+12,117
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.....	28,000	30,150	29,150	+1,150	-1,000
Delta Regional Authority.....	12,000	12,319	12,000	---	-319
Denali Commission.....	10,000	7,396	10,000	---	+2,604
Northern Border Regional Commission.....	5,000	3,000	3,000	-2,000	---
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.....	250	---	250	---	+250
Nuclear Regulatory Commission:					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,043,937	1,047,433	1,052,433	+8,496	+5,000
Revenues.....	-920,721	-925,155	-880,155	+40,566	+45,000
Subtotal.....	123,216	122,278	172,278	+49,062	+50,000
Office of Inspector General.....	11,955	12,071	12,071	+116	---
Revenues.....	-9,994	-10,099	-10,099	-105	---
Subtotal.....	1,961	1,972	1,972	+11	---
Total, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.....	125,177	124,250	174,250	+49,073	+50,000

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2015 (H.R. 4923)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.....	3,400	3,400	3,400	---	---
Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects.....	1,000	---	---	-1,000	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title IV, Independent agencies.....	265,144	248,715	312,367	+47,223	+63,652
Appropriations.....	(265,144)	(248,715)	(312,367)	(+47,223)	(+63,652)
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	34,126,787	34,261,138	34,124,280	-2,507	-136,858
Appropriations.....	(34,201,205)	(34,296,238)	(34,214,185)	(+12,980)	(-82,053)
Rescissions.....	(-74,418)	(-35,100)	(-89,905)	(-15,487)	(-54,805)
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON for his leadership.

This energy, water, and nuclear security bill is liberty's business. It is about national nuclear security, about energy security, about jobs and economic growth here at home through upgrading our ports, preventing flooding, assuring fresh water from coast to coast, and inventing the new energy technologies required to reposition America for energy security in our homeland for a new century. Bottom line: our bill is about the business of ensuring liberty for our country.

The United States entered this 21st century with a net reliance on foreign oil. Renewed conflicts in Iraq, Ukraine's Crimea, and Syria once again warn us that U.S. energy dependence on imported product remains our chief strategic vulnerability. Throughout the last century, American reliance on foreign oil grew dangerously. Our share of imports in the Nation's total energy supply rose from 42 percent in 1990 to more than 50 percent by 1998 and, frankly, keeps bobbing between 40 and 50 percent now. It consumes over half of the trade deficit we hold with the world. This energy dependence seriously weakens America.

As Michael Klare states in his book, "Blood and Oil":

Every economic recession since World War II has come on the heels of a petroleum shortage.

I would add, the millions of lost jobs associated with those recessions has harmed America gravely.

Just since 2003, the United States has spent \$2.3 trillion—trillion—importing foreign petroleum. At a price per barrel of \$100, the total bill for America importing oil over the next 25 years could cost us over \$10 trillion. That is \$10 trillion of hemorrhage of U.S. wealth, millions of lost jobs, and the economic muscle that goes with it.

If you want to understand why our middle class is shrinking and more people are falling into poverty, just look at the energy trade deficit this country endures and has endured for a quarter century. Those numbers clearly demonstrate the lost energy opportunity inside our own Nation. We are ceding wealth, jobs, economic power, and our national security. If you really want to understand why America has developed a horrendous budget deficit, you had best take a look at the energy trade deficit as a major cause of our condition as we have ceded our wealth elsewhere. In fact, the entirety of our committee bill at \$34 billion cannot begin to compensate for the over \$200 billion in imported foreign oil that will pour into our country this year alone—eight times more than the value of our bill.

Recent natural gas discoveries and added domestic oil drilling provide our Nation with some breathing room, but

only for a while, as these supplies are not endless—they are precious—to help us as we transition to a broad, diversified energy portfolio that captures the energy wealth here for our Nation.

Congress must lead our Nation to restore energy security and greater prosperity for our Nation through the innovation that this bill incentivizes. The horizontal drilling technologies that are creating a boom in domestic natural gas discoveries were made possible by research done through our bill at the Department of Energy.

America must invest in our own energy future across all energy sectors. We must restore some of our lost economic luster. Alternatively, if we cede our future to China, Russia, and Singapore, we will have missed the call of our generation.

A focus on high-impact energy research at the Department through renewable technologies, advanced energy, and applied energy are critical, as well as funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Office to lead us to a new era of energy and job creation.

Further, the increased allocation for the Corps of Engineers is vital to restore our infrastructure, supporting thousands of jobs in economic growth as we upgrade our fresh water systems while our Nation adapts to climate change and more parched places as deserts grow in places we thought were easily habitable.

Though our bill provides \$5.492 billion to support the Corps, keep in mind there are no new starts in it, and there are over \$60 billion worth of project requests that are backlogged that we simply can't address. Imagine what potential job creation could be induced coast to coast by meeting this massive Corps backlog.

The bill before us today takes a modest step forward in diversifying America's energy sources. Frankly, based on the challenge facing our Nation for almost a third of a century now, this bill's bottom line should be tripled to get us faster to a solution for liberty and security. We know with energy conservation and additional innovation we can meet our goal, but our imperative must be sooner rather than later. Our generation should make it easier for the next generation, not hand the problem to them.

I do have concerns with amounts provided to certain accounts within the nonproliferation activities of the National Security Agency and the Defense Environmental Cleanup account, where, despite the chairman's best efforts, the subcommittee's allocation was simply insufficient to address the many competing needs.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield myself an additional 10 seconds.

I look forward to the debate and working with Chairman SIMPSON, a

gracious chairman, to complete the task before us to strengthen liberty as she encounters the challenges of a new era.

I want to thank Rob Blair and Taunja Berquam, our able staff, for moving us to this point.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I now yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is a balanced bill. It makes important investments in our Nation's nuclear defense capabilities, as well as the water infrastructure and energy resources that keep the economy moving. It does so in a fiscally sound manner, finding ways to save taxpayer dollars wherever possible.

First and foremost, this legislation prioritizes national security by increasing funding for nuclear weapons programs above last year's level to support the safety and readiness of our nuclear stockpiles. Maintaining this Nation's nuclear deterrence posture remains critical to our safety, particularly during a time of global instability and increasing risks of future nuclear threats.

Next, this bill includes investments in our water infrastructure that will also help grow our economy, facilitate trade and commerce, and ensure the well-being of the Nation. Recognizing the importance of what the Army Corps of Engineers does, we have rejected the administration's proposed cuts to these programs, providing nearly \$1 billion more than requested and \$25 million above last year's levels. That funding will allow the Corps to continue its important work performing flood mitigation, updating dam safety, and improving our waterways to facilitate increased import and export capability.

Within the Department of Energy, the bill prioritizes funding for programs that encourage economic competitiveness and energy independence and that help promote an all-of-the-above solution to the Nation's energy needs. By making sound investments in coal, natural gas, and other fossil energy sources, we are moving our Nation closer to a balanced energy portfolio, as well as keeping down energy costs for hardworking Americans across the country.

To make these important investments, the bill targets lower priority programs for cuts. For example, renewable energy programs with the Department of Energy are cut by \$113 million from last year's levels. By implementing these types of savings and including stringent oversight requirements for the DOE, the Army Corps, and other Federal agencies, we have

produced a bill that will support economic growth and security, while encouraging the government to act with greater efficiency.

The legislation also puts the brakes on the administration's destructive and misguided regulatory agenda that threatens our Nation's small businesses and other industries. For example, within this bill, we have included a provision prohibiting the unnecessary expansion of Federal jurisdiction over our Nation's waterways.

At one of the subcommittee's many hearings about the Federal budget just a few weeks ago, the Assistant Secretary for the Corps could not provide clear answers as to how much these regulations would cost the American taxpayer, how many man-hours it would take to implement, and how such a change would affect this struggling economy. Since the Corps plainly has no idea what it is doing with this rule, it would be irresponsible, if not disastrous, to allow such a change to move forward.

The bill also stops the administration from changing the definition of "fill material," an action that could drastically alter Federal regulations and could effectively shut down coal and other mining operations throughout the country. While this proposal is very troubling on many levels, I am most concerned about the unknown costs of this large-scale, invasive change. This is the type of overzealous, unneeded regulation that will harm, not help, the economy in this very sensitive time.

Madam Chairwoman, before I close, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON—this is his maiden voyage as chair of this subcommittee—and Ranking Member KAPTUR and all of the subcommittee and the staff for their hard work on the bill, and I want to commend Chairman SIMPSON for a job well done on his first bill as chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee.

This is a good bill. It reflects smart budget decisions to invest tax dollars in effective, necessary programs that will help keep our Nation safe and our economy growing. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of our full committee.

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Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member, whose bipartisan cooperation and hard work are evident in the bill before us.

This bill invests in a number of important programs that have strong Democratic backing. It underscores the constraints of virtually flat discretionary spending.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, underinvestment in

our marine ports and inland waterways endangers more than 1 million U.S. jobs and \$270 billion in U.S. exports by 2020.

While the Corps of Engineers would be given a slight increase above this year's level, budget caps won't help the Corps make a dent in its \$60 billion project backlog, forcing them once again to put off vital projects that would protect homes, businesses, and communities.

We are also missing an opportunity to ramp up investments in science and technology. Research and development spending has fueled our economic growth for the last 60 years, and dramatic increases in this area are needed to sustain our economic recovery.

Flat funding for ARPA-E and the Office of Science is particularly problematic, given that other countries, including China, Russia, Germany, and Singapore, are increasing investments in these fields. We cannot permit an innovation deficit. We must ensure that tomorrow's breakthroughs occur in American labs and universities.

Given, however, the subcommittee's allocation, I am pleased that these critical accounts were mostly protected from cuts or slightly increased, but we could do better.

There are a number of shortcomings I would like to mention.

First is the continued safeguarding of Federal spending that benefits Big Oil and fossil fuel companies instead of supporting investments in emerging renewable technologies.

I strongly disagree with the \$113 million cut to the energy efficiency and renewable energy account and the decision to fund the fossil energy account at \$117.5 million above the President's request. Our country is home to a robust fossil fuels industrial base that makes over \$100 billion annually in profits and actively invests in robust private sector R&D spending to advance its interests. With such a tight allocation, we should invest in creating green jobs of the future instead of backing an industry which already benefits from billions in tax breaks.

Second, the bill includes unnecessary riders related to navigable waters and the definition of fill materials under the Clean Water Act. The Corps of Engineers and EPA recently released a proposed rule regarding navigable waters, and their work needs to move forward in order to address the ambiguity created by Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006.

Despite strong disagreements regarding the merits of the proposed rule, these issues should be resolved through the rulemaking process, not in this bill. By preemptively stopping any efforts to update the definition of fill materials, this bill ensures that communities in coal country will continue to live with public health threats and the environmental consequences of mountaintop removal mining.

Lastly, this bill does not do nearly enough to address the incredibly damaging effects of climate change. Rising sea levels and increased flooding from torrential downpours and hurricanes demonstrate the overwhelming need to invest in new water infrastructure to safeguard our communities. Yet the subcommittee can't invest in new projects because its allocation is dwarfed by the growing backlog of ongoing projects, which includes projects that were authorized decades ago.

Clinging to outdated fossil fuels instead of doubling down on the promise of renewable energy slows future job growth that saves lives by lessening the impact of climate change.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank you for restoring a portion of the administration's proposed cut to the Richland Operations Office at Hanford in my district. I appreciate your willingness to work with me on funding, and I know the provisions on Yucca Mountain and MOX that are in this bill are also key to the Hanford cleanup success.

Madam Chair, the Richland Operations Office is responsible for many critical cleanup projects and legal commitments, and progress there has largely been a success. This represents a new model for cleanup. And it has been successful. It is nearing completion and will save taxpayers \$250 million.

I am encouraged that the \$235 million in this bill provided for cleanup for the River Corridor will focus on the 300 Area milestones under the River Corridor Closure Contract.

As the appropriations process continues, I look forward to working with you to ensure appropriate restoration for Richland, given the budget constraints that we have.

Mr. Chairman, this is my last Energy and Water bill, yet I am confident that Hanford has a friend and an advocate in your leadership.

When it comes to the other project at Hanford, the Office of River Protection, there are a number of challenges. Among other things, I am hopeful that DOE and the State of Washington will reach an agreement on an achievable path forward for WTP.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. First, I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington for his continued advocacy of Hanford cleanup funding in the Energy and Water bill. His leadership on these issues will be sorely missed in the future.

I am pleased to support funding for the cleanup of the River Corridor, and

I am hopeful that the Department of Energy will soon provide the necessary details for the Waste Treatment Plant project. WTP is a critical project, but Congress needs more answers and greater transparency.

I look forward to working with you to make sure adequate funding is available should a new agreement on the path forward be reached.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM), a member of the Agriculture, Budget, and Oversight Committees.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I thank my colleague for yielding time, and I commend her and the chairman for their efforts to put together a bipartisan bill and bring it to the floor. I do have a couple of concerns with the bill that I am addressing today.

First, it provides additional funding for the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in southeastern New Mexico. I am pleased that the committee has seen the need to provide additional funding so that the causes of an incident that occurred earlier this year can be better understood and remedied, but I urge the committee to find a different source of funding for those efforts.

Altering the payment schedules for pension fund payments, I think, is bad fiscal policy. These pension plans face significant liabilities, and they simply cannot afford it.

I am also concerned about the way the bill deals with Laboratory Directed Research and Development, or the LDRD. LDRD is the primary source of funding for fundamental research at our national security laboratories, like Sandia National Laboratories, which is based in my district.

LDRD allows these critical facilities to sustain their mission-essential science and technology capabilities, anticipate and address emerging mission needs, and advance technologies in a wide range of areas critical to national security.

The provision in this bill, coupled with last year's cuts to LDRD, combine to decrease the funds available for this important program by over 20 percent and increase the labs' administrative burden.

In my view, these policy changes will have a negative impact on the labs' ability to conduct critical national security work, and I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and the ranking member to address both of these issues as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the chance to speak on pro-

grams at the Nevada National Security Site that are critical to our Nation's ability to ensure the safety and performance of our nuclear weapons stockpile and for the excellent job you and the ranking member have done in managing the fiscal year 2015 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

However, the bill before us does not include the full amount requested for a new advanced radiography capability that will establish an integrated facility at the Nevada National Security Site to help us understand the effects of aging and manufacturing processes on proposed approaches to stockpile life-extension programs.

I appreciate that in this fiscal environment we must all make difficult choices. Yet, I am hopeful in conference there will be budget flexibility to support the full request for advanced radiography.

Furthermore, going into conference, I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, the fact that you would be open-minded to additional information from the Department of Energy on this proposed capability to better understand its strategic value to our nuclear weapons stockpile.

We stand ready, willing, and able to assist you in getting more transparency and more information from the Department of Energy regarding proposed plans for advanced radiography capability.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AMODEI. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with you to making sure adequate funding is available to support the needs of our nuclear weapons stockpile and to receiving more information on the Department of Energy's proposal to construct this new capability.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. First, I would like to thank the ranking member and Chairman SIMPSON for bringing to the floor a bill that has incorporated interests from both parties within the limit of the Bipartisan Budget Act.

In particular, I want to thank the committee for increasing funding for a specific activity within the Department of Energy's fossil energy research and development. That is the risk-based data management system.

This activity supports the funding of a tool which is used by many States for public disclosure of hydraulic fracturing operations. It is called FracFocus. While this tool is intended to be easily usable by the public, it has been pointed out by a special Department of Energy task force that some

improvements must be made to this government-funded database in order for it to be more accurate, accessible, and transparent.

That is why I was very pleased to hear from the chairman and the ranking member that a portion of the increased funding for the risk-based data management system is intended to help update the FracFocus database to meet modern data, usability, and public transparency standards.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for raising this important issue. I agree we should set our public transparency standards high when looking at taxpayer-funded projects. A portion of the risk-based data management activity is intended to be used for improving FracFocus, and as we move forward I will work with the gentleman to ensure that our intent is included in the conference report language.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I thank the ranking member, and I look forward to working with her in the future.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I would like to inquire as to the time remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio has 15½ minutes remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Madam Chair, I rise today to speak in favor of the work the committee did in this bill to protect Americans from additional, unnecessary regulatory burdens. In particular, I want to thank them for protecting landowners in rural Kansas—and elsewhere across this Nation—from attempts by the Army Corps and the EPA to regulate, from Washington, every single drop of water that falls to the ground.

□ 1400

When it passed the Clean Water Act, Congress never contemplated and certainly never authorized a definition of "navigable waters" that covered roadside ditches, prairie potholes, water tanks, or farm ponds in Kansas or elsewhere.

This proposed rule by some bureaucrats in far-off Washington is a clear violation of the separation of powers within our Constitution. Ultimately, it is nothing more than a power grab of private property.

In practice, this rule would require Kansas farmers and ranchers to apply for costly permits—to apply for permission to perform routine farming activities like building a fence, fertilizing, or even plowing, and if our food producers have to pay more to comply with Washington's overregulations, Americans will see it in higher prices at the grocery store.

Madam Chairman, only in Washington would one try to define “standing water” in a ditch that is surrounded by prairie in Kansas as water that is capable of navigation. It is time for the administration to ditch this rule. Until then, this Congress should not spend a single penny in advancing this massive 370-page rule. I support the provisions in this bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with Chairman SIMPSON, and I thank the chairman for including language in the committee's report, which would require that the Army Corps of Engineers also look to strategic seaport designations when allocating funding for additional work.

However, the President's budget for FY 2015 proposes to cut the maintenance budget for the Sabine-Neches Waterway by 35 percent over last year. No other area of the country, at least that I have been able to identify, has seen such a dramatic cut to its maintenance resources in the President's budget. This simply does not make sense.

The Sabine-Neches Waterway is located between Texas and Louisiana. It is responsible for the third highest tonnage volume of foreign trade in the Nation and supplies 55 percent of our Nation's strategic petroleum reserves.

Refineries located there manufacture 60 percent of our Nation's commercial jet fuel and a significant majority of our military's jet fuel. It is also used by the U.S. military to transport cargo to and from overseas deployments via the Port of Beaumont and Port Arthur, which are located along the waterway and handle over 33 percent of military cargo.

Reducing resources to maintain waterways and harbors like this will restrict commerce, increase costs, and jeopardize safety at a time of increasing trade volume. I believe this cut is extremely shortsighted.

Will the chairman agree that Congress needs to hold the administration accountable in how it allocates precious taxpayer resources for economically significant national infrastructure? Will the chairman work with me and others to ensure that harbors and waterways that play a critical role for our economy and national security are a priority in the allocation of maintenance resources?

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman from Texas for highlighting the importance of allocating sufficient resources to the maintenance of our waterways and harbors.

It is for this very reason that he articulated that the bill being considered today increases funding for navigation maintenance by 18 percent above the budget request.

Madam Chair, I agree that Congress needs to hold the administration accountable in this regard, and I promise to work with the gentleman to ensure that we prioritize maintenance funding for all of our Nation's economically and strategically significant waterways and harbors.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY).

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I am particularly pleased to see section 401 in this bill, which requires the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—currently Allison Macfarlane—to notify the other members of the Commission and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, within 1 day after the Chairwoman or Chairman begins using emergency powers.

This provision was included in the last Congress, and I am hopeful that the underlying policy can be put into permanent statute. In fact, over the last 2 years, Madam Chairman—two Congresses—I have had a bill to make these permanent changes. The bill is H.R. 3132.

For example, currently, no definition of an “emergency” exists, and no requirement of notice by the Chair to fellow Commissioners or to Congress exists.

That is why this language is so important in this bill, yet the current Chair, Ms. Macfarlane, opposes this language as “too burdensome.” This follows on the heels of a former Chair—her immediate past Chair—who declared an emergency without telling anybody and used it for a political purpose.

There is obviously a need for this type of language, and we should make it permanent, instead of having to do this every year on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

I am glad to see that the current Commission is more collegial now, but it is incumbent upon us in the House and Senate to make sure that these changes are made permanent, so this abuse of power doesn't occur anymore.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume,

and I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I thank the chairman.

Madam Chair, yesterday, we received a letter and white paper from the Chief of Naval Operations and the Director of the Naval Reactors program. I will include these documents and statement for the RECORD that I will be submitting shortly.

This eight-star letter from our Nation's most senior naval officer makes clear that the cuts made to the Naval Reactors' budget request over the last 4 years are endangering the safety and reliability of the Navy's nuclear fleet.

With the 12 percent reduction proposed by the bill before us today, Naval Reactors will have taken over \$600 million in cuts over 5 years.

The letter from the admiral is clear:

The persistent cuts have put Naval Reactors in the position of being unable to provide for a safe and reliable nuclear fleet, to design and test the nuclear reactor plant for the Ohio replacement program, and to safely and responsibly manage the aging infrastructure and the facilities for processing naval spent nuclear fuel. This approach is no longer sustainable.

Naval Reactors is a critical defense priority contained in this much larger appropriations bill. I share the admiral's concern that, if sustained, these reductions will endanger national security and the Naval Reactors' unparalleled 60-year record of safe and reliable nuclear operations.

I urge the gentleman from Idaho to review these proposed reductions and their impacts as this bill progresses and to restore the Naval Reactors' funding to the budget request level in a conference or in a potential continuing resolution.

I and my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee stand ready to support these efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,

Washington, DC, July 7, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We write today to express our strong concern over proposed cuts to Naval Reactors' (NR's) portion of the FY15 National Nuclear Security Administration budget request.

Our Navy and our national security rely on a nuclear Fleet of 10 aircraft carriers and 73 submarines, including our 14 Ohio-Class ballistic missile submarines—over 40 percent of our major combatants. These warships form the backbone of our Navy, enabled by the 93 reactors that power them—reactors provided, operated, and regulated solely by NR. NR has been doing this for our nation for over 60 years, compiling over 166 million miles safely steamed on nuclear power—it is an unmatched record of safety and effectiveness.

The funding level proposed in H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, proposes reducing NR's funding below the request by \$162 million which places operation of that nuclear Fleet including sustained carrier operations and the nation's security at risk. If

enacted, this would be the fifth consecutive year of significant marks to NR's requests for funding. To date, these reductions below requested levels have totaled over \$450 million; this bill would bring that total to well over \$600 million. These shortfalls have resulted in delaying the construction of needed facilities, effectively halting research and development, and deferring procurement of equipment needed to address emergent fleet issues. The persistent cuts have put NR in the position of being unable to provide for a safe and reliable nuclear fleet, design and test the reactor plant for the OHIO Replacement Program, and safely and responsibly manage aging infrastructure and the facilities for processing naval spent nuclear fuel. This approach is no longer sustainable.

Moreover, the bill includes a number of provisions on the use of funds, continuing a trend that reduces NR's ability to manage the Program consistent with the priorities of safe and reliable operation of the fleet.

As the Committee moves forward with H.R. 4923, we respectfully ask that you consider full funding for NR at the FY15 budget request and removal of restrictive provisions on the expenditure of funds. This is essential for continued operation of the nation's nuclear-powered fleet now and into the future.

An identical letter has been sent to Representatives Rogers, Frelinghuysen, and Simpson; and Senators Mikulski and Levin.

Sincerely,

JOHN M. RICHARDSON,
*Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Director, Naval Nuclear
Propulsion
Program.*

JONATHAN W. GREENERT,
*Admiral, U.S. Navy,
Chief of Naval Operations.*

FY15 HOUSE ENERGY & WATER
APPROPRIATIONS REDUCTION IMPACTS

H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, reduced Naval Reactors funding by \$162 million. This cut, on top of multi-year reductions to Naval Reactors Operations and Infrastructure and Naval Reactors Development, places the Navy's nuclear-powered fleet at risk. These funding constraints impede Naval Reactors' ability to respond to emergent issues in the Fleet, maintain its operating nuclear power plants, and address issues associated with its aging facilities and infrastructure.

Naval Reactors Operations and Infrastructure (NOI) was funded \$44M below the FY 2015 budget request. This budget line funds operation and maintenance of Program research and training reactors, environmental compliance and protection activities, spent fuel handling including packaging for dry storage, environmental and radiological remediation, demolition of legacy facilities, and recapitalization of the nearly 60 year old aging infrastructure. This reduction will result in the following:

Planned disposal of radioactive waste equipment and materials in Pennsylvania and Idaho will be delayed. This will result in the loss of approximately 20 jobs in Idaho.

Planned decontamination and dismantlement (D&D) work in New York, inclusive of DIG prototype remediation, will be scaled back. Planned D&D in Idaho, such as removal of legacy Expended Core Facility water pool tunnel piping, will not be executed. Reductions in this work will cause the loss of approximately 20 jobs in New York and 60 jobs in Idaho.

Planned capital investment projects in Idaho, including replacement of the undersized storm water sewer system at the north end of the Naval Reactors Facility, will not be executed.

Planned infrastructure sustainment work in Idaho will be deferred. Potential examples include refurbishment of rail spurs necessary for receipt of naval spent nuclear fuel and replacement of a degrading, 50-year old, switchgear that provides power to critical loads across the Naval Reactors Facility.

Naval Reactors' infrastructure exists solely to support the nation's nuclear-powered fleet. Reductions to NOI jeopardize the operation of those facilities. If site operations are stalled, whether as a result of infrastructure failures or failure to meet regulatory requirements, the nuclear-powered fleet will be placed at risk. Naval Reactors continues to identify specific impacts as a result of the FY15 HEWD reduction, including possible loss of jobs comparable in size to those already identified. However, concerns about adverse impacts to worker and public safety, regulatory compliance, and court-enforceable commitments are impeding identification of practical alternatives.

Naval Reactors Development (NRD) was funded \$15M below the FY2015 budget request. Additionally, the HEWD directed that an additional \$2M of NRD funds be specifically directed toward the Advanced Test Reactor. The NRD funding line provides for the research, development, analysis, engineering, and testing required to support current Fleet operations, as well as future nuclear-powered warship technologies. Reductions to NRD continue to erode unique laboratory capabilities required solely for naval nuclear propulsion plants. Because NR will not compromise reactor safety, the impacts ultimately manifest as impacts to cost, schedule, and operational availability of the Navy's nuclear-powered combatants. Among the ramifications of reduced NRD funding in FY15:

Inability to replace failing specialized analytical and chemical analysis equipment needed to characterize material properties of failed reactor plant components and weld surfaces. Common problems that require investigation include effects of materials under various manufacturing and operating environmental conditions (e.g., corrosion). Without the proper equipment to investigate these problems, our only safe response to problems in the Fleet is likely overly conservative and will include limitations on ship speed, reactor lifetime, or costly component replacements.

Inability to replace a specialized 30-year old heat treatment furnace that supports investigation of nuclear fuel material specimens and resolution of complex manufacturing problems that without timely resolution will delay our ability to deliver new and refueling reactor cores for existing and planned Fleet reactors.

Inability to replace a failed motor generator needed to conduct acoustic performance testing to ensure reactor components meet submarine stealth requirements.

Inability to begin refurbishment of the failing linear accelerator; the only facility in the US capable of providing the fundamental physics data needed to validate nuclear reactor performance assumptions and support nuclear criticality safety assessments.

Inability to fund advanced development innovation work—the type of work that has led in the past to our most successful cost savings and performance increasing initiatives such as higher energy density fuel and electric drive.

Inability to fund improvements aimed at reducing the cost of future reactor cores, consolidating test facilities and personnel, reduction of expensive large-scale prototypic thermal-hydraulic testing.

The proposed FY15 NRD reductions continue the gradual, cumulative effect of degrading Naval Reactors' facilities, capabilities and expertise. Maintaining the operational availability of today's nuclear fleet and ensuring that the future fleet meets military needs requires a sustained commitment. By continuing the process of diminishing the foundational technical excellence of the NR Program, the proposed budget reductions increase the risk of long-term damage to this premier national capability.

Mr. SIMPSON. I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama for his continued advocacy for the important national security activities funded in the Energy and Water bill, which includes the Naval Reactors program.

Madam Chair, as the appropriations process continues, I look forward to working with him and his colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, to ensure that Naval Reactors receives the funding it requires to sustain, support, and to modernize the nuclear fleet.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I would like to inquire how much time is remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 10 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Ohio has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and at this time, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Madam Chair, for over 70 years, our national laboratories have worked to ensure the security of our Nation. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the environment in relation to the historic and ongoing radiological work at these laboratories.

At Los Alamos, there are legal obligations, including the 3706 campaign to remove transuranic, or TRU, waste and the broader 2005 consent order between the DOE and the State of New Mexico to remediate legacy waste at Los Alamos.

Two major wildfires near Los Alamos National Lab have highlighted the importance of removing aboveground waste from this facility. The DOE was nearing its completion of the 3706 campaign when the Nation's only repository for TRU waste, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, experienced, first, a fire and then a radiological release.

As we work to restore WIPP operations, we must ensure that our national laboratories have the resources to meet their legal obligations for environmental remediation. We also must recognize our moral obligation to

these communities that have served our great Nation.

It is with this intention that I request the chair to work with me and Representatives from other affected communities, as this bill moves forward to conference, to ensure that adequate and appropriate funds are available not only for the restoration operations of WIPP, but also for legally-mandated environmental remediation efforts at Los Alamos and at other affected national laboratories.

I thank you for this time to address this important issue. I look forward to working with you to find a solution, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Mexico for his continued advocacy of the cleanup program at Los Alamos.

I look forward to working with you on ensuring that adequate funding is available to support the Department of Energy's cleanup program, including the cleanup work at Los Alamos and the restoration of operations at WIPP.

I thank the gentleman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I would like to inquire if the gentleman is ready to close.

Mr. SIMPSON. I believe we have two more speakers.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I am happy to see \$20 million included in this appropriations bill for the reimbursement of uranium and thorium cleanup.

I also want to highlight the language in the bill that directs the Department of Energy to provide sufficient resources in future budgets to eliminate the reimbursement backlog, which stands at \$54 million, and return to a more normal reimbursement schedule to ensure that a backlog doesn't occur again.

The current backlog of \$54 million grows year by year, with sites in Illinois, Colorado, Wyoming, Washington, South Dakota, and New Mexico.

The way this works out in my constituency is that, in the community of West Chicago, Illinois, it had an adverse situation years and years ago with thorium that was spread throughout the community. They have done a tremendous job in the cleanup, but the cleanup needs to continue.

I commend the chairman for his commitment, and I look forward to being part of this solution for the full remediation of this issue in West Chicago, Illinois, and in other places around the country.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, which makes important investments in our communities, our energy jobs, and our Nation's energy future.

This bill prioritizes using abundant coal reserves to produce clean, efficient energy. I am very pleased that the bill makes a strong investment in fossil energy research and development, including work on clean coal technologies. I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing amendments that would strip this funding.

West Virginia is a leader in this technology, with the National Energy Technology Lab in Morgantown conducting much of this important research.

This administration has continued to attack coal and the people who rely on coal for energy and employment. This bill not only rejects the administration's 15 percent cut to fossil energy research, but sends a clear message: coal is, will be, and must be an important part of a national all-of-the-above strategy, and we will continue to invest in developing ways to make it more efficient and cleaner.

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill also rejects the Army Corps of Engineers' and the EPA's proposed rule to expand Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Finally, this bill maintains funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, underscoring its importance to local communities.

My State of West Virginia is the only State that is entirely within the boundaries of the ARC, and the people of West Virginia have truly benefited from the ARC's proven record of spurring economic development and of improving access to health care and education in lower-income communities.

I want to thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, HAL ROGERS, and the chairman of the subcommittee, MIKE SIMPSON, for bringing this piece of legislation to the floor, which makes the right choices and sets the right priorities for our country's energy future.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would inform the gentlewoman that we have no more speakers, and if the gentlewoman is ready to close, I will close.

Ms. KAPTUR. I am prepared to close, Mr. Chairman, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, an energy-hungry world will continue to push up global

energy prices and availability. America must not get caught in this ensuing juggernaut. Our liberty and economic security truly are at stake. The world is changing and so America must adapt, and adapt sooner rather than later.

Over a quarter century ago, President Jimmy Carter was not wrong when he equated the struggle for energy independence as the moral equivalent of war. America, since, has been engaged in plenty of fighting abroad in oil-rich, unstable regions of our world. Instead, we must refocus and draw forth the powers of our own land, performing something worthy to be remembered, as DANIEL WEBSTER reminds us every day. Energy security is such a calling.

Certainly, this bill leaves unmet opportunities on the table—too much, in my view—but its direction is clear. It aims at liberty. It looks forward to meeting that objective by moving this bill forward.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON, Rob Blair, Taunja Berquam, and our entire staff for their willingness to work together, for preparing a bill that is inclusive and pragmatic. I appreciate Chairman SIMPSON's gentlemanly reach out to our side of the aisle.

I also want to thank all the staff who helped. Their countless long hours, late nights during holidays and so forth, and their thoughtful insights have been critical to helping us prepare this legislation that is aimed at restoring liberty, creating jobs in America, re-assuming economic power here at home, strengthening our energy portfolio and water security for future generations, and, fundamentally, our national security.

I ask our colleagues as we move through the amendment process to help us move this bill forward in America's interest.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her work on this bill. She has been a valuable partner in crafting a bill.

In trying to address the needs of all Members on both sides of the aisle, obviously you can never address all of them, but I think both the Republican and Democratic members of the committee and of the House ought to be proud of the bill that is before them and our efforts to try to address their desires and their needs.

With that, I would encourage all Members to support this legislation. I look forward to the debate on the amendments that are going to be coming up.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I often say, there are some in this Chamber who seem to know the cost of everything yet the value of nothing. Without question there are savings to

be found in the federal government, but sometimes to realize those savings we have to invest a little money.

Let's take the federal government's energy consumption as a case in point.

Since coming into office in 2009, the Obama administration has made it a priority to make the federal government a leader in reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency. The administration recognizes that as the nation's largest energy consumer, the federal government has a tremendous opportunity and a clear responsibility to lead by example in energy efficiency.

The federal government operates more than 500,000 buildings and other structures comprising more than 3 billion square feet, and it operates a fleet of more than 600,000 civilian and non-tactical military vehicles. The total cost of energy consumption to the Federal government was nearly \$25 billion in FY2012.

I am pleased the President has made energy efficiency in federal buildings a priority of his Climate Action Plan. The President's recent commitment of another \$2 billion in energy efficiency in federal buildings is a critical step in reducing both energy costs and carbon emissions.

As a result of these actions we have reduced energy use per square foot in federal buildings by more than 9 percent since FY2008, curbing pollution and reducing utility bills. The federal government also purchased more than 7% of its electricity from renewable sources such as solar and wind in 2013, exceeding statutory requirements and promoting homegrown energy industries. And we have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 15 percent from 2008 levels—the equivalent of permanently taking 1.5 million cars off the road.

However, I fear cutting the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program by almost 30% will jeopardize this progress.

FEMP is a critical component in enabling federal agencies to meet their energy-related and sustainability goals. FEMP helps other agencies to accomplish energy, water, and greenhouse gas improvements within their organizations by providing expertise in federal energy project and policy implementation and coordination to enhance national efforts in energy management.

In addition, FEMP activities reduce the energy intensity at federal facilities, lowering their energy bills and providing environmental benefits through increased use of performance contracting which includes energy saving performance contracts, utility energy service contracts, and power purchase agreements. From 2009 to 2011, FEMP negotiated performance contracts that saved taxpayers more than \$3.5 billion in federal energy costs.

Through these and other efforts, FEMP strives to reduce the federal government's energy footprint by 30% by the end of 2015 compared to 2003 levels, reduce water consumption intensity by 16% by the end of 2015 relative to 2007 baseline, and increase renewable electricity energy equivalent to at least 5% of total federal facility electricity use.

FEMP plays other important roles both in interagency coordination to align federal government efforts related to federal energy man-

agement planning and legislation compliance, and in training federal agency managers about the latest energy requirements, best practices, and technologies available.

The savings FEMP has helped agencies achieve over the past 15 years is roughly equal to one year's worth of federal energy consumption, and it has produced more than a 2.5-to-1 return on investment. Mr. Speaker, we all want to find savings in the government, but let's not be blinded by short-term spending cuts that jeopardize this program that has proved it can save taxpayer dollars in the long run.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, let me thank the Chair and our Ranking Member LOWEY and of the subcommittee, Congresswoman KAPTUR for their very hard work on this bill.

This appropriations bill is intended to provide the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other offices with the funds they need to safeguard our natural resources.

Unfortunately, instead of adequately funding these critical agencies, this bill has been turned into a vehicle for Republican efforts to cut protections that keep our drinking water safe, protect our rivers and oceans from toxic dumping, and to protect critical wildlife.

The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act are proven public health tools to reduce dangerous pollution known to make people sick and cut short lives.

That is why I am opposed to the Republican policy riders included in this bill that are designed to block or weaken clean air protections, specifically the EPA's proposed limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants.

This bill also cuts Federal investment in innovative clean energy research and development (R&D) at a time of significant global competition and progress.

Mr. Chair, as a member of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I know spending bills are difficult enough to pass without weighing them down with toxic policy riders.

We need to continue this Appropriations process in good faith, and I am disappointed that the bill in front of us today does not reflect that.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act for 2015. Contained in the bill's Committee Report is language that benefits the Inland Northwest Region. Specifically, the "Lower Snake River Project" encourages the Walla Walla District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue working with certain landowners to resolve an ongoing issue regarding the use of Corps lands along the Snake River. I commend Chairman SIMPSON as well as Chairman ROGERS for their work in crafting this legislation in a bipartisan manner.

In recent years, the Corps of Engineers has targeted several cattlemen for trespass and eviction as the result of their decades-old use of Corps lands adjacent to the Snake River. For many of these cattlemen, access to Corps lands is essential for the grazing and pasturing of their livestock. Without a timely and permanent resolution, the livelihoods of these small businessmen and women remain in jeopardy.

The report language not only encourages the Walla Walla District to continue working with the affected cattlemen but also directs the Corps to maintain the status quo use of these lands as long as good-faith efforts are being made to find a solution. To ensure that Congress remains informed on this issue, the language also directs the Corps to provide both House and Senate Appropriations Committees with an update on the status of the situation, including any actions taken, as well as any legislative authority needed to resolve the dispute.

Mr. Chair, I believe this language does a great deal in helping resolve a serious issue affecting residents in my district and across the entire lower Snake region. I am grateful for its inclusion in the Committee Report and I urge my colleagues to maintain this language in the final appropriations bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on "H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015," under final consideration by the House.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their stewardship in bringing this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My service in the House of Representatives has focused on making sure that our nation is secure and prosperous. A central component of national security is the ability of national to remain energy independent and that our international ports continue to move goods into and out of the country safely and efficiently.

I appreciate bipartisan support of two Jackson Lee Amendments the first increased funding for the Office of Minority Economic Impact in the Department of Energy and the second reprograms funds for Department of Energy's departmental administration to increase support for environmental justice program activities.

Unfortunately, the bill contains a number of riders that are problematic:

Obstruction of EPA's ability to clarify and define navigable water and specifying which of our nation's waterways are covered under the Clean Water Act.

Permanently prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from modifying the definition of "fill materials" to include debris and overburden from mining and excavation projects to make them subject to the Clean Water Act.

Allows people to carry firearms on all Corps of Engineering lands.

The bill also faces opposition by the Administration which means if it is passed in its current form it will not become law.

The Administration strongly objects to the funding level of \$1.8 billion provided in the bill for renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and energy efficiency programs, a \$546 million reduction below the FY 2015 Budget request. This reduced funding level will stifle Federal investment in innovative clean energy research and development (R&D) at a time of significant global competition and progress.

The Administration objects to funding reduction in the bill such as the \$40 million reduction from the FY 2015 Budget request that

would reduce the number of grants to academic investigators and funding for staff at DOE laboratories working on fundamental discovery science and research that underpins advances in clean energy.

Further, this reduction would also affect access to world class facilities used by researchers from all sectors to conduct R&D. The bill funds the international fusion project ITER, at a level \$75 million above the FY 2015 Budget request. In light of schedule delays and management reforms underway, the Administration is concerned that the U.S. contributions would outpace the readiness of the project.

The bill provides the Corps of Engineers' bill \$5.5 billion for works program, nearly \$1 billion above the FY 2015 Budget request. The FY 2015 Budget focuses on investments that would yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund the civil works program at the requested level. The funding increase for the civil works program is provided primarily by decreases in other core priorities, including clean energy. The Administration also urges the Congress to permit the Corps to commence new starts in FY 2015.

The Administration strongly objects to sections 105 and 106 of the bill, which would prevent the use of funds to address deficiencies and regulatory uncertainties related to CWA regulations designed to protect important aquatic resources while supporting economic development. Section 106 in particular would impact an important, ongoing Administration effort to provide regulatory clarity on which water bodies are covered by the CWA, which has been the subject of two Supreme Court cases in which the Court indicated the need for greater clarity regarding the statute's scope.

With less than 50 legislative days remaining, I ask that we carefully manage our time and energy to make sure that the bills we passed meet our obligations to the American public and can eventually become law.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on "H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015," under final consideration by the House.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their stewardship in bringing this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can be enjoyed by generations to come.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and the former chair of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand that the challenge of protecting our nation's vital assets such as transportation infrastructure requires the finest technology and the highest levels of intelligence. Nothing can bring us to our knees faster than something affecting our economic vitality.

One of the greatest engines our economy has is the Port of Houston, which hosts a \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide. The Port of Houston petrochemical complex supplies over 40 percent of the nation's base petrochemical manufacturing capacity.

What happens at the Port of Houston affects the entire nation. The Port of Houston is critical infrastructure and the funding providing in the bill to address infrastructure needs and improvements are appreciated, but not sufficient to ensure that the nation's deep-water ports remain the best in the world.

Traffic at the Port of Houston accessed through the Houston Ship Channel has expanded dramatically. Today 2 million jobs depend on the Port of Houston. The Houston Ship Channel, which runs to the Gulf of Mexico, is the busiest channel in the nation with over 220,000 transits in 2013. We must look towards the future and make sure that port business destined for U.S. ports is retained.

Current levels of Army Corps funding barely address the operation and maintenance of our nation's ports and waterways. Nationally, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund collects adequate funding to address current needs; unfortunately the Trust Fund does not fund new construction.

By 2016, our national ports will face a major competition when the Panama Canal's major expansion project is scheduled to be completed. The changes investments being made by the Government of Panama will mean that larger vessels that will pass through their canal will carry goods and supplies, destined for U.S. ports.

The real threat is that our ports, including the Port of Houston is that our waterways like the Houston Ship Channel is not dredged deep enough to handle the post Panama Canal waterway upgrade that will be available in just 2 years.

The Panama Canal will be 50 feet deep, which will provide enough draft for navigation. The 50 feet deep ships are on track to become the norm and we must be forward thinking to meet the challenge of serving these vessels at our nation's ports.

This appropriations bill must significantly increase funding dedicated to the Corps of Engineers specifically the Civil Works Operations and Maintenance program.

Earlier this year an oil spill in the Port was extremely costly and the efforts to return the port to full capacity were heroic. The incident also highlighted the need modernization that would address rapid response capabilities at Ports that focus on restoration of waterways to full activity as quickly as possible.

The Port of Houston:

According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled \$265 billion.

Is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012, ship channel-related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs and generate more than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic impact.

For the past 11 consecutive years, Texas has outpaced the rest of the country in exports. The Port of Houston is the:

1st ranked U.S. port in foreign tonnage;

2nd ranked U.S. port in total tonnage;

7th ranked U.S. container port by total TEUs in 2012;

Largest Texas port with 46% of market share by tonnage;

Largest Texas container port with 96% market share in containers by total TEUs in 2012; and

Largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67% of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2012

2nd ranked U.S. port in terms of cargo value (based on CBP Customs port definitions)

For these reasons, I reservations that this bill is all that Congressional should and could do to make sure that ports around the nation can keep pace with the global recovering economy.

In addition to these problems with the bill it also contains a number of riders that are problematic:

Obstruction of EPA's ability to clarify and define navigable water and specifying which of our nation's waterways are covered under the Clean Water Act.

Permanently prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from modifying the definition of "fill materials" to include debris and overburden from mining and excavation projects to make them subject to the Clean Water Act.

Allows people to carry firearms on all Corps of Engineering lands

Finally, the bill faces strong opposition by the Administration, which means if it is passed in its current form it will not become law.

The Administration strongly objects to the funding level of \$1.8 billion provided in the bill for renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and energy efficiency programs, a \$546 million reduction below the FY 2015 Budget request. This reduced funding level will stifle Federal investment in innovative clean energy research and development (R&D) at a time of significant global competition and progress.

The Administration objects to funding reduction in the bill such as the \$40 million reduction from the FY 2015 Budget request that would reduce the number of grants to academic investigators and funding for staff at DOE laboratories working on fundamental discovery science and research that underpins advances in clean energy.

Further, this reduction would also affect access to world class facilities used by researchers from all sectors to conduct R&D. The bill funds the international fusion project ITER, at a level \$75 million above the FY 2015 Budget request. In light of schedule delays and management reforms underway, the Administration is concerned that the U.S. contributions would outpace the readiness of the project.

The bill provides the Corps of Engineers' bill \$5.5 billion for works program, nearly \$1 billion above the FY 2015 Budget request. The FY 2015 Budget focuses on investments that would yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. The Administration encourages the Congress to fund the civil works program at the requested level. The funding increase for the civil works program is provided primarily by decreases in other core priorities, including clean energy. The Administration also urges the Congress to permit the Corps to commence new starts in FY 2015.

The Administration strongly objects to sections 105 and 106 of the bill, which would prevent the use of funds to address deficiencies and regulatory uncertainties related to CWA regulations designed to protect important aquatic resources while supporting economic development.

Section 106 in particular would impact an important, ongoing Administration effort to provide regulatory clarity on which water bodies are covered by the CWA, which has been the subject of two Supreme Court cases in which the Court indicated the need for greater clarity regarding the statute's scope.

My service in the House of Representatives has focused on making sure that our nation is secure and prosperous. A central component of national security is the ability of our nation's international ports to move goods and into an out of the country.

With less than 50 legislative days remaining, I cannot support this bill and I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives work together to carefully manage our time and energy to make sure that the bills we past meet our obligations to the American public and can eventually become law.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4923

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

**TITLE I—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL**

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration,

and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, projects and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$115,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$1,704,499,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Indiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would provide a \$500,000 increase for the Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program, or CAP, and would pay for the increase with a small \$500,000 cut from the Department of Energy's departmental administration account. For small communities struggling to pay for \$25,000 projects, this minor amendment can be a major help around the country.

The CAP program allows for funding of small local projects without the lengthy study and authorization process typical of most larger Corps projects. The program funds projects dealing with issues like stream bank erosion, navigation improvements, and flood control, and it is incredibly important to local communities that cannot afford to fund these studies and projects on their own.

Two specific sections of the program are vitally important to my district:

section 205, which deals with flood control, and section 14, which deals with stream bank erosion.

The city of Peru, Indiana, lives within an area designated as a floodplain because of a ditch that runs through it, but the ditch hasn't flooded in the entire time the city has been keeping records, which is more than 80 years. This floodplain designation has made insurance premiums so expensive, business developers are reluctant to locate to the area and residents are struggling to pay their premiums.

Corps engineers have been to the site, and they don't think the floodplain is correct either. The ditch hasn't flooded. So CAP funds are desperately needed in places like Peru, Indiana, so the Corps can conduct a study to determine whether the ditch really is ever likely to flood and, if so, what type of project could be done to prevent flooding and bring down flood insurance premiums.

In a place called Rochester, Indiana, the Tippecanoe River runs along a stretch of East County Road 350 North. The river is eroding soil from underneath the road, and over the last decade, the road has lost several feet of its embankment. The situation has become so dangerous authorities have closed the road until it can be fixed. An examination is needed to determine how to stop this stream bank erosion, and then a project must be able to be done to fix it. County officials can't afford to conduct the study or repairs on their own.

The Army Corps of Engineers said they can conduct the examination and repairs, but CAP funds are needed. However, the Continuing Authorities Program is so popular with local communities like Peru and Rochester, the Corps of Engineers routinely receives many more projects than it can fund, and CAP funds for the year run out quickly.

Chairman SIMPSON and his staff have worked hard to address this problem and put together a great bill. President Obama's budget request only provided \$10 million for CAP and only funded four of the CAP sections, but Chairman SIMPSON rejected that devastating cut and has allocated \$56.8 million for eight CAP sections. My amendment would provide a small funding bump for CAP that would enable the Army Corps of Engineers to help dozens of communities making very small funding requests.

Some people will say that the Department of Energy can't afford another cut to its administrative funding, but that is simply not true. This year's bill provides \$255 million for the Department of Energy's departmental administration budget. This is \$20.5 million more than last year. My amendment would only cut \$500,000 from this amount. That is a 0.19 percent cut. Given the enormous importance of

local infrastructure, I believe this is one very small cut that Congress should make.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, we support the amendment and thank the good lady for offering it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member. I appreciate the work that has gone into this bill, and I appreciate your willingness to accept my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer the Murphy-Cleaver amendment to the underlying Energy and Water Appropriations bill to support the Army Corps' construction account by an additional \$1 million.

Supporting the Corps' ongoing construction efforts is crucial to the well-being of regions like the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach communities in Florida that I am so proud to represent. The restoration projects in our area are vital to restoring the natural flow of water south of Lake Okeechobee, reducing the harm that is currently caused by discharges from the lake into our St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. All these projects work together to improve the water quality throughout the system, with our local waterways being no exception.

The urgency to move these ongoing projects forward could not be more clear. The record rainfall in our area resulted in last year being dubbed the

“lost summer,” with major die-offs of important species in this unique ecosystem as well as health warnings that kept the public out of the water and harmed our local economy that relies so heavily on our waterways.

While \$1 million might not seem like a lot, this money could be used to help projects that are near completion cross the finish line. For example, the Kissimmee River Project just north of my district is 86 percent near completion, and this funding could be used to fund one of the final steps needed to complete this project. Once completed, this project will restore up to 20,000 acres of wetland, storing more water north of the lake, lessening the amount of harmful discharges that must be released to the east and west into our local estuaries, and cleaning the water before it flows into the already inundated waterways.

For Florida's 18th District, \$1 million can make a real difference in the fight to protect our waterways.

Mr. Chair, I now yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), my good friend. Mr. CLEAVER is a great champion of infrastructure projects such as these that invest in our future and come back to our economy in multiples.

Mr. CLEAVER. Thank you, first, Mr. MURPHY, and to the chair, ranking member, and the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, our amendment would transfer a modest amount, as Mr. MURPHY stated, \$1 million, from the Corps' expense account to the construction account. The boost in funding can help flood control projects that communities, including several in my district, are pushing in hopes that they can be completed.

The United States has, as I believe we all know, an aging water infrastructure system and a colossal \$80 billion backlog of Army Corps projects. Over 1,000 authorized projects vigorously compete for funding. This is understandable when you consider the fact that America's levees, dams, and inland waterways were given a grade of D by the American Society of Civil Engineers in their 2013 report card. How can we expect our economy to flourish when its bedrock is deteriorating?

Water infrastructure funding is vital to my district. It sits on the confluence of several rivers, and flood control projects protect thousands of lives and billions in economic investment.

One such project, Swope Park Industrial Area, lies within a 100-year floodplain. When it floods, access to and from the park is cut off, risking the lives of over 400 workers. Without a 7,000-foot floodwall and levee, those 400 workers and over \$61 million in manufacturing remain unprotected.

□ 1430

Another project in my district, Dodson Industrial Park, is ready to

start its final phase. But until that final segment is completed and connected, the rest of the project, the investment \$250 million within the park, remain at risk.

Mr. Chairman, most Army Corps projects contain agreements between the Federal Government and local communities to share the funding and responsibilities for their construction. It is time for the Federal Government to hold up its end of the agreement, for us to step up to the plate, and fully invest in our water infrastructure.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) for his collaboration on this amendment.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for his support of this commonsense amendment and urge my colleagues to support this proposal that, as you have heard, has the potential to make a major difference in the well-being of communities from Florida to Missouri.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. We will accept the amendment.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I want to thank the ranking member and the chairman for their support of this amendment and for all of their hard work.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I wanted to thank the gentleman from the Lake Okeechobee region of Florida (Mr. MURPHY) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) for the very effective manner in which they have handled themselves in bringing this to our attention. And I want to thank the chair for accepting this important amendment, which is so important to Florida.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Again, I thank the chair and ranking member for their hard work, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is about setting priorities. The Army Corps of Engineers construction account has a serious backlog of over \$60 billion. According to a recent CRS report, there is a backlog of more than 1,000 authorized studies and construction projects.

The President’s budget inadequately addresses this backlog, only allocating \$1.1 billion for these important infrastructure projects, a 32 percent reduction over fiscal year 2014-enacted levels.

Now, I applaud the committee for providing \$48 million more for Corps construction over the 2014-enacted levels, but more needs to be done. This is especially prevalent with the recent passage of the bipartisan water resources conference report, which contained authorizations for existing projects, such as the Louisiana Coastal Area, and new projects, such as Morganza to the Gulf.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment transfers \$5 million out of the Department of Energy’s administrative account and moves that money into the Corps of Engineers construction budget. The goal is to move more projects forward, to reduce the backlog, and to open up the door for projects across the country vital to our Nation’s waterways, our economy, and our ability to export.

Louisiana, for example, contains 3 million acres of coastal wetlands. Louisiana’s coast is home to over 2 million people, supporting vital ecosystems, national energy security, thousands of jobs, and a unique culture.

As you may know, our coastal wetlands are rapidly disappearing. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that if present land-loss trends continue, Louisiana will lose 2,400 square miles of land between 1932 and 2050. That is an area about 25 times that of Washington, D.C.

Morganza to the Gulf, which is one of five new projects authorized in WRRDA’s hurricane and storm damage risk reduction subsection, is of im-

mense importance to Louisiana’s coastal restoration and protection efforts. The project’s purpose is to protect the remaining fragile marsh and wetlands from hurricane storm surge. This is one of many projects around the country that needs funding and is vital to our Nation’s infrastructure.

Taxpayers wish to see this backlog cleared out and other projects important to our Nation’s economy moved forward. That is what this amendment intends to help achieve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I must rise in opposition to the amendment.

I appreciate the gentleman’s passion for coastal restoration. I know it is a high priority for his district, his State, and, in fact, for the country.

The committee often hears complaints that projects take too long and cost too much to build, in large part attributed to inefficient funding. If that is true, then the only responsible way to allow for new starts is to finish understanding the impacts of the selected new starts on the Corps’ future budget requirements and on the expected costs and timelines of ongoing projects. Unfortunately, we do not have that information, and the administration has shown no willingness to provide it.

The fiscal year 2014 act allowed for a limited number of new construction starts, with the requirement that the administration provide information to show that these projects would be affordable at reasonable construction account levels and that these new projects would not unduly delay or increase the cost of ongoing projects.

To say that the so-called analysis from the administration was inadequate would be an understatement. And no information at all was provided for the new start proposed in the fiscal year 2015 budget request.

Additionally, the administration continues to propose budgets with significant cuts to the construction account, including a 32 percent cut for fiscal year 2015. In fact, several individual projects authorized in the recent WRRDA are each estimated to cost more than what the administration requested for the entire nationwide construction program. Clearly, as promising as some new projects may be, it would be fiscally irresponsible to initiate new projects with no information on the impact of doing so.

I understand that some Members with authorized projects in their districts are anxious to get construction underway. I also understand, however, that many Members with projects already under construction in their districts want to see those projects completed and to start realizing the bene-

fits of these Federal, State, and local investments.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CASSIDY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW MEXICO

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$15,000,000)”.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$15,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from New Mexico and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I rise to amend the Energy and Water Appropriations bill to increase the construction account by \$15 million to ensure local governments like the city of Rio Rancho, the county of Bernalillo, and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District get reimbursed for work they have done in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps of Engineers works with local governments in New Mexico to construct levees, implement flood control measures, and other important infrastructure for the safety of the public.

More specifically, the city of Rio Rancho entered into a reimbursement contract with the Army Corps of Engineers and has not been paid back for several years due to the lack of appropriations. The same goes for the county of Bernalillo, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and other communities across the United States.

This delay in reimbursement has led to interruptions in financing for other city projects and also has the potential to hurt the credit rating of these entities if they do not recover these funds via reimbursement, as stated in their contracts with the Federal Government.

By increasing the dollar amount in this account, which includes a number of programs and accounts that are critical to local governments—like engineering, construction, technical assistance, flood control, and environmental infrastructure—we can get these entities reimbursed and get these liabilities off the books of the Army Corps of Engineers to get other projects going.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this increase has zero impact on the budget and, in fact, would save money by reducing liability for the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, local governments have been left holding an IOU from the Federal Government for doing work based on the good faith written agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Chairman, I understand there may be opposition from some of my colleagues, but I am hoping that I can persuade the chairman to support me in this effort.

Under section 593 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, the city of Rio Rancho and other local governments entered into agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers. When city and local governments enter into reimbursement contracts, they expect to be reimbursed. They have annual budgets with the expectations they will get paid back. Congress should live up to these obligations in the authority given to the agency by Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the constraints that the subcommittee dealt with, with the allocations given to them. But we need to make sure that we are working to make these local governments whole with the agreements and contracts they have with the Federal Government.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

First, though, let me assure my colleague that I am sympathetic to the need for increased construction funding. In fact, the underlying bill increases construction funding by almost \$50 million above fiscal year 2014 and by almost \$600 million, or 52 percent above the budget request.

While I understand there is always more that can be done, we could shift the entire expenses account to construction, and there still would be more that needs to be done.

Although it may seem like an easy offset here on the floor, Members should recognize that a \$50 million cut to the expenses account cannot be sustained in conference. Funding for the expenses account in the underlying bill already reflects a 2 percent reduction from fiscal year 2014 and a 4 percent reduction from fiscal year 2012.

For those reasons, I must oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I would like to pose a question either to the chairman or the ranking member:

With local governments like this entering into agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers and doing work like this, is there something that could be done associated with trying to get an assessment of those, and maybe we can

chip away at those reimbursements in a timely manner? Is that something that we might be able to work on?

Mr. Chairman, I would yield to anyone who might be able to respond to that.

Mr. Chairman, my question is:

With local governments, like the ones in New Mexico and other parts of the United States, that have entered into agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers or others for reimbursement in a timely manner, is there a way that we might be able to chip away or work at this? I would be willing to withdraw the amendment if I could get an assurance that this is something that we can look at and work at.

I have offered this amendment in years past. And, again, there are local governments across the United States that are waiting for reimbursement, and I think it is something that would be good for us to take a look at.

I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I certainly understand the gentleman's concern, and I agree with him. It all comes down to funding levels.

But I would be more than willing to work with the gentleman to try to see if we could address his concern, which is a concern for all of us, as we move forward into the conference process.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, would that be agreeable or amenable to the ranking member?

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. The chairman and I work very closely on matters like this. It is difficult because of the fact that we have no new starts. We have a backlog that is enormous. And the Corps is under pressure. But we will be very happy to work with the gentleman and to try to resolve situations that you may face in your region.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the staff for their time and their effort and the courtesy of the chairman and the ranking member.

I will not offer this amendment today and we will see if we might be able to work together, Mr. Chairman, and if not, we will come back next year and we will see what we can do. Maybe we will need to take a vote. But I appreciate everyone's courtesy today.

Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 17, before the semicolon, insert "and of which \$44,000,000 shall be for environmental infrastructure projects for financially distressed municipalities".

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Rhode Island and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I first want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for the hard work that they have done on this piece of legislation.

My amendment is a simple one. As we all recognize, the Army Corps of Engineers provides invaluable assistance to financially strapped communities through its general construction fund, specifically for wastewater and water improvements and, in past years, has allocated specifically funds for this purpose. However, this year's report does not include any money for this account.

So the amendment I offer would direct that \$44 million, which is 3 percent of the total allocation for construction projects in the Army Corps of Engineers, be set aside to support environmental infrastructure programs specifically for financially distressed communities around the country.

□ 1445

As we know, Mr. Chairman, there are approximately \$298 billion of unmet needs for wastewater and stormwater treatment that are projected over the next 20 years. Of that, about 15 to 20 percent represents water treatment, and that percentage is expected to grow over time because of increases in Federal regulations.

In older cities, a single system, in fact, combines both stormwater and sewage; and rain, obviously, and snow can overwhelm those systems and present tremendous challenges.

Seventy-two percent of the United States population is served by sewage treatment plants, and 3.8 million Americans are served by facilities providing less than secondary treatment, which is the basic requirement of law.

This is a huge unmet need, and for municipalities—particularly financially distressed municipalities—investing in water treatment facilities can be a tremendous burden that they can't meet alone.

In fact, since 2007, the Federal Government has required cities to invest more than \$15 billion in new pipes, plants, and equipment to address sewer and wastewater treatment.

So we are imposing—and rightly so, I am not criticizing that—but we are imposing these standards, and the costs of

those are being borne by municipalities.

What this amendment attempts to do is to ensure that at least some portion of that account is set aside for wastewater treatment projects and particularly targets facilities that have financial challenges—financially distressed communities.

I have spoken with the ranking member, and I recognize the chairman has reserved a point of order. I would ask if my ranking member would continue to make the case that these wastewater treatment facilities require some additional investment, and if that is the case, I look forward to working with the chairman and my ranking member, so that we can be sure that this investment is preserved, as it has been in past years, so that communities that really need assistance with their wastewater treatment facilities will have some access to these resources, and if so, I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I offered an Amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill that would support environmental infrastructure projects through the Army Corps of Engineers for financially distressed municipalities.

We require, quite rightly, water and sewage treatment plants to maintain federally mandated standards to keep our water supply safe and sustainable. About 72% of the population is served by sewage treatment plants, but 3.8 million of those people are served by facilities providing less than secondary treatment, which is a basic requirement by federal law. Often, the financial burden to meet these requirements falls on state and local governments. This can leave communities experiencing particular financial distress with outdated infrastructure and facing down huge costs to bring them in line with requirements. And this affects all of us, as aging wastewater management systems discharge billions of gallons of untreated sewage into U.S. surface waters each year.

The Army Corps of Engineers can provide invaluable assistance to financially strapped communities through its general construction fund, specifically for wastewater and water improvements.

The amendment I introduced would direct \$44 million through the general construction account to support environmental infrastructure programs for financially distressed municipalities, in the hopes that we can provide some support for some of the most pressing wastewater improvement projects in the country.

This same amount has been included for environmental infrastructure programs in the past, but no funding is included in this year's bill.

Federal assistance has not kept pace with the needs of wastewater treatment systems, despite the fact that authorities agree that funding needs remain very high: The EPA estimates that the country will need to invest \$390 billion over the next 20 years to replace existing systems and build new ones to meet demand. Furthermore, they estimate that there will be a \$6 billion gap between current spend-

ing projections and need, if no changes are made.

These infrastructure projects are extremely important to many communities across the country, including in my own state of Rhode Island. Though I withdrew my amendment, I look forward to working with the chair and ranking member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure that these vulnerable communities receive support to ensure that Americans across the country have access to clean, safe water and sewage systems.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CICILLINE. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. There is no objection from our side. We look forward to working with the gentleman.

In your region of the country, the Midwest, the Great Lakes, and the Northeast, in particular, those needs are huge.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$260,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCALLISTER

Mr. MCALLISTER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$47,000,000)".

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$127,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. MCALLISTER. Mr. Chairman, first, let me just say to Chairman SIMPSON that I appreciate all the hard work you all have done on this whole committee bill and appropriation process.

I know it is not an easy task, and there is a lot of juggling to offset prices on everything, but my amendment will increase the MR&T, the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, by \$47 million, to bring it back to FY14 levels. The FY14 enacted \$307 million, and FY15 committee was \$260 million.

The offset for this is reducing the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renew-

able Energy by \$127 million. This number is necessary to make it outlay neutral. This is less than 7 percent of the proposed spending by the committee. Budget authority will be reduced by \$80 million.

The Mississippi River and tributaries are the main arteries of commerce for the Nation—as we see in the reports today, that we have flooding going on in the Mississippi River, starting from the north up above St. Louis, coming down.

This MR&T project is the largest flood control project in the world, providing protection for the 36,000-square mile lower Mississippi valley acreage.

The navigation features of the MR&T project seek to facilitate navigation and promote commerce on the Nation's most vital commercial artery. Waterborne commerce on the Mississippi River increased from 30 million tons in 1940 to nearly 500 million tons today.

Since the initiation of the MR&T project in 1928, the Nation has received a \$24 return for every dollar invested. The remaining work to be completed will have an estimated 37 to 1 return on investment.

With the Panama Canal expansion project underway, we must continue to invest in this vital resource, not reduce funding. These waterways are too important to our Nation.

I just want to say how important the Mississippi River is to the Nation as a whole, not just to my district and those of us that border the Mississippi River and their tributaries all up and down the central United States.

It is very vital to the agriculture industry, to the commerce industry, to everything, and the flood control. It just has a tremendous impact that we all need to be aware of. I know that this \$127 million looks like a lot in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, but we try to find different places that we can take it.

This is one that we found the less neutral, only reducing it 7 percent of its total budget. It was the largest that we found that we could take it from.

Again, I just want to commend the committee on the hard work they have done, and I know it is not an easy challenge at all for them to reduce and have to answer to certain parties for what was reduced and not reduced.

We have worked on this bipartisan—got a lot of bipartisan support on it throughout yesterday and today, and I appreciate your consideration and support on trying to make sure that we do everything we can to take care of the MR&T.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. Let me assure my colleague, though, that I agree with him about the importance of making investments in navigation and flood control infrastructure.

In fact, a lot of the problem was trying to find an offset for \$47 million, and as the gentleman knows, it is very difficult because there are things in this bill that are very important to at least someone within this body.

Because of the importance of navigation and flood control, that is why the underlying bill increases funding for MR&T by 6 percent above the President's budget request and focuses funding, such that navigation is increased by 21 percent and flood control by 15 percent above the budget request.

While I understand that there is almost always more that can be done, we must balance several competing activities within the Energy and Water bill. The amendment would reduce the EERE account, which is already cut by \$113 million below last year's level and \$528 million below the President's budget request.

So while we did increase funding for the MR&T account above the President's request, the EERE account is already \$528 million below the budget's request by the administration. Within the EERE account, the funding the bill preserves is just as important as the funding it cuts.

The bill focuses funding for three main priorities: helping American manufacturers remain competitive, supporting weatherization assistance programs, and addressing future high gas prices.

This funding supports breakthrough research to reduce what Americans pay at the gas pump and to help our companies compete in the global market, which creates jobs here at home.

For these reasons, while I sympathize with what the gentleman is trying to do with the amendment and tried to help on crafting an amendment that we can find \$47 million for, I must oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no."

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McALLISTER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. McALLISTER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,800,000) (increased by \$9,500,000) (increased by \$9,300,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Arkansas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, first, I want to thank the chairman and the committee for their hard work putting this bill together. I know it has taken a lot of time and effort to get here, and I appreciate that.

My amendment addresses a very real threat to the lives and livelihoods of Arkansans and Americans across the country and the citizens and businesses in areas of the depletion of aquifers and lack of water for agriculture during times of drought.

The Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie projects in my district, which are well on the way to completion, will provide an economical and environmentally sensible alternative for protecting aquifers from catastrophic depletion and provide both a renewable agriculture water supply, as well as a valuable role in water quality and quantity control efforts for one of our Nation's most critical waterways, the Mississippi River.

In most of the Mississippi Delta, aquifers provide significant portions of water used for ag irrigation. With the increasing water demands of agriculture, businesses, and municipalities, aquifers across the country, especially the alluvial and Sparta-Memphis aquifers which supply much of the Mississippi Delta, face the increasing threat of depletion.

This takes the immediate form of drastically lowering well yields and the requirement to drill more often and deeper to access sufficient quantities of water.

Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie were designed to address the threat of aquifer depletion, both to ease demands on aquifers and to ensure a steady and renewable water supply for agriculture in Arkansas' Mississippi Delta region.

First authorized in 1996, these projects are a framework of canals, pumps, and pipes that pull excess water from the delta's rivers in times of abundance and store it for future use.

During periods of drought, farmers are able to take from those canals and reservoirs, instead of further depleting the aquifers or taking from the rivers and streams that feed the Mississippi, helping ensure a continued and reliable water supply, both for agriculture and municipalities.

In addition to the ag benefits, Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie will work to ease demands on the water table, help mitigate the flood damage done to homes and businesses, ensure a safe and steady food and water supply for American citizens, and provide a habitat for various amphibians and waterfowl across the South.

Most importantly, Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie will support jobs for a

region of our country persistently above the national unemployment rate.

Without these two important projects, Mississippi Delta farmers will be forced to continue depleting aquifers, the same aquifers municipalities and businesses depend on, risking losing their livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise in opposition, although I am hopeful that my colleague will withdraw the amendment.

First, let me assure the gentleman that I am sympathetic to the issues that he has highlighted in his statement.

Adequate water supply, whether it is for agricultural irrigation or municipal or industrial use, is a basic necessity for economic prosperity. In the committee's view, however, navigation and flood control are top priorities for the Corps of Engineers, and the bill before us prioritizes funding accordingly.

My colleague from Arkansas has proven to be a strong advocate for his constituents and for the projects that seek to further develop the agricultural irrigation infrastructure important to his constituents.

If the gentleman will agree to withdraw the amendment, I will agree to work with him, moving forward, to try to address these needs, if additional funding beyond that necessary for navigation and flood control becomes available.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. I thank the chairman for his commitment.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$2,905,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance

costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. HAHN

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$57,600,000)”.

Page 20, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$73,309,100.00)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself however much time I may consume.

I rise to offer the Hahn-Huizenga amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill to utilize the harbor maintenance trust fund as the target set forth in the recently passed Water Resources Reform and Development Act.

As a representative of the Nation's busiest port complex and the co-founder, along with you, Mr. Chairman, of the Ports Caucus, I have fought hard, from my first day here in Congress, to increase the funding for our Nation's ports and to fully utilize the harbor maintenance trust fund to ensure that the money that we collect at our ports goes back to our ports. Around here, they are starting to call me “Miss Harbor Maintenance Tax.”

After working for months with my colleagues, we reached a plan to finally put the harbor maintenance trust fund to work and fully utilize this trust fund by 2025.

I appreciate the chairman and the ranking member and the hard work that you put on the bill before us

today, but I have one little problem with it. The bill on the floor today fails to follow the law that we just passed 7 weeks ago in such a bipartisan fashion, and we are falling behind by over \$57 million towards utilizing that harbor maintenance fund.

That is money that our ports have paid for and they need. I understand the difficult task the Appropriations Committee has in front of it, but for our ports to remain competitive, they need this funding.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment, but let me assure my colleagues that I agree with her about the importance of sufficient maintenance of our Nation's water resources infrastructure, including our waterways. It seems like the amendments that Members are offering, I agree with them; however, there are challenges that they face.

I also agree that since the harbor maintenance tax is collected for a specific purpose and since the need for dredging is apparent, we should be using these funds for their intended purpose to the greatest extent possible rather than allowing a balance to accumulate in the trust fund. That is an issue we have been dealing with for the last several years, trying to figure out how we can do that without harming all of the other programs within the budget. Unfortunately, that is what they do. Until we change our budget rules or something, and I don't have the answer to it yet, but we have been trying to work with the Budget Committee and with the Appropriations Committee to try to make sure that those taxes collected for the harbor maintenance trust fund are used for what they are intended to do. And if the account is just growing, then we shouldn't be collecting the tax.

Ms. HAHN. That sounds like support for my amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. I know that is what it sounds like. In fact, the bill continues to increase funding for harbor maintenance trust fund activities above the previous year and above the budget request, as the committee has repeatedly done over the past few years. The bill includes more than \$1.1 billion for these activities, which equates to more than a 20 percent increase over the amount requested by the administration for fiscal year 2015. While I understand that there is almost always more work that can be done, we must balance several competing activities within the Energy and Water bill.

The amendment would reduce the nuclear energy account by \$12.8 million,

which would bring the account below the fiscal year 2014 level. The underlying bill provides a total of \$899 million for nuclear energy programs, only \$10 million above last year. That is what seems strange about this, doing what we all think is the right thing to do using the harbor maintenance trust fund to do harbor maintenance. By increasing that, we hurt nuclear energy, which I don't think is the intent of the gentlelady or the gentleman from Louisiana who want to do this.

In addition to protecting the Department of Energy's nuclear energy materials, this funding protects a range of national security programs at the NNSA, Department of Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies. Furthermore, I oppose the reduced funding for nuclear energy research and development, which is a critical part of this bill's support for a balanced energy portfolio. Nuclear power currently generates 20 percent of the Nation's electricity, and it will continue to play a large role in the future.

As I said, I am sympathetic to what the gentlelady is trying to do. In fact, I was cosponsor at one time of a bill by my friend from Louisiana that said you have to use the harbor maintenance trust fund and use it to dredge the harbors. If there is a need out there, we ought to be using that to do it.

We need to work together to try to solve this problem. And believe me, it would help us a lot in crafting this bill if somehow we could do that. Otherwise, we shouldn't be collecting the tax if we have a need and the account is growing. But it is because of our budget rules and so forth that it creates this problem. I understand what the gentlelady is doing. Unfortunately, her amendment would hurt the nuclear account and other accounts within the bill which has been the problem in the past.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the chairman for yielding and for your sympathy toward the intent of the amendment. I commend Congresswoman HAHN and Congressman HUIZENGA for elevating the question of our ports. Waterborne shipping is the most-efficient mode for moving goods in and out of this country. I think they are performing for this Congress an extraordinary service by uniting on a bipartisan basis and kind of ringing the bell and saying, Hey, pay attention to what is happening here with this harbor maintenance tax and how we help our ports compete, as we see the Panama Canal come online and shipbuilding occurring in other countries like South Korea, for example, and China and Singapore and lots of other places, and saying, Hey, America, wake up.

I feel some urgency to want to support the direction of their efforts, but, as with the chairman, it comes to

where the offset is. It is true that, with harbor maintenance tax funds, \$185 million has been moved into the fund as a result of our efforts that the administration had not requested, so we as a subcommittee are moving in the right direction, but I am hoping that this might begin a conversation with our subcommittee and how we work with them on the harbor maintenance tax in a more effective manner. So I thank the chairman for yielding. They brought an important issue before us that we need to resolve more effectively.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank my colleague from California for working with me on this. I am glad to hear the elevation that this issue is getting. In fact, on Monday I met with Andrie Shipping out of Muskegon, Michigan, in my district about this issue, among other issues regarding Great Lakes shipping.

I can tell you, though, that it seems to me as we passed the WRRDA bill just a short 7 weeks ago, as you pointed out, I was willing to compromise on that glide path. What I don't see currently is that glide path to the direction. We are, as you point out, nearly \$58 million below what was laid out in that WRRDA bill.

The chairman from Idaho has a very difficult job balancing all this, and he has pointed out that the nuclear energy program is the way that we are going to offset this. I will point out, though, that it is appropriated for \$899 million this year, a level that is \$36 million above the President's budget request, \$10 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, and \$243 million above the level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for fiscal year 2014. So it doesn't seem to me we are exactly raiding that when everybody has said that we are overfunding that portion of the bill, and it seems to me that this is a great way of impacting our economy to help create jobs and to help create the momentum to continue to move forward.

So with that, I just want to thank the committee for working towards a solution. I know that I, too, had signed on to Mr. BOUSTANY's bill earlier and have been a champion of this, and we are working towards a true solution on this.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and this critical maritime activity.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I stand to speak in favor of the Hahn amendment. I would like to commend the Appropriations Commit-

tee's efforts to increase the Army Corps of Engineers' budget.

In Texas, we have serious water and infrastructure needs. At the Port of Houston, which I represent, our need for operation and maintenance as well as construction money is significant. I greatly appreciate the committee's efforts to fund our needs by appropriating \$31 million, but this amount does not reflect the amount that is needed. The Port of Houston is the second-largest port in the country by tonnage. The Port of Houston ranks number one in foreign tonnage. In 2012, we expanded operations to include cruise ships.

For maintenance dredging operations alone, the Port of Houston requires more than \$70 million annually. The Port of Houston generates significant tax revenue both for the State and Federal Government. That is why I am a strong supporter of the Hahn amendment.

To meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, the Port of Houston needs more than \$31 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) required that 67 percent of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund fees be spent on related activities.

Unfortunately, this bill short changes the Port of Houston and many other ports around the country.

I support the Hahn amendment.

The funding shortfall significantly impacts the ability of the Port of Houston to receive larger ships and it is our job to help them meet those demands.

I ask that my colleagues support the Hahn amendment.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hahn-Huizenga amendment which would increase funding for the United States Army Corps of Engineers operations and maintenance account by \$57 million, a funding level that was established in the House-passed WRRDA bill. This funding is fully offset and is bipartisan in nature.

I am here today to support additional funding because my district—Michigan's First—urgently needs to address the backlog of projects on the book, from dredging to basic port maintenance to the Soo Locks, which are in desperate need of replacement. The backlog impacts jobs and our local economy in Northern Michigan.

I understand tough decisions must be made during these economic times, but Michiganders and all Americans depend on the Great Lakes for transportation of goods and services. I appreciate consideration of this amendment. I ask for a "yes" vote from my colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Huizenga-Hahn Amendment, which would in-

crease funding for the United States Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance account by \$57.6 million, a funding level that was established in the House-passed WRRDA bill. This funding is fully offset, and is bipartisan in nature.

I am here today to support additional funding for the Army Corps O&M budget because my district—Michigan's First—is in urgent need of funding to address the backlog of projects on the books. From dredging to basic port maintenance, to the Soo Locks the needs in Northern Michigan are only getting worse. This backlog impacts jobs and our local economy. While \$57 million will certainly not suffice to meet the backlog on the Great Lakes, nor even begin to address a number of the other already authorized projects around the country, this represents a small step forward.

What types of projects are we talking about? In my district, we have the Soo Locks. The Soo Locks represent the primary point of passage for goods in the Great Lakes. Products travel on ships from all around the world through the Soo Locks, which are in desperate need of replacement. This is truly a national security issue, and the estimated cost for replacement is approximately \$580 million.

The inability to replace the Soo Locks leads has led to light-loading and collisions at the entry point, which also increases annual maintenance costs. This is costly to taxpayers and the shipping industry, ultimately leading to higher costs for Northern Michiganders and all Americans who utilize goods that are transported through the Great Lakes.

The work done by the Army Corps impacts the economy and jobs not only in Northern Michigan, but around the world. Commodities transported on the Great Lakes Navigation System represent 10 percent of all U.S. waterborne domestic traffic. The 60 large and smaller federal commercial ports on the Great Lakes are linked in trade with each other, with Canadian ports, and with ports throughout the rest of the world.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that tough decisions must be made during these economic times. However, Michiganders and all Americans depend on the Great Lakes for the transportation of goods and services.

I thank you for your consideration, as this amendment would work to support projects not only in my district, but across the country.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 10 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. The Great Lakes are operating at 80 percent of capacity. It is costing us \$3 billion in annual business, jobs, growth, and income. The Hahn-Huizenga amendment would restore these funds and move our country forward economically.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Chairman, I urge an "aye" vote on this amendment. When our ports are strong, our country is strong.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the bipartisan amendment offered by my colleague Ms. HAHN from California and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, which would increase the appropriation provided in the underlying bill for Army Corps operations and

maintenance dredging of harbors by \$57.6 million. This amendment would fulfill the obligations made in the recently-enacted Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–121), an important one of them being the increase in expenditure of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as a way to adequately address maintenance needs at our nation's ports and harbors.

Specifically, I support adoption of this amendment because it would position the Army Corps to be more responsive to the maintenance needs at Puerto Rico's six federally-authorized harbors, which are located in Arecibo, Fajardo, Mayagüez, Ponce, San Juan and Yabucoa. Through these harbors, Puerto Rico engages in domestic trade with U.S. states and territories and international trade with foreign countries. In 2012, the San Juan and Ponce harbors alone accounted for over 13 million tons in trade of commodities, making them some of the busiest ports in the United States. Access to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to maintain these harbors at their federally-authorized depth levels is crucial to the expanding \$103 billion trade industry in Puerto Rico. Maintenance and development of the harbors is essential to Puerto Rico's waterborne economy and its ultimate viability as a commercial maritime waypoint hub between North and South America.

Additionally, I take this opportunity to note that the underlying bill includes an appropriation of \$800,000 specifically for maintenance dredging of the harbor in San Juan—which ranked as the 52nd busiest port in the nation in 2012 in terms of tonnage of total cargo handled. I also appreciate the Committee's expressed concern in its report accompanying the bill about the accessibility of navigation maintenance funds for small, remote and subsistence harbors and waterways across the United States. I believe the Army Corps should review its criteria for allocating harbor maintenance funds in order to develop a more reasonable and equitable allocation for small, remote or subsistence harbors. The current criteria results in those ports with the heaviest cargo traffic being allocated funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The criteria presents a paradoxical situation in that harbors that are not maintained to their federally-authorized depth become less available and less attractive over time to the berthing of maritime vessels. As a consequence, the diminishing number of port calls reduces cargo volume, which in turn makes the harbor less likely to receive maintenance funding. If the overall Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund allocation criteria are not realigned to better account for maintenance needs at smaller harbors, designing a separate budgeting mechanism or criteria to address these needs would be warranted.

In Puerto Rico, for example, although the San Juan Harbor has been given regular maintenance attention in recent years and the harbor in Arecibo recently received maintenance dredging as a result of sediment build-up associated with a hurricane, the island's four other federally-authorized harbors have received minimal to no HMTF funds for much-needed maintenance dredging. Potential improvements to these harbors would be beneficial to the economic revitalization of some of

Puerto Rico's 44 coastal municipalities. For these reasons, I support the renewed call for the Army Corps to update Congress on its review of criteria used for determining which navigation projects at harbors across the United States are funded.

In closing, I urge adoption of this amendment. It is through increased expenditure in 2015 by the Army Corps of Engineers of funds available through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that the domestic economy will be strengthened, and that our constituents who rely upon the free, timely and safe flow of goods at our nation's ports will be supported. This amendment gives us an opportunity to better ensure operations at the nation's federally-authorized harbors—including the harbors in Puerto Rico—can reach their full capacity.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the President's 2015 budget request cuts O&M funding by 28 percent, reflecting an overall \$1 billion cut in the Corps of Engineers' civil works budget from the levels set in the fiscal year 2014 omnibus budget bill.

While I appreciate the House Appropriations' mark of \$44 million above the fiscal year 2014 level, more must be done to help ensure our waterways are properly maintained.

This is especially true with the Water Resources conference report, which allows for 100 percent of the funds generated by the cargo tax to be utilized for harbor maintenance and dredging by the year 2025. We need to help bridge this gap now, as nearly 1,000 Federal ports and harbors have not been adequately maintained, and are dredged to their authorized depths and widths only 35 percent of the time.

The amendment myself and my colleague from Louisiana are coauthoring directs \$1 million from the Department of Energy's administrative offices and directs \$1 million to the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers' operation and maintenance accounts.

The purpose of the funding redirection is to make strategic and justified investments in our Nation's port and waterway infrastructure, such as the Calcasieu Ship Channel. For example, Port of Lake Charles officials announced yesterday that vessel traffic is expected to increase by more than 50 percent over the next 5 years and double within the decade. With more than \$67 billion worth of capital investments in southwest Louisiana, the increased channel use is attributed to expanded operations of existing terminals and the construction of several proposed facilities.

Mr. Chairman, we need to work to provide the resources to maintain and dredge these vital navigation and shipping channels.

□ 1515

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chair, first of all, I want to compliment Chairman SIMPSON on all the work he has done on this bill, but also the work he has done with me to plus up the harbor maintenance account and the funds available for dredging. It is critically important.

I am very proud to stand with my colleague from Louisiana in support of this very important amendment. As my colleague expressed, the President's fiscal year '15 budget creates even more of a shortfall.

We have got a significant backlog in harbor maintenance. This is going to hurt American competitiveness. In fact, roughly \$3 billion worth of coastal navigation operations and maintenance work could be done if the funds that are collected for this were actually made available to be used for it.

Louisiana is a leading State in trade, international trade, with three of our top ten ports that conduct trade in goods and energy.

More U.S. merchandise travels by ocean-going vessels than by airplanes, trucks, freight trains, and pipelines combined. That is why these funds are critical for American competitiveness, and that is why they are really important in facilitating U.S. foreign trade.

Our waterways are vital economic pathways for our Nation's commerce and the ability to move American goods to these foreign markets. Hundreds of thousands of jobs depend on this—jobs in Louisiana and across the United States. This infrastructure is vital.

Our amendment would take a modest step. It would redirect \$1 million from the Department of Energy's administrative offices to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations and maintenance account. I believe this was a simple, strategic, and commonsense approach to help prioritize necessary maintenance and move us in the right direction.

The Federal Government has the principal responsibility for maintenance of these harbors and shipping channels. Let's make sure that the Corps has the tools to do the job with the money that is collected for that job. The President failed to do that in his budget request. We can make that change now.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. CASSIDY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 25, after "expended," insert "of which such sums as are necessary to carry out the study authorized in section 6002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014;"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oklahoma and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chair, earlier this year, there was a bill that authorized the Corps' projects that was passed in the House and the Senate and signed into law. It also included into that a study that would allow the Corps of Engineers to be able to evaluate their projects.

As simple as this may be, the Corps of Engineers has a tremendous number of things on their inventory that they are doing operation and maintenance for. The study required them to be able to go through all the different projects that they have nationwide and just do a simple evaluation of which projects met the simple focus of the Corps of Engineers and which projects might not meet the central focus. It allowed them to be able to make a simple determination of what, if you will excuse the pun, are the core projects of the Corps.

There are projects that are all over the country. There may be boat ramps, picnic pavilions, or in Oklahoma we have a place called Lake Optima that was a lake built in the 1970s that has never had more than 5 percent water in it. It was a project that did not work effectively as it was originally planned but the Corps still has to maintain because it is on their inventory.

This study would allow them to be able to look at all of their inventory and develop what is the core focus of that. This amendment just ensures that the Corps would have the money necessary to be able to fulfill that study.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$28,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$178,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple amendment to save precious taxpayer resources and to reduce the amount of money spent on paying inefficient bureaucrats with a history of mismanagement and disorganization.

Specifically, my amendment reduces net outlays for the administration of the Army Corps of Engineers by \$1 million from the fiscal year 2014 level, which reduces the budget authority in this bill for the Corps' administration by 2.25 percent. The Corps of Engineers received an overall increase of \$25 million in the bill above the fiscal year 2014 level.

While I can support more funds going to worthwhile projects, I take issue when the Corps continually receives the budget request level for administrative officials who fail to curb their bad behavior and competently perform their jobs.

I would like to read a quick excerpt from the committee report for this bill that highlights some of the continued mismanagement from within the Corps of Engineers:

The Corps of Engineers has suffered several significant failings in recent years that have resulted in cost increases for projects, such as the massive cost escalation associated with the Olmsted Locks and Dam project.

In some cases, the administration has not requested authorization increases in time for the Congress to act before projects experience delays.

The committee enacted new requirements in fiscal year 2014 intended to address these problems, but to date—5 months after enactment—the Corps has not complied with the committee's directions.

In addition, the committee notes that the Corps still has not submitted a complete work plan for fiscal year 2014 nor complied with several other oversight initiatives necessary to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Another blatant example of the administrative ineptitude within the Corps is the agency has now been working on one chief's report for a particular project in Arizona for 5-plus years now. Throughout the country, this is the norm and not the exception to the rule. This failure to perform even the most simple of tasks drives up the costs of projects and leads to projects not being completed in a timely manner.

Due to frustrations with these delays, Congress was forced to enact a provision that recently passed WRRDA that requires Chiefs' reports to be completed within 3 years.

Let me provide another example of mismanagement by the Corps in Arizona.

An important flood control project was initially estimated by the Corps to cost roughly \$24 million. Now, several years past the deadline for completing this project, the total cost estimate for the project exceeds more than \$100 million. I realize projects have issues sometimes, but this is a clear example of failed leadership within the agency. Unfortunately, mismanagement has become prevalent in the Corps for quite some time now. Several years ago, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a Democrat from South Dakota, said the Corps is "one of the most incompetent and inept organizations in all the Federal Government."

One final example of significant malfunction within the Corps' administration was cited by the Government Accountability Office. The GAO had nothing but negative things to say about a Corps study justifying a \$332 million project in the Delaware River. GAO found that the study "was based on miscalculations, invalid assumptions, and outdated information." GAO found that projected benefits for this project were nearly 75 percent fraudulent.

With an almost \$18 trillion debt that continues to grow, it is irresponsible to throw more money at a department that cannot manage its own affairs. My amendment does not reduce funding for important projects. Again, my amendment simply reduces net outlays for incompetent Corps of Engineers bureaucrats from the fiscal year 2014 level.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman and Members, I rise to oppose the amendment because it doesn't make any sense to me to make it harder for the Corps to do its job when we know they have backlogs in projects of over \$60 billion. We are increasing funding for the Corps to try to meet the needs of States like Arizona—and the other 49 States as well—and there seems to be no shortage of complaints about the Corps' response time on project issues because they can't get their work done because they don't have enough money to complete their projects.

This gentleman may be unaware that oversight funding has already been cut by \$4 million from the current year. We are giving the Corps more project money to try to deal with their backlog; but then if we don't have proper oversight, we are going to dig the hole deeper. We need to have the resources in order to complete the projects.

The amendment, in a way, is penny-wise and pound-foolish because it reduces Federal oversight of more than \$5 billion. The problem with the Corps historically has been that every Member has projects that they want completed, but we don't have the money to do it. If you are going to cut the legs out of staff that are there to do the job, it is going to make it much more difficult to manage the money. It is like trying to send an army into battle and not giving them the weapons to do it or creating all these barriers to completion.

We need to turn around and allow the Corps to resolve the projects that are on the books—there are no new starts in this bill—and give them the staff to

do the job and to get it done and to get it done well and within budget, not stretch it out. The reason these projects are stretched out over the years: they simply don't have the money. To put the infrastructure in the ground, whether it is Arizona, Ohio, or California, they are just short-changed at every end. We make it really difficult for them.

I think the gentleman is well-intended. He wants to get the work done. I want to get the work done. I don't think that the amendment actually leads us to that end. Respectfully, we would oppose the amendment and ask our colleagues to join us.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE
ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BILIRAKIS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support increased accountability of the Army Corps of Engineers.

I thank, of course, Chairman ROGERS and Chairman SIMPSON for their work on this appropriations bill and leadership to ensure scarce taxpayer dollars are well spent.

My amendment seeks to strike all funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Under current law, fringe groups are allowed to, for the cost of a postage stamp, Mr. Chair, file lawsuits against any infrastructure project needing a clean water permit that they spot in the Federal Register. This is outrageous. These lawsuits and the fear of

them have stopped a number of worthy projects that were necessary for local governments to protect their constituents.

The Corps' failure to defend the public safety is because of a serious lack of leadership by the Corps, in my opinion. One such project in Pasco County, Florida, my Congressional District, is the Ridge Road extension, a much-needed route for hurricane evacuation.

□ 1530

For over two decades, this project has been in the permitting process because of the bureaucratic paper shuffling and duplicative environmental studies. During this time of scarce taxpayer dollars and economic uncertainty, we have pending infrastructure projects that can create jobs and protect the public, but the Corps often drags out the application process to push the applicant to drop their application out of fear that the agency will have to engage in litigation. These lawsuits are solely to kill worthy public safety projects, in my opinion, and not based on the merits of the projects.

I note this bill's committee report, which says that, "the committee is concerned that the administration has not been taking congressional direction seriously," in regards to these permit projects.

There is clearly a serious leadership problem at this agency. This is an opportunity for the administration to act and ensure the public is protected.

The committee report also includes encouragement from the committee "to keep in mind the public safety aspects of the project when considering permit applications and to pursue ways to shorten review times, including by performing reviews currently and eliminating duplicative reviews to the maximum extent practicable."

I call the Corps to work with the communities across the country and approve these needed public safety projects to prevent needless loss of life. With reassurances from Chairman SIMPSON that the committee will continue to encourage the Corps to prioritize public safety projects, I would consider withdrawing the amendment at this time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I would assure the gentleman that we share his concerns, and in fact, if you look at the underlying bill, we have reduced funding for the ASA's office by 60 percent, or \$3 million, because of the same concerns we have that you are expressing and that Mr. GOSAR expressed before you. It is a concern that all of us have. We will work with you to make sure that we address this.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Reclaiming my time, thanks for giving me those assurances. This is very important for public

safety purposes. Our constituents need evacuation routes in case there is a hurricane or any kind of disaster.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be withdrawn.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF
ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act;

(4) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act;

(5) increases funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(6) reduces funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity authorized under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, or section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992.

(c) The Corps of Engineers shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 103. None of the funds in this Act, or previous Acts, making funds available for Energy and Water Development, shall be used to award any continuing contract that commits additional funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund unless or until such time that a long-term mechanism to enhance revenues in this Fund sufficient to meet the cost-sharing authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662) is enacted.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$4,700,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definitions of the terms "fill material" or "discharge of fill material" for the purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year may be used by the Corps of Engineers to develop, adopt, implement, administer, or enforce any change to the regulations and guidance in effect on October 1, 2012, pertaining to the definition of waters under the jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including the provisions of the rules dated November 13, 1986, and August 25, 1993, relating to such jurisdiction, and the guidance documents dated January 15, 2003, and December 2, 2008, relating to such jurisdiction.

SEC. 107. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$9,874,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,300,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for necessary expenses incurred in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2015, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$856,351,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$25,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado

River Basin Fund and \$6,840,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 12, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, before I begin, I would like to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their hard work and collaboration on this bipartisan and important bill.

I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, to provide additional, critical resources for Bureau of Reclamation environmental restoration projects that address or improve public health conditions.

The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for managing, developing, and restoring our Nation's waters to support the interests of the American public. Mr. Chairman, I can think of fewer efforts more in the public interest than protecting the public's health.

Across the West, the Bureau helps water districts develop recycled water technology to provide safe irrigation water for crops, provides engineering assistance for restoration efforts, and monitors water quality so that communities can take preventative action to protect the environment and public health.

There are many examples in our Nation, and I will give just a couple.

In southern California, in the Coachella Valley, the Bureau of Reclamation plays a large role in protecting public health by monitoring and helping restore the water equality of the Salton Sea. For several decades now, deteriorating water quality and

reduced water inflows have made the Salton Sea a threat to southern California residents, and eventually the sea could threaten public health in cities all across southern California.

As the sea dries and the water level recedes, exposed lake bed will release windblown contaminants containing selenium, arsenic, and pesticides. Exposure to these contaminants has been shown to increase the number and severity of asthma attacks; decrease the growth and development of lung function in school-age children; and increase the risk of cardiac disease, heart attacks, and mortality in adults.

Already, exposed lake bed on the southern portion of the sea has had an impact on local air quality, with rates of pediatric asthma-related hospitalizations in the region far above the national average. As an emergency medicine physician, I have seen firsthand the effects of poor air and water quality.

The public health danger to families and children from the Salton Sea is very real, and to help address the exposed lake bed in the southern portion of the sea, a partnership has put together the Red Hill Bay project to cover over 700 acres of exposed lake bed with clean water. These shallow pools will cover the dangerous contaminants in the lake bed, preventing them from becoming airborne and threatening the surrounding communities.

The Bureau of Reclamation supports projects like Red Hill Bay all across the Western United States, working with local stakeholders who recognize the value of ensuring our waters are well managed.

For example, in my neighboring district, California's 42nd District, the Bureau of Reclamation assisted in helping to mitigate public health concerns and water quality issues at Lake Elsinore. Lake Elsinore, like the Salton Sea, has faced chronic challenges related to water level and water quality. Algae blooms from the lake caused public health concerns, and even took the life of a child.

A collaboration between local governments, local water districts, and the Bureau of Reclamation came together to establish a supply of recycled water to maintain water levels and installed aerators to reduce algae blooms and prevent fish die-offs by keeping oxygen levels high.

Lake Elsinore now supports many local businesses, has a flourishing tourism industry, and is safer for residents to enjoy all the benefits the lake has to offer, including swimming and water sports.

My amendment would provide additional resources towards many Bureau water projects throughout the Nation that will protect the public's health. The health of the American people must be put above politics, and I urge my colleagues to come together to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the gentleman's amendment and to say that he has worked so hard in the interest of maintaining both public health and restoration of the environment related to the Salton Sea. Unless you have actually seen the Salton Sea and the changing nature of the ecosystem in southern California, you can't imagine how enormous that challenge is. From the very first day he was elected, Mr. RUIZ was talking to us about the needs of that particular part of our country.

I know that polluted agricultural runoff had something to do with what has happened to the Salton Sea. The changing nature of rainfall has transformed it.

I think about the Sea of Azov in Russia and how dangerous that has become to the surrounding environment. We face the same challenge here in our country.

I know it is difficult to resolve this issue, and it will take many years, because it didn't just take one year for the sea to become a wasteland, really, and the surrounding communities so affected.

I just want to thank the gentleman for his leadership and for keeping us and your part of America on the right course. You are very talented and very caring. I just wanted to stand in support of your efforts.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARDNER

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 12, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Colorado and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment which allocates \$3 million for water conservation and delivery.

The funding for this amendment is taken directly from the underlying bill's \$56 million appropriation to the Bureau of Reclamation for water projects. The amendment directs \$3 million of this sum specifically for water conservation and delivery projects.

The Bureau of Reclamation water conservation delivery fund provides critical assistance to Western areas of the country. In the arid West, water is our life. These projects improve water supply quality, address water shortage issues, improve conservation measures, and stabilize water supplies. These are projects like the Arkansas Valley Conduit, with over 100 miles of pipelines serving dozens of communities with clean, abundant, and affordable water.

In the Western United States, water is an economic driver. In order to attract more economic growth, either in business or agriculture, every industry in the West is dependent upon an ample and safe water supply.

This amendment will allow the Bureau of Reclamation more flexibility to continue with these types of projects while simultaneously improving public health and improving the environment. Also, these projects are critically important during drought years so that water is appropriately allocated for both municipal and agriculture uses.

The water conservation and delivery line in the Bureau's budget has been previously used for the California Central Valley Project, Washington State's Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, the Arkansas Valley Conduit in Colorado, and the Lewiston Orchard Project in the chairman's home State of Idaho.

I urge support of the amendment, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), the coauthor of this amendment, and I thank him for leadership on issues relating to water in the State of Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague (Mr. GARDNER) for yielding to me and for his partnership in this critical matter.

As you know, water is the lifeblood of the Western United States and absolutely critical to the health of our communities and our local economies. In order to meet federally mandated water quality standards across the West, the Bureau of Reclamation water conservation and delivery fund is essential.

In Colorado, as is the case throughout the West, we have similar needs to be able to move forward with engineering design work on the authorized features of existing Reclamation projects. This amendment will provide the Bureau of Reclamation the flexibility it needs to be able to allocate funds to advance and complete ongoing work that will provide efficient delivery of water from an existing multipurpose Reclamation project as authorized by Congress in 1962.

□ 1545

Among the eligible projects within the water conservation and delivery fund is, in my district, the Arkansas Valley Conduit. It is the final component of the Fryingpan-Arkansas

Project, which is a water diversion and storage project in the lower Arkansas Valley.

Once constructed, the conduit will deliver clean drinking water to families, producers, and municipalities throughout southeastern Colorado.

By directing \$3 million of this sum specifically for water conservation and delivery projects, the Bureau of Reclamation can proceed with ongoing work on water supply delivery projects at a more efficient pace to be able to reach our shared goals in meeting increased water demands by developing and maximizing clean water supplies.

It is our hope that Reclamation prioritizes these projects and resolves the water shortages that exist in the West while enhancing our regional development and promoting our job growth.

Mr. GARDNER. Again, I would like to thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his leadership. He is another Western lawmaker who has done tremendous good for our Western States when it comes to water conservation delivery efforts.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge the support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. NOEM

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 12, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$6,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from South Dakota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Dakota.

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the chairman and the ranking member and all of the committee staff for their hard work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, one of the most important things during the appropriations process is making tough decisions and identifying priorities that need funding. One area that is specifically important is providing water throughout the country, including in rural areas.

In my State and across the West, there are critical water infrastructure projects that are waiting to be funded. They were promised to be funded by the Federal Government years ago, and construction is underway on many of these projects.

Many communities have put in more than their fair share of funding. The

States have done so as well. The only entity that has failed to follow through on that commitment is the Federal Government.

Water is one of our most basic needs, and we need to ensure that we have safe and affordable drinking water across this country.

For rural areas, it is also a jobs issue. Without the completion of rural water projects, businesses aren't able to create much-needed jobs, and local economies suffer. Unfortunately, year after year, the funding for these projects continues to decline under the President's budget requests.

We have the opportunity here today to make some meaningful progress on these projects and ensure that the Federal Government follows through on its previous commitments. Even with my amendment, the funding for rural water projects is still below what it was for fiscal year 2014.

My bill increases the funding for rural water projects, and it does not increase net budget outlays. We need to support critical infrastructure and essential access to water, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Mr. DAINES. I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this amendment, as well as the chairman for allowing us to have this debate.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. In the appropriations process, we must prioritize funding for necessary projects and balance those with spending reductions to reduce the national debt.

In Montana, we depend on a steady supply of water to irrigate our crops, to water our livestock, and to provide energy through hydropower—a renewable resource.

The struggle for clean water continues to create health challenges for Indian Country and nearby communities, in addition to making economic development more difficult.

Without this critical funding for Rocky Boy's-North Central Mountain Rural Water System and the Fort Peck Reservation-Dry Prairie Rural Water System, thousands of Montanans in rural communities could go without quality water accessibility.

The President's budget requests for these critical projects continue to decline each year, while prioritizing other accounts that are not related to the basic needs of our rural communities.

Mr. Chairman, every year that we wait to delay the funding of these essential projects, the more expensive construction, operation, and maintenance become.

For instance, the Fort Peck project's reduced funding levels have doubled the authorization period, and inflation has nearly doubled the overall cost of

construction, but the projected savings is still \$11 million.

However, overhead will consume the projected savings on the project to date and will encroach upon the authorized construction ceiling.

The CBO has just scored this amendment. This decreases the net budget outlays. Passing this amendment is the responsible stewardship of tax dollars and is important to rural communities.

It is also a nonpartisan issue. Funding these projects is supported by the entire Montana delegation—both Republicans and Democrats—and last year, a similar amendment passed by voice vote. I urge the support of this amendment.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the gentlelady's amendment, and I do so for several reasons.

First of all, the renewable energy accounts, where the funds are taken from, have already been reduced by \$113 million from the prior fiscal year.

Frankly, those accounts are part of our future—of our future energy security for the country and, as I said in my opening statement, of the preservation of our liberty.

With over 40 percent of our energy resources being imported, there is no higher priority than for us to diversify our energy portfolio and to reclaim our own economic and energy security. Further reduction in those accounts will have a detrimental impact not just in Montana, but across this country.

In addition, the amendment, as I understand it, reduces Departmental administration by \$6 million. Given my colleague's frustration with the Department's pace on many activities, including on the approval of our LNG export efforts, this seems to be a case of, really, making it much more difficult for the Department to do its job.

Let me put on the record again that, just since 2003, in the last decade, our country has spent \$2.3 trillion on importing foreign petroleum. This is a vast shift of wealth, and thousands upon thousands—literally millions of jobs—are evaporating from our country.

Bloomberg New Energy Finance reports for 2030 that the market outlook estimates that renewables will command over 60 percent of the \$7.7 trillion of power investment that is going to be made someplace.

When we think about our country's future, we must be vigilant, and we must be smart. We must be engaged in those markets because, if we aren't, we see what China is doing and we see what Russia is doing.

We have to pay attention. We can't rob Peter to try to pay Paul. Any water project, whether it is in Montana or whether it is in Ohio, is largely a

public project, and you have to make money in the market to pay for it.

Reasserting ourselves and becoming leaders in energy, rather than importers of energy, is where America needs to head. I think this takes us in the wrong direction.

We should be leading investment in these technologies, not further eroding their capacity for our country, because other countries will displace us, and they are doing so.

Now, in terms of rural water projects in the Bureau of Reclamation, those water projects already will receive \$21 million above the administration's request, so it is not like our subcommittee isn't doing its job.

Frankly, our part of America gets much less attention than the West does, in terms of rural water investment. We have a 50-50 match in our part of the country.

We don't have anything like the Bureau of Reclamation, and we have to compete in the Midwest for those precious dollars. We don't have enough, but we manage to move along as best we can.

I think that we have done what we can in our bill for rural water, and I really would take objection to the gentlelady's efforts to try to further cripple those renewable energy accounts that are going to help to create America's new future and to lead us toward energy independence and toward a re-assumption of our liberties. I would hope that she would find another way to achieve her objectives.

I think I must also offer the comment that, as we look toward the West and its water needs, because of what is happening in the environment, we may be at a point in America's history at which we have to put our dollars where it makes the most sense, and if development is occurring in areas that are already water short or that are becoming desert—where the desert is growing and where literally nature can't provide what it did, maybe, 100 years ago—I think we have to manage the public dollars more wisely.

I oppose the gentlelady's amendment. I hope that we can find a different way to meet her genuine concerns.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Chairman, a couple of facts to follow up on the gentlelady's comments.

What we are trying to do is to get clean drinking water to individuals, to people, where the Federal Government has failed to follow through on commitments that it has made previously.

The reason that we have already plussed up some of these dollars is that the President's budget requests have been so low over the last few years, so we have had to do that in order to try to meet the need. Water projects still, even if my amendment is adopted, will receive less than they did in 2014.

I certainly understand your concerns, as I am a supporter of an all-of-the-

above American energy supply as well, but we have people waiting for clean drinking water. That should be a priority, and this amendment should be adopted.

Last year, it was voice adopted because everybody recognized the importance of making sure that people in this country could get clean drinking water. They at least should have that basic privilege.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask for everyone's support on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$56,995,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$37,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further*, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2016, \$53,849,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$500,000 is hereby permanently rescinded.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$300,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category; or

(7) transfers, when necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "transfer" means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as

reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the "Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan" and the "SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan" described in the report entitled "Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995", prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,789,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$150,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$112,686,000)".

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$165,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to boost the energy efficiency initiatives across America that have a proven return on investment for taxpayers.

This amendment is paid for by reducing—but not by eliminating—accounts that do not have the same return on investment for taxpayers.

The appropriation in the bill for energy efficiency and renewable energy is \$112 million below the 2014 appropriated level, and it is \$528 million below the budget request.

Now, I wish we could meet the budget request this year, but, colleagues, we should at least restore the money back to last year's levels, which is still a very modest investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy for America.

The funds tied to energy efficiency and renewable energy fuel jobs across America in advanced manufacturing and clean energy.

□ 1600

These investments in energy efficiency help make our businesses more competitive compared to businesses all across the globe. In addition, energy efficiency reduces the cost for consumers—wouldn't that be revolutionary, to put some money back into the pockets of our neighbors in this day and age—and has the added benefit of providing cleaner air.

Back home in Florida, I have noticed so many local governments investing in better lighting and energy efficiency. So this even has the potential to lower property taxes for our neighbors back home.

Mr. Chairman, we are on the cusp of a technological revolution when it comes to energy and energy efficiency. Look at what is happening all across America. We have a very diverse portfolio. But this budget today is skewed a little bit. It chops energy efficiency and renewable energy that has sufficient great potential to create jobs and it is a little too heavy on some of the fossil fuel areas.

I will suggest an area that my Republican colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee criticized during a committee meeting not too long ago, and that was the carbon capture and sequestration. Compare the return on investment right now provided in this bill for the multimillion-dollar amount we are putting into carbon capture that is not proven compared to what we could achieve on the return on investment on energy efficiency for our neighbors, for our businesses, and for jobs. So, therefore, this amendment will shift a little bit, not all, from those technologies and put it into a place where it works—energy efficiency.

I appreciate Ranking Member KAPTUR's vision. She understands that this is our future, this is a job creator. I appreciate her work and Chairman SIMPSON's work on the appropriations bill.

I ask for an "aye" vote on the Castor amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I share my colleague's support for energy efficiency programs, the bill funds EERE, the Energy Efficiency portfolio, at \$26 million above last year's level, with targeted increases for weatherization assistance and advanced manufacturing.

What we did in this bill, actually, was refocus some of the administration's requested increases in the renewable energy arena to where we actually use energy. Coal, oil, and natural gas provide 82 percent of the electricity in this country, of the energy used in this Nation's homes and businesses, 82 percent. Reducing the fossil energy re-

search—they are studying things like how heat can more efficiently be converted into electricity in a cross-cutting effort with the nuclear and solar energy programs, how water can be more efficiently used in power plants, and how coal can be used to produce electrical power.

The amendment would also reduce funding for a program that ensures we use our Nation's fossil fuel resources as well and as cleanly as possible. In fact, if we increased the efficiency of our fossil fuel plants by just 1 percent, we could power an additional 2 million households without using a single additional pound of fuel from the ground.

That is the research we are doing in the fossil energy area. That is where we would take the money out of, the area where most of our electricity is produced from, and shift it to an area, while important, doesn't produce nearly as much energy as the other areas in this bill.

So, while I understand what the gentlelady is trying to do, we have actually increased the energy efficiency budget, as I said, by \$26 million above last year, and we will continue to work on that.

I would oppose this amendment and ask my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MARCHANT). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,421,000)".

Page 23, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,540,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chairman, I rise to follow through on a promise the American Government made to the people in my district and across the country to fund nuclear cleanup projects at cold war enrichment facilities. This amendment would direct \$15 million to the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund.

At the height of the atomic age, the government began enriching uranium in our arms race against the Soviet threat. One of these facilities is the Portsmouth plant in Pike County, Ohio. Today, half a century later, it needs to be decommissioned and

cleaned up, a task that has been entrusted to the Department of Energy.

Like other DOE projects, Portsmouth is largely funded through uranium sales. Since the price of uranium has dropped significantly since Fukushima, additional funding is necessary to make up for the loss of revenue.

The community cannot move forward without an adequate cleanup. The people of Pike County and the region worked extremely hard for the national security interests of this country. Unfortunately, we, the Federal Government, seem to be running from them in their time of need. This community is held hostage, unable to develop their economy and their land until the cleanup is complete. Delaying the cleanup punishes a community that answered our Nation's call, and now our Nation is willing to walk away from them, leaving a radioactive and chemical contamination.

Without adequate funding, the Federal Government is leaving a massively contaminated site right in the heartland of our country. A delay in funding for fiscal 2015 only means a higher cost to the government in future years.

The success of the environmental management work at the Portsmouth plant is critical to the Pike County area and the entire region. We are talking about good, honest, hardworking Americans, and we are standing in their way by undercutting the project's funding and leaving a contaminated cold war facility in the heart of their community.

In an effort to minimize wasteful delays, unnecessary layoffs, and job loss, our amendment would provide \$15 million for this fund, completely paid for by offsets in the bill from less crucial administrative and energy accounts. This amendment prioritizes funding for an actual, existing, ongoing project that employs hundreds of hardworking Ohioans and keeps important environmental management work on schedule.

I acknowledge and appreciate the committee's work to include \$15 million in funding for this project, but the bottom line is this is far short of the needed \$65 million more to continue the cleanup project in a timely manner. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. With each delay, the cost goes up.

Our Nation benefited from the work conducted in Pike County, and now they are being left out and endure more uncertainty from Washington. This site must be cleaned up. It is an environmental imperative and an economic imperative, and it is the right thing to do.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WENSTRUP. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. So I understand, where are you taking the \$15 million from?

Mr. WENSTRUP. The \$15 million is coming from renewable energy accounts and less crucial administrative accounts.

Ms. KAPTUR. Could I offer the opinion that, if the gentleman found different offsets, this Member, as an Ohioan, would be very interested in supporting the workers in Portsmouth and in that region of Ohio which are so devastated.

At the moment, I can't do that because I don't agree with the offsets, but I wanted to place the opinion on the record. And I thank the gentleman very much for his efforts on behalf of the State of Ohio and that region of Ohio.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Reclaiming my time, you know, renewable is not an option for this area of America until it is cleaned up, and waiting costs more and it paralyzes a large portion of Ohio.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, although I understand what the gentleman is trying to do. The gentleman's amendment would increase appropriated funds to Portsmouth by another \$15 million. Because of the overall reductions that were necessary in the Department of Energy's environmental cleanup programs, we balanced these reductions across all cleanup sites so that no one site is targeted.

I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns about the site, and this bill provides strong support for Portsmouth. Despite the fact that funding at most sites is going down, the bill actually boosts funding for the site by \$37 million above the fiscal year 2014 and \$15 million above the budget request.

However, I can't support further increases to compensate for the Department's off-budget uranium transfers, which our subcommittee has criticized for years. The Department has been transferring stockpiles of uranium to generate cleanup funds for the site, a practice the Government Accountability Office has determined to be illegal and which could be further held up in fiscal year 2015 due to recent litigation.

The Department's reliance on its uranium transfers has inappropriately circumvented the appropriations process, has adversely impacted our domestic uranium mining and conversion industry, and is now creating further problems as the market price of uranium continues to drop.

I am also concerned about the amendment's offsets, particularly the cut to EERE, which is \$113 million below the budget request. The last amendment, by Ms. CASTOR, proposed

increasing EERE by taking money out of fossil energy. I opposed that. It wasn't because I don't like EERE. It was because I didn't like where they were taking the money from. This would take money out of EERE that is already reduced \$113 million from last year, which I also oppose.

So I must oppose this gentleman's amendment and urge Members to do the same.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I wanted to make a point on this particular Portsmouth facility and the Department of Energy's seeming inability to help communities transition. Whether it is coal-fired utilities and the issues that coal country faces in general or here you have a facility that is important in the Nation's defense looking back and looking forward, and so many times it just seems that when technologies change, when situations change, the local people who have invested their lives just get spit out.

I just wanted to put that statement on the record, because I know the Department of Energy is listening today, and we have the ability in this country to transition communities. Maybe in places like Portsmouth we should be doing more on renewables, because America is going to need renewables; and maybe there is a way the Department of Energy could be more creative, whether it is natural gas, whether it is storage of certain material and so forth. But to put all those people out of work, without a plan, without a transition plan, it is like, you know, the private sector giving them the pink slip at Christmas. That is when they always give them the pink slips, right before Christmas. It is so heartless. Here you have a community that is going to be heavily affected.

So I just wanted to say on the record, Mr. Chairman of the full committee, that I just feel that the Department has been a bit laggard, and I would hope that they could work with us in a more constructive way. I understand what the gentleman is trying to do, and he is very well-intentioned as he comes to the floor today. I just wish I could do more to convince the Department to help him.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, I agree with the gentlelady's comments.

I should say, it is not Portsmouth's or the gentleman from Ohio's fault that they have been using uranium transfers to fund this. It is not the people who are working there; it is not their fault. It is the Department's fault, and we have raised concerns for years that that is inappropriate and illegal. We knew that it was going to come to this when those uranium transfers couldn't be made anymore because of the price of uranium and other

things, and it is the result of the choice of the Department to fund this by using the uranium transfers. Unfortunately, it has come to what we predicted would be a problem when we started raising these concerns with the Department.

So, while I understand what the gentleman is doing and sympathize with what the gentleman is doing and will be willing to work with him to see what could be done as we move this bill forward, I do have to oppose the amendment as it currently exists.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 60 seconds to my colleague from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by Dr. WENSTRUP. This much-needed amendment will blunt the job losses that are coming to the hardworking men and women who are currently working to try and clean up that Atomic Energy Commission plant there in Piketon.

I understand the committee's attempts, and I appreciate the committee's attempts. Unfortunately, the \$15 million that they have put in this appropriation is still not enough to stop the hundreds of layoffs that will come if nothing more is done, nor is it enough to keep this critical cleanup project on track so that the property can be developed to create more jobs to replace the ones that are going to be lost anyway.

□ 1615

That is why this amendment is so necessary. It reroutes money from renewable and overhead costs to pay for the cleanup work that we promised to the Piketon, Ohio, folks; and we ought to stay with that. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SWALWELL OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$111,641,000)".

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$161,879,450)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This legislation asks the simple question: Will we look forward, as a country, as to where we draw our energy resources, toward cleaner, more renewable sources? Or will we continue to look backwards toward dirtier fossil fuels that will harm our environment? Do we want to be a part of a 21st century energy policy? Or do we want to be a part of a 20th century energy policy?

My amendment increases the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, or EERE, R&D funding levels by \$111.6 million above what is in the bill. The offset comes from the fossil energy R&D in an amount necessary to make the outlays in my amendment budget-neutral.

The request from the majority exceeds the White House's request for fossil fuel R&D but cuts the request for EERE. This increase in EERE would bring the funding levels back to fiscal year 2014 level and help ensure that, at the very least, we are not moving backwards in our work towards energy security.

My colleagues across the aisle, instead, are seeking to cut this forward-looking program by \$111 million. Reducing funding for EERE on top of the cuts that it suffered last year is incredibly shortsighted, not to mention it is done at the expense of protecting the fossil fuel industry which is already doing pretty all right, if you ask me.

I find it hard to believe that any of us actually have a problem with supporting efforts to become more energy efficient. The only reason I can think of that anyone would support any cuts to EERE would be a dislike on the part of some for the term "renewable energy."

By increasing energy efficiency in our homes, at our businesses, and through developing advanced models and methods of manufacturing, we will save money, we will improve productivity, and create new good-paying jobs here the United States. And, most importantly, yes, we can reduce emissions from power plants that are contributing to global climate change and leave an Earth that is much healthier for our children.

One great example of this is that EERE is partnering with Colorado State University to provide small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies no-cost energy assessments. More than 650 energy assessments have been done to date, with an average of \$30,000 in energy savings per assessment. I would say that programs like this are

worthy of a sustained support and that \$5.6 billion in savings has been found across the country. EERE's manufacturing program is also enabling us to become a world leader in making new energy technologies.

So the choice is clear: we can accept this massive cut to EERE and risk becoming a net importer of next-generation energy technologies, or we can do what America has always done, and we can look forward, and we can make the needed investments to help us become a net exporter of these next generation technologies.

EERE supports all types of innovative and potentially groundbreaking research in solar, wind, geothermal, and water technologies. Given how abundant these resources are, from the sun in the southwest to the wind in the plains to the numerous rivers and potential for tidal power, we would be foolish to pull back on the potential for using these environmentally sustainable resources for power on a larger scale.

The greatest challenge today with the renewables is that when the sun is not shining and wind is not blowing, it is very hard to harness those energies. However we are very, very close to closing that gap, and EERE goes a very long way to bridging that gap.

They are also helping to pioneer research into advanced combustion engines that will drastically increase gas mileage, with EERE funding, in traditional cars, saving taxpayers countless amounts of money even as they remove harmful emissions from the atmosphere.

EERE R&D can help our Nation transform the way that we generate and use energy. This cut that is proposed by the majority is unnecessary, ill-conceived, and I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to restore the funding level of fiscal year 2014.

Appropriations is about priorities, and priorities reflect values. America has always looked forward. And we should not look anywhere but forward when it comes to where we receive America's energy needs.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise in opposition to the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate the gentleman from California's comments, I have to say that you can oppose this amendment and still like renewable energy, in contradiction to the gentleman's statement.

I rise to oppose this amendment that would increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy by \$112 million using the fossil energy account, again, as an offset.

This year, funding for EERE is \$1.789 billion, \$113 million below last year and

\$528 million below the budget request. It is still \$1.789 billion. It is not like we are eliminating EERE. They still have a substantial amount of money in that account. They have much more in that account than they have in the fossil energy account or that they have in the nuclear energy account.

This is a modest 6 percent cut from the robust funding level included in last year's omnibus appropriation bill and slightly below the fiscal year 2013 level presequester. Put another way, there is nearly \$1 billion more than last year's House bill.

The funding that the recommendation provides is focused on three main priorities, where he is trying to take money out of the fossil energy account: helping America's manufacturers compete in the global marketplace; supporting the Weatherization Assistance Program; and addressing future high gas prices. These are areas with broad bipartisan support. We simply cannot afford to increase funding in this bill by diverting funds from research to fossil energy.

Fossil fuels, as I said during the last couple of amendments, such as coal, oil, and natural gas provide for 82 percent of the energy used by this Nation's homes and businesses and will continue to provide for the majority of energy needs for the foreseeable future. It is folly to believe that renewable energies are going to replace the base load that much of this produces for our energy needs in the future.

But renewable energies are an important part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy that we have in this country. But it is not renewable energies that are going to replace all of the fossil energies that we have. So we need to do research into the fossil energies, too, and what they do.

If we increase the efficiency of our fossil fuel plants, as I said earlier, by just 1 percent, we could power an additional 2 million households without using a single additional pound of fuel from the ground. That is energy efficiency. That is the research we are focusing on with funding this program. Therefore, I must oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I appreciate the gentleman from Idaho and his comments.

I would just ask that the majority's reasoning for—and I understand tough budgetary priorities have been made—but to reduce EERE's budget but to increase the fossil R&D budget, maybe if you could explain the reasoning behind an increase in fossil but a decrease in renewables?

Mr. SIMPSON. As I said, we tried to refocus the request from the administration to those areas that actually

produce the energy. Eighty-two percent, as I said during my statement, is produced by coal, oil, and natural gas. That is where we do the majority of our research.

I am not saying we shouldn't do anything in the renewable energies. I love renewable energies. I don't believe that they are going to replace the majority of our base load.

And, as the gentleman said, you have got real problems when the sun isn't shining and you are using solar energy. You have got real problems if you are trying to address the base load. That means, when you turn on the switch, the power actually comes on and the light goes on. If you are trying to replace that base load and the wind isn't blowing, you have got no wind power. But they are a very important and vital part of our energy mix. But we are trying to put the research into those areas that produce most of the electricity while still maintaining research into those areas that are important for the future.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$1,789,000,000)".

Page 19, line 13, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$150,000,000)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$1,789,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to strike all of the funding for the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program. This program, under the Department of Energy, allows the government to invest millions of taxpayer dollars in high-risk research and development schemes for "green energy" projects to the tune, as we have heard already, of over \$1.7 billion.

The government should not be subsidizing the research and development initiatives of individual companies. Competition and innovation have been

key aspects of private sector success from day one in the energy sector and other parts of our economy, and the government should not take the role of a private investor.

For example, the EERE program facilitated a \$2.5 million grant to Massachusetts-based TIAX LLC to work with Green Mountain Coffee to reduce the energy used in roasting coffee beans. The program has also allowed for millions of dollars to large chemical and auto companies, such as providing a subsidy to Ford Motor Company to develop a new sheet metal forming tool.

I have nothing against those companies, but why should the government be picking and choosing winners and losers?

Every business has a bottom line which, in and of itself, is a direct incentive for developing methods for becoming more energy efficient and innovative. By subsidizing this small sector of the energy economy, which includes renewables such as solar and wind, and allows for such focuses as the weatherization of houses, we are essentially allowing DOE to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on unconventional energy initiatives and projects that place taxpayer dollars at risk and that are not likely to produce a return on investment.

We, as a Congress, have continuously stated the need for an all-of-the-above energy strategy but continued investment into the EERE program focuses on a small portion of a largely unproductive portion of the energy sector at the expense of the more traditional energy sources, such as fossil fuels and nuclear, that we have a proven, reliable track record on.

□ 1630

With regard to the national energy policy, the committee report even highlights the President's failure to adequately focus our resources on an all-of-the-above energy strategy stating that "his fiscal year 2015 budget request, like its predecessors, instead seems more ideological than practical," cutting "this country's most important energy sources in order to increase funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs."

It goes on to say that:

As attractive as renewable energy may be, it will supply only a mere fraction of this country's energy needs over the next 50 years, and it presents considerable challenges to the Nation's existing electric power grid, given its increasing variability and uncertainty from supply and demand changes.

At a time when our economy continues to recover and many Americans continue to struggle to make ends meet, including paying their energy bills, we must focus on reasonable energy strategies that allow for the most affordable and reliable energy resources for consumers and businesses alike.

I am pleased that the committee has made reductions to this account in

general. However, I believe that eliminating the energy efficiency and renewable energy program altogether under the Department of Energy will achieve all of our goals, while allowing savings to go towards the very important goal of reducing the deficit of this Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman very much for allowing me this privilege.

I just wanted to rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment and to say that one of the reasons we have a budget deficit is because we have an energy deficit. We have had an energy deficit for over a quarter century—well over three decades now—and every year, the average family in our country puts out over \$2,800 now, just for gasoline for their automobiles.

There were those who said we shouldn't incentivize the ethanol industry. Now, about 10 percent of every tank full of gasoline has ethanol in it, and that has reduced our imports. If you look at the hemorrhage from this country of over \$10 trillion over the next quarter century with oil being \$100 a barrel and you look at what is happening to the middle class in our country because we aren't energy independent, we had better be serious about changing the composition of energy production in this country because it is part of the major problem we face in lack of robust economic growth.

You can't import economic growth; you have to produce economic growth. One of the major ways we can produce economic growth in this country is to invent a future different from the past, so I completely oppose the gentleman's amendment because you are going to increase the Federal deficit because economic growth will not increase at the level that it should be.

It has been slowly creeping forward with the weight of two wars on our backs over the last decade or so, but you can't kill the future.

In Alabama especially, you have that major Huntsville operation with all those NASA facilities and all those subcontractors, and there are parts of Alabama that are doing very well as a result of Federal investment, but don't hurt the rest of the country on the energy front because you have some perspective about why we might have a deficit.

We have a deficit because we are not inventing the future fast enough, and we are importing too much of what we should be making here at home.

So I appreciate the courtesy in allowing me to place this on the record. We can't kill renewable energy. We can't kill the future. We have got to be able to invent it and to cut off these imports and to begin to produce our way forward again in this country. I view it as our chief strategic vulnerability.

So I appreciate the gentleman wants to do something good in terms of reducing the deficit. The best thing we can do is to invent our way forward and create new energy sources for this country, including the renewables.

Don't kill the future. Oppose the gentleman's amendment, and I would respectfully yield the time that has been yielded to me back to the gentleman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I also oppose the amendment. While I opposed increasing EERE funding in previous amendments, I am also opposed to eliminating EERE.

When you look at the traditional energy sources that we use, the government has done research into the fossil fuels, into nuclear energy, into fracking, into other things, and hydrocarbons because they are important.

It is not the companies that we try to pick winners and losers from, but it is the technology that we try to do the research into, to try to advance certain technologies and help technologies become more efficient for the consumers to use.

We are trying to make automobiles more fuel efficient. We are trying to do work to make a SuperTruck that is much more fuel efficient.

I guess it could be argued whether the government should do any research at all. Years and years ago, a lot of those things used to be done by private companies, when you had the Bell Labs and other types of things like that.

Those aren't done anymore by companies because they are much, much too expensive for companies to do, but they are good for our economy.

You could make the argument that we really shouldn't have put any money into space research and putting a man on the Moon—that should have been done by a private company—yet the American economy and the world has benefited greatly from the investment that American taxpayers made into NASA. The same is true with the fuels that we use.

While we have tried in this bill to refocus what the administration had proposed, which was huge increases for renewable energies that produce a minority—a small amount—of energy compared to the others, we have tried to refocus that appropriation to where it more accurately reflects the actual energy used, the percentage of the actual energy used.

That doesn't mean that we can completely eliminate EERE and renewable energies. As I said previously, I like renewable energies. I think they are

cute. They provide a small portion of our overall energy demand, and I don't see that increasing a whole lot because they can't address the base load needs of our energy demand in this country, but they are going to be a very important part of an overall energy strategy.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully disagree with the gentleman. The reason we have a deficit problem is because we are spending money we don't have, and this is a clear example of where we are spending money we don't have.

Even under the most optimistic projections for this year, we are going to run a \$400-plus billion deficit, and we have got to start cutting in areas that may be good things or nice things, things we would like to do. We have got to start prioritizing our spending, and this is one place we can start.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge this House to adopt this amendment, to make a concrete step forward in reducing our deficit and not favoring certain companies in our economy over the others.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

Mr. COHEN. I offer an amendment, Mr. Chairman, which should be at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,340,000)".

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment with Mr. SCOTT PETERS of California. Mr. PETERS and I both have an interest in saving money—and this amendment would save \$5 million—and in putting our money wisely in research on renewable energies which saves individuals money—individual citizens money—and protects our environment and using that money, instead of putting the money in the budget to do research

on coal and fossil fuels that contribute to global warming and a threat to our environment.

The fact is the Department of Energy's energy efficiency program has been effective. This would increase it by \$10.3 million. This program is underfunded already in the bill, and it would take \$15 million from funds that are in the budget for coal research and development—\$15 million that are in excess of the President's budget request.

The Department of Energy's energy efficiency programs partner with private industry, small business, and academics to facilitate research, development, and deployment of innovative energy efficiency technologies in manufacturing, buildings, and homes.

In this collaboration with these different stakeholders, they have determined the best practices that can be found and then put into commercial use, resulting in energy-saving advancements that create jobs and give businesses competitive advantages with foreign competitors.

Increasing energy efficiency is often done in ways that the individual citizen benefits in their home by saving money by more energy-efficient devices and appliances.

We work on these in the Energy Department now, and they finalized new efficiency standards for more than 30 household and commercial products. These include dishwashers, refrigerators, water heaters—just the general stuff you have got in your kitchen and your home.

Because of the Energy Department's new efficiency standards, consumers are estimated to save more than \$400 billion—\$400 billion for our constituents, consumers—and we will be cutting greenhouse emissions by 1.8 billion metric tons through 2030. That is a lot of help to our environment and a whole lot of help to our constituents in saving money.

Just as an example, walk-in coolers and freezers, the rules that have been proposed will yield \$37 billion in savings, while cutting 159 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. That is the equivalent of taking 30 million cars off the road.

As the cost of energy continues to pose a burden on the American consumers' wallets—our voters, our taxpayers, our constituents—and costs them more money and extreme weather causes climate change which threatens the fauna and the flora, our property and way of life, we need to find ways to reduce energy consumption and decrease those adverse affects upon our environment.

Mr. Chairman, we need to redouble our efforts at this point on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and the efforts by this amendment would save money—\$5 million for the budget, energy deficit reduction—it would protect our environment by having more

research on energy efficiency standards, save our consumers and constituents money, and protect our environment at the same time, and yet not have us invest needlessly in fossil fuels, which is the opposite direction we should be going.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment and show their vote for fiscally conservative, sound budget deficit reduction programs, as well as protect the environment and be concerned about the effects on the pocketbook of our individual consumers.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. The amendment would increase funding for the Office of Electrical Delivery and Energy Reliability by \$10 million, using funds from fossil energy as an offset.

We have already had conversations about taking funds out of where we create most of our energy. Some of the things that are done in fossil energy—and while the gentleman speaks passionately about the environment, fossil energy also is doing the research into sequestration and carbon capture technology.

Now, I don't suspect that we are going to stop using fossil energy in the near future. In fact, if you looked at the predictions of the Department of Energy of what the percentage of fossil energy—what percentage of the energy is going to be used by fossil energy—be created by fossil energy 20 years from now, it is pretty close to what it is now.

So it is important that we do some things environmentally, like carbon capture and sequestration, and we need to do some research into that. You are taking money out of an account that would do that. I don't think that is a wise thing for us to do.

While I share my colleague's support for the electrical grid, that is why this bill before us already provides a \$13 million increase for the Office of Electrical Delivery and Energy Reliability above last year—or a 9 percent increase over the last year.

That is the largest percentage increase of any of the other applied energy programs within this bill—the largest increase.

□ 1645

The bill prioritizes programs within OE that keep our electrical grid safe and secure, including \$47 million for cybersecurity and \$16 million for infrastructure security, which will provide \$8 million for a strategic operations center to better respond to emergencies.

While I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, I have already

spoken of the important investments that our fossil energy research does for our economy and our electrical prices; therefore, I oppose the gentleman's amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this and other amendments challenging NETL and the fossil fuel research, I would oppose.

I would oppose because NETL is providing us the doorway—the pathway for energy independence. In the past, it has been funded by over \$700 million. This administration, in the last 4 or 5 years, has seen that erode down.

Thanks to the appropriators, they have been putting that number back up again to what is appropriate, so it is a big difference, but we have already made a cut from \$700 million down to \$590-some million. We are talking about a huge cut that has already occurred.

What we have to understand is this facility, just in the sponsor of this amendment, there are 24 projects, \$27 million being spent in his State, to be able to take care of 300 jobs that are at risk.

More importantly, what they are doing in these research laboratories across the country—they are trying to find ways to have carbon capture, for example. If we truly want to reduce our carbon footprint, we need to spend it through the Department of Energy in their laboratories.

They are doing chemical looping. They are trying to develop ways of reducing our carbon footprint by energy-efficient high turbines for boilers to make energy from our coal and natural gas and steam. They are trying to find ways to improve it.

These are things NETL is working with. They are trying to find ways of fracking the gas, so we get more gas out of the ground than we are getting right now. Instead of 15 or 20 percent, we would get 25 or 30 percent.

So NETL has a terrific track record. We have some of the best scientists and physicists in the country trying to improve energy efficiency, and we have already cut their budget by over \$100 million in the last few years.

This is not a time, Mr. Chairman, to be cutting their budget and challenging them even further. If we are going to reach this, I want them be able to reach internally to do the things that will give us energy independence.

It is not a time to poke an eye at these hardworking people and what they have done. This is a time to continue the funding and continue this. If we are going to get energy independence, this is a way to do it, so I ask my colleagues to reject this amendment and any others that further erodes the power of NETL to do their job.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I am going to close by saying that one day—one day, this House will see that we need to have more and more money put into research on energy efficiency and renewables and not into fossil fuel.

I feel a cold wind coming from the South, and I realize that today is not that day, but one day, one day. I feel a chill coming, and I don't want anyone else to get a cold.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,789,000,000)”.

Page 19, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)”.

Page 20, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$717,000,000)”.

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$593,000,000)”.

Page 21, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$120,000,000)”.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,099,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment requires energy companies of all kinds to fund their own research and development programs, rather than continuing to require taxpayers to subsidize this activity to the tune of \$3.1 billion.

If we are serious about an all-of-the-above energy policy, we have got to stop using taxpayer money to pick winners and losers in the energy industry and start requiring every energy technology to compete on its own merits.

For too long, we have suffered from the conceit that politicians can make better energy investments with taxpayer money than investors can with their own money. It is this conceit that has produced a long line of scandals, best illustrated by the Solyndra fiasco.

This research doesn't even benefit the common good by placing these discoveries in the public domain. Any discoveries, although they are financed by the public, are owned lock, stock, and barrel by the private companies that received these public funds.

Public costs, private benefit—that is called corporate welfare. That is what these energy subsidies amount to.

My amendment protects taxpayers from being forced into paying the research and development budgets of

these companies. It gets government out of the energy business and requires all energy companies and all energy technologies to compete equally on their own merits and with their own funds.

Last year, when we debated similar amendments, we heard about all of the technological breakthroughs financed by the Federal Government, from railroads to the Internet, and we heard promises of future breakthroughs from this massive expenditure of Federal funds.

Well, I freely recognize that, if you hand over billions of dollars of public subsidies to private business, those particular private businesses will do very well. I freely recognize that some of these dollars will produce breakthroughs that will then be owned by these private companies, and they will do extremely well.

What the advocates of these subsidies fail to consider is the vast dilemma between the seen and the unseen, the immediate effects that you can clearly see and the unintended effects that cannot be seen.

In this case, what we don't see clearly is the opportunity cost of these subsidies. Investors, using their own money, are very focused on making investments based on the highest economic return of these dollars. Politicians, using other people's money, make investment based on the highest political return of these dollars. This is the principal difference between Apple computer and Solyndra or between FedEx and the post office.

These public subsidies, in effect, take dollars that would have naturally flowed into the most effective and promising technologies and diverts them into those that are politically favored.

Dollar for dollar, this minimizes our energy potential, rather than maximizing it. For example, hydraulic fracking—it has revolutionized the fossil fuels industry. It offers us the very real potential of becoming energy independent.

Well, after the 1973 oil embargo, the Federal Government began heavily subsidizing research on this technology. How did it work out? According to CNN:

Between 1978 and 2000, the Federal Government spent about \$1.5 billion on oil and gas production research, much of it on extracting fuel from shale, according to a 2001 report from the National Academy of Sciences, but the process remained expensive, and research faded as oil prices came back down in the 1980s. By the 1990s, private industry began to step back into the business with new technologies with lower costs, leading to today's boom.

We were told last year that the little companies don't have the capital to develop their big ideas. Well, that is why there are private investors who can accurately evaluate those ideas and invest in the best of them.

Government investment doesn't do that very well or efficiently, and it is time we had done with it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise to oppose the amendment. This year, the committee continues its responsibility to reduce government spending, and we have worked tirelessly to that end. The bill cuts energy efficiency and renewable energy by \$113 million below last year's level and \$528 million below the budget request.

The fossil and nuclear energy programs received modest increases of \$31 million and \$10 million, respectively. The increase to fossil energy will support research into how heat can be more efficiently converted into electricity, how water can be more efficiently used in power plants, and how coal can be used to produce electrical power through fuel cells.

The increase to nuclear energy will accommodate a \$10 million increase to support base physical and cybersecurity activities at the Idaho National Laboratory to protect the Nation's nuclear energy materials and a range of national security programs at the NNSA, Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies.

Although my colleague asserts that the amendment would keep the government from intervening in the private markets, these applied energy programs are strategic investments for our energy independence.

I appreciate my colleague's desire to reduce the size of government, but this amendment goes too far by eliminating strategic investments we make for our own future.

I, therefore, oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. It is quite astounding that somebody from the State of California—a State that exists because of Federal investments through the entirety of its existence—would even come forward with an amendment like this. For someone from Ohio, it is very unusual to see this.

Let me just say that, in opposing this amendment, I wish to offer the perspective that America can't live in the past, that, in fact, when one looks at what we are enduring because of our dependence on energy that is imported, there is no greater imperative than for us to unhook from imports.

As I look at the gentleman's amendment, it is actually very destructive.

You actually destroy our future. America is not innovating at the level that we should in renewables. We have a burgeoning solar industry, but China has captured it. She steals the patents. She steals the innovation, and we don't do much about it.

You take money from fossil programs. I don't have all of the scientific answers, but I know that a piece of our future relies on access that we have here in the ground.

The energy portfolio and the research portfolio of the Department of Energy is critical. The reason we have the horizontal drilling technologies—those weren't developed outside by some humanitarian group. They were developed by the American people's investment in drilling technologies, which have now given us a gas boom that will help us transition to a new energy future because the gas won't last forever, but at least we have the possibility of becoming independent here at home again.

I find the gentleman's amendment very backward-looking; and I would say, for someone from the State of California, if you look at the Bureau of Reclamation, if you look at all of the benefits that have accrued to the State of California and your own presence inside this 50-state Union, it is because of the investment in energy and water that you even exist.

So for you to come forward—and it may be a well-intentioned amendment, but to try to destroy the future of innovation through your amendment in the primary arena of imports—imported petroleum, which we have to unhook from and become energy independent—to me, is just astounding.

□ 1700

We live in very different universes—that is clear through your amendment—but there is no greater strategic imperative than for this country to become energy independent here at home. Our liberty depends on it. If you go back over the last 25 years and look at where our soldiers have died, it is very clear we are not independent.

I oppose the gentleman's amendment. I think it is backward looking. I think that it fails to move America into a new energy future. I oppose this amendment with full gusto.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I forgive my friend from Ohio for not being up on California history. The fact is California exists because it had the freedom to develop its vast natural resources. It is government intervention that has caused this economy to decline dramatically.

Both of my friends miss the point. Government simply doesn't make these investments as wisely as private investors who are using their own money. Private investors invest to the highest

economic value of a dollar; politicians invest to get the highest political return.

The gentlewoman is correct in one respect: California is the home of Solyndra and many, many other failed government investments in recent years. It is the private investors who took up the research on hydraulic fracturing after government investments failed that have produced the technologies that are giving us the economic boom in States like North Dakota that actually have the freedom to develop their resources on public lands.

It is simply a question of efficiency, a question of waste, and a question of right and wrong. Let's stop picking winners and losers in the marketplace and let the investors use their own money to make these research and development decisions.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. MCALLISTER of Louisiana.

An amendment by Ms. HAHN of California.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. WENSTRUP of Ohio.

An amendment by Mr. SWALWELL of California.

An amendment by Mr. BYRNE of Alabama.

An amendment by Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCALLISTER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCALLISTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 132, noes 284, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 371]

AYES—132

Amash	Graves (GA)	Posey
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Price (GA)
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Rahall
Bachus	Guthrie	Ribble
Barr	Hahn	Rogers (AL)
Benishek	Harper	Rohrabacher
Bentivolio	Harris	Rokita
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Roskam
Bishop (UT)	Holding	Ross
Black	Hudson	Rothfus
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Royce
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Rush
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Ryan (WI)
Bridenstine	Hunter	Sanford
Brooks (AL)	Jenkins	Scalise
Broun (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Schock
Bucshon	Jones	Schweikert
Byrne	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Cantor	Kingston	Sensenbrenner
Cassidy	Kinzinger (IL)	Sessions
Chabot	LaMalfa	Shimkus
Chaffetz	Lankford	Shuster
Clawson (FL)	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Collins (GA)	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Conaway	Marchant	Southerland
Cook	Massie	Stivers
Cotton	McAllister	Stockman
Cramer	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Crawford	McClintock	Thornberry
Daines	McMorris	Tiberi
Davis, Rodney	Rodgers	Wagner
DeSantis	Meadows	Walorski
Duffy	Messer	Wenstrup
Duncan (SC)	Mica	Westmoreland
Farenthold	Miller (FL)	Whitfield
Fincher	Mullin	Williams
Fleming	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Foxx	Neugebauer	Womack
Franks (AZ)	Nugent	Woodall
Garrett	Palazzo	Yoder
Gibbs	Paulsen	Yoho
Gingrey (GA)	Peterson	Young (AK)
Gohmert	Petri	Young (IN)
Gowdy	Poe (TX)	
Granger	Pompeo	

NOES—284

Barber	Cohen	Fleischmann
Barletta	Cole	Forbes
Barrow (GA)	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Barton	Connolly	Foster
Bass	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Beatty	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Becerra	Costa	Fudge
Bera (CA)	Courtney	Gabbard
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Gallago
Bishop (NY)	Crowley	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Cuellar	Garcia
Bonamici	Culberson	Gardner
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Gerlach
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Gibson
Brooks (IN)	Davis, Danny	Goodlatte
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Gosar
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Grayson
Buchanan	Delaney	Green, Al
Burgess	DeLauro	Green, Gene
Bustos	DelBene	Griffith (VA)
Butterfield	Denham	Grijalva
Calvert	Dent	Gutiérrez
Camp	DesJarlais	Hall
Capito	Deutch	Hanna
Capps	Diaz-Balart	Hastings (FL)
Capuano	Dingell	Hastings (WA)
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Heck (NV)
Carter	Doyle	Heck (WA)
Cartwright	Duckworth	Hensarling
Castor (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Herrera Beutler
Castro (TX)	Edwards	Higgins
Chu	Ellison	Himes
Cicilline	Ellmers	Hinojosa
Clark (MA)	Engel	Holt
Clarke (NY)	Enyart	Honda
Clay	Eshoo	Horsford
Cleaver	Esty	Hoyer
Clyburn	Farr	Huffman
Coble	Fattah	Hurt
Coffman	Fitzpatrick	Israel

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

Clarke (NY)	Horstula	Owens
Clawson (FL)	Hoyer	Palazzo
Clay	Huelskamp	Pallone
Cleaver	Huffman	Pascarell
Coffman	Huizenga (MI)	Pastor (AZ)
Cohen	Hultgren	Payne
Collins (GA)	Hunter	Perry
Collins (NY)	Jackson Lee	Peters (CA)
Conaway	Jeffries	Peters (MI)
Connolly	Johnson (GA)	Peterson
Conyers	Jolly	Petri
Cooper	Jones	Pingree (ME)
Courtney	Jordan	Pocan
Crawford	Joyce	Poe (TX)
Crowley	Kaptur	Posey
Cuellar	Keating	Price (NC)
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Quigley
Davis (CA)	Kelly (PA)	Rahall
Davis, Danny	Kennedy	Rangel
DeFazio	Kildee	Reed
DeGette	Kilmer	Reichert
Delaney	Kind	Renacci
DeLauro	King (NY)	Ribble
DelBene	Kingston	Rice (SC)
Denham	Kirkpatrick	Rigell
DeSantis	Kuster	Rogers (MI)
Deutch	LaMalfa	Rohrabacher
Diaz-Balart	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen
Dingell	Lankford	Roskam
Doggett	Larsen (WA)	Ross
Doyle	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard
Duckworth	Latham	Royce
Duffy	Lee (CA)	Ruiz
Duncan (SC)	Levin	Ruppersberger
Duncan (TN)	Lewis	Ryan (OH)
Edwards	LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)
Ellison	Loeb sack	Sánchez, Lincoln
Engel	Lofgren	T.

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 104, noes 316, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 373]

AYES—104

Amash	Guthrie	Perry
Bachmann	Hartzler	Petri
Bentivolio	Hensarling	Pittenger
Bilirakis	Holding	Pitts
Bishop (UT)	Hudson	Poe (TX)
Black	Huelskamp	Polis
Blackburn	Hultgren	Pompeo
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Hurt	Ribble
Bucshon	Issa	Rice (SC)
Burgess	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Coble	Jones	Royce
Collins (GA)	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	King (IA)	Salmon
Cook	Kingston	Sanford
Cooper	Labrador	Scalise
Cramer	Lamborn	Schweikert
Daines	Lankford	Scott, Austin
DeSantis	Long	Sensenbrenner
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Sessions
Duffy	Lummis	Smith (MO)
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Duncan (TN)	Matheson	Stockman
Ellmers	McCaull	Stutzman
Flores	McClintock	Tipton
Foxx	McHenry	Wagner
Franks (AZ)	Meadows	Wenstrup
Garrett	Messer	Westmoreland
Gohmert	Miller (FL)	Williams
Gosar	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gowdy	Neugebauer	Yoder
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Yoho
Graves (MO)	Palazzo	Young (IN)
Griffith (VA)	Pearce	

NOES—316

Bachus	Capuano	Davis (CA)
Barber	Cárdenas	Davis, Danny
Barletta	Carson (IN)	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Carter	DeFazio
Barrow (GA)	Cartwright	DeGette
Barton	Cassidy	Delaney
Bass	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Beatty	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Becerra	Chaffetz	Denham
Benishek	Chu	Dent
Bera (CA)	Cielline	Deutch
Bishop (GA)	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Blumenauer	Clawson (FL)	Doggett
Bonamici	Clay	Doyle
Boustany	Cleaver	Duckworth
Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Edwards
Braley (IA)	Coffman	Ellison
Bridenstine	Cohen	Engel
Brooks (AL)	Cole	Enyart
Brooks (IN)	Collins (NY)	Eshoo
Brown (FL)	Connolly	Esty
Brownley (CA)	Conyers	Farenthold
Buchanan	Costa	Farr
Bustos	Cotton	Fattah
Butterfield	Courtney	Fincher
Byrne	Crawford	Fitzpatrick
Calvert	Crenshaw	Fleischmann
Camp	Crowley	Fleming
Cantor	Cuellar	Forbes
Capito	Culberson	Fortenberry
Capps	Cummings	Foster

Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Ruiz
Frelinghuysen	(NM)	Runyan
Fudge	Luján, Ben Ray	Ruppersberger
Gabbard	(NM)	Rush
Gallego	Lynch	Ryan (OH)
Garamendi	Maffei	Sánchez, Linda
Garcia	Maloney,	T.
Gardner	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta
Gerlach	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
Gibbs	Marino	Schakowsky
Gibson	Massie	Schiff
Gingrey (GA)	Matsui	Schneider
Goodlatte	McAllister	Schock
Granger	McCarthy (CA)	Schrader
Grayson	McCollum	Schwartz
Green, Al	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Green, Gene	McGovern	Scott, David
Griffin (AR)	McIntyre	Serrano
Grijalva	McKeon	Sewell (AL)
Gutiérrez	McKinley	Shea-Porter
Hahn	McMorris	Sherman
Hall	Rodgers	Shuster
Hanna	McNerney	Shimkus
Harper	Meehan	Simpson
Harris	Meeks	Sinema
Hastings (FL)	Meng	Sires
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Slaughter
Heck (NV)	Michaud	Smith (NJ)
Heck (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Herrera Beutler	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Higgins	Miller, George	Southerland
Himes	Moore	Speier
Hinojosa	Moran	Stewart
Holt	Mullin	Stivers
Honda	Murphy (FL)	Swalwell (CA)
Horsford	Murphy (PA)	Takano
Hoyer	Nadler	Terry
Huffman	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)
Huizenga (MI)	Neal	Thompson (MS)
Israel	Negrete McLeod	Thompson (PA)
Jackson Lee	Noem	Thornberry
Jeffries	Nolan	Tiberi
Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Tierney
Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke	Titus
Jolly	Olson	Tonko
Joyce	Owens	Tsongas
Kaptur	Pallone	Turner
Keating	Pascrell	Upton
Kelly (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Valadao
Kelly (PA)	Paulsen	Van Hollen
Kennedy	Payne	Vargas
Kildee	Peters (CA)	Veasey
Kilmer	Peters (MI)	Vela
Kind	Peterson	Velázquez
King (NY)	Pingree (ME)	Visclosky
Kinzinger (IL)	Pocan	Walberg
Kirkpatrick	Posey	Walden
Kline	Price (NC)	Walorski
Kuster	Quigley	Walz
LaMalfa	Rahall	Wasserman
Lance	Rangel	Schultz
Langevin	Reed	Waters
Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Waxman
Larson (CT)	Renacci	Weber (TX)
Latham	Rigell	Webster (FL)
Latta	Roby	Welch
Lee (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Whitfield
Levin	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (FL)
Lewis	Rogers (MI)	Wilson (SC)
Lipinski	Rohrabacher	Wittman
LoBiondo	Rooney	Wolf
Loeb sack	Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
Lofgren	Roskam	Yarmuth
Lowenthal	Ross	Young (AK)
Lowey	Rothfus	
Lucas	Roybal-Allard	

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt	Grimm	Nunnelee
Amodei	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Campbell	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Carney	McCarthy (NY)	Richardson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1741

Mr. PITTENGER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 112, noes 309, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 374]

AYES—112

Amash	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (AL)
Bachmann	Hultgren	Rooney
Bachus	Hunter	Roskam
Barr	Issa	Ross
Benishek	Johnson (OH)	Rothfus
Bilirakis	Jolly	Ryan (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Jones	Ryan (WI)
Boustany	Jordan	Sanford
Brady (TX)	Joyce	Scalise
Bridenstine	Kaptur	Schock
Broun (GA)	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert
Cook	Kingston	Scott, Austin
Cramer	LaMalfa	Sensenbrenner
Daines	Latta	Sessions
DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Smith (MO)
DesJarlais	Marchant	Smith (NJ)
Duffy	Massie	Smith (TX)
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Southerland
Duncan (TN)	Meadows	Stivers
Ellmers	Messer	Stockman
Flores	Mica	Stutzman
Foxx	Miller (FL)	Terry
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Thornberry
Garrett	Mullin	Tiberi
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Tipton
Gosar	Murphy (PA)	Turner
Gowdy	Neugebauer	Wagner
Graves (GA)	Noem	Nugent
Graves (MO)	Nugent	Pearce
Griffith (VA)	Perry	Petri
	Pitts	Posey
	Price (GA)	Renacci
	Ribble	Rice (SC)
	Rice (SC)	

NOES—309

Amodei	Bustos	Cole
Barber	Butterfield	Connolly
Barletta	Calvert	Conyers
Barrow (GA)	Camp	Cooper
Barton	Capito	Costa
Bass	Capps	Cotton
Beatty	Capuano	Courtney
Becerra	Cárdenas	Crawford
Bentivolio	Carson (IN)	Crenshaw
Bera (CA)	Carter	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Cuellar
Bishop (NY)	Cassidy	Culberson
Black	Castor (FL)	Cummings
Blackburn	Castro (TX)	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Chu	Davis, Danny
Bonamici	Cielline	Davis, Rodney
Brady (PA)	Clark (MA)	DeFazio
Braley (IA)	Clarke (NY)	DeGette
Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)	Delaney
Brooks (IN)	Clay	DeLauro
Brown (FL)	Cleaver	DelBene
Brownley (CA)	Clyburn	Denham
Buchanan	Coble	Dent
Bucshon	Coffman	DeSantis
Burgess	Cohen	DesJarlais

Deutch Kline Price (NC)
 Diaz-Balart Kuster Quigley
 Dingell Labradior Rahall
 Doggett Lamborn Rangel
 Doyle Lance Reed
 Duckworth Langevin Reichert
 Duncan (TN) Lankford Rigell
 Edwards Larsen (WA) Roby
 Ellison Larson (CT) Roe (TN)
 Ellmers Latham Rogers (KY)
 Engel Lee (CA) Rogers (MI)
 Enyart Levin Rohrabacher
 Eshoo Lewis Rokita
 Esty Lipinski Ros-Lehtinen
 Farenthold LoBiondo Roybal-Allard
 Farr Loeb sack Royce
 Fattah Lofgren Ruiz
 Fincher Long Runyan
 Fitzpatrick Lowenthal Ruppertsberger
 Fleischmann Lowey Rush
 Forbes Lucas Salmon
 Fortenberry Lujan Grisham
 Foster (NM) Sánchez, Linda
 Foxx Luján, Ben Ray T.
 Frankel (FL) (NM) Sanchez, Loretta
 Frelinghuysen Lummis Sarbanes
 Fudge Lynch Schakowsky
 Gabbard Maffei Schiff
 Gallego Maloney, Carolyn Schneider
 Garamendi Carolyn Schrader
 Garcia Maloney, Sean Schwartz
 Gardner Marino Scott (VA)
 Gerlach Matheson Scott, David
 Gibson Matsui Serrano
 Goodlatte McCarthy (CA) Sewell (AL)
 Gosar McCaul Shea-Porter
 Granger McClintock Sherman
 Graves (MO) McCollum Shimkus
 Grayson McDermott Shuster
 Green, Al McGovern Simpson
 Green, Gene McHenry Sinema
 Griffin (AR) McIntyre Sires
 Grijalva McKeon Smith (NE)
 Gutiérrez McKinley Smith (WA)
 Hahn McMorris Speier
 Hall Rodgers Stewart
 Hanna McNeerney Swallow (CA)
 Harper Meehan Takano
 Hartzler Meeks Thompson (CA)
 Hastings (FL) Meng Thompson (MS)
 Heck (NV) Michaud Thompson (PA)
 Heck (WA) Miller, Gary Tierney
 Hensarling Miller, George Titus
 Herrera Beutler Moore Tonko
 Higgins Moran Tsongas
 Himes Murphy (FL) Upton
 Hinojosa Nadler Valadao
 Holding Napolitano Van Hollen
 Holt Neal Vargas
 Honda Negrete McLeod Veasey
 Horsford Nolan Vela
 Hoyer Nunes Velázquez
 Huffman O'Rourke Visclosky
 Hurt Olson Walden
 Israel Owens Walz
 Jackson Lee Palazzo Wasserman
 Jeffries Pallone Schultz
 Jenkins Pascrell Waters
 Johnson (GA) Pastor (AZ) Waxman
 Johnson, Sam Paulsen Webster (FL)
 Keating Payne Welch
 Kelly (IL) Peters (CA) Wilson (FL)
 Kennedy Peters (MI) Wilson (SC)
 Kildee Peterson Wittman
 Kilmer Pingree (ME) Wolf
 Kind Pittenger Womack
 King (IA) Pocan Woodall
 King (NY) Poe (TX) Yarmuth
 Kinzinger (IL) Polis Young (AK)
 Kirkpatrick Pompeo Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt Hanabusa Pelosi
 Campbell Johnson, E. B. Perlmutter
 Carney McCarthy (NY) Richmond
 Grimm Nunnelee

□ 1745

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SWALWELL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 172, noes 245, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 375]

AYES—172

Barber Gutiérrez Nolan
 Bass Hahn O'Rourke
 Beatty Hastings (FL) Pallone
 Becerra Heck (WA) Pascrell
 Bera (CA) Higgins Pastor (AZ)
 Bishop (GA) Himes Payne
 Bishop (NY) Holt Peters (CA)
 Blumenauer Honda Peters (MI)
 Bonamici Horsford Pingree (ME)
 Brady (PA) Hoyer Pocan
 Braley (IA) Huffman Polis
 Brown (FL) Israel Price (NC)
 Brownley (CA) Jackson Lee Quigley
 Bustos Jeffries Rangel
 Capps Johnson (GA) Reichert
 Capuano Jones Roybal-Allard
 Cárdenas Kaptur Ruiz
 Carson (IN) Keating Ruppertsberger
 Cartwright Kelly (IL) Rush
 Castor (FL) Kennedy Sánchez, Linda
 Castro (TX) Kildee T.
 Chu Kilmer Sanchez, Loretta
 Cicilline Kind Sarbanes
 Clarke (NY) Kirkpatrick Schakowsky
 Clay Kuster Schiff
 Cleaver Langevin Schneider
 Clyburn Lee (CA) Schrader
 Cohen Levin Schwartz
 Connolly Lewis Scott (VA)
 Conyers Lipinski Scott, David
 Cooper Loeb sack Serrano
 Crowley Lofgren Sewell (AL)
 Cummings Lowenthal Shea-Porter
 Davis (CA) Sherman Sinema
 Davis, Danny Lujan Grisham
 DeFazio (NM) Sires
 DeGette Luján, Ben Ray Slaughter
 Delaney (NM) Smith (WA)
 DeBene Lynch Speier
 Deutch Maffei Swallow (CA)
 Dingell Maloney, Carolyn Takano
 Doggett Carolyn Thompson (CA)
 Duckworth Maloney, Sean Thompson (MS)
 Edwards Matsui Thompson (PA)
 Ellison McCollum Titus
 Engel McDermott Tonko
 Eshoo McGovern Upton
 Farr McIntyre Valadao
 Fattah Meeks Varga
 Fortenberry Meng Velázquez
 Frankel (FL) Michaud Visclosky
 Fudge Miller, George Walz
 Gabbard Moore Wasserman
 Gallego Moran Walz
 Garamendi Murphy (FL) Waters
 Garcia Nadler Waxman
 Gibson Napolitano Welch
 Grayson Neal Wilson (FL)
 Grijalva Negrete McLeod Yarmuth

NOES—245

Amash Benishek Brooks (AL)
 Amodei Bentivolio Brooks (IN)
 Bachmann Bishop (UT) Broun (GA)
 Bachus Black Buchanan
 Barletta Blackburn Bucshon
 Barr Boustany Burgess
 Barrow (GA) Brady (TX) Butterfield
 Barton Bridenstine Byrne

Calvert Herrera Beutler Poe (TX)
 Camp Hinojosa Pompeo
 Cantor Holding Posey
 Capito Hudson Price (GA)
 Carter Huelskamp Rahall
 Cassidy Huizenga (MI) Reed
 Chabot Hultgren Renacci
 Chaffetz Hunter Ribble
 Clawson (FL) Hurt Rice (SC)
 Coble Issa Rigell
 Coffman Jenkins Roby
 Cole Johnson (OH) Roe (TN)
 Collins (GA) Johnson, Sam Rogers (AL)
 Collins (NY) Jolly Rogers (KY)
 Conaway Jordan Rogers (MI)
 Cook Joyce Rohrabacher
 Costa Kelly (PA) Rokita
 Cotton King (IA) Rooney
 Courtney King (NY) Ros-Lehtinen
 Cramer Kingston Roskam
 Crawford Kinzinger (IL) Ross
 Crenshaw Kline Rothfus
 Cuellar Labrador Royce
 Culberson LaMalfa Runyan
 Daines Lamborn Ryan (OH)
 Davis, Rodney Lance Ryan (WI)
 DeLauro Lankford Salmon
 Denham Larsen (WA) Sanford
 Dent Larson (CT) Scalise
 DeSantis Latham Schock
 DesJarlais Latta Schweikert
 Diaz-Balart LoBiondo Scott, Austin
 Doyle Long Sensenbrenner
 Duffy Lucas Sessions
 Duncan (SC) Luetkemeyer Shimkus
 Duncan (TN) Lummis Shuster
 Ellmers Marchant Simpson
 Enyart Marino Smith (MO)
 Esty Massie Smith (NE)
 Farenthold Matheson Smith (NJ)
 Fincher McAllister Smith (TX)
 Fitzpatrick McCarthy (CA) Southerland
 Fleischmann McCaul Stewart
 Fleming McClintock Stivers
 Flores McHenry Stockman
 Forbes McKeon Stutzman
 Foxx McKinley Terry
 Franks (AZ) McMorris Thompson (PA)
 Frelinghuysen Rodgers Thornberry
 Gardner McNeerney Tiberi
 Garrett Meadows Tipton
 Gerlach Meehan Turner
 Gibbs Messer Upton
 Gingrey (GA) Mica Valadao
 Gohmert Miller (FL) Veasey
 Goodlatte Miller (MI) Wagner
 Gosar Miller, Gary Walberg
 Gowdy Mullin Walden
 Granger Mulvaney Walorski
 Graves (GA) Murphy (PA) Weber (TX)
 Graves (MO) Neugebauer Webster (FL)
 Green, Al Noem Wenstrup
 Green, Gene Nugent Westmoreland
 Griffin (AR) Nunes Whitfield
 Griffith (VA) Olson Williams
 Guthrie Owens Wilson (SC)
 Hall Palazzo Wittman
 Hanna Paulsen Wolf
 Harper Pearce Womack
 Harris Perry Woodall
 Hartzler Peterson Yoder
 Hastings (WA) Petri Yoho
 Heck (NV) Pittenger Young (AK)
 Hensarling Pitts Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Aderholt Foster Nunnelee
 Bilirakis Grimm Pelosi
 Campbell Hanabusa Perlmutter
 Carney Johnson, E. B. Richmond
 Clark (MA) McCarthy (NY) Tierney

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1749

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 110, noes 310, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 376]

AYES—110

Amash	Garrett	Neugebauer
Bachmann	Gingrey (GA)	Olson
Bachus	Gohmert	Palazzo
Bentivolio	Goodlatte	Paulsen
Bilirakis	Gowdy	Petri
Bishop (UT)	Graves (GA)	Pittenger
Black	Hall	Pompeo
Blackburn	Harris	Posey
Boustany	Hartzler	Price (GA)
Brady (TX)	Hensarling	Ribble
Bridenstine	Holding	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Royce
Byrne	Hunter	Ryan (WI)
Cantor	Hurt	Salmon
Cassidy	Issa	Sanford
Chabot	Jenkins	Scalise
Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Schweikert
Clawson (FL)	Jones	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Kingston	Sessions
Cook	Labrador	Smith (MO)
Cotton	LaMalfa	Southerland
Cramer	Lankford	Stockman
Daines	Long	Stutzman
DeSantis	Lummis	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Marchant	Walberg
Duffy	Massie	Weber (TX)
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Wenstrup
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Westmoreland
Farenthold	McHenry	Williams
Fincher	Meadows	Wilson (SC)
Fleming	Messer	Woodall
Flores	Miller (FL)	Yoder
Foxx	Mullin	Yoho
Franks (AZ)	Mulvaney	

NOES—310

Amodei	Carson (IN)	Davis, Rodney
Barber	Carter	DeFazio
Barletta	Cartwright	DeGette
Barr	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Barrow (GA)	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Barton	Chu	DelBene
Bass	Cicilline	Denham
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Dent
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Benishek	Clay	Diaz-Balart
Bera (CA)	Cleaver	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Doggett
Bishop (NY)	Coble	Doyle
Blumenauer	Coffman	Duckworth
Bonamici	Cohen	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Cole	Ellison
Braley (IA)	Collins (NY)	Ellmers
Brooks (IN)	Connolly	Engel
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Enyart
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Eshoo
Buchanan	Costa	Esty
Bucshon	Courtney	Farr
Bustos	Crawford	Fattah
Butterfield	Crenshaw	Fitzpatrick
Calvert	Crowley	Fleischmann
Camp	Cuellar	Forbes
Capito	Culberson	Fortenberry
Capps	Cummings	Poster
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Frankel (FL)
Cárdenas	Davis, Danny	Frelinghuysen

Fudge	Lujan Grisham	Roybal-Allard
Gabbard	(NM)	Ruiz
Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray	Runyan
Garamendi	(NM)	Ruppersberger
Garcia	Lynch	Rush
Gardner	Maffei	Ryan (OH)
Gerlach	Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda
Gibbs	Carolyn	T.
Gibson	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
Gosar	Marino	Sarbanes
Granger	Matheson	Schakowsky
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Schiff
Grayson	McCarthy (CA)	Schneider
Green, Al	McCaul	Schock
Green, Gene	McCollum	Schrader
Griffin (AR)	McDermott	Schwartz
Griiffith (VA)	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Grijalva	McIntyre	Scott, David
Guthrie	McKeon	Serrano
Gutiérrez	McKinley	Sewell (AL)
Hahn	McMorris	Shea-Porter
Hanna	Rodgers	Sherman
Harper	McNerney	Shimkus
Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Shuster
Hastings (WA)	Meeke	Simpson
Heck (NV)	Meng	Sinema
Heck (WA)	Mica	Sires
Herrera Beutler	Michaud	Slaughter
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
Himes	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Hinojosa	Miller, George	Smith (TX)
Holt	Moore	Smith (WA)
Honda	Moran	Speier
Horsford	Murphy (FL)	Stewart
Hoyer	Murphy (PA)	Stivers
Huffman	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Hultgren	Napolitano	Takano
Israel	Neal	Terry
Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod	Thompson (CA)
Jeffries	Noem	Thompson (MS)
Johnson (GA)	Nolan	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (OH)	Nugent	Tiberi
Jolly	Nunes	Tierney
Joyce	O'Rourke	Tipton
Kaptur	Owens	Titus
Keating	Pallone	Tonko
Kelly (IL)	Pascarell	Tsongas
Kelly (PA)	Pastor (AZ)	Turner
Kennedy	Payne	Upton
Kildee	Pearce	Valadao
Kilmer	Perry	Van Hollen
Kind	Peters (CA)	Vargas
King (IA)	Peters (MI)	Veasey
King (NY)	Peterson	Vela
Kinzinger (IL)	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
Kirkpatrick	Pitts	Visclosky
Kline	Pocan	Wagner
Kuster	Poe (TX)	Walden
Lamborn	Polis	Walorski
Lance	Price (NC)	Walz
Langevin	Quigley	Wasserman
Larsen (WA)	Rahall	Schultz
Larson (CT)	Rangel	Waters
Latham	Reed	Waxman
Latta	Reichert	Webster (FL)
Lee (CA)	Renacci	Welch
Levin	Rigell	Whitfield
Lewis	Roby	Wilson (FL)
Lipinski	Rogers (KY)	Wittman
LoBiondo	Rogers (MI)	Wolf
Loeb sack	Rokita	Womack
Lofgren	Rooney	Yarmuth
Lowenthal	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (AK)
Lowey	Roskam	Young (IN)
Lucas	Ross	
Luetkemeyer	Rothfus	

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Campbell	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Carney	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
Grimm	Nunnelee	Roe (TN)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1753

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 97, noes 321, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 377]

AYES—97

Amash	Graves (GA)	Pompeo
Bachmann	Hall	Posey
Bentivolio	Hensarling	Price (GA)
Bilirakis	Holding	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rohrabacher
Bridenstine	Hultgren	Rokita
Broun (GA)	Jenkins	Ross
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Byrne	Jones	Salmon
Chabot	Jordan	Ryan (WI)
Chaffetz	Kingston	Sanford
Clawson (FL)	LaMalfa	Scalise
Coble	Lankford	Schweikert
Collins (GA)	Long	Scott, Austin
Conaway	Lummis	Sensenbrenner
Cook	Marchant	Sessions
Cotton	Massie	Smith (MO)
Cramer	McAllister	Stockman
Daines	McClintock	Stutzman
DeSantis	McHenry	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Meadows	Walberg
Duffy	Messer	Weber (TX)
Duncan (SC)	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Duncan (TN)	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Farenthold	Neugebauer	Williams
Fincher	Olson	Wilson (SC)
Fleming	Flores	Woodall
Foxx	Palazzo	Yoder
Franks (AZ)	Perry	Young (IN)
Garrett	Petri	
Gohmert	Pittenger	
Gowdy	Pitts	

NOES—321

Amodei	Cárdenas	DeLauro
Bachus	Carson (IN)	DelBene
Barber	Carter	Denham
Barletta	Cartwright	Dent
Barr	Cassidy	Deutch
Barrow (GA)	Castor (FL)	Diaz-Balart
Barton	Castro (TX)	Dingell
Bass	Chu	Doggett
Beatty	Cicilline	Doyle
Becerra	Clark (MA)	Duckworth
Benishek	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Bera (CA)	Clay	Ellison
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Ellmers
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Engel
Blumenauer	Coffman	Enyart
Bonamici	Cohen	Eshoo
Boustany	Cole	Esty
Brady (PA)	Collins (NY)	Farenthold
Braley (IA)	Connolly	Farr
Brooks (AL)	Conyers	Fattah
Brooks (IN)	Cooper	Fincher
Brown (FL)	Costa	Fitzpatrick
Brownley (CA)	Courtney	Fleischmann
Buchanan	Crawford	Forbes
Bucshon	Crenshaw	Fortenberry
Bustos	Crowley	Foster
Butterfield	Cuellar	Frankel (FL)
Calvert	Culberson	Frelinghuysen
Camp	Cummings	Fudge
Cantor	Davis (CA)	Gabbard
Capito	Davis, Danny	Gallego
Capps	DeFazio	Garamendi
Capuano	DeGette	Garcia
	Delaney	Gardner

Gerlach	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus
Gibbs	Lujan Grisham	Roybal-Allard
Gibson	(NM)	Ruiz
Gingrey (GA)	Luján, Ben Ray	Runyan
Goodlatte	(NM)	Ruppersberger
Gosar	Lynch	Rush
Granger	Maffei	Ryan (OH)
Graves (MO)	Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda
Grayson	Carolyn	T.
Green, Al	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
Green, Gene	Marino	Sarbanes
Griffin (AR)	Matheson	Schakowsky
Griffith (VA)	Matsui	Schiff
Grijalva	McCarthy (CA)	Schneider
Guthrie	McCaul	Schock
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Schrader
Hahn	McDermott	Schwartz
Hanna	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Harper	McIntyre	Scott, David
Harris	McKeon	Serrano
Hartzler	McKinley	Sewell (AL)
Hastings (FL)	McMorris	Shea-Porter
Hastings (WA)	Rodgers	Sherman
Heck (NV)	McNerney	Shimkus
Heck (WA)	Meehan	Shuster
Herrera Beutler	Meeks	Simpson
Higgins	Meng	Sinema
Himes	Mica	Sires
Hinojosa	Michaud	Slaughter
Honda	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
Horsford	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Hoyer	Miller, George	Smith (TX)
Huffman	Moore	Smith (WA)
Hunter	Moran	Southerland
Hurt	Mullin	Speier
Israel	Murphy (FL)	Stewart
Issa	Murphy (PA)	Stivers
Jackson Lee	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Jeffries	Napolitano	Takano
Johnson (GA)	Neal	Terry
Johnson (OH)	Negrete McLeod	Thompson (CA)
Jolly	Noem	Thompson (MS)
Joyce	Nolan	Thompson (PA)
Kaptur	Nugent	Tiberi
Keating	Nunes	Tierney
Kelly (IL)	O'Rourke	Tipton
Kelly (PA)	Owens	Titus
Kennedy	Pallone	Tonko
Kildee	Pascrell	Tsongas
Kilmer	Pastor (AZ)	Turner
Kind	Paulsen	Upton
King (IA)	Payne	Valadao
King (NY)	Pearce	Van Hollen
Kinzinger (IL)	Peters (CA)	Vargas
Kirkpatrick	Peters (MI)	Veasey
Kline	Peterson	Vela
Kuster	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
Labrador	Pocan	Wagner
Lamborn	Poe (TX)	Walden
Lance	Polis	Walorski
Langevin	Price (NC)	Walz
Larsen (WA)	Quigley	Wasserman
Larson (CT)	Rahall	Schultz
Latham	Rangel	Waters
Latta	Reed	Waxman
Lee (CA)	Reichert	Webster (FL)
Levin	Renacci	Welch
Lewis	Rigell	Whitfield
Lipinski	Roby	Wilson (FL)
LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Wittman
Loeback	Rogers (KY)	Wolf
Lofgren	Rogers (MI)	Womack
Lowenthal	Rooney	Yarmuth
Lowe	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoho
Lucas	Roskam	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Campbell	Holt	Perlmutter
Carney	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Davis, Rodney	McCarthy (NY)	Visclosky
Grimm	Nunnelee	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1757

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. MARCHANT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE AND INVESTING IN LIFELONG SKILLS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 803) to reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 6, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 378]

YEAS—415

Amodei	Capps	Davis (CA)
Bachmann	Capuano	Davis, Danny
Bachus	Cardenas	Davis, Rodney
Barber	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Barletta	Carter	DeGette
Barr	Cartwright	Delaney
Barrow (GA)	Cassidy	DeLauro
Barton	Castor (FL)	DelBene
Bass	Castro (TX)	Denham
Beatty	Chabot	Dent
Becerra	Chaffetz	DeSantis
Benish	Chu	DesJarlais
Bentivolio	Cicilline	Deutch
Bera (CA)	Clark (MA)	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Clawson (FL)	Doggett
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Doyle
Bishop (UT)	Cleaver	Duckworth
Black	Clyburn	Duffy
Blackburn	Coble	Duncan (SC)
Blumenauer	Coffman	Edwards
Bonamici	Cohen	Ellison
Boustany	Cole	Ellmers
Brady (PA)	Collins (GA)	Engel
Brady (TX)	Collins (NY)	Enyart
Braley (IA)	Conaway	Eshoo
Bridenstine	Connolly	Esty
Brooks (AL)	Conyers	Farenthold
Brooks (IN)	Cook	Farr
Brown (FL)	Cooper	Fattah
Brownley (CA)	Costa	Fincher
Buchanan	Cotton	Fitzpatrick
Bucshon	Courtney	Fleischmann
Burgess	Cramer	Fleming
Bustos	Crawford	Flores
Butterfield	Crenshaw	Forbes
Byrne	Crowley	Fortenberry
Calvert	Cuellar	Foster
Camp	Culberson	Fox
Cantor	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
Capito	Daines	Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen		
Fudge		
Gabbard		
Gallego		
Garamendi		
Garcia		
Gardner		
Garrett		
Gerlach		
Gibbs		
Gibson		
Gingrey (GA)		
Gohmert		
Goodlatte		
Gosar		
Gowdy		
Granger		
Graves (GA)		
Graves (MO)		
Grayson		
Green, Al		
Green, Gene		
Griffin (AR)		
Griffith (VA)		
Grijalva		
Guthrie		
Gutiérrez		
Hahn		
Hall		
Hanna		
Harper		
Harris		
Hartzler		
Hastings (FL)		
Hastings (WA)		
Heck (NV)		
Heck (WA)		
Hensarling		
Herrera Beutler		
Higgins		
Himes		
Hinojosa		
Holding		
Holt		
Honda		
Horsford		
Hoyer		
Hudson		
Huelskamp		
Huffman		
Huizenga (MI)		
Hultgren		
Hunter		
Hurt		
Israel		
Issa		
Jackson Lee		
Jeffries		
Jenkins		
Johnson (GA)		
Johnson (OH)		
Johnson, Sam		
Jolly		
Jordan		
Joyce		
Kaptur		
Keating		
Kelly (IL)		
Kelly (PA)		
Kennedy		
Kildee		
Kilmer		
Kind		
King (IA)		
King (NY)		
Kingston		
Kinzinger (IL)		
Kirkpatrick		
Kline		
Kuster		
Labrador		
LaMalfa		
Lamborn		
Lance		
Langevin		
Lankford		
Larsen (WA)		
Larson (CT)		
Latham		
Latta		
Lee (CA)		
Levin		
Lewis		
Lipinski		
LoBiondo		
Loeback		
Lofgren		
Lowenthal		
Lowe		
Lucas		
Lofgren		
Long		
Lowenthal		
Lowe		
Lucas		
Luetkemeyer		
Lujan Grisham		
(NM)		
Luján, Ben Ray		
(NM)		
Lynch		
Maffei		
Maloney,		
Carolyn		
Maloney, Sean		
Marino		
Matheson		
Matsui		
McCarthy (CA)		
McCaul		
McCollum		
McDermott		
McGovern		
McIntyre		
McKeon		
McKinley		
McMorris		
Rodgers		
McNerney		
Meadows		
Meehan		
Meeks		
Meng		
Messer		
Mica		
Michaud		
Miller (FL)		
Miller (MI)		
Miller, Gary		
Miller, George		
Moore		
Moran		
Mullin		
Mulvaney		
Murphy (FL)		
Murphy (PA)		
Nadler		
Napolitano		
Neal		
Negrete McLeod		
Neugebauer		
Noem		
Nolan		
Nugent		
Nunes		
O'Rourke		
Olson		
Owens		
Palazzo		
Pallone		
Pascrell		
Pastor (AZ)		
Paulsen		
Payne		
Pearce		
Perry		
Peters (CA)		
Peters (MI)		
Peterson		
Petri		
Pingree (ME)		
Pittenger		
Pitts		
Pocan		
Poe (TX)		
Polis		
Pompeo		
Posey		
Price (GA)		
Price (NC)		
Quigley		
Rahall		
Rangel		
Reed		
Reichert		
Renacci		
Ribble		
Rice (SC)		
Rigell		
Roby		
Roe (TN)		
Rogers (AL)		
Rogers (KY)		
Rogers (MI)		
Rohrabacher		
Rokita		
Rooney		
Ros-Lehtinen		
Roskam		
Ross		
Rothfus		
Roybal-Allard		
Royce		
Ruiz		
Runyan		
Ruppersberger		
Rush		
Ryan (OH)		
Ryan (WI)		
Salmon		
Sánchez, Linda		
T.		
Sanchez, Loretta		
Sanford		
Sarbanes		
Scalise		
Schakowsky		
Schiff		
Schneider		
Schock		
Schrader		
Schwartz		
Schweikert		
Scott (VA)		
Scott, Austin		
Scott, David		
Sensenbrenner		
Serrano		
Sessions		
Sewell (AL)		
Shea-Porter		
Sherman		
Shimkus		
Shuster		
Simpson		
Sinema		
Slaughter		
Smith (MO)		
Smith (NE)		
Smith (NJ)		
Smith (TX)		
Smith (WA)		
Southerland		
Speier		
Stewart		
Stivers		
Stutzman		
Swalwell (CA)		
Takano		
Terry		
Thompson (CA)		
Thompson (MS)		
Thompson (PA)		
Thornberry		
Tiberi		
Tierney		
Tipton		
Titus		
Tonko		
Tsongas		
Turner		
Upton		
Valadao		
Van Hollen		
Vargas		
Veasey		
Vela		
Velázquez		
Visclosky		
Wagner		
Walberg		
Walden		
Walorski		
Walz		
Wasserman		
Schultz		
Waters		
Waxman		
Weber (TX)		
Webster (FL)		
Welch		
Wenstrup		
Westmoreland		
Whitfield		
Williams		
Wilson (FL)		

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack

Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho

Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—6

Amash
Broun (GA)

Duncan (TN)
Jones

Massie
Stockman

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt
Campbell
Carney
Grimm

Hanabusa
Johnson, E. B.
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee

Pelosi
Perlmutter
Richmond

□ 1805

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5016, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4718, BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-517) on the resolution (H. Res. 661) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4923.

Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) kindly take the chair.

□ 1807

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today,

an amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 19, line 14.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$22,000,000)".

Page 20, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$9,810,000)".

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,935,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$9,551,000)".

Page 52, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$49,062,000)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$121,358,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, ever since 1835, the rules of the House have forbidden spending money except for purposes authorized by law. Yet last year, the eleven appropriations bills reported out of the House Appropriations Committee contained over \$350 billion in spending on unauthorized programs. The rule against unauthorized spending cannot be enforced because it is always waived by the resolutions that bring these appropriations to the floor.

The bill before us today contains \$24 billion in such unauthorized spending for programs that have not been reviewed by the authorizing committees since as far back as 1980. That was Jimmy Carter's last year in office.

Now, I am sure that some of these programs are valuable and worthy of taxpayer dollars, but surely, others are not. The fact that they have not been authorized in as much as 35 years ought to warn us to be at least a little more careful about continuing to fund them.

Rather than reviewing our spending decisions and making tough choices about spending priorities, Congress simply rubberstamps these programs out of habit. It is no wonder we are so deeply in debt with so little to show for it. My amendment does not defund these unauthorized programs, as the House rules would require. It simply freezes spending on them at last year's levels.

The cuts contained in this amendment total just \$121 million, which is about 0.036 percent of the total spending in this bill.

If year after year, the authorizing committees haven't found these programs worth the time to reauthorize, then maybe that is just nature's way of telling us they aren't worth the money we are shoveling at them either.

It is the proper role of the House of Representatives to control the purse strings of our government. But we do a disservice to our constituents when we allow this kind of spending growth to occur on autopilot, absent any oversight or congressional authorization.

I look forward to the day when Congress will again assert its constitutional prerogative to control Federal spending and enforce its own rules to prohibit spending blindly on unauthorized programs.

However, in the meantime, adopting this amendment will merely freeze the spending in these unauthorized programs, shaving just 0.036 percent of this appropriation. By freezing that spending on unauthorized programs, I hope that will be a small symbolic step toward reclaiming the House's responsibility to act as a watchdog over the Treasury.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. I rise in opposition to the gentleman's proposal.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman stood up earlier this afternoon and was trying to cut from really essential accounts. And I accept his desire to try to balance the budget.

When his party shut down the government and threw the wrench of shutdown into every program that the Nation depends upon, it created quite a bit of chaos around here and around the country. Money was wasted on furloughs. The military was trying to decide how they were going to rotate different operations and so forth. It was a terrible period that we lived through. And we are still taking and gluing our programs back together after all of that.

Some of the work of the authorizing committees, under your leadership, were not able to clear their bills on time. So the gentleman's solution is to say, well, you know, none of that happened. So I am just going to take this opportunity to go after the Energy and Water bill and kind of take this and this and this and propose this amendment.

And I think that the gentleman's goal of fiscal responsibility is one that I share, but this isn't the way to do it. This isn't the way to kind of pick some programs, and we don't even know what impact it will have across the country.

□ 1815

I would rather have a much more thoughtful presentation that would come before us. What programs is he talking about? The same ones this afternoon he was trying to cut, the renewable energy program—he is talking about cutting nuclear and fossil energy.

He really doesn't like the Department of Energy. I bet, if you ask the

gentleman, he doesn't even want the Department of Energy to exist for our country. If you look around the world, I am probably not wrong on that bet, so this is just another way to try to cause havoc over at the Department of Energy.

As I have said earlier today, I view what is happening in that Department as one of the most important strategic sets of investments that this country has to make.

Why create more havoc over there? We have had difficulties in trying to balance our energy accounts over the years. Imported petroleum still constitutes 40 percent of what Americans are paying for. The average family, every year, \$2,800 comes out of their pocket for gasoline.

Mr. Chairman, we need to modernize our fleet. There is a lot of natural gas conversions going on in the country for our truck fleets. We need not throw a wrench into that. We need to hasten it, to move America to a new day.

We need a modernized grid, whatever that is going to look like. We need to be able to dispose of our nuclear waste. We need to make sure that our energy policy plays on all keys, not just a few.

I don't think this is a time to create more havoc, following on the havoc that has been created in the past, which I am sure the gentleman supported, and to pick on the Department of Energy—we need a much more coherent strategy in order to balance our budget, and the most important strategy we can have is to put people back to work and, through innovation in this country and the balancing of our trade deficit, begin to reinvest those dollars back here at home.

Mr. Chairman, I mentioned earlier today that we have about, oh, I think \$34 billion in this entire bill. Our energy trade deficit with the world this year is a little over \$210 billion. Maybe it is a little higher than that.

The deficit—the hole this year alone is eight times bigger than our bill. So if you look at what you are trying to do here, it is counterproductive, and we need to be looking at modernizing our energy system here in this country, not picking it apart, and not creating more havoc at the Department, but actually investing in America's future.

So I ask my colleagues to oppose the gentleman's amendment, and let's get on with the regular order here. Let's get this bill cleared. Let's go to conference with the Senate and do for America what she needs, and that is restoring her energy security in order that our liberty not be threatened in this generation and the future.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Well, Mr. Chairman, let me say that I agree with the sentiments expressed by the gentleman

from California, in that the rules of the House say we should not appropriate money for any unauthorized program.

Unfortunately, the authorizing committees have not reauthorized an awful lot of these programs throughout the government. In fact, a few years ago, I tried to reduce funding by eliminating any money for the endangered species listing because it was unauthorized for 26 years.

We lost on the floor on that, but his sentiment is absolutely correct, and we need to make sure the authorizing committees do their job.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I can forgive my colleague from Ohio for misstating California's history as she did earlier today, but I cannot excuse her for misstating the recent history that we were all quite familiar with.

I would remind the gentlewoman that this House passed three appropriations bills over to the Senate funding the entire government last year, including a lot of things that we would like to reform, but we agreed to fund all of those spending with one exception.

We asked for a 1-year delay in the train wreck that has become ObamaCare. I think the American people can see that that was a realistic request. Unfortunately, the Senate chose not to act. That is what caused the government to seize up and to shut down.

Now, I also want to correct the gentlelady in her suggestion that, somehow, this is motivated because I don't like energy. I love energy, and I want to see it efficiently researched, and that is best done by the private sector using its own money, rather than politicians using other people's money to reward politically well-connected companies.

I would simply ask the gentlewoman this: If these programs were all so worthwhile, why is it that the authorizing committees have not bothered to reauthorize them in a span of up to 35 years?

I suggest that fact speaks for itself. Until these programs are properly reviewed and reauthorized, all I am asking is we don't keep increasing their budgets; we freeze them until the authorizing committees review them and reauthorize them.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,100,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,100,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their diligence in this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I think every single American can agree that reducing our dependence on foreign oil is something that—and all foreign sources of energy—should be something that we should pursue, and in that vein, renewables is a significant component, but this bill cuts hydropower over \$20 million.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would seek to restore funding specifically—not to all renewables—but to hydropower, and it is offset with a Department of Energy administrative cost. That is where the money is coming from. According to the budget office, the amendment actually reduces outlays by \$8 million.

Now, hydropower is available in every region of the country. It is not just the east coast. It is the whole way across the country, to the point that 2,200 hydropower plants provide America its most abundant source of clean, renewable electricity and accounts for 67 percent of domestic renewable generation or 7 percent of the total electricity generated. This could increase that 15 percent, creating over 1 million jobs by 2025—1.4 million, according to my figures.

Mr. Chairman, hydroelectricity is predictable. You can count on it. It is not variable. You don't have to count on the wind blowing. You don't have to count on the Sun shining. Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, as long as the rain is falling and the rivers are flowing, we are generating power.

You don't need a bank of batteries. You don't need the wind to be blowing. You don't need an alternative source of base load powers being generated. It provides it at a relatively low-maintenance cost.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I would contend that it is the most efficient and economic form of renewable energy. It is unobtrusive. It is not bothering anybody. It is sitting there. You don't have to worry about birds

flying into it or bats being killed on its blades. The fish swim right through it.

Now, it does face a significant regulatory approval process. There is much red tape, which equates to up to 15 years in permitting cycles, and that is a detractor that needs to be addressed, so much so that there are now 60,000 megawatts of preliminary permits and projects awaiting final approval and are pending before the commission in 45 of our 50 States—45 of our 50 States.

We can have this electricity if we can get through this red tape, Mr. Chairman. Of our 80,000 dams in the United States, 600–600 of them—have an immediate capability to produce energy at this moment.

Harnessing conventional hydroenergy will create a truly renewable and green energy source for our country. It is not just about Pennsylvania, and it is not just about the Fourth District that I represent. It is about all of our country becoming energy independent on renewable.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I oppose the amendment, I understand my colleague wants to see increased funding for the conventional hydropower within EERE. I understand that. I am a big fan of hydropower in the Pacific Northwest.

One of the reasons we have some of the cheapest electricity in the country is because of the great use of hydropower in the Pacific Northwest.

The bill before us actually increases conventional hydropower by \$1.7 million above last year. I look forward to working with the gentleman on this important program as we move forward through this process, but I do oppose this amendment.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to align my remarks with yours, and that is, though I would oppose the gentleman's amendment at this point, the potential of hydropower is enormous, both low-power hydro—and the more robust parts of the country, I am sure Idaho has big falls and Pennsylvania, in many places, but the low-power hydro that is more characteristic of the Great Lakes region, for example, offers enormous potential, and there are new inventions to be had in capturing the power of water, even as it moves in streams that flow just at grade.

Mr. Chairman, we need to allow this conversation to influence the Department of Energy, so that there is more attention given to hydro and to the development of new technologies, water

dropping—being elevated and then being dropped in different parts of the country—as well as existing watersheds being used more effectively.

We need a lot more work. I would say to the gentleman that I bet we could get more than 15 percent, if we really put our minds to it, so I wanted to offer general support of the idea.

Even though we can't support your amendment today, let's hope in the future we can find a way to do a better job with hydropower.

I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the chairman in the future on this and would ask, at this point, unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$9,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Oregon and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today because of the power and potential of water and in support of an amendment that I am pleased to offer with my two colleagues from Maine, Congressman MICHAUD and Congresswoman PINGREE.

Mr. Chairman, our amendment would increase funding to the Department of Energy's Water Power Program by just \$9 million, a small price tag that will yield a huge return on investment. This increase is offset by an equal amount from the Departmental administration account.

The modest increase that we are proposing will support hydropower and also the development of innovative hydropower technologies, along with marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies.

Development of these new technologies can offer the United States a chance to lead the world in an emerging area of abundant renewable energy. Marine and hydrokinetic energy—in particular, energy from waves, currents, and tides which, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania just recognized, unlike the Sun and wind, do not stop—is an exciting frontier in the renewable energy sector.

Currently, Oregon State University and the University of Washington are

using Federal funding from the Water Power Program to develop the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center, a center that will provide visionary entrepreneurs a domestic location to test wave energy devices, along with other technology, rather than traveling to Scotland to use the European test center. Without continued Federal investment, Europe will remain the leader.

When fully developed, wave and tidal energy systems could generate a significant amount of total energy used in the United States. As Congress promotes technologies that can help lower our constituents' energy bills, we must embrace new and innovative solutions, like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.

With this modest increase, the Water Power Program can do that while continuing to support a Federal investment in conventional hydropower technology.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1830

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise reluctantly to oppose the amendment. The amendment would increase funding for the marine and hydrokinetic programs within the EERE account. I appreciate my colleague's passion for renewable energy programs. She has worked tirelessly to support efforts to advance American research and industry in this area.

This year's funding for EERE is \$1.789 billion, \$113 million below last year and \$528 million below the budget request. This is roughly equivalent to the fiscal year 2013 level pre-sequester and is nearly \$1 billion more than last year's House bill.

Funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy is focused on three main priorities: helping American manufacturers compete in the global marketplace, supporting the Weatherization Assistance Program, and addressing future high gas prices. This left limited funding for renewable energy programs for which funding is prioritized to support two main projects: an offshore wind demonstration project and an enhanced geothermal field test site.

Within the remaining resources, the recommendation provides \$38.5 million for water power and accepts the budget request proposal for an almost even split between the conventional hydropower program and the marine and hydrokinetic technologies program. I support the water program, and I would be happy to work with my friend in the event the EERE account receives additional funding in conference, but we

simply cannot afford to increase these activities in this bill by diverting funds from inherently Federal responsibilities. While I am supportive of reducing the size of government, this amendment would reduce funding that supports 64 people within the Department of Administration. I must therefore reluctantly oppose the amendment and urge Members to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD), my friend and cosponsor of the amendment.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I rise in strong support of this amendment.

The Water Power Program supports critical private sector research, development, deployment, and commercialization for new American hydro-power technologies and marine hydrokinetic energy. Water power research helps to reduce costs and environmental impacts of these reliable, renewable energy sources and is very critical for private sector investment.

In Maine, the Ocean Renewable Power Company has deployed our Nation's first grid-connected marine hydrokinetic energy system, the first in the country, and they are working to deploy additional units in other areas of the country. They have invested nearly \$30 million in the local economy while creating or retaining over 100 quality jobs.

Countries like Japan, Chile, and Australia have shown an interest in this American technology, and it presents a great opportunity for exporting American technology. So not only will the development of new domestic water power technology create jobs and reduce the energy costs for homes and businesses across the country, but it represents an opportunity for the U.S. to lead the world in an emerging area of renewable and abundant energy.

Now is not the time for a drastic cut in these important programs. I urge my colleagues to support this very modest amount of money while at the same time realizing that we do have fiscal constraints.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery and energy reliability activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$160,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$27,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, our Nation's electrical system is in transition. The infrastructure is aging. It remains vulnerable to physical and cyber threats, and our energy use is changing and evolving every day.

The Nation's electric grid connects Americans with more than 5,000 power plants nationwide and about 450,000 miles of transmission lines. Seventy percent of those transmission lines and power transformers are more than 25 years old, and the average age of the power plant in this country is more than 30 years old.

Between 2003 and 2012, there were 679 power outages, each affecting at least 50,000 people and costing billions of dollars.

The Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability works to modernize our Nation's electric grid and infrastructure by partnering with industry, academia, and State governments to modernize the grid and our Nation's electrical infrastructure.

The amendment Mrs. ELLMERS and I are offering increases funding for the Department of Energy's Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability office by \$20 million and decreases the departmental administration account by the same amount.

Making smart investments to address issues facing our Nation's electricity infrastructure will have a number of benefits: it will ensure long-term stability in the electricity and energy systems; it will spur innovation; it will help make the transition to more efficient use of electric power; and it will create technical and manufacturing jobs. Ensuring a reliable and resilient

electricity grid will reduce costs for businesses and consumers by saving energy.

Grid industry groups such as GridWise Alliance and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, utilities, and manufacturers support this amendment. I urge its adoption.

I now yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS), my colleague and cosponsor, and thank her for her leadership on this issue.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment, and I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for his leadership as well and working with me to promote further research that protects and improves our Nation's energy infrastructure.

This amendment will have a positive impact on our Nation's energy reliability, efficiency, and security. It will help us maintain a robust manufacturing presence and will ensure the critical research and development to continue in the vital areas of energy transmission, smart grid technology, energy storage, and cybersecurity.

Technological advancements in the energy sector are occurring across the country at a rapid pace, and there is no better example of the industry's success than in North Carolina. The success of research and development is due in part to the strong partnership between the private sector and universities.

Mr. Chairman, I have seen firsthand on the campus of North Carolina State University where they have partnered with industry leaders to innovate grid technologies to create the Smart Grid Center of Excellence. I have also seen the positive impact of implementing this technology and the benefits it brings to our rural communities and their rural electric cooperatives.

Mr. Chairman, with a growing need for grid reliability and cybersecurity measures to promote our Nation's energy infrastructure, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. The amendment would increase funding for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability by \$20 million using funds from the departmental administration account as an offset.

The President's budget request proposes to increase the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability from \$147 million to \$180 million, a 22 percent increase, which the amendment would achieve. Instead, the bill before us provides a balanced increase of \$13 million for the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, 9 percent above the fiscal year

2014 level. Put another way, that is a larger percentage increase than any other applied energy program in this bill. The underlying bill is a larger percentage increase than any other applied energy program in this bill.

The bill prioritizes programs within OE that keeps our electricity grid safe and secure. To that end, the bill provides \$47 million to protect the energy sector's critical infrastructure against the ever-present threats of cyber attack and \$16 million for infrastructure security, including \$8 million for a strategic operations center to better respond to emergencies.

While I support the program championed by my colleagues, we must and have to abide by our allocation, and we simply cannot afford additional increases to the OE program by diverting funds from other Federal responsibilities. It is a choice that we have had to make as we balance this bill. As I said, this has the largest percentage increase—9 percent—of any other programs within this area of the budget. Therefore, I must oppose the amendment and urge Members to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, grid reliability is an issue that we are facing. Just this last year, we faced a physical attack on a substation in the south bay of the bay area. We are seeing increasing cyber attacks. We also have an opportunity to utilize renewable energy more effectively with grid responsiveness with the new technology that allows rapid switching. In other words, this could help transform our country to a more modern, a more reliable, more efficient, and a more economic grid system. So I think the money would be well spent. I urge my colleagues to support the McNerney-Elmers amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

The amendment was rejected.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), a capable and engaged Member of this House.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4923 is far from a perfect bill. I have serious concerns about some of the policy riders in the bill, and I am disappointed that it does not contain higher funding for renewable energy programs, but there are a number of important programs that receive the funding they desperately need. We all know that tough choices have to be made within the overall funding allocations, and I want to thank subcommittee Chair SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their hard work on the bill.

Earlier this year, I joined with 79 of our colleagues in support of strong funding for two important energy efficiencies programs at the Department of Energy: the Weatherization Assistance Program and the State Energy Program. These programs were underfunded in recent House appropriations bills, and I am pleased that this bill includes a significant improvement in the funding status for these two programs.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in expressing support for these programs to the committee earlier this year, and again, I thank the subcommittee chair and ranking member for responding to our requests for robust funding for these programs.

The Weatherization and State Energy Programs not only help our citizens to use energy more efficiently and effectively, these programs create and sustain jobs in communities across our great Nation. Energy efficiency improvements make homes more comfortable and keep utility costs affordable. They also create jobs for small business contractors in local communities.

The Weatherization Assistance Program enables seniors and veterans and persons with disabilities and families with low incomes to make energy efficiency improvements that they would otherwise not be able to afford. Lowering their energy bills frees up limited income they can use toward other essentials like food purchases and medicines. DOE estimates savings from weatherizing a home of over \$400 per year. That is real money to many families who are struggling to make ends meet.

The State Energy Program enables our home States to develop and implement their own energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, projects that are tailored to address the very specific needs of our individual States.

The electricity sector is undergoing, as we all know, a significant transformation. The old model of one-way distribution from central generation points is giving way to systems with more distributed generation. Grids need to be upgraded and are becoming smarter; security issues need attention; and changing economics, fuel mix, and regulations are also catalyzing changes in this sector. State Energy Programs have an important role to play in this transformation, and support for these programs will be very helpful to States as they work through these changes.

□ 1845

On a separate issue, together with our colleagues Representative OWENS and Representative GIBSON, both of New York, we called for robust funding for DOE's Naval Reactors Program. The \$1.2 billion included for naval reactors in this bill is critical to support

three long-term projects: the Ohio class replacement, the spent fuel handling facility, and research and training reactor maintenance.

Over the past 5 years, Naval Reactors has been funded below requirements by over \$450 million, including \$151 million below the President's fiscal year '14 request. While I was disappointed to see Naval Reactors at \$162 million below this year's request, I do thank the committee for including some very important report language.

The work done at the Kesselring site and the Knolls Atomic Power Lab is essential to our national security and our Navy's readiness. The training reactors at the Kesselring site in upstate New York are critical to training nuclear-qualified sailors. Earlier this year, unfunded maintenance and repair costs threatened to shut down one of the site's two reactors, which would have resulted in 450 fewer nuclear-qualified sailors in the fleet next year.

This bill requires significant funding for training reactor operations and maintenance at the Kesselring site and fully funds development of the Ohio replacement at KAPL, which cannot afford further delays. I hope that we can work together to make sure this critical program is fully funded moving forward to ensure that the Navy's nuclear-powered fleet has the resources, sailors, and research it needs to operate effectively and safely.

Finally, I am also pleased to see that the ARPA-E program receives robust funding in this bill. ARPA-E is an important program. Its mission to tackle big challenges in energy and move promising technologies forward into the market through strategic partnerships between government, universities, and businesses is vital to our long-term economic and energy security.

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$899,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$73,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$10,000.

FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests

in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$593,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$120,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$30,935,000)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$30,935,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, it is not often that I can use a passage from the Bible to describe an appropriations bill, but the money-wasting allocation of funds in this bill is perfectly described by the Gospel of Matthew. It observes:

For whoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

A sociologist termed this the "Matthew Effect," a term for why the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

That is pretty much what is going on here. Why on Earth are we handing out money to fossil fuel companies? They don't need more abundance. They are receiving more than enough from the Federal Government as it is, some \$4 billion in taxpayer subsidies each year.

My amendment is extremely modest. It retains the \$562.1 million for R&D that is in the budget—far more, I might add, than the President had in his budget of \$475 million. But do we really need to increase the R&D budget for fossil fuels beyond the \$563 million? Let's show the taxpayers we have just a little restraint.

Fossil fuel companies are perfectly capable of funding their own research. In fact, they do. ExxonMobil alone has spent about \$5 billion since 2008. If more spending on R&D is, in fact, needed, they are more than capable of funding it on their own. Perhaps they could reallocate some of the \$144 million, or more than \$396,000 per day, they spent last year lobbying Members of Congress. Maybe some of their 763 lobbyists—nearly two for each Member of Congress in the House—would be willing to start a new career in research.

Here in the Federal Government where we don't have millions of dollars to throw around willy-nilly, we need to reexamine our investments. Appropriations bills are documents that spell out

our priorities. Increasing the fossil fuel R&D budget by \$31 million to an already overly generous \$562 million while slashing renewable R&D budgets by \$80 million states loud and clear that we are more interested in funding rich energy companies of the past rather than energy of the future.

Again, this amendment is simple. It strikes \$31 million in R&D from fossil fuels and commits it to deficit reduction and maintains the FY14 level of funding for this research.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's references from the Bible in her debate. It is always interesting.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment. The amendment would reduce funding for the fossil energy account by \$31 million in favor of deficit reduction.

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and natural gas, provide for 82 percent of the energy used by this Nation's homes and businesses and will continue to provide for the majority of our energy needs for the foreseeable future. That is 82 percent.

The bill rejects the administration's proposed reductions to fossil energy, particularly with drastic cuts to the coal program, which is reduced by 29 percent under the budget request, and, instead, funds these programs at \$593 million, \$31 million above last year. With this additional funding, the Office of Fossil Energy will research how heat can be more efficiently converted into electricity in a cross-cutting effort with nuclear and solar energy programs, how water can be more efficiently used in water plants, and how coal can be used to produce electricity, electric power, through fuel cells.

This amendment would reduce funding for a program that ensures that we use our Nation's fossil fuel resources as well and as cleanly as possible. In fact, if we increase the efficiency of our fossil energy plants, as I have said before during this debate, if we increase the efficiency of our fossil energy plants by just 1 percent—by just 1 percent—we could power an additional 2 million households without using a single additional pound of fuel from the ground. That is the research we are focusing on with funding this program.

We all know that American families and businesses have struggled with high energy prices, and the fossil energy research program holds the potential once and for all to prevent future high prices and substantially increase our energy security.

Therefore, I must oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, we have been having a raging debate in this House over the Ex-Im Bank. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are screaming that that is, in fact, corporate welfare.

Well, when the three largest oil companies in this country—ExxonMobil, BP, and Shell—made over \$62.7 billion in the last year, and you are sitting here and telling us that giving them \$4 billion and giving them another \$563 million is not enough, that we need to augment it by some \$31 million, I think that is pretty darn laughable.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$19,950,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

ELK HILLS SCHOOL LANDS FUND

For necessary expenses in fulfilling the final payment under the Settlement Agreement entered into by the United States and the State of California on October 11, 1996, as authorized by section 3415 of Public Law 104-106 (10 U.S.C. 7420 Note), \$15,579,815, for payment to the State of California for the Teachers' Retirement Fund of the State, of which \$15,579,815 shall be derived from the Elk Hills School Lands Fund.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For necessary expenses for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$205,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$6,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$120,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 22, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Ms. KAPTUR (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this amendment regarding opportunities for small businesses on behalf of our able and dedicated colleague from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who had to return to Texas on very important official business this evening, and she is airborne, I believe, at this point. I am honored to offer it on her behalf.

Essentially, the amendment increases funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity by a minimal amount of \$500,000 offset by a reduction of like amount in funding for the Energy Information Administration. This amendment increases funding for the Department's Office of Minority Impact, which should be used to enhance the Department's engagement with minority programs and other related activities.

The Office of Economic Impact and Diversity is really a credit to Secretary of Energy Moniz's holistic view of diversity, which recognizes that participation via equal access is critical to our commitment to ensuring that the Department works for all Americans, particularly to improve the lives of low-income and minority communities, as well as our environment at large.

Twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing Federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

We need to highlight the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity because STEM education—science, technology, engineering, and math education—has become a real calling card.

The Department of Energy seeks to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chairman, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students but only 45 percent of undergraduates that are STEM degree holders. That is really quite a startling statistic. The women and minorities comprise 70 percent of college students. Only 45 percent of them that are undergraduates are STEM degree holders. That is almost a 2-to-1 ratio.

This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals. As the Nation's demographics are shifting and now most children under the age of 1 are minorities, it is critical that we take and close the gap in the number of minorities who seek STEM opportunities. I applaud the Secretary's commitment, which will increase the Nation's economic competitiveness and enable more of our people to realize their full potential and America's full potential.

Mr. Chairman, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved, and perhaps one of these days a minority engineer or biologist will come up with the solutions. The larger point is that we need to make more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for them and to make this country fully representative.

The funding provided by this amendment will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental sustainability, preservation, and health. Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings. In community education efforts, working with teachers and students, they can also learn about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects. In fact, many of the communities that these individuals live in are places where environmental cleanup is so desperately needed based on the legacy costs of our nuclear programs, for example.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs. The Department of Energy also works to increase low-income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees, as well as find employment.

The other offices within the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity are the Minority Business and Economic Development, the Minority Education and Community Development, Civil Rights Diversity and Inclusion, and the Council on Women and Girls and Minority Banks.

□ 1900

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can increase diversity, provide clean energy options to our most underserved community, and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness. Most importantly, businesses will have more consumers with whom they may engage in related commercial activities.

We must help our low-income and minority communities and ensure equity for those who are the most vulnerable in our country.

I ask our colleagues to join me in support of the Kaptur amendment, by way of SHEILA JACKSON LEE's amendment, for the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity program.

I ask for the support of my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their stewardship in bringing this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for DOE Office of Minority Impact by \$500,000, which should be used to enhance the Department's engagement with minorities programs and other related activities.

Mr. Chair, the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity is a paean to Energy Secretary Moniz's holistic view of diversity, which recognizes that participation via equal access is critical to our commitment to ensuring that the Department works for all Americans—particularly to improve the lives of low income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

I need to take time to highlight the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity because STEM education has become my calling card.

The Department of Energy seeks to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chair, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders.

This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals. As the nation's demographics are shifting and now most children under the age of one are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek STEM opportunities. I applaud the Secretary's commitment which will increase the nation's economic competitiveness and enable more of our people to realize their full potential.

Mr. Chair, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved—and perhaps

one of these days a minority engineer or biologist will come-up with some of the solutions.

The larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for them.

The funding provided by this amendment will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

The other offices within the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity are the Minority Business and Economic Development, the Minority Education and Community Development, Civil Rights, Diversity and Inclusion, Council on Women and Girls, and Minority Banks.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can increase diversity, provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities, and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

But most importantly businesses will have more consumers to whom they may engage in related commercial activities.

We must help our low income and minority communities and ensure equity for those who are most vulnerable in our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the Jackson Lee Amendment for the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity Program.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. KAPTUR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$241,174,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. REED

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will provide an additional \$4 million in funding to the nondefense environmental cleanup line of the subject bill by diverting money that otherwise would go to the D.C. bureaucracy and putting that money on the front line to this critical piece of necessary work that needs to be done across the country.

I would offer, Mr. Chairman, that this amendment supports public safety and health.

I recognize, Mr. Chairman, that we are operating in tough fiscal times, and I appreciate the work the subcommittee has done on appropriations by going through this bill in a very thoughtful and methodical way. It has offered a good piece of sound legislation.

However, I would ask that this amendment be considered and supported by my colleagues because what it fundamentally will do is provide the necessary resources for nuclear waste cleanup sites around the Nation and ensure that these dollars are spent at a level that recognizes the priority of these efforts to our country.

In our district, I have a site called the West Valley Demonstration Project that is one of these types of sites. I have heard from many of my constituents—the West Valley Citizens Task Force, in particular—that spend and devote a tremendous amount of time to this facility and this effort of cleaning up these nuclear waste sites across the country, and in particular the West Valley Demonstration Project site.

The information I received, Mr. Chairman, is that there is a need for consistent funding in this area, because if there is not, the long-term capability and the long-term cost to our country to clean these sites up significantly is increased because of the lack of consistency in the funding necessary to go through this tremendous remediation and stabilization efforts at these nuclear sites.

I am also pleased, Mr. Chairman, to rise with support on a bipartisan basis, working with Congressman HIGGINS, my colleague in New York, as well as Mr. MATHESON, who has joined us in these efforts to recognize across the country that this is a priority level type of effort that needs to be done for our nuclear waste sites across the country.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REED. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise to support this amendment. I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns about support for the ongoing cleanup efforts at the Department of Energy sites. This amendment is a small adjustment that will ensure continued progress to the West Valley Demonstration Project, and I am pleased to support this amendment.

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's support of that effort.

With that, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS. I appreciate Mr. REED yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment, which seeks to modestly increase the funding to the nondefense environmental cleanup program.

Passage of this amendment, as Mr. REED has said, will ensure nuclear cleanup sites across the country receive adequate funding, thereby protecting communities from the harmful effects of radioactive waste.

In western New York, as Mr. REED has said, the West Valley nuclear waste processing plant was established in 1966 in response to Federal calls to commercialize the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. When the facility terminated its operation only a few years later, it left in its wake more than 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste, a hazardous and unfortunate legacy that the community is still dealing with today.

This is a public safety and environmental hazard that we cannot ignore. The leakage of a plume of radioactive material at that site into groundwater underscores the danger posed by the proximity of the facility to streams that drain into Lake Erie. If this radioactive waste were to make its way into the Great Lakes, the effects would be devastating.

Simply put, it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to make sure that cleanup proceeds expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman, it is critical that we maintain our commitment to West Valley and other nuclear sites across the country by continuing to support remediation efforts.

I am proud to work with my friend and colleague, Congressman TOM REED, on this issue, and I urge support of this important bipartisan amendment.

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the subcommittee chairman for the support on this amendment. I thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle for joining us in this effort, and I ask that we support this amendment and move forward.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND
DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For necessary expenses in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$585,976,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 17 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, including two buses, \$5,071,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$180,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction: *Provided further*, That no funding may be made available for U.S. cash contributions to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project until its governing Council implements the recommendations of the Third Biennial International Organization Management Assessment Report: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may waive this requirement upon submission to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a determination that the Council is making satisfactory progress towards implementation of such recommendations.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 24, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$40,155,000)".

Page 28, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$40,155,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to increase overall spending for the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

The underlying bill provides a budget allocation approximately \$40 million below the President's request for the Office of Science. My amendment would restore the funding level to the President's request. Our national labs and the major user facilities housed at those labs are some of the greatest tools that we have to offer researchers and industry. My amendment would ensure that our national labs are on a sound footing to maintain our role as a global leader in innovation and scientific research.

The greatest long-term economic and national security threat that our country faces is the prospect of losing our role as world leaders in science and technology. Nothing is more critical to preserving our role as world leaders than the fundamental and applied scientific research that is supported by the DOE Office of Science.

As a physicist who worked at Fermi National Accelerator Lab for over 20 years, I understand the productivity and the potential of the Department of Energy's national lab system, their contributions to our economy, and the wide range of scientific research that they support.

The Chicago area is home to a number of scientific centers, including Fermilab and Argonne National Laboratory. The economic impact of Argonne and Fermilab in Illinois alone is estimated to be more than \$1.3 billion annually.

The work done at Argonne and Fermi national labs not only supports our local economy, employing roughly 5,000 people in Illinois, but it is critical to our Nation's long-term economic success.

Despite the economic benefits of scientific research, Federal investments in research and development are at historically low levels. In 2014, our Federal spending on R&D, both defense and nondefense, amounted to less than 1 percent of our GDP, a trend that simply must be reversed.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

We simply cannot sustain this downward trend and still expect to be at the cutting edge of scientific research and innovation.

The Office of Science is responsible for supporting research that is too big for any single company or university to develop. Our national labs are critical research tools to academics and industry alike. For example, Eli Lilly conducts nearly half of its drug discovery research at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne.

The Office of Science is also home to the Department's newest ventures, the innovation hubs, which seek to discover and develop the next generation of energy sources and delivery systems.

Programs like the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, headquartered at Argonne, and the Fuels from Sunlight Hub, headquartered at the California Institute of Technology, bring together multiple teams of researchers who are working to develop energy advancements that have the potential to transform energy systems.

The Office of Science also invests in fusion, a safe, clean, and sustainable energy source that has the scientific potential to provide the U.S. with en-

ergy independence and a nearly limitless energy supply.

Through the Office of Science's Biological and Environmental Research programs, we have become world leaders in biofuels research. This research is laying the foundation for a revolution in biofuel production that will help to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

And the list goes on.

The investments in the DOE Office of Science have also supported research driven by intellectual curiosity alone, such as the discovery science at the forefront of high energy and particle physics, astronomy, or the physics of ultracold atoms.

These investments have led to the development of new technology such as the construction of accelerators and detectors that enable our scientists to discover new particles, including the top quark, the heaviest known form of matter, and the Higgs boson, that help explain the fundamental nature of the universe.

But perhaps most importantly, the Office of Science has supported the training of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers for more than 60 years.

At a time of continuing economic stress, we must continue to develop the next generation of American technical workforce. As other world powers are growing and challenging our position as a global leader in science and innovation, we cannot afford to let the number of American scientists and researchers, or the quality of their research facilities, diminish.

Funding scientific research and development results in one of the highest return on investments that our Nation can make. It is essential that we continue to fully support funding for our national labs to preserve our global competitive advantage.

I rise in strong support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that the amendment proposes to shift funding from defense to nondefense functions.

Assuring funding for the modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile is a critical national security priority in this bill. Shifting funding between defense and nondefense allocations would have negative repercussions on every appropriations bill by exceeding the Ryan-Murray budget caps that trigger sequestration.

I share my colleague's support for the programs within the Office of Science, and I will be happy to work with him in the event we have additional funding for the basic energy science program in conference. However, I must oppose the amendment as

written, and urge others to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 24, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$300,000) (increased by \$300,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to offer this amendment on behalf of Representative RUSH HOLT, who is, even as we speak, being honored for his many years of service to science, to Congress, and to the citizens of New Jersey.

Our amendment simply transfers funds within the Department of Energy’s Office of Science account with the intent of restoring the National Undergraduate Fellowship Program, sometimes affectionately referred to NUF.

The Department of Energy’s FY 2015 budget request would zero out funding for NUF while increasing funding for the Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships, sometimes referred to as SULI.

□ 1915

Our amendment would simply reallocate the additional SULI funding back to NUF, allowing the program to continue. The elimination of NUF would reduce the overall slots available for those wishing to study plasma physics.

Additionally, the goal of NUF is to support a very specific workforce need, and an analysis of the numbers proves that this program has been remarkably successful, particularly in encouraging female participation in the sciences.

According to the data collected by program administrators, since 2000, almost three-quarters of the undergraduate students who have participated in NUF have entered a doctoral program in physics, and nearly half have studied plasma physics or related fields.

The program has succeeded in encouraging women to study plasma physics. The Division of Plasma Physics of the American Physical Society has a female composition of only 7 percent, yet 51 percent of female NUF participants enter a Ph.D. program, with almost half of those entering the plasma physics Ph.D. program.

I urge support for this amendment, which would restore the NUF program, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, the amendment would restore the funding for the National Undergraduate Fellowship Program within the Office of Science, which was proposed for elimination as part of the administration’s overall science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—or STEM’s—consolidation efforts.

I appreciate my colleague’s passion for the general science education. He has worked tirelessly to support efforts that advance American research in this area. I have no issues with his amendment, and I would encourage its adoption by voice vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this bill and for their support of this amendment.

Before I yield, Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a section from a June 21, 2014, report by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee, which assessed workforce development needs and the importance of a wide education pipeline:

A complete picture of the scientific workforce must be understood in the context of the broader education pipeline. There are many reports that discuss the challenge of training highly qualified individuals in the so-called STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—fields. We believe that a robust workforce for fusion energy sciences requires a wide pipeline that starts with precollege activities and ends with strong employment opportunities. This pipeline should also tap into the full potential of the American populace, with opportunities to attract women and groups that are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields.

The adoption of our amendment today will help address this point in part, but we would also like to state our opposition to the Department of Energy’s plan to remove precollege science education activities from its mission portfolio.

The Department of Energy labs provide world-class facilities, where students and scientists conduct groundbreaking research. These facilities should operate both as hubs of innovation and as research tools to engage students.

When young students and teachers are able to directly engage with our national labs, it inspires an interest and a passion for science beyond what any textbook or online resource could ever provide.

Both Representative HOLT and I worked at a national lab for many years before coming to Congress, and

we have witnessed firsthand how a young student’s time spent among researchers and experiments can inspire a lifelong interest in science.

We fear that, in limiting educational activities only to the Education Department, that we will further isolate the public from important scientific research that is being conducted in our national labs and that we will diminish science education in America overall.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-425), including the acquisition of real property or facility construction or expansion, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to call up amendment No. 15.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 24, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$150,000,000)”.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$150,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Nevada and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us directs \$150 million to be spent on “activities related to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.” For my constituents in southern Nevada, we know that that is code for “build the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository.”

After decades of losing time and over \$15 billion having been squandered on this boondoggle, the current administration has rightly said it is time for a new strategy.

Our colleagues in the Senate understand this need to turn the page, which is why Senators WYDEN and MURKOWSKI introduced bipartisan legislation that creates a new system for the disposal of the Nation’s nuclear waste.

Unfortunately, some in this body still believe that we should force nuclear waste that has been created in their districts on a region that does not have a single nuclear power plant.

What started decades ago as a law authorizing the study and the selection of two geological depositories suitable for the permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel has now transformed into politics at its worst.

With the passage of the “screw Nevada” bill in 1987, which designated Yucca Mountain as the sole repository for the Nation’s nuclear waste prior to the completion of adequate scientific evaluation, the goal shifted from how to find the best site for storage to how to force Nevada to take all of this waste—science and common sense be damned.

As the years passed, billions of dollars were wasted, and the misguided Yucca project changed from being a geologic depository to a manmade structure, with barriers erected to attempt to mitigate the tectonic fault lines that run directly under the mountain, threatening the geohydrology of the area with leaking radioactive waste.

The original plan was ill-conceived, and studies conducted over the past few decades clearly illustrate the dangers and costs associated with the project. Unfortunately, you can add the passage of legislation to institute a new national nuclear waste policy to the growing list of issues this Congress has now failed to address.

In the absence of coherent policy, I offer this amendment today to use the funding appropriated for carrying out the failed Yucca Mountain plan to reduce our deficit.

Instead of wasting tens of millions of dollars more on an unworkable solution, let’s instead meet our fiduciary obligations to future generations. At the same time, let us commit to moving forward with a new policy to address the Nation’s nuclear waste, one that relies on a consent-based system, so that it doesn’t force waste on communities like mine.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and send a clear message that this Congress will not continue to go backwards, but that it will take serious action to address our Nation’s nuclear waste policy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlelady’s passion with which she speaks about that, and I understand it, but when she says the failed Yucca Mountain policy, I have to remind her that Yucca Mountain is the law of the land. The policy of Yucca Mountain has not failed, and Yucca Mountain has not failed.

What happened is that someone running for the Presidency of the United States needed four electoral votes—or five or however many it was—in Nevada, so he promised the citizens of Nevada that he would shut down Yucca Mountain, regardless of what the law said, and that is what happened.

We can argue as to whether Yucca Mountain is the right place or not. I

think there have been 52 or 53 studies done on Yucca Mountain. It is the most studied piece of earth on this Earth. We know more about it than anywhere else; yet, for political reasons, we have stopped it, and it will truly be a \$15 billion waste if we don’t proceed.

What we do in this bill is tell the administration to proceed with following the law, so I oppose the gentlelady’s amendment.

I now yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), who has been an advocate and an ardent supporter of this for many years here in Congress.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank my colleague.

To my friends from Nevada, I, too, understand their issues of concern, and we look forward to working with them.

To the Appropriations Committee, you have done great work.

Mr. Chairman, there have been two laws passed: the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and the amendments offered in 1987. It is the law of the land. In fact, the Federal courts have ruled in favor of the law of the land. That is why we are where we are today.

The gentlelady’s amendment would say: take the money away for finishing the court-mandated scientific study. She even mentioned in her opening comments of the scientific research.

The Federal courts have said: DOE—the Federal Government—finish the scientific study. Her amendment would take that money away.

We are going to find out, through the scientific study, that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is going to end up saying that this is the best place on the planet Earth for the long-term nuclear storage of waste.

It is going to be safe for a million years, and that is going to come if we reject this amendment; but if we accept this amendment, it is their last chance to pull money away from finishing the court-mandated scientific study. That is what her amendment would do.

I know my colleagues here don’t believe that I am all science-based, but in this case, I am. We have an independent commission that is ready to finish its work and render a decision, and all we are asking is to let us do it.

If the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it is not safe, we are done, right, Chairman? Yet, if it is safe for a million years, I think the folks from Nevada are going to say: Okay. Let’s work together to make this feasible. Let’s bring jobs and economic growth.

The State of Nevada can’t rely on gaming for economic growth and development. By closing Yucca Mountain down, you have lost high-paying Federal jobs in the scientific arena, and for a State that has such a need for jobs and a diversification of economy to reject this is really hard.

We are pledging right here—and the chairman is here also—that, as this moves forward and as we get a rendered

decision that this location is safe, we are going to work with the State of Nevada to make sure the transportation location is safe; that the infrastructure is in place; and that the jobs, economic growth, and economy occurs.

That is what we plan to do, and I pledge here today my full support to being with the State of Nevada in jobs, in growth, and development as they diversify their economy.

Remember, Yucca Mountain is about 90 miles northeast of Las Vegas. It is in the desert, and it is underneath a mountain. There is not a lot there. I have been there a couple of times.

We are appreciative of the nuclear heritage of the State of Nevada. The law is the law of the land. It was passed and signed into law. It is time that we not jettison the \$15 billion and 30 years. Let’s finish the project.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for what you have done. I think we will get a chance to talk on this one more time in an additional amendment. I appreciate all you have done.

We look forward to moving this process forward, so that not just our spent nuclear fuel, but our defense waste has a long-term geological repository.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman’s concern for the State of Nevada and its economy, and I invite him to come back again and spend some of his money there.

I also appreciate his argument that this is the law of the land. Indeed, the Affordable Care Act is also the law of the land, but that hasn’t stopped the other side from trying, over 50 times, to change it.

I now yield to my colleague from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you to the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to support the amendment offered by my colleague, Congresswoman DINA TITUS, from District One.

As she has so eloquently indicated and as I stand here today as the Representative who actually has Yucca Mountain in his district, first and foremost, we probably should start by pronouncing our State the way that people in Nevada say it, which is Nevada and not Nevada.

If we are going to screw Nevada by bringing nuclear waste and trying to store it in our State, we should start by recognizing that the people of Nevada hold dear to what is important to our State.

I oppose efforts to fund the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project. Any avenues for the activation of this project should be blocked. Potential funding for the storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain should be put to better use, whether it is to reduce our deficit or to fund other essential government programs.

Nuclear storage at Yucca Mountain is a failed and unworkable proposal. There are investments that we have made in Yucca Mountain already, as my colleague has said—some \$15 billion—and we should find an appropriate alternative use for this site.

□ 1930

But as it stands, this is a project that has been flawed from the start, and it remains flawed today.

This isn't about one political party or another. Our State has worked across the aisle for decades, from our Governor, Brian Sandoval, who is a Republican, to Senator DEAN HELLER, to others.

So this is not a partisan issue, this is a states' rights issue, and the people of Nevada reject you storing your nuclear waste in our backyard.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—
ENERGY

For necessary expenses in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538), \$280,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$28,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 24, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase funding for the Advanced Research Project Agency for Energy, otherwise known as ARPA-E. The bill provides \$280 million for ARPA-E, which is \$45 million less than the President's request. It also represents less than half of the difference between the committee mark and the President's request, with the increase offset by a reduction in the Department administrative account.

At the outset, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of our subcommittee for the level of funding provided to ARPA-E this year, which is a substantial improvement over last year's House mark which cut the program by 80 percent. However, I think that rather than providing flat funding, we should be stepping up our commitment to a potentially game-changing research program, and that is what my amendment does.

This is a very modest investment for an agency whose work is helping to reshape our economy. While the amendment would leave us still short of where the funding should be and where it is in the President's budget, passing it would send a strong signal that there is bipartisan support for this kind of research. Last year, I offered a similar amendment to restore funding to ARPA-E in this fiscal year 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which was adopted by a bipartisan majority in the House.

Started in 2009, ARPA-E is a revolutionary program that advances high-potential, high-impact energy technologies that are too early for private sector investment. ARPA-E projects have the potential to radically improve U.S. economic security, national security, and environmental well-being. ARPA-E empowers America's energy researchers with funding, technical assistance, and market readiness.

ARPA-E is modeled after the highly successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, which has produced groundbreaking inventions for the Department of Defense and the Nation, perhaps most notably the Internet itself. A key element of both agencies is that managers are limited to fixed terms so that new blood continuously revitalizes the research portfolio.

As we cut spending to return the budget to balance, we must not weaken those programs that are vital to our economic future and national security, and ARPA-E is just such an agency. Even if we can't make the investment that the President has called for in his budget, let's be sure that we don't hinder an agency that is pointing the way to a more energy-secure future.

Energy is a national security issue. It is an economic imperative. It is a health concern, and it is an environmental necessity. Investing wisely in this type of research going on at ARPA-E is exactly the direction we should be going as a nation. We want to lead the energy revolution. We don't want to see this advantage go to China or anywhere else in the world.

If we are serious about staying in the forefront of the energy revolution, we must continue to fully invest in the kind of cutting-edge work that ARPA-E represents. By providing the funding I am recommending today, we will send a clear signal of the seriousness of our

intent to remain world leaders in energy.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to reluctantly—and I do mean reluctantly—oppose the amendment.

The amendment would increase funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, ARPA-E, as has been mentioned, by \$20 million using funds from the departmental administration as an offset.

I share my colleague's support for advanced research; that is why the bill before us already provides \$280 million for ARPA-E. That is the highest funding level the Agency has ever received in an annual appropriation, equal to last year's, with all funding going to fully fund new projects over the next three years. Put another way, this bill funds ARPA-E at \$210 million more than last year's House bill did. This is the highest level of funding that ARPA-E has ever received. In addition, the bill fully funds ARPA-E's open solicitation to support the most promising new energy technologies out there. However, we still have to work within our overall budget allocation.

While I support ARPA-E's program, we must abide by our allocation. Although I am sympathetic to reducing the size of government, we cannot support taking \$20 million from the departmental administration. This would do more than just trim the fat beyond what is simply wasteful and ineffective; it would slash funding that would result in approximately 143 people being laid off within the Department of Energy. These are jobs with real impacts on families. Therefore, I must oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the chairman for his comments, and I appreciate his opposition. I appreciate his reluctance even more than his opposition.

I know the chairman has a large fan company in his district he is very proud of, and justifiably so. Those big fans need energy, Mr. Chairman. They need a good efficient energy, and ARPA-E is just the kind of agency to deliver that.

ARPA-E, as our own mark and committee report notes, supports research that is aimed at rapidly developing energy technology whose development and commercialization is still too risky to attract sufficient private sector investment but is capable of significantly changing the energy sector to address our critical economic and energy security challenges. That is an excellent description of ARPA-E.

By providing robust funding, we can help this vital Agency continue working on a wide range of programs that

will benefit the United States, both in the short-term and for many years to come. These programs include improvements in petroleum refining processes, heating and cooling technologies with exceptionally high energy efficiency, and transportation fuel alternatives to greatly reduce our dependence on imported oil.

So my colleague need not be so reluctant. He can join in support of this amendment. Again, it would basically split the difference between where the bill is now and what the President has asked for. It is a little less than the difference between the two.

But our competitiveness in this global economy, where we have to compete with labor that costs a fraction of what American workers cost, depends on research and development. We don't want to get in a race to the bottom with the developing world on what we pay our workers, so that means that we have to remain the most productive in the world. This is an agency that helps us do it, and I urge support for the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

**TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN
GUARANTEE PROGRAM**

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(b)) under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That, for necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, \$42,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That \$25,000,000 of the fees collected pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account to cover administrative expenses and shall remain available until expended, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$17,000,000: *Provided further*, That fees collected under section 1702(h) in excess of the amount appropriated for administrative expenses shall not be available until appropriated: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

**ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES
MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM**

For administrative expenses in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading, \$6,600,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$255,171,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$119,171,000 in fiscal year 2015 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$136,000,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman and Members, I am pleased to offer this amendment regarding additional resources for environmental justice on behalf of our esteemed colleague, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who had to return to Texas this evening on very important official business.

The amendment is on page 26 of the 60-page bill, and it reprograms funding for the Department of Energy's departmental administration to increase support for environmental justice program activities by \$1 million, offset by a reduction of like amount in funding for departmental corporate information technology programs. The amendment

increases funding for the Department, and the program is an essential tool in the Department's effort to improve the lives of low-income and minority communities, as well as the environment at large.

Twenty years ago, when President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898 that directed Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, America walked toward a new horizon, and we began to understand that a healthy environment sustains a productive and healthy community which fosters personal and economic growth.

Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the community and environment. The funding of these programs is vital to ensuring that minority groups are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environment and the continued preservation of their homes.

It is amazing to go through some of these communities and neighborhoods across our country and to look at issues like lead-based paint or, importantly, dumps from prior decades that have been covered over but are leaching everything from low-level radioactive waste to toxic pollutants that have been buried there for years and people are living right next door, sometimes on top of these situations. It is unbelievable.

In Ohio, it is amazing how many toxic sites have to be cleaned up, and it is not the only place. If you look at maps across our country of unattended environmental cleanups, it is staggering, and it is important to see who lives on top of or next door to these places.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their own surroundings. America has to behave differently in 2014 than we did in 1900 or 1950 or 1980.

Funds that would be awarded to this important cause would increase youth involvement in STEM fields and also promote clean energy, weatherization, cleanup, and asset revitalization. These improvements would provide protections to our most vulnerable groups.

This program provides better access to technology for underserved communities and, together, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture have distributed over 5,000 computers to many of these low-income populations.

The Community Leaders Institute is another vital component of the environmental justice program. It ensures

those in leadership positions understand what is happening in their communities and can, therefore, make informed decisions.

These programs have been expanded to better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, creating a prime example of how various other minority groups can be assisted as well.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefited by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, and the Department also works to increase low-income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees, as well as find employment.

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Since 2002, the tribal energy program has also funded 175 energy projects, amounting to over \$41.8 million in order to help tribes invest in renewable sources of energy.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities and help improve their environments, yielding better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

In fiscal year 2013, the environmental justice program was not funded. For fiscal year 2014, we ask that money be appropriated for the continuation of this vital initiative. We must help our low-income and minority communities, and ensure equality for those who are the most vulnerable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Kaptur amendment, which actually is the Jackson Lee amendment, to improve the environmental justice program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for DOE departmental administration by \$1,000,000 which should be used to enhance the Department's Environmental Justice program activities.

Mr. Chair, the Environmental Justice Program is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

A healthy environment sustains a productive and healthy community which fosters personal and economic growth.

Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the community and environment.

The funding of these programs is vital to ensuring that minority groups are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environment and the continued preservation of their homes.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

IMPORTANCE OF DOE'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Funds that would be awarded to this important cause would increase youth involvement in STEM fields and also promote clean energy, weatherization, clean-up, and asset revitalization. These improvements would provide protection to our most vulnerable groups.

This program provides better access to technology for underserved communities. Together, the Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture have distributed over 5,000 computers to low income populations.

The Community Leaders Institute is another vital component of the Environmental Justice Program. It ensures that those in leadership positions understand what is happening in their communities and can therefore make informed decisions in regards to their communities.

In addition to promoting environmental sustainability, CLI also brings important factors including public health and economic development into the discussion for community leaders.

The CLI program has been expanded to better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, which is a prime example of how various other minority groups can be assisted as well.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefited by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

Since 2002, the Tribal Energy Program has also funded 175 energy projects amounting to over \$41.8 million in order to help tribes invest in renewable sources of energy.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

In fiscal year 2013, the environmental justice program was not funded. For fiscal year 2014, we ask that money be appropriated for the continuation of this vital initiative.

We must help our low income and minority communities and ensure equality for those who are most vulnerable in our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the Jackson Lee Amendment for the Environmental Justice Program.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$42,120,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY

ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed 4 passenger vehicles, \$8,204,209,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$97,118,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 28, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,600,000)".

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$7,600,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, it is time we take a smarter approach to our nuclear weapons strategy.

I rise today to offer a reasonable amendment that ensures that taxpayer dollars are not wasted on a weapon that the Pentagon is not even sure we will have the capability to use. My amendment simply cuts the extra \$7.6 million above what the NNSA has requested for the next generation long-range cruise missile's nuclear warhead.

This is a modest cut, one that allows the program to move forward at the requested level of \$9.4 million. The reason behind the cut is clear: this funding is for the development of a warhead to be used on a cruise missile that the Pentagon has yet to approve. Given this, there is simply no reason for the NNSA to rush forward with investments on this warhead. And Congress definitely shouldn't be spending taxpayer dollars beyond the NNSA's request to do so.

To get a better idea of what we are spending our constituents' money on,

let's walk through this program. This warhead is being developed for the next generation long-range cruise missile. The weapon it will replace, the air-launched cruise missile, isn't being phased out until the 2030s.

This year, the Pentagon delayed the development of this new cruise missile by 3 more years and has yet to set exact requirements for the missile or necessary warhead.

Despite there being no rush, this bill pushes extra money into developing that warhead. There are also serious questions about whether we will even need these new cruise missiles, given the technological advances we have already made.

The next generation long-range bombers will be big, expensive stealth bombers able to penetrate enemy airspace to drop their bombs without being detected. We are spending a small fortune on the B-61 bomb life extension for that advanced capability.

The B-2 stealth bomber, which this next-generation bomber will replace, doesn't carry a cruise missile. Advanced American stealth bombers don't need the capability to send a cruise missile from a bomber 1,000 miles away. We pay for very expensive submarines and very expensive ICBMs for that capability.

So ask yourselves: Should we be adding money above the request for a warhead that goes on a missile that the Pentagon doesn't even know it wants and one we probably don't even need?

Over the next few years, we will be spending billions on our nuclear weapons budget alone. Let me name a few of the things we need to pay for all at the same time:

The many NNSA life extension programs, such as the increasingly costly B-61 program; 100 next generation long-range bombers; ICBM refurbishment and possibly the next generation of ICBMs; plus 12 nuclear-armed Ohio-class replacement submarines.

At a time when we have so many other important projects at both the Pentagon and at the NNSA, the dollars and manpower spent on refurbishing this warhead for a cruise missile that does not yet exist are dollars and manpower the Pentagon and the NNSA could be using on bombers, subs, or even soldiers.

That is why I ask my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment to take an important step towards a more reasonable, sensible nuclear weapons strategy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, the bill provides \$8.2 billion for NNSA's weapons activities, an increase of \$423 million over fiscal year 2014 and \$111 million below the budget request.

The bill takes advantage of all opportunities to reduce funding for activities that are not essential to maintaining the stockpile while making sure the highest priority needs are met.

Assuring funding for modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile is a critical national security priority in this bill. This includes the full \$17 million in the bill to initiate early conceptual studies for a cruise missile warhead life extension program, \$7.6 million above the budget request.

The additional funding is a modest amount that will ensure an appropriate set of alternatives is being considered. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois.

As chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I am deeply familiar with our nuclear forces. In this case, we are talking about the long-range standoff weapon, LRSO, which is the follow-on replacement for the existing air-launched cruise missile, or ALCM.

The fleet of existing ALCMs are old and their reliability is declining. We have heard directly from the U.S. Strategic Command that they are well past their service life and have military effectiveness concerns. Projected adversary air defense improvements will impact its effectiveness even more. And this is a weapons system we are planning to sustain until 2030.

We need to start development of the nuclear warhead for the LRSO next year to meet the 2030 deployment date. The funding that this amendment seeks to eliminate is critical to getting this effort started and on-track.

The disarm-America crowd will say there is no military requirement for this weapon. On the contrary, I have here a letter from the Under Secretary of Defense for acquisitions, technology, and logistics, stating: "The Department of Defense has established a military requirement for a nuclear capable standoff cruise missile for the bomber leg of the U.S. triad."

There is a clear military requirement for LRSO. Preserving long-range cruise missile capability is a critical component of the U.S. strategic and extended deterrence strategies. Gravity bombs and conventional weapons cannot provide the same deterrence and defense effects. There is a clear national security imperative for LRSO.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the gentleman's amendment. It

simply reduces the long-range standoff missile study to the President's request.

Given the National Nuclear Security Administration's dismal record on both life extension projects and construction projects, cost overruns like we have never seen before, I think it is wise to take a considered approach to any new system and any new study.

So I support the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort. Support the Quigley amendment.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, the NNSA has a tough enough job as it is developing nuclear weapons and handling and restoring the weapons that we already have. We have to make choices here. This is a weapon that won't be needed until 2030, if it is needed at all. They don't need additional money beyond that which is requested.

I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,592,156,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds provided by this Act for Project 99-D-143, Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, and by prior Acts that remain unobligated for such Project, may be made available only for construction and program support activities for such Project: *Provided further*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$37,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FORTENBERRY

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 29, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$25,000,000) (increased by \$25,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Nebraska and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to commend Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for bringing this bill to the floor. I am a proud member of this subcommittee. Their work is quite remarkable. And it is one of the subcommittees that tries to achieve a harmonious balance of bipartisanship in a very difficult and divided environment. I want to thank them both for that.

Mr. Chairman, most Americans may not realize, even though this is an Energy and Water bill, that there are important components of our national security buried within this bill. There is our nonproliferation regimen by which we help secure fissile materials and the technology that could potentially go with the development of nuclear weapons capability and it falling into the hands of the wrong people. This is very, very important work.

My amendment seeks to move \$25 million from the mixed oxide fuel program and move it into the defense nuclear nonproliferation accounts, such as the global threat reduction initiative and other similar accounts.

The reason I am offering this is I am very concerned about the future of the mixed oxide, the MOX, fuel program. So is the Department of Energy. So is the administration. So is our committee. Everyone is very concerned about the potential viability of this program which we have already spent \$4 billion of taxpayer money on.

This bill currently calls for about \$350 million to be spent. The judgment of the committee is that it is necessary to do this, to put it on what I call a ready standby phase so that if the Department of Energy can come back to us and tell us that MOX has some viability in the future, that we will be ready to move it forward without spending enormous new amounts of money, versus what the administration has suggested in terms of putting it into cold storage.

If they determine it is viable, then we would have to spend a lot more to ramp it up. If it is not determined to be viable, then the cold storage route may have been the more prudent thing to do, which, as I recall, the administration wants to spend about \$175 million on, if I have that correct, on the mixed oxide fuel plant.

Well, this causes a real dilemma for me because, again, we have got a situation in which our other accounts in the nonproliferation area are coming down. So it would seem to me prudent, if I was making this decision on my own, to actually move some money from an uncertain future in the mixed oxide fuel regimen into the nonproliferation

accounts, such as the global threat reduction initiative.

However, one more caveat. On our nonproliferation reduction initiatives, there is also some uncertainty as to whether or not the Department of Energy can absorb the capacity of new money. It is not clear on how we would apply that. So there are some significant dynamics here that I think lend itself to further consideration.

Now, I am very grateful to the chairman in hearing me out, having heard these concerns when we are debating this on the committee as well as the ranking member's sensitivity to these whole dynamics.

I am going to withdraw this amendment. But I would ask that as we are moving forward—not in the next year, but in the next few weeks, as we complete these appropriations bills, that we urge the Department of Energy to give us some clarity about the real trajectory of the mixed oxide fuel, the MOX, program. And if we determine that its future is not viable, we need to stop wasting money now. We need to pull it into other areas that make more sense, that are higher public goods, that help stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the fissile materials that would go into them.

This is not a simple policy debate. I get that. We are trying to make judgment calls with a lack of information here. But it seems to me that if you are prioritizing something, it is the nuclear nonproliferation initiatives and reframing that for the 21st century. It is time that we do that.

The Department of Energy has suggested to us that they are ready to work hand-in-glove with us on thinking through a dynamic, new robust policy for nonproliferation.

With that, I would hope that the chairman will give assent to my request and continue to work aggressively with me on how we creatively construct this moving forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the way in which the gentleman is addressing two very important issues. The committee has decided that the Department hasn't yet told us what their option is if MOX were to close down.

We are asking for real cost estimates. There are differences of opinion about what the cost estimates for the life cycle of MOX are. So we have asked for further clarification.

And as the gentleman rightly stated, if we put it in cold standby and the decision is to proceed with MOX from the Department, it is going to cost us much more to bring it back up, which is why we have chosen the path that we have chosen.

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The gentleman is also correct that I am as supportive and I think my ranking member is also—in fact, I think most of the Members on our subcommittee are—that nonproliferation is a very important issue. The question is: Can the Department spend \$25 million more, and what will we get for that?

I want to work with you to make sure that we are doing the right thing and the intelligent thing in both arenas, so I appreciate the attitude that the gentleman is displaying in this.

I know there are a couple of individuals who would like to speak for a moment on MOX, so I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership, and Ranking Member KAPTUR, for your leadership in bringing this bill before us today.

I appreciate very much the Congressman from Nebraska and his interest in the global threat reduction initiative. It is very worthy, but I also want to point out that I am very grateful that the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility is located in the district that I represent.

It is part of the Savannah River site, and actually, I represent a portion of the site and so does Congressman JIM CLYBURN of the Sixth Congressional District. This is really bipartisan, our support of the mixed oxide fuel fabrication facility.

Mr. Chairman, this facility really is crucial for environmental cleanup. It is very crucial to fulfill the nuclear nonproliferation agreement that we have with the Russian Federation. The site is over 60 percent completed.

You are right that \$3.9 billion has already been spent, but the site will have such a positive impact by reducing what is already there—34 metric tons of weapons grade plutonium—and it is made into green fuel, part of the fuel for nuclear power production for our country.

Additionally, it will fulfill the agreement that we have with the Russian Federation, to do away with weapons grade plutonium and encourage them to do the same.

I want you to be aware that this is actually proven technology. There has been a facility built in France already that has provided and proven that this will work, and the other alternatives that have been proposed in the National Defense Authorization Act, we have asked for a study, but it is very clear that the most efficient and most beneficial to the American people and national security is to complete the MOX facility.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I join the chairman and Mr. WILSON in opposition to this, and I appreciate Mr. FORTENBERRY's withdrawing because of so much of what has already been said. This project actually is about 70 percent complete. It has been supported by three different administrations, authorized by Congress, and is written into an international nonproliferation agreement.

In fact, \$4.7 billion has been spent, and this is money that has already been invested, and whenever we stop or put it on a cold start or cold standby, as this administration already has done, it ends up costing more money for the project.

The best thing to do is to complete this and send that signal internationally, but also to keep those jobs locally, which is so important for the Augusta, South Carolina, area.

I believe that if we, as Members of Congress, want to be responsible stewards of tax dollars, the best thing to do is to defeat this amendment, should it be offered, but, more importantly, get this thing completed.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this and appreciate his letting me speak.

Mr. SIMPSON. Again, Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman from Nebraska for both his consideration of this and his passion in this arena for what may be, in the long run, the most important thing this committee does.

So I appreciate working with him and look forward to working with you to try to address this as we answer these questions as rapidly as we can.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your understanding of the importance of this debate.

I ran a simple calculation. If we are going to consider this an important jobs bill, that is \$233,000 per job that we are about to spend. That is a hefty, hefty price for a jobs bill.

Saying we have completed 60 percent of it at \$4 billion, but we are not sure of its viability in the future is like saying we don't know where we are going, but any road will do. I am worried about that.

Maybe it becomes viable, maybe it still maintains a status in terms of our nuclear proliferation regime, but maybe not. We have got to get to this answer because we don't want to waste any more money, or we need to invest properly, moving forward, in the future.

That will be something that will actually help us reduce the probability of fissile materials spreading internationally.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FORTENBERRY. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. First of all, I want to thank the gentleman for his erudite presentation this evening and for the manner in which he has handled the issue.

I appreciate what you have proposed on nonproliferation, very underfunded in the accounts, in my opinion, and we look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NAVAL REACTORS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,215,342,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$41,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Administrator in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$386,863,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$12,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one sport utility vehicle, one heavy duty truck, two ambulances, and one ladder fire truck for replacement only, \$4,801,280,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$280,784,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$754,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount,

\$249,378,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for the Black Canyon Trout Hatchery and, in addition, for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2015, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and of marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, and including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, \$7,220,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$7,220,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$73,579,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and of marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$46,240,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$34,840,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than

\$11,400,000: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$53,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, \$304,402,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$296,321,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$211,030,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than \$93,372,000, of which \$85,291,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$260,510,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That, for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$4,727,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$4,499,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Adminis-

tration activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2015, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$802,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further*, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, \$304,389,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$5,400,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the offices of the Commissioners: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$304,389,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2015 shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs", enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "Bill" column in the "Department of Energy" table included under the heading "Title III—Department of Energy" in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming which would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made

available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 40, line 8, insert "the number of proposals or applications submitted for the award, documentation of the basis for selection of award recipient," after "of the award."

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oklahoma and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I am extremely pleased that the appropriators and this chairman have included a requirement that discretionary grants awarded by the Department of Energy must be disclosed to the House and the Senate in a timely manner, and they must include information about where these funds are going.

This is a very positive step forward towards greater transparency and greater ability for this body to have oversight over agencies in the millions of dollars that are being spent on grants.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment that I am offering perfects that information about those grants and their ability to be disclosed. In addition to the money, where it would go, and whom it would go towards, it is critical that we know how many entities actually competed for these awards and how the winner was actually selected, so that we know the full transparency of the process itself.

Agencies have a tremendous amount of discretion, and they provide millions of dollars to grantees. It is incredibly important that Congress fulfill their responsibility of oversight. Shining a light on how these decisions will be made will allow for critical independent assessments of how the DOE spends its money.

Mr. Chairman, these additions I suggest are relatively minor, but it will go a long way to giving Congress greater data on how the Department of Energy functions with their grant process.

I applaud the committee for acknowledging how important disclosure is for this agency and for all accountability, and I hope that this is a positive sign of how we will handle oversight for all agencies and for all grants.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's intent, and I will be happy to work with him as we move forward in conference, but at this time, I must insist upon my point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment inserts additional legislative language and is not merely perfecting.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

The gentleman from Idaho makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma proposes to change existing law in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

Under settled precedent, where legislative language is permitted to remain in a general appropriation bill, a germane amendment merely perfecting that language and not adding further legislation is in order, but an amendment effecting further legislation is not in order.

The Chair finds that the pending section of the bill contains legislative language prescribing certain notifications and reports by the Secretary of Energy. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma seeks to expand those notifications and reports to include additional information, such as the number of proposals or applications submitted for the award.

As such, the amendment does not merely perfect the pending legislative language.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 302. The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established

pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

Mr. SIMPSON (during the reading).

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 51, line 2, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The text of that portion of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 303. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Independent Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 306. (a) Any determination (including a determination made prior to the date of enactment of this Act) by the Secretary pursuant to section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)), as amended, shall be valid for not more than 2 calendar years subsequent to such determination.

(b) Not less than 30 days prior to the provision of uranium in any form the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of—

(1) the amount of uranium to be provided;

(2) an estimate by the Secretary of the gross fair market value of the uranium on the expected date of the provision of the uranium;

(3) the expected date of the provision of the uranium;

(4) the recipient of the uranium; and

(5) the value the Secretary expects to receive in exchange for the uranium, including any adjustments to the gross fair market value of the uranium.

(c) If on the expected date of provision, the estimated gross fair market value of the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), comprising of uranium and conversion, is more than 10 percent lower than the gross fair market value on the date the most recent determination was signed by the Secretary, the Secretary shall issue a new determination pursuant to section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)) before the provision can be processed.

SEC. 307. Notwithstanding section 301(c) of this Act, none of the funds made available under the heading "Department of Energy—

Energy Programs—Science” may be used for a multiyear contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction Agreement of \$1,000,000 or less unless the contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction Agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award.

SEC. 308. In fiscal year 2015 and subsequent fiscal years, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as defined in U.S.C. 101(a)(16)) a report, on each major warhead refurbishment program that reaches the Phase 6.3 milestone, that provides an analysis of alternatives. Such report shall include—

(1) a full description of alternatives considered prior to the award of Phase 6.3;

(2) a comparison of the costs and benefits of each of those alternatives, to include an analysis of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives against each alternative considered;

(3) identification of the cost and risk of critical technology elements associated with each alternative, including technology maturity, integration risk, manufacturing feasibility, and demonstration needs;

(4) identification of the cost and risk of additional capital asset and infrastructure capabilities required to support production and certification of each alternative;

(5) a comparative analysis of the risks, costs, and scheduling needs for any military requirement intended to enhance warhead safety, security, or maintainability, including any requirement to consolidate and/or integrate warhead systems or mods as compared to at least one other feasible refurbishment alternative the Nuclear Weapons Council considers appropriate; and

(6) a life-cycle cost estimate for the alternative selected that details the overall cost, scope, and schedule planning assumptions.

SEC. 309. (a) Unobligated balances available from prior year appropriations are hereby permanently rescinded from the following accounts of the Department of Energy in the specified amounts:

(1) “Energy Programs—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy”, \$18,111,000.

(2) “Energy Programs—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability”, \$4,809,000.

(3) “Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”, \$1,046,000.

(4) “Energy Programs—Fossil Energy Research and Development”, \$8,243,000.

(5) “Energy Programs—Science”, \$5,257,000.

(6) “Energy Programs—Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy”, \$619,000.

(7) “Power Marketing Administrations—Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration”, \$1,720,000.

(b) No amounts may be rescinded by this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 310. From funds made available by this Act for pension plan payments in excess of legal requirements, up to \$90,000,000 under “Weapons Activities” and up to \$30,000,000 under “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” may be transferred to “Defense Environmental Cleanup” to support decontamination and other requirements at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

SEC. 311. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any prior Act under the heading “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” may be made available for contracts with, or Federal assistance to, the Russian Federation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such activity is in the national security interests of the United States. This waiver authority may not be delegated.

(c) A waiver under subsection (b) shall not be effective until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in classified form if necessary, a report on the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 312. All balances under “United States Enrichment Corporation Fund” are hereby permanently rescinded. No amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 313. (a) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act making appropriations for Energy and Water Development for any fiscal year or funds available in the SPR Petroleum Account in this and subsequent fiscal years may be used to carry out a test drawdown and sale or exchange of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as authorized by section 161(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(g)) unless the Secretary of Energy submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not less than 30 full calendar days in advance of such test—

(1) notification of intent to conduct a test;

(2) an explanation of why such a test is necessary or what is expected to be learned;

(3) the amount of crude oil or refined petroleum product to be offered for sale or exchange;

(4) an estimate of revenues expected from such test; and

(5) a plan for refilling the Reserve, including whether the acquisition will be of the same or of a different petroleum product.

(b) None of the funds made available by this or any prior Act or funds available in the SPR Petroleum Account may be used to acquire any petroleum product other than crude oil.

SEC. 314. Of the funds authorized by the Secretary of Energy for laboratory directed research and development, no individual program, project, or activity funded by this or any subsequent Energy and Water Development appropriations Act for any fiscal year may be charged more than the statutory maximum authorized for such activities.

SEC. 315. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled “Standards Ceiling Fans and Ceiling Fan Light Kits” and identified by regulation identification number 1904-AC87.

TITLE IV—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, notwithstanding 40 U.S.C. 14704, and for necessary expenses for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$80,317,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out

activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$29,150,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

The Acting CHAIR. Are there any amendments to that section of the bill? The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(b)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses of the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 51, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Ohio and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, my amendment eliminates funding for the Denali Commission and uses the nearly \$10 million in savings to pay down our \$17.5 trillion national debt. It is a relatively small amount in relation to our national debt, but nonetheless, I believe it is a step in the right direction. For those who don't know, the Denali Commission is one of seven regional commissions that help direct Federal funds to State and local projects. However, unlike the other commissions, the Denali Commission serves only one State, Alaska, making it a little more than an unnecessary middleman.

Many people would argue, including myself, that American taxpayers would be better served if Federal funds were distributed directly to the State of Alaska or to Alaskan communities.

After all, State and local governments are more knowledgeable and better equipped than the Federal Government to address the needs of local communities.

I am not the only one calling for an end to the 15-year-old Denali experiment. Last October, in his semiannual report to Congress, former inspector general of the Denali Commission, Mike Marsh, recommended that Congress eliminate Denali's funding in order to transition the Commission into a locally run and operated entity.

On Friday, September 27, 2013, The Washington Post ran a front-page article, this one here, entitled "Fire Me," in which Mike Marsh, the inspector general, requested that Congress fire him and everybody that worked with him. He is quoted as saying:

I have concluded that my agency is a congressional experiment that hasn't worked out in practice. I recommend that Congress put its money elsewhere.

That is the inspector general for the Denali Commission.

Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget and the CBO have recommended the elimination of this Commission.

Additionally, as the former inspector general's report details, the projects funded by the Denali Commission are often wasteful and shortsighted.

For example, the Commission has spent millions on microsettlements. Records show that the Denali Commission spent \$200 million to build facilities in 81 locations with a population of less than 250 people.

These 81 locations have a total population of less than 10,000 people. At 10,000 people, the Commission spent \$57,000 per household. Think of that: \$57,000 per household.

For nearly a decade, independent agencies have questioned the need for the Denali Commission. Agencies from the CBO to the White House have found 29 other programs that are capable of fulfilling the Commission's mandate.

The Republican Study Committee, Citizens Against Government Waste, Heritage, Cato, the American Conservative Union, National Taxpayers Union, and even President Obama have all targeted the Commission for elimination.

□ 2015

It is time that we heed these recommendations and eliminate funding for the Denali Commission once and for all. To do otherwise, I believe, would be imprudent and wasteful, especially when faced with a \$17.5 trillion national debt.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I seek time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, as the gentleman said, would eliminate the Denali Commission, which is funded at last year's level of \$10 million in this bill.

The Denali Commission provides infrastructure and economic develop-

ment activities for some of the country's most rural and distressed communities. Regardless of whether it is one State or a region, the fact is the State is probably larger than any one of the regions that the Commission deals with.

In a time of economic instability, communities can scarcely afford to lose the millions of dollars in private investments leveraged by the Commission annually. Elimination of the Denali Commission would deprive these communities of many essential infrastructure and economic development projects. I encourage my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. With all due respect to the gentleman offering this amendment, yes, we are one State; but if you took all of the land from the tip of Maine to the tip of Florida, from the Mississippi River over, that is part of Alaska. That is a big State, not a little State, like Ohio.

This Commission has work. And I have to say one thing, it is being referred to as the "IG report by Mr. Marshall"—totally incompetent. It has been unfounded. His finding was unfounded. In fact, we can't find him. We would like to find out where he is. He no longer exists. What he said about this Commission is totally inaccurate. It has worked. It will work, and we are a rural area.

What it has done, one thing when it was created was to move the fuel tanks away from the waters that EPA said they couldn't be close to. These communities could not do that, and the process of the Federal Government and the other agencies, it would have taken too long. So we moved these fuel tanks across. And yes, it was used for clinics, and yes, it has been used for sewer and water. Forty-four of our villages don't have water yet, don't have sewage. They carry "honey buckets." Why they call them "honey buckets" I have no idea.

But this Commission is to take and provide the proper things for, just as your constituents use every day and take for granted. This Commission has worked. We want to keep the money, and I want to thank the chairman for understanding this. This amendment has been offered time and time again. And as he said, this is a very small amount of money. That is not what I am arguing. It is money well spent. If we don't spend it on this type thing to cut out the middleman, and they keep saying there are other agencies. That is not true. Those agencies do not function. Most of our agencies today do not function because there are too many layers and nothing gets to the constituent, nothing gets to solving the problem.

So I am suggesting, and we have done some work on this. I asked for a GAO investigation; I did, to find if this has occurred. It has not been reported back to us yet. It will be. In fact, it will show that the IG's report is false, and that is one of the things I am looking forward to.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. It is time we accept the fact that this system works, as the other commissions do, for those communities that are less fortunate than the communities in which most people live in who are in this body. I come from a rural State. I want to serve my rural State, and I am sure the Commission does also.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I would say this is not about Alaska. Alaska is a tremendous State that I have personally visited. I have not had an opportunity to live there, as my colleague has, obviously. But this is not about Alaska; this is about duplication in government efficiency and how we actually deliver services to these agencies.

In 2004, President Bush's Office of Management and Budget wrote that the Commission's activities were duplicative of other Federal programs that address the same needs and provide the same types of assistance.

In 2009, President Obama's OMB referred to the Denali Commission as duplicative, redundant, unnecessary, and stated there was no evidence that the Denali Commission's job training programs improve employment outcomes for participants.

The GAO found the Denali Commission's activities to be duplicative of other Federal programs.

The Congressional Budget Office examined the Denali Commission and they said that they failed to find any evidence that they have achieved success in these areas in large part due to the overlap of the Commission's activities in other Federal programs.

And in October of 2013, the Office of Inspector General said that the Denali Commission was a middleman, that it was an experiment that had run its course and argued that these funds could be appropriated and be put to better use.

Put the funds towards Alaska. Put them actually in direct grants rather than a program that is a middleman around it. There are ways to be able to determine this, but we as a Nation have to find ways to be able to eliminate duplication, and this is one of those moments.

Are we going to listen to the inspector general, the Congressional Budget

Office, the GAO, two different Presidents' Offices of Management and Budget, or will we ignore all of those?

With that, I encourage us to deal with a transition, continue to take care of the needs of rural Alaska but find a more efficient delivery system to do that.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For necessary expenses of the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 1575(b) of title 40, United States Code.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FATTAH

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 52, line 4, after the dollar amount insert (increase by 1) (decrease by 1)

Mr. FATTAH (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to waive the further reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, let me first thank you and thank the chairman and the ranking member who have done an extraordinary amount of work developing this bill, everything from the nonproliferation work and the security and modernization of our nuclear weapons enterprise, the renewable and nuclear support programs, the energy labs, and their support of the Office of Science at DOE. I know the committee has worked very hard.

I rise tonight to offer an amendment which at the conclusion of my remarks I will withdraw, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say a number of things. One is that I have traveled with the chairman and other members of the committee over these many years to

many of our national energy labs. And in particular, I have focused on the nuclear weapons enterprise, but I rise today in support of and wanting to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support for the Energy Efficient Buildings Hub in Philadelphia.

The administration had asked for an appropriation. The committee in its work has decided to go well beyond that, and I want to thank the chairman publicly. Even though it is in Philadelphia, I don't rise in a parochial sense. I also thank you for your support for the other labs. The Pittsburgh lab, for instance, is where the work was done that has enabled us to tap the Marcellus Shale. These labs are so vitally important. The science that is done there has increased our country's capacity in terms of energy, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For necessary expenses of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$250,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$25,000, \$1,052,433,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$55,000,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$9,500,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$880,155,000 in fiscal year 2015 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than \$172,278,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be for university research and development in areas relevant to their respective organization's mission, and \$5,000,000 shall be for a Nuclear Science and Engineering Grant Program that will support multiyear projects that do not align

with programmatic missions but are critical to maintaining the discipline of nuclear science and engineering.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$12,071,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$10,099,000 in fiscal year 2015 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2016, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at not more than \$1,972,000: *Provided further*, That, of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$850,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which shall not be available from fee revenues.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$3,400,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the other members of the Commission, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, not later than 1 day after the Chairman begins performing functions under the authority of section 3 of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980, or after a member of the Commission who is delegated emergency functions under subsection (b) of that section begins performing those functions. Such notification shall include an explanation of the circumstances warranting the exercise of such authority. The Chairman shall report to the Committees, not less frequently than once each week, on the actions taken by the Chairman, or a delegated member of the Commission, under such authority, until the authority is relinquished. The Chairman shall notify the Committees not later than 1 day after such authority is relinquished. The Chairman shall submit the report required by section 3(d) of the Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980 to the Committees not later than 1 day after it was submitted to the Commission. This section shall be in effect in fiscal year 2015 and each subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 402. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information until those Procedures are changed or waived by a majority of the Commission, in accordance with Commission practice.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters

pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 503. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 504. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a semi-annual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Executive Order No. 12898 of February 11, 1994 ("Federal Actions to Address Environ-

mental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations").

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of adjudicatory functions, technical review, or support activities associated with the Yucca Mountain geologic repository license application, or for actions that irrevocably remove the possibility that Yucca Mountain may be a repository option in the future.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 59, beginning on line 8, strike section 506.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Nevada and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, we all know the history of the misguided Yucca Mountain project, so there is no need to repeat it again. This simple amendment that I am going to offer would strike language included in the bill which prohibits the DOE from closing Yucca Mountain.

Now we heard earlier this evening from an esteemed colleague on this floor that he cares deeply about Nevada, and he went on to say that if the latest court mandated study determines Yucca Mountain is not safe for 1 million years, he will, indeed, lead the charge to move on to another solution. In fact, he called on the chairman of the committee to join him in that pledge. Well, I thank him for that, but I would ask you, Mr. Chairman, how can that be possible if the provision prohibiting closure of Yucca Mountain is left in the bill? Is this offer not a sincere one? Is this yet another empty promise to the people of Nevada?

Indeed, if this amendment is not adopted and instead the DOE is prohibited from ever closing Yucca Mountain, how can we believe anything that is being said or done in relation to this proposed dump site?

I tell you, Mr. Chairman, Nevada is not a wasteland, and I urge passage of this amendment that would strike that language prohibiting the DOE from ever closing Yucca Mountain regardless of whether it is found to be safe or not.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I oppose this amendment. It is an interesting argument the gentlelady made. The House has repeatedly had overwhelming votes in support of continuing the Yucca Mountain repository.

The language that would be stricken by this amendment we have been car-

rying for years as a way to keep the will of the House and the American people alive. In fact, the votes supporting Yucca Mountain in this House have been overwhelming each time that we voted on it.

I would remind the gentlelady that this doesn't mean that Yucca Mountain can never be closed. The comment of the gentleman from Illinois would still be true. An appropriation bill is a 1-year appropriation bill. That is why we carry this language in each appropriation bill.

We need to wait for the safety review by the NRC to be done to decide what we are going to do moving forward, instead of political decisions that have been made on Yucca Mountain in the past. And it has been a political decision. I think even the gentlelady would agree with that. I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. I thank the committee for doing again fine work. The amendment talked about none of the funds can be used for the NRC's work. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the independent agency to ensure the safety of the nuclear power industry and the disposition of its waste.

In attacking this and pulling this money out, it is the last attempt to say: We are not going to allow the scientific basis and our Commission, most appointed by Democratic administrations, to do their work.

□ 2030

We know what they are going to come out with. They are going to say it is safe for a million years.

People need to go visit the great State of Nevada. But I will just tell you that it is a great State, and I have been there. There will be a time when we need to move forward, and I am pledging, along with the chairman, to do what is right by your State.

Yucca Mountain is just a small portion of the nuclear waste test site. You have DOE land; you have Bureau of Land Management land; you have military land. It is bigger than most States, and people don't understand that until they go out there.

Seven of your 17 counties at least support—what has been raised by the chairman—support the Nuclear Regulatory Commission coming to a final conclusion, and you all know that because they have passed a county resolution. So to say that everyone from the State is opposed, what many folks from the State of Nevada say is let's find out the safety of this, let the NRC do its work, and we have resolutions from seven of the 17 counties that support that.

We will eventually get through this. We voted numerous times in this Chamber over my many years here. Last year, 335-81, 337-87. The House as

a body, representing Members from across this great Nation, have spoken in support of supporting Federal law. You have the right to come down here and try to stop the implementation of law, and I understand that and I respect that; but there will be a time when we continue to pledge, as this policy moves forward, that we will do everything to do what is right for your State in moving and storing and ensuring safety for this as the national policy over land enacted by the Federal statute in 1982 along with the amendments in 1987.

I know I have got a lot of support on your side, and we need to get closure to this so that we can continue to have, really, an energy policy that is diversified. If we move on this climate agenda, how do you move on a climate agenda without nuclear power? You just can't. Large major generating facilities.

How do we deal with the World War II nuclear waste without a place to safely store, a place like Hanford in Washington State that is a legacy site from World War II? Do you know where that should go if the NRC concludes it is safe? Under a mountain, in a desert, 90 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

Again, I am not trying to be a jerk. I know it is tough. Eighty-two, 30 years, \$15 billion—we can't walk away from that as an investment of this country. If we do, we are not being good public stewards of the taxpayers' funds and the ratepayers, which are about 32 States in this Union. Thirty-two States have put in money to the Nuclear Waste Fund on a promise that the Federal Government would have a site. Your amendment would say no, we are just going to walk away again.

Respectfully, I would ask for the defeat of the Titus amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your great work.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to my colleague, I believe he is addressing the previous amendment. This amendment simply deletes language from the bill that prohibits DOE from closing Yucca Mountain.

I would also remind him of the bipartisan bill that is in the Senate that would provide a solution for our nuclear waste problem, which is consent-based, bipartisan and consent-based.

This policy has been a waste of time and money and, indeed, it is bad politics, not good science.

I yield to my colleague, Mr. HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

First, I want to commend you for your tireless efforts in fighting this dangerous storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. From your days as a leader as a State legislator to now as a Member of Congress, your unwavering

commitment to this issue on behalf of the majority will of Nevadans who are opposed to dangerous storage of nuclear waste in our State—from our Governor, Republican Governor Brian Sandoval; our U.S. Senator, Republican Member, U.S. Senator DEAN HELLER; our majority leader, Senator HARRY REID—this is a State issue. The State is opposed to the storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain. There are local counties that have different positions, but the State's position has been clear for decades that we do not want dangerous nuclear waste stored in our State.

Ultimately, this threatens our State's health and our safety. It hurts our State's economy, not just gaming, but other areas. With one accident, it could devastate southern Nevada. The stakes are too high for our State to gamble with.

While this is 90 miles away from Las Vegas, we have 40 million visitors that come to our community—2 million people that live there in southern Nevada. But we are a State that relies on tourism, and that industry would be destroyed by any complication with nuclear waste. People come to Vegas for the bright lights, not for radioactive glow.

Our State leaders will continue to fight together, Republicans and Democrats, in Nevada to make sure that Yucca Mountain remains scrapped, as it should be.

I want to thank again my colleague, the Representative from District One, for her tireless leadership on this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment that protects the majority will of Nevadans who have consistently opposed the storage of dangerous nuclear waste.

To my colleague from Illinois, I think if you would take the time to come and visit our community, talk to the small business owners, to the parents who are concerned about the transportation, of what this would mean on our highways and our roads, the threat that it could have to our schools and our local businesses, then maybe you would understand why there is near unanimous agreement that Yucca Mountain and the storage of nuclear waste is not right for Nevada.

Ms. TITUS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 507. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HOLDING, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

2014 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-129)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Armed Services, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Committee on Financial Services, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Ways and Means, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Homeland Security, Committee on Natural Resources, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2014 *National Drug Control Strategy*, a 21st century approach to drug policy that is built on decades of research demonstrating that addiction is a disease of the brain—one that can be prevented, treated, and from which people can recover. The pages that follow lay out an evidence-based plan for real drug policy reform, spanning the spectrum of effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice, law enforcement, and international cooperation.

Illicit drug use and its consequences challenge our shared dream of building for our children a country that is healthier, safer, and more prosperous. Illicit drug use is associated with addiction, disease, and lower academic performance among our young people.

It contributes to crime, injury, and serious dangers on the Nation's roadways. And drug use and its consequences jeopardize the progress we have made in strengthening our economy—contributing to unemployment, impeding re-employment, and costing our economy billions of dollars in lost productivity.

These facts, combined with the latest research about addiction as a disease of the brain, helped shape the approach laid out in my Administration's first *National Drug Control Strategy*—and they continue to guide our efforts to reform drug policy in a way that is more efficient, effective, and equitable. Through the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans will be able to obtain health insurance, including coverage for substance use disorder treatment services. We have worked to reform our criminal justice system, addressing unfair sentencing disparities, providing alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent, substance-involved offenders, and improving prevention and re-entry programs to protect public safety and improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons and jails. And we have built stronger partnerships with our international allies, working with them in a global effort against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, while also assisting them in their efforts to address substance use disorders and related public health problems.

This progress gives us good reason to move forward with confidence. However, we cannot effectively build on this progress without collaboration across all sectors of our society. I look forward to joining with community coalitions, faith-based groups, tribal communities, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and our international partners to continue this important work in 2014. And I thank the Congress for its continued support of our efforts to build a healthier, safer, and more prosperous country.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 9, 2014.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 10, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6281. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Idaho Roadless Rule received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6282. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Female Squash Flowers From Israel Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2012-0078] (RIN: 0579-AD72) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6283. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Relaxing Grade Requirements on Valencia and Other Late Type Oranges [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-14-0041; FV14-905-2 IR] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6284. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6285. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) Increment 1A program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6286. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the MQ-8 Vertical Takeoff and Landing Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (VTUAV) Fire Scout program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6287. A letter from the Director, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's twenty-fourth annual report for the Facilities Services Directorate/Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office (FSD/PENREN); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6288. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Final Priorities, Requirement, and Definitions; Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program [Docket ID: ED-2013-OESE-0159; CFDA Number: 84.215G] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6289. A letter from the Chief, Broadband Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions [GN Docket No.: 12-268] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6290. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the February 15, 2014 — April 15,

2014 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq, pursuant to Public Law 107-243, section 4(a) (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6291. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List [Docket No.: 130103004-4458-01] (RIN: 0694-AF86) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6292. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period February 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6293. A letter from the Executive Director, Access Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2013 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6294. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6295. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, transmitting the 2013 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan of Pittsburgh, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6296. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, transmitting the 2013 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6297. A letter from the Acting Inspector General, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting notification that the Commission recently began the audit of financial statements for the fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6298. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's semiannual report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6299. A letter from the Acting Director, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's second report entitled, "Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Water off the Coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6300. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XD268) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6301. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Gulf of Mexico Blacktip Shark Fishery [Docket No.: 130402317-3966-02] (RIN: 0648-XD312) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6302. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Yellowfin Sole in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD300) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6303. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic States; 2014 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper [Docket No.: 0907271173-0629-03] (RIN: 0648-XD199) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6304. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2014 Sub-Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Harvested for Management [Docket No.: 130919816-4205-02] (RIN: 0648-XD308) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6305. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — 504 and 7(a) Loan Programs Updates (RIN: 3245-AG04) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

6306. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1603 Sequestration and Its Effect on the Investment Tax Credit and the Production Tax Credit [Notice 2014-39] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6307. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Regulations Governing Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service [TD 9668] (RIN: 1545-BF96) received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6308. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2014-41] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6309. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Credit for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration 2014 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor [Notice 2014-40] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6310. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Administration's certification that the level of screening services and protection provided at the Bozeman Yellowstone Inter-

national Airport (BZN), Bert Mooney Airport (BTM), Glacier Park International Airport (GPI) and Yellowstone Airport (WYS) will be equal to or greater than the level that would be provided at the airport by TSA Transportation Security Officers and that the screening company is owned and controlled by citizens of the United States, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44920 Public Law 107-71, section 108; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

6311. A letter from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, transmitting a letter regarding the Commission's annual trip to China; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. COLE: House Committee on Rules. House Resolution 661. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation (Rept. 113-517). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 5032. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and publish an action plan for improving the vocational rehabilitation services and assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Ms. MENG, Mr. FARR, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5033. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5034. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for certain special congressional review procedures for EPA rulemakings; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. COLLINS of New York):

H.R. 5035. A bill to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. COBLE (for himself and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 5036. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5037. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to improve the transparency, accountability, governance, and operations of the Office of Financial Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5038. A bill to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5039. A bill to make technical amendments to Public Law 93-531, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 5040. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Idaho County in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 5041. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5042. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary enters into partnership agreements with non-Federal entities for the construction of major medical facility projects; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5043. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct the Secretary of State to submit reports to Congress on child protection compacts; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5044. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to develop a comprehensive action plan to combat human trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5045. A bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5046. A bill to protect individuals who are eligible for increased pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the basis of need of regular aid and attendance from dishonest, predatory, or otherwise unlawful practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5047. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from altering available

health care and wait times for appointments for health care for certain veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5048. A bill to expand and improve care provided to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with mental health disorders or at risk of suicide, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5049. A bill to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5050. A bill to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DOGGOTT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SIREN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Cali-

fornia, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BASS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 5051. A bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.J. Res. 117. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. FOX:

H. Res. 660. A resolution electing a Member to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. POLIS):

H. Res. 662. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2014 as "National Principals Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 5032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 5033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 5034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the United States Constitution, in making all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BUCHON:

H.R. 5035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5: To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5036.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 5037

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes") and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof").

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 5038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 18, and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 5040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 5041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper...

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 5044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. PETERS of Michigan:

H.R. 5048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States of America and Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.J. Res. 117

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17, giving Congress exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. That clause was cited as the authority for the government's ability to accept the original Smithsonian donation and the creation of the Smithsonian Institution via the Act of August 10, 1846.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper clause, which provides the power to enact legislation necessary to effectuate one of the earlier enumerated powers, such as the authority granted in Clause 17 above.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 32: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 217: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 279: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 421: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 543: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PITTS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 794: Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 983: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 988: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 997: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1015: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1019: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 1070: Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 1072: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1094: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1127: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1136: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1173: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1176: Ms. GRANGER, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1418: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1431: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 1507: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1553: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 1563: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1620: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1696: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1705: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1772: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 1851: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1893: Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SIREs, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1907: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1975: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1984: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 2028: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KIND, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2066: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2164: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 2220: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2278: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2398: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 2417: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 2450: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ENYART, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2453: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2482: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 2509: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2536: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 2553: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2602: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2607: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2619: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 2654: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2656: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 2663: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 2673: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 2678: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2692: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2737: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 2780: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2856: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2870: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2920: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 2932: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 2983: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3116: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3310: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3410: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3465: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 3471: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 3481: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 3544: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3581: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 3711: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 3742: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 3877: Mr. POCAN, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3899: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 3992: Mr. PIERLUISI and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 4035: Mr. POCAN and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4040: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 4045: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 4103: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4110: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4143: Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALBERG and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 4149: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4159: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 4162: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4190: Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 4213: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4216: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4254: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 4272: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 4319: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 4324: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4347: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 4351: Mr. POCAN and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 4385: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4408: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4418: Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 4432: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 4446: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 4447: Mr. FLEMING.

H.R. 4449: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4466: Ms. JENKINS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 4490: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4510: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. BARBER, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 4578: Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. CHU, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 4581: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 4582: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 4592: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 4594: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4626: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 4664: Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 4682: Mr. COSTA, Mr. GIBSON and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 4703: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4706: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 4720: Mr. BARTON, Mr. COLE and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 4741: Mr. BACHUS and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4749: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 4757: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 4771: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4777: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4778: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 4783: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4811: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 4826: Mr. MATHESON and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4843: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4852: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4857: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 4863: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4882: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4904: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 4906: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 4930: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 4962: Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 4964: Mr. KIND, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4971: Mr. COOK, Mr. YOHO and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4979: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 4980: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. KLINE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4981: Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. ENYART, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4982: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MESSER, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 4983: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HECK of Nevada, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 4984: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 4985: Mr. TONKO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4988: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4989: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 4990: Ms. MOORE and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 5004: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 5014: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5019: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 5023: Mr. ENYART and Mr. BACHUS.

H.J. Res. 20: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.J. Res. 108: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. STOCKMAN.

H. Res. 109: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. CHABOT.

H. Res. 456: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. TERRY.

H. Res. 494: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H. Res. 593: Ms. CHU.

H. Res. 601: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 612: Mr. STEWART, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H. Res. 620: Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 622: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 630: Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 631: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H. Res. 644: Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CARTER, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. LAMALFA.

H. Res. 657: Mr. BARBER, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ENYART, Ms. ESTY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. WAXMAN.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BILIRAKIS

AMENDMENT No. 18: Page 7, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced to \$0)”.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIJALVA

AMENDMENT No. 19: Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. REED

AMENDMENT No. 20: Page 23, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. BONAMICI

AMENDMENT No. 21: Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$9,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$9,000,000)”.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT No. 22: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation or guidance that references, relies on, or otherwise considers the analysis contained in “Technical Support Document: - Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866” issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (February 2010), “Technical Support Document: - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866” issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (May 2013), “Technical Support Document - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866” issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (revised November 2013), or “Technical Support Document - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order No. 12866”, published at 78 Fed Reg. 228 (November 26, 2013).

SENATE—Wednesday, July 9, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, we rejoice in the hope we receive from Your mercies. Fill our lawmakers with strength for today and faith for tomorrow. Show them Your unfailing love as You provide them with Your wisdom to meet the challenges they face. May they trust You completely, whether in the sunshine or storm. Help them to remember the many times You have helped them when they had no solutions for their problems. Lord, lead them to be such true stewards of our national trust that they will transmit this Nation to our descendants far greater than it is today.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, Wednesday, July 9, 2014.
To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Repub-

lican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon today. During that period of time Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees.

At noon the Senate will turn to executive session and proceed on votes on the confirmation of three nominations: Julian Castro, the mayor of San Antonio, TX, to be the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Darci Vetter to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative; and William Adams to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities. There will be a rollcall vote on the confirmation of the Castro nomination, and we expect only voice votes on the confirmation of Vetter and Adams.

Upon disposition of the Adams nomination, there will be a vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the bipartisan Hagan sportsmen's act. We expect that vote to be by voice also.

Senators should expect one rollcall vote then today at noon.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2569

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 2569 is due for a second reading, I am told.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2569) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is legislation sponsored by Senator WALSH of Montana. I object to any further proceedings at this time, and I look forward to working with him in the future on this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

SALUTING THE FLAG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday I mentioned to the Senate that I had been reading a book by Caroline Kennedy called "A Patriot's Handbook." I have been looking at the book. It was given to my wife for Mother's Day a number of years ago.

I mentioned yesterday that I read about one of JOHN MCCAIN's experiences in a Vietnam prison camp. It will take me just a minute and a half or so to read this, but this is what I paraphrased yesterday that I will read today. It is "The Mike Christian Story" by Senator JOHN MCCAIN in his book "Faith of Our Fathers."

Mike was a Navy Bombardier-navigator who had been shot down in 1967, about 6 months before I arrived. He had grown up near Selma, Alabama. His family was poor. He had not worn shoes until he was 13 years old. Character was their wealth. They were good, righteous people, and they raised Mike to be hardworking and loyal. He was 17 when he enlisted in the Navy. As a young sailor, he showed promise as a leader and impressed his superiors enough to be offered a commission.

What packages we were allowed to receive from our families often contained handkerchiefs, scarves, and other clothing items. For some time, Mike had been taking little scraps of red and white cloth, and with a needle he had fashioned from a piece of bamboo he laboriously sewed an American flag into the inside of his prisoner's shirt. Every afternoon, before we ate our soup, we would hang Mike's flag on the wall of our cell and together recite the Pledge of Allegiance. No other event of the day had as much meaning to us.

The guards discovered Mike's flag one afternoon during a routine inspection and confiscated it. They returned that evening and took Mike outside. For our benefit as much as Mike's, they beat him severely, just outside our cell, puncturing his eardrum and breaking several of his ribs. When they finished, they dragged him bleeding and nearly senseless back into our cell, and we helped him crawl to his place on the sleeping platform. After things quieted down, we all lay down to go to sleep. Before drifting off, I happened to look toward a corner of the room, where one of the four naked light bulbs that were always illuminated in our cell cast a dim light on Mike Christian. He had crawled there when he thought the rest of us were sleeping. With his eyes nearly swollen shut from the beating, he had quietly picked up his needle and thread and begun sewing a new flag.

I witnessed many acts of heroism in prison, but none braver than that. As I watched him, I felt a surge of pride at serving with him, and an equal measure of humility for lacking that extra ration of courage that distinguished Mike Christian from other men.

I mentioned this yesterday because I had it in my mind when we saluted the flag. I said yesterday—and I will repeat and paraphrase today—when we salute the flag, we should remember the Mike Christians of the world who sacrificed so much so that we can salute the flag.

A FAIR SHOT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I love baseball season. I have never had the good fortune of having a team I grew up with, as has my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois—Cubs fan, where he lives, White Sox fan—but I have loved baseball since I was a little boy. I love baseball season. I go to games. I think I can go to one this Saturday, unless something comes up. But I do go home at night—and I have spoken with the Republican leader about the pleasure we get from watching a little bit of

the baseball games every evening. I do enjoy that.

I have watched over the years these managers. I spent so much time in southern Nevada, in Las Vegas. The baseball team most everyone in Las Vegas watched and listened to was the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the manager for much of that time, after I came back here, was Tommy Lasorda, and he was like so many managers, he was a character. He was a showman. I assume he picked some of the times to pick a fight with the umpire because he was upset with a call, but I think part of it was his idea that the team needed something a little extra. Tommy Lasorda would go out there, and he was famous for kicking the dirt and yelling loudly at the umpire and making sure he used a lot of swear words. That was the manager. He wasn't the only one. Tommy Lasorda comes to my mind. And, on occasion, he would get thrown out of the game.

Why did he do this? Was he upset at the call? At times it got real ugly, with chest thumping and, as I indicated, kicking dirt. Lou Pinella was famous for that. He would kick dirt sometimes on an umpire and it usually got him kicked out of the game. As I indicated, they tried to keep it clean, but those baseball managers and players sometimes have a vocabulary that is for locker rooms and they would say mean-spirited things to the umpire, and certainly what they said wasn't suitable for children.

A lot of times they exited the game after being told they were ejected to divert attention from what was going on with their team. It was a gimmick many times, a distraction meant to sidetrack one side and rally the other.

In the House of Representatives, the Republican leadership is trying a similar tactic by threatening to bring a lawsuit against the President of the United States. They are searching desperately for something—anything—to keep the radicals within their own pockets over there happy. That is hard to do, as we have seen. They want to do this to divert the American people's attention from their very own inaction.

The Presiding Officer doesn't have to take my word for it—no one has to—because conservative pundits are falling over themselves to criticize this ploy. Even last night, Sarah Palin—what did Sarah Palin say? She said, “You don't bring a lawsuit to a gun fight, and there's no room for lawyers on our front lines.” That is Sarah Palin. That is what she thinks of the action by the Republican leadership in the House. She wants to go even further, whatever that is.

One Republican pundit said it was political theater. Another called the lawsuit feckless.

However they choose to label it, there is one thing that conservatives, liberals, and moderates agree on: This

lawsuit is nothing more than a political stunt. It is nothing more than kicking dirt at the umpire. This feeble attempt to pick a fight with President Obama is intended to draw attention away from the House's inertia on issues important to the American people, such as immigration. More than a year ago we passed immigration and the other House has refused to do anything about it, creating lots of problems, and causing this great country of ours to go further in debt. One trillion dollars would result in reducing our debt if we could pass that legislation. We did it; the House should do it.

All we are asking is that the middle class get a fair shot, whether it is raising the minimum wage, whether it is student debt, which is stunningly high—the highest debt we have in America today is student debt, \$1.3 trillion. We need to do something about fair pay for women, that they get the same money men get for doing the very same work. A fair shot—that is what the American middle class deserves, and the House Republicans are refusing to give them any shot at fairness.

Instead of considering all of these important legislative initiatives—I mentioned only a few—the tea party House is content to put on a show, to kick a little dirt—a big, expensive show, in many instances. Who pays for the charade they are talking about over there? The American taxpayers.

Let me give one example. Benghazi. Benghazi was a tragedy, but there is no political conspiracy. Here is what they have done, mostly in the House: 13 public hearings, 15 Member and staff briefings, over 25,000 pages of documents from the White House. Now they are using taxpayer money on a large-scale stunt that isn't new for them. They have other stunts such as the supposed lawsuit. But they have now set up a 12-member Benghazi panel they are creating. They intend to spend \$3.3 million this year—this year, which has just a few months left in it—\$3.3 million, as they try once again to turn a real tragedy into some kind of a conspiracy.

To put that number in perspective, think about this: The Benghazi panel will outspend the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has 25 Members of Congress and it has about 30 staff members. The Benghazi little program they are putting on over there will spend more money than the entire Veterans Affairs' Committee in the House.

We are still waiting for the House to come together with us to do something about the veterans emergency we have. They have forgotten about what is going on around the country. We need thousands of new personnel in the Veterans Affairs Department, and the House refuses to complete the conference with Chairman SANDERS.

Much like the other sideshows put on by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, this so-called lawsuit is baseless. When Sarah Palin thinks you are going too far, you better take a look at it by the tea party-driven House over there. And the House direction of the lawsuit—people keep asking the House leadership: On what are you going to sue him? They do not know. They are working on it. But they are going to have a lawsuit. They are going to kick around a little dirt. I am in no position to offer legal guidance, but I have been in court a few times. You know your case is in big trouble when you cannot specify the reason you are filing the lawsuit.

So the leadership in the House of Representatives should put aside this ill-fated venture and leave the chest-bumping and dirt-kicking charade to baseball managers.

President Obama is doing something to solve problems, and Republicans are suing him because they want to do nothing, and that is sad. Republicans in the House would be better served spending their efforts and resources passing legislation, giving the middle class a fair shot.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ENERGY REGULATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this week I hosted a tele-townhall with people from across western Kentucky, from places such as Lyon County and Webster County. These constituents shared their thoughts on a range of issues, from ObamaCare to taxes, but one issue kept coming up over and over again. The Kentuckians I spoke with were truly worried about the Obama administration's war on coal jobs. They have seen the devastation in eastern Kentucky, and they know what the President's newest regulations will likely mean for middle-class families such as theirs: skyrocketing utility bills, higher prices, fewer jobs. They know the administration's war is an elitist crusade that threatens to shift good, well-paying jobs overseas, splinter our manufacturing base, and throw yet another load onto the backs of middle-class Kentuckians who have already struggled so much.

The hard-working people I represent are worried enough just about making their mortgage payments and paying for car repairs and coping with energy bills and summer vacations. These are the people whom President Obama and his Washington Democratic allies should be listening to—not to liberal elites who have been begging the President to go after the coal industry and

the people whose livelihoods depend on it. But President Obama does not seem terribly interested in those folks or their problems. Once again he will be off campaigning this week. He will huddle with more leftwing ideologues—the folks who love to make a buck off of coal and then attack coal families with ego-driven political crusades, such as the ideologue the President rolled out the red carpet for just a few weeks ago down at the White House.

Meanwhile, here in the Senate the Democratic majority will continue to block and tackle for the President and his anticoal offensive. Senate Democrats block basically every attempt—every attempt, however small—to inject congressional oversight into the administration's energy regulations. They shut down votes. They obstruct the committee process that should be at the heart of our work. They even gag their own Members.

They blocked commonsense legislation such as the Coal Country Protection Act. What that bill—my bill—would do is require the administration to certify that jobs will not be lost and utility rates will not go up as a result of the President's energy regulations. That is not too much to ask. But Washington Democrats are blocking my bill because they know the President's regulations will cost jobs and will raise utility rates, and they are more interested in protecting the President's ideological agenda than jobs.

In other words, Senate Democrats block and tackle and obstruct—all to defend the President's war on coal jobs. It is a clear case of extreme devotion, and it makes sense because the Democratic majority really only has one mission these days: Protect the President and the left at all costs. That is why the average Democratic Senator has almost no power anymore. Our friends on the other side of the aisle do not ever get to do anything. They are just another backbencher fortifying President Obama's Senate moat—the place where good ideas go to die. It is a shame.

The Senate used to be a place where big ideas were debated and serious solutions were explored. Committees operated and amendments were offered. I remember a time not too long ago when there was even such a thing as an independent-minded Senate Democrat. But today's Democratic leadership has put an end to all of that.

It is about time our Washington Democratic friends open their eyes to the true cost of the President's policies, both in my State and in theirs.

It is time for these Washington Democrats to stop pretending they are not complicit in the administration's war on coal jobs or in the harm it is causing to our constituents because there is real pain out there. Beyond the Democratic echo chamber, there is real pain out there, out in the real world, in places such as Pike County.

Washington Democrats need to understand that Kentuckians are more than just some statistic on the bureaucratic balance sheet. These are real Americans who are hurting, and they deserve to have their voices heard. One way to do that, as I have suggested, is for the administration to hold some listening sessions on its new energy regulations in the areas that stand to suffer the most from them, in places such as eastern and western Kentucky. I have already issued multiple invitations for the President's people to visit places in my home State. I am issuing one again today.

The sad truth is that officials in Washington do not want to come anywhere near coal country. They just want to impose their regulations, hear some "feedback" from the echo chamber in order to check a box, and then move right along to the next front in their war on coal. They do not even want to talk to the very people they intend to put out of work. Well, several tele-townhall participants want to know why the President will not come down to see the mines and the coal families themselves. I am wondering too.

Mr. President, the campaign trips can wait. You recently expressed an interest in hanging around middle-class Americans for a change. What I am saying is, here is a perfect chance. Come on down to Kentucky and talk to some coal miners.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST KEVIN J. GRAHAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of one soldier from Kentucky who gave his life in service to our country. SPC Kevin J. Graham of Benton, KY, was killed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on September 26, 2009, when the enemy attacked his vehicle with an IED. He was 27 years old.

For his service in uniform, Specialist Graham received many medals, awards, and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Expert Marksmanship Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Soldiering was not simply a vocation to Specialist Graham; it was a way of life and it was a calling. From a young age, friends and family recall his strong desire to become a soldier.

"Before he went into the Army, he would see guys in uniform and say he needed to be doing something like that," says the Reverend Jonathan

Goodman, Kevin's pastor from Benton's Calvary Baptist Church. "He felt like it was his life's work, and he was honored to serve his country."

Kevin was born in 1982 in Illinois and raised in Wisconsin. He moved with his parents to Marshall County, KY, about 5 years before his death. As a child Kevin received his education through Christian Liberty Academy as a homeschooler. He was a member of Paddock Lake Baptist Church in Wisconsin, where he was involved with the youth group and assisted the youth pastor.

As a young boy Kevin and his best friend used to dress up in Army fatigues and patrol the neighborhood. Neighbors would say they felt safe because they knew someone was watching out for them. Kevin's interest in the military also included a love of military history. He would read endlessly about the Civil War and World War II and talk often with his father, grandfather, and others who had served about their experiences. Kevin collected memorabilia from different conflicts, including some given to him by veterans. His interest in military aviation led him to spend his summers at an airfield in Kenosha, WI, to see hundreds of World War II planes gather in formation.

Kevin also learned to shoot at an early age. By the time he was 16, he had earned a job overseeing the skeet range at the local shooting facility. He earned many badges for his marksmanship, including one for hitting his target 73 out of 75 times.

Kevin also had a love for old cars. He bought a 1965 Pontiac Le Mans and rebuilt it from the ground up. He attended countless car shows and won several trophies.

In July 2007 Kevin fulfilled a lifelong goal and honored the service of his father Daniel, who earned a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam, by enlisting in the U.S. Army. He completed basic training that November.

One of Kevin's closest friends, Tristan Miller, joined the Army within months of Kevin. Kevin "was enlisting in a time of war and he chose to enlist as an infantryman," Tristan recalls. "Kevin knew what he was going into. This was something he volunteered to do. Kevin knew something was wrong out there, and he was going to take a stand about it."

Kevin was later based at Fort Lewis, WA, where he met the woman who would become his wife, Krystal, in the fall of 2008. On March 22, 2009, they were married, just a few days before Kevin's 27th birthday. Kevin also grew very close to Krystal's son Brian and enjoyed spending time as a dad.

Then, in July, Kevin was deployed to Afghanistan—his first deployment. He deployed as part of 4th Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 5th Stryker Brigade Combat

Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based out of Fort Lewis. He was promoted to specialist and assigned to be a mortar carrier driver, a responsibility given to those soldiers among the best able to remain calm in the face of a crisis. No doubt Kevin's lifetime of preparation, going back to his boyhood neighborhood patrols, served him well for his greatest and final role.

"It was an honor to be his parents," says Sandra Graham, Kevin's mother. "Truly an honor."

We are thinking of Kevin's family and friends today, including his wife Krystal, his stepson Brian, his mother Sandra, his brothers Daniel, Sean, and Scott, and many other beloved family members and friends. Kevin's father, Daniel Graham, a hero in his own right, has sadly passed on.

Mr. President, I know my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in expressing our deepest condolences to the family of SPC Kevin J. Graham and great gratitude for his life of honorable service and his enormous sacrifice in uniform. Without heroes like Specialist Graham, our country could not be free. I hope it is some small measure of comfort to his family that the life of Specialist Graham has been remembered and appropriately honored here in the U.S. Senate.

Those of us in this body must never forget the men and women such as Specialist Graham who built the foundation upon which our democracy stands.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 14 dead, 82 wounded—that grim statistic was reported this weekend. It was not from Baghdad. It was not from Damascus. It was not from Gaza. No, it was not from the Middle East. It was from the Midwest. It was from the city of Chicago—14 dead, 82 wounded over the Fourth of July weekend.

This morning the Chicago Tribune headline read: "2 dead, 9 hurt in shootings on the South, West sides"—last night. A 17-year-old boy who would have started college orientation Thursday was shot to death Tuesday night in

the Brainerd neighborhood, one of at least 11 people shot across the city since Tuesday afternoon. A boy was struck in the chest and back and died on the scene. Four minutes later, on the West Side, a 23-year-old man was fatally shot as he rode his bicycle in a Humboldt Park neighborhood.

The story goes on to recount each and every incident. These numbers cloak the grief that families are now going through as someone they love is either gone or seriously injured. When you listen to their voices, you understand what life is like in the mean streets on the South Side and West Side of Chicago.

Greg Baron, a 20-year-old from Chicago's South Side, has already been a victim of gun violence once. He spoke to the Chicago Tribune yesterday and said: "I have to watch my back every day because I do not want to get killed or shot again."

Marsha Lee, a Chicago mother, has already lost one son to gun violence. She recently described how she had to teach her three little girls how to take care of themselves when it came to the gunfire. She told National Public Radio: "You have to get down low, get down on the ground, and stay on the ground until it's over, and when it's over you have to check yourself and check one another to see if anybody has been hit."

Life in Chicago, life in America—I agree with Mayor Rahm Emanuel of Chicago. This type of violence is absolutely unacceptable. While the number of murders in Chicago statistically is, thankfully, down compared to last year, there are still too many deaths from gun violence and too many people living in fear. Who pays the price? The families do, but all of us do.

The University of Chicago Crime Lab calculates the total cost of gun violence in America at around \$100 billion a year—\$100 billion. That is a staggering number. Cook County, which, of course, contains the city of Chicago, estimates the trauma care for each shooting victim costs \$52,000 on average. So for last weekend, with 80 wounded Chicagoans, we just added \$4 million in health care costs, assuming that they can be treated and released at some point in the near future.

It is time to do something about it. It is time to stop talking about it. I did some polls across our State, and even more important, as I visited the State, I asked questions from one end to the other. We are quite a diverse State. Southern Illinois is the South. As the late Paul Simon used to say: Southern Illinois is the land of grits and gospel music—small town America. It is rural. It is where my family roots are. I know what they think about guns. Guns are part of the culture. Guns are part of the family experience. A father taking his son or even his daughter out to hunt is an important moment in each of their lives.

They value the ownership of guns and overwhelmingly use them responsibly and legally for hunting and for target practice. Still, when you speak to those people about gun violence in the cities and ask them a very basic question, these proud gun owners respond in a way that I am proud of. They agree that no convicted felon and no person mentally unstable should be able to buy a gun, period.

We considered that on the floor of the Senate—the Manchin-Toomey amendment. Close the gun show loophole. Ask the question: Have you been convicted of a felony? Is there something in your background that suggests a mental instability that should prohibit you from owning a gun? We could not pass that measure.

But I offered another measure as well. It is one that relates to this basic issue. If we want to keep guns out of the hands of those who would misuse them, if we want to protect the rights of law-abiding, respectful citizens who own firearms and follow the law, then we should take care and make sure we do everything in our power to keep guns out of the hands of folks who will use them to hurt and kill innocent people.

The superintendent of police in Chicago is Gary McCarthy. I like Gary a lot. He came to Chicago from New York, hired by Mayor Emanuel. He really has rolled up his sleeves and gone out in the streets and tried to tackle this terrible issue of gun violence. They asked him about this weekend, with 14 dead and 82 wounded in Chicago.

He said: "Something has to happen to slow down the straw purchasing that happens in this State." Let me explain that. Here is what the Superintendent meant. The law says that if you are a convicted felon you cannot buy a gun. So how do they get their hands on guns? Many of them send someone else who does not have a history of criminal convictions to buy the guns. That so-called straw purchaser, a third-party purchaser, purchases the firearm, walks out the door, and either gives it or sells it to the person who can go use it in the commission of a crime. Superintendent McCarthy identifies that as one of the key problems in the city of Chicago. It is a problem across America. Mayor Emanuel pointed out yesterday we need tough Federal gun laws "so that the guns of Indiana and Wisconsin are not flowing just into the streets."

Well, I agree with him. We have a bill before us, pending before us in the Senate. It is not technically a bill about guns and firearms. It is about sportsmen. A lot of provisions in there are good provisions. Some I may question. But by and large, it is all about sportsmen. Now we are being told that colleagues are going to come forward and offer amendments related to firearms and guns.

I may be an exception, but I welcome this debate. I want this debate. I want an opportunity to raise important issues about gun violence and gun safety in America. I am going to offer an amendment, an amendment which stiffens the penalties for those who purchase guns to give them to another person or sell them to another person to commit a crime.

What I said in Chicago I will say on the floor of the Senate. Girlfriends, wake up. When that thug sends you in to buy a gun, under this amendment you run the risk of spending 15 years of your life in a Federal prison. So think about it. Is he really worth it? Are you willing to take that risk and give away 15 years of your life so some gang member or thug can have a gun to go out on the street and kill an innocent person—so that another 15-year-old child can be gunned down, killed in the streets of Chicago or any other city and see their dreams absolutely disappear in the blood on the sidewalk?

I want to offer this amendment. I hope my colleagues, whatever their views on guns, will agree with me. This is no violation of a basic right under the second amendment to the Constitution. This just says that if you are going to buy a gun to give it to a thug to commit a crime, we are going to put you in jail for 15 years. Think about it. It is the only way that we can address this in a manner that will start to shut down this pipeline of guns flowing into the city of Chicago and cities across America.

Some of my friends in Illinois see this issue a lot differently. They think if everybody carried a gun then good people would shoot down the bad people. I am skeptical. History tells us that most of the time the guns that good people carry are not used as effectively as they hoped they would be used and sometimes even injure the person carrying it. I still trust law enforcement as a first line of defense for families and neighborhoods all across my State. Law enforcement has told us loudly and clearly: Stop wasting your time in Washington. Address the issues that make a difference in the neighborhoods and lives of families of Chicago and Illinois and this Nation. Make this a safer Nation—14 dead, 82 wounded over the weekend in Chicago.

I guess the question to be answered by the Senate is: Do we care? Will we do anything? This Senator is going to offer this amendment. I hope I get my chance. I hope the filibusters on the other side and from other people do not stop me. Is this a guarantee that this will become law? No, but it is a guarantee this week will not go by without an effort from this Senator and I hope from others to address this issue of gun violence.

I hope it is evidence that many of us believe the Senate is still an important part of American government that can

address the problems that threaten good, decent law-abiding families all across America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

COAL PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I rise today regarding the Indian coal production tax credit that is being held up by bipartisan politics in the House of Representatives and this body. I have supported this important provision from my first days in the Senate. Chairman WYDEN and Ranking Member HATCH did commendable work to bring the tax extenders bill to the floor in May. But since then, political brinkmanship has won out at the expense of good-paying jobs and certainty for millions of American businesses and taxpayers.

This particular provision not only helps tribes responsibly develop their natural resources, but it also creates and sustains jobs and economic development in Indian Country to support self sufficiency and self determination for several American tribes. This tax credit will help to employ more people at a good wage and continue a policy that has a track record of working for Montanans.

The Crow Nation in Southeast Montana relies on this tax credit to drive their economy. Like many of our tribal nations, the Crow Nation suffers from a much higher unemployment rate than the rest of the country. Unemployment for the Crow Nation is around 50 percent. That is unacceptable. I was proud to work with Chairman WYDEN to have this provision added to the EXPIRE Act. The political games being played to bring down an important piece of bipartisan legislation are a clear example of why Washington is broken. Congress must take action now. This vital provision will keep tribal jobs and revenue intact. Extending this provision also means more money for our schools and public infrastructure in Indian Country. When I traveled to Montana's tribal nations in my first week as a Senator, Crow leaders, including tribal chairman Darin Old Coyote, shared with me how important this tax credit is for the future of the Crow Nation.

I urge my colleagues to set partisan differences aside and support the tax extender legislation put forward by Senators WYDEN and HATCH.

The bill they put forward contains some provisions that I would not support as stand-alone measures, but overall the bill will be a driver of economic development for small businesses. This bill contains many provisions that are essential for job creation, and the 2-year timeframe helps give individuals and businesses the certainty they need to move our economy forward.

Small businesses across Montana rely on many of the provisions in this

bill to keep their companies going, from the new markets tax credit, which spurs development in economically distressed and underserved communities, to the work opportunity tax credit, which creates incentives for hiring veterans. These provisions are driving Montana's economy.

It is irresponsible for Congress to continue to keep these businesses in a state of uncertainty. We must move forward with a real plan to encourage business investment and innovation. I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to put aside their political gamesmanship and show the courage our constituents expect and deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. First, let me commend my colleague from Montana. Since he has been here he has been one of the strongest and most stalwart voices in defending the rights of Native Americans, and I know they populate his State in large numbers. I know he has made it a passion and he has been extremely effective and I compliment him for that.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise to dispel a dangerous notion, one I have seen too frequently in newspapers, heard on TV and among people, commentators and others in the wake of the violence in Israel.

The dangerous notion is that there is a moral equivalence between the actions and reactions of Israel and the Palestinian State to the violence and response in the Middle East—or the Palestinian people more so than the State. It must be said there is no moral equivalence between the actions and reactions of Israel and Hamas and the Palestinian Authority to the violence that has occurred there.

Two instances make that very clear. We all witnessed terrible tragedies occurring in that tortured region of the world. We are now all familiar with both the kidnapping and cold-blooded murder of three Israeli boys and, in what seems to be payback, the killing of a young Palestinian teenager. Both were abhorrent—both were abhorrent—and the losses of the families on both sides cannot be understated, but I think what we ought to focus on—we all know each side has its fanatics. Each side experiences tragedy of the highest order. What I am saying does not apply to all the people on either side, particularly the Palestinian side, but the reaction is what counts.

What was the reaction among too many Palestinians to the murder of these three boys? They were almost exultant. They were treated as heroes. The mother of one of the supposed murderers, people who are suspected of the murder of the Israelis, Abu Aysha,

said: "If he [my son] truly did it—I'll be proud of him till my final day." That is what she said: "I'll be proud."

Those who were purported to kill the three Israelis were regarded as heroes, not just among a small segment in the West Bank and in Gaza but among large numbers of people. There were parades. They were honored. That was the reaction.

Let's compare that to Israel's reaction when a group of Israeli fanatics killed the Palestinian teenager. The Israeli people, in large part, were aghast. They said we have to find who did it and bring them to justice. Prime Minister Netanyahu called them terrorists, those who might have killed that Palestinian, equal to the terrorism on the other side of the three who killed the Israelis.

Israel made every effort to find those and have now made arrests. While the leader of the Palestinian Authority condemned the killing of the three Israeli boys, there was no such effort on the Palestinian side to find those who did it, to bring them to justice. There were no calls of universal condemnation.

How can we compare the two sides? How can people say: Oh, the Israelis. Oh, the Palestinians. It is one big fight. They are all the same.

It is not. Again, regretfully, there are fanatics on both sides, and I abhor the Israeli fanatics. They make things bad for the vast majority of Israelis who want to live in peace in a two-state solution, but the vast majority of Israelis condemn the Jewish fanatics. The vast majority of Palestinians seem to praise the Palestinian terrorists. Hamas, one of the two main governing organizations in Gaza and the West Bank, loudly praises the kidnapping and killing of the three Israeli boys.

Is there moral equivalency here? Are both sides sort of acting the same?

By the way, when you read Palestinian textbooks and go to schools and read about what the children are taught—vitriolic hatred, not only of Israel but of the Jewish people—you sometimes understand maybe why not support but condemn and sort of gain some inkling of understanding of why so many are filled with hatred. But who is putting out those textbooks? Not just Hamas—the Palestinian Authority and many Palestinian governing units.

So the reaction of Israel, its government and its society, to the killing of an innocent Palestinian youth and the reaction of the Palestinian authorities and people, in large part, to the killing of three Israeli youths showed there is no moral equivalency because the reaction was totally different.

Then let's take what happened yesterday. It is the same thing. You read all the headlines, Israelis and Palestinians fighting with each other, rockets

sent on both sides, air raids sent on both sides, but let's look at what happened. Hamas sent rockets into the heart of Israel to kill innocent civilians—no warnings, not in response to anything Israel did. They just decided to send these rockets. Some commentators say it is because they are weak now that Egypt will no longer let them get all those supplies through the tunnels.

What is Israel's response? Of course they have to eliminate the rockets and rocket launchers, but what other society sends leaflets to the houses that have these rocket launchers, saying: Please vacate.

What other society tries to call people on cell phones to say: Leave. We have to get rid of the rocket launchers. We don't want to kill innocent people.

That is what Israel did. Did Hamas send any warnings to the people of Sderot or Beersheba or Jerusalem or Tel Aviv that they were going to indiscriminately send rockets into civilian areas? No. Did Hamas do this in response to Israel? No. So this idea again in the papers—oh, both sides are fighting, what can we do, they are both sort of equally wrong—is morally abhorrent to me and to many others.

There is, in conclusion, no moral equivalency, no moral equivalency to weigh these two states and, frankly, in large part, with two exceptions, how two societies react: the horrible murders of young people, Israel, sad, condemning the Israelis who did it, and too many Palestinians praising the Palestinians who did it. In response to rockets sent into civilian areas, Israel tries to limit its response to military targets and lets civilians who might be near those targets know they should evacuate.

We all pray for peace in the Middle East. I certainly do. There has been too much death, too much anguish, too much insecurity, but we are not going to achieve peace by equating the two sides and saying they are equivalent, morally or in any other way.

The steps the beleaguered nation of Israel takes to try and protect itself are far different than so many of the aggressive actions of too many on the Palestinian side, with too much support from too many of the Palestinian people.

There is no moral equivalency.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I come to the floor this morning to speak on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014.

I have been working on this bill with my colleague from North Carolina, Senator HAGAN. We have been working on this bill together for about 1 year. Our package is very reflective of its

name. It is a bipartisan sportsmen's package.

We have, as of this morning, 46 Members signed on in support of this legislation. I think most would agree that at this time to have 46 Members across the aisle reaching together on any issue is quite extraordinary, and one would think we would have a clear path forward as to how we can advance a measure that has brought together a very diverse group of Senators, diverse from different parts of the country. But it speaks to how important and how widely accepted and supported these issues are, and this is in no small part due to the fact that America's sports men and women come from all over the country. They are not just in the rural areas and out in the country, but they are in the big cities, they are in urban centers, they are in the North, and they are in the South. For so many of us, outdoor activities and traditions define who we are.

I don't know how it is in North Dakota, but September 1 in our household—I recognize that is Labor Day for us around the country, but for most Alaskans I know, it is opening day. It is opening day, and it is when everybody is getting ready to go out duck hunting, and then we have moose season, we have caribou season. We define our seasons not by the calendar but by what is happening with hunting.

Right now, in my State, all that anyone is talking about is fishing. The reds are running on the Kenai. That is where I am going to be this weekend with my husband. Last week it was all about the kings on the Nushagak.

This morning an article in the newspaper around the State is about a sports angler who caught a 482-pound halibut off of Gustavus. It described the fisherman as a 77-year-old man who came up to the State. This is his third visit to Gustavus because he likes going out for the halibut. For a small community such as Gustavus to have fishermen come in to their town and bring the dollars they do, this is big for us. This helps our economy. It is not only fun, it is an economic driver in so many parts of my State.

Whether it is hunting or fishing, these are issues Alaskans care about. I think they are also issues people in North Dakota, Virginia, and Maryland and all over the country care about.

What we have done in this very bipartisan bill is combined a host of measures that speak to some of the regulatory reforms that will provide greater access for our sports men and women, whether on the water or on the land, whether it is the Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, which provides for revenues and dollars to help with hunter education programs—very important for us around the country—electronic duck stamps,

Farmer and Hunter Protection Act, Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act—again, all provisions and measures Senator HAGAN and I have worked on to build these initiatives into one package to focus on how we can do more to provide for greater access for our sports men and women around the country.

But we also provide for some very important conservation principles. We include the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization Act, some very important measures. We have a provision we have included from Senator HEINRICH, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act reauthorization. So it is not just on the access side, but it is also focused on the conservation side as well.

There is very strong support not only within this body but also within sports organizations all over the country. Some 42 different organizations have come together to sign a letter in support of advancing this measure through the Senate.

We spend a lot of time here on the Senate floor talking about: Well, we might be able to advance something in the Senate, but we don't know how it is going to fare on the House side. We have already seen good action, similar legislation sponsored by Congressman LATTA from Ohio, that passed the House on February 5 of this year by over a 100-vote margin. So clearly the support is not only bipartisan, it is bicameral.

What we have done, working together with Senator HAGAN and her good staff, is worked hard to try to coordinate these efforts to ensure that the House and Senate bills are closely aligned, so that when we move something out of here we don't have to guess as to what might happen, we know we are going to have good, strong support.

I am obviously very hopeful that we can complete our work on this bill. But before we complete the work on the bill, we have to be able to start work on the bill.

I also recognize that unless we can agree to an open and a fair amendment process where we actually take some votes around here on amendments offered by folks on both sides, we are probably unlikely to make progress on this bill. I think that is very unfortunate, because I know there are a lot of folks in my State hoping we are going to move on this, who are saying: If the Senate can't come together on something like a bipartisan sportsman package, where you have 46 Members coming together to do this, wow, how are they going to do anything? We need to be able to demonstrate we can work together on some of these initiatives where there is a good level of consensus.

I hate to be in the place where we are right now, arguing about whether we

are going to be able to take up any relevant amendments. I want us to take up these relevant amendments.

I like the bill Senator HAGAN and I worked on. If I didn't like it, I wouldn't be standing here trying to advance and encourage my colleagues that we move forward to it. But I also know that as good as Senator HAGAN and I are in representing these issues, we don't have a monopoly on all the good ideas. We don't have a monopoly on everything coming from different parts of the country. We need to have input from our colleagues.

I will remind us that the measure in front of us is not a measure that has gone through the full committee process. This is a measure that has advanced to the floor through a process known as rule XIV, where it hasn't had the benefit of Members advancing their amendments through the committee process.

I want to have an amendment process. I want to have the debate on some of the measures we have in front of us. I want to stand and tell people why I think it is important we provide for additional access for our sports men and women on our public lands and that we can be doing more to help incentivize that. But we have to have that amendment process.

As many of my colleagues know, we have been here before. We have been here as recently as 2012. It was a highly frustrating experience. We had a similar sportsmen's bill that was bogged down—basically, it was political posturing—late last Congress and it didn't go anywhere as a result.

So with that history in mind, and knowing what we went through in 2012, I decided last July 2013 to introduce my own sportsmen's package. What I wanted to try to do is figure: OK, let's see if we can take some of the politics out of this measure, try to be very bipartisan, try to be nonpolitical.

As the ranking member of the committee with jurisdiction and as one who wasn't up for election at this point in time, I felt I was in perhaps a good spot to maybe lead this thing forward. So we put the ideas out there in November. Senator HAGAN introduced her own bill, the SPORT Act. What became very apparent to both of us was that if we continued down this two-track path, we would not be successful in passage.

Senator HAGAN and I agreed: We know what the goal is, passage of good bipartisan legislation. So we sought middle ground and we put together what we think is common sense. We took good ideas that both of us had, we melded them and we put together what we think are the best interests of the sportsmen's community around the country. Then we went out and recruited our cosponsors, we secured the time for floor consideration, and now we are here, caught in the same argu-

ment about whether relevant amendments from our caucuses should be allowed.

My answer on this is pretty simple. It is a flatout yes. Yes, of course relevant amendments should be allowed. Yes, we should actually be doing our job here in the Senate, taking good ideas from both sides and advancing a package that, again, hasn't gone through the traditional path of the committee process.

Senator HAGAN and I have again built this, and many of our colleagues agree with it; otherwise, they would not have signed on as cosponsors. We greatly appreciate their support. But, again, I think it is important to get their perspectives on this initiative before we take a final vote on the bill.

I do want to be very clear, because I heard comments this morning that Republicans are somehow or another filibustering this bill. I find that kind of stunning. The Republican conference is absolutely prepared to vote on all relevant amendments. We have a list. Last evening when I left, there was a list of 13 that had been filed. This morning, that list has grown. It has doubled. It is probably growing as we speak. Let's get moving on these relevant amendments—these amendments that are tied to the bill itself.

It is not just Republican amendments. We have a good handful of them I would like to see advanced. There are amendments on both sides, and some of these amendments are very relevant to specific States.

I know Senator LANDRIEU has an amendment that is very unique to Louisiana. It is the Kisatchie National Forest deer hunting amendment, very specific to Louisiana. It wasn't included in the package Senator HAGAN and I built because we were trying to do it broader, more comprehensive, national in scope. But if Senator LANDRIEU feels this is an important piece to have, she should have an opportunity to weigh in on that.

Senator CARDIN and Senator CRAPO have introduced an amendment, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act—again, a bipartisan amendment led by Senator CARDIN, clearly relevant to this measure. Why would we not want to have the opportunity to advance some of these provisions that Members feel will enhance a bill that already has good, strong support.

I want to make sure Members know I am fully committed to a full and open amendment process; that Republicans would like to see a full and open amendment process; and that we get moving. Instead of talking about getting moving, we actually make that happen.

I thank those who have come forward and offered their support for this measure. A lot of work has gone into crafting the bill. But I am fearful that, once again, we are at risk of basically

being cast aside because of political concerns.

I ask the majority leader to reconsider his view that relevant amendments are too difficult to vote on. We have to return to regular order. We have to have a fair and healthy debate on legislation—especially legislation such as this that has not gone through the committee process, has good, strong support, but needs to have further input from Members all over the country.

I appreciate the consideration of the body here in trying to advance a measure that will help us not only when it comes to access for our fishermen and our sports men and women, provides for further conservation measures, but also helps us to advance a process in this body that at this time we so desperately lack.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I rise to speak about a very troubling issue—to speak about innocent lives being stolen from communities and neighborhoods across our country and around the globe. I speak of the issue of human trafficking.

Last month, in more than 100 U.S. cities—just last month—168 children were rescued from sex trafficking and 281 pimps were arrested on Federal and State charges.

The weeklong campaign known as Operation Cross Country was conducted by the FBI, law enforcement officials, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It underscores a heartbreaking reality: Human trafficking is not a far-away problem. It is happening right here in America, in all 50 States.

Each year thousands of men, women, and children are robbed of their basic freedom to live as they choose. They become victims of a rampant and evil crime, coerced through intimidation and even through violence to work as laborers or prostitutes. According to estimates from the Polaris Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking, there were more than 5,000 potential trafficking cases in America last year. However, the precise number of domestic victims is unknown.

It should be noted that sex trafficking affects individuals of all backgrounds and races, but it disproportionately impacts women, both domestically and internationally. According to the Polaris Project, 85 percent of sex trafficking victims in the United States are women. Although news headlines often glibly refer to a “war on women” in political terms, we as policy makers might well devote more of our energy to the issue of sex traf-

ficking—a real war, a daily war, a nightmarish war—faced by the most vulnerable among us—young women who are bought and sold against their will for sex.

I stand with colleagues from both political parties in calling for an end to this nightmare. We must not ignore the horror stories on our doorsteps. Earlier this year 16 children ranging in age from 13 to 17 years old were rescued from a sex trafficking operation at the Super Bowl, one of our most celebrated events—the scenario of horror for these 13- to 17-year-olds. These young Americans deserve justice and they deserve rehabilitation.

Our friends in the House of Representatives have recently passed a package of bills on antitrafficking, and I hope we will soon consider similar efforts in the Senate. To highlight a few, Senator RUBIO has introduced a bill to help protect children in foster care from becoming victims of trafficking; Senator CORNYN has introduced legislation for increasing federal resources available to trafficking victims; and Senator KLOBUCHAR has introduced legislation to help ensure that minors who are sold for sex are not prosecuted as perpetrators but properly treated as the victims they really are.

This week I have introduced the End Trafficking Act of 2014. Similar to the legislation put forward by my colleagues, my bill would ensure victims of trafficking receive the treatment they need to lead healthy, free, and productive lives. One proposal in my bill would be a court-based pilot program modeled after Hawaii’s girls courts, similar to the Federal drug court system. Rather than being correctly treated as victims, trafficked juveniles are often charged with a delinquency offense and detained. Many do not receive the counseling or support they need while in detention and some even return to the trafficker who abused them.

My bill supports a specialized court docket and integrated judicial supervision that would put the well-being of the victim first. Detention does not amount to rescue, and these victims need to be rescued. They should have an opportunity to return home and receive treatment.

Human trafficking is a complex problem that demands multifaceted solutions. Supporting the victims is only one part of the equation. We must also target those who perpetuate these atrocious crimes. The legislation I have introduced also seeks to punish those responsible for trafficking—the providers and the buyers—the pimps and the johns. First, there should be strict enforcement of laws already on the books that prohibit the purchase of sex with minors. Second, child victims should have a longer statute of limitations period during which to file civil lawsuits against their traffickers. Fi-

nally, those who distribute or benefit financially from commercial advertising that promotes prostitution should face criminal charges also. My bill would do all three.

We have seen the value of coordination among local, State and Federal agencies to fight trafficking. This was certainly true in Operation Cross Country. Working together, agencies and law enforcement partners can improve the ways they target traffickers to help victims.

We all need to realize that in the United States—the freest, most prosperous nation in the world—traffickers still find and transit victims. Our efforts to fight trafficking within our borders are important to fight against trafficking worldwide. There are some 21 million people around the world who endure this cruel form of modern day slavery. There is no other way to put it. Although the United States cannot single-handedly eradicate the problem, we can serve as a model for other countries to follow by preventing trafficking and supporting victims here at home.

Again, the title of the bill is the End Trafficking Act of 2014—introduced this week. I am looking for cosponsors. I am looking for Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to come forward and say with a unified voice that this Senate, this Congress, this Federal Government, intends to put the full weight of our efforts toward combating this serious national and international problem.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and, following procedure, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between Republicans and Democrats for the remaining period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECTING WATER AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I rise in support of Barrasso amendment No. 3453 to the underlying bill. This amendment actually has 36 cosponsors—36 of my fellow colleagues have cosponsored legislation called the Protecting Water and Property Rights Act of 2014, and this legislation is identical to the amendment we have on the floor today.

The amendment restricts the expansion of Federal authority by this administration's EPA to encompass all the wet areas on farms, ranches, and suburban homes all across America. More specifically, the amendment eliminates the administration's proposed rule—a rule to implement this expansion of Federal authority, an expansion which I don't think the Federal Government should have or does have. But we do have a recently proposed rule, and through this proposed rule, Federal agencies are attempting to expand the definition of waters of the United States. They want to expand the definition—it is a specific term, waters of the United States—to now include ditches and other dry areas where water does flow, but only flows during a short duration, basically after a rainfall. Federal regulations have never defined ditches and other upland drainage features as waters of the United States. So this is an expansion of the way we view waters of the United States.

This proposed rule does and will have a huge impact on farmers, ranchers, and small businesses needing to put a shovel into the ground to make a living. The rule, in a sense, amounts to a user's fee for farmers and ranchers to use their own land after it rains. It forces suburban homeowners to pay the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to use their backyards after a storm.

To me this is one of the worst things we could ever do to Americans, let alone during this poor economy. That is why the Protecting Water and Private Property Rights Act is endorsed by the American Farm Bureau and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. It is endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business and by the American Land Rights Association. They have endorsed this amendment because they know how devastating the rule is to farmers, ranchers, small business owners, and even to homeowners.

This administration claims it is providing flexibility for farmers and ranchers in the proposed rule, but farmers and ranchers across the country who read this are not deceived.

Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau, released a statement on June 11 of this year stating that “the rule would micro-manage farming via newly-mandated procedures for fencing, spraying, weeding and more. Permitting meanwhile, could delay time-sensitive tasks for months, potentially ruining crops in the process.”

According to the June edition of the publication *National Cattleman* in an article entitled “EPA's Ag Exemptions for WOTUS,” waters of the United States, the article states: “Although agriculture exemptions are briefly included, they don't come close to meeting the needs of cattlemen and women across the country.”

The president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Bob McCan, stated in an article:

For example, wet spots or areas in a pasture that have standing water, under this rule, could potentially be affected. We'd now need permission to travel and move cattle across these types of areas.

The article lists some of the major areas of agriculture which are not exempted by the EPA's proposed rule. The article states:

Activities not covered by the exemptions include introduction of new cultivation techniques, planting different crops, changing crops to pasture, changing pasture to crops, changing cropland to orchard/vineyard and changing cropland to nurseries.

Those activities are not included.

The rule also provides no flexibility for investments by small businesses across the country.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business:

Unfortunately, despite claims by the Agencies, the proposed rule will only increase uncertainty.

The proposed rule still requires the Agencies to determine on a case-by-case basis whether many common land formations fall under federal jurisdiction.

Often, this determination does not occur until after substantial investments and planning by a small business have taken place—thus chilling investment and expansion. Small businesses cannot be speculative with their resources and capital.

Private property owners would also face no flexibility. My own constituent, Mr. Andy Johnson, Uinta County, WY, has been threatened by the EPA with penalties calculated to reach an estimated \$187,000 a day for building what he believes is a stock pond on his property. In a month's time, he could be liable for more than \$5 million in penalties.

What are homeowners to do when faced with this kind of threat? They could choose to fight city hall with limited resources or give in to strong-arming by the Federal Government. Given the Agency's plans to expand the jurisdictional limits of the Clean Water Act, the EPA could easily use the proposed rule to bankrupt small landowners for something as simple as building a pond or a ditch anywhere near a wetland or stream.

Congress never intended for the Clean Water Act to be used this way. To me it defies logic to think this proposed rule will benefit anybody but bureaucrats in Washington who are far removed from the communities between the coasts.

I think it is time for the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to keep out of the lives of our constituents' backyards, and it is time to do it by opposing the proposed rule.

I wish to end with a broader point about how the Senate operates these days.

Today the Washington Post had an editorial specifically about the legisla-

tion, and it is entitled “Clear rules for clean water,” which is the proposal I have here today. The editorial board of the Washington Post writes: “If lawmakers don't like the call the EPA is making”—and I don't like the call the EPA is making—“they should clarify the terminology themselves.”

In an ideal world, I agree with them. If we don't like something, we should be able to propose a better idea and then we should be allowed to vote on it in the Senate. The reality is the majority leader, Senator REID, has essentially shut down the Senate and refuses to allow us to vote on new ideas that would actually solve challenges such as this one.

In fact, Republicans and Democrats have proposed hundreds and hundreds of amendments, and we have only been able to vote on a very small number of those—and very select ones at that. The truth is the majority leader, HARRY REID, refuses to allow any votes on almost any amendment and is enforcing a gag order on real debate, discussion and, most importantly, on votes. He has imposed a gag order on important issues that impact the lives of all Americans.

To prove my point, I put together a chart. I wish to take a moment to review the voting record over the past full year in this body. This calendar has the headline “Reid Blocks Votes.” The Republican votes are in red. We have the last full year of calendar months, and July is down here as the 13th month because we started last year on July 1.

The red Xs are days when there were votes on Republican amendments, and votes on Democratic amendments are in blue. Over the past 12 months—from July of 2013 to July of 2014—Majority Leader REID has allowed Republicans to vote on their amendments a total of 8 days—8 days out of the entire 12 months there have been votes on Republican amendments. There have been a total of 11 amendments which Republicans have had a chance to offer and have votes on even though we have introduced hundreds of amendments.

It is interesting. HARRY REID has actually been tougher on his own party. The Democrats have been more restricted and more limited. If you look at this calendar, you will see the days in blue. HARRY REID has only allowed Democrats to vote 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 days over this past year that Democrats have had votes on their own amendments on the floor of the Senate. Over that time Democrats have proposed hundreds and hundreds—over 500—of amendments, and there have only been 7 Democratic amendments over the course of 5 days that have had a vote. Democrats have not had a vote on an amendment proposed by a Democratic Senator since March 27. It has been 103 days and counting since the Democrats have had an amendment that one of them has

proposed and offered here in the Senate for a vote.

It is so interesting because as I look at the Presiding Officer—of the Democrats newly elected to the Senate in 2012, Members of the Presiding Officer's entire class have not had a single roll-call vote on one of their own amendments on the floor of the Senate—ever. It is an astonishing display of what the majority leader has done to muzzle an entire legislative body of both parties.

I will tell the Presiding Officer I think it is an embarrassing record. It is an embarrassing record for the majority leader, and I think it is an embarrassing record for the Democrats—who control the Senate—to tolerate.

I think it is important for Americans to pay close attention to not just what Senators say when they go home, but actually what happens and what they do and what they stand for and what they vote on. So I would say the next time Democrats go home and tell their constituents they are introducing legislation to solve a problem, the constituents ought to ask, when? When is the vote? That is what I want to know. When is the vote? When is the vote, Mr. President? When is the vote, Senate Democrats? When is the vote, Majority Leader REID? When is the vote?

As usual, when the question is asked, silence. That is all we get in return.

So I actually believe we have a majority of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, who would actually vote to pass my amendment. This amendment I have to this bill on the floor—a majority of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, bipartisan, would vote to pass this amendment to stop the EPA's extreme takeover of waters across America. But under Senator REID's command-and-control style of leadership, I don't think we will ever know. I don't think we will have that vote, and I think Senator REID will block it.

So I would say that if my colleagues agree with the editorial board of the Washington Post, "Clear rules for clean water"—today's Washington Post editorial—then they should be able to stand and be counted. Democrats should demand it. In the recent history of the United States, if that history is any indication, as we can see by this embarrassing vote calendar, I am not at all confident that this body will ever be given the opportunity to stand and be counted, and the reason is because Majority Leader REID won't allow Republicans or Democrats to vote on my amendment or hardly anyone else's amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Republicans control the time from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. and the majority leader control the time from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have just returned from Afghanistan, where I met with the two Presidential candidates, Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah. Both Dr. Ghani and Dr. Abdullah are impressive men who have committed to reformist agendas and campaigned throughout the country. Afghanistan is fortunate to have two such capable Presidential candidates.

In the course of my meetings with the two candidates last Sunday and indeed during many meetings over the years, each has told me that he appreciates the support the United States has provided to their country, and each will sign a bilateral security agreement with the United States as soon as possible after the next President is inaugurated.

This is a particularly sensitive time for Afghanistan, which has not had a peaceful transition of power in the 50 years since Zahir Shah was overthrown in a coup. More than 7 million ballots were cast in the first round of the Presidential election back in April, and more than 8 million ballots were recorded in the runoff election last month. All agree there was an impressive turnout in a country where the Taliban has repeatedly threatened violence against those who vote.

There have been dramatic improvements in Afghanistan over the last decade in the number of schools and universities, in the number of students and teachers—particularly female students and female teachers—in Afghan life expectancy, in average income, and in many other areas. The Afghan Army and the Afghan National Police, who have taken over security responsibility from U.S. and coalition forces, have shown great capability by successfully securing two rounds of elections and repelling a concerted Taliban attack in the Helmand region of the country.

If the ongoing dispute about the outcome of the Afghan Presidential election is not resolved in a fair and credible manner, however, these achievements would be at risk. The Taliban does not have the ability to defeat the Afghan Army or to take over Afghan cities and population centers. However, if a disputed election were to lead to infighting or to the establishment of parallel governments, the army could

be severely weakened and divided, providing new opportunities for the Taliban.

The United States and our coalition allies would be much less likely to provide the continued military and economic assistance that Afghanistan needs if that country's leaders cannot pull together and resolve their disputes through the existing election process.

The State Department stated on Monday:

The continued support of the United States for Afghanistan requires that Afghanistan remains united and that the result of this election is deemed credible.

Both candidates told me personally on Sunday that they believe a comprehensive audit of the election results is necessary and appropriate and that they will abide by the results of such an audit. They also stated that they understand the outcome of the election will not be final and will not be credible until such an audit has been completed.

The two campaign teams have been working with the United Nations and other international elections experts over the last few days to develop an appropriate audit scope to recommend to the elections commission. I had hoped that an agreement on this review could be announced at the same time that a preliminary vote count was released on Monday. While that did not happen, the head of the Independent Election Commission said the following:

The announcement [of] preliminary results does not mean the winner has been announced. The investigation of votes could have impacts on the final results.

The two campaigns have already agreed on audit triggers that will result in the review of nearly half of the ballots cast, but they have not yet reached full agreement on the measures to be taken. I hope they will be able to do so in the very near future. But this is the bottom line: Whether or not they are able to reach agreement in full, the Electoral Complaints Commission, working with the Independent Election Commission, has a responsibility to decide how many ballots to audit, and they have that responsibility on their own initiative. The Independent Election Commission must then announce a winner.

The path to resolution of the matter is not unclear. On the contrary, the Afghan Constitution and election law are very clear. There is no uncertainty about this path. The Independent Election Commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission have the responsibility to proceed on their own to determine how many ballots need to be audited and to conduct an audit with or without the agreement of the candidates. Indeed, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has already called on the election commissions to do just that.

I said to the two candidates on Sunday that the Afghan people and the Afghan security forces have shown great bravery in standing up for their country and that it is now time for the country's leaders to do the same. It would be truly unfortunate if the great progress made in Afghanistan at the expense of so much Afghan, American, and coalition blood and treasure were to be jeopardized by political infighting and the failure of political leadership.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JULIAN CASTRO TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

NOMINATION OF DARCI L. VETTER TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM D. ADAMS TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador; and William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

VOTE ON CASTRO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the Castro nomination.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I support the nomination of

Mayor Julian Castro to be the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As Mayor of San Antonio, Mayor Castro has been on the front lines of helping his community reach its housing and economic development goals. In his tenure as mayor, he has focused on attracting well-paying jobs in 21st century industries, raising educational attainment, and revitalizing the city's urban core. HUD is a critical partner in these efforts nationwide. Mayor Castro will bring both direct experience with and an appreciation of the importance of HUD's programs to families and communities to the role of HUD Secretary.

Mayor Castro's nomination has been endorsed by a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including the National Association of Realtors, National Association of Homebuilders, and housing, local government, civil rights and Hispanic leadership organizations. He has also been endorsed by several recent HUD Secretaries who have served in both Democratic and Republican administrations, including Henry Cisneros and former Senator Mel Martinez.

I urge my colleagues to support Mayor Castro's nomination.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 219 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Alexander	Cardin	Feinstein
Ayotte	Carper	Franken
Baldwin	Casey	Gillibrand
Begich	Chambliss	Graham
Bennet	Cochran	Hagan
Blumenthal	Collins	Harkin
Blunt	Coons	Heinrich
Booker	Corker	Heitkamp
Boxer	Cornyn	Heller
Brown	Donnelly	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Hoeven

Isakson	Merkley	Shaheen
Johanns	Mikulski	Shelby
Johnson (SD)	Murkowski	Stabenow
Kaine	Murphy	Tester
King	Murray	Udall (CO)
Klobuchar	Nelson	Udall (NM)
Landrieu	Portman	Walsh
Leahy	Pryor	Warner
Levin	Reed	Warren
Manchin	Reid	Whitehouse
Markey	Rubio	Wicker
McCaskill	Sanders	Wyden
Menendez	Schumer	

NAYS—26

Barrasso	Flake	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Coats	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Crapo	Kirk	Sessions
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Enzi	McCain	Toomey
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Rockefeller	Schatz	Vitter
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON VETTER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ADAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate divided in the usual form.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Dr. William "Bro" Adams to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, NEH.

The NEH is one of the largest supporters of humanities programs in the United States. The individual scholars, museums, libraries, universities, and other cultural institutions it supports enrich communities across the country. Through his extensive and impressive work in public service, education, and the humanities, Dr. Adams is well-qualified to lead the Endowment.

A Vietnam war veteran, Fulbright Scholar, college president, and board member for both the Maine Film Center and the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation, Dr. Adams' diverse experiences have prepared him to lead the Nation's cultural agency. He is a graduate of Colorado College and earned his Ph.D. in the history of consciousness from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Dr. Adams recently retired from a successful tenure as president of Colby College in Waterville, ME, where he served from 2000 through June of this year. He launched and executed an ambitious plan to expand the school and

its cultural presence, overseeing a \$376 million capital campaign—the largest ever in the State of Maine. In doing so, Dr. Adams helped found the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, construct the Diamond Building for Social Sciences, launch a film studies program, and expand Colby's creative writing curriculum. Additionally, he played a pivotal role in growing Colby's Museum of Art into one of the largest art collections in Maine.

Under Dr. Adams' leadership, Colby College has supported several projects that have helped to reinvigorate the humanities in the Waterville community. These have included forging partnerships on major renovation projects such as of the Waterville Opera House, the Hathaway Creative Center's historic mill property, the Waterville Public Library, and the Maine Film Center.

Dr. Adams is a proven leader whose engagement and direction have enriched the State of Maine. I am confident that Bro Adams will lead the NEH and serve our country with great vision and integrity. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of 4 years?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the motion as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3469

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator UDALL of Colorado, I call up amendment No. 3469.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Udall of Colorado amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], and Mr. RISCH, for Mr. UDALL of Colorado, proposes an amendment numbered 3469.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify a provision relating to the non-Federal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range)

On page 14, line 25, insert "use the funds apportioned to it under section 4(c) to" after "a State may".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3490

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3490 to amendment No. 3469.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, on line 1, strike the word "the".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3491

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit S. 2363, and it has instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read the motion as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with instructions to report back forthwith the following amendment numbered 3491.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:
This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3492

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3492 to the instructions to the motion to commit.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3493 TO AMEND NO. 3492

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3493 to amend No. 3492.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4" and insert "5".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Joe Donnelly.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 438, S. 2244.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 438, S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. REID. I want the record to reflect how much I appreciate the hard work of the Senator from North Carolina, Senator HAGAN, working on this bipartisan bill. She did it with the ranking member of the Energy and

Natural Resources Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI, and they have done good work coming up with this bill.

But the Senator from Alaska spoke this morning about her desire for consideration of amendments. Typical, typical, typical of the last 6 years here. This bill has 26 Republican cosponsors. This bill was brought up 2 years ago. They have worked hard to improve the bill since then, and you would think with 26 Republican cosponsors to this bill we could move forward on it. But, as usual, they come down here and they say, well, a good bill, but we want to have a bunch of amendments.

I am all for consideration of amendments on this bill. We all are. But the Republicans can't agree on what amendments they want.

I just met with a number of people earlier today about this and explained to them how we used to do things. There wasn't on virtually every piece of legislation a necessity to get cloture on a bill and now even to get on a bill we need cloture, as we find on the bill we just finished some procedural work on, the sportsmen's bill. It affects millions and millions of Americans, but they want amendments. They want amendments because they want to kill the bill as they have tried to kill everything in the last 6 years.

So I repeat, I am all for consideration of amendments. But as we have repeatedly done, we need to have a list of amendments from which to work. Senators have for decades and decades started with a list of amendments and worked through those lists. So I ask Republicans, if you want an amendment process, bring me a reasonable list that leads to passage of the bill.

They can't do that because they can't agree on what amendments they want, and there are so many examples. Energy efficiency is something similar to this, where the senior Senator from New Hampshire worked on a bill with—it doesn't matter if it was the senior or junior Senator—Senator PORTMAN. They worked together on this legislation for months and months—in fact, about a year—and we had a bill on the floor and we were moving forward. I was told before the bill, by the Republicans, let's get this done; it is a great bill.

So I am again reflecting on what happened with the history here.

They said before recess, we need a sense-of-the-Senate on Keystone. I said we have an agreement. Why do we need to do that? But I said OK, a few hours later, you want that, let's do it, because this bill is important.

We need to do that. The recess was a week. We came back. They said: Well, we want to change things a little bit. We want an up-or-down vote on Keystone. They keep changing things. That is not right.

I said: OK, we will vote on Keystone.

They couldn't take yes for an answer. We agreed for an up-or-down vote for

Keystone. They wouldn't take it. It is the same thing on this, a bill the Republicans support. They oppose their own legislation. So we are going to move forward.

Now we have the terrorism insurance legislation that I just moved to proceed to. This is an important piece of legislation. Let's hope we can get this done. If we can't, construction in America—whether it is in Indiana, Nevada, Maryland, Iowa, Oregon or Mississippi; it doesn't matter where it is—won't go forward because people won't be able to get insurance.

So I would hope we can get this bill done, but we will see. There are discussions going on, and we will get the same: Yes, I think we can work something out. But when it comes right down to it, Republicans can't agree on what they want. I hope on that important piece of legislation we can get a list of amendments from the Republicans. I am told they are willing to do that. I hope that in fact is the case, because it would be a shame for our country if we couldn't get this done.

The economy is doing better. We added almost 300,000 jobs last reporting period. But if we can't get this done and we can't get the highway bill done, it is going to be a slam to our economy.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to enter into a colloquy with my colleagues Senator WICKER and Senator HARKIN.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have the honor of being the Senate chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and the ranking Republican Member is Senator WICKER. We join with our House colleagues in the work of the Helsinki Commission.

I mention that because this past week, from June 28 through July 2, the 23rd Annual Parliamentary Assembly was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in which over 300 parliamentarians participated. We had a very strong representation from the Senate and the House of Representatives representing the United States. I was proud to join with Senator WICKER and Senator HARKIN as well as Congressman SMITH, Congressman ADERHOLT, Congressman GINGREY, Congressman SCHWEIKERT, and Congressman SCHIFF in representing U.S. interests.

By way of background for some of my colleagues who may not be familiar, the Helsinki Commission is a U.S. participant in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This followed up on the Helsinki Accords

which took place in 1975, when all the countries of Europe—including the Soviet Union—joined the United States and Canada and agreed to principles that recognized the importance of good governance, human rights, and economic opportunities, as well as territorial security, in order to have stability within the OSCE participating States. The United States has been an active participant in this process.

I think we saw the value of the OSCE directly when Russia invaded Crimea, and the OSCE mission there was our eyes and ears on the ground and helped restore some semblance of order in Ukraine as it now is moving forward.

In our work in Baku, we were representing the United States on some extremely important issues, and I will talk about some of those issues and my colleagues on the floor are going to talk about issues they championed.

But I must say, Russia sent a very strong delegation to Baku to represent their country. On behalf of the U.S. delegation, I brought forward a resolution in regard to violations entitled: "Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of Helsinki Principles by the Russian Federation." This resolution became the principal debate of the 23rd Parliamentary Assembly.

We held a plenary debate. We don't normally do that. We normally debate issues in different committees, but the entire assembly debated the issues concerning Russia's activities within Ukraine because of the seriousness of this matter.

Russia violated all 10 core principles of OSCE. We had that in the resolution. We were very clear about that. We believe that the best way to bring about compliance with these universal values is to put a spotlight on those who are violating them.

In Russia's invasion into Ukraine and taking over Crimea and in their interference in Eastern Ukraine, they have violated each of the 10 core principles including: sovereign equality, refraining from the use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, nonintervention in internal affairs, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, cooperation among states, and fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law.

Our delegation brought that forward. Russia countered with justifications we found totally unacceptable, but it was a very spirited debate. Many amendments were offered to our resolution because by the time we debated the resolution and the time we filed it, there had been some changes in Russia's behavior. So the resolution was actually made stronger through the amendment process, which is what we intended at the time.

Russia made various pleas to try to delete various sections of our resolution. By an overwhelming vote of the parliamentarians of Europe, Central Asia, the United States, and Canada, we passed this resolution that the United States brought forward pointing out the clear violation of Russia's commitments under the OSCE in its activities in Ukraine. It passed by over a 3-to-1 vote among the parliamentarians. We were very proud of the work we had done to bring forward that clear statement on behalf of the parliamentarians of the OSCE.

I am extremely proud of the role my colleagues played. We were involved in many other issues. Senator WICKER was one of the key spokesmen on several issues relating to our involvement within the OSCE. He was involved in bringing out our involvement in Afghanistan, which is of continued interest.

In addition to the 57 participating countries of the OSCE, we have partners of cooperation. These are countries not located within our geographical bounds but which have interests in the OSCE. Afghanistan is one of our partners for cooperation.

We just finished a hearing of the Helsinki Commission on our Mediterranean partners, which includes Tunisia, Algeria, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and we worked with Morocco—all partners for cooperation. So the reach of Helsinki is far beyond just Europe and Central Asia. In this parliamentary assembly, we took up issues that involved many of these other matters.

Mr. President, I yield for my colleague Senator WICKER for comments he might wish to make with regard to the work we did in Baku.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I thank my two colleagues from the other side of the aisle for joining with us today in this colloquy.

Let me say how proud I was as a Republican Senator from Mississippi to stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleague from Maryland BEN CARDIN. There are probably many places in Maryland he would rather have been at the beginning of July 2014, but he is someone who year after year has taken the time to travel to sometimes some rather unknown capital cities such as Baku or Chisinau, Moldova, and represent the United States in our partnership with the OSCE on the Helsinki Commission.

As Senator CARDIN said, the 1975 Final Act of the Helsinki Commission recognized 10 principles that 57 countries in Europe and Eurasia said we believe we can stand by and live with and live under, issues such as territorial integrity, sovereignty, refraining from the use of force—very important cornerstones of peace, democracy, self-

termination and the rule of law in Europe.

It is certainly a fact well known within the OSCE and the delegations that come from far and wide to attend these that BEN CARDIN is respected internationally, that his word carries weight, that he speaks on behalf of the United States of America, and on behalf of the OSCE countries with authority, evenhandedness, and fairness. So I think it meant a lot for someone of Senator CARDIN's stature to come forward and present these.

Indeed, we did have overwhelming support for the supplemental item authored by Senator CARDIN. The amendments to water it down by the Russian delegation were rejected time and again by overwhelming votes. In the end the final resolution was adopted by over 90 votes in favor of the Cardin resolution and only 30 votes against it. Of course, the delegates from the Russian Federation and several of their closest allies and neighbors voted against it. But country after country, delegation after delegation, small brave nation after small brave nation voted in favor of it because internationally we realized that the words of the resolution were correct.

The action of Russia in Crimea—invasion of this defenseless peninsula and annexing it illegally—that action violated all 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act, and it needed to be said. It needed to be said not only by the United Nations, which has in effect said this in the General Assembly, and it needed not only to be said by a major power like the United States of America, through our State Department and through the Congress, but it also needed to be said by the collective body that represents these 57 countries from Europe and Eurasia.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the final supplemental item as adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BAKU DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AT THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

[Baku, 28 June to 2 July 2014]

RESOLUTION ON CLEAR, GROSS AND UNCORRECTED VIOLATIONS OF HELSINKI PRINCIPLES BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1. Noting that the Russian Federation is a participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and has therefore committed itself to respect the Principles guiding relations between participating States as contained in the Helsinki Final Act,

2. Recalling that those principles include (1) Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; (2) Refraining from the threat or use of force; (3) Inviolability of frontiers; (4) Territorial integrity of States; (5) Peaceful settlement of disputes; (6) Non intervention in internal affairs; (7) Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; (8) Equal rights and self-determination of

peoples; (9) Co-operation among States; and (10) Fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law,

3. Recalling also that the Russian Federation is a signatory, along with the United States of America and the United Kingdom, of the December 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which was made in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

4. Concluding that the Russian Federation has, since February 2014, violated every one of the ten Helsinki principles in its relations with Ukraine, some in a clear, gross and thus far uncorrected manner, and is in violation with the commitments it undertook in the Budapest Memorandum, as well as other international obligations,

5. Emphasizing in particular that the 16 March 2014 referendum in Crimea was held in clear violation of the Constitution of Ukraine and the Constitution of Crimea as an autonomous republic within Ukraine, and was further conducted in an environment that could not be considered remotely free and fair,

6. Expressing concern that the Russian Federation continues to violate its international commitments in order to make similarly illegitimate claims in the eastern part of Ukraine, as it has done, and threatens to continue to do, in regard to other participating States,

7. Asserting that improved democratic practices regarding free and fair elections, adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Russian Federation would benefit the citizens of that State but also contribute significantly to stability and confidence among its neighbours, as well as enhance security and co-operation among all the participating States,

8. Noting the particular vulnerability of Crimean Tatars, Roma, Jews and other minority groups, along with those Ukrainian citizens opposed to the actions undertaken or supported by the Russian Federation, to attacks, harassment and intimidation by Russian supported separatist forces,

9. Welcoming the efforts and initiatives of the OSCE to develop a presence in Ukraine, including Crimea, that would support de-escalation of the current situation and monitor and encourage respect for the Helsinki principles, including the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Ukrainian citizens, as well as the work of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly:

10. Condemns the clear, gross and uncorrected violation of the Helsinki principles by the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine, including the particularly egregious violation of that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

11. Condemns the occupation of the territory of Ukraine;

12. Considers these actions, which include military aggression as well as various forms of coercion designed to subordinate the rights inherent in Ukraine's sovereignty to the Russian Federation's own interests, to have been unprovoked, and to be based on completely unfounded premises and pretexts;

13. Expresses unequivocal support for the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine as defined by the country's Constitution and within its internationally recognized borders;

14. Affirms the right of Ukraine and all participating States to belong, or not to belong, to international organizations, to be or not to be a party to bilateral or multilateral treaties including the right to be or not to be a party to treaties of alliance, or to neutrality;

15. Views the 16 March 2014 referendum in Crimea as an illegitimate and illegal act, the results of which have no validity whatsoever;

16. Calls upon all participating States to refuse to recognize the forced annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

17. Also calls upon all participating States further to support and adhere to mutually agreed and fully justified international responses to this crisis;

18. Deplores the armed intervention by forces under the control of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, and the human rights violations that they continue to cause;

19. Calls on the Russian Federation to end its intervention in Ukraine and to bring itself into compliance with the Helsinki principles in its relations with Ukraine and with all other participating States;

20. Demands that the Russian Federation desist from its provocative military overflights of the Nordic-Baltic region, immediately withdraw its military forces from the borders of the Baltic States and cease its subversive activities within the ethnic Russian populations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;

21. Supports continued efforts and initiatives of the OSCE to respond to this crisis, and calls on all OSCE states to provide both resources and political support and to allow the OSCE to work unhindered throughout Ukraine, including Crimea;

22. Urges the Russian Federation to contribute to regional stability and confidence, generally enhance security and co-operation by engaging its civil society and all political forces in a discussion leading to liberalization of its restrictive laws, policies and practices regarding freedom of the media, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly and association, and abide by its other commitments as a participating State of the OSCE;

23. Encourages Ukraine to remain committed to OSCE norms regarding the building of democratic institutions, adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens;

24. Exhorts the Russian Federation to fully utilize the expertise and assistance of the OSCE and its institutions, including the Parliamentary Assembly, to enact meaningful improvements in its electoral laws and practices;

25. Congratulates the people of Ukraine and commends the authorities of that country for successfully holding presidential elections on 25 May 2014 which were conducted largely in line with international commitments and characterized by a high voter turnout despite a challenging political, economic and, in particular, security environment;

26. Expresses a continued willingness to provide the substantial assistance to Ukraine in these and other matters at this critical time.

Mr. WICKER. It may be that Senator HARKIN will want to touch on this issue also, but I think it is significant that we have such great leadership in both bodies—in the Senate and in the House—with the OSCE, people who are willing to take the time to get to know our European neighbors at the parliamentary level and have that ex-

change there, people such as Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT, who is a vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly and who has been very diligent, again, in traveling to some of these exotic locations that nobody perhaps envies; and Congressman CHRIS SMITH, a veteran House Member who speaks out so eloquently and so firmly not only for the rule of law and human rights internationally, but he has actually been recognized by the Parliamentary Assembly as a special representative on the issue of human rights and trafficking. I commend our colleague from the House of Representatives Chairman SMITH for his leadership in getting passed a resolution condemning the trafficking of minors internationally and getting the Parliamentary Assembly to make a strong statement on the record on this very serious problem that faces, not only us here domestically, but also on the international front.

Mr. CARDIN. Will my colleague yield on that point.

Mr. WICKER. Indeed.

Mr. CARDIN. I appreciate the Senator mentioning Congressman SMITH's resolution on child sex trafficking. That was a separate resolution that was approved by the parliamentary assembly. The Helsinki Commission has been in the forefront on trafficking issues. The Trafficking in Persons Report that is prepared annually is used by the State Department and is known globally as the document on evaluating how States have proceeded on trafficking issues.

The work started in the parliamentary assembly of the OSCE, to the leadership of our commission and Congressman SMITH who has been our champion. It led to the passage of legislation in 2000 that had the Trafficking in Persons Report and followed up with this year's parliamentary assembly on child sex trafficking. I do congratulate Chairman SMITH and our delegation for continuing the sensitivity. The OSCE now has a special representative in trafficking. So you do provide technical assistance in each of our participating States to deal with the trafficking issue.

I wanted to point out that we do a lot of our work in the three committees, and one of those committees is where Senator HARKIN was extremely valuable in pointing out that the original document prepared by the committee did not mention the very important human rights concerns of people with disabilities. There is no stronger voice in the Senate than Senator HARKIN with regard to the rights of people with disabilities. I must tell you, I heard from many of my colleagues in the parliamentary assembly how honored they were that Senator HARKIN was in that room to bring this issue to the attention of the parliamentary assembly, to give it its proper attention, and the

matters he brought forward were overwhelmingly adopted at the parliamentary assembly.

If I might yield for Senator HARKIN to talk a little bit about the work he did in that group.

Mr. HARKIN. First, I want to thank my colleagues Senators CARDIN and WICKER for their leadership in the OSCE.

I was honored to join my colleagues Senator CARDIN and Senator WICKER last week at the 23rd annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, in Baku, Azerbaijan. It's important that Members of Congress uphold our shared interests and responsibilities in this vital organization, whose mission is to address issues of national and regional security, to promote mutual economic prosperity, and to improve the lives of citizens in all OSCE member States, especially through promotion of human rights.

I was proud to be part of the eight-member delegation from the United States led by Senator CARDIN, who is Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, our lead entity for participation in the OSCE. I congratulate Chairman CARDIN and the U.S. Commission's co-chairman, Representative CHRIS SMITH, on their accomplishments in advancing security and human rights last week. Chairman CARDIN was able to pass a needed resolution holding Russia accountable for violating OSCE principles and its own international commitments through its destabilizing actions in Ukraine. And Representative SMITH achieved passage of a key measure at the Assembly to help combat child sex trafficking.

As my colleagues have stated, the OSCE and thus also the U.S. Helsinki Commission were formed to ensure there is long-term security for the Europe and its allies and to promote cooperation among member States. Part of that cooperation is to foster economic development and growth, and it was within this area of cooperation that I sought to direct my efforts last week as a U.S. delegation member.

The Assembly's Second Committee, the Committee on Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and the Environment, is charged with promoting activities that will enhance the economic development of member States. It was there that I was able to offer three amendments to this year's committee resolution focusing on individuals with disabilities.

I am grateful that all three amendments were adopted. The economic health of all nations is tied to equal opportunity and equal protection for all citizens.

Our own Americans with Disabilities Act recognizes the importance of opportunity and access in daily life for all citizens, particularly those with

disabilities. Without access, without equal opportunity, people with disabilities are relegated to poverty and second class citizenship.

My amendments to the Second Committee resolution called for three things: ensuring equal opportunity and access for all persons with disabilities in daily activities of all member states; the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by all OSCE members; and the prohibition of discrimination against people with disabilities in employment and the workplace.

As I mentioned, I am happy that these amendments could pass with overwhelming support and were added to the final resolution of the Second Committee. They were then subsequently adopted by the full Parliamentary Assembly as part of what will now be known as the "Baku Declaration."

I thank our leader Senator CARDIN for inviting me to this important meeting and allowing me the opportunity to offer these amendments which focus on the issue of equal opportunity for people with disabilities in the member States and across the globe.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I congratulate my colleague from Iowa, a senior Member of this body, someone who is respected around the globe for being willing to meet fellow parliamentarians and to successfully put forward language that was adopted by consensus.

If I could mention a couple of other matters that pertain to this trip, First of all, it is interesting that the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, would be the host of this parliamentary assembly.

Azerbaijan is an important ally of the United States. I think it is important for Americans and for Members to know that their neighbor to the north is Russia and their neighbor to the south is Iran. This is a very tough neighborhood that our ally exists in. Yet they are oriented to the West. They are oriented to the United States. They want to be allies of ours. They were steadfast friends of ours in Afghanistan and have been during the entire time we have been there. They are steadfast allies of the Nation of Israel. Again, I think for a majority Muslim State such as Azerbaijan to take that stand in a troubling neighborhood speaks well of them. There are steps we wish they would take further toward transparency and openness and the rule of law, and maybe their elections weren't all we hoped for in the past, but they are an ally that continues to make progress. So I salute our host nation.

I think it should also be said, and I will yield to Senator CARDIN on this point, that we stopped back by Chisinau, Moldova, on our way back from Baku, a member of the OSCE, a nation that is also in a troubling

neighborhood that feels the breath of Moscow breathing down their collars and the threats by people from the Russian Federation who would like to exert undue influence on that great little nation.

It happened that we were there on the day the Moldovan Parliament ratified the agreement associating Moldova with the European Union. This was a wonderful day for the friends of freedom and the European-oriented citizens of Moldova. It was great to see the young people walking through the city with the flag and hear Beethoven's Ode to Joy, the European anthem, as it were, and to be there for this very significant, pivotal day in the history of Moldova and to say we will continue to stand with the great people of that country. I know Senator CARDIN was thinking of those things when he scheduled that stop.

Mr. CARDIN. First, the Senator was able to meet with the President of Azerbaijan. We thank him for that. He was able to adjust his calendar to do that and we appreciate it because it was very important to hear the message the Senator gave on the floor of the Senate.

Azerbaijan is an important ally to the United States. They have issues they need to deal with on human rights. We were clear about that. We met with the NGO community while we were there. But I think the Senator's leadership and the way the Senator balanced that presentation was very important.

There is also the energy issue with Azerbaijan that is very important to us in that region as an energy source for Europe. It is an important, strategic country.

And, yes, they do have issues on human rights. We did meet with the NGOs and we will continue to voice those concerns.

I am glad the Senator from Mississippi mentioned Chisinau and Moldova. We also on the way visited Georgia, and Georgia and Moldova have some common interests: They are both moving toward Europe with the association agreements. They recognize their economic and political future is with Europe and they both have Russian troops in their country, and they are both very much concerned about what is happening in Ukraine. We got tremendous interest about what we did in Baku on taking on the Russians directly about their violations of the OSCE principles in their activities in Ukraine. Moldova, as you know, is in the Transnistria area which borders the Ukraine. There are Russian troops there, and the independence of Moldova is very much impacted by Russia's presence in Transnistria. Even though there is no border between Moldova and Russia, they still have that real threat that Russia could use its force to try to dictate policy in Moldova.

And Georgia, of course, with the territories being controlled by the Russians—you saw what happened there, the bloodshed—is a country that is very much concerned about being able to control their own destiny. They want to be independent and they don't want to be dominated by Russia's intimidation. I think our presence in both of those countries was a clear signal that the United States stands for an independent Georgia and an independent Moldova. We want them to make their own decisions. We believe their future is clearly with integration into Europe. They believe their future is with integration into Europe and we will continue to be very supportive of those activities.

I have one more comment in regard to our work in Baku. There were a lot of issues that were taken up through declaration. For example, our delegation brought forward a resolution on the 10th anniversary of the Berlin conference dealing with antisemitism. Congressman SMITH and myself were both involved in the original Berlin issues.

My colleague has already put into the RECORD the resolution concerning Russia and Ukraine.

I must tell you I was so proud of my participation in this forum. I think the United States learned a lot more about the OSCE during the Ukraine crisis when they saw it was the OSCE mission that was on the ground giving us independent information about what was happening in Ukraine, the importance of our participation, and what Senator WICKER said in the beginning, our work here knows no political boundaries. This is not a partisan effort. It has been Democrats and Republicans working over the last 40 years to use the Helsinki principles to advance good governance, economic opportunity, and human rights throughout not just the OSCE countries but globally.

It has been a real pleasure to work with Senator WICKER on these issues and I thank him for his dedication and leadership. There has been no stronger voice on the floor of the Senate in regard to human rights issues. I have been on the floor listening to Senator WICKER as he talked about individual cases of human rights violations in Russia and other countries. He speaks his mind on these issues and I am proud to be associated with him on the Helsinki Commission.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I will let Senator CARDIN have the last word on this matter, and I see there are others who want to speak on other issues. Let me emphasize to everyone within the sound of our voices that diplomacy and foreign policy are carried out not only through the executive branch, the State Department, the other good offices that we have in the executive branch. Foreign policy is

alive and well through the participation of Members of the House and Senate, the parliamentary assembly, and in the OSCE. It is important we keep our role there.

My hat is off to the leaders of this Congress—House and Senate—who have, over the years, been willing to exercise leadership and to earn credibility in the OSCE. I am proud to have stood with them this year in this delegation. I believe we came back with a better understanding.

I appreciate the role of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty in covering our participation there and getting that out to the rest of the world.

I am proud to have stood with this delegation—eight Members from the House and Senate, senior Members and relatively new ones. We stood for the principles of the rule of law and transparency and democracy among our allies in Europe and Eurasia.

I yield for my friend.

Mr. CARDIN. I wish to be identified with Senator WICKER's comments, and again I thank all the participants, the eight Members who took their time to participate on behalf of the United States.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, I rise to pay tribute to a few Hoosier leaders who played important roles in the passing of this landmark legislation.

The story of the Civil Rights Act can be told through the leadership and vision of a long list of extraordinary Hoosiers, including many in the Indiana congressional delegation who supported the bill regardless of party. Yet to truly understand the Indiana leadership behind the Civil Rights Act, we need to start back home.

During World War II, Rev. Andrew Brown vowed to dedicate himself to social justice while in a hospital bed after being told by a doctor that one of his legs would need to be amputated. Brown promised God that if his leg was saved, he would spend the rest of his life fighting for justice for all people.

Later, recalling this moment during an interview, Brown said:

That's the miracle in my life. That's the commitment that I made. . . . I'll keep fighting until I fall, because that's what I told God I would do.

Brown did just that. He went on to fight for civil rights as a young pastor at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis in the 1950s and 1960s. Brown organized African Americans to show voting strength in 1963. He was the founder of the Indiana Black Expo, started Operation Breadbasket—a radio show devoted to promoting economic and social justice—

and served as the president of the Indiana chapter of the NAACP.

He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, AL, in 1965. He welcomed King directly into his home during trips to Indianapolis. He worked closely with Martin Luther King, Jr., on the national civil rights movement, and he was at the home of Dr. King's parents on the night of Dr. King's tragic assassination in April 1968.

Another renowned, homegrown Indiana leader was Willard Ransom. They are all featured here. After graduating from Harvard Law School as the only African-American member of his class, he was drafted into the military during World War II. While serving, Ransom spent much of his time in Alabama, where he was distraught by the discriminatory manner in which fellow Americans were being treated.

Resolving to see these practices come to an end, Ransom returned to his home community of Indianapolis, where he quickly became a leader in the fight for greater civil rights. He spoke against housing discrimination and school segregation. He played a role in drafting civil rights bills before the State legislature. He served as the State President of the NAACP five times, and he was the first African American to run for Congress in Marion County.

Henry Johnson Richardson, Jr., moved to Indianapolis from Alabama to attend Shortridge High School and went on to attend law school at Indiana University in Indianapolis. Richardson became a judge in Marion County and then a State representative during the struggle for civil rights.

He actively fought to desegregate schools and university housing and helped change the State Constitution to allow African Americans to serve in the Indiana National Guard.

These men brought together Hoosiers from every corner of the State, every socioeconomic class, race, and religion to further their efforts. They knew if we wanted to improve together, we have to work together.

In 1959 University of Notre Dame president Father Theodore Hesburgh and his fellow members of the Civil Rights Commission found themselves in Shreveport, LA, while conducting hearings across the country on voting rights. Noticing the Commission was uncomfortable in the heat of the Shreveport Air Force Base, Father Hesburgh made arrangements for the Commission to move their work to Notre Dame's research facility in the Presiding Officer's home State of Land O'Lakes, WI.

While the Commissioners relaxed and enjoyed the flight to their new location, Father Hesburgh reportedly sat in the back of the plane drafting resolutions that would come to make up the core of the Commission's report.

After an evening of fishing together in Land O'Lakes, WI, Father Hesburgh

strategically presented the Commission with his 14 resolutions, 13 of which were approved unanimously.

After learning of how Father Hesburgh brought the potentially divided Commission together, President Eisenhower remarked, "We have to put more fishermen on commissions and have more reports written at Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin."

Congress would later go on to enact approximately 70 percent of the Commission's recommendations, including the recommendations in legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Father Hesburgh knew that if we want to improve together, we have to work together.

A like-minded Indiana leader serving in the Senate in 1964 was Senator Birch Bayh, who was also the father of Evan.

On June 19, 1964, exactly 1 year after President John Kennedy submitted the Civil Rights Act to Congress, Senator Bayh helped the Senate pass the most important and sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction.

The clerk announced the bill passed 73 to 27 at 7:40 p.m. According to a copy of a draft press release amongst Bayh's papers at Indiana University, Senator Bayh stated:

Reason replaced emotion. Respect for another's view replaced blind refusal to hear a differing opinion . . . and when this bill is signed into law, we shall have established the basis for fulfillment of Thomas Jefferson's hope for a nation in which all of the people are treated equally under the law.

Indiana's other Senator, Vance Hartke, also helped to pass the Civil Rights Act out of the Senate on the evening of June 19, 1964. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote Senator Hartke after the vote, saying:

The devotees of civil rights in this country and freedom loving people the world over are greatly indebted to you for your support in passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I add to theirs my sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

Senators Bayh and Hartke brought to the Senate a belief that if we want to improve together, we have to work together.

Another Hoosier who stepped up to help shepherd through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was then-minority leader of the House, Congressman Charles Halleck, from Rensselaer, IN.

While working to move civil rights legislation forward, President Kennedy and leaders in the House went to Minority Leader Halleck to ask for his help to get the bill through the Judiciary Committee. Congressman Halleck, despite having a small percentage of African-American constituents and despite receiving some criticism, agreed to help.

When the Civil Rights Act came to the Judiciary Committee, some committee members took issue with several of its provisions. After working with other committee members to take out some of the controversial provisions in the bill, Congressman Halleck

and others went to work to convince their colleagues to support a more moderate version of the bill.

In the end, the bill passed the committee with bipartisan support. No one got 100 percent of what they wanted, but thanks to Congressman Halleck, the Judiciary Committee was able to move forward a strong bill of which both Republicans and Democrats could be proud.

In private conversations shortly thereafter, Congressman Halleck admitted that his vocal support for the Civil Rights Act was endangering his position as House minority leader. He said he would likely lose his position after the next elections because of his support, and he was right.

Despite the personal cost and consequences, Congressman Halleck's work to bring Republicans together with Democrats to support the Civil Rights Act was key to its success. He showed if we want to improve together, we have to work together.

On August 28, 1963, another Indiana Congressman stood behind Martin Luther King, Jr., on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and bore witness to a speech that would change the arc of American history. John Brademas came from Mishawaka, IN, and grew up hearing stories of the KKK boycotting his father's restaurant simply because he was Greek Orthodox.

These stories, coupled with John's progressive Methodist faith, instilled in him a deep sense of social justice that guided him throughout his career in public service. Congressman Brademas became an instrumental supporter of civil rights during his 22 years in Congress.

After witnessing Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Congressman Brademas welcomed King to speak in Indiana's Third District. Years later, Coretta Scott King remembered his work and helped campaign for Brademas' last bid for reelection.

A pioneer in Federal education policy, Congressman Brademas worked hard to both integrate schools and increase their funding across the entire country.

Minority Leader Halleck and Congressman Brademas were not alone in supporting the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Indiana U.S. Congress Members Madden, Adair, Roush, Roudebush, Bray, Denton, Harvey, and Bruce all supported the Civil Rights Act to help it pass the House with bipartisan support on July 2, 1964. They knew that if we want to improve together, we have to work together.

The list of Hoosiers involved in fighting for civil rights is long, and we should not forget the everyday Hoosiers, the men and women who did their part in their daily lives to broaden opportunities for all Americans. We may never read their names in history books or know what the United States

would be like if they had not done what they did, but what we do know is they understood that if we truly want to improve our country, to strengthen who we are as a people, we have to all work together.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 would not have passed without leaders who were willing to set aside their differences and work together. No one got everything they wanted, but America got what was so crucially needed. Our country took a monumental leap forward.

This 50th anniversary is a powerful reminder that if we truly want to improve our country, we have to work together.

I am honored to follow in the footsteps of these and many more great Hoosiers who fought for civil rights. I am humbled to have the chance to talk about them today.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, it is with great pride that I rise to speak about the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014.

Before proceeding, I wish to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for being a true partner in developing and building support for the sportsmen's package. I am proud to say that by working together, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is co-sponsored by 18 Democrats, 26 Republicans, and 1 Independent. It is endorsed by a very diverse group of more than 40 different stakeholders.

When I became cochair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus in early 2013, I was committed to advancing bipartisan legislation that would benefit our hunters, our anglers, and our outdoor recreation enthusiasts in North Carolina and around the country. Taken together, I believe the 12 bills included in this bipartisan act accomplish that objective and do so in a fiscally responsible manner. This package does not add a dime to our deficit. It actually raises \$5 million over the next 10 years for deficit reduction.

Outdoor recreation activities are part of the fabric of North Carolina. From the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the West to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in the East, North Carolinians are passionate about the outdoors—me included. Hunting, fishing, and hiking are a way of life, and many of these traditions have been handed down through my own family.

According to a recent report, 1.4 million sports men and women call my State home, and that is nearly 20 percent of the State's entire population. In 2011 a total of 1.6 million people hunted or fished in North Carolina. To put that in perspective, that is roughly the same amount of people who live in

the Raleigh and Durham metropolitan areas.

Nationwide, over 37 million people participate in these activities. That is the equivalent of the population of the State of California. While many of these men and women live in our rural areas, they are just as likely to hail from some of our much more urban areas.

To ensure that future generations have an opportunity to enjoy our great outdoors as we do today, this act, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014, reauthorizes several landmark conservation programs. For example, the package includes legislation to reauthorize NAWCA, which is our North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This voluntary initiative provides matching grants to organizations, States and local governments, and to private landowners to restore wetlands that are critical to our migratory birds. These partnerships actually generate \$3 in non-Federal contributions for every dollar of Federal NAWCA funds, and they have actually preserved more than 27 million acres of habitat over the last two decades.

The benefits of this program to outdoor recreation enthusiasts nationwide cannot be overstated. The abundance of migratory birds, fish, and mammals supported by these wetlands translates into multibillion-dollar activities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. In North Carolina, NAWCA has advanced numerous projects to improve waterfowl habitats and to enable the acquisition of thousands of acres of land used for increasing public opportunities for activities of hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-associated recreation.

Here is a photo of the Cape Fear Arch region. As part of the Southeastern North Carolina Wetlands Initiative, the North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, and the Nature Conservancy received a \$1 million NAWCA grant to protect wetlands and associated uplands in this Cape Fear Arch region. The Federal grant then is matched by close to \$3 million in non-Federal funding.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act also includes legislation sponsored by Senators HEINRICH and HELLER that reauthorizes the FLTFA, which is the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, which enables the Bureau of Land Management to sell public land to private owners, counties, and others for ranching, community development, and other projects. This "land-for-land" approach has created jobs and generated funding for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service to help those entities acquire critical inholdings of land from willing sellers. This takes place in 11 Western States as well as Alaska.

Our sportsmen's package also contains Senator WICKER's bipartisan bill that will enable hunters in all States to purchase duck stamps electronically. Currently, eight States are now participating in a private program that enables the issuance of e-duck stamps. Since that program began, hunters in those eight States have actually purchased 3.5 million electronic duck stamps.

I can personally vouch for the benefits of enabling hunters in all States to actually purchase duck stamps online. There have been occasions when members of my own family were unable to take a visitor hunting because we couldn't find a physical stamp. Let me give an example. Our son-in-law came to visit last year. My husband had planned to take him duck hunting. Unfortunately, three different places my husband visited were out of duck stamps. So now when my husband buys his duck stamps for the season, he purchases two or three extra just in case a family member or a visitor decides to go hunting with him.

Enabling all hunters to purchase these duck stamps online will not cost taxpayers any money, and it will help preserve additional wildlife habitat across the country because a portion of the proceeds of duck stamps goes to protecting the habitat.

Another bipartisan bill in this package reauthorizes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NFWF. This poster actually shows the number of different habitats that are included in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. For example, in Florida right now there are 658 different preserves and projects.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a nonprofit that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats. Since its inception, NFWF has awarded over 11,600 grants to more than 4,000 different organizations nationwide. Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation consistently generates \$3 in non-Federal funds for every \$1 in Federal funds.

One priority that NFWF is currently working on is designed to introduce America's youth to careers in conservation. In addition to employing youth, NFWF is also exploring ways to expand conservation employment opportunities for our Nation's veterans.

Our package also includes regulatory reforms and enhancements that will benefit sports men and women across the country. Another example is bipartisan legislation that was introduced by Senator MARK UDALL of Colorado. His bill is included, and it will enable States to allocate a greater portion of the Federal Pittman-Robertson funding to create and maintain shooting ranges on public lands. There is currently a shortage of public shooting ranges across the country. In North Carolina, a principal impediment to

target range development is the initial cost of acquiring the land and then constructing the facility. By reducing the non-Federal match requirement from 25 percent currently to 10 percent and then allowing the States to access funds over a greater period of time, this legislation will enable the States to move forward with new public ranges.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act will also help improve access for hunting and fishing and wildlife viewing on public lands. Right now nearly half of all the hunters conduct a portion of their hunting activity on public lands, and a lack of access to these public lands is cited as a primary reason people stop participating in these traditional activities; they just can't get there. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act would require that at least 1.5 percent, or \$10 million, of annual Land and Water Conservation Fund money be used to improve access to our public lands.

The State of North Carolina is home to four national forests that comprise 1.25 million acres. Our outdoor recreation enthusiasts regularly have problems with actually getting access to this gorgeous place depicted here, which is the Pisgah National Forest. I probably spend more time backpacking in this forest than any other one. This legislation will help dedicate funding to expanding the access here and on public lands across the country.

Outdoor recreation activities are not only engrained in North Carolinians' way of life, they are also huge economic drivers in my State and in States across the country. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found that hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreation activities contribute \$3.3 billion annually to North Carolina's economy. Nationwide, the same report found that 90 million Americans participate in this wildlife-related recreation, resulting in close to \$145 billion in annual spending. That is shown on this chart, the actual economic impact for wildlife-related recreation. In 2011 sports men and women spent a total of about \$34 billion on hunting, which is depicted on the chart, \$41 billion on fishing, and \$56 billion on wildlife watching. The biggest amount of money spent while enjoying the outdoors is on wildlife watching. An extra \$14 billion is spent on other activities.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, all of these activities support over 192,000 jobs just in North Carolina and a total of 6.1 million across the country. So this really does have a huge economic impact across our Nation.

I often say I don't care if an idea is a Democratic idea or a Republican idea, only that it is a good idea, and I will put work behind that. I believe this bill embodies that spirit.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 is a balanced, bipartisan plan that is endorsed by more than 40 stakeholders, from Ducks Unlimited to the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and it is fiscally responsible. I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation for the benefit of our economy and the more than 90 million sports men and women across the country.

Thank you, Madam President. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to address the Senate as in morning business and engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Arizona and the two Senators from the State of Texas, Mr. CORNYN and Mr. CRUZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, as my colleagues know and the Senator from Texas and the Senator from Arizona both understand, we are facing a crisis on our border. It has been changed now to a "situation." I understand that it is no longer a crisis but a situation, according to the White House.

The Senator from Texas has been to the border. I have been to our border. We have seen this veritable flood of young people who have come to our country under the belief that they will be able to stay.

The real human tragedy here of many, as my colleague from Texas and my friend from Arizona know, is that the trip from Central America to the Texas border, which is the closest place of arrival, is a horrible experience for these young people. Young women are routinely violated. Young men are mistreated. It is a terrible experience for them. Those who are for "open borders," those who think this is somehow acceptable ignore the fact that this is a human rights issue of these young people who are enticed to come to our country under false circumstances and suffer unspeakable indignities and even death along the way.

The President of the United States, who initially stated that they would—and I would quote him—he said that we had to stop this and initially said that we needed to reverse the legislation that has encouraged the people to come here. I quote him:

Kids all over the world have it tough, he said. Even children in America who live in dangerous neighborhoods. . . . He told the groups [that he was addressing that] he had to enforce the law—even if that meant deporting hard cases with minors involved.

Sometimes, there is an inherent injustice in where you are born, and no president can solve that, Obama said. But presidents must send the message that you can't just show up on the border, plead for asylum or refugee status, and hope to get it.

Then anyone can come in, and it means that, effectively, we don't have any kind of system, Obama said. We are a Nation with borders that must be enforced.

Unfortunately, the proposal—and I would ask my friend from Texas—that has come over for \$3.7 billion has nothing to do with dispelling the idea and the belief in the Central American countries that they can come here and if they get to our border they can stay. They cannot stay. They cannot stay. If they believe they are victims of persecution, they should go to our consulate, go to our embassy. But we cannot have this unlimited flow of individuals.

Finally—I will yield for my colleagues—what about people in other parts of the world? Do they not need this kind of relief? Are they not persecuted? What about the Middle East? What about Africa? This is selective morality that is being practiced here, I would say to my friend from Texas.

We want people to come to this country legally. We want them to come if they are persecuted. But we want an orderly fashion. Finally, could I just say and remind my friends that despite what may be said, the fact is—and the numbers indicate it—for young people these terrible coyotes are bringing them for thousands of dollars. The Los Angeles Times reports: In fiscal year 2013, 20,805 unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras were apprehended by the Border Patrol and only 1,669 were repatriated.

I ask my friend from Texas: What kind of message does that send?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would say to the distinguished senior Senator from Arizona that the administration has been sending mixed messages. First they called this a humanitarian crisis. Then they called it—I think the Senator said—a “situation.” They are sort of walking this back. But I just wanted to remind my colleagues from Arizona of what the President said a few years ago in El Paso when people said we needed better border security measures in place.

He ridiculed people. The Senators may remember this. He said—this is the President talking in El Paso in May 2011—he said:

You know, they said we needed to triple the Border Patrol. Now they are going to say we need to quadruple the Border Patrol, or they will want a higher fence, or maybe they will need a moat, or maybe they want alligators in the moat. They will never be satisfied. I understand that. That is politics.

But the truth is, the measures we put in place are getting results. The truth is, they are not getting the kind of results the American people expect—nor these children who are being subjected

to horrific conditions as they are smuggled from Central America up through Mexico to the United States. One of the most puzzling things to me—I see my colleague from Texas here. I know Governor Perry has implored the President to come visit the border.

Now he said: Well, I will invite the Governor to an immigration roundtable—where I doubt the Governor will get in a word because the President will probably just deliver another lecture. He is pretty good at that. But that is 500 miles from where the problem is. How can you have a humanitarian crisis, as the White House has called this, and not want to go see it for yourself? Maybe you will actually learn something.

I agree with the Senator from Arizona. In the bill the administration sent over, they stripped out all of the reforms that would actually go to solve the very problem we all know needs to be solved here and instead asked for a blank check.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I ask the Senator a question? The first thing that needs to be done is to amend the legislation which basically would then make every country treated the same way contiguous countries would be. That has to be the first step. Again and again, I think it is important to emphasize here that this is a humanitarian issue, but it is a humanitarian issue about these children who are taken—for how many days? Fifteen, twenty days on top of a train they are being taken and exploited by these terrible coyotes.

So should we not have a system where if someone deserves asylum in this country we could beef up our consulates, beef up our embassies, and have them come there and make their argument, and then be able to come to this country, I would argue?

Mr. CORNYN. The Senator is exactly right. What we need is a legal system of immigration, not an illegal system, because the people who control illegal immigration are the cartels and the coyotes the Senator mentioned earlier and the criminal gangs. By the way, they have discovered a new business model. They treat these children as commodities, and they hold them for ransom. They sexually assault the young women, as the Senator pointed out.

We do not know how many of these children start this perilous journey from Central America, some 1,200 miles away, and never make it to the United States because they simply die along the way. So this is a horrific situation.

I know both the Senators from Arizona might want to speak to this. The President has acknowledged that even under the Senate immigration bill that passed the Senate, none of these children would qualify. I would ask maybe the junior Senator from Arizona if he would care to comment.

How did this situation get created where even under the law that the President has advocated for, the Senate immigration bill, none of these children would be able to stay?

Mr. FLAKE. That is correct. The Senator from Texas is correct. Neither the President's deferred action program nor legislation passed by the Senate would allow people coming now to have some type of legal status. In the case of the President's DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, you would have to have been here by 2007. Under the Senate legislation you would have to have been here by 2011 at a minimum. So it would not apply.

The problem here—the root of it or the main part of it—is that people coming from noncontiguous countries to the United States, meaning Central American countries like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, are treated differently than kids who come from Mexico or Canada. In the case of kids coming—unaccompanied minors—from Mexico or Canada, the average is 3 days that we take care of them and then repatriate them or send them back.

Here in this case, partly because of the law we have under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, kids who come here need to be placed with a guardian or family. The President's proposal is asking nearly \$2 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, which has no role in border enforcement at all—none. It has no role in deportation or to repatriate these children back. It is simply to settle these children with families or guardians around the country.

I should note that HHS does no due diligence whatsoever to ensure that the people they are placing them with are here legally. So the net effect is, when a child goes to a legal guardian or a parent, it is very unlikely that they will then show up later for deportation hearings.

So, in effect, you are telling the cartels and the human smugglers and others: Keep doing what you are doing because it works. When those unaccompanied minors get here, they will be able to stay. They will be taken care of.

As Senator MCCAIN said, that is the least human thing we can do—to encourage parents and relatives in these countries to send their children or put them in the care of smugglers and others. If we want to stem the tide here, the way to stem the tide is to have parents and relatives in these countries seeing these children come back to these countries as we do to children in Mexico or Canada who come across the border.

So I thank the Senator from Arizona for arranging this colloquy. We have to take action.

Mr. CORNYN. If I may, the junior Senator from Texas had visited

Lackland Air Force Base recently and observed some of these 1,200—if I am not mistaken—children who are being essentially warehoused because we do not have any other place to put them. If he might comment on what we are going to do if the numbers continue to grow at the level they are growing now. I know in 2011 there were about 6,000 unaccompanied minors detained at the southwestern border.

This year since October, it is somewhere in the 50,000 range. If that number continues to escalate, where are we going to put all of these kids?

Mr. CRUZ. I thank my friend the senior Senator from Texas. I am honored to stand here with the senior Senator from Texas and the Senators from Arizona as we speak out together against the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding on our border.

President Obama today is down in the State of Texas. But, sadly, he is not visiting the border. He is not visiting the children who are suffering as a result of the failures of the Obama policies. Instead, he is doing fundraisers. He is visiting Democratic fat cats to collect checks. Apparently, there is no time to look at the disaster, at the devastation that is being caused by his policies.

Just a couple of weeks ago, as the Senator from Texas observed, I was down at Lackland Air Force Base where there are roughly 1,200 children being housed. There is one thing President Obama had said about what is happening that is absolutely correct. This is a humanitarian disaster. But it is a disaster of the President's own making. It is a disaster that is a direct consequence of President Obama's lawlessness. A quick review of the facts makes that abundantly apparent.

In 2011, just 3 years ago, there were roughly 6,000 unaccompanied children apprehended trying to cross illegally into this country. Then in 2012, in the summer of 2012, right before the election, President Obama illegally granted amnesty to some 800,000 people who were here illegally who had entered the country as children.

The direct, predictable, foreseeable consequence of granting that amnesty is the number of children—unaccompanied children—immediately began to skyrocket. This year, the estimates are that 90,000 unaccompanied children will enter this country illegally. That is up from 6,000 just 3 years ago—6,000 to 90,000. Next year the estimate is 145,000.

This explosion is the direct consequence of the President's lawlessness. It is worth underscoring. The people who are being hurt the most are these kids. The coyotes who are bringing them in are not well-meaning social workers trying to help out some kids. These are violent, hardened transnational criminal cartels. These mothers and fathers, sadly, are handing over their children to violent

criminals who are physically abusing and who are sexually abusing small children.

When I was down at Lackland Air Force Base, a senior official there described to me how those cartels—with some of these children after they have taken them and after they have begun coming to this country to take them here illegally—would hold these children captive, hold them hostage to extract additional money from the families.

If the families did not send them additional money, as horrifying as it is, these drug cartels would begin severing body parts of these children. I listened to the senior official at Lackland describe how the cartels would put a gun to the back of the head of a little boy or little girl and force that child to cut off the fingers or the ears of another little boy or little girl. If they do not do so, they will shoot them and move to the next one.

So on our end, we are having children come to this country whom we are having to deal with who are maimed. They have been maimed by the brutality of these criminal cartels. Others of them have deep, deep psychological trauma from a child forced to do something so horrific. This is a tragedy that is playing out. It is happening in real time.

Now, the administration has suggested the cause of this is violence in Central America. I would suggest to my friends, the senior Senator from Texas and the Senators from Arizona, that argument is a complete red herring. With violence in one country, you would expect to see the number of immigrants from that country to go up. But there is no reason unaccompanied children would go up. That is something unique and distinct.

There have always been countries across the world, sadly, that have been plagued by violence. When that happens, we have always seen an influx in immigrants, both legal and illegal, from those countries. What we are seeing here is particular, though. It is particularized towards children. The reason it is particularized towards children is because the President granted amnesty in a way that was particularized towards children.

If you want to understand just how false the administration's talking point is for the cause of what is happening, you need to look no further than a report which was prepared by our border security that Senator CORNYN and Senator FLAKE and I all saw in the Senate Judiciary Committee. A couple of weeks ago we had a hearing on this humanitarian crisis, and a whistleblower at the Border Patrol handed over this confidential document to a number of Senators on the Judiciary Committee.

It described how the Border Patrol interviewed over 200 people who have come here illegally—adults and chil-

dren—and asked them a simple question: Why did you come? Ninety five percent said: We came because we believe if we get here we will get amnesty. We believe we will get a permit is what they said; that once they get here, once a child gets here, that little boy, that little girl is scot-free. I would suggest to my friend, this is what amnesty looks like.

I would suggest to my friends this is what amnesty looks like. Amnesty looks like dangerous drug cartels entering this country wantonly. Amnesty looks like thousands of young children being housed in military bases. Amnesty looks like hundreds of immigrants who came here illegally being transported to cities and towns amid opposition from the citizens who lived there. Amnesty looks like a complete and utter disregard of our rule of law. Amnesty is unfolding before our very eyes.

I would suggest that the only response that will stop this humanitarian disaster is for President Obama to start enforcing the law, to stop promising amnesty, to stop refusing to enforce Federal immigration law, and, finally, to secure the borders. Indeed, I would call upon our colleagues in this body in both parties to come together and secure the border once and for all and to stop holding border security hostage for amnesty.

Mr. CORNYN. If I could ask a question, really, of all three.

I think we have described the catastrophe that continues to unfold and indeed grow. I know, speaking for myself—and I venture to say, I bet, for all four of us—we are actually interested in trying to solve this problem.

The President sent over an appropriations request that is essentially a blank check. The junior Senator from Arizona appropriately acknowledged that the majority of the money is for health and human resources to continue to warehouse these kids with no actual solution.

The Senator from Arizona said we need to change that 2008 law. I agree with that. We need to make sure the children are detained and then get whatever process they are entitled to, perhaps even appear before an immigration judge—that is something we should talk about—before they are repatriated.

But I want to ask the senior Senator from Arizona, because of his long distinguished service on the Armed Services Committee, I was troubled to read and hear some of the testimony of General Kelly, the head of Southern Command, who is the combatant commander for the world south of the Texas border, Mexico and into Central and South America—or actually I guess Mexico is Northern Command. But he said they sit and watch 75 percent of the cartel activity involving illegal drugs and they simply don't have the assets to do anything about it.

I asked him: Do you think trying to figure out how to adequately fund and resource Southern Command, how to get our U.S. military to perhaps work more closely with the Central American military forces and the Mexican military forces, is that part of the solution to this problem?

Mr. MCCAIN. I would say to my colleague, yes. Also, the commander of Southern Command believes there is an increasing inflow of people entering our country illegally who are not from Mexico or from Central America. They are from other countries around the world, and there is a real and imminent threat of people coming to the United States of America not just to get a job with a better life but to commit acts of terror. We are seeing increasing numbers.

I say to my friend from Texas, it is my understanding—tell me if I am correct—that now 82 percent of the people coming across the border illegally are other than Mexican, a majority from Central America but then China, India, Africa—from all over the world they are coming.

Mr. CORNYN. I would say to the Senator I have been in Brooks County near Falfurrias, TX, to see some of the rescue beacons they have there with some of the language written in Chinese. This is in Brooks County near Falfurrias, TX, where I guarantee nobody who lives there speaks Chinese—or not many people.

So the Senator's point is well taken. Out of the 414,000 people detained coming across the southwestern border last year, they came from 100 different countries. Most of them were from Mexico and Central America, but the Senator is exactly right; we have seen a huge influx from Central America up through Mexico, and that is the primary source today.

Mr. MCCAIN. I just mentioned, and we all know—and I certainly would like my friend from Arizona to comment on this—we have a proposal that came over from the President of the United States to spend some \$3.7 billion. I think all of us are for finding a way to pay for it but agree with measures that need to be taken, such as beefing up our consulate and embassy capabilities, such as increasing the number of refugee visas for citizens of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala by 5,000 each next year, do what is necessary to try to address this from the humanitarian standpoint.

But the President of the United States failed, even though he had stated with the proposal that came over, there is not a request to amend the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act. In other words, we could be in an unending funding for treatment of people who came illegally unless we address the fundamental problem that is driving it.

I would ask my friend from Arizona—and, by the way, could I also point out

that legislation he and I were part of and spent hundreds if not thousands of hours on called for 90-percent effective control of the border and 100-percent situational awareness, some \$8 billion being spent. It was amended on the floor for an additional 20,000 Border Patrol, that a fundamental element of immigration reform, as we proposed it, was to get 90-percent effective control of the border, and, in addition to that, that we would have that funding come out of fees people would pay as they moved on a path to citizenship, not subject to appropriations.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the Senator for making that point with regard to the legislation. We propose to truly put border security first, and I continue to hope the House will take that up.

But one of the points that has been made is we have to stem this humanitarian crisis in a way that will actually solve the problem, and that will be solved when parents and relatives in these countries realize that sending their children, unaccompanied minors, is futile, that they will spend a lot of money and it won't work.

There is a good example of how we can give effect to this from a couple of years ago. In 2005, the country of Mexico allowed Brazilians to come in on kind of a visa waiver-type program. What happened is a lot of Brazilian nationals came through Mexico and used it as a conduit to come into this country. So we had a huge number of so-called OTMs or other-than-Mexicans coming up, Brazilians, and we were doing what can best be described as catch and release. We would take them back across the border and let them go.

That wasn't solving the problem, so the Bush administration decided we needed to solve this problem. The way to actually solve it is to detain these individuals and then send them home to Brazil. We did that. It was an operation called Texas Hold 'Em. After that operation, within 30 days, the number of Brazilians coming through Mexico into this country dropped by 50 percent; within 60 days, that number dropped by 90 percent.

So we can do this, but it needs to involve us changing the law with regard to trafficking, to allow us to treat children in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador the same way we treat children who come from Mexico or from Canada and allow us to repatriate and to take these children back. Once that happens, when we actually do that, then we have a chance to stem this tide. It is the best thing we could do on a humanitarian basis as well, to not have these children subject to the cartels and human smugglers who are preying on them right now.

Mr. CORNYN. I would ask the junior Senator from Texas, surely the President understands the facts as we have laid them out here, the problems with the 2008 law, really, the flaw in that

law. They have created a business model out of it because they realized these immigrants who come across will not be detained, either the children or many adults, women traveling with minor children, because there are not adequate detention facilities.

I wonder if the Senator has an opinion why, if the President—surrounded as he is with some pretty smart policy people, people such as Secretary Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of Homeland Security, whom I have had a conversation with about this very topic—hasn't sent over a request to actually fix the problem, as opposed to continuing to warehouse people?

Mr. CRUZ. The senior Senator from Texas is exactly right that the President has effectively admitted he has no intention of stopping this problem. The supplemental request he has submitted, \$3.7 billion, the majority of that goes to HHS's social services, providing care to these kids, rather than stopping and solving the problem.

The Senator and I have both spent a lot of time down on the border of Texas and all four of us have spent time down on the border of Texas or Arizona. The consistent answer from local leaders, from local law enforcement, from local elected officials about what is effective securing the border—the most consistent answer is boots on the ground; that if you want to effectively secure the border—boots on the ground, particularly combined with technology.

It is striking, out of \$3.7 billion, a tiny percentage of that is directed toward boots on the ground. This is an HHS social services bill, and it is unfortunately a pattern we have seen with the Obama administration of bait-and-switch. They are calling this a border security bill. It is reminiscent of the 2009 stimulus, which we will all recall was sold to the American people. The 2009 stimulus was about building roads, infrastructure, and shovel-ready projects, all of which are good ideas. Then when over \$800 billion was spent by the Obama administration, very little of it actually went to roads, infrastructure, or shovel-ready projects. Instead, it paid off liberal interest groups such as, in this case, the administration calls the \$3.7 billion border security and yet almost none of the money goes to border security.

Indeed, I would note for all of the Democrats who are seeing this humanitarian crisis unfold, who are discovering suddenly the need for border security—and I would note my friend the senior Senator from New York stood on this floor as we were debating immigration last year and said: The border is secure today.

President Obama stood in El Paso in 2010 and said: The border is secure today.

I would note, for everyone who says now they are focused on border security that when the Senate Judiciary

Committee was considering immigration reform, I introduced an amendment—the senior Senator from Texas supported it—that would have tripled our Border Patrol, that would have increased fourfold the fixed-wing assets, the technology that would have provided the tools to finally solve this problem, and every single Senate Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee voted against it. So we shouldn't be surprised the President's proposal that is labeled border security doesn't actually secure the border, doesn't do anything about the lawlessness or the amnesty, which means the Obama administration is effectively admitting they expect these children to continue coming—hundreds of thousands of them in years to come, hundreds of thousands of little boys and little girls being subjected to horrific physical abuse, sexual abuse, and they intend to do nothing to fix the problem, to stop it, to secure the borders, to uphold the law. That is heartbreaking, and that is not the responsibility of a Commander in Chief.

Mr. CORNYN. I would ask the senior Senator of Arizona, who is also a national well-known security expert but who also knows a little bit about this big world we live in, what is it we can do with some of the money slated to go to countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, and even Mexico?

Historically, we have had a successful partnership, for example, with the Colombian Government to help them build their capacity under Plan Colombia. Admittedly, that is a different scenario.

In Mexico we have the Merida Initiative, where we train and provide equipment to help build their police and law enforcement capability.

Are there things we ought to try to tie the money that goes to these countries to right now that would be productive programs and help solve the problem at its source?

Mr. MCCAIN. Absolutely. And I think, as we mentioned earlier, beefing up our embassy and consulate capabilities to hear these cases in the country of origin—particularly Central America—is very important.

I would also point out an article entitled “Deportation data won't dispel rumors drawing migrant minors to U.S.” It is a very interesting piece.

Organized crime groups in Central America have exploited the slow U.S. legal process and the compassion shown to children in apparent crisis, according to David Leopold, an immigration attorney in Cleveland.

He said smugglers, who may charge a family up to \$12,000 to deliver a child to the border, often tell them exactly what to say to American officials.

“The cartels have figured out where the hole is,” he said.

As it now stands, the 2008 law guarantees unaccompanied minors from those countries access to a federal asylum officer and a chance to tell a U.S. judge that they were victims of a crime or face abuse or sexual

trafficking if they are sent home. If the claim is deemed credible, judges may grant a waiver from immediate deportation.

“Word of mouth gets back, and now people are calling and saying, ‘This is what I said in court’,” said a senior U.S. law enforcement official, who was not authorized to speak on the record. “Whether it is true or not, the perception is that they are successfully entering the United States. . . . That is what is driving up the landings.”

Of course, the numbers are staggering, as we have pointed out.

The President himself spoke in the Rose Garden last week.

Speaking in the Rose Garden last week, Obama said he was sending a “clear message” to parents in Central America not to send their children north in hopes of being allowed into America.

“The journey is unbelievably dangerous for these kids,” Obama said. “The children who are fortunate enough to survive it will be taken care of while they go through the legal process, but in most cases that process will lead to them being sent back home.”

Unfortunately, his statement is not backed up by the actual numbers. We are talking about one-tenth of these children actually being sent back, as they are being coached by these coyotes who are giving them the story to tell.

I wish to emphasize on the part of all of us on this side of the aisle and every American we represent that we have compassion for these people. We care about a humanitarian crisis. We care about these children. It is not a matter of fortressing America. We are all for legal immigration. We are from every part of the world. We will be portrayed by the open border people, very frankly, as those who want to stop these poor children from being able to come to our country. It is not that. We are trying to stop the human abuses, the terrible things being perpetrated on these children under the false pretenses—they should be false pretenses but now not so false—that they can come to this country and stay.

Mr. CORNYN. I think the senior Senator has accurately described how the cartels have figured out how to game the system.

Indeed, with all the advertising we do down in Central America saying “don't come,” as the junior Senator from Arizona indicated, as long as they get a call saying “I made it” and the cartels realize that for every migrant child they shuttle up through the smuggling corridors it is going to be another \$5,000 or more in the bank, there is every incentive to continue.

But I ask the senior Senator and perhaps our other colleagues—the President has said that he has a pen and he has a phone, and he is going to do things without Congress. He said that because he is frustrated. I know we all have experienced a level of frustration during the immigration debates from time to time and over the years. But he says he is going to consider issuing another order relative to deportation pol-

icy, which strikes me as doubling down on his message that he is not going to enforce the law; he is going to try to circumvent the law and basically welcome more people here outside of legal avenues. So I ask my colleagues, doesn't that make things worse, not better?

Mr. MCCAIN. Well, the other aspect of this that makes things worse: Of course, the President on the one hand agrees with us that they can't stay. I don't know how many times I have quoted him here. But at the same time, as any objective observer would indicate, the proposal that came over for \$3.7 billion has nothing that would dispel the incentive and the magnet creating this flood of young people whose trip we have been talking about, I ask my friend from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the Senator. I have to run to a hearing, but I wish to say yes. I, Senator MCCAIN, Senator FEINSTEIN on the other side of the aisle, and many others—I think everyone here—signed a letter to the President asking him to make a clear statement that children coming now will be deported. He did so, and so did the Secretary of Homeland Security. Our State Department has relayed that message. And you can say that until you are blue in the face, but if the reality is that unaccompanied minors who get here are then placed with guardians or families around the country and we appropriate \$1.8 billion to do so, then the message being sent is exactly the opposite of what the President is saying.

I think that is what we are all here today to say—that we have to not just say the right thing, we have to do the right thing. And the right thing is to change the law that allows the loophole for people to stay here indefinitely and send the message by actually sending children—as we do with unaccompanied minors from Mexico and Canada—back because that will send the message clearer than any words we could say to those tight-knit communities who hear by word of mouth. And nobody is going to pay another \$5,000 or \$6,000 or \$7,000 to send a child through those dangerous conditions to the border if they know they are going to be returned home.

Mr. MCCAIN. If I could finally add that this proposal that came over for \$3.8 billion—and I can only speak for myself, but unless there are provisions in that legislation which would bring an end to this humanitarian crisis, then I cannot support it. I cannot vote for a provision which will then just perpetuate an unacceptable humanitarian crisis that is taking place on our southern border. I don't know if my colleague would agree.

Mr. CRUZ. I would note that the confirmation and message of amnesty received by the parents entrusting their children to these drug dealers is the

Border Patrol report, which said that 95 percent of those coming believe they would get a permiso. They believe they would be allowed to go scot-free. That is the message being heard. It is why these children are being subjected to violence.

A Lackland Air Force Base senior official described a young Hispanic child who is a quadriplegic, who is paralyzed from the neck down, and the drug cartels abandoned him on the Texas side of the Rio Grande. They found him lying by the river, on the other side of the river. That is the sort of care and consideration they are providing for these children. What is happening to these children is horrific.

We are a compassionate nation. We have always been a compassionate nation. But any policy that continues children being abused by violent drug cartels is the opposite of compassion.

So I ask two questions to my friend the senior Senator from Arizona.

This afternoon I had lunch with the attorney general of Texas, Greg Abbott, who described that the attorney general of Texas and the U.S. Attorney's Office have recently arrested an alleged terrorist in Texas with ties to ISIS—with ties to the radical Islamic terrorists who are right now wreaking havoc across Iraq and Syria.

The first question I would ask the senior Senator from Arizona is, how significant does he see the threat of terrorists crossing our porous border and targeting the homeland?

Then, of the \$3.7 billion President Obama has requested in the supplemental bill, just \$160 million is directed to Border Patrol agents and immigration judges—both. So less than 5 percent of the total actually goes to boots on the ground.

The second question I would ask of the senior Senator from Arizona is, in his judgment, is devoting less than 5 percent of the resources from this bill to boots on the ground a serious effort at securing the border and solving the problem?

Mr. MCCAIN. I would say to my colleague, the answer to the second question is obviously no. It is my understanding that if you break this legislation into individual illegal immigrant, it is like \$80,000 per individual—a remarkable sum. I will be glad to be corrected for the record if that is not true.

But concerning the Senator's first question, about a month ago, for the first time in Syria, an American citizen blew himself up as a suicide bomber in Syria.

There are now thousands and thousands of Europeans—we believe there are as many as 100 U.S. citizens, although that number varies—who are fighting in Syria on behalf of the most radical terrorist organization: ISIS. These many hundreds of Europeans who are fighting there have—guess what. As European citizens of these

countries in Europe, they have a visa. They can go to a European country, get on a plane tomorrow, and fly to the United States of America because they are a citizen of one of the European countries with which we have a visa-free agreement.

Our Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have all said unequivocally that the events that are transpiring now in the largest, most wealthy, most influential, and largest center for terrorism, between Syria and Iraq, is breeding these people who have said they want to attack the United States of America.

Baghdadi, who is now the leader of ISIS, whom we saw on television apparently preaching at a mosque in Mosul the other day, despite the fact that there is \$10 million on his head, when he left our prison camp Bucca in Iraq, he said: See you in New York. And I don't think he was joking.

So this also is clearly a national security issue over time as well, I say to my friend from Texas.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REFUGEES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are here today to address a refugee crisis in America. I never thought I would have to use those words on the floor of the Senate, but there is no other way to describe what is happening on our southern border.

What is happening in Central America—the violence, the kidnappings, the failure of the rule of law—is the root cause of the problem and it is threatening tens of thousands of families and thousands and thousands of children. It is causing a refugee crisis that is simply unacceptable in America and unacceptable in our hemisphere. Let's be clear. It is being caused in large measure by thousands in Central America who believe it is better to run for their lives and risk dying than stay and die for sure. It is nearly a 2,000-mile journey from these countries to the U.S. border. These families are not undertaking this journey lightly.

My Republican colleagues make it sound as though parents are willingly choosing to risk their children's lives, send them on a 2,000-mile journey fraught with smugglers, thieves, child abductors, and sex traffickers as if that is a choice. They are parents, just as we are parents. I, as a parent, cannot imagine having to make that choice—to send them on a perilous journey

with no guarantees of survival except out of an absolute fear for their lives if they stay. To politicize the decision to send a child away as opportunistic, as a way to take advantage of American law, is as cynical a position as I have ever heard.

First of all, there is no deferred action. Nothing we did for DREAMers in this country would help any of these people. They don't qualify under any elements of that provision. The immigration reform that passed here in the Senate by a broad bipartisan vote—68 votes—would not help any one of these people because they would have had to have been in the country by December 31, 2011. Nothing in that law is an attraction—nothing.

Yet the Republicans in the House of Representatives will not even take a vote on immigration reform. Frankly, my Republican friends cannot have it both ways. They cannot criticize the President—in fact, sue the President—for abusing his Executive authority and at the same time come to this floor and criticize him for a lack of leadership when they will not even cast a vote. That is nothing if not totally and transparently political.

This is not about a welcome mat. It is a desperate effort on the part of thousands of parents to do what parents instinctively do, and that is to do what you must do to protect your child from the threats of violence and death at home even if it means sending them away.

Let's be clear. First and foremost, violence and crime are a pandemic that has sadly become part of life in Central America—in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Honduras has the highest per capita murder rate in the world. El Salvador and Guatemala are in the top five in the world.

Second, more than 80 percent of the illicit drugs coming from South America to the United States travel through Central America. Drug traffickers and local gangs harass and extort local residents, and they are able to use their profits to corrupt the police, judicial system, and government institutions.

Third, the rates of poverty and inequality in these countries are sky high, while levels of economic growth and development lag far behind other countries in Latin America.

A recent report by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees found the majority of the minors they interviewed here in the United States had left their home country out of fear. The bottom line is we must attack this problem from a foreign policy perspective, from a refugee perspective, and from a national security perspective. We need to do all we can to stabilize the situation in Central America and stop the flow of children and refugees to our border.

After a full year of squandering every conceivable opportunity to pass commonsense immigration reform, Speaker BOEHNER has admitted his party has killed any prospects for reform. Now we have to deal with the political consequences of the Republican leadership's obstructionism.

I fully support the President's efforts to fix some of the most urgent problems facing our Nation's broken immigration system, and I look forward to seeing those families who are here and eligible receive relief from deportation as we continue to advocate for a permanent legislative solution.

In the meantime, we need to provide emergency funding to deal with this refugee crisis. To begin with, the President's supplemental appropriation request is a very tough pro-enforcement legislation.

By the way, as we talk about more money for enforcement, we are actually doing a good job in enforcement of the border. Why do I say that? Because the reason we know of the size of the refugee challenge we are facing is because we are interdicting and apprehending these people at the border and then putting them in detention facilities. It is not that the Border Patrol is not doing their job. They are doing their job.

Yet we have a supplemental request on the appropriations bill that includes \$3.7 billion for enforcement, Homeland Security, and other resources. It provides critical funding to prosecute traffickers who are bringing these kids here, and that is what my Republican colleagues have been asking for.

Let's be clear. We need to keep the supplemental clean and free of riders and authorizing language. If we don't keep it clean, it will never get passed. One person will want to add an item to immigration reform, and then another person will want to add an item to immigration reform. The bottom line is this body already passed—with over 68 votes—comprehensive immigration reform. We don't need to have a debate on a bill we have already passed. We need to deal with the emergency.

I love it when my Republican friends scream for action. This is emergency funding, and it is as conservative as it gets, focused almost entirely on enforcement. The bill is giving Republicans what they have always asked for—more money for border enforcement, especially in the border States.

We need to provide the President with the money so he can handle the refugee crisis. It is what we expect of nations around the world. It is what we tell other nations around the world. The history of America is to treat refugees appropriately and according to international standards.

Some of these children and families are refugees and some of them are not. The children who have claims should be able to pursue those claims with a

day in court under existing U.S. law. If they lose, they will be deported. We have a legal system to address the crisis. Let's use it, and let's give the President the resources he needs to enforce it.

The President's supplemental appropriations request, in my mind, is an essential beginning, but I hope the administration will consider the 20-point plan I laid out that deals, in part, and I think importantly, with the root causes. Because if we spend \$3.7 billion for enforcement and spend what we have been spending, which is about \$110 million among five countries in Central America to create citizen security so people don't flee in the first place, it seems to me we have this equation a little wrong. We are going to spend \$3.7 billion to deal with the consequences, but we are going to spend \$110 million to deal with the cause. If we don't deal with the cause, guess what. There will never be enough money, and there will always be a continuing challenge of refugees fleeing the violence in their countries.

I hope we will increase aid for citizen security directed to help them with our law enforcement entities, to deal with the security of their country, to deal with the drug traffickers, to deal with the gangs. I hope we will increase aid to be able to create a sense of security in neighborhoods so people don't flee the country; so it isn't likely that your mother or father will be killed in front of you or your brother will be killed or your sister will be raped, which is increasingly the stories heard from these individuals, and that we will do it while implementing humane reforms that don't put innocent children in harm's way.

South of our border, we are seeing unprecedented violence, unprecedented suffering, unprecedented abuse. This is far more than an immigration issue, it is a refugee issue, much as we have seen in other parts of the world, and we must stop it. It will not be easy. There are no easy answers and no easy fixes, but I, for one, believe we should muster all the outrage we can to come up with a short-term fix and a long-term solution, as well as a strategy that does the following:

First, we have to identify the root causes of this far-reaching refugee problem. Second, we have to put pressure on governments in the hemisphere that are not handling crime and violence in their Nations in a way that prevents families from sending their children across the border in the first place. Third, we need to combat the smuggling and trafficking rings in Central America. That is in our own national security interests. Fourth, we have to effectively deal with the situation at hand and meet the humanitarian needs of these children—and I mean children, 8 years old, 7 years old—no matter what it takes, without

placing them in jail in the process. Fifth, we have to deal with the overriding issues and basic causes from a foreign policy point of view. Then, we can deal with the join-or-die gang recruitment and the gang threats against children and their families in the hemisphere—in Honduras and in Guatemala. Six, we have to do all we can to combat international crime, working with our neighbors to end the violence, threats, and crime activity that is destabilizing the region. Seventh, we need to crack down hard on the explosion of gangs and smugglers forcing families apart and preying on young children.

I can tell my colleagues, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am seeing day after day violence in so many countries spreading to so many countries, but I have never seen or thought I would see refugees from this hemisphere spilling over our borders. We need to act, and we have to deal with the immediate crisis at hand.

This is not just a challenge here. Asylum claims in the region, meaning to other countries in the Central American region, have skyrocketed by 700 percent in recent years. Current law protects the ability of those children under our system who apply for asylum and trafficking protection and other specialized forms of relief to have their day in court. Not every child will have a valid claim, and those who do not will ultimately be deported and re-integrated back to what is obviously a violent set of circumstances as it exists today, but that will be the case. But it is critically important that every child be given the chance to have due process under our existing law so we don't inadvertently return them to death and violence. There are better ways to deal with this population than through detention or expedited proceedings that don't undermine that due process.

I would like the administration to explore the use of alternatives to detention for families we want to monitor and make sure they show up at their court proceedings. This supplemental appropriations bill should also include the opportunity to make sure we look at those systems and that the representation of children in court is an adequate one.

While the short-term needs are very pressing, we must also not ignore the long-term importance of shoring up our regional security in Central America. Congress should increase funding for CARSI, the Central America Regional Security Initiative, to assist with narcotics interdiction, institutional capacity building, and violence prevention.

State and USAID must develop a long-term strategy that includes increased development budgets to support sustainable growth. The Millennium Challenge Corporation should accelerate engagement in the region. I also think the State Department

should designate a high-level coordinator to establish an office to be the focal point for policy formulation and a response to humanitarian concerns facing children escaping this region. Lastly, State and USAID should work together to establish effective repatriation and reintegration programs for children who are returning to their home countries.

If we don't deal with the root causes, this is what is going to happen: We will expedite the process, we will deport, and when they go home and face the same violence we have done nothing to change, their option will still be the same, flee or die. And they will take the risk all over again, and we will have the challenge all over again.

There are no easy answers, but I truly believe, at the end of the day, immigration reform—which had very significant border protection provisions, very significant antitrafficking and smuggling of individuals—in terms of assistance to deal with those challenges, would have been and is still incredibly important.

Convincing our Republican colleagues in the House that if we continue to do nothing, then there will continue to be trouble on our borders and the refugee problem will only get worse seems to be a difficult proposition. The fact is the Senate-passed bill actually contains important border security measures. If it had been passed in the House 1 year ago when the Senate passed it and sent it over there, then maybe we would have preempted a good part of the challenge we have today. It contains antismuggling, antitrafficking measures. It contains provisions to address criminal activity. Yet the House Republican leadership cannot bring itself to marginalize the extreme rightwing and do what is right and just and fair.

The bottom line is that we have to attack this problem from a refugee perspective, a foreign policy perspective, and a national security perspective. We need to do all we can to maximize our effort to fight the criminals, increase development opportunities, and provide the type of economic statecraft that can provide relief. We have to give families a chance to fight back economically and politically against those who are causing the violence and the illicit trafficking, the gang and drug violence, and those running criminal networks in the region.

I am concerned and I am angry and it is time to fight back, but it is also time to deal with the crisis that is upon us, and we can only do that if we give the President the resources to meet the challenge. Failure to be willing to support the resources to do that will rest on those who cast a negative vote and, therefore, from my perspective, will risk the national security along the border of the United States, will risk the consequences of the hu-

manitarian and refugee crisis that will continue to flow, and will risk the consequences of the drug traffickers in Central America, the gangs in Central America, all who use that as a route to come to the United States.

It is easy to say no. It is far more difficult to be constructive. So far what I have heard in response to this crisis is the negativity of no, the criticism of the President for using Executive powers when the Congress of the United States fails to act in its own right. You can't have it both ways. This is a moment to call for the greater interests of the Nation than to play partisan politics that I have seen so far.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the humanitarian situation on our southern border.

Over the last year, we have seen a flood of unaccompanied children come from Central American countries such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. In fact, the number of children has more than doubled in the past year to nearly 60,000. This is a humanitarian crisis, and it is heartbreaking.

Sadly, there are some who believe they have found a simple solution to this problem—that we can somehow just round up these young children and send them back on a plane where they came from immediately. I disagree.

The United States has always been a leader in providing aid and assistance to those in danger and in need. These are values our country and Congress have overwhelmingly endorsed. In fact, the current procedures for dealing with children from these countries were set in a 2008 law. The law was signed by President Bush and unanimously passed by both the House and the Senate. These procedures are in place because our values as a nation dictate that we do what we can to protect children from violence and trafficking.

It saddens me that there are some who have even called for changing this underlying protective law, presumably so we can just ship these children back to where they came from without the due process protections this law affords. Of the thousands of children showing up at our doorstep, many of whom were at risk in the hands of criminal smugglers during their trip, 40 percent of them are young girls. Many are under the age of 12 and have been sent on their own without the protection of their parents or other family. These children aren't coming here because of President Obama or Democrats or Republicans. They are coming to our border because of the terrible violence and conditions they face in their home countries. In fact, there is a direct correlation between growing violence in these home countries and the increasing waves of children coming to the United States.

For example, many face join-or-die gang recruitment situations which amount to forced conscription such as we saw with the child soldiers in other countries. They are subjected to sexual violence and brutality. It is hard for someone from our country to imagine how severe this violence is, but data from the United Nations offers some perspective.

The U.N. estimates that the murder rate in Honduras in 2012 was 30 percent higher than U.N. estimates of the civilian casualty rate at the height of the Iraq war. That is a staggering level of violence for any nation to endure. We all agree the current situation is unsustainable and needs to be addressed, but simply sending children back into harm's way is not the answer. We should be working together to address the root causes that are pushing these children to make these dangerous journeys.

I am proud to have worked with my colleague Senator MENENDEZ, from whom we just heard, to introduce a comprehensive plan to address this issue. That plan is a bit more complicated than simply rounding up children and shipping them out, but it is clear this crisis requires action on several fronts.

First, we should continue to crack down on human smuggling and criminal activity in concert with the children's home countries. Second, we have to honor our domestic and legal requirements related to the treatment of children, refugees, and asylum seekers. This means supporting the administration's efforts to provide humane treatment to these children. Third, we have to redouble our efforts to support peace, economic growth, and social development in Central America.

I look forward to discussing more of the details of our plan with any of my colleagues who want to work together constructively to solve this problem. Only by focusing on addressing the root cause of this crisis can we truly address it.

The President has been managing a coordinated response to handle this very difficult, heartbreaking situation. I hope we can work together to provide adequate resources to professionals on the ground. We must also continue pressing for comprehensive immigration reform so our system will not be so overwhelmed in times such as these.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, as you do now, I recently had the honor of presiding over this Chamber and had the opportunity in the hour I just finished presiding to listen to our colleagues as they have come to this floor, as you just have, Madam President, to speak to the humanitarian crisis unfolding on the southern border of our country. And sadly—I think truly

sadly—I have listened to a whole series of our Republican colleagues use this opportunity to line up on the floor and to whale upon our President and claim that this humanitarian crisis is his fault, that it is solely the fault of the President that there are tens of thousands of children coming to the American border unaccompanied, seeking refuge in this country, that it is solely his fault. It is tough to even know where to begin in responding to these suggestions, but let me try. Let me start from my perspective as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It is important first to remember that this is no ordinary issue of border security or of immigration enforcement. This is a humanitarian and a refugee crisis. The tens of thousands of children—*young children*—presenting themselves alone at the border of the United States are not dangerous criminals who threaten our national safety. They are so often children who have traveled thousands of miles from their home countries at enormous risk and expense, and they have come not because our border is wide open, not because it is insecure. In fact, virtually all of them are being interdicted at the border by our effective border security. The challenge is that these children are being sent on these incredibly long and expensive and dangerous and difficult trips in the first place.

Our Republican colleagues have suggested that this is solely caused by our President's lawlessness, that somehow either a law that was proposed and passed here in the Senate, a comprehensive immigration reform bill, or the President's deferred action program with regard to those who are so-called DREAMers is what is causing this flood of child refugees to this country.

But as has been said by other of our colleagues just in the last hour, neither of those two things—neither the comprehensive immigration bill passed on a bipartisan basis by this Chamber nor the deferred action program of the administration—would create really any legal opportunity for these child refugees to stay in the United States. Neither of them applies. In order to get access to the benefit and the opportunity to be in the United States under those two provisions, you would have to have been here years ago. The problem is really instability, violence, the tragic collapse of governance and safety in three Central American countries.

If the magnet drawing thousands of refugees to this country were the actions or inactions of the President, would not we see a huge surge in refugees from elsewhere in Central America, from Panama or from Belize or from Costa Rica or everyone closer to us from Mexico as well? But we have not.

In the last 5 years child migrants from Mexico have stayed relatively

flat, while children from the three countries that are the focus of current violence—El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala—have surged out of control. In 2009 child migrants from those three countries made up just 17 percent of all the children trying to come across the American border. This year, three-quarters are coming from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Why are they coming from these three countries? Why these three countries?

Well, if you ask them, they will tell you. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees surveyed, last year, 404 child refugees and asked: Why have you made this long and dangerous and difficult trip to the American border? Only 9 of 404 surveyed said because they believed the U.S. would “treat them well.” More than half said they came out of fear because they were “forcibly displaced.” They are refugees, not criminals.

We need to deal with the source of the problem in these three countries, not make this a partisan game on the floor of this Chamber. I think the evidence is clear that these children are being sent on this difficult, long, and expensive trip by their parents in desperation—because they have no other choice. If they stay in their home countries, the levels of violence, of gang activity, of murder have skyrocketed off the charts. They are fleeing not just to America but to Mexico, to Nicaragua, to Costa Rica as well. Children are fleeing the violence in these three countries in every direction—not because they are drawn by the magnet of some failure of immigration policy here but because they are driven by the centrifugal force of violence in these three countries. In fact, asylum applications from children are up by more than 700 percent in the countries of Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Belize—the countries immediately around these three that are at the very center of the violence.

It is my hope that with the emergency supplemental request submitted by the President, as we consider it and debate it in a hearing in the Appropriations Committee tomorrow and as we debate it here on the floor, we will see more and more ways in which this emergency supplemental provides resources needed to ensure that these children are given the fair hearing they are entitled to under the law—a law signed by President Bush, passed unanimously by this Chamber; that we will honor our international commitment and allow these children their day in court, and if they have no legitimate claim to refugee status, they will be deported, but if they have a legitimate claim, that they are treated fairly.

Families and children are fleeing these Central American countries because conditions have become unbear-

able. Gangs, narcotics groups, and corrupt officials have weakened security situations and created an environment where innocent civilians are targeted by gangs.

In Honduras, for example, as has been mentioned earlier today, in the city of San Pedro Sula, the murder rate is four times higher, the chance of dying through murder is four times higher than faced by American troops in the highest years of combat deaths in Iraq. It has one of the highest murder rates on the planet.

In Guatemala, a weak government lacks the capacity to address insecurity and poverty, and these forces continue to drive Guatemalans to flee and to send their children to seek some peace outside their country.

In El Salvador, after a failed truce, gangs have divided up territory and are challenging control of the state, while bringing violence into every neighborhood.

Despite these significant issues, we can and we should contribute and invest more in partnership with these three countries to hold them accountable for delivering on stability for their citizens.

Visits by the Vice President, by the Secretary of State, and meetings with the leaders of these three countries have laid out a path forward and a plan, and funding in this emergency supplemental will help contribute to the prosecution of the coyotes and the criminal gangs who are profiting off of the trafficking of these children, to increasing the capacity of these countries to receive back those children and adults who are being repatriated, and to leading a media campaign to make sure parents understand that children sent to the United States are not automatically entitled to stay in the United States.

We have to strengthen our efforts to counter corruption, to hold these governments accountable, and to assist in building stronger security, judicial, and governing institutions in these three Central American countries.

I am also a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee. From those seats, I know how important it is that we make sure resources are available to our badly overstretched immigration enforcement system. This provides additional resources for immigration judges, for the Legal Orientation Program, and for providing counsel to minors. As has been mentioned earlier today on this floor, we have an international obligation, when children fleeing violence present legitimate claims for refugee status, to make sure they have their day in court before either repatriating them to their country of origin or allowing them refugee status here.

This emergency supplemental would increase the funding so there would not

be such an enormous backlog of cases, so there would be a Legal Orientation Program, which has a proven record of success. While it does not provide personal counsel to everyone awaiting trial, it gives out basic information so legitimate claims can be made and illegitimate claims do not waste the time of our immigration courts.

Last, providing counsel to minor children it is a small portion of this total supplemental, but if you have a child who is a victim of child trafficking, who has a valid asylum claim, they have to be given the opportunity to present a valid claim.

We already know funding in these areas is insufficient to meet this surge in refugee minors seeking the relief of the American country and court system, and I think we have to do both: invest in ensuring stability in the three countries in Central America from which tens of thousands of children are fleeing and invest in ensuring that our border security, our immigration courts, and the reasonable and appropriate process for separating out those who are legitimate refugees from those who are seeking access to our country illegally is done in a fair and an appropriate way.

A refugee crisis is not the time for us to abandon our laws or our values. It is the time for us to enforce and abide those laws—fairly and efficiently. To do so, I think, frankly, our best solution would be to have the House take up, consider, and pass the comprehensive immigration bill, the bipartisan immigration bill that was taken up and passed by this Chamber over a year ago. Frankly, I think this crisis is in no small part because of a critical opportunity that we missed a year ago to legislate in a responsible, bicameral, and bipartisan way to invest more in the border, to invest more in stabilizing the region, and to invest more in ensuring that we have the resources in our courts to deliver justice in this country appropriately.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Connecticut.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the matter before this Chamber is the sportsmen's bill. Most of us, including myself, support and encourage sportsmen and sportsmanship. This bill has many laudable provisions. Among other provisions, it expands opportunities for sportsmen to use guns on Federal property with the encouragement of Federal law.

I voted in favor of this bill, in effect, when the issue was clotured almost 2 years ago because I support sportsmen and think that Federal law should, in fact, encourage them. I voted against cloture just a few days ago and I oppose this bill now because since that first vote, this Nation has experienced the horrific and unspeakable horror of

Sandy Hook, coming after decades of horror and unspeakable violence resulting from the illegal use of guns and the illegal purchase of guns in this Nation. There are too many guns illegally in the possession of criminals and other people dangerous to themselves or others.

I have worked on this issue for decades, first as attorney general and now as a Senator. I cannot vote for this bill expanding the use of guns on Federal property with the encouragement of Federal law, so long as this great institution has done nothing—absolutely nothing—to make America safer from the kind of carnage and killing that is epitomized by the terrible and unspeakable tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook.

I have spoken often about that tragedy. I have continued to meet with the loved ones of those 20 wonderful and beautiful children and 6 great educators. They are with me, as is the terrible tragedy of that day when I went to the firehouse where they learned for the first time that their loved ones would not be coming home. But I have stood also with loved ones from urban areas of Hartford, New Haven, and elsewhere from all other the country—victims of gun violence who perished unnecessarily and avoidably.

They are the survivors of this continuing carnage that just this past weekend took tens of victims from around the country, including many in Chicago—as has been described so eloquently by Senator DURBIN—and two alone in the east side of Bridgeport, CT, just this past weekend.

I have stood with the family of Lori Jackson, her mom and dad. She was a young woman with two small children—twins—murdered by her estranged husband when he was under a restraining order, a temporary restraining order, literally the day before a permanent one would go into effect and he would have been barred under current law from possessing or buying a firearm of exactly the kind he used to kill her.

Lori Jackson's mom was almost killed. A bullet went through her jaw and part of her head. Another went through her arm. As she stood with me, she was still bandaged from that wound. They stood with me because they want to save others from the terrible tragic fate that befell her that early morning as she sought refuge in their home—her parent's home—knowing her estranged husband was treacherously, dangerously, perilously, searching for her.

But the law could not protect her. Federal law was powerless to do it because of a loophole that, in effect, exempted temporary restraining orders from the same protection that is provided to permanent restraining orders. Yet we know from her experience and from so many others that the initial

period—those 10 days to 2 weeks when there is a temporary order—are the most dangerous and perilous times to women and others who are threatened by their intimate partners, spouses or former spouses. It is the most dangerous time because it is when the intimate partner, often the estranged husband, learns that she is leaving. It is over. She is seeking a divorce. She is taking the kids because it has become too dangerous. The threats have become too real and immediate.

That was Lori Jackson's situation. I have offered a bill to close the loophole that rendered Federal law useless to her. I called it the Lori Jackson bill. I am offering an amendment that is identical to that legislation I introduced with my great colleague and friend Senator MURPHY, who has been a teammate in this effort against gun violence.

The Lori Jackson bill has nine other cosponsors: Senators DURBIN, MURRAY, BOXER, HIRONO, WARREN, MARKEY, BALDWIN, MENENDEZ, and KAINE. The identical amendment that I propose today is supported by Senators MURPHY, DURBIN, MARKEY, WARREN, MARKEY, FEINSTEIN, HIRONO, and BOXER.

Lori Jackson was so brave. There is really no other word for it. She was brave, courageous, resolute, and strong—trying to escape the cycle of domestic violence which is a scourge across this country. We must continue the effort to fight domestic violence. But we know that a woman who is a victim of domestic violence is five times more likely to die if there is a gun in the house.

In her name and her memory, so that her legacy will be one of hope and courage, I offer this amendment to the sportsmen's bill. Let us do something to make the Lori Jacksons of America safer from gun violence, if we are going to expand the use and opportunity for guns on Federal property or under Federal law. Because it is Federal law that failed to protect them now—a simple loophole, that a modest change can close. Let's do it in her name and in the name of Jasmine Leonard, who also had a temporary protection order against her husband and who died at his hand; Chyna Joy Young, who celebrated her 18th birthday just days before she was shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend; Barbara Diane Dye, who was granted a temporary restraining order and then fled to safety in Texas, returning only for a hearing on the permanent restraining order when her husband cornered her in a parking lot, and shot her repeatedly with a .357 Magnum revolver, killing her—and in the name of all of the other victims of domestic violence whom we can protect with this sensible, commonsense, modest measure that offers them some protection. I know that this amendment and the others that I supported offered by my colleagues such as that

of Senator DURBIN, who has been such a steadfast champion, and Senator FEINSTEIN, who likewise spearheaded this cause well before I came here, while I was attorney general working in the State of Connecticut on this cause.

I know that this measure will not alone solve the problems of gun violence in this country. But it is a step. It will save some women and men who may be victims of domestic violence. It is to be regarded as a companion to legislation proposed by Senator KLOBUCHAR—very important legislation that I support as well, to prevent stalkers from accessing firearms. These kinds of measures are steps in the right direction. We should take those steps, put them first, and give safety the priority it deserves before we create more opportunities, and expand more access to Federal land for the use of guns. Gun safety should come first. We can send that message but also very practically and really help save lives, injuries, and dollars.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. I know we have some other colleagues on the way down to the floor to speak, so I will be brief. I just want to join Senator BLUMENTHAL and thank him for his tremendous leadership, as he noted, going back to his days as Connecticut's attorney general and now as a member of the Judiciary Committee. There have been few people in this country, frankly, who have led more on taking on the fight against gun violence, especially when it comes to protecting victims of domestic violence, than Senator BLUMENTHAL. I am proud to join him in offering this amendment.

After being married for a number of years, Zina Daniel and her husband Radcliffe Haughton became estranged. In October of 2012 she got a restraining order against him, telling a court that he had slashed her tires and had threatened to throw acid in her face and burn her and her family with gas.

She told the court that his threats against her terrorized her every waking moment. She got a permanent restraining order, but even that permanent restraining order was not enough. He went on line—her estranged husband—went around our background check system, as is currently part of Federal law, and posted a “want to buy” ad on Armslist, one of the biggest online marketers of firearms. Within hours he found a seller. He bought a Glock handgun for \$500 cash in a McDonald's parking lot. There was no background check. There were no questions asked by our seller. It was a simple transaction that was allowed because of our lax gun laws.

The next day he stormed into the Brookfield, WI, spa where his estranged wife worked and he murdered her and

two other women. He injured four others and then he killed himself. This story is a caution both about our laws that protect victims of domestic violence but then also our unreasonable laws right now around how we conduct background checks in this country.

He was prevented from going into a store and buying a handgun only because Zina had gotten a permanent restraining order. But had she had a temporary restraining order, there would have been no such protection. That is what the amendment Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have will cure. It will give spouses, girlfriends, partners, protection during that moment of intense rage right when the husband is expelled from the house for violence, when that temporary restraining order is being taken out.

But this story also tells us that we have miles to go when it comes to the other protections that are necessary to reduce the incidents of gun violence. In this case she had one protection surrounding the permanent restraining order, but because we do not require background checks for online purchases, her husband was able to buy a gun within a day and go and murder her and two others.

If we had background checks required for online purchases, it is likely that Zina Daniel and her two coworkers would still be alive today. So that is why we are on the floor today. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I and many others of our colleagues believe that if we are going to have a weeklong debate about guns, we should be talking about what actions are actually going to reduce the epidemic rates of gun violence across this country, in particular the epidemic rates of gun violence when it comes to people who are victims of domestic abuse.

Senator BLUMENTHAL probably covered the landscape in terms of the statistics.

But it is pretty stunning the risks that women in particular are put in when their spouse has easy access to a firearm. Abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if their abuser owns a firearm, and one of the few moments we can prevent that abuser from obtaining that firearm is when the court gets involved at that moment of separation between the wife and the husband, between the abused and the abuser, that moment of the temporary restraining order.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I think this is an amendment that could get broad bipartisan support. I wish we could get 60 votes for background checks, but I am realistic that it is not likely that five minds have changed since the last time we took this vote.

But just as we came together after a period of disagreement to pass the Violence Against Women Act, we can certainly make the decision that in those limited circumstances, during those

limited days of a temporary restraining order, that abuser shouldn't be able to go out and buy a weapon.

Our amendment builds in protections so that this isn't a denial of due process; that the judge actually has to make a finding that there is a threat of violence. Those are fairly limited circumstances, but if this amendment is passed, we will save lives.

Senator BLUMENTHAL closed, and I will close in the same vein, by noting that while this amendment will save lives, it is not going to dramatically change the reality in this country, which is 80-plus people killed every day by guns. But everybody has a role to play in trying to reduce the rates of gun violence.

A young man in New Haven, CT, by the name of Doug Bethea, lost a close friend of his this summer, a 16-year-old boy named Torrence Gamble, whom he saw at a funeral for another friend of theirs who had been killed by gun violence. Torrence said he wanted to get off the streets and start setting his life straight.

He wanted to set up a time to meet with his friend Doug Bethea to try to find a way out. It was only a couple of days after saying, “Doug, don't forget about me”—in fact, the very next day—that Torrance was shot in his head and died of his injuries at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

So Doug decided to do something about it, and he spent the summer going out bringing information to house-to-house to tell families and kids in New Haven about their options to get off the streets, to do something productive with their time this summer, all of the rec leagues, arts programs, and dance programs that kids can invest positive energy in.

Target did their part a couple weeks ago by asking their customers to refrain from bringing guns onto their property, and we can do our part this week. If we are going to talk about guns this week, let's make sure we do something that reduces the rates of gun violence all across this country. This is a commonsense amendment, an amendment I am sure can gain broad bipartisan support. We hope we can do our part this week to try to stem the plague and scourge of gun violence on the streets of America.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I support S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. I am pleased to join 45 of my colleagues—23 Republicans and 23 Democrats in total—as a cosponsor of this legislation.

This package of bills supports a variety of important conservation priorities while protecting access to public lands for hunters and anglers. It reauthorizes annual funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, two public-private

matching grant programs that have provided wildlife habitat, flood protection, and land and water conservation benefits across Virginia. For instance, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Stewardship Grants leverage annual Federal support with private funds for projects that incur agricultural, stormwater, and habitation restoration benefits in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In 2013, Virginia received \$2.5 million for 12 projects throughout its portion of the watershed.

I have long supported measures to conserve open space in Virginia. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 3.3 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching in the Commonwealth. As Governor, one of my proudest environmental achievements was meeting an ambitious goal of preserving 400,000 acres for recreation and conservation by the end of my 4-year term.

While I am an avid hiker and outdoorsman, conservation is not just important to me for the intrinsic enjoyment of Virginia's beautiful lands and waters. Conservation is also good for business. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates \$13.6 billion in consumer spending, 138,000 jobs, \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries, and \$923 million in State and local tax revenue in Virginia every year.

It is no small feat to put together a bill supported by nearly half the U.S. Senate in equal partisan proportion. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The Senator from Washington State is recognized.

THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Ms. CANTWELL. I appreciate the comments made by the Senator from Connecticut, and I come to the floor to talk about a very important issue, U.S. manufacturing jobs and what the Senate needs to do to make sure we are protecting U.S. manufacturing jobs.

I am speaking of the need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a credit agency that helps U.S. manufacturers and small businesses sell their products to overseas markets.

Some of you may have read recently comments by some of our colleagues where they have shifted their position. The agency is set to expire on September 30 of this year, and it is so critical that we reauthorize this program because it is such an important tool for U.S. manufacturers.

Over the last few weeks, fringe organizations and activists have suddenly tried to turn this into a political casualty, saying we should kill the program, and I am here to advocate that it is a win-win situation for American manufacturers, for American taxpayers, and for the jobs it creates. That

is because the Export-Import Bank supports about 1.2 million jobs, it returned \$1 billion to the U.S. Treasury last year alone, and it supports between 35,000 suppliers of manufactured parts, and that was just in the year 2011. As this chart shows, the Export-Import Bank helps us generate export sales and supports 1.2 million jobs. That is between 2009 and 2013.

One would think a program that doesn't cost the taxpayers any money, actually helps us pay down the deficit, helps create that many export sales and that many jobs would be something we would want to reauthorize and give predictability to businesses all across the United States.

In fact, if the credit agency is not reauthorized, nearly 90 percent of the companies that would be harmed are small businesses. Sure, there are big companies such as Boeing or General Electric or Caterpillar that help sell products around the globe, and some of my colleagues want to criticize that somehow we should be apologizing for the fact that we actually make expensive products and sell them.

I am quite proud that we sell products from the United States to China and various parts all around the globe that are actually expensive products. We should be proud we are making something worth millions of dollars that people want to buy. So I am glad that "Made In the USA" is actually closing deals all across the globe.

Today we also want to highlight that all of these companies that are in the manufacturing sector are part of a manufacturing chain. We know this well, because in the State of Washington, when we look at who makes aerospace products, while we can say there is a company in Everett, WA, named Boeing, there are hundreds of companies, thousands of companies across the United States that are part of what is called the supply chain.

Behind every 777 or Caterpillar tractor there are thousands of workers who are working every day to refine their product, stay competitive, retrain, and refocus to make sure we build the very best products in the United States and that we are competing on a global basis.

When these larger companies and small businesses they work with try to win deals overseas, they run into lots of different challenges. That is why we are here today to say making sure we reauthorize this program is critically important to small business manufacturers and suppliers throughout the United States.

So with all of these small businesses and companies—30,000 to 35,000 companies across the United States—there is actually a supplier in every State in the United States, but let's look at some of the numbers.

In Georgia, there are over 833 different companies, such as United Seal

and Rubber Company and other important companies, that make products just for aviation or for Caterpillar or for other products.

In the State of Florida, there are over 1,252 different small businesses and manufacturers that are helping to produce products that are sold on an international basis, and those companies want the Export-Import Bank reauthorized.

In the State of Wisconsin, there are over 1,397 different suppliers, such as Hentzen Coatings in Milwaukee, which provides primer, sealer, and wing coating. These are companies that also want to see the reauthorization of this important tool that helps products they help manufacture and build be sold in international markets.

Of course, there are places, such as Texas, which have a lot of people in the supply chain. Here are just some of the companies that are involved in manufacturing that take advantage of this important export-created agency by building products into final assembly. They are all over the State of Texas.

In fact, here is another continued list of these companies from Texas that are part of building products that are then using the Export-Import Bank to sell their products around the globe. But we can't go over all of those in Texas because there are actually 4,355 different companies in the State of Texas that are involved in the supply chain of companies that are selling products through the export credit agency and its assistance.

So we can see this is not a program that just affects one State or one region; it is an example of small business manufacturers working everywhere to stay competitive, to sell products, and win in the international marketplace.

Personally, having visited many of these companies in the State of Washington, I find it very frustrating, as these people are working night and day to make the best airplanes, to make the best manufactured product, to take the risk to go and sell in overseas markets, to compete with international competitors, to retrain and reskill a workforce, that we have people in Congress who don't have the good common sense to understand what an important tool the Export-Import Bank is in helping U.S. manufacturers sell into new emerging markets.

I know there are other States—we are not going to show charts about them—but in Ohio—I know the Presiding Officer is from Ohio—there are over 1,700 suppliers.

These companies are companies such as Hartzell Propeller. They are a family-owned propeller manufacturer in Southwest Ohio. Hartzell is part of the Dayton aviation economy that dates back to the Wright brothers. In fact, it was Orville Wright who suggested that the Hartzell family build an airplane propeller.

Today the Wright brothers are gone, but this company is still here and they are still innovating. In fact, I think they are part of the spirit of innovation in America that makes it so great.

I am so frustrated that people here don't understand that innovative spirit, don't understand what it takes, don't understand that they are hampering—truly right now almost torturing—small businesses by not giving them the certainty and predictability for the export assistance program.

This company builds crop-dusting plane propellers. Hartzell has grown its company from about 13 to about 300 people in the last 3 years, and that is because these crop-dusting planes have been sold using the Export-Import Bank. The loans haven't come directly to Hartzell as part of the Ex-Im supply chain, but companies similar to them that make these propellers are important companies to making sure we win in the international marketplace.

The President of this company, Joe Hartzell, I thought said it best. He said:

If you take Ex-Im away from my customers, you might as well bring unemployment checks to their offices, because you're going to put people on the street. If they're not building as many airplanes, then I'm going to have a jobs problem.

Here is a manufacturer—I heard the same thing in Seattle a few weeks ago when I was there—a company in Ohio saying if we don't get this program reauthorized, we are going to have bigger problems. So people such as Hartzell are trying to tell everyone here we need to keep working to make sure we get this reauthorized.

We need to make sure companies throughout the Midwest, such as in Wichita, KS, or people in the West, such as in Tempe, AZ, or companies in Irving, TX, everywhere where we are part of this huge supply chain, are doing the work we need to do.

Another area that is big on the supply chain is in the general area of aviation, and it supports over 200,000 jobs. So 200,000 jobs represents the number of people who are involved in aviation today, and those are individuals, businesses that are doing their best to stay competitive in aviation, even though we have incredible competition.

This incredible competition comes from the fact that there are so many different companies around the globe that also want to build airplanes. There is a demand for 35,000 new airplanes over the next 20 years. So we can imagine every country wants to try to build airplanes. China wants to build airplanes. Brazil is already in the business, Canada, the Europeans. Everybody wants to build airplanes.

The good news for us is we actually have a supply chain in the United States, and this chart represents that supply chain of 15,000 manufacturers and over 1.5 million jobs.

These are all companies throughout the United States of America who are involved in using the Export-Import Bank to make sure their products are sold on an international basis. There are actually jobs in companies in every State of the Union that take advantage of being part of this supply chain.

And why it is so important to keep the supply chain? Because if you keep the supply chain in your country, then you have the skill set it takes to keep innovating, because each of these companies is working on the individual parts and making them the best they can possibly be. That way we get the efficient airplane of today. This innovation is taking place all across the country, and we have to stay competitive.

Now, get rid of the Export-Import Bank and over time this supply chain will start to disappear. Why? Because in Europe they will still have an Export-Import Bank, and companies such as Airbus will continue to use that product and they will have a supply chain, and over time all these small businesses and all this expertise in aviation will move out of the United States of America to somewhere else. Then what manufacturing jobs will we have in the United States?

Aviation is one of the best sectors for manufacturing that we have today. With over 1.5 million employees, we need to keep aviation manufacturing competitive in the United States of America. That is why we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

There are other sectors of aviation, such as Gulfstream, which is another company, based in Savannah, GA, and has been one of the foremost makers of business jets. They have watched their international competition increase steadily over the last decade, and the Export-Import Bank has helped them be competitive. The Gulfstream supply chain has about 3,500 different businesses and about 13,000 employees, and all those employees are working hard to try to stay competitive. They are working to make sure we keep those jobs in the United States of America. But they also have to have the Export-Import Bank so they can then continue to win in the international marketplace. Gulfstream actually sells product to China. So jobs in Georgia and throughout the supply chain are helping us win in the international marketplace.

Whether they are composite companies or light industrial or fuselage skins, all of these things are helping people be competitive.

Right now, Gulfstream and the supply chain has sold 8,000 planes to China. That helped support 2,100 jobs, and most of those jobs were right in the Savannah, GA, area. So if we are going to cancel the Export-Import Bank, how are they going to get these products financed and how are they going to get them sold?

While we are very appreciative of both sectors of aviation—the commercial sector and general aviation sector, and we haven't even talked about the others, such as the defense sectors of aviation—these are two big components to our economy. Some people might think, well, there is a way to get these planes sold, or these are big companies, these are integral parts to our U.S. manufacturing base, and we need to keep it. The demand of the United States, as I said earlier, is for 35,000 new planes over the next 20 years, and 80 percent of those planes will be delivered outside of the United States. That means if we want to keep winning the race for airplane sales, we are going to have to work outside the United States.

Yesterday, Standard & Poor's reported that if the Export-Import Bank is not reauthorized, it would be a huge benefit to Airbus. In fact, they said:

... Airbus would still be able to offer ... financing, and this could be a deciding factor for some new aircraft contracts, especially in emerging markets and for sales to start-up or financially weak airlines.

In other words, we would be sending U.S. jobs overseas, and that is not what we want to do. Countries are building up their investment to try to compete with us, and the Export-Import Bank is a key tool for U.S. manufacturers to compete.

Trade is a critically important part of our economy. In 2013, U.S. exports reached \$2.3 trillion worth of goods, and a key part of that export growth can be attributed to this program. The Export-Import Bank supported \$37.4 billion worth of U.S. exports which supported over 200,000 jobs in the United States. That alone is enough information for me to say the Senate ought to act quickly to reauthorize this program.

There are many other aspects of the Export-Import Bank that help small businesses and manufacturing. In fact, there are about 12 million manufacturing jobs in the United States, and 1 in 4 jobs is tied to exports. That is why, when I think my colleagues try to portray the Export-Import Bank as an issue that maybe a few big companies would benefit from, I think they have it totally wrong. This is an issue about the competitive nature of manufacturing and the supply chain of manufacturers all across the United States, and whether we want to keep manufacturing jobs—because they are high-wage, high-skilled jobs—in the United States.

While my colleagues would like to talk about other things in the economy, I think it is important to realize how manufacturing jobs are a higher wage. They are a higher wage than service-sector jobs, they help stabilize the middle class, they help the U.S. economy grow because of those large export numbers, and they help the

United States continue to innovate and stay ahead in a global marketplace. All of these are reasons why the Export-Import Bank is such a viable tool.

Think about it from the perspective of being a critical part of manufacturing, and these are the high-wage jobs and it supports that supply chain I just went through. Then we can see why it is so important that this get done before the end of September.

Right now, what is happening is my colleagues not only want to threaten to not reauthorize this program, they actually want to kill it. My guess is they would like to say: OK, we will agree to a short-term extension of a few months, only in hopes of killing it later.

I want to make sure all my colleagues know how important it is not only that we reauthorize this, but we reauthorize it for several years so companies have the predictability and certainty to know the program is going to be there and they have the support.

The Export-Import Bank has four primary tools. It has loan guarantees that provide security to commercial lenders who make loans to foreign buyers of American products. For example, the loan helped Goss International in New Hampshire sell their printing presses in emerging markets in Brazil.

We have export credit insurance, and companies such as Manhasset in Yakima, in my State of Washington, used it to help get their music stands sold across the globe and make sure there was credit insurance to protect them.

There are loan programs, for example, to help foreign buyers of U.S. products such as FirmGreen in Newport Beach, CA, which is run by a disabled veteran who helped to sell their goods in Brazil.

It also provides working capital like in Morrison Technologies manufacturing in South Carolina which used the tools to purchase materials needed for a recent surge in business that couldn't have been met without that financing.

So here they are, all these companies throughout the country using the Export-Import Bank and staying competitive. I personally would make the Export-Import Bank bigger. When we look at what China is doing or what Europe is doing, they are making a bigger financial investment in helping their businesses become exporters.

In the United States, the Export-Import Bank finances less than 5 percent of U.S. exports. A significant portion of the capital of exports is done in the private sector, but this tool helps commercial banks and helps commercial manufacturers get their product when other avenues aren't available in the private sector.

Here is an example of one of the programs and how the Export-Import Bank works. We can see the U.S. exporter sells to the foreign buyer and

that commercial financing is still part of the equation. The Export-Import Bank is only used as a safety net to make sure that financial commercial obligation is secure in this situation. So it is not as if we are replacing commercial banking, it is not as if we aren't even making market rates. We are for products such as aerospace.

The issue is, we need to make sure commercial banks are willing to guarantee these kinds of sales. We are providing a safety net with the Export-Import Bank. And what has the cost been to the U.S. Government? Well, we have had incredible success, because everybody pays fees into this system, and those fees and the success of the program has helped us pay down the Federal deficit. That is right; it has actually made money for U.S. taxpayers and helped us pay down the Federal deficit.

It supports 1.2 million export-related jobs, it has helped support \$37 billion in exports from the United States, which helps our economy, and it has returned more than \$1 billion to U.S. taxpayers. I would call that a win-win situation for American jobs and American taxpayers.

We have 73 days left until that program expires. I don't want to let that happen. So today we are announcing that over 200 different supply chain companies are sending a letter to the Senate and House of Representatives asking them to urgently support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

We are also hearing from lots of businesses and business organizations that also support the immediate reauthorization: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Business Roundtable, National Association of Businesses, the International Association of Machinists, National Grain and Feed Association, and many more organizations. All of them want to be able to say "Made in the USA," and have their products sold overseas.

I hope my colleagues will be there to help ensure this program gets reauthorized in a short amount of time. I personally hope the Senate will take up this legislation in the next few weeks before we adjourn for the August recess. I would hate to see what happens to all the business deals these manufacturers have on the table if they go home in August and people are saying: Well, the bank only has a few days left to be reauthorized; I am not going to do business with you until I know. Or if somebody tries to stick a 5-month reauthorization on some bill, and then everybody still says: When is this program going to be reauthorized? Otherwise, I am not going to do a deal with U.S. manufacturers.

Of all the things we are doing in sending a message to the actual competitors of creating jobs in today's

economy, why are we sending such a message of uncertainty in this situation? These are real jobs in a marketplace that is growing.

The middle class is going to grow from about 2.3 billion to about 5 billion people outside the United States over the next 15 years. We are going to see a doubling of the middle class. That is where products are going to be sold in emerging markets. Those emerging markets don't all have the financial tools to make those deals a reality, but the Export-Import Bank can help. They can help make sure a customer pays, that U.S. manufacturing wins, and that we keep our marketplace.

We hope all our colleagues will support this legislation. Time is running out. Know that this program has returned over \$1 billion to the U.S. Treasury. That is a pretty good deal for us. If somebody on the other side has a better way of growing jobs and paying down the Federal deficit, I would like to hear it, because this is an important tool, and time is running out. I urge my colleagues to help support the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from companies asking to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, and I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

July 9, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, LEADER REID, LEADER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCONNELL: We are writing today to ask you to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank without further delay. The Export-Import Bank is absolutely essential to our companies. While many of us don't access the Bank's services directly, our customers do. We sell goods and services of all kinds to American businesses that rely on the Export-Import Bank to sell their products abroad.

Recent reports on the uncertainty of the Bank's future may have already impacted sales, which can negatively impact our bottom line. Our customers need the certainty of export credit to successfully pursue many of their commercial sales abroad. The ongoing defense budget uncertainty compounds this threat for many of our companies with commercial and defense customers.

Reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank should not be a partisan political game. Until recently, it never has been. In fact, the Bank has been reauthorized more than a dozen times, and recently it was reauthorized with broad bipartisan support. Reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank also helps reduce the deficit. The Bank earns money on its fees and interest, and last year returned over one billion dollars to the U.S. Treasury. It is time for Congress to schedule a vote, and reauthorize the bank.

More than 95 percent of the world's consumers live abroad. We need our customers to have the ability to sell to those consumers. If they do, many of our businesses will grow, allowing us to hire more employees and re-invest in our economy. If they no longer have the Bank's support, it is our foreign competitors who will reap the benefits of greater exports.

We urge you to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank immediately, helping to reduce our deficit, provide certainty to our economy, and invest in America's middle class.

Sincerely,

Advanced Welding Technologies, LLC, Wichita, KS; Aero-Flex Corp., Jupiter, FL; Aero-Plastics Inc., Renton, WA; Aerospace Fabrications of GA Dallas, GA; Aerospace Futures Alliance of Washington, Kent, WA; Air Industries Group; Aircraft Maintenance & Support; AIREPS INC., Anaheim, CA; Airready MRO Services Inc., Melbourne, AR; Alarin Aircraft Hinge, Inc.; Altek, Liberty Lake, WA; American Aerospace Controls, Inc., Farmingdale, NY; Amerisips of the Carolina's, Charleston, SC; Amphenol APCBT, Nashua, NH; Andrews Tool Co., Inc., Pantego, TX; Arizona Industrial Hardware, Chandler, AZ; Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Cincinnati, OH; Aviation Partners Boeing; Aviation Technical Services, Everett, WA; B/E Aerospace, Inc. Consumables Management, Tulsa, OK; Bedard Machine Inc., Brea, CA; Boise Inc., Boise, ID; Bradham Consulting, LLC, Midlothian, VA; Brogdon Machine Inc., Blue Springs, MO; Buyken Metal Products, Inc.; Cascade Columbia Distribution, Seattle, WA; Central Sales & Service, Inc., Waverly, TN; Certified Inspection Service Co., Inc., Phoenix, AZ; CFAN, San Marcos, TX; Chapel Steel, Portland, OR; Clampco, Sedro Woolley, WA; Clark Manufacturing, Inc.; Wellington, KS; CMS2, LLC, North Las Vegas, NV; CO Maintenance, South Jordan, UT; Coalition Solutions Integrated (CSI); Columbus Jack Corporation, Columbus, OH; Commercial Aircraft Painting Services LLC, Portland, OR; Consolidated Truck & Caster Co., Saint Louis, MO; Council for U.S.-Russia Relations, Seattle, WA; CPI Aerostructures; Crace, Inc., Bellevue, WA; Cv International, Bend, OR; D&S Septic Tank and Sewer Service Inc., Pacific, MO; David Mann Lean Consulting, Grand Rapids, MI; Davis Door Service, Inc., Seattle, WA; Delva Tool and Machine Corporation, Cinnaminson, NJ; Denezol Tool Co., Inc., Salem, OR; DESE Research Inc., Huntsville, AL; Deuro, The Woodlands, TX; Diamond Machine Works; Distribution International SW, Inc., Houston, TX; Diversified Industrial Services, Mukilteo, WA; Dyer Company, Lancaster, PA; E-SUV LLC/ DBA E-Ride Industries, Princeton, MN; E.D. Powerco, Lake Elsinore, CA; East Coast Electronics & Data, Rockaway, NJ; EffectiveUI, Inc., Denver, CO; El-Co Machine Products, Inc., Inglewood, CA; Electroimpact, Mukilteo, WA; Elite Tool LLC, Moscow Mills, MO; Elk Creek Lumber Co., Wilkesboro, NC; Ellwood Group, Irvine, PA; Esterline Technologies, Bellevue, WA; Eustis Co., Inc., Mukilteo, WA; EWT-3DCNC, Inc., Rockford, IL.

Exelis Inc., McLean, VA; Exotic Metals, Kent, WA; Fabrisonic LLC, Columbus, OH; Farwest Aircraft Inc., Edgewood, WA; Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., Seattle, WA; Flanagan Industries, Glastonbury, CT; FlightSafety International, Broken Arrow, OK; Fluid Engineering Associates, Port Ludlow, WA; Fluid Mechanics Valve Company, Houston, TX; Frank V Radomski & Sons, Inc., Colmar, PA; Frontier Electronic Systems Corp., Stillwater, OK; Gary Jet Center,

Inc., Gary, IN; Gasline Mechanical Inc., WA; Gastineau Log Homes, Inc., New Bloomfield, MO; Global Consulting & Investments, Inc., Issaquah, WA; Global Machine Works, Inc.; Global Trade Insurance; GM Nameplate, Seattle, WA; Growth Nation, Scottsdale, AZ; Hapeman Electronics Inc., Mercer, PA; Harris Group, Seattle, WA; Henkel Corporation, Bay Point, CA; Herndon Products, O'Fallon, MO; Hexagon Metrology, Inc., North Kingstown, RI; Hirschler Manufacturing Inc.; HITCO Carbon Composites, Gardena, CA; Hobart Machined Products, Inc., Hobart, WA; HOME INC., Hermann, MO; Horizon Distributing, Yakima, WA; Houston International Trade Development Council, Inc.; Hubbs Machine & Manufacturing, Inc., Cedar Hill, MO; Hughes Bros. Aircrafters, Inc., South Gate, CA; Hurricane Electronics, Inc., Pompano Beach, FL; HVAC R Services LLC, Auburn, WA; HySecurity, Kent, WA; IHS Inc., Englewood, CO; Illinois Chamber of Commerce, IL; IMS-CHAS, INC., North Charleston, SC; Independent Machine Company, Gladstone, MI; Industrial Sales & Mfg., Inc., Erie, PA; Industrial Supplies Company, Trevose, PA; Iridium Communications, Tempe, AZ; J. Maxime Roy, Inc., Lafayette, LA; Janicki Industries, Sedro Woolley, WA; Jet Systems, Inc., Wilbur, WA; JWD Machine, Fife, WA; Kaas Tailored; Kemeny Associates LLC dba Middleton Research, Middleton, WI; Kenmore Air, Kenmore, WA; Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc., Lancaster, PA; Kubco Industrial Equipment, Inc., Houston, TX; Lamsco West Inc., Santa Clarita, CA; LKD Aerospace, Snoqualmie, WA; LMI Aerospace, St. Charles, MO; Lockheed Martin, Chelmsford, MA; LORD Corporation, Cary, NC; Luma Technologies, LLC, Bellevue, WA; Magna Tool Inc., Cypress, CA; Maney Aircraft, Inc., Ontario, CA; Marketech International, Inc., Port Townsend, WA; Master CNC, Inc., Washington Twp, MI; Maverick Enterprises, Monroe, NC; Meyer Tool Inc.; MFCP Inc.—Fluid Connector Products, Portland, OR; MGL Energy, LLC, Destin, FL; Micro-Coax, Inc., Pottstown, PA; Microsemi Corporation; Millitech, Inc.

NaviTrade Structured Finance LLC, Barrington, IL; Neenah Enterprises, Inc., Neenah, WI; NewAgeSys, Inc., Princeton Junction, NJ; North Star Aerospace, Inc., Auburn, WA; NovaComp Engineering, Inc., Bothell, WA; Object Computing, Inc. (OCI), St. Louis, MO; Officemporium, Seattle, WA; Olympic Tool & Machine Corp., Aston, PA; Onboard Systems, Vancouver, WA; Orbit International Corp., Hauppauge, NY; Orion, Auburn, WA; Pacific Consolidated Industries LLC, Riverside, CA; Papé Material Handling, Seattle, WA; P&S MRO, Irvine, CA; Phillips Screw Company; PhoenixMart LLC, Scottsdale, AZ; Pioneer Aerofab Corp.; Pioneer Human Services, WA; PM Testing, Fife, WA; ProTek Models, LLC, Rancho Cucamonga, CA; ProtoCAM, Allentown, PA; R & S Machining, Inc., St. Louis, MO; R&B Electronics, Inc., Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Robert Schneider & Associates, Inc., Kankakee, IL; Russell Investments, Seattle, WA; S & S Welding, Kent, WA; SEA Wire and Cable, Inc., AL; Service Steel Aerospace; Sigmatex High Technology Fabrics, Benicia, CA; Silicon Designs, Inc., Kirkland, WA; Silicon Forest Electronics, Vancouver, WA; SKF Aerospace, Indianapolis, IN; Skills Inc., Auburn, WA; Sound Machine Services, LLC, Suquamish, WA; Spirit AeroSystems, Wichita, KS; StandardAero, Tempe, AZ; Steel-Fab, Inc., Arlington, WA; Sunshine Metals Inc., Wichita, KS; System Heating and Air Conditioning Co Inc., Seattle, WA; System Integrators LLC, Glendale, AZ; Tech Manu-

facturing, LLC, Wright City, MO; Technical Aero, LLC, WA; Telephonics Corporation, Farmingdale, NY; Telepress, Inc., Kent, WA; The Complete Line LLC, Redmond, WA; The Entwistle Company, Hudson, MA; The Graeber Group Ltd, Kirkland, WA; The Industrial Controls Company, Sussex, WI; The Rockford Agency, Inc., Manhattan Beach, CA; Thick Film Technologies, Inc., Everett, WA; Titan Spring Inc., Hayden, ID; Toray Composites America, Inc., Tacoma, WA; Trade Acceptance Group, Ltd., Edina, MN; Transmet Corporation; TRICOR Systems Inc.; Triumph Actuation Systems—Valencia, Valencia, CA; Triumph Composite Systems, Spokane, WA; TSI Incorporated; TTF Aerospace, Auburn, WA; UEC Electronics, Hanahan, SC; Umbra Cuscinetti Inc., Everett, WA; United Risk Consultants, Dallas, TX; US Aluminum Casting, LLC, Entiat, WA; Valley Machine Shop Inc., Kent, WA; Ventower Industries; Verde Wood International, Carboro, NC; Vosky Precision Machining Corp., Ronkonkoma, NY; Wallquest Inc., Wayne, PA; Welded Tubes, Inc., Orwell, OH; Wheeler Industries, Inc., North Charleston, SC; Will-Mor Manufacturing, Inc., Seabrook, NH; Wood Group Mustang Inc., Houston, TX; Wulbern-Koval Co., Charleston, SC; Zodiac Aerospace, WA; Zyxaxis Inc., Wichita, KS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

EPA RULE CHANGES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to speak for a few minutes about the EPA rules on water. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy is in Missouri today to discuss the EPA's proposed rule which would significantly expand the authority of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

In a conference call with reporters yesterday, Administrator McCarthy called some of the questions about the rule "silly" and "ludicrous" and said that her trip to Missouri was part of a broader campaign to reassure the agricultural community and set the record straight. I hope she is spending at least as much time in my State listening as she is talking. If she does that she will find out that some of these concerns are very real but they have lots of impact and not just for the farm community across the country but for lots of people who are affected in lots of different ways by what happens if you expand the authority of the Federal Government as this rule would to deal with water almost everywhere and almost all water.

Not only did she say that these questions were silly and ludicrous, but the Missouri farm bureau expressed the concern that "virtually every acre of private property potentially falls under the Clean Water Act jurisdiction. . . . Things that you normally do on a farm would be called into question." According to the Springfield News-Leader, "McCarthy says that's hog wash."

If the way to actually deal with the people we work for is to say your ideas are silly, they are ludicrous, and your comments are hog wash, I think once again we are certainly seeing the Federal Government at its worst, not at its best.

This is a big organization. It is a well-run organization. It has represented Missouri's agricultural interests for a long time. There are folks who stand and say virtually every acre of private property potentially falls under the Clean Water Act jurisdiction if this rule is finalized, and at least 40 members of this body believe that to be the case. That is what they said, and she said it was hog wash. According to the paper, she rattled off what she said were "some of the most dubious claims made by the rule's critics."

This is a rule which has critics because it is a rule that deserves to have critics. It draws concerns from farmers. In fact, just today I said: Before I come over, let's be sure I know that we haven't had an epiphany of understanding here and suddenly Administrator McCarthy said: I have listened and you are right. These are problems to which we need to find the answers.

But what I found when I looked was that the farmers she met with today—there was no press in the meeting that included the farmers and there were no farmers in the meeting that included the press. So farm families were concerned that when you take the press out, away from everybody else, and you go out on this farm and talk about—I assume—all the great benefits that more Federal control of that farmland would produce, but then when you have a meeting with the farmers, no press is in that meeting where anybody can hear the concerns that these farmers have.

I think the Members of the Senate have been pretty clear as we cosponsored bills that would require the EPA to withdraw this rule and try again. It is clear that this is really a blatant overreach into the private lives and private property rights of the American people by the administration—and not just farmers but anybody who owns land anywhere. If I were just hearing from farmers, I would be concerned, but I am hearing from farmers, I am hearing from builders, I am hearing from realtors, I am hearing from local governments: What happens if the Federal Government has this most broad definition of waters of the United States?

The proposed rule would give the EPA, the Corps of Engineers, the most extreme of environmental groups a powerful tool to delay almost anything to prevent development, to prevent land use on property owned by municipalities, property owned by individuals, property owned by farming families and by small businesses, because all that property includes water in some way or another.

The law was clear when it was written that the EPA under the Clean Water Act would have authority "over the navigable waters of the United States." This rule, in fact, makes the jurisdictional assertion that navigable

waters now means "any water that could go into navigable waters." Any water that could eventually flow into the Missouri River, the Mississippi River, the Ohio River, the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and all water everywhere, eventually some of it heads to those places. So every drop of water everywhere is potentially under the jurisdiction of the EPA.

Navigable waters means what it means.

There was an editorial today in the Washington Post which actually supported the rule, but I thought the most interesting sentence in that editorial today that supports the rule was right in almost the exact middle of the editorial. It said: "It's true that the agency's plan would expand the scope of the Clean Water Act regulation." Now, the way it expands the scope of the Clean Water Act regulation is it expands the scope of the Clean Water Act.

We actually have a procedure for that. It is the procedure that everybody who took a civics class learned when they took that civics class. The House passes a bill or the Senate passes a bill. The two come together. I know this doesn't happen as often as it needs to anymore, but that is not the way it has to happen. The two come together. They agree on a bill. It goes back to both Houses. They vote on that bill one final time. It goes to the President's desk and gets signed into law. That is how you expand the Clean Water Act.

You don't expand the Clean Water Act by somebody saying: You know, we just really think that the Congress should have done something here that they didn't do, and so we are going to do it. Then your friends who actually support the goal are so lulled into the idea that the government won't work that they even forget the constitutional process and say: Well, there is no question; the truth is this expands the regulations under the Clean Water Act.

If you ask anybody at the Washington Post or anybody else that uses words all the time to define navigable waters of the United States, nobody would say that is any water that flows into any water that might eventually flow into water that you can navigate. Nobody would say that. Nobody would say those are the navigable waters of the United States. But that is the authority that the EPA has.

Now we are talking about the authority the EPA would like to take. That is why I and a number of my colleagues—I think 29 of us—joined Senator BARRASSO in a bill that would say you can't do this. We are going to protect the water and property rights and stop the EPA from going beyond the wall.

Senator BARRASSO is also going to file that as an amendment that I intend to support on the bill before us now, the sportsmen's act. That has lots

of water implications, many of which I have supported—the wetlands act. There are many things in there that I can be supportive of, but I am not supportive without any congressional authority of the EPA's deciding they are just going to take property rights from people who have those rights. I am particularly not supportive of that when the law was designed to define what the EPA could do.

If anybody wants to go out and do any kind of survey of the American people—let alone the legislators who voted for the Clean Water Act—and ask what "navigable waters" is, nobody thinks that is every drop of water that eventually flows to a source that could at some point in the distant distance be navigable.

We know what the law says. We know the authority the EPA has been given. I think we can have a legitimate debate about whether that authority has been properly used or not. But there is no legitimate debate about whether the EPA is trying to go way beyond what the Congress has authorized.

This idea the administration has that the pen and the phone will replace the Constitution of the United States is not worthy of this country. It is not worthy of what we do. It is a disastrous course to set, to believe: OK, Congress, you deal with immigration for the next 60 days or I will just do it on my own. Congress, you change the Clean Water Act or we will just change the Clean Water Act with regulation. Congress, you change the Clean Air Act or we will change the Clean Air Act.

There is a reason for the constitutional process, and I hope Missourians in the next 24 hours are given the chance to remind Administrator McCarthy of what that reason is. And there are reasons that the Congress is looking for ways to remind the President of what that is. That is why I am supporting the Enforcement Law Act that has already passed the House of Representatives. What the Enforcement Law Act would do is give individual Members of Congress standing if a majority of either House of the Congress believes the President wasn't enforcing the law as written to go to a court and ask the court to decide if the President is enforcing the law as written.

In my view there is no way in the world that you could look at this proposed rule by the EPA and believe that the EPA and this administration is in any way complying with what is the clear intent of the law. If they don't like the law, there is a way to come to the Congress and ask it to change the law. That is their job. It is not their job to do the job of the Congress. That job the Constitution left to somebody besides the Executive, whose job it is to execute the law—not to improve on the law, not to write the law, not to make the law. And we see all those

things being attempted by people who believe they know what is better for the United States of America than the people of the United States believe is good for the United States of America.

I would yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues in a very important discussion with regard to the waters of the United States and the proposed rule by the EPA.

The good Senator from Missouri, I, a Senator from Wyoming and—as has been already said on the floor—about 30 of us in total are proposing an amendment to the sportsmen's bill which is currently under consideration on the floor—an amendment that would address the regulatory overreach by the EPA and, specifically, their proposed waters of the U.S. regulation.

The amendment we have is very simple, very straightforward. It is relevant to the legislation that is currently on the floor and should be brought forward for a vote. It is amendment No. 3453, and as I said it deals with the waters of the United States.

I am going to take just a minute to read it because it is very simple and very straightforward and could be dealt with in a very expeditious way. Obviously with 29 Senators supporting it, it is an amendment that we should be voting on. This is a clear example of an amendment where this body needs to take a stand, and it is one that should receive a vote as part of this sportsmen's legislation.

So I will read from the amendment:

In General. Neither the Secretary of the Army nor the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) finalize the proposed rule entitled "Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act";

(2) use the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as a basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope of the enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(b) RULES. The use of the proposed rule described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act shall be grounds for vacation of the final rule, decision, or enforcement action.

So very simply, what we provide is that the EPA cannot move forward with the proposed waters of the U.S. rule. It is appropriate because in essence, as my colleague from Missouri very accurately described, the EPA has gone way beyond its jurisdiction on this rule.

EPA alleges that it is responding to confusion in regard to the proposed Waters of the U.S. rule that it is getting from farmers and ranchers across our country. The fact is that is not the case. What EPA is doing is they are ex-

panding their jurisdiction dramatically under an argument that the Supreme Court did not make, but an argument, rather, that the EPA is making that under what they call "significant nexus" they are empowered to regulate waters far beyond navigable bodies of water.

This is something I think affects almost every industry sector, but I am going to bring it back to a discussion of our farmers and ranchers and private property rights, which are, in fact, impacted by this proposed rule to talk about why it is so important that we have an opportunity to vote on this amendment and to defeat the proposed rule.

America's farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs go to work every day to build a stronger Nation. Thanks to these hardworking men and women, we live in a country where there is affordable food at the grocery store and where a dynamic private sector offers Americans the opportunity to achieve a brighter future. In these difficult economic times the Federal Government should be doing all it can to empower those who grow our food and create jobs. Yet instead regulators are stifling growth with burdensome regulations which generate costs and uncertainty.

The proposed rule by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the waters of the United States is exactly the type of regulation that I am talking about. The waters of the United States rule greatly expands the scope of the Clean Water Act with regulations over America's streams and wetlands.

If we look at the chart I brought, we can see it is not just affecting our farmers and ranchers, it goes far beyond that. For example, it affects the power industry, the oil and gas industry, the construction industry, and the manufacturing industry. Almost anything you can think of is impacted by this regulatory overreach. It is clearly a power grab by the EPA, and it needs to be checked.

The Supreme Court has found that Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act extends to navigable waters. We are not arguing with the EPA's ability to regulate something like the Missouri River or a lake that is a navigable body of water, but the Supreme Court has also made it clear that not all bodies of water are navigable or under the EPA's jurisdiction.

What has our farmers and ranchers so concerned is that the Corps and the EPA went far beyond lakes and rivers. This new proposed rule would bring EPA permitting, reporting, enforcement, mitigation, and citizen lawsuits to ephemeral streams. Ephemeral streams are really dry land most of the time. To a farmer, an ephemeral stream is simply a low area across the field. It brings tributaries into it—trib-

utaries which are all ditches that carry any amount of water that eventually flows into a navigable body of water. Think about that. Ditches. All waters that are deemed adjacent to other jurisdictional waters, including dry ditches and ephemerals, plus any other waters that the EPA has determined to have a significant nexus. In real-world terms, these categories could bring burdensome regulations to a vast number of small, isolated wetlands and ponds. It is hard to see, but that is what we tried to depict on this chart. It is almost any type of water anywhere you find it.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit with a farmer from my State of North Dakota, know that dealing with excess water is a common issue, to say the least, particularly in recent years. Most farmers could tell you that just because there is water in a ditch or a field one week doesn't mean there is going to be water in that field or ditch the next week. It certainly doesn't make that water worthy of being treated the same as a navigable river or lake. It defies common sense. A field with a low spot that has standing water during a rainy week and happens to be located near a ditch does not warrant Clean Water Act regulation from a legal or, as I have said, commonsense perspective.

The Corps and the EPA have responded to these concerns by saying they are going to exempt dozens of conservation practices, but these exemptions are extremely limited and they do not cover many Clean Water Act rights. For example, the farmer with a low spot in his field next to the ditch described above—as I just explained—may now be sued under the Clean Water Act's section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Think about that. Now the farmer faces the risk of litigation and litigation costs for using everyday weed control or fertilizer applications among other basic and essential farming activities.

Let me get this right. The EPA is saying: We are doing this because this is going to help farmers somehow understand what they have to do.

So the EPA goes beyond navigable bodies of water—let's take a State such as Ohio, for example. They are going to go beyond the Great Lakes and beyond the Ohio River, and the EPA is now going to extend their regulatory jurisdiction to water wherever they find it—in a ditch or on a farm—and they are going to regulate that, and they might give that farmer or rancher an exemption, and somehow they are helping and clarifying things for that farmer or rancher? It defies common sense.

Farmers and ranchers have to work through uncertain weather and markets to ensure that America is food secure, and they do an amazing job of it. They are the best in the world. Sixteen

million people in this country are either directly involved in agriculture or indirectly involved in agriculture. We have a positive balance of payments in agriculture. We have the lowest cost, highest quality food supply in the world. Now the EPA by its own volition is going to go out and make it harder and more expensive and more difficult for our farmers and ranchers to do what they do better than anyone in the world. Farmers and ranchers have to work through uncertain weather and markets to ensure that we have food security. They don't need the burden of additional regulations and litigation, and they certainly don't need that burden under the auspices of the EPA saying that somehow this is going to help. Well, that is not the case.

I offered a very similar amendment in the Appropriations Committee in the energy and water section. The night before we were to have our full Appropriations Committee meeting, at 7:30 that night, that bill, the Energy and Water bill, got pulled, so we didn't have our appropriations vote the next morning.

The amendment I had prepared simply would have defunded this proposed regulation, but because there was bipartisan support for this amendment, we are not going to get a chance to vote on it.

Twenty-eight other Senators and I have been here on the floor this afternoon. The Senator from Missouri was just here. The Senator from Wyoming was here earlier. Others have been here. I am here now. There will be more. So here we stand. We are on a sportsmen's bill, this is a relevant amendment, and the question is, Why aren't we voting on it? It has bipartisan support and 29 cosponsors. It is something that is clearly important not just to our farmers and ranchers but really to businesses and industry across this great country. So why aren't we voting on it? If somebody wants to come down and make an argument that they are for it, they can do so. But when all is said and done, the way this body works is by voting and determining where the majority falls.

I ask my colleagues, why in the world are we not voting on this amendment that is incredibly important to our farmers and ranchers and to businesses and to industry and to the people of this country? As I said, we didn't get a chance to vote on it in committee, and here we are on a bill where it is relevant. Are we going to get a chance to vote on it now? And if not now, when?

The majority rules, so let's have a vote. Let's give everybody a chance to stand and be counted. Let's have our vote, and let's stand up for the American people and make sure we strike down this proposed waters of the United States regulation.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VA HEALTH CARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I have received a number of calls in recent weeks, as we all have, about what is happening at the Veterans' Administration. Over the July 4th week, back in Ohio, I heard from lots of veterans at roundtables in communities all over the State, from Steubenville to Dayton, and lots of places in between: What are we going to do about the VA? I heard outrage. I heard disillusion over the VA. There is outrage about a system charged with caring for those who defend our Nation that falls short. There is frustration and disillusion because our veterans are waiting too long. We need to fix that.

But I also saw letters to the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Cleveland Plain Dealer and I had conversations with veterans who defended and bragged about the service they are getting, the care they are getting, whether it is the VA in Cincinnati or Dayton or Cleveland or Columbus or Chillicothe—the hospitals we have in my State—or whether it is the community-based clinics in places such as Mansfield and Zanesville and Lima and Springfield—those smaller community-based outpatient clinics, so-called CBOCs, that serve veterans who need less acute care but still need service from a doctor, from a nurse, from a physical therapist.

We can only conclude a couple of things. We can conclude there are, in fact, serious problems with the VA that need to be fixed. The Presiding Officer is a prominent member of the Veterans' Committee, and from his veterans hospitals in Connecticut he hears the same. We can also conclude that those who get in the system overwhelmingly are getting good care. There are 6.5 million veterans who are using VA health care with 85 million patient visits a year. That was in 2013. I assume there is a similar number this year. They are getting good care.

The problem is access to the system. The waiting times are simply unacceptable and outrageous and the disillusionment for those veterans is worse. We know what waiting times mean, especially in mental health treatment, where far too many veterans commit suicide.

With costs of war—and particularly this last round of wars over the last

decade where we went to war as a nation, wrongly, in Iraq—we didn't pay for that war—and then the President and the Congress a decade ago made a fateful mistake, mostly out of arrogance, assuming that these two wars would be so short we didn't need to scale up the VA, we didn't need to increase funding, we didn't need to expand services, we didn't need to hire more doctors and nurses—two things happened. One, a whole bunch of new veterans, new soldiers and sailors and marines and air men and women, came home from Iraq and Afghanistan. A whole lot more were in the war than President Bush and the Congress thought would happen or cared to think would happen a decade ago.

The second thing is they came home in much worse shape than in previous wars. Soldiers who would have died on the battlefields—the Presiding Officer is a veteran himself and he knows and we all know that the illnesses and physical and mental injuries are much greater in this war because they survived the battlefield when they might not have survived these same kinds of explosions 20 or 30 years ago.

The third thing—I said two. The third thing that happened is because of a decision Congress made that was right a couple of decades ago—I believe it was President Clinton who signed that bill; it might have been President Bush 1—in passing a bill which included a provision called presumptive eligibility for Agent Orange. Before presumptive eligibility, when a veteran came home from Vietnam right after the war or developed an illness many years later, that veteran would have to fight with the VA to prove that Agent Orange was the reason he or she had that illness. After Agent Orange presumptive eligibility, what that meant is that these soldiers and these veterans, 20 years later, if they had 1 of the 20 or so illnesses defined by the law that were connected to Agent Orange, they automatically were eligible. That is called presumptive eligibility, meaning they were eligible for VA services and health care. That was a great thing.

However, what that meant is that as more and more veterans moved forward from Vietnam, as they aged into their fifties and sixties and some into their seventies, they have had a huge influx of patients into the VA. That is why this veterans conference report—the bill that passed the House and the bill that passed the Senate with almost no “no” votes—is so important, because our commitment to our veterans must match their commitment to our Nation.

I am the first Ohioan to serve a full term ever on the Senate Veterans' Committee. I have been lucky enough to be appointed to the joint House and Senate conference committee. We need to iron out the differences in these

bills. We need to do three things. First, increase the accountability in the VA. VA employees, senior employees in particular, who don't do their jobs should lose their jobs; that if it is proven in fact they did not do their jobs, if they altered information, if they explained away delays incorrectly or dishonestly, that they be held accountable, period.

Although let's keep in mind the vast majority of VA employees, whether they are in Hartford or whether they are in Cleveland, are dedicated public servants to our Nation and to our veterans. These are men and women who chose to serve veterans, to work in Chillicothe, in Zanesville, and in Columbus, and so many of them are veterans themselves. They chose a career to serve veterans and they are veterans themselves. Whether it is a police officer at the Dayton VA, a claims processor at the Cleveland VARO, a nurse at the Toledo CBOC, our veterans rely on them. We shouldn't condemn the VA at large for the wrongdoings of a relative few.

Second, the compromise bill will provide an option for veterans who are experiencing long wait times. In the Presiding Officer's State of Connecticut and in mine, few veterans are all that far from a CBOC or from a hospital, and this new proposal says that for veterans more than 40 miles away from a CBOC or hospital, they can go elsewhere to a local hospital or a local community-based health center instead of the VA because they are closer. We don't have too many places in my State—and I believe there are none in the Presiding Officer's State—where that is the case. But those veterans who have had to wait 30 years or 30 days should have that option because care for the veteran, our commitment to veterans must match their commitment to our Nation.

Third and last, the compromise bill will expand and enhance the VA's ability to provide veterans with the care they deserve. It will allow the VA to hire more doctors and nurses and physical therapists, to build more beds, to build more capacity at these VA centers and CBOCs to make sure they have the staff necessary. With the end of these two wars, thousands of our newest veterans will be joining the ranks of VA health care.

The shortage of care providers has been especially pressing for vets struggling with a brain injury—the so-called invisible injuries. That is when a soldier in the Army gets a head injury and it might be considered a minor head injury. A number of combatants have told me they get their “bells rung” is the term they use. It is an invisible injury, a minor concussion—often not reported but a minor concussion—and then another one and then another one. Look at what the stories have told us about the NFL players. The same holds

true, only in a more serious way, for soldiers and for marines, what happens to them down the road. Thirty years later they go to the VA, their behavior has changed, their families are calling. The VA has no documentation of these injuries. They have to struggle to show these injuries, to prove these injuries to the VA, to the doctors for a diagnosis and to the VA for the coverage of the disability.

That is why my tracker bill, the Fairman Significant Event Tracker Act—or SET Act—is so important. Instead of the burden being on the veteran to show here were my concussions, here were my injuries, I should be eligible for disability; here is what happened to me, diagnose me with the right diagnosis, the Army itself should be keeping those records, and they should follow the health care of the veteran when they are in the military, when they are in the VA. The interface has to take place much more smoothly, so when a soldier turns in her gear and she comes back to Ravenna, OH, or she comes back to Wauseon, OH, or she comes back to Maple Heights or Garfield Heights, the VA locally will know what has happened to her.

These are the challenges. I will finish with a couple of troubling notes I received from a couple of people in Ohio. One came from Gary in Franklin County, which is the home of the State capital: My brother was a Vietnam vet and survivor of a major battle in Vietnam. He never discussed his experiences. He took his life in 1992. This bill will provide important mechanisms to help reduce the rate of suicides among our veterans. Every Member of Congress should support it. It is not a political issue, but a part of our sincere and legitimate commitment to our veterans.

I couldn't have said it better.

Christine from Miami County, the county just north of Dayton in southwest Ohio: This bill will remove the redtape that our veterans encounter at a time when they are least able to deal with it. My son died at his own hands after a tour in the Middle East. He sought help from the VA and was diagnosed with PTSD shortly before dying. I know his mental state at the time, and he would not have been able to handle providing proof that he experienced traumatic events or remember the duties he performed.

In other words, he had these injuries. The military didn't have the records of these injuries because he wasn't injured so badly that he was sent back to Germany or to Bethesda or to Walter Reed, but the military should have kept these records so he knew what, in fact, was wrong. He was not able, in his condition, to put together and find his old buddies that were with him 6 or 8 years earlier that could kind of recall the incidents of what happened.

Christine writes that this bill is a simple, effective solution.

We need to address the issues facing our veterans. Our commitment to our troops must match their commitment to our Nation.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for the 73rd “time to wake up” speech that I have done to urge my colleagues to wake up to the growing threat of climate change. The changes we are seeing, driven by carbon pollution, are far-reaching—from the coast lines of States such as Rhode Island and the Presiding Officer's State of Connecticut, to the great plateaus and mountain ranges out West; from pole to pole; from high up in the atmosphere to deep down in the oceans.

In Rhode Island, we know the oceans are ground zero for the effects of carbon pollution. Since the Industrial Revolution, the oceans have been absorbing our carbon dioxide emissions—roughly a quarter of the total excess emissions—which, by the laws of chemistry, has caused rapid changes in ocean acidity, the pH level of the oceans, changes not seen for a long time. When I say “a long time,” I mean at least 25 to 50 million years, potentially as many as 300 million years. To put 300 million years into perspective, we homo sapiens—the human species—have been on the Earth for about 200,000 years. So 300 million years goes way back into geologic time, back before the dinosaurs. So a change that is unprecedented in that much time is something we should pay attention to.

Recently, four Republican former EPA Administrators testified before my Environment and Public Works subcommittee on the dire need for congressional action to curb this carbon pollution that is causing these effects in our oceans.

Here is how the EPA's very first Administrator, William Ruckelshaus, put it. He said:

Since the ocean absorbs 25–30 percent of the carbon from stationary or mobile sources we thought the ocean was our friend. It was keeping significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. But our friend is paying a penalty.

As carbon dissolves in water, it makes the water more acidic—a fundamental chemical proposition—and that can upset the delicate balance of ocean life. Again, that is just basic physics and chemistry.

Ronald Reagan's EPA chief Lee Thomas—Ronald Reagan's EPA chief—warned us that thanks to the profuse carbon pollution we have emitted,

oceans are now acidifying at a rate 50 times greater than known historical change—50 times.

Of course, my colleagues in the minority did not seem inclined to listen to their fellow Republicans. Instead, they took a page out of the polluters' playbook, and as usual their routine was to call into question widely accepted science.

Well, I recently visited communities around the country. I will mention my trip recently along the southeast coast—the Atlantic coast—where researchers, elected officials, and business and home owners are seeing the effects of climate change firsthand.

It does not matter what somebody thinks on the Senate floor. They are seeing it firsthand. They know better than what the polluting special interests are trying to sell. Indeed, recently the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution calling for natural solutions to fight the effects of climate change to “protect fresh water supplies, defend the Nation's coastlines, maintain a healthy tree and green space cover, and protect air quality.” Unanimously, by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a bipartisan organization.

So there are a lot of people who know better than the nonsense the polluting special interests are trying to sell.

I flew out during this trip to where sea level rise is gnawing away at the Outer Banks. When you fly over the North Carolina coast, you see a lot of investment along the shoreline. You see houses, big houses, nice houses. You see hotels, you see restaurants, you see roads and infrastructure, you see an entire seafront economy.

I met down there with the North Carolina Coastal Federation at their Coastal Education Center in Wilmington. This is a bipartisan group. It has joined together in concern over the exposure of their coastal communities, their homes, to rising seas. What would my colleagues here in the Senate tell this bipartisan group in North Carolina about climate change? What would they tell the United States Conference of Mayors, a bipartisan group, about climate change? Do not worry, it is not real; run along now, do not concern yourself.

Good luck with that. People know better.

King Canute could not decree that the tide not come in. Republicans in Congress cannot legislate away the changes we are seeing in our oceans. When I was down in Florida, fishermen there told me about the northward migration of species they are used to catching in Florida, species such as redfish and snook, moving north because of warming ocean temperatures.

Fishermen in South Carolina told me snook are now being caught off the coast of Charleston. I have heard that redfish are being caught as far north as

Cape Cod. I believe that because Rhode Islanders are catching tarpon and grouper off the shore of Rhode Island. I have had Rhode Island fishermen tell me they are catching fish their fathers and grandfathers never saw come up in their nets.

As one Rhode Island fisherman told me, “Sheldon, it's getting weird out there.”

It is not just Rhode Island. The Maine legislature just established a bipartisan commission to study and address the harm from ocean acidification to ecosystems and to their shell fisheries—again, bipartisan.

Once you leave this building, people are taking bipartisan action. It is only here that the polluters hold such sway.

In Virginia, which is also a coal State, a bipartisan group, including Republican U.S. Representatives SCOTT RIGELL and Democratic Governor Terry McAuliffe, are working together to prepare communities such as Hampton Roads, VA, for several feet of sea level rise.

A State commission that was first assembled under the administration of our Virginia colleague TIM KAINE, back when he was Governor, has reconvened to address the threat of climate change in the oceans.

These Virginia leaders are not wasting time quarreling and denying basic science. They are working to protect commerce and homeowners in their communities threatened as the seas continue to rise. While our Republican colleagues in Congress try their best to ignore the problem of carbon pollution, there are very serious conversations going on outside these walls.

For example, former President George W. Bush's Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson invoked ocean warming and sea level rise in a recent editorial he wrote, calling for a fee on carbon pollution. Here is the cover of this week's Newsweek: “Deep end. What rapid changes in oceans mean for Earth.”

This would not be the first one. Last year, National Geographic came out with this issue entitled “Rising Seas.”

Now perhaps my colleagues on the other side who pretend that climate change is a hoax will agree that Newsweek is part of the hoax; National Geographic is part of the hoax; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is part of the hoax; the U.S. Navy is part of the hoax. We are bedeviled in this Chamber by preposterous ideas. What the Newsweek cover article highlights is the unprecedented effects of pumping all of that excess carbon into our oceans, ranging from coral bleaching to dissolving larval shellfish, to the disappearance of entire species.

BloombergView just published a recent editorial titled “Climate Change Goes Underwater.”

I ask unanimous consent that this document be printed in the RECORD at the end of my comments.

This is not wild speculation. This is good old-fashioned reporting of things that are happening around us that people see. I have talked before about the humble pteropod, so let's talk a little about the pteropod, a funny type of snail which is about the size of a small pea.

The pteropod is known sometimes as the sea butterfly because its small foot has adapted into two little butterfly-like wings which propel it around in the ocean. These images show what can happen to the pteropod shell when the creature's underwater environment becomes more acidic and therefore lacks the compounds that are necessary for this little creature to make its delicate shell. It is not good for the pteropod. This is the pteropod in action with the little butterfly wings that help it to swim. Here is a clean shell from proper water. Here is a dissolving shell from exposure to acidified ocean water. This obviously is not good for the pteropod.

Recent research, which was led by NOAA scientists, has found that ocean acidification off our west coast, in what is called the California current ecosystem, is hitting the pteropod especially hard.

Let me take a minute and read from the publication of this report in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, a respected publication.

The release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere from fossil fuel burning, cement production and deforestation processes has resulted in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations that have increased about 40% since the beginning of the industrial era.

Now, the measure of that—we have always had atmospheric carbon concentrations between about 170 and 300 parts per million—we have broken 400. April was the first month when we were consistently, on average, above 400 parts per million.

When you think that the 170 to 300 parts per million range has lasted for thousands of years, for millennia, for longer than our species has been on the planet, the fact that we are suddenly outside of that range is a signal that ought to call our attention. That is what they are referring to.

Continuing:

The oceans have taken up approximately 28% of the total amount of CO₂ produced by human activities over this time-frame, causing a variety of chemical changes known as ocean acidification (OA).

The rapid change in ocean chemistry is faster than at any time over the past 50 million years.

They go on to say, toward the end of the report, that one of the chokepoint areas, what they call the first bottleneck: “The first bottleneck would primarily affect veligers and larvae”—which are early stages of the shell before its shell has hardened. The larvae is little, and the veliger is when it has kind of a shroud around it, but not yet a shell. It helps it to move and to consume food.

Continuing:

The first bottleneck would primarily affect veligers and larvae, life stages where complete shell dissolution in the larvae can occur within two weeks upon exposure to undersaturation.

They also note that:

Significant increases in vertical and spatial extent of conditions favouring pteropod shell dissolution are expected to make this habitat potentially unsuitable for pteropods.

So if the California current ecosystem habitat becomes unsuitable for pteropods, we have a little problem on our hands because pteropods are food for important fish like salmon, like mackerel, like herring. Pteropods are the base of the food chain. No pteropods means crashed salmon fisheries, crashed mackerel fisheries, crashed herring fisheries, crashes throughout polar and subpolar fisheries.

Dr. William Peterson is an oceanographer at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. He is the coauthor of the study, and he said: "We did not expect to see pteropods being affected to this extent in our coastal region for several decades."

These ecosystems, these ocean ecosystems, are crumbling before our eyes and yet this Congress hides behind denial. In the face of inertia in Congress and in the face of the relentless truculence of the deniers, the Obama administration is trying to do what it can to push responsible policies.

Last month Secretary of State John Kerry held the State Department's "Our Ocean" Conference and I attended that conference for 2 days. One of the presenters there was Dr. Carol Turley of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. She described her research on ocean acidification, including using this graph of ocean acidity over the past 25 million years. That is today minus 25 million years, today minus 20 million years, minus 15 million years, minus 10 million years, minus 5 million years, and now.

Look at how little variation there has been in ocean pH across that 25-million-year time scale. Remember, we have been on the planet around 200,000 years. We go back to about here.

The rest of this is geologic time. That is a long span of time. If we put that against what is happening now, look how sudden that change is in ocean pH, the basic acidity of the oceans.

Why is this happening? We know that human activity releases gigatons of carbon every year. That is undeniable. We know that carbon dioxide acidifies seawater. That is basic chemistry. You can do that in a high school lab.

We know the ocean's pH is changing in unprecedented ways in human history. No one in their right mind can say this is natural variability.

This acidification of our seas will have devastating effects on ecosystems

such as tropical coral reefs, which, as Dr. Turley pointed out, are home to one in every four species in the marine environment. If you wanted to drive a bulldozer through God's species on this planet, it would be hard to do much better than allowing this rampant ocean acidification.

My colleague and cochair of our Senate Oceans Caucus, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, and I have had the chance to address the oceans conference together. She told the conference that the waters off her Alaskan shores are growing more acidic.

I agree with Senator MURKOWSKI that we need to understand what ocean acidification means for our fisheries and ocean ecosystems much better than we do now.

Secretary Kerry delivered a clear challenge. On this planet, with all of its many peoples, we share nothing so completely as we share the oceans. And if we are going to honor our duty to protect the oceans, to honor our duty to future generations, we are going to have to work together. These are painfully clear warnings. The facts speak volumes.

The denial propaganda has shown itself to be nonsense, to be a sham, which ought to come as no surprise because the machinery that produces the climate denial propaganda is the same machinery that denied tobacco was dangerous, the same machinery that denied there was an ozone hole, the same machinery that has always fought public health measures for industry, and has always been wrong. It has always been wrong because it is not its job to be right. It is its job to protect industry and allow them to continue to pollute and make money. That is its job. So it ought to come as no surprise that the argument it makes about climate change is nonsense and is a sham. It is time to unshackle ourselves from that machinery.

History is going to look back at this, and it will not be a shining moment for us. History will reflect that the polluters are polluting our democracy with their money and their influence just as badly as they are polluting our oceans and our atmosphere with their carbon.

We have to wake up. It will disserve our grandchildren and their grandchildren, and it will disgrace our generation to have allowed this democracy to miss this issue and to fail to act because of the propaganda machinery that has over and over again proven itself to be wrong. Our ocean economies, our ocean heritage, are all at stake.

As Secretary Kerry put it, it is our ocean, and it is our responsibility. Let us please wake up before we have completely disgraced ourselves.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bloomberg View, June 29, 2014]

CLIMATE CHANGE GOES UNDERWATER

(By The Editors)

When it comes to climate change, almost all the attention is on the air. What's happening to the water, however, is just as worrying—although for the moment it may be slightly more manageable.

Here's the problem in a nutshell: As the oceans absorb about a quarter of the carbon dioxide released by fossil-fuel burning, the pH level in the underwater world is falling, creating the marine version of climate change. Ocean acidification is rising at its fastest pace in 300 million years, according to scientists.

The most obvious effects have been on oysters, clams, coral and other sea-dwelling creatures with hard parts, because more acidic water contains less of the calcium carbonate essential for shell- and skeleton-building. But there are also implications for the land-based creatures known as humans.

It's not just the Pacific oyster farmers who are finding high pH levels make it hard for larvae to form, or the clam fishermen in Maine who discover that the clams on the bottom of their buckets can be crushed by the weight of a full load, or even the 123.3 million Americans who live near or on the coasts. Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the earth, and changes to the marine ecosystem will have profound effects on the planet.

Stopping acidification, like stopping climate change, requires first and foremost a worldwide reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions. That's the bad news. Coming to an international agreement about the best way to do that is hard.

Unlike with climate change, however, local action can make a real difference against acidification. This is because in many coastal regions where shellfish and coral reefs are at risk, an already bad situation is being made worse by localized air and water pollution, such as acid rain from coal-burning; effluent from big farms, pulp mills and sewage systems; and storm runoff from urban pavement. This means that existing anti-pollution laws can address some of the problem.

States have the authority under the U.S. Clean Water Act, for instance, to set standards for water quality, and they can use that authority to strengthen local limits on the kinds of pollution that most contribute to acidification hot spots. Coastal states and cities can also maximize the amount of land covered in vegetation (rather than asphalt or concrete), so that when it rains the water filters through soil and doesn't easily wash urban pollution into the sea. States can also qualify for federal funding for acidification research in their estuaries.

Such research can hardly happen fast enough. It's still not known, for instance, exactly to what extent acidification is to blame for the decline of coral reefs. And if the chemical change in the ocean makes it harder for sea snails and other pteropods to survive, will that also threaten the wild salmon and other big fish that eat them?

Better monitoring of acidification would help scientists learn how much it varies from place to place and what makes the difference. This calls for continuous readings, because pH levels shift throughout the day and from season to season. Engineers are designing new measuring devices that can be left in the water, and it looks like monitoring will eventually be done in a standardized way throughout the world.

In the meantime, researchers are finding small ways to give local populations of shellfish their best chance to survive—depositing

crushed shells in the mudflats where clams live, for instance, to neutralize the sediment, or planting sea grass in shellfish habitats to absorb CO₂. Such strategies, like pollution control, are worthwhile if only to help keep shellfish populations as robust as possible in the short term, perhaps giving natural selection the opportunity to breed strains better suited to a lower-pH world.

These efforts also give humans more time to learn about ocean acidification. And maybe they will help their political leaders better understand the urgency of international cooperation on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NORMAN C. BAY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 839.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Martin Heinrich, Tom Harkin, Tammy Baldwin, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL A. LAFLEUR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 842.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tammy Baldwin.

Mr. REID. I ask that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at noon tomorrow, July 10, the Senate proceed to executive session and consider Calendar Nos. 903, 695, and 895; that the time until 2

p.m. be equally divided in the usual form on the Donovan nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form, prior to the votes on the Silliman and Smith nominations; that all rollcall votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion will be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at noon the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 839 and 842 in the order listed; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 3 p.m. all postcloture time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that there be 2 minutes for debate prior to each vote; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FUTURE OF LEISURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my daughter Alicia works for the Motion Picture Association of America and sent me a report from the Wall Street Journal written by Robert Iger.

My wife Marcelle and I, as well as Alicia, have been to Mr. Iger's home and spent time with him, his highly talented wife Willow Bay, and their children. We have all been impressed with the enthusiasm and direction he brings to the Walt Disney Company, and some of my most interesting times have been with him talking about it.

Mr. President, I wanted to share with others his report, and I ask consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 7, 2014]

DISNEY'S IGER ON THE FUTURE OF LEISURE:
TECHNOLOGY BUILT ON STORYTELLING

(By Robert A. Iger)

In 1956, the year after Disneyland opened, Walt Disney was asked to imagine what entertainment would be like a half-century into the future.

As one of the world's great innovators, Walt had just introduced people to a new form of leisure entertainment—the theme park. But when it came to predicting the future, Walt said that was beyond his powers, given the rapid pace of change in the entertainment industry.

One thing was certain, Walt said: The centuries-old human need for great storytelling would endure for generations to come, enhanced by new technologies that would bring these tales to life in extraordinary ways.

Walt was better at predicting the future than he realized. Six decades later, technology is lifting the limits of creativity and transforming the possibilities for entertainment and leisure. Today's digital era has unleashed unprecedented innovation, giving rise to an array of new entertainment options competing for our time and attention.

As Walt also predicted, people's need to be entertained with storytelling has endured: We gravitate to the universal stories that bind us—tales of adventure, heroism and love, tales that provide comfort and escape. Great storytelling still remains the bedrock of great entertainment.

In the years ahead, this fusion of technology and creativity will allow us to deliver experiences once unimaginable. What will that future look like? Like Walt, I'm hesitant to make predictions. But a few things seem certain to me.

To start, the 20th-century concept of "one size fits all" no longer applies, as innovators around the world create tools that allow us to customize entertainment and leisure experiences to fit our own tastes and schedules and share them instantly with friends, family and an ever-growing digitally connected global community. In short, we are creating what I like to call technology-enabled leisure.

Mobile storytelling, and mobile entertainment, will dominate our lives, and offer rich, compelling experiences well beyond what is available today. Where someone is will no longer be a barrier to being entertained; the geography of leisure will be limitless. One of the most exciting developments I see on the horizon is technology that will immerse us into entertaining worlds, or project those worlds and experiences into our lives. In essence, entertainment will be immeasurably enhanced with both virtual-reality experiences and augmented-reality experiences. Bringing us into created worlds and bringing created worlds into our world will fundamentally explode the boundaries of storytelling, unburdening the storyteller in ways we can't yet imagine.

The challenges? Technology can be an invasive force, competing for our attention and eroding the time we have for ourselves and our families. Few of us would give up the tech tools that keep us productive and informed; even fewer can remember the last time we completely unplugged on vacation. The more ubiquitous technology becomes in our lives, the more diligent we must be to ensure it doesn't overwhelm or diminish our leisure time.

Ultimately, technology is about connecting, not cocooning; it's a tool that should empower us to reach more people and bind us closer together, rather than encourage us to disengage from one another. Even as we use technology to create more individualized experiences, social interaction is still a basic need, a fundamental part of our humanity.

That's why we value entertainment "events" that create treasured memories, strengthen personal connections and deliver shared experiences, whether at the movies, in a theme park, or at a sports stadium. This is entertainment that cannot be time-shifted or duplicated; you have to be there, immersed in the moment.

An experience is enhanced when shared with others, becoming something to be savored and remembered long after it's over. These social events enrich our lives, and our need for them will never change.

The human love of storytelling, whether individualized or shared, will also be a constant. Although I can't predict the precise future of entertainment, I share Walt Disney's optimism and his belief that whatever lies ahead, it will be defined by great storytelling. Just like it always has been.

FINANCIAL AID SIMPLIFICATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I recently spoke to Senate interns regarding the Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency Act. I ask unanimous consent that my full speech be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FINANCIAL AID SIMPLIFICATION AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Thank you for coming. We know it's the pizza more than anything else that brought you here, but to some extent it may be the dreaded federal student application form. What we would like to do today is tell you a story. We will call this a "teaching moment." I think that may have been Senator Bennet's phrase, but it is a teaching moment for you as to how legislation is supposed to work in the United States Senate. And I think it may be a teaching moment for senators, about how to do our jobs.

We are going to tell you a story of how we got to where we are and tell you what our proposal is. And then we are going to invite the experts to tell us what kind of students we senators have been in terms of listening to them and then coming up with something. Then we will ask you what you think. Then we are going to put this out for our committee on which we serve, which Senator Harkin is the chairman of, which is working on the reauthorization of Higher Education with our colleagues to see if we can get co-sponsors and make a difference in something. So what I will do is begin the story, and I will just take a few minutes. Then I will turn it over to Senator Bennet, and he will tell you more about exactly what the proposal is. First, let me introduce the three experts: Ms. Kim Cook, executive director of the National College Access Network, Dr. Judith Scott-Clayton, assistant professor of economics and education at Teachers College at Columbia University, and Ms. Kristin Conklin, founding partner at HCM Strategists, LLC.

Here's why they are here. Several months ago at one of the hearings of the Health,

Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, those three, and one other, who is from Harvard Graduate School of Education, testified before us. I am down on the Republican side and Michael is on the Democratic side. It looked to me like we had the same reaction, because they were talking about this federal student application form, which is 106 questions, with 68 pages of explanations that you have to fill out every year you apply for a grant or a loan.

It gets audited during the year, and, of course, you would probably make a mistake on one of those questions, so you might not get your money. It is so discouraging to people who apply for it that many who should do not. One of the community college representatives said that a quarter of the community college students do not even fill out the form, and they are probably the ones who we most want to have the opportunity to do that.

So what we heard the four say was you could eliminate all those questions except two and get 90 or 95 percent of all of the information that you need.

Of course I am the first one to wonder, "Is that just a bizarre outlier? Is that just one witness with a weird proposal?" But every single one of the four said that. Then they went on to make some other very common sense recommendations about being able to fill it out earlier in your high school year, suggestions about over-borrowing, about simplifying the loan and student repayment process—all of which made a lot of sense.

So, at the end of the hearing, I said, "Would four of you please write a letter to us on the things that you agree with?" By the time I got down to see them, they said, "We won't write you four letters, we'll write you one." So they did.

Michael and I began working together to see if we could take their recommendations and put it in a piece of legislation. In doing that, we wanted to show the proper respect to our colleagues, so we let our chairman, Senator Harkin, know about it. We mentioned it to Arne Duncan, so he would know what we are doing, because we would like in the end to have Republican support, and the president's support, and the House of Representatives' support. We are not here to make a political point. We are here to get a result. And then we thought about what would be the best way to introduce it. Senator Bennet said, "Why don't we invite the interns to come over for lunch? Why don't we lay it out to them? Why don't we ask the experts who suggested it to us what they think?"

Next week, then, we will introduce it and see what is going on and how we can improve it over the next few weeks. And then maybe when you fill out the form in your next year of college, it will be the size of a postcard instead of the size of that. That thing takes, if you add it up, 20 million students filling that out every year, and the form itself says it takes at least three hours. If you add up the amount of money and time spent on that, you get into billions of hours wasted, you get into hundreds of millions of dollars that might be spent on construction, instead of hiring staff people at the college to help you fill these things out. You might encourage a lot more people, who are eligible and who need the money, to get the surest step toward improving their lives.

Of course, the College Board says that a college four-year degree is worth a million dollars in increased earnings over your lifetime. It is one sure ticket to a better life that we know about. Finally, I want to say

that it has been a great pleasure to work with Michael. I am a pretty good Republican, he's a pretty good Democrat, but that does not make any difference. The reason we are here is that the Senate is a place where you are supposed to have extended debate about important subjects until you come to a consensus, and then you get a result. That is the way you govern a complex country. So what we hope is that this is just a small example of one part of the Higher Education reauthorization process that will help make life simpler.

Michael, there is one other thing that I should say. You may ask, how did this happen? How did this long thing happen? It wasn't any evil-doer who did it. What happened was the Higher Education Act was authorized in 1965. In my opinion, what happened was it got reauthorized eight times by different groups of senators and congressman, different group of regulators wrote things. People had good, well-intentioned ideas and after that [process], you get that. So what we are doing is starting from scratch to try to turn 106 questions into a postcard and get the money where it should go, to the eligible students who want to go to college.

CONGRATULATING THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY COMMODORES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as a fellow Commodore, I would like to congratulate the Vanderbilt University baseball team on winning the College World Series and bringing home Vanderbilt's first men's national championship.

Tim Corbin, Vanderbilt's outstanding coach who has been named National Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball, is to be commended for his exceptional leadership and determination throughout the entire season.

This was a hard-fought win, and I am so proud of the perseverance and tenacity of Coach Corbin and these young men.

Vanderbilt is a very special university, one that produces student-athletes of exceptional character, integrity, and pride in themselves and their school.

It is a privilege to be a home-State alumnus of a university that continues to embrace these values while also encouraging its students to excel in both academics and athletics.

I am filled with pride today for my alma mater, and I wish the baseball team and all of Vanderbilt University the best.

This achievement would not have been possible without the skill, determination and teamwork of the following outstanding student-athletes: Tyler Beede, Ben Bowden, Walker Buehler, Tyler Campbell, Ro Coleman, Vince Conde, Will Cooper, Jason Delay, Karl Ellison, Tyler Ferguson, Carson Fulmer, Tyler Green, Chris Harvey, Ryan Johnson, John Kilichowski, Aubrey McCarty, Brian Miller, Jared Miller, Penn Murfee, John Norwood, Drake Parker, T.J. Pecorano, Adam Ravenelle, Bryan Reynolds, Steven

Rice, Nolan Rogers, Jordan Sheffield, Kyle Smith, Luke Stephenson, Hayden Stone, Dansby Swanson, Xavier Turner, Zander Wiel, and Rhett Wiseman.

Go Does!

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO RAOUL WALLENBERG

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the memory of one of the world's most courageous humanitarians: Raoul Wallenberg. Seventy years ago today, Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest, risking his own life to save the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Raoul Wallenberg emerged as a champion of those who were persecuted during one of the darkest chapters of human history. Mr. Wallenberg served on the War Refugee Board, an independent government agency established in 1944 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and tasked with the "immediate rescue and relief of the Jews of Europe and other victims of enemy persecution." Through his courageous work on the War Refugee Board, Mr. Wallenberg prevented the deportation of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Wallenberg risked his own life and livelihood in order to save Jewish people through a variety of means by issuing thousands of protective documents for them; by securing their release from deportation trains, death march convoys, and labor service brigades; and by establishing the International Ghetto of protected houses.

While the Holocaust showed us that human beings are capable of committing unspeakably evil acts, heroes like Raoul Wallenberg proved that we are also capable of bravery, selflessness, and goodness.

It is only fitting that we passed legislation in 2012 bestowing one of America's highest civilian awards, the Congressional Gold Medal, to one of the greatest heroes this world has known. That actual medal is being awarded to Raoul Wallenberg's family in a ceremony today to honor his legacy.

American citizenship is not a requirement for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal; but if it were required, Wallenberg would be eligible. He received honorary U.S. citizenship in 1981 thanks to the efforts of former Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA, 12th) who, as a 16-year-old in 1944, escaped from a Nazi forced labor camp outside of Budapest and hid with his aunt in a safe house Wallenberg had established.

Throughout the world, streets have been named after Raoul Wallenberg including one here in Washington, where the U.S. Holocaust Museum is located. Monuments bearing his name are testaments to Raoul Wallenberg's heroism and to the thousands of lives he saved during the Holocaust. Awards are given in his name to honor humanitarians

around the world. The most important reminders of all that he accomplished are the human ones the descendants of those who survived the Holocaust, thanks to Raoul Wallenberg's heroism. Raoul Wallenberg left this earth too soon but he accomplished more in his short life than most of us could ever hope to.

We can honor Mr. Wallenberg by trying to live with the courage and conviction that he demonstrated in his short time. By doing so, we can do right by him, and we can do right by all those whose lives were lost or forever changed by the Holocaust.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SECOND LIEUTENANT TOBIAS C. ALEXANDER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army 2LT Tobias C. Alexander. Along with one other soldier, Toby died May 20, 2012 of injuries he sustained when his unit was attacked with improvised explosive devices in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Toby was born June 8, 1981 in Wesel, Germany and graduated from Eglin High School in 1999.

Toby entered the Active Duty Army in August 2002 as a signal intel analyst. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Afghanistan (3rd Special Forces Group, Airborne). He obtained the rank of sergeant first class.

In 2011 he earned a bachelors' degree in interdisciplinary studies from Cameron University where he was a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. After receiving his commission, he attended the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course B at Fort Sill, OK and was then assigned to the 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, 214th Fires Brigade. He served as a platoon leader for Alpha Battery before being selected for the Security Forces Advisory Team, SFAT, which was responsible for the training of Afghanistan's national security forces. He deployed for his second tour to Afghanistan in June 2011.

His friend, Myles Mendez, said "He was the guy you went to if you needed to know something, so a lot of people were always going to him with 'What's this? What's that? Can you help me?' He was the go-to guy."

"I honestly don't think that he would have had it any other way. I think if he had to choose to go out, I think he would have wanted to have it serving his country. He was a patriot."

On May 30, 2012, the family held funeral services at Cameron Baptist Church in Lawton, OK.

He is survived by his wife Amanda, his children: Angelicia, Kevin and Lexie, and his parents Bill and Heike Alexander.

Today we remember Army 2LT Tobias C. Alexander, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JON R. TOWNSEND

Mr. President, I also wish to remember Army PFC Jon R. Townsend. Along with three other soldiers, Jon died September 16, 2012 in Zabul province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom due to injuries sustained due to enemy small arms fire.

Jon was born October 28, 1992 and was raised in Claremore, OK. Two days after he graduated from Claremore-Sequoyah High School in 2011 he left for Army basic training at 17. His friends and family watched as he transformed—downing 5 dozen eggs a week—from an average kid into a bulked-up recruit.

After completing initial training, Jon was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. He deployed to Afghanistan in December 2011.

His mother said that Jon believed in the mission and was particularly fond of the children he encountered. He asked her to send him care packages with treats that he could give his “babies,” and he’d use his wet wipes to clean the children. “Jon loved life and wanted to share it with everybody,” she said. “He wanted to make everybody happy.”

In February 2012, he went home on leave from Afghanistan and married his high school sweetheart, Brittany Carden. They had 3 days together as a married couple before he departed back to Afghanistan.

“I’m not mad. . . Jon did this because he loved his country,” his mother said. “He wanted to make it safe, and (joining the military) was the only way he knew how.”

On September 28, 2012, the family held a service at First Baptist Church and Jon was laid to rest in Lone Chapel Cemetery in Claremore, OK.

Jon is survived by his wife Brittany Townsend; Lois Harrison, granny; Karen (Katy Harrison) Nelson, mother; Aunt Honee Sue (Harrison) Grumbien and spouse Keith Grumbien and their children: Kobe, Calvin, and Katelyn of Foyil; respected father-like figure Roland Long of Foyil; Jeremy Nelson, brother, and spouse, Courtney and their children: Austin, Jeremiah, Keegan and Xelia Nelson; Andrew Bingham; and Caleb and Myah Smith; Jennifer (Nelson) Tucker and spouse Paul Tucker and children: Tanner and Addison; Nancy (Roberts) Carden, mother-in-law; James L. Carden, Jr., father; Cherish (Carden) Moye, sister, and husband Brent Moye; and James Larry Carden, III, brother; and faithful four-legged friend, Teddy. He was preceded in death by his father Robert Wayne Townsend, cousin Shawn Mersa,

maternal grandfather (Bud) or Carroll Harrison, Jr., Sharon Rice (Harrison) aunt.

Today we remember Army PFC Jon R. Townsend, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

HOSPITALMAN ERIC D. WARREN

Mr. President, as well I would like to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Navy HM Eric D. “Doc” Warren. Eric died May 26, 2012 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Sangin district, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Eric was born November 22, 1988 and was a resident of Shawnee, OK. As a child, he was active in Cub Scouts, little league sports, and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Eric was also active in his church youth group, football, wrestling, and drama.

After graduating from McLoud High School, he enlisted in the Navy, graduated from Corpsman School and completed Fleet Marine Force training as a combat corpsman. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.

He was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2012 for his third tour of duty.

“When he was home last time, I shook his hand and he hugged my neck and whispered in my ear “pray for me,” Reverend Ron Baldrige said. “I prayed for him every day.”

Eric was a skinny kid with a mischievous streak who took pleasure in challenging his pastor and youth minister, Reverend Baldrige explained. Kevin Spurgin, youth minister at Eric’s church said Hospitalman Warren knew the possible consequences of being in one of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan, but any fears he may have had were overcome by pride for the job he was doing there.

His father, Marvin, said his son never put himself first and the only enemy he knew was at war. “He was real passionate about being with his guys over there,” said Marvin, pausing to wipe away his tears. “He wanted to make sure they were safe.”

On June 5, 2012, the family held a funeral service at Downtown Pentecostal Holiness Church in Shawnee, OK. There was a 60-second standing ovation for Eric during his funeral service to commemorate Hospitalman Warren’s service to his country, and the ultimate sacrifice he and his family made.

Eric is the son of Donna Beth and Marvin Warren Jr., who adopted 11-year-old Eric Warren after marrying his mother. His birth father is William Burris, according to his obituary.

Today we remember Navy HM Eric D. “Doc” Warren, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Chickasaw County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$4.2 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the success Alta Vista has had in accessing farm bill funds for important projects such as obtaining a fire truck, wastewater treatment, and conservation activities.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Chickasaw County has received \$980,307 in Harkin grants.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Chickasaw County has received more than \$2 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Chickasaw County's fire departments have received over \$1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed-captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Chickasaw County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Chickasaw County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, co-operation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Chickasaw County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no in-

tention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

DALLAS COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Dallas County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Dallas County worth over \$2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$28 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is their terrific work to improve wellness both at worksites and to provide opportunities for physical activity in the community, under the terrific leadership of Shelley Horak.

Among the highlights:

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and informa-

tion to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Dallas County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$150,000 for community wellness activities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Adel to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Dallas County has earned \$45,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Dallas County has received \$1,283,316 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Dallas County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$244,341.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future.

The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Dallas County has received over \$1.6 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Dallas County has received more than \$4 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Dallas County's fire departments have received over \$1.5 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Dallas County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Dallas County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this

work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Dallas County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

GRUNDY COUNTY, IOWA

● **Mr. HARKIN.** Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Grundy County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$7 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the community's success in obtaining more than \$294,000 in funds from the Department of Justice for public safety efforts to promote drug free communities, provide transitional housing for victims of domestic violence, and purchase safety equipment for law enforcement personnel.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as

Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Grundy County has received \$95,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Grundy County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$85,475.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Grundy County has received over \$2 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Grundy County has received more than \$2.8 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since

2001, Grundy County's fire departments have received over \$382,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Grundy County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Grundy County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Grundy County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

2014 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 49

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2014 *National Drug Control Strategy*, a 21st century approach to drug policy that is built on decades of research demonstrating that addiction is a disease of the brain—one that can be prevented, treated, and from which people can recover. The pages that follow lay out an evidence-based plan for real drug policy reform, spanning the spectrum of effective prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice, law enforcement, and international cooperation.

Illicit drug use and its consequences challenge our shared dream of building for our children a country that is healthier, safer, and more prosperous. Illicit drug use is associated with addiction, disease, and lower academic performance among our young people. It contributes to crime, injury, and serious dangers on the Nation's roadways. And drug use and its consequences jeopardize the progress we have made in strengthening our economy—contributing to unemployment, impeding re-employment, and costing our economy billions of dollars in lost productivity.

These facts, combined with the latest research about addiction as a disease of the brain, helped shape the approach laid out in my Administration's first *National Drug Control Strategy*—and they continue to guide our efforts to reform drug policy in a way that is more efficient, effective, and equitable. Through the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans will be able to obtain health insurance, including coverage for substance use disorder treatment services. We have worked to reform our criminal justice system, addressing unfair sentencing disparities, providing alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent, substance-involved offenders, and improving prevention and re-entry programs to protect public safety and improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons and jails. And we have built stronger partnerships with our international allies, working with them in a global effort against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, while also assisting them in their efforts to address substance use disorders and related public health problems.

This progress gives us good reason to move forward with confidence. However, we cannot effectively build on this progress without collaboration across all sectors of our society. I look forward to joining with community coalitions, faith-based groups, tribal communities, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, state and local governments, and our international partners to continue this im-

portant work in 2014. And I thank the Congress for its continued support of our efforts to build a healthier, safer, and more prosperous country.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 9, 2014.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1528. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

H.R. 3488. An act to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4007. An act to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

H.R. 4263. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4289. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4653. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3488. An act to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4007. An act to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4263. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4289. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4653. An act to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2569. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1528. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2578. A bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

S. 2579. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-284. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that would limit the influence of money in the electoral process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

JOINT SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, it was the stated intention of the framers of the Constitution of the United States of America that the Congress of the United States of America should be "dependent on the people alone" (James Madison or Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 52), and

Whereas, that dependency has evolved from a dependency on the people alone to a dependency on those who spend excessively in elections through campaigns or third-party groups, and

Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010), removed restrictions on amounts of independent political spending, and

Whereas, the removal of those restrictions has resulted in the corrupting influence of powerful economic forces, which have supplanted the will of the people by undermining our ability to choose our political leadership, write our own laws, and determine the fate of our State, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont believes that a convention called pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution should be convened to consider amendments to that Constitution to limit the corrupting influence of money in our political system and desires that said convention should be so limited, and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has failed to propose, pursuant to Article V of the Constitution, amendments that would

adequately address the concerns of Vermont: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the General Assembly, pursuant to Article V of the U.S. Constitution, hereby petitions the U.S. Congress to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America that would limit the corrupting influence of money in our electoral process, including, *inter alia*, by overturning the Citizens United decision, and be it further

Resolved, That this petition shall not be considered by the U.S. Congress until 33 other states submit petitions for the same purpose as proposed by Vermont in this resolution and unless the Congress determines that the scope of amendments to the Constitution of the United States considered by the convention shall be limited to the same purpose requested by Vermont, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States; the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the Senate of the United States; the Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States; the Archivist of the United States; and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.

POM-285. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution related to fiscal restraints on the federal government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limiting the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 736

Whereas, the founders of the Constitution of the United States empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Georgia, That the General Assembly of the State of Georgia hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That this application shall be deemed an application for a convention to

address each or all of the subjects herein stated. For the purposes of determining whether two-thirds of the states have applied for a convention addressing any of the subjects stated herein, this application is to be aggregated with the applications of any other state legislatures for the single subjects of balancing the federal budget, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, or limiting the terms of federal officials; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to transmit copies to the members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives from this state, and to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

POM-286. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution, which impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE MEMORIAL 476

Whereas, the Founders of the United States of America provided in the Constitution of the United States for a limited Federal Government of express enumerated powers, and

Whereas, the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution specifically provides that all powers not delegated to the Federal Government nor prohibited by the Constitution to the states are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people, and

Whereas, for many decades, this balance of power was generally respected and followed by those occupying positions of authority in the Federal Government, and

Whereas, as federal power has expanded over the past decades, federal spending has exponentially increased to the extent that it is now decidedly out of balance in relation to actual revenues or when comparing the ratio of accumulated public debt to the nation's gross domestic product, and

Whereas, in 2013, the Federal Government's accumulated public debt exceeded \$17 trillion, which is more than double that in 2006, and

Whereas, projections of federal deficit spending in the coming decades demonstrate that this power shift and its fiscal impacts are continuing and pose serious threats to the freedom and financial security of the American people and future generations, and

Whereas, the Founders of the United States of America provided a procedure in Article V of the Constitution to amend the Constitution on application of two-thirds of the several states, calling a convention for proposing amendments that will be valid to all intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths

thereof, as one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress, and

Whereas, it is a fundamental duty of state legislatures to support, protect, and defend the liberty of the American people, including generations yet to come, by asserting their solemn duty and responsibility under the Constitution to call for a convention under Article V for proposing amendments to the Constitution to reverse and correct the ominous path that the country is now on and to restrain future expansions and abuses of federal power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

(1) That the Legislature of the State of Florida does hereby make application to Congress pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States to call an Article V convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States which:

(a) Impose fiscal restraints on the Federal Government.

(b) Limit the power and jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

(c) Limit the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress.

(2) That these three proposed amendment categories are severable from one another and may be counted individually toward the required two-thirds number of applications made by the state legislatures for the calling of an Article V convention.

(3) That this memorial is revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it had never been passed, and retroactive to the date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in support of conducting a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose other than imposing fiscal restraints on the Federal Government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the Federal Government, or limiting the terms of office for federal officials and members of Congress.

(4) That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on one or more of the three proposed amendment categories listed above.

Be it further resolved That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-287. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia making renewed application to the United States Congress calling a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 371

Whereas, in 1976, by House Resolution 469-1267, Resolution Act No. 93 (Ga. L. 1976, p. 184), the Georgia General Assembly applied to the Congress to call a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget and to make certain exceptions with respect thereto; and

Whereas, in 2004, by House Resolution No. 1343, Act No. 802 (Ga. L. 2004, p. 1081), the Georgia General Assembly rescinded and re-

pealed all prior applications for constitutional conventions, including but not limited to said 1976 application; and

Whereas, the need for such a balanced budget amendment remains and has become far more apparent and urgent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Georgia, That this body hereby applies again to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States and recommends that the convention be limited to consideration and proposal of an amendment requiring that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Georgia congressional delegation and to transmit appropriate copies also to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses of the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently-outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including but not limited to previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas, and this application should be aggregated with same for the purpose of reaching the two-thirds of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but should not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject; and be it further

Resolved, That this application shall constitute a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until:

(1) The legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject and Congress has called for a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) The Congress of the United States has in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States proposed an amendment to said Constitution which is consistent with the balanced budget amendment referenced in this application; or

(3) January 1, 2020, whichever first occurs.

POM-288. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution which requires a balanced federal budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE MEMORIAL 658

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 on April 21, 2010, and

Whereas, Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 made application to Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States for two purposes: to achieve

and maintain a balanced federal budget and to control the ability of Congress and federal executive agencies to dictate to states requirements for the expenditure of federal funds, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida desires to conform to the single subject applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas and limit its application to Congress for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require a balanced federal budget: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

(1) That the Legislature of the State of Florida hereby applies to Congress, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States, to call a convention limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution requiring that, in the absence of a national emergency, the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints.

(2) That this application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states and is to be aggregated with the applications from those states for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds number of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but may not be aggregated with applications on any other subject calling for a constitutional convention under Article V of the United States Constitution.

(3) That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject and supersedes all previous applications by this Legislature on the same subject; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-289. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida applying to the United States Congress to call a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to provide that every law enacted by Congress shall embrace only one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE MEMORIAL 261

Whereas, each measure before a legislative body should pass on its own merits without depending on legislative support for other unrelated measures to achieve the required number of votes for passage, and

Whereas, a single-subject constitutional provision addresses this concern by prohibiting a legislative body from enacting a law that embraces more than one subject, and

Whereas, 41 of the 50 states, including Florida, have a single-subject provision in their respective state constitutions, and the legislatures and citizens of these states have benefited from a single-subject requirement, and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America, touching the lives of every citizen in the several states, but is missing this important provision, and

Whereas, our great country is deep in debt and Congress is currently searching for a solution, and

Whereas, a federal single-subject amendment would provide the means to limit pork barrel spending, control the phenomenon of legislating through riders, limit omnibus legislation produced by logrolling, prevent public surprise, and increase the institutional accountability of Congress and its members, and

Whereas, it is Florida's hope and desire that Congress will be able to conduct its business in a more productive, efficient, transparent, and less acrimonious way with a single-subject requirement, and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States makes provision for amending the Constitution on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, calling a convention for proposing amendments that shall be valid to all intents and purposes if ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

(1) That the Legislature of the State of Florida, with all due respect, does hereby make application to the Congress of the United States pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that Congress shall pass no bill, and no bill shall become law, which embraces more than one subject, that subject to be clearly expressed in the bill's title.

(2) That this memorial is revoked and withdrawn, nullified, and superseded to the same effect as if it had never been passed, and be retroactive to the date of passage, if it is used for the purpose of calling a convention or used in support of conducting a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States for any purpose other than requiring that every law enacted by Congress embrace only one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title.

(3) That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-290. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging the Congress of the United States to direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil-fueled electric generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1174

Whereas, a reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Florida's economy and job

growth, as well as the overall interests of its citizens, and

Whereas, Florida supports an all-inclusive energy strategy because it is in the best interest of the state and the nation, and

Whereas, the United States has an abundant supply of coal that provides economic and energy security benefits, including affordable and reliable electricity, and

Whereas, carbon regulations for existing coal-fueled electric generating units could threaten the affordability and reliability of Florida's electricity supplies, and

Whereas, such regulations impose additional financial burdens on electric generating units that have invested in pollution controls to meet the recent mercury regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and

Whereas, such burdens risk the closure of electric generating units resulting in substantial job loss, and

Whereas, carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fueled electric generating units in the United States represent only 3 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and

Whereas, the United States Energy Information Administration projects that carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's electric sector will be 14 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and

Whereas, the United States Energy Information Administration projects that carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's coal-fueled electric generating units will be 19 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and

Whereas, on June 25, 2013, the President of the United States directed the United States Environmental Protection Agency to issue standards, regulations, and guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified, and reconstructed fossil-fueled electric generating units, and

Whereas, the President of the United States has recognized that states will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing electric generating units, and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency to establish a procedure under which each state must develop a plan for establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing fossil-fueled electric generating units within the state, and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act expressly allows states, in developing and applying such standards of performance, to take into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful life of an existing fossil-fueled electric generating unit to which such standards apply, and

Whereas, the existing regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency provide that states may adopt less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance schedules than the agency's guidelines based on factors such as unreasonable cost of control, physical impossibility of installing necessary control equipment, or other factors that make less stringent standards or longer compliance times significantly more reasonable, and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of electricity consumers in Florida to continue to benefit from reliable, affordable electricity provided by coal-based electric generating units: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida: That the Congress of the United States is urged to direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency, in developing guidelines for regulating carbon diox-

ide emissions from existing fossil-fueled electric generating units, to:

(1) Respect the primacy of Florida and rely on state regulators to develop performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions which take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix, and economic priorities of the state.

(2) Issue guidelines and approve state-established performance standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide emissions determined to be achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled electric generating units.

(3) Allow Florida to set less stringent performance standards or longer compliance schedules for fossil-fueled electric generating units.

(4) Give Florida maximum flexibility to implement carbon dioxide performance standards for fossil-fueled electric generating units; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-291. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Colorado urging the United States Congress to pass comprehensive federal legislation authorizing banks and credit unions to serve legal marijuana and hemp businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14-003

Whereas, All one hundred members of the Colorado General Assembly took an oath to uphold the United States constitution and the Colorado constitution; and

Whereas, Colorado voters recently approved Amendment 64, a constitutional amendment to legalize the sale and consumption of recreational marijuana in Colorado, with 55.23 percent of the vote, or approximately 1.38 million votes, in favor of legalization; and

Whereas, Hemp has long been recognized for its varied industrial uses, was sold and used commercially in the earliest days of our country's history, and was recognized as a valuable cash crop by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin; and

Whereas, Federal laws, including the "Controlled Substances Act", the "Bank Secrecy Act", and the "Annunzio-Wylie Anti-Money Laundering Act", prohibit banks from providing financial services to marijuana and hemp businesses; and

Whereas, Directives from federal regulatory agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency also prohibit bankers from accepting deposits from marijuana or hemp businesses; and

Whereas, The "USA PATRIOT Act" directs financial institutions to establish Enhanced Due Diligence policies, procedures, and controls where necessary to detect and report instances of suspected money laundering, which has led to the adoption of Know Your Customer procedures; and

Whereas, Know Your Customer procedures require banks and credit unions to verify the identity of their customers and determine that the source of their funds is legitimate by obtaining information about the nature of

an account holder's business, customers, and sources of funds; and

Whereas, Banks and credit unions that comply with the Know Your Customer rules will be required by anti-money laundering laws and regulations to file recurring suspicious activity reports documenting the financial activities of a legal marijuana business, including filing a currency transaction report each time a marijuana business makes a deposit of more than \$10,000 and reporting cash that smells like marijuana; and

Whereas, Marijuana remains classified as a schedule I controlled substance at the federal level, the strictest classification under the "Controlled Substances Act", and the production of industrial hemp remains highly restricted at the federal level; and

Whereas, The United States attorney general recently announced guidance for financial institutions that wish to provide banking services to legal marijuana businesses in what has become known as the Cole Memo; and

Whereas, This guidance greatly adds to the reporting and compliance requirements already demanded of banks and credit unions, including ensuring that the marijuana businesses to which they provide services do not sell to minors, transfer marijuana to a state where its sale is illegal, involve themselves with organized crime, sell illegal drugs, encourage the use of marijuana on federal property, or encourage drugged driving; and

Whereas, The United States Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, in coordination with the United States Department of Justice, also issued a memo outlining expectations for compliance with the "Bank Secrecy Act", including verifying the legitimacy of a marijuana business's license and registration, developing an understanding of the norm for marijuana business transactions and monitoring each business for deviation from the norm, monitoring publicly available sources for adverse information on the business and any related parties, and monitoring for suspicious activity on an ongoing basis; and

Whereas, In April 2014, United States Senators Chuck Grassley and Dianne Feinstein sent a letter to the director of FinCEN, questioning FinCEN's legal authority to provide banks guidance on violations of federal law and noting the possibility that a financial institution might complete a suspicious activity report regarding a marijuana business customer, and then that specific report could be used against the financial institution as evidence of the institution being complicit in the act of money laundering; and

Whereas, Financial institutions face a significant challenge in verifying that a marijuana business is in compliance with all of the guidelines issued by the Department of Justice and FinCEN and face uncertainty about whether they would be reasonably protected from prosecution or actions by regulatory agencies, now or in the future, on the basis of guidance in non-binding memoranda; and

Whereas, The above-mentioned guidance is a directive to federal prosecutors to avoid prosecuting financial institutions that comply with the Cole Memo and FinCEN guidance but does not limit punitive actions from federal regulatory agencies, including several that operate outside of the executive branch, such as the FDIC and the Federal Reserve, whose regulatory actions could be just as damaging to a financial institution's operations as prosecution; and

Whereas, The guidance is not enforceable in court, provides neither a safe harbor from

prosecution nor legal defense in court, and can only be considered temporary, short-lived guidance as it could be reversed by a future administration; and

Whereas, The guidance from the United States Department of Justice cannot override federal laws or regulations, which still characterize acceptance of a deposit from a marijuana business as money laundering; and

Whereas, Neither the United States Department of Justice guidance nor the FinCEN memo provide adequate regulatory and legal certainty for financial institutions to provide banking services to the legal marijuana industry; and

Whereas, Under federal law, banks and credit unions that conduct business with legal marijuana businesses will still be in violation of the "Bank Secrecy Act", the "Annunzio-Wylie Anti-Money Laundering Act", and the "USA PATRIOT Act", and any bank or credit union that chooses to serve marijuana businesses effectively puts its regulatory status at risk; and

Whereas, Colorado and Washington have already legalized retail marijuana shops, and several other states will be considering full legalization at the ballot in the 2014 elections; and

Whereas, Twenty states have already legalized the sale and consumption of medical marijuana for limited medical uses; and

Whereas, The medical, retail, and hemp agricultural businesses that are legally permitted to operate under state laws in dozens of states are forced to operate as all-cash businesses, including paying for capital investments such as hydration and lighting equipment in cash, compensating employees in cash, and renting or purchasing warehouses and other real estate with large down payments in cash; and

Whereas, The medical, retail, and hemp agricultural businesses can accept neither credit nor debit cards from customers because electronic payments are handled through the banking system; and

Whereas, Both the state of Colorado and its local municipalities use bank accounts to audit sales tax collections, and a lack of accounting information that is typically available for such audits could mean that Colorado governments are under-collecting tax revenue; and

Whereas, The storage and transfer of large amounts of cash necessary for the legal operation of marijuana businesses has already made these businesses a target for crime and could attract the involvement of organized criminal enterprises; and

Whereas, Colorado is unable to address this problem by chartering a state bank or credit union because all financial institutions are interconnected through federal banking laws and regulations that govern national and international commerce: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

(1) That the ability of the federal executive branch to facilitate a reasonable regulatory structure for the marijuana industry is limited as long as federal law categorizes marijuana as an illegal substance.

(2) That the best solution to the problem of a lack of financial services for the legal marijuana industry will be comprehensive federal legislation authorizing banks and credit unions to serve legal marijuana and hemp businesses; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to all members of the Colorado delegation to the United States Congress, the

speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate majority leader, the United States Senate majority leader pro tempore, and the president of the United States.

POM-292. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1261

Whereas, insurance helps protect the United States economy from the adverse effects of the risks inherent in economic and development while also providing the resources necessary to rebuild physical and economic infrastructure, offer indemnification for business disruption, and provide coverage for medical and liability costs from injuries and loss of life in the event of catastrophic losses to persons or property; and

Whereas, the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, produced insured losses larger than any natural or manmade event in history, with claims paid by insurers to their policy holders eventually totaling some \$32.5 billion, making this the second most costly insurance event in United States history; and

Whereas, the sheer enormity of the loss, combined with the possibility of future attacks, produced financial shockwaves that shook insurance markets causing insurers and reinsurers to exclude coverage arising from acts of terrorism from virtually all commercial property and liability policies; and

Whereas, the lack of terrorism risk insurance contributed to a paralysis in the economy, especially in construction, tourism, business travel, and real estate finance; and

Whereas, the United States Congress originally passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-297 (TRIA), in which the federal government agreed to provide terrorism reinsurance to insurers and reauthorized this arrangement via the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-144, and the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110-160 (TRIPRA); and

Whereas, under TRIPRA the federal government provides such reinsurance after industry-wide losses attributable to annual certified terrorism events exceed \$100 million; and

Whereas, coverage under TRIPRA is provided to individual insurers after the insurer has incurred losses related to terrorism equal to 20% of the insurer's previous year earned premium for property-casualty lines; and

Whereas, after an individual insurer has reached such a threshold, the insurer pays 15% of residual losses and the federal government pay the remaining 85%; and

Whereas, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program has an annual cap of \$100 billion of aggregate insured losses, beyond which the federal program does not provide coverage; and

Whereas, TRIPRA requires the federal government to recoup 100% of the benefits provided under the program via policyholder surcharges to the extent the aggregate insured losses are less than \$27.5 billion and enables the government to recoup expenditures beyond that mandatory recoupment amount; and

Whereas, without question, TRIA and its successors are the principal reason for the continued stability in the insurance and reinsurance market for terrorism insurance to the benefit of our overall economy; and

Whereas, the presence of a robust private-public partnership has provided stability and predictability and has allowed insurers to actively participate in the market in a meaningful way; and

Whereas, without a program such as TRIPRA, many of our citizens who want and need terrorism coverage to operate their businesses all across the nation would be either unable to get insurance or unable to afford the limited coverage that would be available; and

Whereas, without federally provided reinsurance, property and casualty insurers will face less availability of terrorism reinsurance and will therefore be severely restricted in their ability to provide sufficient coverage for acts of terrorism to support our economy; and

Whereas, unfortunately, despite the hard work and dedication of this nation's counterterrorism agencies and the bravery of the men and women in uniform who fought and continue to fight battles abroad to keep us safe here at home, the threat from terrorist attacks in the United States is both real and substantial and will remain as such for the foreseeable future: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina urge the United States Congress and the President of the United States to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

Section 2. The Principal Clerk shall transmit certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker and clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation, and the news media of North Carolina.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

POM-293. A substitute concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Missouri memorializing the need to preserve natural resources and provide recreational development and other improvements for the public use; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, in 1959, Senate Resolution No. 33 and House Resolution No. 19, recognizing the importance of the extraordinary manifestations of nature and recreational attributes of the Current and Jacks Fork Riverways, requested Congress to enact legislation to preserve the natural resources and provide recreational development and other improvements for the public use; and

Whereas, in 1964, Congress answered Missouri's request by enacting legislation to establish the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

Whereas, the riverways within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways are, and remain, public highways of the State of Missouri, subject to concurrent jurisdiction between the State of Missouri and the United States under Missouri Senate Bill No. 362 enacted in 1971; and

Whereas, in 2005, the National Park Service began researching for the purpose of drafting a new general management plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and

Whereas, the National Park Service is advocating the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management plan; and

Whereas, the goal of the "Preferred Alternative" option of the general management

plan is to shut down public access points to riverways, eliminate motorized boat traffic from certain areas, further restrict boat motor horsepower in other areas, close several gravel bars, and propose that additional areas be designated as federal wilderness; and

Whereas, the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general management plan is an appropriate balance between resource preservation and opportunities for recreational use; and

Whereas, the general management plan will guide decisions related to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways for the next 15 to 20 years; and

Whereas, tourism is one of the most critical components of our rural economy; and

Whereas, thousands of hikers, campers, boaters, hunters, fishermen, and horseback riders visit these areas annually generating irreplaceable tax revenue; and

Whereas, any further limitations on the access to these riverways would severely impact this local economy;

Whereas, the Missouri Conservation Commission is charged with the control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of bird, fish, game, forestry, and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations, and all other property owned, acquired, or used for such purposes; and

Whereas, in September of 2009, the Missouri Department of Conservation recommended that "hunting, fishing, and trapping continue to be allowed through the Ozark National Scenic Riverways except in highly developed areas where a reasonable safety zone for public protection may be required: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service to pursue one of the following three options in regard to the Ozark National Scenic Riverways:

1. Choose the "No-Action Alternative" option of the general management plan;

2. Enter into negotiations with the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation for the return of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to the State of Missouri so that the land will continued to be used for its original and intended purpose; or

3. Enter into a contract with the State of Missouri, Department of Conservation for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and be it further

Resolved That the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, each member of the Missouri Congressional Delegation, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, and Governor Jay Nixon.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 1376. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 1813. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

S. 2056. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office".

S. 2057. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2570. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to recognize Indian tribal governments for purposes of determining under the adoption credit whether a child has special needs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2571. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harrison Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2572. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 2573. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand, and extend the credit for hydrogen-related alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and to increase the investment credit for more efficient fuel cells; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2574. A bill to make the United States Preventive Services Task Force subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 2575. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report on the status of greater sage-grouse conservation efforts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2576. A bill to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2577. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual

United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALSH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2578. A bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions; read the first time.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2579. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 497. A resolution honoring the life and career of Charles "Chuck" Noll; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 236

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and physicians or practitioners to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1029

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1029, a bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents.

S. 1033

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1033, a bill to authorize a grant program to promote physical education, activity, and fitness and nutrition, and to ensure healthy students, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1261

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers, and for other purposes.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes.

S. 2023

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2023, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2298

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2298, a bill to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

S. 2360

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2360, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 2500

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2500, a bill to restrict the ability of the Federal Government to undermine privacy and encryption technology in commercial products and in NIST computer security and encryption standards.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the Medicare hospital readmissions reduction program.

S. RES. 482

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 482, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest Van Ness Street, Northwest International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, should be designated as "Liu Xiaobo Plaza".

AMENDMENT NO. 3451

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3451 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3453

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3453 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3455

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3455 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3457

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3457 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3458

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3458 intended to be pro-

posed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3464

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3464 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3467

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3467 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3470

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3470 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3478

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3478 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 497—HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF CHARLES "CHUCK" NOLL

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 497

Whereas Chuck Noll was born on January 5, 1932, in Cleveland, Ohio;

Whereas Chuck Noll excelled at multiple positions on the football field during a preparatory career at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio and during a college career at the University of Dayton;

Whereas, after being drafted in the 20th round of the 1953 National Football League Draft by his hometown team, the Cleveland Browns, Chuck Noll enjoyed a 7-year career as a linebacker and offensive lineman;

Whereas, after his playing career ended, Chuck Noll joined coaching staffs headed by 2 future Hall-of-Famers, including Sid Gillman of the San Diego Chargers;

Whereas, after serving as an assistant coach for nearly a decade, Chuck Noll was selected by the Rooney family to serve as 14th head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team on January 27, 1969;

Whereas the current owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers is quoted as saying "hiring Chuck Noll was the best decision we ever made for the Steelers";

Whereas, in 1972, in Chuck Noll's fourth season as head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Pittsburgh Steelers won 11 games and made the playoffs for the first time since 1947;

Whereas, on January 12, 1975, the Pittsburgh Steelers dynasty was born when Chuck Noll led the Pittsburgh Steelers to a victory over the Minnesota Vikings to win Super Bowl IX—the first of the Pittsburgh Steelers' now 6 Super Bowl titles;

Whereas, over the 5 football seasons after winning Super Bowl IX, Chuck Noll's Pittsburgh Steelers went on to capture an additional 3 Super Bowl titles—Super Bowl X and XIII, both by defeating the Dallas Cowboys, and Super Bowl XIV, by defeating the Los Angeles Rams;

Whereas Chuck Noll is best known for masterminding the "Steel Curtain", one of the most stout and prolific defensive units in National Football League history;

Whereas both Chuck Noll's ability to identify talent and his hands-on coaching technique led to Hall of Fame careers for more than 10 of Chuck Noll's players;

Whereas, following 23 football seasons and 193 football game wins, including a record 4 Super Bowl titles as a head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Chuck Noll was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio as part of the Class of 1993; and

Whereas, on June 13, 2014, Chuck Noll passed away surrounded by loved ones at his home in Sewickley, Pennsylvania at the age of 82: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the life and career of Chuck Noll and his contributions to the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the National Football League; and

(2) expresses its sympathies to Chuck Noll's family and friends, the Pittsburgh Steelers, Steelers fans, and football fans all around the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3480. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3481. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3482. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3483. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3484. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3485. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3486. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3487. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3488. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3489. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3490. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3469 proposed by Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) to the bill S. 2363, supra.

SA 3491. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2363, supra.

SA 3492. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3491 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2363, supra.

SA 3493. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3492 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3491 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2363, supra.

SA 3494. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3495. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3496. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3497. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3498. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3499. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3500. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3501. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3502. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3503. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3504. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3505. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3506. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3507. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3508. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3509. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3510. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3511. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3512. Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3513. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3514. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3515. Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3516. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3517. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3518. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3519. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3520. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEE, and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3521. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3522. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3523. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3524. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3525. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3526. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3527. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3528. Mr. REID (for Mr. COBURN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 311, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

SA 3529. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3530. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3529 submitted by Mr. REID and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3480. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STRAW PURCHASERS AND TRAFFICKERS OF FIREARMS.

Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that any person who commits a violation described in subparagraph (A) by making a false statement or representation with respect to a firearm or ammunition with knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that the firearm or ammunition is to be used to commit a crime of violence, as defined in subsection (c)(3), shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 15 years or both”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that any person who knowingly violates section 922(a)(6) with knowledge or reasonable cause to believe that the firearm or ammunition is to be used to commit a crime of violence, as defined in subsection (c)(3), shall be

fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 15 years or both"; and

(2) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

"(h) Whoever knowingly receives or transfers a firearm or ammunition, or attempts or conspires to do so, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such firearm or ammunition will be used to commit a crime of violence (as defined in subsection (c)(3)), a drug trafficking crime (as defined in subsection (c)(2)), or a crime under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), or section 212(a)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(C)) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 15 years, or both."

SA 3481. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4660, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 157, line 24, strike "\$1,390,000,000" and insert "\$1,620,000,000".

SA 3482. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF INTEREST IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND.

Section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by striking "2016" and inserting "2026".

SA 3483. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2. STATE CONTROL OF HUNTING, FISHING, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION ON CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AVAILABLE FEDERAL LAND.—The term "available Federal land" means any Federal land that, as of May 31, 2013—

(A) is located within the boundaries of a State;

(B) is not held by the United States in trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(C) is not a unit of the National Park System;

(D) is not a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(E) is not a Congressionally designated wilderness area.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means—

(A) a State; and

(B) the District of Columbia.

(b) STATE PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State—

(A) may establish a program covering the leasing and permitting processes, regulatory requirements, and any other provisions by which the State would exercise its rights to develop all forms of energy resources on available Federal land in the State;

(B) may establish a program covering the allowance of hunting, fishing, and any other outdoor recreation activities (as determined by the State) on available Federal land in the State; and

(C) as a condition of certification under subsection (c)(2) shall submit a declaration to the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy that a program under subparagraph (A) or (B) has been established or amended.

(2) AMENDMENT OF PROGRAMS.—A State may amend a program developed and certified under this section at any time.

(3) CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED PROGRAMS.—Any program amended under paragraph (2) shall be certified under subsection (c)(2).

(c) LEASING, PERMITTING, AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS.—

(1) SATISFACTION OF FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Each program certified under this section shall be considered to satisfy all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations), including—

(A) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and

(C) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(2) FEDERAL CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS.—Upon submission of a declaration by a State under subsection (b)(1)(C)—

(A) the program under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (b)(1), as applicable, shall be certified; and

(B) the State shall receive all rights from the Federal Government to carry out the certified program.

(3) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS AND LEASES.—If a State elects to issue a permit or lease for the development of any form of energy resource on any available Federal land within the borders of the State in accordance with a program certified under paragraph (2), the permit or lease shall be considered to meet all applicable requirements of Federal law (including regulations).

(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Activities carried out in accordance with this section shall not be subject to judicial review.

(e) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT.—Activities carried out in accordance with this section shall not be subject to subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Administrative Procedure Act").

SA 3484. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. WILD HORSES IN AND AROUND THE CURRITUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund (a nonprofit cor-

poration established under the laws of the State of North Carolina), the County of Currituck, North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act to provide for management of free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) TERMS.—The agreement shall—

(A) allow a herd of not less than 110 and not more than 130 free-roaming wild horses in and around such refuge, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free-roaming wild horses;

(B) provide for cost-effective management of the horses while ensuring that natural resources within the refuge are not adversely impacted;

(C) provide for introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from the herd at Cape Lookout National Seashore as is necessary to maintain the genetic viability of the herd in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge; and

(D) specify that the Corolla Wild Horse Fund shall pay the costs associated with—

(i) coordinating a periodic census and inspecting the health of the horses;

(ii) maintaining records of the horses living in the wild and in confinement;

(iii) coordinating the removal and placement of horses and monitoring of any horses removed from the Currituck County Outer Banks; and

(iv) administering a viable population control plan for the horses including auctions, adoptions, contraceptive fertility methods, and other viable options.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION OF HORSES FROM CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE.—During the effective period of the memorandum of understanding between the National Park Service and the Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Inc. (a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of and doing business in the State of North Carolina) signed in 2007, no horse may be removed from Cape Lookout National Seashore for introduction at Currituck National Wildlife Refuge except—

(1) with the approval of the Foundation; and

(2) consistent with the terms of such memorandum (or any successor agreement) and the Management Plan for the Shackleford Banks Horse Herd signed in January 2006 (or any successor management plan).

(c) NO LIABILITY CREATED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as creating liability for the United States for any damages caused by the free-roaming wild horses to any person or property located inside or outside the boundaries of the refuge.

SA 3485. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. REFUND OF FUNDS USED BY STATES TO OPERATE NATIONAL PARKS DURING SHUTDOWN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Park Service shall refund to each State all funds of the State that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the period in

October 2013 in which there was a lapse in appropriations for the unit.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Funds of the National Park Service that are appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act shall be used to carry out this section.

SA 3486. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2. OFF-INSTALLATION DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NATURAL RESOURCES PROJECTS COMPLIANCE WITH INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.

Section 103a of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670c-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **COMPLIANCE WITH INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—In the case of a cooperative agreement or inter-agency agreement entered into under subsection (a) for the maintenance and improvement of natural resources located off of a military installation or State-owned National Guard installation, funds referred to in subsection (b) may be used only pursuant to an approved integrated natural resources management plan.”

SA 3487. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON LAND MANAGEMENT MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall not implement or limit any modification to a public or private land-related policy or subsurface mineral right-related policy or practice that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act relating to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SA 3488. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 10. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee (referred

to in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’) to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretaries’) on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, and recreational shooting.

“(b) **DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretaries with regard to—

“(1) implementation of Executive Order No. 13443 (72 Fed. Reg. 46537 (Aug. 16, 2007)) (relating to facilitation of hunting heritage and wildlife conservation), which directs Federal agencies ‘to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat’;

“(2) policies and programs to conserve and restore wetland, agricultural land, grassland, and forest and rangeland habitats;

“(3) policies and programs to promote opportunities and access to hunting and shooting sports on Federal land;

“(4) policies and programs to recruit and retain new hunters and shooters;

“(5) policies and programs that increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of recreational hunting and shooting; and

“(6) policies and programs that encourage coordination among the public, the hunting and shooting sports community, wildlife conservation groups, and States, Indian tribes, and the Federal Government.

“(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

“(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than 16 discretionary members and 7 ex officio members.

“(B) **EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.**—The ex officio members of the Advisory Committee shall be—

“(i) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or a designated representative of the Director;

“(ii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management or a designated representative of the Director;

“(iii) the Director of the National Park Service or a designated representative of the Director;

“(iv) the Chief of the Forest Service or a designated representative of the Chief;

“(v) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or a designated representative of the Chief;

“(vi) the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency or a designated representative of the Administrator; and

“(vii) the Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

“(C) **DISCRETIONARY MEMBERS.**—The discretionary members shall be appointed jointly by the Secretaries from at least 1 of each of the following:

“(i) State fish and wildlife agencies.

“(ii) Game bird hunting organizations.

“(iii) Wildlife conservation organizations.

“(iv) Big game hunting organizations.

“(v) Waterfowl hunting organizations.

“(vi) The tourism, outfitter, and guiding industry.

“(vii) The firearms and ammunition manufacturing industry.

“(viii) The hunting and shooting equipment retail industry.

“(ix) Tribal resource management organizations.

“(x) Women’s hunting and fishing advocacy, outreach, or education organizations.

“(xi) Minority hunting and fishing advocacy, outreach, or education organizations.

“(xii) Veterans service organizations.

“(D) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Prior to the appointment of the discretionary members, the Secretaries shall determine that each individual nominated for appointment to the Advisory Committee, and the organization each individual represents, actively supports and promotes sustainable-use hunting, wildlife conservation, and recreational shooting.

“(2) **TERMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), members of the Advisory Committee—

“(i) shall be appointed for a term of 4 years; and

“(ii) shall not be appointed for more than 3 terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive or nonconsecutive.

“(B) **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—As designated by the Secretaries at the time of appointment, of the members first appointed—

“(i) 6 members shall be appointed for a term of 4 years;

“(ii) 5 members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years; and

“(iii) 5 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

“(3) **PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STATUS.**—No individual may be appointed as a discretionary member of the Advisory Committee while serving as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

“(4) **VACANCY AND REMOVAL.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(B) **REMOVAL.**—Advisory Committee members shall serve at the discretion of the Secretaries and may be removed at any time for good cause.

“(5) **CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.**—Each appointed member may continue to serve after the expiration of the term of office to which that member was appointed until a successor has been appointed.

“(6) **CHAIRPERSON.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be jointly appointed for a 3-year term by the Secretaries from among the members of the Advisory Committee.

“(B) **TERM.**—An individual may not be appointed as Chairperson for more than 2 terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive or nonconsecutive.

“(7) **PAY AND EXPENSES.**—Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without pay for such service, but each member of the Advisory Committee may be reimbursed for travel and lodging incurred through attending meetings of the Advisory Committee-approved subgroup meetings in the same amounts and under the same conditions as Federal employees (in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code).

“(8) **MEETINGS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretaries, the Chairperson, or a majority of the members, but not less frequently than twice annually.

“(B) **OPEN MEETINGS.**—Each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be open to the public.

“(C) **PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETINGS.**—Timely notice of each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be published in the Federal Register and be submitted to trade publications and publications of general circulation.

“(D) **SUBGROUPS.**—The Advisory Committee may establish such workgroups or subgroups as the Advisory Committee determines necessary for the purpose of compiling

information or conducting research, subject to the conditions that any workgroup or subgroup of the Advisory Committee—

“(i) may not conduct business without the direction of the Advisory Committee; and

“(ii) shall report in full to the Advisory Committee.

“(9) QUORUM.—9 members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

“(d) EXPENSES.—The expenses of the Advisory Committee that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable and appropriate shall be paid by the Secretaries.

“(e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND ADVICE.—A designated Federal Officer shall be jointly appointed by the Secretaries to provide to the Advisory Committee the administrative support, technical services, and advice that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable and appropriate.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) REQUIRED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Secretaries, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

“(B) EXTENSION.—If the Advisory Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline in any year, the Secretaries shall advise the Chairpersons of each of the Committees described in subparagraph (A) of the reasons for the delay and the date on which the submission of the report is anticipated.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a description of the activities of the Advisory Committee during the preceding year;

“(B) a description of the reports and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretaries during the preceding year; and

“(C) an accounting of actions taken by the Secretaries as a result of the recommendations.

“(g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

“(h) ABOLISHMENT OF THE EXISTING WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—On publication of the first notice of the Advisory Committee under subsection (c)(8), the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council formed in furtherance of section 441 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 1457), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.), and other Acts applicable to specific bureaus of the Department of the Interior is abolished.”.

SA 3489. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

(C) REPORT ON PUBLIC ACCESS AND EGRESS TO FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term “Federal public land management agency” means any of the National Park Service, the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

(B) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “travel management plan” means a plan for the management of travel—

(i) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, on park roads and designated routes under section 4.10 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations);

(ii) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on the land under a comprehensive conservation plan prepared under section 4(e) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(e));

(iii) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, on National Forest System land under part 212 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(iv) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, under a resource management plan developed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(2) REPORT ON PUBLIC ACCESS AND EGRESS TO FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.—

(A) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, each head of a Federal public land management agency shall make available to the public on the website of the Federal public land management agency a report that includes—

(i) a list of the location and acreage of land more than 640 acres in size under the jurisdiction of the Federal public land management agency on which the public is allowed, under Federal or State law, to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes—

(I) to which there is no public access or egress; or

(II) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted (as determined by the head of the Federal public land management agency);

(ii) with respect to land described in clause (i), a list of the locations and acreage on the land that the head of the Federal public land management agency determines have significant potential for use for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes; and

(iii) with respect to land described in clause (ii), a plan developed by the Federal public land management agency that—

(I) identifies how public access and egress could reasonably be provided to the legal boundaries of the land in a manner that minimizes the impact on wildlife habitat and water quality;

(II) specifies the actions recommended to secure the access and egress, including acquiring an easement, right-of-way, or fee title from a willing owner of any land that abuts the land or the need to coordinate with State land management agencies or other Federal or State governmental entities to allow for such access and egress; and

(III) is consistent with the travel management plan in effect on the land.

(B) LIST OF PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTES FOR CERTAIN LAND.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each head of a Federal public land management agency shall make available to the public on the website of the Federal public land management agency, and thereafter revise as the head of the Federal public land management agency determines appropriate, a list of roads or trails that provide the primary pub-

lic access and egress to the legal boundaries of contiguous parcels of land equal to more than 640 acres in size under the jurisdiction of the Federal public land management agency on which the public is allowed, under Federal or State law, to hunt, fish, or use the land for other recreational purposes.

(C) MEANS OF PUBLIC ACCESS AND EGRESS INCLUDED.—In considering public access and egress under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the head of the applicable Federal public land management agency shall consider public access and egress to the legal boundaries of the land described in those subsections, including access and egress—

(i) by motorized or non-motorized vehicles; and

(ii) on foot or horseback.

(D) EFFECT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall have no effect on whether a particular recreational use shall be allowed on the land described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).

(ii) EFFECT OF ALLOWABLE USES ON AGENCY CONSIDERATION.—In preparing the plan under subparagraph (A)(iii), the head of the applicable Federal public land management agency shall only consider recreational uses that are allowed on the land at the time that the plan is prepared.

SA 3490. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3469 proposed by Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, on line 1, strike the word “the”.

SA 3491. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 3492. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3491 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 3493. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3492 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3491 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “4” and insert “5”.

SA 3494. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY FOREST REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE CONTROL.

Title VI of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 602. EMERGENCY FOREST REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION AND WILDFIRE CONTROL.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

“(1) CATASTROPHIC EVENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘catastrophic event’ means any natural disaster or any fire, flood, or explosion, regardless of cause, that the Secretary determines has caused or has the potential to cause damage of significant severity and magnitude to Federal land.

“(B) NATURAL DISASTER.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, may include a fire, hurricane, tornado, windstorm, snow or ice storm, rain storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, drought, or insect or disease outbreak.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ has the meaning given term in section 101.

“(b) MECHANICAL FOREST TREATMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall implement such procedures as are necessary to ensure that not less than 400,000 acres of Federal land each fiscal year are treated with mechanical treatments intended to produce merchantable wood.

“(2) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use to carry out paragraph (1)—

“(A) funds described in subsection (f)(3); and

“(B) any other funds made available for the purposes described in paragraph (1).

“(c) EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) declare that emergency circumstances exist for all Federal land subject to the effects of a catastrophic event, including on Federal land outside urban interface areas; and

“(B) as soon as practicable, take all actions necessary for the rehabilitation or restoration of the Federal land, with highest priority given to Federal land impacted by large-scale beetle infestations.

“(2) EMERGENCY ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—In accordance with section 220.4 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations and section 1506.11 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), for any Federal land for which the Secretary declares the existence of emergency circumstances under paragraph (1), the Secretary may use emergency alternative arrangements to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

“(3) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no administrative appeal shall be allowed for any action classified as an emergency alternative arrangement under paragraph (2) or a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) due to emergency circumstances declared under paragraph (1).

“(d) CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable during but not later than 30 days after the conclusion of a catastrophic event, the Secretary shall initiate timely salvage activities on the Federal land affected by the catastrophic event so as to prevent significant deterioration of timber values, development of significant fire hazard, or other forest mortality that would prevent the Federal

land from regenerating to forest within 5 years.

“(2) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use to carry out paragraph (1)—

“(A) funds described in subsection (f)(3); and

“(B) any other funds made available for the purposes described in paragraph (1).

“(e) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.—This section shall not apply to—

“(1) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

“(2) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted by Act of Congress, Presidential proclamation, or the applicable land management plan; or

“(3) a wilderness study area.

“(f) LIMITATION ON ACQUISITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (2), beginning on the date of enactment of this section and during each of the subsequent 5 full fiscal years, none of the funds made available to the Secretary under any law may be used—

“(A) to survey land for future acquisition as Federal land; or

“(B) to enter into discussions with non-Federal landowners to identify land for acquisition as Federal land.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to the use of funds—

“(A) to complete land transactions underway on the date of enactment of this section;

“(B) to exchange Federal land for non-Federal land; or

“(C) to accept donations of non-Federal land as Federal land.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the funds that would otherwise have been used for purchase of non-Federal land by the Forest Service—

“(A) ¼ shall be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management account of the Department of Agriculture; and

“(B) ¾ shall be used by Secretary to carry out—

“(i) mechanical forest treatments described in subsection (b); and

“(ii) salvage activities described in subsection (d).”.

SA 3495. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 30, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 31, line 21, and insert the following:

(4) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOREST SERVICE LAND.—

(A) LAND OPEN.—

(i) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND AND FOREST SERVICE LAND.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service (including a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, land designated as a wilderness study area or administratively classified as wilderness eligible or suitable, and primitive or semiprimitive areas, but excluding land on the outer Continental Shelf) shall be open to recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting unless the managing Federal public land agency acts to close the land to the activity.

(II) MOTORIZED ACCESS.—Nothing in subclause (I) authorizes or requires motorized access or the use of motorized vehicles for recreational fishing, hunting, or recreational

shooting purposes within land designated as a wilderness study area or administratively classified as wilderness eligible or suitable.

(ii) NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM LAND.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any unit of the National Park System described in subclause (II) shall be open to the recreational hunting of elk unless the Director of the National Park Service closes the unit to the recreational hunting of elk after a 60-day public comment period.

(II) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—A unit of the National Park System referred to in subclause (I) is a unit—

(aa) comprised of more than 2,000 contiguous acres of land; and

(bb) that utilizes a management planning process to examine alternatives to translocation to maintain elk populations at a size at which vegetation, other ungulates and wildlife, neighbors of the unit of the National Park System, and other resources of the unit of the National Park System would not experience adverse effects.

(B) CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION.—Land described in subparagraph (A)(i)(I) may be subject

SA 3496. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. HAYING AND GRAZING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1233 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3833) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) HAYING AND GRAZING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the Secretary shall permit the owner or operator of eligible land subject to a contract under the conservation reserve program to make certain approved use of forage removed from the eligible land if the forage removal is a mid-contract management requirement of 1 or more conservation practices subject to the program contract for the eligible land.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to use removed forage in accordance with this subsection, the owner or operator of the eligible land shall agree—

“(A) to implement a haying or grazing plan established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

“(B) to limit the frequency of forage removal to the schedule established in the mid-contract management requirements; and

“(C) not to conduct forage removal during the primary nesting season.

“(3) APPROVED USES.—

“(A) PERSONAL OR COMMERCIAL USE.—An owner or operator described in paragraph (2) may elect to use removed forage under this subsection for personal or commercial haying or grazing use in exchange for agreeing—

“(i) to forgo the mid-contract cost-share payment for the eligible land; and

“(ii) to a 25-percent reduction in the annual rental rate for the eligible land.

“(B) DONATION.—An owner or operator described in paragraph (2) may elect to donate, to an entity approved by the State department of agriculture, removed forage under this subsection for haying or grazing, without any reduction in the mid-contract cost-share payment or the rental rate.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1232(a)(8) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

U.S.C. 3832(a)(8)) is amended by striking “or (c)” and inserting “, (c), or (e)”.

SA 3497. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 44, lines 19 and 20, strike “each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024” and insert “each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2015”.

SA 3498. Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. AGREEMENT TO KEEP PUBLIC LAND OPEN DURING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED UNIT.—The term “covered unit” means—

(A) public land;

(B) units of the National Park System;

(C) units of the National Wildlife Refuge System; or

(D) units of the National Forest System.

(2) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; or

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT.—Subject to subsection (c), if a State or political subdivision of the State offers, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the State or political subdivision of the State under which the United States may accept funds from the State or political subdivision of the State to reopen, in whole or in part, any covered unit within the State or political subdivision of the State during any period in which there is a lapse in appropriations for the covered unit.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The authority under subsection (b) shall only be in effect during any period in which the Secretary is unable to operate and manage covered units at normal levels, as determined in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into under subsection (b).

(d) REFUND.—The Secretary shall refund to the State or political subdivision of the State all amounts provided to the United States under an agreement entered into under subsection (b)—

(1) on the date of enactment of an Act retroactively appropriating amounts sufficient to maintain normal operating levels at the covered unit reopened under an agreement entered into under subsection (b); or

(2) on the date on which the State or political subdivision establishes, in accordance with the terms of the agreement, that, during the period in which the agreement was in effect, fees for entrance to, or use of, the covered units were collected by the Secretary.

(e) VOLUNTARY REIMBURSEMENT.—If the requirements for a refund under subsection (d) are not met, the Secretary may, subject to the availability of appropriations, reimburse the State and political subdivision of the State for any amounts provided to the United States by the State or political subdivision under an agreement entered into under subsection (b).

SA 3499. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. RECREATIONAL SHOOTING PROTECTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHIEF.—The term “Chief” means the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(4) NATIONAL MONUMENT LAND.—The term “National Monument land” has the meaning given that term in the Act of June 8, 1908 (commonly known as the “Antiquities Act of 1908”) (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).

(5) RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.—The term “recreational shooting” includes any form of sport, training, competition, or pastime, whether formal or informal, that involves the discharge of a rifle, handgun, or shotgun, or the use of a bow and arrow.

(b) RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, National Monument land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and land of the National Forest System under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service shall be open to access and use for recreational shooting, except those closures and restrictions determined by the Director or Chief, as applicable, to be necessary and reasonable and supported by facts and evidence for 1 or more of the following:

(A) Reasons of national security.

(B) Reasons of public safety.

(C) To comply with an applicable Federal law (including regulations).

(2) NOTICE; REPORT.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii), before a restriction or closure under paragraph (1) is made effective, the Director or Chief, as applicable, shall—

(i) publish public notice of the closure or restriction in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the closure or restriction will be carried out; and

(ii) submit to Congress a report detailing the location and extent of, and evidence justifying, the closure or restriction.

(B) TIMING.—The Director or Chief, as applicable, shall issue the notice and report required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) before the closure, if practicable without risking national security or public safety; and

(ii) in cases where such issuance is not practicable for reasons of national security or public safety, not later than 30 days after the closure.

(3) CESSATION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION.—A closure or restriction under sub-

paragraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall cease to be effective, as applicable—

(A) on the day after the last day of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the Director or Chief, as applicable, submits the report to Congress under paragraph (2)(B) regarding the closure or restriction, unless the closure or restriction has been approved by Federal law; and

(B) on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of a Federal law disapproving the closure or restriction.

(4) MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with paragraph (1), the Director shall manage National Monument land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief shall manage land of the National Forest System under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service—

(A) in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances recreational shooting opportunities;

(B) to the extent authorized under State law (including regulations); and

(C) in accordance with applicable Federal law (including regulations).

(5) LIMITATION ON DUPLICATIVE CLOSURES OR RESTRICTIONS.—The Director or Chief, as applicable, may not issue a closure or restriction under paragraph (1) that is substantially similar to a previously issued closure or restriction that was not approved by Federal law.

(6) EFFECTIVE DATE FOR PRIOR CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS.—On the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, this section shall apply to closures and restrictions in place on the date of enactment of this Act that relate to access and use for recreational shooting on—

(A) National Monument land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(B) land of the National Forest System under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than October 1 of each year, the Director and Chief, as applicable, shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes any National Monument land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management any land of the National Forest System under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service—

(A) that was closed to recreational shooting or on which recreational shooting was restricted at any time during the preceding year; and

(B) the reason for the closure.

(8) NO PRIORITY.—Nothing in this section requires the Director or Chief, as applicable, to give preference to recreational shooting over other uses of Federal public land or over land or water management priorities established by Federal law.

(9) AUTHORITY OF THE STATES.—

(A) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this section affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under State law (including regulations) on land or water in the State, including Federal public land.

(B) FEDERAL LICENSES.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Director to require a license for recreational shooting on land or water in a State, including on Federal public land in the State.

(10) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF.—Nothing in this section affects the ability of the Director or Chief, as applicable—

(A) to prohibit the use of tannerite, binary explosive targets, or other explosive devices

pursuant to Federal law (including regulations); and

(B) temporarily close all or a portion of an area during periods of high fire danger.

SA 3500. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—PAUSE FOR SAFETY ACT

SECTION 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Pause for Safety Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “close associate” means, with respect to an individual—

(A) a dating partner, friend, co-worker, or neighbor of the individual; or

(B) any other person who has a relationship with the individual so as to be concerned about the safety and well-being of the individual, as determined by a State;

(2) the term “family member” means, with respect to an individual, a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent of the individual;

(3) the term “firearm” has the meaning given the term in section 921 of title 18, United States Code;

(4) the term “gun violence prevention order” means a written order, issued by a State court or signed by a magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer), prohibiting a named individual from having under the custody or control of the individual, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms;

(5) the term “gun violence prevention warrant” means a written order, issued by a State court or signed by a magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer), regarding an individual who is subject to a gun violence prevention order and who is known to own or possess 1 or more firearms, that directs a law enforcement officer to temporarily seize and retain any firearm in the possession of the individual;

(6) the term “law enforcement officer” means a public servant authorized by State law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of an offense; and

(7) the term “wellness check” means a visit conducted by a law enforcement officer to the residence of an individual for the purpose of assessing whether the individual poses a danger to the individual or others due to a mental, behavioral, or physical condition.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER AND WARRANT LAW.

(a) **ENACTMENT OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER LAW.**—In order to receive a grant under section 304, on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each State shall have in effect legislation that—

(1) authorizes a gun violence prevention order and gun violence prevention warrant in accordance with subsection (b); and

(2) requires each law enforcement agency of the State to comply with subsection (c).

(b) **REQUIREMENTS FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDERS AND WARRANTS.**—Legislation required under subsection (a) shall be subject to the following requirements:

(1) **APPLICATION FOR GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER.**—A family member or close associate of an individual may submit an application to a State court, on a form designed by the court, that—

(A) describes the facts and circumstances necessitating that a gun violence prevention order be issued against the named individual;

(B) is signed by the applicant, under oath; and

(C) includes any additional information required by the State court or magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer) to demonstrate that possession of a firearm by the named individual poses a significant risk of personal injury to the named individual or others.

(2) **EXAMINATION OF APPLICANT AND WITNESSES.**—A State court or magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer) may, before issuing a gun violence prevention order—

(A) examine under oath, the individual who applied for the order under paragraph (1) and any witnesses the individual produces; and

(B)(i) require that the individual or any witness submit a signed affidavit, which describes the facts the applicant or witness believes establish the grounds of the application; or

(ii) take an oral statement from the individual or witness under oath.

(3) **STANDARD FOR ISSUANCE OF ORDER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State court or magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer) may issue a gun violence prevention order only upon a finding of probable cause that possession of a firearm by the named individual poses a significant risk of personal injury to the named individual or others.

(B) **NOTIFICATION.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The court shall notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of the gun violence prevention order not later than 2 court days after issuing the order. The court shall also notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of any order restoring the ability of the individual to own or possess firearms not later than 2 court days after issuing the order to restore the individual's right to own or possess any type of firearms that may be lawfully owned and possessed. Such notice shall be submitted in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Justice and the comparable State agency.

(ii) **UPDATE OF DATABASES.**—As soon as practicable after receiving a notification under clause (i), the Department of Justice and comparable State agency shall update the background check databases of the Department and agency, respectively, to reflect the prohibitions articulated in the gun violence prevention order.

(4) **ISSUANCE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WARRANT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—After issuing a gun violence prevention order, a State court or magistrate (or other comparable judicial officer) shall, upon a finding of probable cause to believe that the named individual subject to the order has a firearm in his custody or control, issue a gun violence prevention warrant ordering the temporary seizure of all firearms specified in the warrant.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—Subject to paragraph (6), a gun violence prevention warrant issued under subparagraph (A) shall require that any firearm described in the warrant be taken from any place, or from any individual in whose possession, the firearm may be.

(5) **SERVICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER.**—When serving a gun violence prevention order, a law enforcement officer shall

provide the individual with a form to request a hearing in accordance with paragraph (6)(F).

(6) **TEMPORARY SEIZURE OF FIREARMS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—When a law enforcement officer takes property under a gun violence prevention warrant, the law enforcement officer shall give a receipt for the property taken, specifying the property in detail, to the individual from whom it was taken. In the absence of a person, the law enforcement officer shall leave the receipt in the place where the law enforcement officer found the property.

(B) **TEMPORARY CUSTODY OF SEIZED FIREARMS.**—All firearms seized pursuant to a gun violence prevention warrant shall be retained by the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement agency in custody, subject to the order of the court that issued the warrant or to any other court in which an offense with respect to the firearm is triable.

(C) **LIMITATION ON SEIZURE OF FIREARMS.**—If the location to be searched during the execution of a gun violence prevention warrant is jointly occupied by multiple parties and a firearm is located during the execution of the seizure warrant, and it is determined that the firearm is owned by an individual other than the individual named in the gun violence prevention warrant, the firearm may not be seized if—

(i) the firearm is stored in a manner that the individual named in the gun violence prevention warrant does not have access to or control of the firearm; and

(ii) there is no evidence of unlawful possession of the firearm by the owner.

(D) **GUN SAFE.**—If the location to be searched during the execution of a gun violence prevention warrant is jointly occupied by multiple parties and a gun safe is located, and it is determined that the gun safe is owned by an individual other than the individual named in the gun violence prevention warrant, the contents of the gun safe shall not be searched except in the owner's presence, or with the owner's consent, or unless a valid search warrant has been obtained.

(E) **RETURN OF FIREARM TO RIGHTFUL OWNER.**—If any individual who is not a named individual in a gun violence prevention warrant claims title to a firearm seized pursuant to a gun violence prevention warrant, the firearm shall be returned to the lawful owner not later than 30 days after the date on which the title is claimed.

(F) **RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING.**—A named individual may submit 1 written request at any time during the effective period of a gun violence prevention order issued against the individual for a hearing for an order allowing the individual to own, possess, purchase, or receive a firearm.

(7) **HEARING ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WARRANT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (E), not later than 14 days after the date on which a gun violence prevention order and, when applicable, a gun violence prevention warrant, is issued, the court that issued the order and, when applicable, the warrant, or another court in that same jurisdiction, shall hold a hearing to determine whether the individual who is the subject of the order may have under the custody or control of the individual, own, purchase, possess, or receive firearms and, when applicable, whether any seized firearms should be returned to the individual named in the warrant.

(B) **NOTICE.**—The individual named in a gun violence prevention order requested to

be renewed under subparagraph (A) shall be given written notice and an opportunity to be heard on the matter.

(C) **BURDEN OF PROOF.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), at any hearing conducted under subparagraph (A), the State or petitioner shall have the burden of establishing probable cause that the individual poses a significant risk of personal injury to the individual or others by owning or possessing the firearm.

(ii) **HIGHER BURDEN OF PROOF.**—A State may establish a burden of proof for hearings conducted under subparagraph (A) that is higher than the burden of proof required under clause (i).

(D) **REQUIREMENTS UPON FINDING OF SIGNIFICANT RISK.**—If the named individual is found at the hearing to pose a significant risk of personal injury to the named individual or others by owning or possessing a firearm, the following shall apply:

(i) The firearm or firearms seized pursuant to the warrant shall be retained by the law enforcement agency for a period not to exceed 1 year.

(ii) The named individual shall be prohibited from owning or possessing, purchasing or receiving, or attempting to purchase or receive a firearm for a period not to exceed 1 year, a violation of which shall be considered a misdemeanor offense.

(iii) The court shall notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of the gun violence prevention order not later than 2 court days after issuing the order. The court shall also notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of any order restoring the ability of the individual to own or possess firearms not later than 2 court days after issuing the order to restore the individual's right to own or possess any type of firearms that may be lawfully owned and possessed. Such notice shall be submitted in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Justice and the comparable State agency.

(iv) As soon as practicable after receiving a notification under clause (iii), the Department of Justice and comparable State agency shall update the background check databases of the Department and agency, respectively, to reflect—

(I) the prohibitions articulated in the gun violence prevention order; or

(II) an order issued to restore an individual's right to own or possess a firearm.

(E) **RETURN OF FIREARMS.**—If the court finds that the State has not met the required standard of proof, any firearm seized pursuant to the warrant shall be returned to the named individual not later than 30 days after the hearing.

(F) **LIMITATION ON HEARING REQUIREMENT.**—If an individual named in a gun violence prevention warrant is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm for a period of 1 year or more by another provision of State or Federal law, a hearing pursuant to subparagraph (A) is not required and the court shall issue an order to hold the firearm until either the individual is no longer prohibited from owning a firearm or the individual sells or transfers ownership of the firearm to a licensed firearm dealer.

(8) **RENEWING GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ORDER AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WARRANT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (E), if a law enforcement agency has probable cause to believe that an individual who is subject to a gun violence prevention order continues to pose a significant

risk of personal injury to the named individual or others by possessing a firearm, the agency may initiate a request for a renewal of the order, on a form designed by the court, describing the facts and circumstances necessitating the request.

(B) **NOTICE.**—The individual named in the gun violence prevention order requested to be renewed under subparagraph (A) shall be given written notice and an opportunity to be heard on the matter.

(C) **HEARING.**—After notice is given under subparagraph (B), a hearing shall be held to determine if a request for renewal of the order shall be issued.

(D) **ISSUANCE OF RENEWAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (E), a State court may issue a renewal of a gun violence prevention order if there is probable cause to believe that the individual who is subject to the order continues to pose a significant risk of personal injury to the named individual or others by possessing a firearm.

(E) **HIGHER BURDEN OF PROOF.**—A State may establish a burden of proof for initiating a request for or issuing a renewal of a gun violence prevention order that is higher than the burden of proof required under subparagraph (A) or (D).

(F) **NOTIFICATION.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The court shall notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of a renewal of the gun violence prevention order not later than 2 court days after renewing the order. The court shall also notify the Department of Justice and comparable State agency of any order restoring the ability of the individual to own or possess firearms not later than 2 court days after issuing the order to restore the individual's right to own or possess any type of firearms that may be lawfully owned and possessed. Such notice shall be submitted in an electronic format, in a manner prescribed by the Department of Justice and the comparable State agency.

(ii) **UPDATE OF DATABASES.**—As soon as practicable after receiving a notification under clause (i), the Department of Justice and comparable State agency shall update the background check databases of the Department and agency, respectively, to reflect—

(I) the prohibitions articulated in the renewal of the gun violence prevention order; or

(II) an order issued to restore an individual's right to own or possess a firearm.

(c) **LAW ENFORCEMENT CHECK OF STATE FIREARM DATABASE.**—Each law enforcement agency of the State shall establish a procedure that requires a law enforcement officer to, in conjunction with performing a wellness check on an individual, check whether the individual is listed on any of the firearm and ammunition databases of the State or jurisdiction in which the individual resides.

(d) **CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTIONS.**—All information provided to the Department of Justice and comparable State agency pursuant to legislation required under subsection (a) shall be kept confidential, separate, and apart from all other records maintained by the Department of Justice and comparable State agency.

SEC. 304. PAUSE FOR SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice may make grants to an eligible State to assist the State in carrying out the provisions of the State legislation described in section 303.

(b) **ELIGIBLE STATE.**—A State shall be eligible to receive grants under this section on and after the date on which—

(1) the State enacts legislation described in section 303; and

(2) the Attorney General determines that the legislation of the State described in paragraph (1) complies with the requirements of section 303.

(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Funds awarded under this section may be used by a State to assist law enforcement agencies or the courts of the State in carrying out the provisions of the State legislation described in section 303.

(d) **APPLICATION.**—An eligible State desiring a grant under this section shall submit to the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information, as the Director may reasonably require.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 305. FEDERAL FIREARMS PROHIBITION.

Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) is subject to a court order that prohibits such person from having under the custody or control of the person, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms.”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (8)(C)(ii), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the comma at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) who is subject to a court order that prohibits such person from having under the custody or control of the person, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving any firearms.”.

SEC. 306. FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.

Any gun violence prevention order issued under a State law enacted in accordance with this title shall have the same full faith and credit in every court within the United States as they have by law or usage in the courts of such State from which they are issued.

SEC. 307. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title, or an amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this title, or an amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

SA 3501. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—LORI JACKSON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVOR PROTECTION ACT

SECTION 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS OF “INTIMATE PARTNER” AND “MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE” EXPANDED.

Section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (32)—
(A) by striking “and an individual” and inserting “an individual”; and

(B) by inserting “, or a dating partner (as defined in section 2266) or former dating partner” before the period at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (33)(A)(ii)—
(A) by striking “or by” and inserting “by”; and

(B) by inserting “, or by a dating partner (as defined in section 2266) or former dating partner of the victim” before the period at the end.

SEC. 303. UNLAWFUL SALE OF FIREARM TO A PERSON SUBJECT TO COURT ORDER.

Section 922(d)(8) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(8) is subject to a court order described in subsection (g)(8); or”.

SEC. 304. LIST OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO A RESTRAINING OR SIMILAR ORDER PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING OR RECEIVING A FIREARM EXPANDED.

Section 922(g)(8) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “that”;

(2) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A)(i) that was issued after a hearing of which such person received actual notice, and at which such person had an opportunity to participate; or

“(ii) in the case of an ex parte order, relating to which notice and opportunity to be heard are provided—

“(I) within the time required by State, tribal, or territorial law; and

“(II) in any event within a reasonable time after the order is issued, sufficient to protect the person’s right to due process;

“(B) that restrains such person from—

“(i) harassing, stalking, threatening, or engaging in other conduct that would put an individual in reasonable fear of bodily injury to such individual, including an order that was issued at the request of an employer on behalf of its employee or at the request of an institution of higher education on behalf of its student; or

“(ii) intimidating or dissuading a witness from testifying in court; and”;

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “intimate partner or child” each place it appears and inserting “individual described in subparagraph (B)”;

(B) in clause (i), by inserting “that” before “includes”; and

(C) in clause (ii), by inserting “that” before “by its”.

SA 3502. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY.

It is the sense of the Senate—

(1) that the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty must be transmitted to, and receive the advice and consent of, the Senate, and the commitments in the Treaty must be embodied in implementing legislation properly enacted into law, before any changes are made to existing programs or activities in furtherance of, or pursuant to, or otherwise to implement the Treaty; and

(2) to condemn the public statement made by Assistant Secretary of State Thomas M. Countryman on April 23, 2014, that before any of these steps have been taken, the Department of State is at present implementing the Arms Trade Treaty.

SA 3503. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 ____ . LIMITATION ON DESIGNATION OF NEW FEDERALLY PROTECTED LAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF FEDERALLY PROTECTED LAND.—In this section, the term “federally protected land” means—

(1) any land managed by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or Forest Service; or

(2) any other area designated or acquired by the Federal Government for the purpose of conserving historic, cultural, environmental, scenic, recreational, developmental, or biological resources.

(b) FINDINGS REQUIRED.—New federally protected land shall not be designated unless the Secretary, prior to the designation, publishes in the Federal Register—

(1) a finding that the addition of the new federally protected land would not have a negative impact on the administration of existing federally protected land; and

(2) a finding that, as of the date of the finding, sufficient resources are available to effectively implement management plans for existing units of federally protected land.

SA 3504. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—CABIN USER FEES

SECTION 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Cabin Fee Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. CABIN USER FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this title as the “Secretary”) shall establish a fee in accordance with this section for the issuance of a special use permit for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land for recreational residence purposes.

(b) INTERIM FEE.—During the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on the

last day of the calendar year during which the current appraisal cycle is completed under subsection (c), the Secretary shall assess an interim annual fee for recreational residences on National Forest System land that is an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the fee determined under the Cabin User Fees Fairness Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), subject to the requirement that any increase over the fee assessed during the previous year shall be limited to not more than 25 percent; or

(2) \$5,600.

(c) COMPLETION OF CURRENT APPRAISAL CYCLE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete the current appraisal cycle, including receipt of timely second appraisals, for recreational residences on National Forest System land in accordance with the Cabin User Fees Fairness Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.) (referred to in this Act as the “current appraisal cycle”).

(d) LOT VALUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To establish the base value assigned to a lot under this section, the Secretary shall use only appraisals conducted and approved by the Secretary in accordance with the Cabin User Fee Fairness Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.) during the current appraisal cycle.

(2) SECOND APPRAISAL.—If a second appraisal—

(A) is approved by the Secretary, the value established by the second appraisal shall be the base value assigned to the lot; or

(B) is not approved by the Secretary, the value established by the initial appraisal shall be the base value assigned to the lot.

(e) ADJUSTMENT.—On the date of completion of the current appraisal cycle and before assessing a fee under subsection (f), the Secretary shall make a 1-time adjustment to the value of each appraised lot on which a recreational residence is located to reflect any change in value occurring after the date of the most recent appraisal for the lot, in accordance with the 4th quarter of 2012 National Association of Homebuilders/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index.

(f) ANNUAL FEE.—

(1) BASE.—After the date on which appraised lot values have been adjusted in accordance with subsection (e), the annual fee assessed prospectively by the Secretary for recreational residences on National Forest System land shall be in accordance with the following tiered fee structure:

Fee Tier	Approximate Percent of Permits Nationally	Fee Amount
Tier 1	6 percent	\$600
Tier 2	16 percent	\$1,100
Tier 3	26 percent	\$1,600
Tier 4	22 percent	\$2,100
Tier 5	10 percent	\$2,600
Tier 6	5 percent	\$3,100
Tier 7	5 percent	\$3,600
Tier 8	3 percent	\$4,100
Tier 9	3 percent	\$4,600
Tier 10	3 percent	\$5,100
Tier 11	1 percent	\$5,600.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall increase or decrease the annual fees set forth in the table under paragraph (1) to reflect changes in the Implicit Price Deflator for the Gross Domestic Product published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, applied on a 5-year rolling average.

(3) ACCESS AND OCCUPANCY ADJUSTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall by regulation establish criteria pursuant to

which the annual fee determined in accordance with this section may be suspended or reduced temporarily if access to, or the occupancy of, the recreational residence is significantly restricted.

(B) **APPEAL.**—The Secretary shall by regulation grant the cabin owner the right of an administrative appeal of the determination made in accordance with subparagraph (A) with respect to whether to suspend or reduce temporarily the annual fee.

(g) **PERIODIC REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) analyzes the annual fees set forth in the table under subsection (f)(1) to ensure that the fees reflect fair value for the use of the land for recreational residence purposes, taking into account all use limitations and restrictions (including any limitations and restrictions imposed by the Secretary); and

(B) includes any recommendations of the Secretary with respect to modifying the fee system.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—The use of appraisals shall not be required for any modifications to the fee system based on the recommendations under paragraph (1)(B).

SEC. 303. CABIN TRANSFER FEES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a fee in the amount of \$1,200 for the issuance of a new recreational residence permit due to a change of ownership of the recreational residence.

(b) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—The Secretary shall annually increase or decrease the transfer fee established under subsection (a) to reflect changes in the Implicit Price Deflator for the Gross Domestic Product published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce, applied on a 5-year rolling average.

SEC. 304. EFFECT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this title limits or restricts any right, title, or interest of the United States in or to any land or resource in the National Forest System.

(b) **ALASKA.**—The Secretary shall not establish or impose a fee or condition under this Act for permits in the State of Alaska that is inconsistent with section 1303(d) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3193(d)).

SEC. 305. RETENTION OF FEES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary may retain, and expend, for the purposes described in subsection (b), any fees collected under this title without further appropriation.

(b) **USE.**—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be used to administer the recreational residence program and other recreation programs carried out on National Forest System land.

SEC. 306. REPEAL OF CABIN USER FEES FAIRNESS ACT OF 2000.

Effective on the date of the assessment of annual permit fees in accordance with section 302(f) (as certified to Congress by the Secretary), the Cabin User Fees Fairness Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.) is repealed.

SA 3505. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 317. LEVERAGING OF THERMAL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF AIR FORCE INSULATION SYSTEMS AND MEDIUM SHELTER SYSTEMS THROUGH BASIC EXPEDITIONARY AIRFIELD RESOURCES PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Air Force shall leverage currently available thermal technologies in order to pursue energy efficient insulation systems and more energy efficient medium shelter systems through the Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resources (BEAR) program.

SA 3506. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE AND FORT BLISS.

(a) **WITHDRAWAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights and paragraph (3), the Federal land described in paragraph (2) is withdrawn from—

(A) entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws, except for the issuance of oil and gas pipeline rights-of-way;

(B) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(2) **DESCRIPTION OF FEDERAL LAND.**—The Federal land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of—

(A) the approximately 6,500 acres of land depicted as “Parcel 1” on the map entitled “Fort Bliss/BLM Land Transfer and Withdrawal” and dated June 18, 2014 (referred to in this section as the “map”); and

(B) any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the boundaries of “Parcel 1”, as depicted on the map.

(b) **ADMINISTRATION.**—Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) Public Land Order 833, dated May 21, 1952 (17 Fed. Reg. 4822) shall not apply to the approximately 2,050 acres of land generally depicted as “Parcel 2” on the map; and

(2) the land described in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) added to the Organ Mountains—Desert Peaks National Monument; and

(B) managed in accordance with—

(i) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(ii) any other applicable laws.

(c) **LEGAL DESCRIPTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register a legal description of the Federal land withdrawn by subsection (a).

(2) **FORCE OF LAW.**—The legal description published under paragraph (1) shall have the

same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of the Interior may correct errors in the legal description.

(3) **REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.**—The Secretary of the Army shall reimburse the Secretary of the Interior for any costs incurred by the Secretary of the Interior in implementing this subsection with regard to the Federal land described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

SA 3507. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1526. INVESTIGATION OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RAISED DURING RECENT OPERATIONAL TESTING OF DIRECTED ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) shall use existing resources (including funds) for operational evaluations on directed energy technologies of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) in order to investigate technical questions on directed energy technologies that arose during a recent operational evaluation of directed energy technology conducted by the 260th Engineer Company in Afghanistan.

SA 3508. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 234. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED PHOTONICS INSTITUTE FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Many applications of light-based technologies are revolutionizing advanced manufacturing, communications, defense, energy, health, and other sectors.

(2) Further research and manufacturing will enable greater advances in defense technologies improving intelligence capabilities for the warfighter such as the capture of spectral signals from space which are vital for information gathering, the development of adaptive optics and optical communications for data transfer, and non-kinetic military solutions to minimize civilian casualties.

(3) The photonic technology developed for defense purposes will also serve a dual commercial purpose, enabling advances in image processing, non-invasive health screenings, robotics, and improved space situational awareness for both the defense and commercial sectors.

(4) Photonics is a key enabling technology, and further Federal and private investment

in advanced photonics manufacturing has the potential to create high quality, long-term job growth while furthering national security objectives.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should support the development of an advanced photonics institute for manufacturing innovation to improve economic competitiveness and national security.

SA 3509. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE OF AVERAGE TIMES FOR PROCESSING BENEFITS CLAIMS.

(a) **PUBLIC NOTICE.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent practicable, post the information described in subsection (b)—

(1) in physical locations, such as regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs or other claims in-take facilities of the Department, that the Secretary considers appropriate;

(2) on the Internet website of the Department; and

(3) through other mediums or using such other methods, including collaboration with veterans service organizations, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) **INFORMATION DESCRIBED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The information described in this subsection is the average processing time of the claims described in paragraph (2).

(2) **CLAIMS DESCRIBED.**—The claims described in this paragraph are each of the following types of claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(A) A fully developed claim.

(B) A claim that is not fully developed.

(3) **UPDATE OF INFORMATION.**—The information described in this subsection shall be updated not less frequently than once each fiscal quarter.

(c) **EXPIRATION OF REQUIREMENTS.**—The requirements of subsection (a) shall expire on December 31, 2015.

(d) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “veterans service organization” means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 3510. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION FUND.

Section 1001(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391(e)) is amended by inserting “based on future planned activities and the amount of the appropriations for the fiscal year” after “fiscal year”.

SA 3511. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 102.

SA 3512. Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. USE OF FUNDS TO ACQUIRE WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREAS IN PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION.

Section 4(b)(3) of the Act of March 16, 1934 (48 Stat. 451, chapter 71; 16 U.S.C. 718d(b)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that not less than 6 percent, and not more than 40 percent, of funds made available to carry out this paragraph for each fiscal year shall be used to acquire Waterfowl Production Areas in each State of the Prairie Pothole Region (as defined in section 1467.3 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Waterfowl Protection Act of 2014))”.

SA 3513. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. NORTH FORK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “eligible Federal land” means—

(A) any federally owned land or interest in land depicted on the Map as within the North Fork Federal Lands Withdrawal Area; or

(B) any land or interest in land located within the North Fork Federal Lands Withdrawal Area that is acquired by the Federal Government after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **MAP.**—The term “Map” means the Bureau of Land Management map entitled “North Fork Federal Lands Withdrawal Area” and dated June 9, 2010.

(b) **WITHDRAWAL.**—

(1) **WITHDRAWAL.**—Subject to valid existing rights, the eligible Federal land is withdrawn from—

(A) all forms of location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(B) disposition under all laws relating to mineral leasing and geothermal leasing.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Map shall be made available to the public at each appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) **EFFECT OF SECTION.**—Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from taking any action necessary to complete any requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) required for permitting surface-disturbing activity to occur on any lease issued before the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3514. Mr. WALSH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT HERITAGE ACT OF 2014

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA.**—The term “Conservation Management Area” means the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area established by section 303(a)(1).

(2) **DECOMMISSION.**—The term “decommission” means—

(A) to reestablish vegetation on a road; and

(B) to restore any natural drainage, watershed function, or other ecological processes that are disrupted or adversely impacted by the road by removing or hydrologically disconnecting the road prism.

(3) **DISTRICT.**—The term “district” means the Rocky Mountain Ranger District of the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

(4) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act” and dated October 27, 2011.

(5) **NONMOTORIZED RECREATION TRAIL.**—The term “nonmotorized recreation trail” means a trail designed for hiking, bicycling, or equestrian use.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Montana.

SEC. 303. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area in the State.

(2) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The Conservation Management Area shall consist of approximately 195,073 acres of Federal land managed by the Forest Service and 13,087 acres of Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State, as generally depicted on the map.

(3) **INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS.**—Any land or interest in land that is located in the Conservation Management Area and is acquired by the United States from a willing seller shall—

(A) become part of the Conservation Management Area; and

(B) be managed in accordance with—

(i) in the case of land managed by the Forest Service—

(I) the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the “Weeks Law”) (16 U.S.C. 552 et seq.); and

(II) any laws (including regulations) applicable to the National Forest System;

(i) in the case of land managed, by the Bureau of Land Management, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(iii) this section; and

(iv) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Conservation Management Area are to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the recreational, scenic, historical, cultural, fish, wildlife, roadless, and ecological values of the Conservation Management Area.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall manage the Conservation Management Area—

(A) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources of the Conservation Management Area; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the laws (including regulations) and rules applicable to the National Forest System for land managed by the Forest Service;

(ii) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) for land managed by the Bureau of Land Management;

(iii) this section; and

(iv) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(2) USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall only allow such uses of the Conservation Management Area that the Secretary determines would further the purposes described in subsection (b).

(B) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The use of motorized vehicles in the Conservation Management Area shall be permitted only on existing roads, trails, and areas designated for use by such vehicles as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) NEW OR TEMPORARY ROADS.—Except as provided in clause (iii), no new or temporary roads shall be constructed within the Conservation Management Area.

(iii) EXCEPTIONS.—Nothing in clause (i) or (ii) prevents the Secretary from—

(I) rerouting or closing an existing road or trail to protect natural resources from degradation, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary;

(II) constructing a temporary road on which motorized vehicles are permitted as part of a vegetation management project in any portion of the Conservation Management Area located not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Teton Road, South Teton Road, Sun River Road, Beaver Willow Road, or Benchmark Road;

(III) authorizing the use of motorized vehicles for administrative purposes (including noxious weed eradication or grazing management); or

(IV) responding to an emergency.

(iv) DECOMMISSIONING OF TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission any temporary road constructed under clause (iii)(II) not later than 3 years after the date on which the applicable vegetation management project is completed.

(C) GRAZING.—The Secretary shall permit grazing within the Conservation Manage-

ment Area, if established on the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) subject to—

(I) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(II) all applicable laws; and

(ii) in a manner consistent with—

(I) the purposes described in subsection (b); and

(II) the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96-617).

(D) VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.—Nothing in this title prevents the Secretary from conducting vegetation management projects within the Conservation Management Area—

(i) subject to—

(I) such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(II) all applicable laws (including regulations); and

(ii) in a manner consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b).

SEC. 304. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the State is designated as wilderness and as additions to existing components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS.—Certain land in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, comprising approximately 50,401 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be added to and administered as part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness designated under section 3 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1132).

(2) SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS.—Certain land in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, comprising approximately 16,711 acres, as generally depicted on the map, which shall be added to and administered as part of the Scapegoat Wilderness designated by the first section of Public Law 92-395 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note).

(b) MANAGEMENT OF WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.—Subject to valid existing rights, the land designated as wilderness additions by subsection (a) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) LIVESTOCK.—The grazing of livestock and the maintenance of existing facilities relating to grazing in the wilderness additions designated by this section, if established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be permitted to continue in accordance with—

(1) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

(2) the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5487 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96-617).

(d) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), within the wilderness additions designated by this section, the Secretary may take any measures that the Secretary determines to be necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, including, as the Secretary determines appropriate, the coordination of those activities with a State or local agency.

(e) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designation of a wilderness addition by this section shall not create any protective perimeter or buffer zone around the wilderness area.

(2) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness addition designated by this section shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 305. MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare maps and legal descriptions of the Conservation Management Area and the wilderness additions designated by sections 303 and 304, respectively.

(b) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary may correct typographical errors in the map and legal descriptions.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions prepared under subsection (a) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 306. NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a comprehensive management strategy for preventing, controlling, and eradicating noxious weeds in the district.

(b) CONTENTS.—The management strategy shall—

(1) include recommendations to protect wildlife, forage, and other natural resources in the district from noxious weeds;

(2) identify opportunities to coordinate noxious weed prevention, control, and eradication efforts in the district with State and local agencies, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and others;

(3) identify existing resources for preventing, controlling, and eradicating noxious weeds in the district;

(4) identify additional resources that are appropriate to effectively prevent, control, or eradicate noxious weeds in the district; and

(5) identify opportunities to coordinate with county weed districts in Glacier, Pondera, Teton, and Lewis and Clark Counties in the State to apply for grants and enter into agreements for noxious weed control and eradication projects under the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 7781 et seq.).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the management strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior;

(2) appropriate State, tribal, and local governmental entities; and

(3) members of the public.

SEC. 307. NONMOTORIZED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with interested parties, shall conduct a study to improve nonmotorized recreation trail opportunities (including mountain bicycling) on land not designated as wilderness within the district.

SEC. 308. MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; HUNTING AND FISHING.

Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and

wildlife management (including the regulation of hunting and fishing) on public land in the State.

SEC. 309. OVERFLIGHTS.

(a) JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this title affects the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration with respect to the airspace above the wilderness or the Conservation Management Area.

(b) BENCHMARK AIRSTRIP.—Nothing in this title affects the continued use, maintenance, and repair of the Benchmark (3U7) airstrip.

SEC. 310. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.

SA 3515. Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) pursuant to the court-approved work schedule described in the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement and Order of Dismissal of Guardians Claims entitled “In Re Endangered Species Act Section 4 Deadline Litigation” (D.D.C. 2011), not later than September 30, 2015, the Secretary is scheduled to issue a decision on whether to proceed with listing the greater sage-grouse as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(2) the Federal Government, through programs of the Department of Interior and the Department of Agriculture, has invested substantial funds on greater and Gunnison sage-grouse conservation efforts to avoid the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse being listed as threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(3) State wildlife management agencies have prepared, and as of the date of enactment of this Act are in the process of implementing, greater and Gunnison sage-grouse conservation plans to complement the conservation efforts of the Federal Government;

(4) private investment in conservation efforts, independently and in conjunction with Federal cost-share conservation easement programs, has been significant;

(5) through a combination of Federal, State, and private efforts, significant conservation progress is being made, and further progress will be made following full implementation of State management plans and new Federal conservation programs; and

(6) farmers, ranchers, developers, and small businesses need certainty, and further clarity on the likelihood of a listing decision will provide that certainty.

(b) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) GREATER SAGE-GROUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 15, 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of greater sage-grouse conservation efforts.

(2) CONTENTS.—In the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall include—

(A) a description of public and private programs and expenditures, including State and Federal Government agencies, relating to greater sage-grouse conservation;

(B) a description of State management plans, including plans that have been announced but not yet implemented;

(C) a description of Bureau of Land Management plans, or plans by any other land management agencies, relating to greater sage-grouse conservation;

(D) in accordance with paragraph (3), a description of the metrics that, at the discretion of the Secretary, will be used to make a determination of whether the greater sage-grouse should be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(E) any outcome under the programs, expenditures, or plans referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (C) that can be measured by the metrics described in paragraph (3); and

(F) any recommendations to Congress for legislative actions that could provide certainty to farmers, ranchers, developers, and small businesses and could assist in the conservation of the greater sage-grouse.

(3) REPORTED METRICS.—The metrics described in paragraph (2)(D) may include—

(A) the quantity of acres enrolled in sagebrush and habitat protection in conservation programs established under title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) or other conservation programs of the Department of Agriculture, including conservation easements, land purchases or swaps, vegetation management or habitat enhancement programs, and fuels management programs;

(B) data on nonfire related habitat restoration efforts, including native, nonnative, and mixed seeding efforts;

(C) data on mine reclamation and subsequent restoration efforts intended to restore greater sage-grouse habitat;

(D) data on conifer removal;

(E) data on presuppression fire efforts, including—

(i) the number of acres associated with fuels management programs; and

(ii) the number of miles associated with fire breaks;

(F) data on habitat restoration, including postfire restoration efforts involving native, nonnative, and mixed seeding;

(G) data on structure removal, power line burial, power line retrofitting or modification, fence modification, fence marking, and fence removal;

(H) for livestock and rangeland management, data on allotment closure and road closure;

(I) for travel management, data on road and trail closure and trail rerouting;

(J) data on greater sage-grouse translocation efforts, including the number of greater sage-grouse translocated, the age of each translocated greater sage-grouse, and the sex of each translocated greater sage-grouse; and

(K) any other data or metric the Secretary may examine in making the decision on whether to list the greater sage-grouse as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

(d) AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1265B(b)(2)(C)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(2)(C)(i)) is amended—

(A) by striking “GRASSLANDS” and inserting “IN GENERAL”; and

(B) by inserting “and land with greater or Gunnison sage-grouse habitat of special envi-

ronmental significance” after “significance”.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—Section 1265B(b)(3)(B) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865b(b)(3)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) maximizing the protection of greater or Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.”.

SA 3516. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP DATABASE.

No department or agency of the United States shall support, by funding or other means, the establishment or maintenance, by a State or political subdivision of a State, of any comprehensive or partial listing of firearms lawfully possessed or lawfully owned by private persons, or of persons who lawfully possess or own firearms, except in the case of firearms that have been reported to the State or political subdivision as lost or stolen.

SA 3517. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . EXTENSION OF THE SEAWARD BOUNDARY OF MISSISSIPPI FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1312) is amended—

(1) by striking “The seaward boundary” and inserting the following:

“(a) The seaward boundary”; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following:

“(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the State of Mississippi may extend its seaward boundary to a line nine geographical miles distant from its coast line into the Gulf of Mexico for the purpose of managing, administering, leasing, developing, and using the recreational fisheries found in such lands and waters.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SUBMERGED LANDS ACT.—Section 2(b) of the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301(b)) is amended by inserting “, except as provided in section 4(b),” after “in no event”.

(2) MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT.—

(A) AUTHORITY OF THE GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL.—Section 302(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)(E), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (3) and (4)”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The State of Mississippi shall have authority over the recreational fisheries in the

land and waters to the line 9 geographical miles distant from the coast line of the State of Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico.”.

(B) STATE JURISDICTION.—Section 306(a)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1856(a)(2)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) to the line 9 geographical miles distant from the coast line of the State of Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico for the purpose of managing, administering, leasing, developing, and using recreational fishing found in such lands and waters.”.

SA 3518. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 704) is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and all that follows through “That subject to the provisions and in order to carry out the purposes of the conventions, the Secretary of Agriculture” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 3. DETERMINATION REGARDING WHEN AND HOW MIGRATORY BIRDS MAY BE TAKEN, KILLED, OR POSSESSED.

“(a) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of the conventions, to carry out the purposes of the conventions, the Secretary of the Interior”; and

(2) in subsection (a) (as amended by paragraph (1)), by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ADDITIONAL HUNTING DAYS FOR MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF ARMED FORCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Secretary of the Interior may allow any State to promulgate and implement regulations under which members and veterans of the Armed Forces in the State may take migratory birds that are waterfowl during an additional 2-day period outside of the open season established at the Federal level for such migratory birds, subject to subparagraph (B).

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The additional 2-day period allowed under subparagraph (A) may not occur more than 7 days before, or 7 days after, the open season established at the Federal level for the applicable migratory birds.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.) is amended by striking “Secretary of Agriculture” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the Interior”.

SA 3519. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “CHILDREN FROM CONTIGUOUS COUNTRIES” and inserting “UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN”;;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a country that is contiguous with the United States” and inserting “Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, or Panama”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking the subparagraph heading and inserting “AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES”; and

(ii) by striking “countries contiguous to the United States” and inserting “Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a),” and inserting “from Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, or Panama who meets the criteria set forth in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (2)(A),”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to unaccompanied alien children who are in the custody of the Federal Government on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. ____ . ORGANIZED HUMAN SMUGGLING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EFFORT OR SCHEME.—The term “effort or scheme to assist or cause 5 or more persons” does not require that the 5 or more persons enter, attempt to enter, prepare to enter, or travel at the same time if such acts are completed during a 1-year period.

(2) LAWFUL AUTHORITY.—The term “lawful authority”—

(A) means permission, authorization, or license that is expressly provided for under the immigration laws of the United States; and

(B) does not include—

(i) any authority described in subparagraph (A) that was secured by fraud or otherwise unlawfully obtained; or

(ii) any authority that was sought, but not approved.

(b) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.—It shall be unlawful for any person, while acting for profit or other financial gain, to knowingly direct or participate in an effort or scheme to assist or cause 5 or more persons (other than a parent, spouse, or child of the offender)—

(1) to enter, attempt to enter, or prepare to enter the United States—

(A) by fraud, falsehood, or other corrupt means;

(B) at any place other than a port or place of entry designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security; or

(C) in a manner not prescribed by the immigration laws and regulations of the United States;

(2) to travel by air, land, or sea toward the United States (whether directly or indirectly)—

(A) knowing that the persons seek to enter or attempt to enter the United States without lawful authority; and

(B) with the intent to aid or further such entry or attempted entry; or

(3) to be transported or moved outside of the United States—

(A) knowing that such persons are aliens in unlawful transit from 1 country to another or on the high seas; and

(B) under circumstances in which the persons are seeking to enter the United States without official permission or legal authority.

(c) CONSPIRACY AND ATTEMPT.—Any person who attempts or conspires to violate subsection (b) shall be punished in the same manner as a person who completes a violation of such subsection.

(d) BASE PENALTY.—Except as provided in subsection (e), any person who violates subsection (b) or (c) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both.

(e) ENHANCED PENALTIES.—Any person who violates subsection (b) or (c)—

(1) in the case of a violation during and in relation to which a serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365 of title 18, United States Code) occurs to any person, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(2) in the case of a violation during and in relation to which the life of any person is placed in jeopardy, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(3) in the case of a violation involving 10 or more persons, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(4) in the case of a violation involving the bribery or corruption of a United States or foreign government official, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(5) in the case of a violation involving robbery or extortion (as such terms are defined in paragraph (1) or (2), respectively, of section 1951(b) of title 18, United States Code), shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(6) in the case of a violation during and in relation to which any person is subjected to an involuntary sexual act (as defined in section 2246(2) of title 18, United States Code), shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 30 years, or both;

(7) in the case of a violation resulting in the death of any person, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both;

(8) in the case of a violation in which any alien is confined or restrained, including by the taking of clothing, goods, or personal identification documents, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not fewer than 5 years and not more than 10 years, or both;

(9) in the case of smuggling an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))), shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 20 years.

SA 3520. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LEE, and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED WESTERN STATE.—The term “covered western State” means each of the States of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term “National Forest System land” means the Federal land within the National Forest System, as described in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(3) PUBLIC LAND.—The term “public land” has the meaning given the term “public lands” in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(4) SAGE GROUSE SPECIES.—The term “sage grouse species” means the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and the Gunnison sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public land.

(6) STATEWIDE PLAN.—The term “statewide plan” means a statewide conservation and management plan for the protection and recovery of sage grouse species within a covered western State.

(b) SECRETARIAL PARTICIPATION IN STATE PLANNING PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of notice from a covered western State that the State is initiating or has initiated development of a statewide conservation and management plan for the protection and recovery of the sage grouse species within the State, the Secretary shall provide to the Governor of that covered western State—

(A) a commitment of the willingness of the Secretary to participate in the development;

(B) a list of designees from the Department of the Interior or Department of Agriculture, as applicable, who shall represent the Secretary as a participant in the development; and

(C) a list of other Federal departments that could be invited by the covered western State to participate.

(2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of a notice described in paragraph (1) from the covered western State, the Secretary shall provide to the State all relevant scientific data, research, or information regarding sage grouse species and habitat within the State to appropriate State personnel to assist the State in the development.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.—The Secretary shall make personnel from Department of the Interior agencies or Department of Agriculture agencies, respectively, available, on at least a monthly basis, to meet with officials of the State to develop or implement a statewide plan.

(c) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—A notice under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be submitted by a Governor of any covered western State; and

(2) include—

(A) an invitation for the Secretary to participate in development of the statewide plan; and

(B) a commitment that, not later than 2 years after the submission of a notice under this section, the State shall present to the Secretary for review a 10-year (or longer) sage grouse species conservation and management plan for the entire State.

(d) REVIEW OF STATE PLAN.—If the Secretary receives a statewide plan from a covered western State not later than 2 years after receiving a notice under subsection (b) from the State, the Secretary shall—

(1) review the statewide plan using the best available science and data to determine if the statewide plan is likely—

(A) to conserve the sage grouse species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) are no longer necessary in the State; and

(B) to conserve the habitat essential to conserve the sage grouse species within the State; and

(2) approve or endorse, or make comments regarding, the statewide plan not later than 120 days after the date of submission.

(e) ACTIONS AFTER STATEWIDE PLAN IS SUBMITTED.—

(1) HOLD ON CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a statewide plan from a covered western State, the Secretary shall—

(A) take necessary steps to place on hold—

(i) for a period of not less than 10 years, all actions with respect to listing any sage grouse species in that State under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(ii) enforcement of any current listing of sage grouse species within that State under that Act; and

(iii) designation of any critical habitat for any sage grouse species within that State under that Act; and

(B) withdraw any land use planning activities related to Federal management of sage grouse on Federal land within that State and take immediate steps to amend all Federal land use plans to comply with the statewide plan with respect to that State, if—

(i) the State presents to the Secretary the conservation and management plan of the State not later than 2 years after the State submits notice to the Secretary under subsection (b); and

(ii) the State is implementing the plan.

(2) ACTIONS PURSUANT TO NEPA.—Any proposed action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) that occurs within a covered western State may not be denied or restricted solely on the basis of a sage grouse species if the action is consistent with a statewide plan that has been submitted by the State to the Secretary.

(f) EXISTING STATE PLANS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) except as provided in paragraph (2), give effect to a statewide plan that is submitted by a covered western State and approved or endorsed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service before the date of the enactment of this Act, in accordance with the terms of approval or endorsement of the plan by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(2) for purposes of subsections (b)(3) and (e), treat a statewide plan described in paragraph (1) as a plan referred to in those subsections.

SA 3521. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 _____ . INTERSTATE TRANSPORT OF KNIVES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “transport”—

(1) includes staying in temporary lodging overnight, common carrier misrouting or delays, stops for food, fuel, vehicle maintenance, emergencies, medical treatment, and any other activity related to the journey of an individual; and

(2) does not include transport of a knife with the intent to commit an offense punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year involving the use or threatened use of force against another person, or with knowledge, or reasonable cause to believe, that such an offense is to be committed in the course of, or arising from, the journey.

(b) TRANSPORT OF KNIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation of the United States, or of a State or political subdivision of a State, an individual who is not otherwise prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a knife may transport a knife from any State or place where the individual may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the knife to any other State or place where the individual may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the knife if—

(A) in the case of transport by motor vehicle, the knife is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle, or, in the case of a motor vehicle without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the knife is contained in a locked container, glove compartment, or console; or

(B) in the case of transport by means other than a motor vehicle, including any transport over land, on or through water, or through the air, the knife is contained in a locked container.

(2) TEMPORARY LODGING.—An individual transporting a knife in accordance with paragraph (1) may have a knife accessible while staying in any form of temporary lodging.

(c) EMERGENCY KNIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual—

(A) may carry in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle a knife or tool designed for enabling escape in an emergency that incorporates a blunt tipped safety blade or a guarded blade or both for cutting safety belts; and

(B) shall not be required to secure a knife or tool described in subparagraph (A) in a locked container, glove compartment, or console.

(2) LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not apply to the transport of a knife or tool in the passenger cabin of an aircraft whose passengers are subject to airport screening procedures of the Transportation Security Administration.

(d) NO ARREST OR DETENTION.—An individual who is transporting a knife in compliance with this section may not be arrested or otherwise detained for violation of any law, rule, or regulation of a State or political subdivision of a State related to the possession, transport, or carrying of a knife, unless there is probable cause to believe that the individual is not in compliance with subsection (b).

(e) CLAIM OR DEFENSE.—An individual may assert this section as a claim or defense in any civil or criminal action or proceeding. When an individual asserts this section as a claim or defense in a criminal proceeding, the State or political subdivision has the burden of proving, beyond a reasonable

doubt, that the individual was not in compliance with subsection (b).

(f) RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or political subdivision of a State, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any individual to the deprivation of the rights, privileges, or immunities provided for in this section, shall be liable to the individual so deprived in an action at law or equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

(2) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an individual asserts this section as a claim or defense, the court shall award to the prevailing party, as described in subparagraph (B), reasonable attorney's fees.

(B) PREVAILING PARTY.—A prevailing party described in this subparagraph—

(i) includes a party who receives a favorable resolution through a decision by a court, settlement of a claim, withdrawal of criminal charges, or change of a statute or regulation; and

(ii) does not include a State or political subdivision of a State, or an employee or representative of a State or political subdivision of a State.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any right to possess, carry, or transport a knife under applicable State law.

SA 3522. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 . ALLOCATION OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND FOR STATE AND FEDERAL PURPOSES.

Section 5 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-7) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "Of the appropriations from the fund, not less than 40 percent shall be for State purposes and not less than 40 percent shall be for Federal purposes."

SA 3523. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 . ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1532) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), and (21) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), and (22), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(1) AFFECTED PARTY.—The term 'affected party' means any person, including a business entity, or any State, tribal government, or local subdivision the rights of which may be affected by a determination made under section 4(a) in a suit brought under section 11(g)(1)(C)."; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(6) COVERED SETTLEMENT.—The term 'covered settlement' means a consent decree or a settlement agreement in an action brought under section 11(g)(1)(C)."

(b) INTERVENTION; APPROVAL OF COVERED SETTLEMENT.—Section 11(g) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

"(C) PUBLISHING COMPLAINT; INTERVENTION.—

"(i) PUBLISHING COMPLAINT.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the plaintiff serves the defendant with the complaint in an action brought under paragraph (1)(C) in accordance with Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish the complaint in a readily accessible manner, including electronically.

"(II) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—The failure of the Secretary to meet the 30-day deadline described in subclause (I) shall not be the basis for an action under paragraph (1)(C).

"(ii) INTERVENTION.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—After the end of the 30-day period described in clause (i), each affected party shall be given a reasonable opportunity to move to intervene in the action described in clause (i), until the end of which a party may not file a motion for a consent decree or to dismiss the case pursuant to a settlement agreement.

"(II) REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.—In considering a motion to intervene by any affected party, the court shall presume, subject to rebuttal, that the interests of that affected party would not be represented adequately by the parties to the action described in clause (i).

"(III) REFERRAL TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

"(aa) IN GENERAL.—If the court grants a motion to intervene in the action, the court shall refer the action to facilitate settlement discussions to—

"(AA) the mediation program of the court; or

"(BB) a magistrate judge.

"(bb) PARTIES INCLUDED IN SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS.—The settlement discussions described in item (aa) shall include each—

"(AA) plaintiff;

"(BB) defendant agency; and

"(CC) intervenor.";

(2) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) LITIGATION COSTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the court, in issuing any final order in any suit brought under paragraph (1), may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any party, whenever the court determines such award is appropriate.

"(B) COVERED SETTLEMENT.—

"(i) CONSENT DECREES.—The court shall not award costs of litigation in any proposed covered settlement that is a consent decree.

"(ii) OTHER COVERED SETTLEMENTS.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—For a proposed covered settlement other than a consent decree, the court shall ensure that the covered settlement does not include payment to any plaintiff for the costs of litigation.

"(II) MOTIONS.—The court shall not grant any motion, including a motion to dismiss, based on the proposed covered settlement described in subclause (I) if the covered settlement includes payment to any plaintiff for the costs of litigation.";

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) APPROVAL OF COVERED SETTLEMENT.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF SPECIES.—In this paragraph, the term 'species' means a species that is the subject of an action brought under paragraph (1)(C).

"(B) APPROVAL.—

"(i) CONSENT DECREES.—The court shall not approve a proposed covered settlement that is a consent decree unless each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs approves the covered settlement.

"(ii) OTHER COVERED SETTLEMENTS.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—For a proposed covered settlement other than a consent decree, the court shall ensure that the covered settlement is approved by each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

"(II) MOTIONS.—The court shall not grant any motion, including a motion to dismiss, based on the proposed covered settlement described in subclause (I) unless the covered settlement is approved by each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

"(C) NOTICE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall provide each State and county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs notice of a proposed covered settlement.

"(ii) DETERMINATION OF RELEVANT STATES AND COUNTIES.—The defendant in a covered settlement shall consult with each State described in clause (i) to determine each county in which the Secretary of the Interior believes a species occurs.

"(D) FAILURE TO RESPOND.—The court may approve a covered settlement or grant a motion described in subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) if, not later than 45 days after the date on which a State or county is notified under subparagraph (C)—

"(i)(I) a State or county fails to respond; and

"(II) of the States or counties that respond, each State or county approves the covered settlement; or

"(ii) all of the States and counties fail to respond.

"(E) PROOF OF APPROVAL.—The defendant in a covered settlement shall prove any State or county approval described in this paragraph in a form—

"(i) acceptable to the State or county, as applicable; and

"(ii) signed by the State or county official authorized to approve the covered settlement."

SA 3524. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. CLARIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS IN PROVO RIVER PROJECT TRANSFER ACT.

(a) PLEASANT GROVE PROPERTY.—Section 2(4)(A) of the Provo River Project Transfer Act (Public Law 108-382; 118 Stat. 2212) is amended by striking "of enactment of this Act" and inserting "on which the parcel is conveyed under section 3(a)(2)".

(b) PROVO RESERVOIR CANAL.—Section 2(5) of the Provo River Project Transfer Act (Public Law 108-382; 118 Stat. 2212) is amended—

(1) by striking “canal, and any associated land, rights-of-way, and facilities” and inserting “water conveyance facility historically known as the Provo Reservoir Canal and all associated bridges, fixtures, structures, facilities, lands, interests in land, and rights-of-way held,”;

(2) by inserting “and forebay” after “Diversion Dam”;

(3) by inserting “near the Jordan Narrows to the point where water is discharged to the Welby-Jacob Canal and the Utah Lake Distributing Canal” after “Penstock”; and

(4) by striking “of enactment of this Act” and inserting “on which the Provo Reservoir Canal is conveyed under section 3(a)(1)”.

SA 3525. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—LAND CONVEYANCES

SEC. 301. LAND CONVEYANCE, UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—On the request of Brigham Young University submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey, not later than one year after receiving the request, to Brigham Young University all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to an approximately 80-acre parcel of National Forest System land in the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in the State of Utah, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Upper Y Mountain Trail and Y Conveyance Act” and dated June 6, 2013, subject to valid existing rights and by quitclaim deed.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) CONSIDERATION REQUIRED.—As consideration for the land conveyed under subsection (a), Brigham Young University shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary and conducted in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(2) DEPOSIT.—The consideration received by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury to reduce the Federal deficit.

(c) PUBLIC ACCESS TO Y MOUNTAIN TRAIL.—After the conveyance under subsection (a), Brigham Young University will—

(1) continue to allow the same reasonable public access to the trailhead and portion of the Y Mountain Trail already owned by Brigham Young University as of the date of the enactment of this Act that Brigham Young University has historically allowed; and

(2) allow that same reasonable public access to the portion of the Y Mountain Trail and the “Y” symbol located on the land described in subsection (a).

(d) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. Brigham Young University shall pay the reasonable costs of survey, appraisal, and any administrative analyses required by law.

SA 3526. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MINERAL LEASING

SEC. 301. RELINQUISHMENT OF CERTAIN LAND IN UTAH.

The Act entitled “An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes”, approved March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 72), as amended by the Act entitled “An Act to amend the Act extending the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah so as to authorize such State to exchange certain mineral lands for other lands mineral in character” approved August 9, 1955, (69 Stat. 544), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 5. In order to further clarify authorizations under this Act, the State of Utah is hereby authorized to relinquish to the United States, for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, State school trust or other State-owned subsurface mineral lands located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and south of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, and select in lieu of such relinquished lands, on an acre-for-acre basis, any subsurface mineral lands of the United States located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and north of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, subject to the following conditions:

“(1) RESERVATION BY UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall reserve an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 171 et seq.) in any mineral lands conveyed to the State.

“(2) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the United States under paragraph (1) shall consist of—

“(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the State as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

“(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the State as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

“(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

“(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

“(3) RESERVATION BY STATE OF UTAH.—The State of Utah shall reserve, for the benefit of its State school trust, an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) in any mineral lands relinquished by the State to the United States.

“(4) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the State under paragraph (3) shall consist of—

“(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the United States as

consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources on the relinquished lands;

“(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the United States as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

“(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

“(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

“(5) NO OBLIGATION TO LEASE.—Neither the United States nor the State shall be obligated to lease or otherwise develop oil and gas resources in which the other party retains an overriding interest under this section.

“(6) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the State and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation to facilitate the relinquishment and selection of lands to be conveyed under this section, and the administration of the overriding interests reserved hereunder.”.

SA 3527. Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ____ . REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking the paragraph heading and inserting “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “a country that is contiguous with the United States” and inserting “Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, or any other foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking the subparagraph heading and inserting “AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES”; and

(ii) by striking “countries contiguous to the United States” and inserting “Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and any other foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a),” and inserting “who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child who was apprehended on or after October 1, 2013.

SA 3528. Mr. REID (for Mr. COBURN) proposed an amendment to the bill S.

311, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. AGREEMENT; DONATIONS.

The study described in section 3 shall not be conducted until the date on which—

(1) the Secretary enters into an agreement with a State, unit of local government, or other entity to conduct the study using non-Federal funds; or

(2) the Secretary receives a donation of an amount of non-Federal funds sufficient to pay the cost of conducting the study.

SA 3529. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

SA 3530. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3529 submitted by Mr. REID and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2014, at 2:20 p.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, “Promoting the Well-Being and Academic Success of College Athletes.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Russia and Developments in Ukraine.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Challenges at the Border: Examining the Causes, Consequences, and the Response to the Rise in Apprehensions at the Southern Border.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would request that floor privileges for the balance of the month be afforded to my interns: Annika Graham, Nathan Sidell, Amber Vernon, Rebecca Carney-Braveman, Samuel Ortiz, Evyn Ysaïs, Marcus Gamble, Diane Murph, Izabella Powers, Sarah Pherson, Kendall Eilo, and Ben Gilman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Briggs Noun and Margaret Chelsvig, interns in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for today’s session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Audrey Mechling, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the energy committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 291 and H.R. 356; that the Senate proceed to their consideration and the consideration of the following calendar number items en bloc: Calendar No. 256, H.R. 255; Calendar No. 226, H.R. 330; Calendar No. 359, H.R. 507; Calendar No. 353, H.R. 697; Calendar No. 361, H.R. 876; Calendar No. 362, H.R. 1158; Calendar No. 399, H.R. 2337; Calendar No. 369, H.R. 3110; Calendar No. 54, S. 247; Calendar No. 57, S. 311; Calendar No. 60, S. 354; Calendar No. 129, S. 363; Calendar No. 118, S. 476; and Calendar No. 120, S. 609.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN CEMETERIES LOCATED ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND

The bill (H.R. 291) to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that

are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RESERVATION IN THE STATE OF UTAH

The bill (H.R. 356) to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled “An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes,” was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

PROVO RIVER PROJECT CLARIFYING ACT

The bill (H.R. 255) to amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT

The bill (H.R. 330) to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE TRUST LAND ACT

The bill (H.R. 507) to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui of Arizona, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

THREE KIDS MINE REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION ACT

The bill (H.R. 697) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, and was read the third time.

IDAHO WILDERNESS WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT

The bill (H.R. 876) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX FISH STOCKING ACT

The bill (H.R. 1158) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

LAKE HILL ADMINISTRATIVE SITE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT

The bill (H.R. 2337) to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

HUNA TLINGIT TRADITIONAL GULL EGG USE ACT

The bill (H.R. 3110) to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 247) to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment; as follows:

[Insert the part printed in *italic*]

S. 247

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act”.

SEC. 2. HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MARYLAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “historical park” means the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park established by subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Authorized Acquisition Area for the Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park”, numbered T20/80,001, and dated July 2010.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Maryland.

(b) HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), there is established the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical

Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, as a unit of the National Park System.

(B) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(C) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the historical park, including an official boundary map for the historical park.

(D) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The official boundary map published under subparagraph (C) shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(3) LAND ACQUISITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the areas depicted on the map as “Authorized Acquisition Areas” by purchase from willing sellers, donation, or exchange.

(B) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—On acquisition of land or an interest in land under subparagraph (A), the boundary of the historical park shall be adjusted to reflect the acquisition.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) the National Park System Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the historical park is established, the Director of the National Park Service and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall enter into an agreement to allow the National Park Service to provide for public interpretation of historic resources located within the boundary of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge that are associated with the life of Harriet Tubman, consistent with the management requirements of the Refuge.

(3) INTERPRETIVE TOURS.—The Secretary may provide interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside the boundary of the historical park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, relating to the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State, political subdivisions of the State, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and individuals—

(i) to mark, interpret, and restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman or the Underground Railroad within the boundaries of the historical park, if the agreement provides for reasonable public access; or

(ii) to conduct research relating to the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(B) VISITOR CENTER.—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the

State to design, construct, operate, and maintain a joint visitor center on land owned by the State—

(i) to provide for National Park Service visitor and interpretive facilities for the historical park; and

(ii) to provide to the Secretary, at no additional cost, sufficient office space to administer the historical park.

(C) COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.—

(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this paragraph may be in the form of in-kind contributions or goods or services fairly valued.

(d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 12(b) of the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a-7(b)).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The general management plan shall be prepared in consultation with the State (including political subdivisions of the State).

(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the preparation and implementation of the management plan with—

(A) the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge;

(B) the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park established by section 3(b)(1)(A); and

(C) the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AUBURN, NEW YORK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HISTORICAL PARK.—The term “historical park” means the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park established by subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) HOME.—The term “Home” means The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., located in Auburn, New York.

(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Harriet Tubman National Historical Park”, numbered T18/80,000, and dated March 2009.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of New York.

(b) HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), there is established the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, as a unit of the National Park System.

(B) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(C) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the historical park.

(D) MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) **BOUNDARY.**—The historical park shall include the Harriet Tubman Home, the Tubman Home for the Aged, the Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church and Rectory, and associated land, as identified in the area entitled “National Historical Park Proposed Boundary” on the map.

(3) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman.

(4) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the areas depicted on the map by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) the National Park System Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) **INTERPRETIVE TOURS.**—The Secretary may provide interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside the boundary of the historical park in Auburn, New York, relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(3) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the owner of any land within the historical park to mark, interpret, or restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman, if the agreement provides that—

(i) the Secretary shall have the right of access to any public portions of the land covered by the agreement to allow for—

(I) access at reasonable times by historical park visitors to the land; and

(II) interpretation of the land for the public; and

(ii) no changes or alterations shall be made to the land except by mutual agreement of the Secretary and the owner of the land.

(B) **RESEARCH.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State, political subdivisions of the State, institutions of higher education, the Home and other nonprofit organizations, and individuals to conduct research relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(C) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(i) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share may be in the form of in-kind contributions or goods or services fairly valued.

(D) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall submit to the Attorney General for review any cooperative agreement under this paragraph involving religious property or property owned by a religious institution.

(ii) **FINDING.**—No cooperative agreement subject to review under this subparagraph shall take effect until the date on which the Attorney General issues a finding that the proposed agreement does not violate the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution.

(d) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with sec-

tion 12(b) of the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

(2) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall coordinate the preparation and implementation of the management plan with—

(A) the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park established by section 2(b)(1); and

(B) the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, except that not more than \$7,500,000 shall be available to provide financial assistance under subsection (c)(3).

SEC. 4. OFFSET.

Section 101(b)(12) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–303; 110 Stat. 3667) is amended by striking “\$53,852,000” and inserting “\$29,852,000”.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AREA STUDY ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 311) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

[The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics]

S. 311

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lower Mississippi River Area Study Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) **STUDY AREA.**—The term “study area” includes Fort St. Philip, Fort Jackson, the Head of Passes, and any related and supporting historical, cultural, and recreational resources located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the State of Louisiana and other interested organizations, shall complete a special resource study that evaluates—

(1) the national significance of the study area; and

(2) the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) **CRITERIA.**—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System in section 8(c) of National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)).

(c) **CONTENT.**—The study described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) include cost estimates for the potential acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the study area; and

(2) identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the study area.

SEC. 4. DONATIONS.

The Secretary may accept the donation of funds to carry out this Act.

[SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.]

The amendment (No. 3528) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 10 through 12 and insert the following:

SEC. 4. AGREEMENT; DONATIONS.

The study described in section 3 shall not be conducted until the date on which—

(1) the Secretary enters into an agreement with a State, unit of local government, or other entity to conduct the study using non-Federal funds; or

(2) the Secretary receives a donation of an amount of non-Federal funds sufficient to pay the cost of conducting the study.

OREGON CAVES REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2013

The bill (S. 354) to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

GEOHERMAL PRODUCTION EXPANSION ACT OF 2013

The bill (S. 363) to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 476) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

[Insert the part printed in italic]

S. 476

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”) is authorized in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y–4), except that the Commission shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SAN JUAN COUNTY FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 609) to authorize the Secretary

of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in San Juan County, New Mexico, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “San Juan County Federal Land Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 19 acres of [Federal land] *Federal surface estate* generally depicted as “Lands Authorized for Conveyance” on the map.

(2) **LANDOWNER.**—The term “landowner” means the plaintiffs in the case styled *Blancett v. United States Department of the Interior*, et al., No. 10-cv-00254-JAP-KBM, United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “San Juan County Land Conveyance” and dated June 20, 2012.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of New Mexico.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—On request of the landowner, the Secretary shall, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe *and subject to valid existing rights*, convey to the landowner all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the Federal land (including any improvements or appurtenances to the Federal land) by sale.

(b) **SURVEY; ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—

(1) **SURVEY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey approved by the Secretary.

(2) **COSTS.**—The administrative costs associated with the conveyance shall be paid by the landowner.

(c) **CONSIDERATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As consideration for the conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a), the landowner shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the Federal land conveyed, as determined under paragraph (2).

(2) **APPRAISAL.**—The fair market value of any Federal land that is conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by an appraisal acceptable to the Secretary that is performed in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(d) **DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.**—

(1) **DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.**—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of any conveyance of Federal land under subsection (a) in a special account in the Treasury for use in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) **USE OF PROCEEDS.**—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for the acquisition of land or interests in land from willing sellers in the State for resource protection that is consistent with the purposes for which the Bald Eagle Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the State was established.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions for a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) **WITHDRAWAL.**—*Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land is withdrawn from—*

(1) *location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and*

(2) *disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments to S. 247, S. 311, S. 476, and S. 609 be agreed to; the Coburn amendment to S. 311 be agreed to; that the bills be read three times and passed en bloc; and the motions to reconsider be considered made, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bills (H.R. 255, H.R. 291, H.R. 330, H.R. 356, H.R. 507, H.R. 697, H.R. 876, H.R. 1158, H.R. 2337 and H.R. 3110) were passed.

The bills (S. 354 and S. 363) were passed, as follows:

S. 354

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Oregon Caves Revitalization Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve”, numbered 150/80,023, and dated May 2010.

(2) **MONUMENT.**—The term “Monument” means the Oregon Caves National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation Number 876 (36 Stat. 2497), dated July 12, 1909.

(3) **NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE.**—The term “National Monument and Preserve” means the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve designated by section 3(a)(1).

(4) **NATIONAL PRESERVE.**—The term “National Preserve” means the National Preserve designated by section 3(a)(2).

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **SECRETARY CONCERNED.**—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Oregon.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATIONS; LAND TRANSFER; BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **DESIGNATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Monument and the National Preserve shall be administered as a single unit of the National Park System and collectively known and designated as the “Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve”.

(2) **NATIONAL PRESERVE.**—The approximately 4,070 acres of land identified on the map as “Proposed Addition Lands” shall be designated as a National Preserve.

(b) **TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Administrative jurisdiction over the land designated as a National Preserve under subsection (a)(2) is transferred from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary, to be administered as part of the National Monument and Preserve.

(2) **EXCLUSION OF LAND.**—The boundaries of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest are adjusted to exclude the land transferred under paragraph (1).

(c) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—The boundary of the National Monument and Preserve is modified to exclude approximately 4 acres of land—

(1) located in the City of Cave Junction; and

(2) identified on the map as the “Cave Junction Unit”.

(d) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(e) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Monument shall be considered to be a reference to the “Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve”.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the National Monument and Preserve in accordance with—

(1) this Act;

(2) Presidential Proclamation Number 876 (36 Stat. 2497), dated July 12, 1909; and

(3) any law (including regulations) generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

(b) **FIRE MANAGEMENT.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) revise the fire management plan for the Monument to include the land transferred under section 3(b)(1); and

(2) in accordance with the revised plan, carry out hazardous fuel management activities within the boundaries of the National Monument and Preserve.

(c) **EXISTING FOREST SERVICE CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) allow for the completion of any Forest Service stewardship or service contract executed as of the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the National Preserve; and

(B) recognize the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose of administering a contract described in subparagraph (A) through the completion of the contract.

(2) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—All terms and conditions of a contract described in paragraph (1)(A) shall remain in place for the duration of the contract.

(3) **LIABILITY.**—The Forest Service shall be responsible for any liabilities relating to a contract described in paragraph (1)(A).

(d) **GRAZING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may allow the grazing of livestock within the National Preserve to continue as authorized under permits or leases

in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—Grazing under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) at a level not greater than the level at which the grazing exists as of the date of enactment of this Act, as measured in Animal Unit Months; and

(B) in accordance with each applicable law (including National Park Service regulations).

(e) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on land and waters within the National Preserve in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws, except that the Secretary may, in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, designate zones in which, and establish periods during which, no hunting or fishing shall be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance by the Secretary with any applicable law (including regulations).

SEC. 5. VOLUNTARY GRAZING LEASE OR PERMIT DONATION PROGRAM.

(a) DONATION OF LEASE OR PERMIT.—

(1) ACCEPTANCE BY SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The Secretary concerned shall accept a grazing lease or permit that is donated by a lessee or permittee for—

(A) the Big Grayback Grazing Allotment located in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest; and

(B) the Billy Mountain Grazing Allotment located on a parcel of land that is managed by the Secretary (acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management).

(2) TERMINATION.—With respect to each grazing permit or lease donated under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) terminate the grazing permit or lease; and

(B) ensure a permanent end to grazing on the land covered by the grazing permit or lease.

(b) EFFECT OF DONATION.—A lessee or permittee that donates a grazing lease or grazing permit (or a portion of a grazing lease or grazing permit) under this section shall be considered to have waived any claim to any range improvement on the associated grazing allotment or portion of the associated grazing allotment, as applicable.

SEC. 6. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATIONS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(208) RIVER STYX, OREGON.—The subterranean segment of Cave Creek, known as the River Styx, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior as a scenic river.”.

(b) POTENTIAL ADDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(141) OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE, OREGON.—

“(A) CAVE CREEK, OREGON.—The 2.6-mile segment of Cave Creek from the headwaters at the River Styx to the boundary of the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest.

“(B) LAKE CREEK, OREGON.—The 3.6-mile segment of Lake Creek from the headwaters at Bigelow Lakes to the confluence with Cave Creek.

“(C) NO NAME CREEK, OREGON.—The 0.6-mile segment of No Name Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with Cave Creek.

“(D) PANTHER CREEK.—The 0.8-mile segment of Panther Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with Lake Creek.

“(E) UPPER CAVE CREEK.—The segment of Upper Cave Creek from the headwaters to the confluence with River Styx.”.

(2) STUDY; REPORT.—Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(20) OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE, OREGON.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this paragraph, the Secretary shall—

“(A) complete the study of the Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve segments described in subsection (a)(141); and

“(B) submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study.”.

S. 363

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING OF ADJOINING AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ADJOINING LAND.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) FAIR MARKET VALUE PER ACRE.—The term ‘fair market value per acre’ means a dollar amount per acre that—

“(I) except as provided in this clause, shall be equal to the market value per acre (taking into account the determination under subparagraph (B)(iii) regarding a valid discovery on the adjoining land) as determined by the Secretary under regulations issued under this paragraph;

“(II) shall be determined by the Secretary with respect to a lease under this paragraph, by not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives an application for the lease; and

“(III) shall be not less than the greater of—

“(aa) 4 times the median amount paid per acre for all land leased under this Act during the preceding year; or

“(bb) \$50.

“(ii) INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The term ‘industry standards’ means the standards by which a qualified geothermal professional assesses whether downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability are sufficient to produce energy from geothermal resources, as determined through flow or injection testing or measurement of lost circulation while drilling.

“(iii) QUALIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘qualified Federal land’ means land that is otherwise available for leasing under this Act.

“(iv) QUALIFIED GEOTHERMAL PROFESSIONAL.—The term ‘qualified geothermal professional’ means an individual who is an engineer or geoscientist in good professional standing with at least 5 years of experience in geothermal exploration, development, or project assessment.

“(v) QUALIFIED LESSEE.—The term ‘qualified lessee’ means a person that may hold a geothermal lease under this Act (including applicable regulations).

“(vi) VALID DISCOVERY.—The term ‘valid discovery’ means a discovery of a geothermal resource by a new or existing slim hole or production well, that exhibits downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability that are sufficient to meet industry standards.

“(B) AUTHORITY.—An area of qualified Federal land that adjoins other land for which a qualified lessee holds a legal right to develop

geothermal resources may be available for a noncompetitive lease under this section to the qualified lessee at the fair market value per acre, if—

“(i) the area of qualified Federal land—

“(I) consists of not less than 1 acre and not more than 640 acres; and

“(II) is not already leased under this Act or nominated to be leased under subsection (a);

“(ii) the qualified lessee has not previously received a noncompetitive lease under this paragraph in connection with the valid discovery for which data has been submitted under clause (iii)(I); and

“(iii) sufficient geological and other technical data prepared by a qualified geothermal professional has been submitted by the qualified lessee to the applicable Federal land management agency that would lead individuals who are experienced in the subject matter to believe that—

“(I) there is a valid discovery of geothermal resources on the land for which the qualified lessee holds the legal right to develop geothermal resources; and

“(II) that thermal feature extends into the adjoining areas.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) publish a notice of any request to lease land under this paragraph;

“(II) determine fair market value for purposes of this paragraph in accordance with procedures for making those determinations that are established by regulations issued by the Secretary;

“(III) provide to a qualified lessee and publish, with an opportunity for public comment for a period of 30 days, any proposed determination under this subparagraph of the fair market value of an area that the qualified lessee seeks to lease under this paragraph; and

“(IV) provide to the qualified lessee and any adversely affected party the opportunity to appeal the final determination of fair market value in an administrative proceeding before the applicable Federal land management agency, in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

“(ii) LIMITATION ON NOMINATION.—After publication of a notice of request to lease land under this paragraph, the Secretary may not accept under subsection (a) any nomination of the land for leasing unless the request has been denied or withdrawn.

“(iii) ANNUAL RENTAL.—For purposes of section 5(a)(3), a lease awarded under this paragraph shall be considered a lease awarded in a competitive lease sale.

“(D) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Geothermal Production Expansion Act of 2013, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this paragraph.”.

The bills (S. 247, S. 311, S. 476 and S. 609, as amended, were ordered to be engrossed for the third reading, were read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 247

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act”.

SEC. 2. HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MARYLAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) **HISTORICAL PARK.**—The term “historical park” means the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park established by subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Authorized Acquisition Area for the Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park”, numbered T20/80,001, and dated July 2010.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Maryland.

(b) **HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), there is established the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, as a unit of the National Park System.

(B) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(C) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the historical park, including an official boundary map for the historical park.

(D) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The official boundary map published under subparagraph (C) shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(3) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the areas depicted on the map as “Authorized Acquisition Areas” by purchase from willing sellers, donation, or exchange.

(B) **BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.**—On acquisition of land or an interest in land under subparagraph (A), the boundary of the historical park shall be adjusted to reflect the acquisition.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) the National Park System Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) **INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the historical park is established, the Director of the National Park Service and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall enter into an agreement to allow the National Park Service to provide for public interpretation of historic resources located within the boundary of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge that are associated with the life of Harriet Tubman, consistent with the management requirements of the Refuge.

(3) **INTERPRETIVE TOURS.**—The Secretary may provide interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside the boundary of the historical park in Caroline, Dorchester,

and Talbot Counties, Maryland, relating to the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(4) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State, political subdivisions of the State, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and individuals—

(i) to mark, interpret, and restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman or the Underground Railroad within the boundaries of the historical park, if the agreement provides for reasonable public access; or

(ii) to conduct research relating to the life of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

(B) **VISITOR CENTER.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State to design, construct, operate, and maintain a joint visitor center on land owned by the State—

(i) to provide for National Park Service visitor and interpretive facilities for the historical park; and

(ii) to provide to the Secretary, at no additional cost, sufficient office space to administer the historical park.

(C) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(i) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this paragraph may be in the form of in-kind contributions or goods or services fairly valued.

(d) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 12(b) of the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a–7(b)).

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The general management plan shall be prepared in consultation with the State (including political subdivisions of the State).

(3) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall coordinate the preparation and implementation of the management plan with—

(A) the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge;

(B) the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park established by section 3(b)(1)(A); and

(C) the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AUBURN, NEW YORK.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HISTORICAL PARK.**—The term “historical park” means the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park established by subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) **HOME.**—The term “Home” means The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc., located in Auburn, New York.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Harriet Tubman National Historical Park”, numbered T18/80,000, and dated March 2009.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of New York.

(b) **HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), there is established the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, as a unit of the National Park System.

(B) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(C) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the historical park.

(D) **MAP.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(2) **BOUNDARY.**—The historical park shall include the Harriet Tubman Home, the Tubman Home for the Aged, the Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church and Rectory, and associated land, as identified in the area entitled “National Historical Park Proposed Boundary” on the map.

(3) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the historical park is to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of Harriet Tubman.

(4) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—The Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the areas depicted on the map by purchase from a willing seller, donation, or exchange.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this section and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(A) the National Park System Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); and

(B) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(2) **INTERPRETIVE TOURS.**—The Secretary may provide interpretive tours to sites and resources located outside the boundary of the historical park in Auburn, New York, relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(3) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the owner of any land within the historical park to mark, interpret, or restore nationally significant historic or cultural resources relating to the life of Harriet Tubman, if the agreement provides that—

(i) the Secretary shall have the right of access to any public portions of the land covered by the agreement to allow for—

(I) access at reasonable times by historical park visitors to the land; and

(II) interpretation of the land for the public; and

(ii) no changes or alterations shall be made to the land except by mutual agreement of the Secretary and the owner of the land.

(B) **RESEARCH.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State, political subdivisions of the State, institutions of higher education, the Home and other nonprofit organizations, and individuals to conduct research relating to the life of Harriet Tubman.

(C) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—

(i) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall not exceed 50 percent.

(ii) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share may be in the form of in-kind contributions or goods or services fairly valued.

(D) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Attorney General for review any cooperative agreement under this paragraph involving religious property or property owned by a religious institution.

(ii) FINDING.—No cooperative agreement subject to review under this subparagraph shall take effect until the date on which the Attorney General issues a finding that the proposed agreement does not violate the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution.

(d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 12(b) of the National Park Service General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a-7(b)).

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the preparation and implementation of the management plan with—

(A) the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park established by section 2(b)(1); and

(B) the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, except that not more than \$7,500,000 shall be available to provide financial assistance under subsection (c)(3).

SEC. 4. OFFSET.

Section 101(b)(12) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303; 110 Stat. 3667) is amended by striking “\$53,852,000” and inserting “\$29,852,000”.

S. 311

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Lower Mississippi River Area Study Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area” includes Fort St. Philip, Fort Jackson, the Head of Passes, and any related and supporting historical, cultural, and recreational resources located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the State of Louisiana and other interested organizations, shall complete a special resource study that evaluates—

(1) the national significance of the study area; and

(2) the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) CRITERIA.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall use the criteria for the study of areas for potential inclusion in the National Park System in section 8(c) of National Park System General Authorities Act (16 U.S.C. 1a-5(c)).

(c) CONTENT.—The study described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) include cost estimates for the potential acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of the study area; and

(2) identify alternatives for the management, administration, and protection of the study area.

SEC. 4. AGREEMENT; DONATIONS.

The study described in section 3 shall not be conducted until the date on which—

(1) the Secretary enters into an agreement with a State, unit of local government, or other entity to conduct the study using non-Federal funds; or

(2) the Secretary receives a donation of an amount of non-Federal funds sufficient to pay the cost of conducting the study.

S. 476

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”) is authorized in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-4), except that the Commission shall terminate 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

S. 609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “San Juan County Federal Land Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 19 acres of Federal surface estate generally depicted as “Lands Authorized for Conveyance” on the map.

(2) LANDOWNER.—The term “landowner” means the plaintiffs in the case styled *Blancett v. United States Department of the Interior*, et al., No. 10-cv-00254-JAP-KBM, United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.

(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “San Juan County Land Conveyance” and dated June 20, 2012.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of New Mexico.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On request of the landowner, the Secretary shall, under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe and subject to valid existing rights, convey to the landowner all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any portion of the Federal land (including any improvements or appurtenances to the Federal land) by sale.

(b) SURVEY; ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

(1) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey approved by the Secretary.

(2) COSTS.—The administrative costs associated with the conveyance shall be paid by the landowner.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a), the landowner shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the Federal land conveyed, as determined under paragraph (2).

(2) APPRAISAL.—The fair market value of any Federal land that is conveyed under sub-

section (a) shall be determined by an appraisal acceptable to the Secretary that is performed in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(C) any other applicable law (including regulations).

(d) DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall deposit the proceeds of any conveyance of Federal land under subsection (a) in a special account in the Treasury for use in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for the acquisition of land or interests in land from willing sellers in the State for resource protection that is consistent with the purposes for which the Bald Eagle Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the State was established.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions for a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal land is withdrawn from—

(1) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(2) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM H. GOURLEY VA-DOD OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 272.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 272) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the “Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 272) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DR. CAMERON MCKINLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS CENTER

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1216) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1216) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2014, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 417.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 417) designating October 30, 2014, as national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 417) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, April 8, 2014, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this a very important piece of legislation. Most of the nuclear weapons program workers are in Nevada, at the Nevada test site. At one time we had 12,000 people working there on a weapons program and many of them got sick because we didn't know the dangers of nuclear weapons. We had many of them sitting above ground and soldiers and workers would be out there with stuff floating around. People can drive out there, if they can get through all the security checkpoints, but they have bleachers still there that were set up to watch the nuclear weapons go off. Then we had about 1,000 nuclear devices at the Nevada test site that were detonated above ground, in tunnels, in shafts. So

there truly does need to be a day of remembrance, and I congratulate those Senators who have moved this forward.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF CHARLES "CHUCK" NOLL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 497.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 497) honoring the life and career of Charles "Chuck" Noll.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 497) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2578 AND S. 2579

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2578) to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

A bill (S. 2579) to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading on these two bills but object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had a conversation with the Republican leader

on Monday, and we went over the things we have to do this work period. We have a lot to do. One of the things we are trying to do—because we have so much going on around the country; namely, in our States—is we want to try to balance what we do and, frankly, we have some people running for office. But we have made great progress this week so far. We have been able to reach agreement on a number of things that we believe are important.

So having said that—and I have gone over what we are going to do in the next few days—I think it would be appropriate to announce to everyone that we are going to not have any votes on Monday. We have work we are going to have to do here Monday, but we are not going to have any votes. I think it is important Senators know that. We were planning on having a number of votes on Monday. I think that is not necessary now.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:00 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as provided under the previous order; finally, that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to S. 2363 be at 10:30 a.m. and the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be at 11:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we hope to reach agreement to have the cloture vote around noon tomorrow on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. Under a previous order, there will be a rollcall vote at 2 p.m. There will be a couple of voice votes after that.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 10, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JESS LIPPINCOTT BAILY, OF OHIO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

JUDITH BETH CEFKIN, OF COLORADO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

ROBERT FRANCIS CEKUTA, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

STAFFORD FITZGERALD HANEY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ELIZABETH SHERWOOD-RANDALL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE DANIEL B. PONEMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

MARGARET ANN UYEHARA, OF OHIO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MONTENEGRO.

JAMES PETER ZUMWALT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 9, 2014:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DARCI L. VETTER, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

WILLIAM D. ADAMS, OF MAINE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JULIAN CASTRO, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 9, 2014 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE KRISTINA M. JOHNSON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 6, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF WWII SAILOR ALBERT MARTIN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor the life and sacrifice of a World War II sailor, Petty Officer Second Class (PO2) Albert Martin, of Morris Creek, Kentucky.

During World War II, PO2 Albert Martin served as a member of the United States Navy and was assigned to the USS *Indianapolis*. On July 30, 1945, while sailing in the Philippine Sea, multiple torpedoes fired from a Japanese submarine struck the USS *Indianapolis*. This caused catastrophic damage to the hull of the U.S. naval vessel, which resulted in its rapid sinking.

Sadly, PO2 Martin was among the roughly 800 officers and sailors that day who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and perished while defending freedom. At the time of his passing, PO2 Martin was survived by his wife, Ruth Faulkner, and their three children, C.B., Danny, and Carol Jean.

PO2 Martin served this nation proudly, answering the call of duty in order to defend liberty and prevent the Axis Powers threat from arriving on our shores.

Because of PO2 Martin's sacrifice and that of his fellow men and women in uniform, our American freedoms have been protected for many generations. He was truly an outstanding American and endures as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING GUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gustine High School in celebration of its 100th anniversary. Gustine is a small, rural community located in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley. For ten decades, the teachers and faculty at Gustine High School have enriched the lives of thousands of students. Many graduates have found success in careers in various fields.

In 1912, due to the growing population and inefficient school system, The Gustine Chamber of Commerce petitioned to have a high school established in Gustine. While the population in the area was small, demand for a more accessible high school was high. On July 26, 1913, the elementary schools in Gustine, Enterprise, Occidental, Cottonwood, Canal, Romero, and Ingomar voted to form a school district and build Gustine High School.

A small building was erected on Main Street, and Gustine High School officially opened on September 8, 1913. During that first school year, there were twenty students and two teachers, with C.R. Perrier serving as Principal. In the next month, a basketball team was formed and their first game was lost to Newman High School, thus beginning a great rivalry between the two schools.

The new high school was a success, and on March 14, 1914, a bond was passed to allow for further construction to expand. By 1916, the school was completed with new buildings, a gym and its first graduating class of two, Rosalie Bizzini and Rose Williams. Since the 1920s, agriculture has been a main focus at Gustine High School. In 1922, agricultural and mechanic courses were offered, and the school held its first Stock Show in the spring of 1927. Still, the indoor Stock Show is the oldest of its kind in California. In the 1938–1939 school year, Gustine High officially began their participation in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program.

In 1944, an invitational basketball tournament was sponsored by the Gustine 20–30 Club, a service organization dedicated to serving youth. Under sponsorship of the Gustine Rotary Club, this tournament continues today as the longest running invitational basketball tournament operated by a high school in the state of California.

In the past 100 years, Gustine High School has gone through changes. Notably, in 1953, a new gymnasium was built to accommodate the larger number of students and the community's growing interest in basketball. In 1962, the original mission style of the school, designed by Trewhill and Shields, was remodeled in favor of a more modern design. Over the years, Gustine High School has seen thousands of students walk through its halls with a number of those students returning as teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Gustine High School for their 100 years in providing quality education to the students of the San Joaquin Valley. The education that students receive at Gustine Union High School has enhanced many lives and created endless opportunities for achieving success.

BOROUGH OF OGDENSBURG CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to recognize the Borough of Ogdensburg in Sussex County, New Jersey as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

This beautiful community was originally part of Sparta Township until it became its own self-governing community in 1914. Ogdensburg acquired its name from its first settler, Robert Ogden. When the borough first formed, the population was less than 1,000 citizens. Now, Ogdensburg is home to more than 2,000 citizens and stretches across 2.3 square miles of land. New Jersey Monthly magazine ranked Ogdensburg 27th in its 2008 rankings of the "Best Places to Live" in New Jersey.

Ogdensburg provides public education from kindergarten to eighth grade through the Ogdensburg Borough School District. For ninth through twelfth grades, public school students attend Wallkill Valley Regional High School, which also serves students from neighboring boroughs.

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes multiple locations in Ogdensburg. The Ogdensburg Railroad Arch, also known as the "Backwards Tunnel," was built in 1871 on Cork Hill Road. Its beauty is only matched by its historic value. The double arch tunnels extend over half an acre and were designed by architect Justin Arnold. The tunnel was nicknamed the "Backwards Tunnel" because it was thought that the tunnel should have been wider over the road than over the river.

Another recognized site in Ogdensburg is the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. This historic zinc mine provided minerals and jobs to the people of the region until it officially closed in 1986. It now serves as a reminder of Ogdensburg's history and prosperity and as a destination for tourists.

The people of Ogdensburg are equally as notable as its sites. Some of the residents go above and beyond the call of public service. Among them was Joseph "Muzzie" Masar, a recently deceased decorated World War II veteran, who will be remembered by the people of Ogdensburg as a dedicated member of the community. He worked as an Ordinance Engineer at Picatinny Arsenal, was a founding member of the Ogdensburg First Aid Squad, and served as a member of the Ogdensburg town council. Mr. Masar was also a member of the VFW Post 10152–Ogdensburg and a proud firefighter for the Ogdensburg Volunteer Fire Department. Residents such as Joseph Masar exemplify the truly proud and civic-minded people of the borough.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Borough of Ogdensburg as it celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING THE WAPAHANI HIGH
SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of the Wapahani High School boys baseball team.

The Wapahani baseball team recently made school history by capturing its first ever baseball state championship. The Raiders won the Indiana Class 2A State Baseball Championship 2-0 over Evansville Mater Dei at Victory Field in Indianapolis. This victory is Wapahani High School's fourth state championship. The state championship victory marked the team's 17th straight win. They finished the season with a record of 30-4.

I want to congratulate this team for performing with extraordinary dedication and teamwork for the entirety of their season and throughout the State Championship. I also want to commend the team for representing themselves with class throughout the season, the tournament, and the remainder of the year.

Congratulations on the achievement go to team members Drew Brant, Zack Thompson, Luke Snider, Bret Lawson, Talon Craycraft, Kyzer York, Collin Hoots, Jacob Walters, Grant Thompson, Hunter Stanley, Taylor McKee, Austin White, Jourdan Hill, Hayden Castor, Austin Martin, Jared Coats, and Alex Summers. In addition, senior team member Collin Hoots was named the winner of the L.V. Phillips Mental Attitude Award for Class 2A Boys Baseball for his demonstrated excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability.

For the continued leadership of this championship team, congratulations and accolades go to the head coach, Brian Dudley, who led the team through their most successful season yet.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Wapahani High School varsity baseball team for their dedication, execution, and excellence this season.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 8, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 369 and No. 370.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed two votes on July 8.

Had I been present, on rollcall No. 369, H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014 I would have voted "aye." On rollcall No. 370, H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act I would have voted "aye."

IN HONOR OF MR. TIMOTHY J.
ELVERMAN**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this occasion to honor Mr. Timothy J. Elverman as he celebrates 40 years of achievement. It is truly an honor for me to pay homage to someone who has contributed so much to Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.

I have known Tim Elverman for over 30 years, well before I began my legislative career in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Mr. Elverman is a graduate of Marquette University Law School.

Tim has enjoyed an illustrious and diverse career. After law school his first job was Director of the Student Legal Assistance Center at Bemidji State University in Minnesota. He returned to Wisconsin to serve as Home Secretary/Ombudsman for Congressman Les Aspin in his Janesville office.

After leaving public service, Tim was the Wisconsin Director of Government Relations at Bank One Corporation (now JPMorgan Chase & Co.) for 14 years. While at Bank One, Tim was also responsible for the bank's Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) compliance, and was on the bank's foundation board. While serving in that capacity, Tim was actively involved in a variety of organizations in the community including Chairman of the following organizations: New Opportunities for Home Ownership in Milwaukee (NOHIM) lenders' consortium, the Board for the 16th Street Community Health Center, and the Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council. He also served on the advisory board for the Local Initiatives Support Corporations (LISC) and on the advisory board for the Mid-Town Credit Union which I established as a Vista volunteer.

Tim Elverman joined Broydrick & Associates and later Hubbard Wilson & Zelenkova as Senior Counsel. He is now retiring from Hubbard Wilson & Zelenkova, after a long and productive career.

Tim Elverman is a strong example of leadership and excellence for the Milwaukee community. He is a Milwaukee and Wisconsin treasure. I value his service and I am proud to call him friend. Timothy J. Elverman, thank you for your service to the 4th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN S.
TUFTS**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize the life and legacy of an inspirational woman, Ms. Karen Tufts. Ms. Tufts passed away in Lexington, Kentucky on April 6, 2014 at the age of 80 but still lives inside the hearts of the many individuals she touched.

Ms. Tufts dedicated her life to helping others. As a Military Sexual Assault Therapist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, Ms. Tufts treated numerous survivors of military sexual trauma (MST). Even after retirement, Ms. Tufts continued to follow her passion to help survivors of MST by opening up her home to counsel men and women known affectionately as "Karen's Survivors."

It was these survivors' stories about the positive impact her care had on their lives that led me to introduce H.R. 3775, the Karen Tufts Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment Act, also known as the Karen Tufts Military SAVE Act. This legislation follows the example set by Ms. Tufts, which would empower survivors of military sexual trauma to select their own care providers and provide the support these brave service members have earned.

While we grieve the loss of this great American, we also honor her life and her devotion to helping others by continuing the important work of supporting survivors of MST.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAIRMAN
ASHOK KUMAR MAGO**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chairman Ashok Kumar Mago receiving the Padma Shri Award and to congratulate him on this honor.

As Chairman and CEO of Mago and Associates and Founder of the Greater Dallas Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, Chairman Mago's accomplishments are outstanding and he is truly deserving of this prestigious award. By focusing on networking, expanding business opportunities, and fostering trade between our two nations, the chamber has grown into an influential organization in Texas. I want to commend Chairman Mago on his leadership and dedication to the chamber and giving the local Indian community a united voice. His belief in giving back to his community is admirable and evident in his actions, such as raising hundreds and thousands of dollars for charities and generously devoting his time to serve in numerous civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Chairman

Ashok Kumar Mago as he continues to encourage trade and business relations between the United States and India.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
RANGER THOMAS E. COWPER

HON. SUZAN K. DeIBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ranger Thomas E. Cowper, who recently retired from the Snohomish County Department of Parks and Recreation after 25 years of service.

In 1989, Thomas began his career in Snohomish County as the first Off-Road Vehicle Coordinator and then became a Park Ranger in 1991. Working at Flowing Lake Park for many years, he ensured quality camping, boating, fishing and picnicking for Washington families and enhanced the recreational opportunities in many parks for the entire community.

Throughout his career, Ranger Cowper spread his passion for nature to those around him. As a park ranger, he guided children in nature interpretation through live birds of prey programs and he mentored hundreds of Boy Scouts in their Eagle Scout service projects.

Through his commitment to educational programs in the community, Ranger Cowper has encouraged good stewardship of our public lands and the creatures that inhabit them. His enthusiasm and dedication to protecting, improving and sharing the nature of Snohomish County has enriched the lives of its residents.

I want to thank Ranger Thomas Cowper for his commitment to serving the people of Snohomish County and offer my congratulations on his retirement. I wish him the best on his next endeavors in the community and beyond.

HONORING MRS. CARMELA TRIPPI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Carmela Trippi who will be celebrating her 105th birthday on July 1, 2014. Throughout the last century, Mrs. Trippi's unwavering service has left and continues to leave an indelible imprint on our community and on her family.

Carmela has bore witness to some of the most dramatic events in our nation's history—including two World Wars, the Great Depression, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, the Civil Rights Movement, conflicts in the Middle East, and both waves of the Women's Rights Movement. However, she did not sit idly by.

Mrs. Trippi has participated in politics and government for nearly eight decades, serving as a Democratic Committee woman and clerk to the Hon. Henry Nowak. She is a past president of the Greater Women's Democratic Club and is a current member of the Delaware Club and the Frontier Democratic Club. At age 104,

she continues to be active on campaign trails of local elected officials.

The family life of Carmela proves to be inspirational as well. A lifelong Buffalo resident, she is a proud and prolific matriarch with four children, fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Thus far, Carmela has led a remarkable life and shows no sign of stopping.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few minutes to recognize Mrs. Carmela Trippi. The unbridled generosity and energetic spirit of this great woman exemplify truly meaningful public service and commitment. Mrs. Trippi's accomplishments in community service, family life, government, and politics through many unfathomably difficult years show that she is a leader and trailblazer for all.

H.R. 4412, THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2014, I proudly voted in favor of H.R. 4412, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Authorization Act of 2014, which passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 401 to 2. NASA is an investment in our nation's future. Investments in the space program will energize, engage, and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, educators, and the public.

NASA helps propel our nation's economy and technological edge by creating thousands of high-tech jobs in the aerospace industry, at research laboratories, and in universities, and will help strengthen the U.S. aerospace industrial base. Space exploration stimulates the best and brightest with cutting-edge scientific and technical challenges that will make our nation stronger and more competitive. For example, NASA research on advanced electronics and micro-chips helped create the Silicon Valley that provides the innovation and economic growth that benefits our nation today.

But NASA is much more than a jobs program. NASA's science programs aim to answer fundamental questions about the nature and fate of the Universe, the origins of the planets and solar system, the lifecycle of stars, and will help us answer basic human questions, such as whether life has existed elsewhere, perhaps on Mars or maybe Jupiter's moon Europa.

I'm supportive of NASA's planetary science program and the great work done by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), located in my Congressional district, in Pasadena, California. JPL has led the world in planetary science missions, including the Mars rovers, missions to Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus, among many others. The planetary science program is a unique symbol of our country's technological leadership, pioneering spirit, and our optimism for the future. It demonstrates that we are a bold and curious nation interested in discov-

ering and exploring the richness of worlds beyond our own. A vibrant space program is the hallmark of a great nation.

I also support Section 321 in the bill, which calls on NASA to follow the recommendations from the National Academy of Science's report on planetary exploration. Section 321 specifies regular opportunities for small, medium and large missions consistent with the report, and establishes a goal to launch a mission to Jupiter's moon Europa by 2021.

NASA's planetary science program is a crown jewel of our nation. I support these pursuits and investments because they inspire the public and the next generation of scientists and engineers that our nation needs.

I urge my colleagues, and the Administration, to continue to robustly support NASA's cutting edge missions, engineering, and technology.

HONORING MRS. MARY MCHUGH

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary McHugh for the forty-nine years she spent educating and improving the lives of children in Illinois. Mary's dedication and involvement in our community serves as an example towards which all of us can strive. She mentored countless student teachers towards excellence. She assured and convinced hundreds of underprivileged children to set their sights higher and pursue their dreams. It is my pleasure to celebrate her many years of service as an educator. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding educator.

Mary has selflessly dedicated her life to her community. She began teaching in Goreville, IL in 1952, and over the years to follow she taught in Vienna, IL and Corpus Christi, TX. On August 14, 1957, Mary was approved as a teacher in Belleville Public Schools District #118, and from 1958 to 2001 she taught at Franklin Elementary School.

During her forty-three years teaching at Franklin Elementary School in Belleville, Mary pioneered practices that broadened horizons for countless underprivileged children. She cofounded the practice of inviting recent college graduates back to Franklin Elementary School, clad in caps and gowns, to show elementary school students that they can dream big. She started the ongoing tradition of having teachers visit all Franklin Elementary families to welcome students for the new school year. The afterschool tutoring and "Saturday School" programs she cofounded provided students with the chance to achieve their potential. Her work establishing the District Spelling Bee, Young Authors Conference and District Science Fair helped teach students the joys of learning. She played an instrumental role in creating the Franklin Neighborhood Community Association, which transformed a high-crime neighborhood into a safe and supportive place to live and go to school. The impact she had on the children whose lives she touched is immeasurable.

Mary's record of service extends beyond her life as a teacher and her deep involvement in the Belleville community deserves commendation. She served as a Belleville Township Trustee and a Charter member and officer of the City of Belleville Human Relations Commission. She has been involved in the St. Clair County Historical Society, the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce, the Optimist Club and the Homeless Initiative Committee. She cofounded the Belleville Achieves Strength in Character (BASIC) initiative and the annual Storytelling Festival in Belleville. The many awards and honors that have been bestowed upon her over the years include the Belleville District 118 Bill Porzukowiak Character Award, the St. Louis Metropolitan Urban League Community Service Recipient of the Year, the Racial Harmony Community Service Award, the St. Clair County Lawyers Liberty Bell Award, and the 1983 Illinois Master Teacher Award.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, I am pleased to honor Mrs. Mary McHugh and the remarkable services she has given to our nation and the state of Illinois. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful woman who has repeatedly proven that "we CAN do this!"

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF MORRIS COUNTY CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension during the centennial year of the Smith-Lever Act.

On May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, creating the Cooperative Extension. The Smith-Lever Act established a partnership among federal, state, and county governments, as well as the United States Department of Agriculture and land-grant universities, in order to provide educational opportunities for youths and adults concerning issues of agriculture. A state-by-state network of extension educators brings to the people science-based knowledge and research in areas such as agriculture, sustainability, environment, health, and nutrition.

The Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension uses this science-based knowledge and education to help New Jersey residents improve their lives and communities. The Cooperative Extension provides several programs for both young people and adults in areas such as healthy lifestyles, food safety and nutrition, environment and natural resources, and economic growth and agricultural sustainability in Essex, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and other counties in New Jersey.

One of the areas focused on by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension is 4-H Youth Development programs. Through educational outreach, Rutgers faculty and staff along with volunteers, bring their knowledge and expertise to the young people of New Jersey from kindergarten through high school and one year

beyond. Among the 4-H programs are 4-H clubs, overnight camping trips, and afterschool child care education programs.

In addition to 4-H youth development, the Cooperative Extension also delivers assistance, information, and consultation to businesses, residents, and government agencies through the Department of Agricultural and Resource Management Agents. Two of the department's major programs are Rutgers Master Gardner and the Environmental Stewards Program. The Rutgers Master Gardner program accepts volunteers and trains them to help the Cooperative Extension in its efforts to spread information to the public about horticulture. The Environmental Stewards Program trains and educates people so they can contribute in the effort to find solutions to environmental issues facing New Jersey communities.

The Department of Family and Community Health Sciences is another branch of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. Its mission is to promote healthy lifestyles for individuals, families, and groups in New Jersey. Through workshops and other resources, Family and Community Health Sciences bring information about nutrition, exercise, wellness, and family development to those communities that are involved. One major program run by this department is, "Walk Point to Point NJ." Through this, the Cooperative Extension encourages young people and adults in New Jersey to walk, or do other physical activity, that would be the equivalent of traversing the entirety of the state.

Through its many programs and divisions, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, in conjunction with the Cooperative Extension network, provides assistance, research, education, and involvement opportunities for New Jersey residents so that they may be healthier and better informed about agriculture, sustainability, environment, health, and nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension during the centennial year of the Smith-Lever Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TERRY REARDON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. GEORGE MILLER, to pay tribute to the life of Terry Reardon, who passed away on July 1, 2014. Terry led by example as his love and appreciation for life made him a mentor and friend to many.

Terry was born in Oakland, California to John and Marian Reardon. The Reardons were loyal Democrats, and from a young age, Terry was out walking precincts with his parents. His love for politics never wavered as he worked on every Presidential campaign from John F. Kennedy to President Barack Obama. Terry always showed his support of the Democratic party at their National Conventions, and later worked for his family friend, Congressman GEORGE MILLER. Congressman MILLER

will always remember Terry as a wonderful friend who cared about policy and the possibility of creating change.

Terry graduated from California State University, Fresno, and was an active member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity which is where my lifelong friendship with Terry began. He was my confidant, best friend, and honorary brother. He served as my chief of staff for 24 years when I was in the California State Legislature and we continued to participate in political campaigns together until the very end. He worked diligently on legislation relating to comprehensive transportation, water, and housing policy. Terry's service to the State of California deserves to be commended. Every day, he proudly served the residents of our San Joaquin Valley.

When Terry was not working, he was exploring other parts of the world. He had the pleasure of visiting almost every continent. Terry's travels gave him a unique perspective and ability to empathize for others. He was an amazing individual whose kindness, compassion, and generosity were evident to all of those who had the pleasure of knowing and crossing paths with him. He touched the lives of countless individuals including my own.

Terry's strength and resilience were a testament to the life he lived and to the person he was. He lived each day to its fullest, and we can all strive to live life as he did. His sense of humor and vibrant spirit were contagious. He will be greatly missed by his brother, Tim and his wife, Julie; his nephew, Christopher; his niece, Stacey; his former spouse, Linda, and many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. GEORGE MILLER and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the life of our dear friend, Terry Reardon. Terry's presence will undoubtedly be missed, but the contributions he made to make this world a better place will never be forgotten by those who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MONTALVO FAMILY REUNION AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTALVO'S BARBER SHOP

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Montalvo's Barber Shop of Long Branch, New Jersey as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. I would like to join with the Montalvo family, many of whom will be gathered from across the country for the 3rd Family Reunion, in honoring the barber shop for its continued service to the local community.

I would also like to welcome the members of the Montalvo Family to Long Branch, New Jersey for their 2014 Montalvo National Family Committee Family Reunion. I am honored that you have chosen our community and state to be the host of your family's ongoing traditions and continuing legacy.

The theme of the Montalvo 3rd Family Reunion is a fitting tribute to Montalvo's Barber

Shop's 50 years. "A gathering of generations remembering our past, living today, embracing our future" embodies the background and values of the barber shop. Montalvo's Barber Shop has been a mainstay in Long Branch since it opened in 1964, providing countless residents and visitors with outstanding customer service. Throughout its long history, Montalvo's Barber Shop has remained committed to tradition and proper technique.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Montalvo's Barber Shop. The Montalvos' hard work and dedication to quality services are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,588,757,555,596.18. We've added \$6,961,880,506,683.10 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM AT BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the work that Buffalo State has done to enhance and facilitate education in Buffalo. They have done this through the creation of the Buffalo State Challenge. This initiative was first implemented in the fall of 2010 and will now usher in its first graduating seniors in 2014.

This program enlists students in their freshman year from McKinley High School of the Buffalo Public Schools and Oracle Charter School, and serves them throughout their four years of high school. Buffalo State has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to the community through its efforts to stem the rising tide of high school drop outs.

The "Challenge" program not only seeks to aid students within the community during high school, but aims to set these students up to take advantage of their potential through higher education. Students participating in this program who graduate with an 85 or higher average and have combined SAT scores of 1000 or higher in reading and math are awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Buffalo State.

Education is the key to success, and Buffalo State has acknowledged its understanding of this concept through the "Challenge" program.

Given the means to succeed, students will succeed and Buffalo State is giving students the means to accomplish this. These achievements make me proud to honor my alma mater for its involvement in working towards making higher education a realistic possibility for so many students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Buffalo State's efforts to help make higher education more accessible to many students within the local community and also the outstanding accomplishments of the participants of the Buffalo State Challenge. I am grateful that there are institutions like Buffalo State working so hard to help improve the area that I represent.

RECOGNIZING THE 377TH AIR BASE WING AT KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 377th Air Base Wing located at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico for their continued dedication to our nation's security.

From May 28, 2014 to June 6, 2014, the Air Force Material Command and Defense Threat Reduction Agency Inspector General teams visited Kirtland AFB to evaluate the 377th Air Base Wing's ability to manage nuclear deterrence and global strike resources while complying with strict nuclear surety standards.

Nuclear surety inspections are extremely detailed and demand the highest standards of performance, compliance and accountability. The IG teams methodically evaluated numerous scenarios, special interest items and conducted a formal assessment across the 377th Air Base Wing during their Nuclear Surety Inspection.

Not only did the 377th Air Base Wing complete this demanding inspection successfully, but they received the highest nuclear surety inspection rating possible. The inspectors found that the Airmen of the 377th Air Base Wing demonstrated their ability to ensure the safety, security and reliability of our nation's strategic deterrence capability, all while maintaining extremely high motivation, professionalism, and proficiency throughout the rigorous inspection process.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate the Airmen of the 377th Air Base Wing not just for their stellar completion of this demanding inspection, but more importantly, for the great work they do every day to deter our adversaries, assure our allies and protect the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WINNAKEE LAND TRUST

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Winnakee Land Trust, an or-

ganization dedicated to preserving the beautiful history and nature of northern Dutchess County, New York. This Saturday, July 12, the Winnakee Land Trust will be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, marking a tremendous achievement in land conservation and care for New York's natural resources.

Founded in 1989, the Winnakee Land Trust was born out of the desire of local Dutchess County residents to protect open spaces and agriculture. The name "Winnakee", meaning "good land," comes from the name of a Native American tribe that roamed Dutchess County. In 2011, Winnakee earned accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization with high standards for membership.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and as an Upstate New Yorker, I am honored to have the privilege of recognizing this great organization. The Winnakee Land Trust has worked hard to engage our community all over the region and build relationships with stakeholders in the towns and villages of Clinton, Hyde Park, Milan, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, and Tivoli, among others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Winnakee again on twenty-five years of excellence. I look forward to attending their anniversary gala this Saturday, July 12. I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate, and all Americans, to look to their example as a beacon of historic land conservation in our great nation.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS STUART E. EDGAR POST 493 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Veterans of Foreign Wars Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 Women's Auxiliary located in the Township of Nutley, Essex County, New Jersey as it celebrates its 90th anniversary.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a national organization, established in 1899, that supports and honors veterans and their families across the United States. Throughout the organization's history, the VFW has played a large role serving American veterans, including its strong support for the establishment of the Veterans Administration, creation of the National Cemetery system, and the passage of legislation for veterans, such as the G.I. Bill for the Twenty-First Century. In 1996, the VFW launched Operation Uplink, a program that allows deployed service members to call home, free of charge, on three designated days each month.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was established in 1924 and brings together the mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of veterans in order to celebrate those who have served in the military. In 2010, the Post 493 Women's Auxiliary found itself in serious financial trouble. However, through the dedication of its members, coupled with help from local community, the Auxiliary was able to raise the funds to allow the

organization to continue and flourish. Today, VFW Post 493 and the Women's Auxiliary continue to bring together about 100 men and women from the Township of Nutley, as well as the Township of Belleville.

In addition to advancing the broader mission and goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 493 and the Women's Auxiliary carry out a number of duties throughout the year. These duties include marching in local parades as well as performing services at war memorials on holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also hold events to raise funds for scholarships, services for veterans, and other goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 2010, through the Adopt-A-Unit program, Post 493 sent packages of goods to two Army units—the Second Battalion, 113th Infantry of Newark and First Battalion, 102nd Cavalry of West Orange. Twice a year, members host parties and serve dinner to patients at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey.

The Auxiliary's efforts and contributions have made an enormous impact on the community, local veterans, their families, and the VFW at large.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Veterans of Foreign Wars Stuart E. Edgar Post 493 Women's Auxiliary as it celebrates its 90th anniversary.

HONORING DR. JOHN HAEGER ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM NORTH-
ERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and extraordinary educator in my community of Flagstaff, Arizona, Dr. John Haeger, who is retiring after 13 years as president of Northern Arizona University (NAU).

NAU is one of the great universities in my state and, with Dr. Haeger's vision and commitment, has become one of the best universities in the country.

Collaborations and partnerships were a hallmark of President Haeger's leadership and legacy. His pursuit of creative funding solutions in the face of increasing enrollment and budget constraints contributed to the university's reputation and educational mission, provided alternative revenue sources and created efficiencies at every level. New ventures with public and private entities—such as TGen North, the High Country Conference Center and the Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) transportation spine that has become central to the growth of NAU—also played a role in the university keeping up with growth.

The physical transformation of NAU—both in Flagstaff and throughout the state—is a defining aspect of President Haeger's legacy. Under his watch, dozens of new buildings have been added or renovated, the result of careful and deliberate planning and a demonstrated commitment to sustainability during

economically challenging times. They include the new W.A. Franke College of Business and Engineering School, nearly a dozen new services including an expanded University Union, a Native American Cultural Center, new transportation options through NAIPTA and new parking structures, expanded opportunities statewide for NAU students with campuses in North Valley, Tucson, Yavapai and others and new residence halls to accommodate the phenomenal growth of the university.

His commitment to affordability and accessibility is intrinsically linked to NAU's mission. In 2008, President Haeger initiated the tuition pledge guaranteeing the same tuition rate for each incoming undergraduate student for four years. It's a promise of predictability that has become not only a motivating factor for choosing NAU but that also serves as an incentive for students to complete their degree in four years.

His charge has been largely devoted to fundamentally changing the way college-bound students gain access to higher education. Some of the university's most pioneering alternatives to the traditional four-year college experience also have emerged under his watch. The cost-saving model at NAU—Yavapai garnered the attention of Governor Jan Brewer, who called it "visionary" and "an example for the entire state and the nation." The award-winning 2NAU joint admission program with community colleges across the state has won a statewide award for helping students earn college degrees. Students save money by completing their first two years at the community college tuition rate.

The Personalized Learning program that launched last year is now at the forefront of the emerging competency-based movement.

Under Dr. Haeger's leadership, he helped NAU in the resurgence of athletics by hiring its first vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics. His bold leadership was critical to the effort to re-energize Lumberjack pride and draw more fans to athletic events. Fan support is at an all-time high, and a new athletics branding effort puts the focus on such ideals as strength, pride, heroism, determination and hard work.

In this effort to improve athletics, NAU has impressive standards for its student-athletes: succeed in the classroom, contribute to the community and win. NAU Athletics has twice under Haeger's leadership been honored with the prestigious Big Sky Conference Presidents' Cup, recognizing overall athletic success in competition and in academics.

Finally, from his first days leading the University, President Haeger was committed to diversity, first-generation students and student success. His Student Success Initiative ambitiously implemented a number of programs to increase freshman retention and, ultimately, the percentage of students who complete their degrees. The First-Year Learning Initiative is an extensive effort to boost the effectiveness of first-year courses by creating an environment that supports student effort. One of the greatest strides in this area has been the launch of University College, which brought about curricular change at the first-year level as well as a culture change to provide new students with the framework they need to thrive academically. It's a giant leap in efforts to retain students at a higher level from their

freshman to sophomore years, and from there to help them graduate on time.

The Lumberjack Mathematics Center combines the sophisticated technology with enhanced personal contact from their instructors. Governor Brewer called NAU "a true pioneer of education innovation" and called the center an example of its "steadfast commitment to its students."

A tangible representation of NAU's commitment to serving Arizona tribes, the Native American Cultural Center connects students to their culture and supports them through mentoring and advising. The center also directly supports Native student organizations, recruitment and retention efforts. NAU has earned a welcome place among the best colleges in the nation for Native Americans.

NAU's Center for Military and Veteran Student Center reflects President Haeger's commitment to our veterans and active-duty soldiers. The center has earned recognition for its efforts, including 'Military Times' Best for Vets designation in the Southwest region and a military-friendly designation from 'GI Jobs.' The Veteran Student Center in the business college ranked No. 6 among public business schools, No. 10 overall and is the top business school for military veterans in Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, President Haeger's contribution to NAU is lasting. NAU, and the Flagstaff community, will miss him but we are better for having him. His commitment to education is unheralded, yet his legacy will endure. I'm proud to call you a friend, Dr. Haeger. Thank you for your service to NAU and to providing a bold vision for our future generation of leaders.

COMMEMORATING THE
GROUNDBREAKING OF ZURICH
NORTH AMERICA'S NEW HEAD-
QUARTERS IN SCHAUMBURG, IL

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas; Zurich North America has been headquartered in Illinois since 1912, and in Schaumburg, Illinois since 1980, and insures global corporate, large corporate, middle market, specialties and programs sectors through the individual member companies for over 100 years as one of the first European insurers to enter the United States market; and

Whereas; Zurich is extending its long term partnership with Schaumburg, Illinois and the company's over 30 year presence in the northwest suburbs; and

Whereas, their 2,500 employees in Schaumburg will be moving to the new, state-of-the-art, sustainable and environmentally friendly headquarters facility; and

Whereas; the new 700,000+ square foot facility will cost \$200 million to build and will create up to 700 skilled vertical construction jobs; and,

Whereas; Zurich continues its tradition of supporting its customers and neighbors during moments of tragedy, helping restore and protect business, homes, and families during their hour of need; and

Whereas; Zurich engages with its local communities to support charitable efforts financially and with the time and expertise of their employees;

Now Therefore, be it known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable L. TAMMY DUCKWORTH of the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, hereby recognizes the groundbreaking of Zurich North America's new headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois, and congratulates Zurich for its continual commitment to insuring America's businesses.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I traveled back to my district to survey the damage caused by severe flooding across Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted against H.R. 4899.

This Republican led omnibus bill does nothing to lower gasoline prices for consumers. Instead, this bill will benefit oil and gas companies by easing not only regulations, but weakening environmental review requirements. This is nothing more than a repackaging of bills already voted on by this Congress, and which I voted against. H.R. 4899 once again demonstrates the Republicans' commitment to giveaways to big oil, while families in Minnesota are paying even more at the pumps.

On Wittman's amendment, I would have voted "no."

On Lowenthal's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Capps' amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Deutch's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Blumenauer's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Bishop's amendment, I would have voted "no."

On DeFazio's amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4899, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MRS. JOHN W. WILLIAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the unmatched service of Mrs. John W. Williams, who will be honored at the 15th Pastoral Anniversary of the True Love Disciples of Christ Church for her outstanding con-

tributions to the Eastern Star, New Zion, and Memorial Missionary Baptist Churches. Working to foster the development and education of children, Mrs. Williams began teaching at her local Sunday school at the age of sixteen. Receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Arkansas, she dedicated herself to the tutelage of children by working in the Indianapolis public school system for over a decade.

Mrs. Williams has exhibited unwavering commitment to her family and community, standing alongside her husband throughout his career as a Pastor in the Buffalo community. Demonstrating steadfast fortitude throughout times of adversity, she was a pillar of support for her husband during his battles. Finding comfort and strength in Philippians 4:13 ("I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me") she overcame her own battle with breast cancer in 2011, inspiring her community with her tenacity.

Devoted to her work at the Eastern Star, New Zion, and Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Buffalo, NY above all else, Mrs. Williams has served countless hours working in the parish. Leading workshops to instill Christian values in the community, she has sought to share her passion with others in the ministry, especially the youths. Currently serving as the Supervisor of the Deaconess Board, Director of Christian Education, Office Manager, and Personal Secretary to the Pastor and Youth Director, she involves herself in the many facets of the ministry in order to further their work.

In honor of her accomplishments and dedication, she was nominated in June 2013 for the Leading Ladies Award, given to those in the Christian Community who work to make a difference in their community. On March 16, 2014, she was awarded the First Lady of Faith Award in recognition of her unwavering faith. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for allowing me a few moments to also recognize Mrs. Williams today for her remarkable service in the Buffalo community. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest thanks and admirations to her work and accomplishments.

HONORING GEORGE MUSHRO ON HIS RETIREMENT AS LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP CLERK AND TRUSTEE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Mushro, who has retired as Lockport Township Clerk, a position he held for 21 years after serving for 13 years as a Lockport Township Trustee. Mr. Mushro, a resident of Lockport Township for 56 years, also previously served as chairman of the Will County Democratic Party.

Mr. Mushro was appointed by the Lockport Township Board as a trustee in 1980 and served there until he was elected Clerk in 1993. During his tenure Mr. Mushro helped create a bus service for seniors in Lockport Township after seeing neighboring towns implement similar transportation services. He

also introduced early voting because he was adamant in making it as convenient as possible for people to have a voice and have their vote count.

In 2013 Mr. Mushro was awarded the William Z. Ahrends Award for Clerk of the Year, which is awarded by the township clerks of Illinois. He also served on Lockport's Library Board and was a member of the St. Dennis Men's Club, Old Timers Baseball Association, and the Lockport Moose Lodge. Mr. Mushro now plans to spend more time with his family, especially with his grandchildren, in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating George Mushro, a loyal public servant and an invaluable asset to the people of Lockport Township.

SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMITS

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in supporting H. Res. 588 and would like to thank Chairman ROYCE for moving this Resolution through the Foreign Affairs Committee in such an expedited manner.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Congolese Government put what is becoming with each passing day a definitive halt on intercountry adoptions by suspending their issuance of exit permits.

The DRC's suspension included stopping those adoptions that were finalized leaving families who had gone through the DRC's own procedure for approving an intercountry adoption and who had obtained the necessary legal clearance, paperwork, and travel visas in a heartbreaking situation.

Mr. Speaker, a family in my District has such a finalized case and with each day that this suspension continues, the emotional toll that has already weighed heavily on them since last year grows.

For this family from Wake Forest, North Carolina, there is an added sense of urgency. As is the case with many children who are awaiting their exit permit, their adopted child is in need of immediate medical care—care that is not being received in the DRC. This only further illustrates the need for quick resolution.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 588 sends a straightforward message to the Congolese Government and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, I was unavoidably absent due to a spousal medical emergency. On rollcall vote No. 355, on H. Res. 641, had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 356, on H. Res. 641, had I been

present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 357, on H.R. 6, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 358, on H.R. 6, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 359, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On Thursday, June 26, 2014, I was unavoidably absent due to a spousal medical emergency. On rollcall vote No. 360, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 361, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 362, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 363, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 364, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 365, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall vote No. 366, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 367, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 368, on H.R. 4899, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of a true American hero, Jeremiah Denton.

Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr. was born in Mobile, Alabama, on July 15, 1924. The oldest of three brothers, Denton attended Spring Hill College in Mobile before going on to attend the United States Naval Academy. After graduation, Denton began his 34-year naval career, where he eventually attained the rank of rear admiral.

Mr. Speaker, Jeremiah Denton made countless sacrifices throughout his life and military career, but none is greater than his steadfast courage and heroic efforts during the Vietnam War. After less than a month of service in Southeast Asia, Denton's aircraft was shot down, and he was captured on July 18, 1965.

Denton was held as a prisoner of war over the next seven years and seven months, spending time at various prisons across Vietnam, most notably the Hanoi Hilton. During his imprisonment, Denton was often held in solitary confinement, in dark, rodent infested rooms, where he was subjected to intense torture and starvation. Despite these excruciating conditions, Jeremiah Denton did not break.

In fact, Denton inspired his fellow prisoners to not succumb to the Vietnamese torture, but to stand up to the enemy. That was a trademark of Jeremiah Denton—he never gave up the fight.

In his most memorable moment, Denton blinked the words "torture" in Morse code during a televised propaganda interview. This was the first time Americans and the world learned the extent of torture that American POWs were experiencing. Jeremiah Denton's bold, steadfast courage in the face of constant

torture embodies the American spirit of perseverance against all odds.

Thankfully, Denton would later be released during diplomatic negotiations known as "Operation Homecoming." Upon his return to American soil, Denton proudly declared: "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

Denton went on to receive the Navy Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, three Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and many other military honors.

Later in life, Denton became the first Republican elected to the United States Senate from Alabama since Reconstruction. In the Senate, he worked to combat the spread of communism and strengthen our nation's defense. He was a strong advocate for family values and a voice of reason in the Senate.

After his time in the Senate, Jeremiah Denton maintained a very modest life, offering counsel to others interested in public service, never wavering in his commitment to our great nation.

On May 28, 2014, America lost one of our finest heroes as Jeremiah Denton passed away at the age of 89.

Jeremiah Denton embodies what it means to be a public servant in every sense of the word. When his nation needed him, he always answered the call of duty and stood tall in the face of doubt and despair. He never once wavered in his commitment to serving our country, steadfastly enduring torture by the North Vietnamese.

It is often said that the measure of a man is not what he takes with him when he dies, but rather what he leaves behind. Jeremiah Denton left behind a remarkable example for future generations of what it means to be a great and proud American. He left behind a legacy that can never be filled.

We are proud to claim Jeremiah Denton as a native son of Mobile. I admire him for his passion for service, and I strive to emulate his example.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I honor the life of Senator Jeremiah Denton, not only today, but each and every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 8, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 369 and "yea" on rollcall 370.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF SHELTER HOUSE, INC. AND THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2014 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2014 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several faith groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County's only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. By partnering with Falls Church Presbyterian Church, Shelter House added permanent housing to its portfolio at the Ives House. Construction of additional permanent housing began earlier this year.

The programs operated by Shelter House have contributed greatly to breaking the cycle of homelessness. In FY 2013, Shelter House served 1,858 people in 523 households and significantly reduced the average length of stay for families at each of its shelters. FY 2013 was an exciting year for Shelter House's Community Case Management program. With the support of a grant from the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool, Shelter House hired a Community Case Manager and was therefore able to increase the number of people served. The Community Case Management program focuses on homelessness prevention by providing financial assistance and support.

Volunteers and community partners are essential to this success, as they provide the tools necessary to combat homelessness. Their expertise, financial support, and efforts compose the foundation of Shelter House's commendable work. This year, Shelter House has recognized the following individuals and partners for their outstanding commitment to ending homelessness in our community, and I am very pleased to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Changing Lives Awards: McLean Bible Church Justice Ministry, Mars Incorporated, Gracing Spaces, Greg Ziegler.

Creating New Beginnings Awards: Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging; BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.; Emmanuel Lutheran Church; St. John's Community Services.

Community Champion Award: Supervisor John Cook.

I congratulate the 2014 Volunteer Award recipients on being recognized for their extraordinary efforts and dedication to Shelter House. I also commend all Shelter House volunteers, as well as the private sector and government partners, who constantly strive to better our community through efforts to provide secure, structured environments, and indispensable support for families in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Shelter House and its many volunteers and community partners. Their selfless work benefits the entire Northern Virginia community and improves the lives of many of our neighbors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EDDIE
HADLOCK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated service of Dr. Eddie Hadlock, President of North Central Texas College. After 40 years of service to NCTC, Dr. Hadlock's exemplary career is coming to an end.

Dr. Hadlock's career in education includes two years of public school teaching and 35-plus years as a college teacher and administrator. From part-time teaching assignments, serving as a vocational counselor, and various administrative positions up to president, Dr. Hadlock has served in virtually every area of college operations. Dr. Hadlock currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and has held membership in numerous professional organizations including serving as a member of the Reaffirmation Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

North Central Texas College's sterling reputation is a reflection of the committed leadership of Dr. Hadlock. His professional legacy will continue to benefit the students of North Texas for years to come. I join his colleagues and the community in commending North Central Texas College's President, Dr. Eddie Hadlock for his dedication to education and extend best wishes upon his retirement. It is my privilege to represent North Central Texas College in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE RE-
TIREMENT OF MIKE GARCIA,
PRESIDENT OF SEIU UNITED
SERVICE WORKERS WEST

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAREN BASS, Congressman XAVIER BECERRA, Congressman AMI BERA, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, Congressman TONY CARDENAS, Congressman JIM COSTA,

Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congressman SAM FARR, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, Congresswoman JANICE HAHN, Congressman MIKE HONDA, Congressman JARED HUFFMAN, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman ALAN LOWENTHAL, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congresswoman GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, Congresswoman NANCY PELOSI, Congressman SCOTT PETERS, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressman RAUL RUIZ, Congresswoman LINDA SANCHEZ, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, Congressman MARK TAKANO, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congressman JUAN VARGAS, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to honor our dear friend Mike Garcia who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to working families in California.

Mike served as the President of Service Employees International Union United Service Workers West (SEIU USSW) between 1988 and 2014, where he led 40,000 janitors, security officers and airport workers across California in the fight for good jobs. Mike has been involved in the labor movement since 1980, when he began his career organizing janitors first in San Jose and later in San Diego in the "Justice for Janitors" campaign.

In 2010 he oversaw the merger of several local unions into SEIU USWW, a statewide union of property service workers. Mike guided SEIU USWW through years of dramatic growth, taking a union of 1,800 janitors and building a powerful statewide local on the forefront of fighting for immigrants' rights and lifting working families out of poverty.

Mike had a deep understanding of policy and the questions that matter most to working class Californians. He was also extremely brave; willing to face the strongest adversaries when fighting for those who needed his help. According to Mike, his greatest accomplishment was winning the historic janitors' strike of 2000 in Los Angeles, an action he proudly notes "changed the lives of thousands of janitors and their families because USWW members—the real heroes of the strike—laid it all on the line for a chance to win and bring their families into the American middle class."

In retirement Mike will remain a powerful voice for vulnerable populations and a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform to help millions of aspiring citizens achieve better lives.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the entire House of Representatives to join us in honoring Mike Garcia for his service to our Country.

RECOGNIZING BUD ELLIOTT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bud Elliott as he celebrates his

retirement as a reporter and news anchor for KSEE24. For 23 years, Bud has been a part of thousands of viewers' lives, and we will all undoubtedly miss watching him on the evening news.

Bud's career in journalism began years before his time at KSEE24. Bud worked at KHOW radio in Denver, Colorado, where he was news director for most of the 1970s. He also worked as a news anchor at CNN-2, which later became CNN Headline News. Before arriving in Fresno, Bud worked as the main news anchor at the ABC affiliate in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1987, Bud began his career at KSEE24. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to establish a solid reputation in the community for delivering accurate news. While at KSEE24, Bud has worked as the evening news anchor, morning newscast anchor, and morning show co-anchor. He has worked from both behind the desk and out in the field to deliver news that is relevant and important to residents in the Valley.

The commitment Bud has made to his career and the Central Valley has not gone unnoticed. Throughout his time in the San Joaquin Valley, Bud has earned a number of awards for excellence in journalism, including an Emmy and several Associated Press and Radio-Television News Directors Association awards. Most recently, Bud was recognized by the Fresno County Farm Bureau for his work on a four-part series focused on the water challenges that farmers face in California's San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions Mr. Bud Elliott has made to the San Joaquin Valley. The lasting contributions he has made to our community as a news anchor deserve to be commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2014, and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 369: "yes;" rollcall No. 370: "yes."

CONGRATULATING LEBANESE
TAVERNA ON THEIR 35TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lebanese Taverna on their 35th Anniversary. Tanios and Marie Abi-Najm immigrated to the United States in 1976, along with their five young children: Dory, Dany, David, Gladys and Grace.

The family boarded a cargo ship, in the dead of the night, to escape the Civil War in

Lebanon, bringing only what they could carry. Their final destination was Arlington, Virginia where other family members had already been living. After working in local restaurants for three years, the family saved enough to purchase a small restaurant in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, near their home. Being practical, they kept the original sign, "Athenian Taverna," changing just one word, thus "Lebanese Taverna" was born. Each family member had a role at the original location, whether it was greeting guests, serving food, cooking in the kitchen or finishing homework at the tables.

Lebanese Taverna today, 35 years later, is a multi-concept collaboration with six restaurants, four quick service cafes, a market, and full service catering division. Tanios and Marie are easing into retirement (although still involved in quality control) while the five siblings, each with their own specialty, operate the business. Today the Abi-Najm children still greet old friends and welcome new ones into the restaurants where they grew up and shared their lives, in keeping with their motto, "good food enjoyed in good company." Lebanese Taverna has come to symbolize the realization of dreams and the rewards of dedication.

Mr. Speaker, once again, let me congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Abi-Najm on their 35 years of success. This family embodies the very best ideals of the American dream; hard work and a strong commitment to family and community. Congratulations on 35 years of success!

IN MEMORY OF PAT TORO

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my constituent, Pat Toro, decorated Vietnam veteran, longtime former president of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and retired law-enforcement officer. Pat passed away on Thursday, July 3, at the age of sixty-four, after a long battle with leukemia.

Pat served his country as a Marine during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the United States he continued to serve his community as a criminal investigator for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In addition to being the President of the Queens chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat held the positions of Southern District Leader and National Director at Large.

During his tenure with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat was profoundly dedicated to improving the quality of life and preserving the history of his fellow veterans. He started a program to provide dignified burials for indigent veterans, which gave ninety people the proper respect they had earned. One of Pat's goals was to construct a memorial that would honor the more than 400 fallen Vietnam veterans from Queens. Although this project remains on hold, completing it would be a fitting honor to Pat's memory.

There is not a better example of unbridled patriotism and service than Pat Toro, who was

inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame in 2006.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in memory of the courageous and benevolent American hero, Pat Toro, who provided an immeasurable service to some of the most deserving Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2014, I missed Rollcall Votes No. 360–369 due to commitments in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on Rollcall Vote 360, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 361, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 362, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 363, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 364, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 365, "no" on Rollcall Vote 366, "yes" on Rollcall Vote 367 and "no" on Rollcall Vote 368.

HONORING ELLENSBURG HIGH
SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL
TEAM

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ellensburg High School Varsity Baseball Team. On Saturday May 31, 2014 the team won the Class 2A Washington State Championship, the first baseball state championship in the school's history.

This group of young men overcame adversity and, through extra practices and hard work, came to finish their season with a 10 game winning streak and winning 14 of their last 15 games. It is this perseverance that earned them this incredible championship. None of this would have been possible, of course, without the exemplary leadership of the Bulldog's Head Coach Todd Gibson, who has inspired and directed these student athletes for the past 5 years.

The young men on the team deserve individual recognition as well. They are: Xander Orejudos, Travis Lyman, Cameron Curtis, Cameron Campbell, Kyle Hickman, Bobby Ward, Tyler Wyatt, Dalton Mandelas, Garrett Hull, Junior Ledgard, Tyrel Panter, Alex Ponchene, Alonso Bibiano, Ceanu Strom, Kyler Watts, Taylor Smith, and Millon Zimmerman. The coaching staff also: Brian Kelley, Travis Gibson, Casey Kelley, DJ Smith, Ryan Kellogg, and Gage Gibson.

I am honored to have Ellensburg High School as part of the Eighth Congressional District of Washington and I congratulate them on their success, and earning the 2014 Class 2A State Championship. Thank you.

HONORING MR. REX DAVIS

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rex Davis, from Lamar, Colorado.

Mr. Davis owns a 298 acre irrigated farm in southern Colorado and has participated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program since 2007.

Throughout the years Mr. Davis has introduced efficient and sustainable practices to improve his irrigation management which will make his farm operation viable for years to come.

His conservation practices have included gated pipeline, water control structure, irrigation system sprinkler, irrigation reservoir, pest management and nutrient management.

In addition to his farm operations, Mr. Davis raises Black Angus cattle, is a member of the Lamar Elks and is currently working on his second passion by training for his private pilot's license.

I am pleased to recognize Rex Davis as the 2013 Prowers County Conservationist of the Year.

HILLSIDE HOSE COMPANY #1 OF
MORRIS TOWNSHIP 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hillside Hose Company #1, located in the township of Morris, County of Morris, New Jersey, as it celebrates its Centennial.

The Hillside Hose Company #1 was founded in 1914 by local citizens as a "not-for-profit" volunteer organization. The Company now serves as Station 3 of the Morris Township Fire Department, protecting more than 22,000 residents. When needed, it also helps other municipalities' with mutual aid. Along with fighting fires, their dedicated volunteers also conduct neighborhood safety patrols and ensure safety for events such as the July 4th fireworks, graduation ceremonies, or other permitted events. Recently, Hillside Hose Company received a Unit Citation from the Morris Township Committee for exemplary service during the natural disaster of Hurricane Irene.

Hillside Hose Company also provides community programs to their residents by hosting events for children at Halloween, and Christmas. Some of their most successful events include the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween costume parade, and the annual Christmas tree fundraiser sale. These events are open to the public and have a high attendance of children that love to participate every year.

A considerable amount of the Hillside Hose Company #1's budget supports scholarships for local students; youth sports teams, and donations to numerous charitable causes. Hillside awards \$1,500 scholarships to graduating

high school seniors who pursue higher education.

The Company takes pride in educating the residents they serve about the importance of smoke detectors and safety evacuation plans. They offer important information about when to change the batteries in the detectors and teaching children what to do in the event of a fire.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating everyone that is associated with the Hillside Hose Company #1, and as they celebrate their Centennial.

RECOGNIZING THE CALIFORNIA FARM WATER COALITION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today along with my colleague Mr. VALADAO to recognize the 25th anniversary of the California Farm Water Coalition. The Coalition's contributions to California's agricultural industry deserve to be commended.

Since 1989, the California Farm Water Coalition has been working with farmers, law-makers, and the news media to provide factual information emphasizing the importance of farm water to California's food production. The Coalition was instrumental in increasing public awareness about the resourceful water use practices that farmers partake in daily. Some interest groups falsely criticize farmers for not using their water efficiently, making these public awareness efforts even more important.

The Coalition is the largest organization in California that focuses solely on water for agriculture and is comprised of a diverse membership, which includes water districts, agencies, farmers, and organizations from the entire state. For the past 25 years, the Coalition has provided an outlet for their members to share their views and accomplishments with the public.

The California Farm Water Coalition works diligently to increase public awareness so individuals understand the important role that water has in California's economy. Since 1996, they have reached millions of motorists through a billboard campaign with the slogan, "Food Grows Where Water Flows." They strive to stay innovative in their marketing techniques so that consumers are educated about the importance of water to growing their nutritious fruits and vegetables.

In addition to educating the public on the importance of farm water, the Coalition participates in key legislative meetings to provide valuable data pertaining to farm water and pending legislation that will affect farmers and their use of water. Their participation and resources were useful in the development of the Central Valley Water Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join Mr. VALADAO and myself in recognizing the 25th anniversary of the California Farm Water Coalition. The State of California's agricultural industry has benefitted immensely due to the

hard work and efforts made by the California Farm Water Coalition.

IN HONOR OF PAUL S. AMOS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and servant of humankind, Mr. Paul S. Amos. Sadly, Mr. Amos passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2014. Funeral services were held on Saturday, July 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Paul Shelby Amos was born on April 23, 1926 in Enterprise, Alabama to the late John Shelby and Helen Mullins Amos. His father, the town postmaster, sold insurance on weekends and served one term in the state legislature. Mr. Amos served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1944 to 1946. He met his future wife, Jean, in church and they celebrated a remarkable 65 years of marriage in October of last year.

In 1955, the Amos brothers, Paul, John, and Bill founded American Family Life Insurance Company. In 1964, the name was changed to American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus, later shortened to Aflac. In its first year of business, the company had 6,426 policyholders and \$388,000 in assets. Today, it is a Fortune 500 company insuring more than 50 million people worldwide and boasting more than \$121 billion in assets.

Aflac is the world's largest supplemental insurance company and is an industry leader in Japan, where the company generates about three-quarters of its revenues. Soon after its founding, Aflac introduced a groundbreaking policy aimed at covering expenses for people with cancer. Mr. Amos is credited with introducing "worksites marketing," where products are sold directly to employees at companies through payroll deductions.

Mr. Paul, as he was known within the company, held numerous positions at the firm. He served as state sales manager for Alabama/West Florida, the first Vice President/Director of Marketing, President, and Vice Chairman. In 1990, he became Chairman of Aflac Incorporated, and his son, Daniel P. Amos, became the CEO. Mr. Paul retired in 2001 but continued serving as Chairman Emeritus and visited the Aflac offices in Columbus on a daily basis, where he was loved and respected by all. His legacy is still carried on by his son, Dan, and his grandson, Alfaf President Paul Amos II.

Mr. Amos put as much love and effort into serving his community as he did into his work at Aflac. He and his wife set up several educational funds and scholarship programs, including the Paul S. Amos Family Foundation at Columbus State University in Columbus, the Paul and Jean Amos Educational Fund at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky and the Scholarship Fund at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Through these programs and many anonymous donations, Mr. Amos and his wife have changed the lives of thousands of people.

Mr. Amos has received much recognition for his work at Aflac and in the community. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Cumberland College in 2001; an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Columbus State University in 2002; and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2004.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Mr. Paul Amos, a great man of incredible compassion and integrity, passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to his beloved family and to all those whose lives he touched through his kindness and generosity. He will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 700,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to Mr. Paul Amos for his outstanding contributions to his community. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN C. WAGNER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John C. Wagner of Knoxville, TN, who this week received special recognition from the Department of Energy for exceptional research in nuclear energy.

The Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award has recognized esteemed scientists for the past fifty-four years, celebrating notable achievements and discoveries within the scientific community. Administered by the Department of Energy, the Lawrence Award is given to mid-career scientists and engineers for their exceptional contributions in research and development supporting the DOE and its mission to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States. The 2014 winner of the E.O. Lawrence Award in Computer, Information, and Knowledge Sciences is Oak Ridge National Laboratory's John C. Wagner.

Dr. Wagner is the Manager for Used Fuel Systems at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and serves as National Technical Director for the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy's Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning project. He joined Oak Ridge in 1999 as an R&D Staff Member to pursue his research in the area of hybrid radiation transport methods. His research interests include a wide range of issues associated with spent nuclear fuel storage, transportation, and disposal. Wagner was the original developer of computer codes that led to advanced hybrid transport methods. In 2012, he was elected a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society.

Dr. Wagner is being honored with this prestigious award for his contributions to computationally-based studies of radiation transport in real-world complex systems, including safety, radiation shielding, and nuclear reactor analysis. Wagner's research significantly advances the methodology used to obtain accurate predictive solutions to challenging problems ranging from civilian nuclear energy to the Nation's nuclear security. Mr. Wagner is a great asset to the scientific community and to the nation.

I want to thank Mr. Wagner for his years of dedicated service and his contributions to the safe and efficient use of nuclear energy and I wish him many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING MS. DOROTHY
PARKER FOR HER 50 YEARS OF
DEDICATED AND FAITHFUL
SERVICE

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy Parker. I had the honor and privilege of working with Ms. Parker in Plattsburgh, NY for more than 30 years. She works hard every day, diligently and happily performing the tasks she is assigned.

This month will mark her 50th year at the firm where we both worked, she having started there on July 13, 1964. During her five decades at the firm, Ms. Parker earned the respect of all who came to trust and depend on her, including myself. She has guided many new staff and young lawyers, teaching us the ropes, if you will, with a smile and a gentle hand.

While working for the firm, Ms. Parker raised four children and now has six loving grandchildren for whom she is a dedicated grandparent.

Ms. Parker's employer, Stafford, Piller, Murnane, Kelleher and Trombley, will be recognizing her successful 50 year career later this month with a celebratory luncheon.

MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF
DENNIS VAN ROEKELE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tireless champion for a quality education for all Americans, Dennis Van Roekel. When he retires as President of the National Education Association this month, he will be concluding decades of service as a teacher and advocate—a career dedicated to our children and the hard-working professionals who devote themselves to education. He leaves both NEA and our nation's schools and classrooms stronger for his leadership.

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Van Roekel holds a Master's Degree in math education from Northern Arizona University in

Flagstaff. For 23 years, he taught high school mathematics, building an intimate understanding of the challenges facing our children and our teachers.

This experience would serve as the foundation of his work to improve student learning and enhance the professionalism of education employees. It deepened his faith in the importance of public education and the right of all children, regardless of race, background or location, to a world-class education.

After holding key positions with NEA at all levels of the association, including two terms as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, Van Roekel was elected President in 2008. Shortly after taking office, he established the Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching, a national, independent panel whose findings formed the basis of NEA's "Leading the Profession" plan to strengthen and empower teachers and students across America.

Van Roekel has also shouldered leadership positions in education associations from the local to the international, ranging from Paradise Valley Education Association President to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Executive Committee and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education Executive Board.

No investment brings more revenue back to the Treasury than education. It is the greatest investment people can make in themselves, and that our nation can make in its future. For decades, we have been fortunate to have Dennis Van Roekel helping us make that case, and helping to improve the quality of public education available to all Americans.

As he enters the next chapter of his life, I join with many others in thanking Dennis for the many years of energy and determination he has given NEA and our nation. Congratulations on many successes at NEA, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

HONORING DALE LARABEE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the San Diego and Mid City communities, particularly my neighborhood of Kensington, lost one of its most energetic and inspiring residents. Dale Larabee was a dedicated athlete and family man known for his leadership in the legal community and loved for his involvement in countless endeavors.

I got to know Dale years ago through soccer when he coached my son. I was struck by his ability to bring out the best in every child, and to control competitive parents and keep them at their best, as well. I looked forward to those games not only for the chance to watch my son play, but because seeing Dale inspire and cheer on the children was always a delight.

Dale did so much. As an attorney, he loved to fight for the underdog, and made a name for himself representing workers in employment discrimination cases. Those who worked with him knew Dale as a brilliant and fiery trial lawyer who was never afraid to stand up to bullying corporations.

Dale lived in Kensington for over 40 years and never stopped working to make his neighborhood a better place for everyone, right down to volunteering every month to clean up litter on the streets. A lifelong athlete, Dale could always be found training for his next marathon or triathlon, and he brought this passion for sport to the Kensington Social and Athletic Club, which he founded.

On those rare occasions when he wasn't hiking, biking, or swimming, Dale wrote a regular local interest column for the San Diego Uptown News, and organized the annual Kensington Memorial Day Parade and Miracle Mile Relay. Dale also found smaller ways to brighten up the neighborhood, establishing a Little Free Library on Adams Avenue where children and adults alike could feed their love of reading. You can't walk the streets of Kensington without seeing some reminder of Dale's love for his community.

Dale Larabee was a beloved husband and father, with a deep dedication to bettering his community and fighting for the little guy. His passing is a terrible loss for his wife Diane, his sons Joel and Jeff, his daughters-in-law Tonya and Taylor, his grandchildren Aidan, Madden, Shane, Hanley, and Hollace, and all those who were lucky enough to know him. He will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. I was in Los Angeles tending to my mother recovering from surgery. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 369 and "yea" on rollcall vote 370, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014 and the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

RECOGNIZING RYAN JOHNSON,
DUSTIN POTTER, AND D.J.
QUINTEN

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage and bravery of three constituents: Ryan Johnson, Dustin Potter, and D.J. Quinten.

On June 20, 2014, a 14-ton carrier truck crashed into Simeon's on the Commons, a popular restaurant in Ithaca, New York. Upon witnessing the crash, Ryan, Dustin, and D.J. immediately sprang into action. Despite the obvious risk, these men put their lives in harm's way to help those who were in even greater danger. Before the first responders arrived at the scene of the accident, these men rushed into the smoking building to provide assistance to the multiple victims who had sustained injuries.

Sadly, the crash took the life of Amanda Bush, a 27-year-old from Lansing, New York. I extend my deepest condolences to Amanda's friends and family, especially her fiancé and 14-month-old daughter. I am amazed by the outpouring of support that the Ithaca community has shown in response to this tragedy. Hundreds of friends and neighbors attended the memorial service for Amanda and made financial donations to a fund benefitting Amanda's family.

In total, seven people were injured as a result of the crash. I am confident that the heroic actions of Ryan, Dustin, and D.J. saved lives. We owe a collective debt of gratitude to each of these individuals for their selfless actions and willingness to assist their neighbors in a critical time of need.

I am proud to recognize Ryan, Dustin, and D.J. and I hope their actions will serve as an inspiration to others throughout Tompkins County and New York's 23rd Congressional District.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 14

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of James C. Miller III, of Virginia, Stephen Crawford, of Maryland, David Michael Bennett, of North Carolina, and Victoria Reggie Kennedy, of Massachusetts, all to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342

JULY 15

Time to be announced

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending nominations.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for

fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense.

SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.

SD-106

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine chronic illness, focusing on addressing patients' unmet needs.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John R. Bass, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, Jane D. Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador to the French Republic, James D. Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, and Brent Robert Hartley, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1696, to protect a woman's right to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy by limiting restrictions on the provision of abortion services, focusing on removing barriers to constitutionally protected reproductive rights.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine wildland fire preparedness and to consider the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine an assessment of the recovery at five years.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine taking down botnets, focusing on public and private efforts to disrupt and dismantle cybercriminal networks.

SD-226

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold a joint hearing to examine options for assuring domestic space access.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine what makes a bank systemically important.

SD-538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-215

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of Veterans' Affairs health care.

SD-G50

2 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine S. 571, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes, S. 1153, to establish an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of nonnative wildlife and wild animal pathogens and parasites that are likely to cause harm, S. 1175, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide loans and loan guarantees to enable eligible public entities to acquire interests in real property that are in compliance with habitat conservation plans approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 1202, to establish an integrated Federal program to respond to ongoing and expected impacts of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, restoring, and conserving the natural resources of the United States, and to maximize government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments and other entities, S. 1232, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes, H.R. 1300, to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, S. 1381, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, S. 1650, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaska Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, S. 2225, to provide for a smart water resource management pilot program, S. 2530, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or exportation of mussels of certain genus, and S. 2560, to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources.

SD-406

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine phone scams, focusing on progress and potential solutions.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine consumer choice, consolidation and the future video marketplace.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program.

SD-628

July 9, 2014

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11653

3 p.m. Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs To hold hearings to examine reenergizing United States-India ties. SD-419	the Marine Corps, Department of De- fense. SD-G50	JULY 23
JULY 17	10 a.m. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance To hold hearings to examine account- ability and corporate culture in wake of the General Motors (GM) recalls. SR-253	2:30 p.m. Committee on Indian Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years. SD-628
9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the nomina- tion of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of	JULY 30	2:30 p.m. Committee on Indian Affairs To hold an oversight hearing to examine responses to natural disasters in Indian country. SD-628

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 10, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As you are aware, the time previously appointed for the next meeting of the House is 10 a.m. today for morning hour debate. This is to notify you, pursuant to clause 12(c) of rule I, of an imminent impairment of the place of reconvening at that time. The impairment is due to an industrial accident.

Sincerely,

PAUL D. IRVING,
Sergeant at Arms.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 12(c) of rule I, and the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Speaker dispensed with morning-hour debate today and notified Members accordingly.

PRAYER

Rabbi Dovid Cohen, Young Israel of the West Side, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Master of the Universe, continue to grant compassion and understanding to this august body. We live in a world "on fire," where there is turmoil throughout the globe; a world that is ravaged by terror and barbarism; a world where youthful potential and its rich contributions are instantaneously destroyed.

Yesterday, in these hallowed Halls, the United States Congress posthumously honored Raoul Wallenberg for his humanitarian efforts in saving Jews during the Holocaust. Please, God, enable this body to continue to advocate for decency and be the moral compass of our Nation.

Next week begins the 3-week period of Jewish mourning over the destruction of our temples in Jerusalem. It is an inauspicious time, a time focused on the iniquity of baseless hatred between brothers. Please, God, enable this institution to serve as a reminder that in a world of darkness, one small candle can light up the world.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MEALS ON WHEELS

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the important work of Meals on Wheels, a community-based organization that exemplifies the American spirit: neighbors helping neighbors, serving those in need, and working together to make our communities a better place.

Each day, volunteers from over 5,000 Meals on Wheels programs across the Nation deliver over a million meals to elderly citizens. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with one of these organizations in my district, Meals-on-Wheels of Johnson and Ellis Counties.

In theirs and other programs like it, an army of dedicated volunteers share the motto of being their brother's keeper, delivering a hot lunch and breakfast for the next day to their elderly and homebound neighbors, which also provides these individuals with a caring visit from loving volunteers. Lives are touched every day because the investment is made in helping them remain in their homes.

Today, I salute the thousands of donors, funders, supporters, volunteers, boards of directors, and workers, and especially those individuals served by Meals on Wheels. Organizations like this are what America is all about: loving your neighbor and serving those in need.

In God we trust.

NATIONAL GAY BLOOD DRIVE

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the National Gay Blood Drive, because I know that being gay does not implicitly make someone an unsafe blood donor.

Our current FDA policy paints all gay and bisexual men with the same brush, banning them for life based solely on orientation instead of focusing on actual risky behavior.

This Friday, at National Gay Blood Drives in 61 cities across our country, gay and bisexual men will stand with straight allies to call for an end to this discriminatory policy.

Implemented in 1983 during the height of the HIV crisis, the outdated policy is based on unjustifiable fear and bigotry instead of science and facts. But it is 2014. We have advanced blood screening and we know much more about how HIV is transmitted. We need a revised policy to match—a revision blood donation agencies support. We can no longer treat gay and bisexual men as second-class citizens or turn away healthy would-be donors who could be providing lifesaving blood.

I urge all my colleagues to support the National Gay Blood Drive and help America move one step closer to true equality for all.

OBAMA DEMANDS \$3.7 BILLION FOR BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. BROOKS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, Obama evicted 649,000 illegal aliens. In 2008, Bush evicted 1.2 million illegal aliens, which was 80 percent better than Obama. In 1993, Clinton evicted 1.3 million illegal aliens, which was 98 percent better than Obama.

Now, Obama demands \$3.7 billion from American taxpayers to cover up the worst border security record in decades.

Out-of-control debt risks an American insolvency and bankruptcy. Obama's border mistakes must be paid for by cutting foreign aid, not paying illegal aliens billions of dollars a year in fraudulent tax refunds; or by better government management, and not by borrowing more money.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Lack of money did not create America's porous border problem. Incompetent border policy did.

Presidents Bush and Clinton did better border security with far less money. President Obama should do the same.

THE GOOD NEWS ON JOBS COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the good news is the June jobs report has been described by some as a "blockbuster" and a "great success," but it could have been better.

In the June report, the economy added over 288,000 private sector jobs. That is five straight months in which 200,000 private sector jobs were added. This is the best performance since the boom years in the late 1990s.

The good news is that unemployment is down to pre-recession levels, but the bad news is that it could have been better.

Extending emergency unemployment benefits would have added another 200,000 jobs, according to the Congressional Budget Office. This, combined with the government shutdown, fights over the debt ceiling, governing by crisis, all prevented job growth from being even stronger.

Our economy has proved to be incredibly resilient. Imagine what we could do if 6 months from now we extended unemployment benefits; reauthorized the highway trust fund, which preserves another 700,000 jobs; and reauthorized the Export-Import Bank. All of this would create jobs.

Let's work together to create these jobs and pass these important programs.

STAND WITH ISRAEL

(Mr. DESANTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the terrorist group Hamas launched three long-range rockets targeting an Israeli nuclear reactor.

Hamas, an arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, has received support from the totalitarian government in Iran. Hamas is firmly dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

Rather than back our ally, the Obama administration has exhibited a false moral equivalency that has bordered on outright hostility to Israel. Current law requires U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority be suspended if the PA is Hamas-influenced. Yet the Obama administration has continued to fund the Hamas-Fatah unity government with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Just this week, as the administration is underwriting the Hamas-Fatah gov-

ernment, the White House sends a special assistant to Israel to condemn the Jewish state for failing to broker a peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority that includes the Islamist terrorists in Hamas. This criticism was launched in the midst of receiving rocket fire.

Rather than criticize Israel during this trying time, the United States should be standing firmly in favor of Israel's right to defend itself against an enemy that seeks the destruction of the Jewish state.

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND THE ARRIVAL OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise in support of comprehensive immigration reform and to address the growing number of unaccompanied children arriving from Central America.

It has been over a year since the Senate passed bipartisan reform legislation to strengthen the border and provide a pathway to normalization and earned citizenship for those already here. The Senate passed the bill with 68 votes. Mr. Speaker, the Senate often-times can't get 60 votes to turn on the lights over there. So this legislation has broad support, and I urge its immediate consideration.

Last week, I visited our immigration intake facilities in McAllen, Texas, on our southern border. I saw hundreds of recently arrived unaccompanied children, many traumatized by the violence in their home countries and the long, dangerous journey to our country.

Americans are a compassionate people and, as Americans, we know that these children we are talking about need to be treated as children.

The President has asked for emergency funds to further secure our border and give the Border Patrol the resources they need to make sure these children are treated with care and dignity while they are in our custody. If this Chamber is serious about border security, it would immediately consider the President's request and give our folks on the border what they need to do their job.

FAA PROPOSAL TO UPDATE FLIGHT SIMULATORS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Federal Aviation Administration's proposal to update flight simulators to more accurately warn of emergency situations. Though these

situations are rare, when they occur, the result is catastrophic.

In my own western New York community, Continental Flight 3407 tragically crashed in February of 2009, killing all on board, because the pilots did not know how to compensate for loss of speed caused by ice on the plane's wings, which caused an aerodynamic stall.

Among the provisions included in aviation safety reforms passed by Congress in the wake of the Flight 3407 crash are requirements that pilots undergo additional ground and flight training in order to prepare for catastrophic events.

I urge the FAA to act quickly to approve and implement these new simulators to comply with the law and give pilots the best possible training for the safety of the flying public.

□ 1215

PROTECTING OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, the crisis we are currently witnessing at our southern border is the direct result of the Obama administration's selective enforcement of our Nation's immigration laws. Through its repeated inaction and disregard for border security, this administration has created a magnet for illegal immigration.

This is endangering the lives of children and is adding additional strains to our already overtaxed taxpayers, and now, the President says he needs \$3.7 billion from Congress to address the problem that his disregard for our laws has created. Virtually none of this money addresses the real problem of securing our border.

We need to deploy the National Guard to the border. The National Guard is well equipped to handle this humanitarian crisis. It would provide critical relief to our Border Patrol, allowing them to better concentrate on protecting our border.

My amendment to the NDAA of transferring \$5 million to the Army National Guard would do exactly that.

ECONOMY

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, June saw nearly 300,000 new jobs added to the economy, lowering unemployment to the lowest level since 2008. Still, we must do more for America's economic security. This includes ensuring that Americans are able to earn a living wage and that vulnerable families can depend on unemployment insurance in tough times.

This week, I voted for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act because it will help individuals acquire the skills they need to succeed in the workforce and will help employers find the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

Monday, I had the honor of visiting Mussman's Back Acres in Grant Park, Illinois, which is a family-owned egg farm that is operated by brothers Keith, Craig, and Kevin Mussman and their dedicated employees. Mussman's has 400,000 organic-fed layers, and it distributes eggs in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

This is exactly the type of small business Congress should be promoting. That is why I will continue touring family farms and small businesses in Illinois—to bring their ideas and concerns back to Washington. Together, we can help our businesses thrive, and we can protect our workers. It is key to our recovery.

HONORING RAOUL WALLENBERG WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Raoul Gustaf Wallenberg of Sweden for his heroism during World War II.

Yesterday, I was humbled to join my colleagues in the U.S. Capitol to present Wallenberg's Congressional Gold Medal to his half sister, Nina Lagergren.

In 1944, President Roosevelt appointed Wallenberg to the War Refugee Board to protect more than 700,000 Jews living in Budapest. With assistance from Sweden, Wallenberg denounced violence, exemplified unparalleled courage, and perpetuated the highest of humanitarian ideals.

Although he mysteriously disappeared en route to Moscow at the end of the war, Wallenberg is credited with saving 100,000 Jews from certain death in concentration camps. In 1981, Congress awarded Wallenberg honorary citizenship posthumously, one of only six other non-U.S. citizens so honored, including Sir Winston Churchill.

Wallenberg's work endures as a model of service to humankind and as a model of courage in the face of danger.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to do the right thing: to work across the aisle and take swift action to address the humanitarian crisis that our Nation is currently facing.

As a parent, I look at the situation at our Texas border, and I think of the circumstances that would lead my wife and me to send our 8-year-old on a dangerous journey thousands of miles away from home without us—away from his room, away from his toys, away from the things that he loves the most.

Children awaiting their fates at detention centers are victims of crime, violence, and war, and we have a responsibility to address the root causes of their migration. Without a comprehensive solution, however, we will continue to face situations like the crisis that we see now at the southern border.

For over a year now, House Republicans have refused to take up a long overdue overhaul of the immigration system that will streamline the legal immigration process, decrease the Nation's deficit, secure our borders, create jobs, and provide an earned pathway to citizenship.

We need to put politics aside and work together to pass a fair immigration plan for the 21st century that honors this country's history as the land of opportunity, justice, and equality for all.

LIVE LIKE BELLA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Live Like Bella Foundation for Childhood Cancer, an organization based in my home district of Miami.

Inspired by Bella Rodriguez-Torres, a young girl who courageously fought cancer six times until her death last year, this foundation supports the fight against pediatric cancer, while offering much-needed support for families.

Cancer is the number one cause of death in children under the age of 15. Live Like Bella is dedicated to raising funds for innovative cancer research at Miami Children's Hospital.

During National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the foundation will host its first annual Bella's Ball, where Miami will dress up in golden shimmer and shine in memory of Bella and in order to create awareness of childhood cancer.

The event enjoys broad support from Miami celebrities, such as Jon Secada, and athletes like Eddy "The Jet" Alvarez, as well as from many local businesses.

I encourage everyone in our south Florida community to attend this event on Saturday, September 13, which supports a wonderful cause in need of greater public attentiveness.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, an increase in the minimum wage is good for jobs. Minimum wage workers are adults who support families, and exorbitant CEO pay actually has been proven to hurt the performance of companies. Three new studies confirm these three points, and I would like to elaborate a little bit.

Minimum wage workers are older than they used to be. Their average age is 35 years old, and 88 percent are at least 20 years old. Most are women. Women make up 48 percent of the workforce; yet 55 percent of the would-be beneficiaries of an increase to the minimum wage are women.

Raising the minimum wage will not cost jobs. That is a myth. Here are the facts: 13 States raised the minimum wage in 2014, and all but one have seen employment gains. Now, that doesn't prove causation, but it does prove that this claim that minimum wage hurts jobs is false.

It is also the case that we are often told that high pay for CEOs is just a reward and that it incentivizes them to work hard. High CEO pay does not increase profitability.

In fact, in June, a study was published that looked at the long-term performance of 1,500 companies. That is a lot of data. They are finding that higher, exorbitant CEO pay hurts companies. Forbes says, "How could this be? In a word, overconfidence."

The bottom line is that the myths that we live by are not true. Let's raise the wage and get some accountability at the executive level.

WAGING WAR ON COLSTRIP, MONTANA

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, Colstrip, Montana, is a town that runs on coal. Hundreds of hardworking Montanans depend on jobs in Colstrip's coal-fired power plant and its coal mines to provide for their families, but one antioal energy consultant said that Montanans "should plan for life without Colstrip," due, in part, to job-killing regulations proposed by the Obama administration.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy recently met with a group of Democrat Senators who commended the Agency's efforts on these emissions rules.

I urge Administrator McCarthy to get out of Washington, D.C., and speak with the Montana families who will be directly and negatively affected by these regulations and to explain to them why the Obama administration is waging a war on their livelihoods and their town. He is waging a war on the middle class.

NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National Ocean Policy.

Later today, we may consider an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill to undermine this important policy. The amendment would promote inefficiency in ocean management. It would harm coastal communities.

We depend on the marine environment for many important uses, like food, tourism, and the transportation of goods. These diverse interests often conflict, which is why the National Ocean Policy provides a forum for local stakeholders and Federal agencies to talk to each other and work things out.

Efforts to cripple the National Ocean Policy will prevent local ocean users from deciding what issues are most important for their local communities, and that makes no sense.

Improving the coordination between Federal agencies and local ocean stakeholders is a bipartisan idea that was first suggested during the Bush administration. It should still have bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Ocean Policy and to reject efforts to undermine this commonsense idea.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I stand to address the crisis occurring along our southern border, which is a direct result of the President's failure to uphold the laws of our Nation.

Illegal aliens apprehended in Texas are being shipped and flown to California, which is my home State, as well as to other States, on the taxpayers' dime. Allegations state that approximately 420 Central American illegal aliens, mostly women and children, were on the first three flights into San Diego.

Flooding our State with these illegal aliens not only creates a humanitarian crisis that must be dealt with, but it crosses a line that the American public will not and should not tolerate.

We cannot continue to stand by and allow this administration to continue to pick and choose what laws will be enforced. These policies have resulted in what we are facing now—unlawful immigration, especially children and their families. They are getting a mixed message and a mixed signal from this administration, that of believing they may receive some form of amnesty from this administration or will at least have a chance to stay in this

country, regardless of the laws of our Nation.

Unless this present administration starts upholding the laws of the land and ensuring our border is secure, this crisis will continue to get worse and worse, affecting our children and our economy very detrimentally.

The President's demand—the solution he is proposing—of \$3.7 billion in additional funding isn't a solution at all. It does nothing to address the border problems we have in the enforcement of the border.

We need to find real solutions, and this flood of illegal immigration is just going to be a bigger detriment to our Nation.

PASS EXTENSION OF THE HIGHWAY ACT

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, while we were on break, the 58th anniversary of the interstate highway system was celebrated, and while there is a lot of discussion here in the House about different issues, there is nothing more important for this Congress to do than to create jobs for the American public. The best way to create jobs is to pass an extension of the Highway Act—infrastructure bills.

President Eisenhower was a President who knew we needed a strong infrastructure and a highway system. When he needed a sponsor in the Senate, it was Albert Gore, Sr., from Tennessee—a Democrat—who sponsored that bill.

We need bipartisanship the way we had it with Eisenhower and Gore in order to come up with a highway extension. If it is a gas tax—whatever it is—we need to do it. We need to put Americans back to work, and we need to put our infrastructure first. Those should be the responsibilities of this House.

I pledge to support transportation efforts to get a bill passed and to make America proud about its infrastructure again—bridges, runways, and roads.

DEPLOY NATIONAL GUARD TO SECURE OUR BORDER

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, we have a very sad human tragedy going on at our border, with many thousands of children coming to the U.S. from Central America.

Americans are the most generous, compassionate people in the world, but if we don't secure our borders, we will destroy America as we have known it. There are probably several hundred million people who would come here in

a short time, if we simply opened our borders.

We must have a legal, orderly system of immigration, and it must be enforced. Our entire infrastructure—our schools, our hospitals, our jails, our sewers, and so forth—just cannot take in hundreds of millions more people in a short time.

We need to immediately deploy our National Guard to secure our border, and we need to immediately change the laws, so that every unaccompanied child does not require a court hearing.

This is an emergency situation, Mr. Speaker. It does not require more money. It requires immediate action with funds that are already available.

□ 1230

EFFECTS OF AMERICA'S WAR ON DRUGS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the flood of unaccompanied minors crossing our borders to escape drug and gang violence caused by America's war on drugs.

Today I want to speak about the effect of that drug war on young people trapped in the inner cities of America on this side of the border. Take Chicago, for instance: 58 shot, 14 killed over the July Fourth weekend; most involved drugs, if not all.

Politicians cracked down on drug crime in the eighties and nineties, but look at the impact that it has had. It is a failed war on drugs that has become a war on urban youth. Many boys on the streets of Chicago or Atlanta can barely cross the street without bullets streaking past their heads.

The war on drugs and its impact on our youth needs to end now.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern for the administration's nuclear negotiations with Iran.

This administration has a questionable track record on diplomacy. Just 3 weeks ago, it put five Taliban commanders back on the battlefield. We are witnessing an unraveling of our hard-fought gains in Iraq because of the administration's inability to negotiate a status of forces agreement before our withdrawal of troops. Syria is in flames; al Qaeda is on the move; the Taliban are resurgent in Afghanistan as we talk about a drawdown. And the list goes on, Mr. Speaker.

The administration has, time and time again, demonstrated terrible judgment when it comes to foreign policy. There are real concerns by experts who have testified in front of the Foreign Affairs Committee that the deal in regard to Iran's nuclear weapons not just leaves the region, but the United States, less safe.

Mr. President, put down the pool cue, pick up the map, find your way to Capitol Hill, and let's work together to make sure we don't have a nuclear Iran.

LET'S BE CLEAR ON IMMIGRATION POLICY

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise out of an overwhelming concern for young people and children in Central America.

President Obama has a habit of saying to Americans, "Let me be clear." I wish desperately he would be clear with the thousands of Central American families who have not yet tried to cross our border.

In 2012, the President announced he would not enforce the law with regard to 800,000 young people who crossed our border illegally. Predictably, families and dangerous smugglers got the message.

Detention centers in our Southwestern States are overflowing. The photos and stories of the traveling and living conditions of these kids is heart-breaking to see and to hear.

Tragically, the administration doubled down on Sunday, when Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson promised more executive action and refused to say new arrivals would be returned. This ambiguous approach created the crisis in the first place. Without clarity, more suffering will assuredly follow.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the President would consider the consequences of his disregard for the rule of law and be clear with would-be legal immigrants.

FOREST SERVICE GROUNDWATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently I joined fellow lawmakers in sending a letter to the U.S. Agriculture Secretary concerning the U.S. Forest Service's proposed groundwater resource management directive.

Similar to a large number of other proposals stemming from this administration, the directive seeks to further

federalize water resources at the expense of State authority and private property rights. Additionally, it will unnecessarily interfere with State and private water rights, along with other activities.

Furthermore, the directive was proposed without State or local input, which will encourage litigation and potentially interfere with the adjacent State, local, and private land and water rights.

In Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, 93 percent of the subsurface rights are privately owned, which means the consequence of this directive could even be more complicated and threatening to private property and water rights.

Mr. Speaker, the mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests. Unfortunately, this policy will achieve little or no environmental benefit while it, at the same time, undermines the agency's statutory obligation to manage these lands.

The Forest Service should withdraw this ill-timed and punitive directive.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AUDITS

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the excessive audit system that exists for our medical equipment providers that provide essential medical equipment for our seniors across this country. It is negatively affecting them and their businesses. These businesses provide essential services and education to our seniors and Medicare patients.

It is important to point out that this practice was put in place because of the fraud and abuse that existed within the system; but rather than targeting fraudulent practices, they are targeting people playing by the rules and are being punished because of the bad actions of a few of the bad actors.

One example is a business in my community that provides essential health care to Medicare and senior patients, providing oxygen and hospital beds, which are essential, basic equipment. They have been audited 50 percent of the time.

This is a practice that has to end; and I am introducing legislation tomorrow that will address this issue, reform the system, and get to the point of really addressing the fraudulent practitioners that need the reform.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5016, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4718, BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 661 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 661

Resolved, That (a) at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived except for section 627.

(b) During consideration of the bill for amendment—

(1) each amendment, other than amendments provided for in paragraph (2), shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in paragraph (2);

(2) no pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate; and

(3) the chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.

(c) When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered

on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration on two measures: H.R. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, and H.R. 4718, that would permanently extend the bonus depreciation.

The resolution provides a modified open rule for consideration of H.R. 5016 so that all Members have the opportunity to come to the floor and offer any amendment to the bill that complies with House rules on this important piece of legislation.

The resolution also provides a closed rule for consideration of H.R. 4718, and provides for 60 minutes of debate equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means. In addition, the rule provides for a motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, a little over 2 months ago, I was pleased to present the House the rule for consideration of the first two appropriations bills. This rule will provide for the consideration of the eighth appropriations bill by the House.

In the Appropriations Committee, we have already reported out 10 of the 12 required appropriations bills and are moving closer to finishing the two remaining bills. Contrast this with the other body, where they have yet to pass even a single appropriations measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Services Appropriations bill maintains the fiscal discipline agreed to as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 that this country desperately needs. While the President requested an additional \$1.7 billion over fiscal year 2014-enacted levels, this bill actually funds these programs at \$566 million less than last year's level.

In addition, this bill maintains a number of important funding restrictions over the IRS. Given their unconscionable targeting of conservative organizations and their deliberate stonewalling of legitimate inquiries by the Ways and Means and Oversight and Government Reform Committees, these funding prohibitions are necessary and appropriate.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, this resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 4718, which permanently extends bonus depreciation. During this extended time of sluggish economic growth, it is important for the Congress to pass legislation that will encourage our job creators to do just that—create jobs.

An analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Foundation found that permanent bonus depreciation would actually grow the economy by 1 percent, adding \$182 billion to the economy; increase the capital stock by over 3 percent; increase wages by about 1 percent; and create 212,000 new jobs.

□ 1245

Since its creation in 2002, this credit has routinely been extended on a bipartisan basis. It is important that we do so again today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman ROGERS for making good on his commitment to ensure orderly and timely consideration of appropriations bills. I also want to commend Chairman CAMP for examining the Tax Code, ensuring we can provide the tax certainty that so many businesses need in order to make investment decisions that benefit us all.

I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my good friend, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are breaking a record yet again for the most closed Congress ever. The majority has broken their own record for the most closed Congress in history. Again and again, they have wasted time, money, and energy on legislative proposals designed to distract us from the problems at hand. And that certainly is true today.

The American people are hoping that Congress will create jobs, expand educational opportunities, and support working families, but instead, we insist on spending millions of dollars on investigating made-up scandals and adding billions and billions to the deficit.

Today we have one rule for two bills: first, the bonus depreciation bill, and, second, the Financial Services Appropriations bill, two bills with nothing in common except to highlight the majority's insistence of choosing policy over people.

Now, H.R. 4718 would make bonus depreciation permanent. This is a policy that maybe you have never heard of, but it is a policy that used to be bipartisan and still would be on a 1- or 2-year basis, like the Senate has proposed. It is designed as a temporary measure, and I emphasize "temporary" because if it isn't temporary, it is not effective.

Bonus depreciation gives businesses an extra large immediate tax deduction for a portion of the cost of investments in equipment. Instead of spending more of the deduction over future years, it incentivizes purchasing equipment now in order to provide an immediate boost to the economy, instead of in the future when the incentive may not be available.

And that is how it has always temporarily worked. But if we make it permanent, then the taxpayers are simply subsidizing the cost of the equipment that businesses would need to purchase anyway.

My good friend from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who is as good a businessman as he is a Congressman—and that is saying a lot—said yesterday that in 2003, his small business went out and bought \$100,000 worth of computers specifically because he could take advantage of the bonus depreciation, which was in place and was a very smart thing for him to have done. And that is exactly how bonus depreciation is supposed to work.

Mr. COLE knew computers would be cheaper at that time than in a year or two, when the tax credit would have expired. So he spent the money on equipment. And that surely helped the economy, and I am sure it created some jobs.

But why would Mr. COLE buy the computers immediately if he knew the tax credit would be there forever? He wouldn't, I don't believe. We will talk about that later.

This tool was put in place between 2002 and 2005, at 30 percent and then at 50 percent. It was reenacted in 2008 and then extended four times, often as part of a larger stimulus package, most recently at 50 percent. That expired at the end of 2013.

Now, when enacted as a temporary measure, there has been bipartisan support. However, the bill we have before us intends to make it permanent, completely negating the purpose of the bonus depreciation as a temporary measure.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service looked into the change, and they said, "Its temporary nature is critical to its effectiveness" and that bonus depreciation "was enacted for a specific, short-term purpose."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now insert the Congressional Research Service's report, "Bonus Depreciation: Economic and Budgetary Issues," from March 24, 2014, into the RECORD.

[From Congressional Research Service,
Mar. 24, 2014]

**BONUS DEPRECIATION: ECONOMIC AND
BUDGETARY ISSUES**

(By Jane G. Gravelle, Senior Specialist in
Economic Policy)

SUMMARY

The Tax Extenders Act of 2013 (S. 1859), which would extend expiring tax provisions for a year, includes bonus depreciation. The temporary provisions enacted in the past for only a year or two and extended multiple times are generally referred to collectively as the “extenders.” One reason advanced for these temporary provisions is that time is needed to evaluate them. Most of these provisions, however, have been extended multiple times, and some suggest that these provisions are actually permanent but are extended a year or two at a time because permanent provisions would significantly increase the costs in the budget horizon. Historically, bonus depreciation has not been a traditional “extender.”

Bonus depreciation allows half of equipment investment to be deducted immediately rather than depreciated over a period of time. Bonus depreciation was enacted for a specific, short-term purpose: to provide an economic stimulus during the recession. Most stimulus provisions have expired. Bonus depreciation has been in place six years (2008–2013), contrasted with an earlier use of bonus depreciation in place for three years. Is bonus depreciation temporary or permanent? The analysis of bonus depreciation differs for a temporary stimulus provision, compared to a permanent provision that can affect the size and allocation of the capital stock.

A temporary investment subsidy was expected to be more effective than a permanent one for short-term stimulus, encouraging firms to invest while the benefit was in place. Its temporary nature is critical to its effectiveness. Yet, research suggests that bonus depreciation was not very effective, and probably less effective than the tax cuts or spending increases that have now lapsed.

If bonus depreciation is made permanent, it increases accelerated depreciation for equipment, contributing to lower, and in some cases more negative, effective tax rates. In contrast, prominent tax reform proposals would reduce accelerated depreciation. Making bonus depreciation a permanent provision would significantly increase its budgetary cost.

Compared to a statutory corporate tax rate of 35%, bonus depreciation lowers the effective tax rate for equipment from an estimated 26% rate to a 15% rate. Buildings are taxed approximately at the statutory rate. Total tax rates would be slightly higher because of stockholder taxes. Because nominal interest is deducted, however, effective tax rates with debt finance can be negative. For equity assets taxed at an effective rate of 35%, the effective tax rate on debt-financed investment is a negative 5%. The rate on equipment without bonus depreciation is minus 19%; with bonus depreciation it is minus 37%.

If bonus depreciation is permanent, estimates of U.S. effective tax rates reflecting concerns that the U.S. rate is higher than that of other countries overstate the effective U.S. corporate tax rate; U.S. effective tax rates on equipment would be significantly lower than the OECD average.

Moving to permanent bonus depreciation is inconsistent with tax reform proposals made by the Wyden-Coats bill, the Senate Finance

Committee Staff discussion draft, and Chairman Camp's proposal. All of these proposals would reduce the current accelerated depreciation for equipment.

The usual extenders cost a fraction of the cost of permanent provisions in a 10-year budget window, but bonus depreciation is a smaller fraction because it is a timing provision. A one-year extension costs \$5 billion for FY2014–FY2024, less than 2% of the cost of \$263 billion for a permanent provision.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. What the majority is fond of saying is that this bill would bring in \$10 billion in revenue. And I heard it over and over again at the Rules Committee last night, that we are going to have \$10 billion in revenue. But what they fail to say is that over 10 years, it is going to cost us \$287 billion, nearly \$300 billion, which could buy us a lot of high-speed rail, a lot of bridge infrastructure, a lot of highway work. But what we are now doing is a permanent subsidy to make tax cuts to every business that wants to buy equipment.

Now, the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation scored this at \$287 billion over 10 years. We are not making that up. The majority is cobbling together a piecemeal approach, and it will not work. We would love to have tax reform, we cry out for tax reform, but this isn't it.

To cap it all off, this is another closed rule. And let me say what that means. Even if a Member wanted to offer an amendment to pay for the nearly \$300 billion cost of this bill—which is the rules under which we operate, you know, PAYGO—they wouldn't be allowed.

There are so many better things to spend that \$300 billion on, the things that we really need in this country. But the closed rule ensures that it would stifle the debate and hijack the process. And, more than that, we know the Senate will not take this up.

So, once again, we are doing a bill that might make some people feel good but not if they think about it a little bit. Because even the businesses who are going to be prospering from the tax decrease are going to be responsible for the loss of \$300 billion.

So with the second bill, which is H.R. 5016, the Financial Services Appropriations, the majority is cherry-picking which agencies to fund and which to strangle for purely political purposes. They will continue chasing down the all-but-defunct IRS conspiracy rabbit, getting funding for the IRS but making it so that \$2 billion worth of the tax revenue will not be collected because they have cut the budget of the IRS so much. So add that \$2 billion to the \$300 billion that we are voting on today for depreciation, and add that onto the deficit, too, since it is not paid for.

In addition, as the majority crisscrosses the country touting states' rights, they have also put forward legislation that obstructs, once again, the District of Columbia's home rule by re-

stricting funding for constitutionally protected medical care. The majority insists on ensuring that women are second-class citizens, and they continue to chip away at our constitutional rights.

Furthermore, this bill continues to prevent multi-State policies under the Affordable Care Act from providing coverage for abortions under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, except in the most desperate of circumstances.

We need to say over and over again that, of the women in this country who are using birth control, 58 percent—more than half of them—are using it for medical reasons. And they are being deprived. Mr. Speaker, 58 percent of the women in this country who are using prescription contraception are using it because they have medical issues, and it is expensive. But we will not let them get any help because we simply don't believe in providing health care for women.

Government workers deserve the same benefits and the same access to comprehensive health care as those in the private sector enjoy. It is, in fact, dangerous for the majority to target abortion care and require its exclusion from health insurance plans that include other important and necessary reproductive health services. Women expect and deserve the best health care and coverage that fits their needs.

And let's remember that 58 percent of the women who use oral contraceptives use them for medical purposes, not just for birth control.

I would like to be able to say that women should expect their government to be able to put their health and safety above election-year politics, but this is what we have come to expect here. Women deserve better. But I am afraid in the House, women's rights, again, continue to be undermined. Time and again, we have prioritized in this House—some of us—politics over people.

Let me mention the veterans, for example. Listen to this. This is really important to know. While those veterans who have served and sacrificed for our country are waiting months in line for medical care, the House majority will spend more money investigating and trying to debunk a nonexistent Benghazi scandal than helping our veterans get the care they need. That is right. The committee investigating Benghazi has a much larger budget than the Veterans' Affairs Committee. If that is not a political statement, I don't know what is.

And I need to point out that just yesterday, transcripts from the Armed Services Committee about Benghazi proved that everything that could have been done was done.

And I know that when I last did the rule on the floor on the special Benghazi committee that I received a call from the mother of one of the

Navy SEALs that died, saying that she really wished the Congress would stop dragging their family back through that horror. They know what happened.

Instead of working on the real problems—and we have got them—they are finding time to sue the President for doing his job, to hold vote after vote to repeal ObamaCare. And let's remember the shutdown of the government that took \$24 billion in that short time out of this economy.

So we come here to make things better. And with these actions and with this behavior, we make things worse.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As usual, my friend is a sharp and acute debater and makes points over a broad number of issues.

I do want to say, for the record, I am not such a great businessman, but I have a great business partner who has been my partner for 25 years. She is the managing partner. She made the call. And I have been very fortunate to be friends and partners with her for many, many years.

I think she probably moved as quickly as she did because she didn't think the government would have the good sense to keep this open. But the fact is, under both Republicans and Democrats, we have done bonus depreciation. When my friends were in the majority, they continued to routinely extend it themselves.

And after more than a decade, it has become, frankly, pretty much a permanent feature of our Tax Code. Now it is not so permanent that you can absolutely rely on it in the business sense. But I still accept the argument, after something that has been repeatedly confirmed by both sides, and both sides have repeatedly extended it and made it effectively permanent, we ought to go ahead and provide business with that certainty. Again, we will have a debate on that, and that is appropriate.

The second point I want to discuss, where I do differ with my friend a little bit: look, we always quibble no matter who is in the majority over how open the process is and how much the minority is allowed to participate in it. When we do that, we usually need to remember, if we are in the minority, what our record was when we were in the majority.

I want to remind my friends on the other side that throughout the 111th Congress, the final 2 years of their time in the majority, the House never considered a single bill under an open rule. That is the definition of a closed process. On the contrary, under Republican control, the House has returned to the consideration of appropriations bills under an open process, with 22 open rules.

Again, I was on the Appropriations Committee when my friends took the opportunity that every Member enjoys, to come down and participate in the appropriations process, away from everyone—their side and our side alike.

Additionally, the Congress has allowed under our control more than 1,000 amendments to be offered on the House floor, including a total of 488 amendments offered by Democrats and another 137 bipartisan amendments. Forty percent of all submitted amendments have been made in order. Compare that to our friends, who made only 17 percent in order under their majority regime in the 111th Congress.

So when you actually compare the record of the Republican majority to the most recent Democratic majority, any fair analysis would show that Republicans are running a far more open and transparent House. I think that is something that my friends need to recall when they raise this particular critique.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I want to thank my good friend from New York for yielding and for her work on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, A Congress controlled by Members trying to reduce the Federal footprint at every turn ought to be the first to reject two amendments in the Financial Services appropriation, which fly in the face of their own core philosophy.

First is the abortion amendment that would keep the District of Columbia from spending its own local funds on abortions for low-income women.

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, 17 States that are represented in this House spend their own local funds in this way, and we are determined to fight until the district's low-income women have the same reproductive health rights as the women who live in those 17 States.

There is a second bill—a second amendment that targets the District of Columbia and its marijuana decriminalization law at the same time that the States are rapidly moving in the same direction.

Eighteen of them, before the District even got there, have decriminalized marijuana. Two States have legalized marijuana, 23 States have legalized medical marijuana, and a recent Pew Research poll found that more than half of the American people support marijuana legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment that targets the District of Columbia is authored by Representative ANDY HARRIS of Maryland. Maryland is one of the States that has decriminalized marijuana.

Now, he couldn't convince his own State, where the voters are accountable to him, not to decriminalize marijuana.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. I appreciate the generosity of the ranking member.

He wants to come to this floor and try to convince this body, where not a single Member is accountable to the residents of the District of Columbia, that it should not allow the District to decriminalize its marijuana laws. I don't know why the Members from those 18 States have decriminalized, but let me tell you why they were decriminalized in the District of Columbia. They were decriminalized for racial justice reasons. We discovered, through a scientific study, that African Americans were eight times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than Whites, even though Whites and Blacks in the District of Columbia and in the United States of America use marijuana at the same rate.

Forty years ago, this Congress passed the Home Rule Act leaving local matters to the District of Columbia, just like your local matters are left home. We demand the same respect for local control for the District of Columbia residents who are full American citizens, like everybody else who represents people on this floor.

We demand that our American citizens have the same respect for their local control that on this floor, that every day, you demand for your own residents.

I thank the ranking member.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have enormous respect for my friend from the District of Columbia. She does a tremendous job representing her community, and she is an articulate and able Member of this body. It is true. We do have an unusual degree of authority as Congress over the Capital of the United States. That is a constitutional issue and an article I, section 8 issue.

Being the Capital brings great privileges and benefits to Washington, but it also, unquestionably, at times, brings some difficulties and some strains as well; so we all—whoever is in the majority—try to manage that as best they can.

In terms of the abortion issue, the language in this bill that applies to D.C., as I understand it, has been pretty routine under both Democrats and Republicans over the years, and so that is my understanding of that issue.

On the marijuana issue, the Federal prohibition here has existed for many years and was actually proposed in the President's budget. The amendment that was offered and adopted in the

committee—and there was a very spirited debate about this by Dr. HARRIS—does add new language to prohibit local funds for recreational use of marijuana. The intent is to prevent D.C. from legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

D.C. has enacted a law which makes possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense, carrying a \$25 fine, and that goes into effect later this month.

In November, D.C. may have a ballot initiative to legalize possession of small amounts. I suspect this will be an ongoing discussion and concern between the Congress and the community.

Ms. NORTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the generosity of the gentleman for yielding.

First, let me set straight that the District of Columbia gets not one single benefit that any other Member who pays taxes—except we pay taxes without representation—not one single benefit that is any different from what other members get.

Secondly, on marijuana decriminalization, I respect the differences we have there, and the States are experimenting now. The District has only decriminalized marijuana, and recently, a member of the council introduced an amendment—which I bet you the other 18 States have not done—to educate our young people about marijuana, so that they don't go off and try it.

Nobody is for smoking marijuana—I wish we hadn't smoked all those cigarettes, there would be millions of people alive if we hadn't—but we really don't want to see people go to jail for possessing marijuana, and we don't want to live in a city where the only people who get arrested for possessing marijuana are people who look like me.

This is a city full of college students. They don't get arrested. Those who get arrested are African Americans because the police patrol those areas more sternly than others. We are asking for racial justice, but above all, we are asking for local control.

I want to say one thing about your citing of the Constitution. You are absolutely right. The Constitution gives the Congress control, but Congress passed, 40 years ago, the Home Rule Act, and that Home Rule Act was Congress' understanding that there ought to be no Members of this House who don't have total control over their own local money and over their own local affairs.

We ask for the same respect, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. COLE. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for the points that she made. I would just say that, again, this is going to be an ongoing source of tension—it has been.

To clarify, when I said the Capital benefits, I meant to imply in no way that citizens here don't have the same obligations, same responsibilities, and bear the same burdens. I happen to have two wonderful military bases in my facility. We think we are privileged to host them. We derive considerable benefit and employment from their presence.

I will note, just as the gentlewoman suggests, we pay taxes, too. We are American citizens, and those weren't put there for our benefit. They were put there for the purposes of defending the country, but we are happy to have them.

I suggest there is probably a lot of that same pride in this community for hosting the Capital of the United States, so that was my intent in that remark.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. May I inquire if my friend has any more requests for time?

Mr. COLE. I do not.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. We are going to call for the previous question, Mr. Speaker, and if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up the legislation that would treat wildfires like similar major natural disasters and ensure that money intended for managing public lands is actually used for that purpose.

It is time to make commonsense changes in the Federal wildfire budget.

Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal on wildfires, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. DEFazio. I thank my good friend for yielding that time.

Mr. Speaker, sometime in the end of July or, at the latest, very early August, the inadequate budget for forest firefighting for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service will be exhausted—that's right, exhausted.

We are going to be at a point where there will be fires raging across the West. We are looking at record drought, record dry fuels, and you will be able, probably, to smell or see the smoke across a lot of the country.

Mr. Speaker, we should be doing everything we can to prepare for this and prevent this in the future, and that is the crux of this argument. We are not going to stop fighting fires. They can't because the forests will burn and people will die. No, we are going to stop it, but they will borrow from and decimate every other account in their budgets.

Forty percent of the Forest Service budget goes to fighting fires on an annual basis, which means every year we repeat this little Groundhog Day thing. They have to suspend the programs

that would prevent future forest fires—that is fuel reduction programs, forest health programs.

They have to cut into the recreation budget and all of the other activities and things that they must do—cut into their timber management program, everything gets decimated—and the money just goes to fight fires.

We have the rarest of rare things here: a bicameral, bipartisan bill that is supported by the President of the United States. What else in this town is bipartisan, bicameral, and supported by the President?

Mr. Speaker, this should be a no-brainer. I have asked for hearings in the committee on the coming catastrophe this summer. No hearings have been held. We have legislation with 100 cosponsors—no action, no hearing, and no action on that bill.

We need this funding this month, and that way, the Forest Service won't have to decimate the programs that would prevent or mitigate future forest fires. So, come on, guys, let's wake up, smell the smoke, and do what is right and needs to be done—an adequate budget to fight the catastrophic forest fires across the Western United States.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, San Diego and the entire State of California are facing a prolonged drought that is placing us at increased risk for wildfires. We are currently in the midst of what is expected to be one of the longest and hardest wildfire seasons in recent memory.

That is why I also agree that we have to take action immediately to ensure adequate funding for wildfires by bringing to the floor H.R. 3992, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014.

It is a bipartisan bill with dozens of sponsors from both sides of the aisle. It is fiscally responsible and has broad support from Washington and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, in May, San Diego saw an early start to fire season, when nearly a dozen wildfires erupted over a 5-day period, burning 27,000 acres and destroying 65 homes. Every day, communities in the region are at risk of wildfires.

This is an elongated fire season. We are not used to seeing these kinds of events in San Diego until September or October. That means that the cost to contain fires and the damage they cause will increase, and it makes it vital that we provide sufficient funds for officials to respond to them.

So we need to make the existing disaster contingency fund open to cover part of the cost of wildfire response. I have seen the impact of catastrophic wildfires firsthand. It is clear to me that wildfires should be treated the same as other natural disasters like hurricanes or tornadoes or Superstorm Sandy.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we change the law in this way on which there is an agreement, so that natural disasters include wildfires and allow our States and localities to access the necessary funds, without forcing us to choose between disaster relief and disaster prevention, which is a silly budget policy, but the one we are following today.

So I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question and amend the rule, so we can bring up H.R. 3992, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2014. We can bring it to the floor for a vote today.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by agreeing with the last two speakers, in terms of the substance of their argument. I happen to be a cosponsor of that legislation, which is proposed by my good friend, Mr. SIMPSON, and I think they are discussing a very real and very important issue, and this is an issue where there is considerable bipartisan agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I probably will end up opposing the manner in which you are going to try and bring this to the floor, but I do think it needs to come to the floor. There is an orderly process to do that. There are discussions underway to continue to work on it; but, again, my friend makes a very good point.

I have tried consistently during my tenure here, no matter who is in control, to recognize that, when we have disasters, that people who are dealing with them need immediate help, and you need to vote accordingly and try and make that occur.

□ 1315

I sit on the Interior Subcommittee where we wrestle with this funding issue that both of my friends brought up, and they are precisely right. Since you can't predict a fire, you can't produce the amount, we end up treating fires differently than every other kind of disaster and we savage the normal budget process and actually drain a lot of accounts, accounts that in some cases would help us prevent future fires by helping us get rid of hazard fuel buildup in forests and things of that nature.

Again, I think my friends make a good point. I think we are going to continue to work on this in a bipartisan manner. I hope we will get there.

I will note for the RECORD that when we were actually considering the Republican budget, we were engaged on that committee, which I sit on as a representative from Appropriations, in discussions with one of our Democratic friends on the other side of the aisle about bringing an amendment and actually writing it in the budget. We had Republicans prepared at that point to vote for that amendment in sufficient numbers. The White House, I was told,

was actually in favor of doing that. For whatever reason, the decision was made not to do that. Again, I cast no aspersions here, but I think we probably missed a more appropriate opportunity of actually cementing it down.

But I will say this: both of my friends have my commitment to continue to try and work with them and find an appropriate vehicle and appropriate time to get this done. I appreciate very, very much the fact that you came to the floor and brought it up and reminded us of how significant an issue this is. This is something we should be able to work across the aisle and accomplish. I thank my friend.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if my colleague is prepared to close, I will close.

Mr. COLE. I am prepared to close.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the majority continues to choose politics over people, create problems instead of solving them, and insist on silencing debate in the Chamber. It is time to consider the real problems facing the country, and with summer comes the destructive fire season that affects so many of my colleagues' districts.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and move to consider the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act to make the commonsense changes in the Federal wildfire budget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” and defeat the previous question, and vote “no” on the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that one of the basic functions of Congress is to actually fund the government. This rule would continue that process for consideration of appropriations bills for fiscal year 2015. In addition, it would allow for consideration of legislation that makes bonuses depreciation permanent, a provision that has existed as part of our Tax Code under both Democrats and Republicans since 2002.

I have enjoyed the debate. As always, I appreciate exchanging views with my good friend from New York, by way of Kentucky, two States blessed, and I would urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 661 OFFERED BY
MS. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3992) to provide for wildfire suppression operations, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3992.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

The Republican majority may say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and]

has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 10, 2014 at 10:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 247.

That the Senate passed S. 311.

That the Senate passed S. 354.

That the Senate passed S. 363.

That the Senate passed S. 476.

That the Senate passed S. 609.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 255.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 330.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 507.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 697.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 876.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1158.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3110.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2337.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 272.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1216.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 356.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 291.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 4923, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CASSIDY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4923.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1320

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 14 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) had been postponed,

and the bill had been read through page 59, line 20.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MRS. LUMMIS

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I wish to call up amendment No. 16.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)) and all public notice and comment requirements under chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, that are applicable to carrying out such section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Wyoming and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reinforce the Department of Energy's already existing legal obligations when it sells or transfers excess uranium from the Federal inventory.

One of these legal obligations is called the "Secretarial Determination" that the uranium transfers will not have an adverse material impact on the domestic uranium industry. The other obligation is to comply with the public notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

The Department's actions regarding uranium have come under justified scrutiny, so I will take both of them in turn.

First, my amendment reinforces the required Secretarial Determination that uranium transfers do not adversely impact the domestic uranium industries.

Congress decided to require a Secretarial Determination because, if the government dumps too much uranium onto the market, it can artificially distort the market and hurt domestic uranium industries. These include uranium mining, uranium conversion, and uranium enrichment industries, all crucial to developing a more robust domestic uranium supply chain to feed our nuclear power plants.

Right now, 90 percent of the uranium used to provide electricity in this country is imported, but it doesn't have to be that way. Here in the United States, including my home State of Wyoming, we have abundant uranium resources. With uranium from American soil and through American jobs, we can correct this imbalance; but the task is made difficult, if not impossible, with the Department of Energy's cavalier uranium transfers.

The Secretarial Determination process has, unfortunately, become a sham.

Instead of protecting domestic uranium industries, it has become a tool to destroy them. Prior to the May 15, 2014, Secretarial Determination, the Department commissioned a market analysis that concluded the uranium transfers would reduce employment in the domestic uranium industries by 4 percent and reduce the spot price for mined uranium by 8 percent. That is what their own market analysis provided. Yet the Department is ignoring the results of its own study and is proceeding anyway, based on other information and analysis it decided not to share with the public.

My amendment uses the power of the purse to reinforce existing statutory law, lest the Department flaunt the law, rendering it meaningless.

Second, my amendment reinforces the Department's obligation to comply with the public notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. The Department of Energy has used its excess uranium as a slush fund, selling or bartering uranium to subsidize failed companies like the U.S. Enrichment Corporation or to fund other programs without having to come to Congress for the money. This program has operated in the shadows, making a mockery of our budget process.

I want to quote a recent GAO report on the Department's uranium transfers. It says:

We believe transparency is a fundamental tenet of good government and that our recommendations support actions needed to enhance DOE's transparency.

The GAO identified uranium transfers at below market value to prop up USEC, shortchanging the taxpayer and further distorting uranium markets. The report documented shortcomings in the Department's market analysis of how the transfers would impact uranium markets and the failure of the Department to adequately consult with the domestic industries. Unfortunately, on GAO's Web site, all of their recommendations to the Department to increase the transparency of its uranium transfers remained unfulfilled.

My amendment simply reinforces the existing obligation of the Department to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act. Like any other agency, they have a legal obligation to engage in reasoned decisionmaking, not shadowed and arbitrary uranium transactions.

My amendment barely touches the legislative reforms needed to fix this broken program, but I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON for helping me at least identify a way to address this issue that might be suitable to the appropriations process.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The reservation of a point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentlelady's amendment.

For years, our subcommittee has criticized the Department of Energy's use of its uranium transfer authorities. The Department's reliance on its uranium transfers to generate funds for cleanup has inappropriately circumvented the appropriations process, has adversely impacted our domestic uranium mining and conversion industry, and is now creating instability of funding at Portsmouth as the market price of uranium continues to drop.

The amendment restates current law but sends a message to the Department that it must cease relying on these off-budget measures, and I am pleased to support the gentlewoman's amendment and thank her for it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Connecticut and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

My amendment would prohibit Federal contracts issued by agencies under the jurisdiction of this bill from going to entities incorporated in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, the two nations most often abused as tax havens.

This body has accepted similar provisions for the Departments of Defense,

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development. As before, we should not spend taxpayer money on Federal contracts that go to companies that have renounced their American citizenship in favor of an island tax haven.

Just this week, Business Week wrote an article examining the loopholes that longstanding American companies like Ingersoll Rand, which was founded in Connecticut in 1871, have been exploiting in order to enjoy lucrative government contracts while pretending to reside overseas for tax purposes.

□ 1330

These firms simply should not be allowed to pretend they are an American company when it comes time to get contracts, then claim to be an offshore company when the tax bill arrives.

According to a recent study, 70 percent of Fortune 500 companies used tax havens last year. They stashed nearly \$2 trillion offshore for tax purposes, nearly two-thirds of which was hidden away by just 30 firms.

Of the companies who have established subsidies and tax havens, nearly two-thirds have registered at least one in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands. The profits these companies claim were earned in these two island nations in 2010 total over 1,600 percent of the country's entire yearly economic output.

These companies take advantage of our education system, our research and development incentives, our skilled workforce, and our infrastructure, all supported by U.S. taxpayers.

We have already acted on the Transportation-HUD bill and Defense. Let us do the same for Energy and Water. Let's support the firms that are staying at home and meeting their obligations and pass this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment.

The Financial Services Appropriations bill has carried language for years which prohibits funding for any Federal Government contract with foreign incorporated entities which are treated as inverted domestic corporations. This language has been carried annually in the government-wide General Provisions section of the Financial Services Appropriations bill since approximately 2005 and is requested annually by the current administration.

The changes which this amendment would propose to make could have significant consequences and really should be handled by the proper tax committees.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, “The ranks of Federal contractors with foreign addresses”—and I am quoting from an article that appeared in Bloomberg this week—“The ranks of Federal contractors with foreign addresses are likely to grow this year as a new stampede of companies escapes the U.S. tax system.” Escapes the U.S. tax system.

These are companies who are taking their funds, bringing them to Ireland, to the Caymans, to Bermuda because they do not want to pay their fair share of taxes in the United States of America. There isn’t a citizen who can get away with that, but we are allowing these companies to do it. And not only that—because it is legal under our Tax Code which has to be reformed, but my God, that is going to take a month of Sundays to get done—in the meantime, they are collecting millions and millions of dollars in Federal contracts.

We are rewarding these ardent corporations who renounce their U.S. citizenship. They go offshore, take their money offshore, and don’t pay taxes so that we can do anything about education or biomedical research or any other areas that we have had to cut the budget on so that they can save their money and not pay any taxes. Then we say: Okay, the floodgates are open; come and get a Federal contract. It is wrong and we shouldn’t do that.

Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 1½ minutes to my colleague from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague. I have been pleased to join her in adding the language of this type to each appropriation bill that has thus far been approved in the House.

I am surprised that there could be any opposition to it today because all this amendment is saying is, if you renounce your citizenship and go abroad to avoid paying taxes, don’t come with hand outstretched to ask the other taxpayers who stayed here and worked in America and who are proud to be American businesses and are paying their fair share, don’t ask them to put their tax dollars into providing you a government contract.

It seems to me very apparent that some corporations are willing to do their fair share in paying for American security, energy and water projects, and other vital government services and some are not. There are a string of corporations who have decided they would keep their business operations in America, but they would suddenly renounce their American citizenship and become a citizen of one of these island kingdoms. That is not the American approach of fairness in paying for the services that we need.

This amendment would put an end to that renunciation of citizenship and asking for taxpayer-funded business. It is equitable; it is fair. We cannot have the resources that we need to remain the greatest Nation in the world without having every American citizen contributing their fair share. Most are. Those who renounce their citizenship and nominally declare that they are now a foreign citizen and not subject to full American taxation, they are not carrying their fair share.

I urge adoption of this amendment, an equitable amendment, for fairness in our public policy.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Iowa and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is the amendment that strikes the funds that might be used to enforce the Davis-Bacon wage scale. That is a piece of legislation that passed here in this Congress sometime about 1931. It was designed to keep African Americans out of the labor force in New York as they were building Federal buildings. It is a remnant of the Jim Crow law. In fact, it is the only remnant that remains, as near as I believe, of the Jim Crow law.

So it comes down to this. When you have a relationship between two people and they agree to a wage scale, that is all that should be required here. Instead, this Federal minimum wage scale sets a union scale. It is not prevailing wage; it is union scale.

I have dealt with Davis-Bacon wage scales all of my business life. I started a construction company in 1975. We almost immediately had to deal with the

Federal Government coming in and saying, on this side of the road you shall pay your shovel operator this, and on the other side of the road you shall pay him something that might be half again more than that, and the guy that runs the grease gun gets this, and the one that runs the excavator gets that. The Federal Government micro-managing and disrupting the efficiencies in our construction companies results in far higher costs for our construction projects.

We have maintained a series of records over the years what it costs additional when we are doing Davis-Bacon federally mandated union scale jobs, and it runs between 8 and 35 percent in our company over these years. There is other data out there that is done—Beacon Hill has some—that shows a range, but in the end it boils down to a net effect of a 20 percent additional cost for a Davis-Bacon wage scale.

Here we are bleeding red ink in the Federal Government. CBO made a recommendation, if we wanted to move towards balance, the repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act would be one of those things that would help us move in that direction. But on this bill itself, it appropriates \$5.493 billion for Civil Works programs. All of that would fall under the Davis-Bacon-mandated wage scale. And in title II, the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation appropriates \$1.014 billion. So the total in this bill is \$6.507 billion. If my amendment is enacted into law, we are going to see a savings in this bill of \$1.3 billion.

Mr. Chairman, no one can claim to be a fiscal conservative if they think the Federal Government needs to inflate the cost of wages. Supply and demand sets the cost of those wages. A reasonable pay scale is arrived at.

I am hearing people say we must bring in tens of millions of people to do the work Americans won’t do and pay them a mandated union scale. This is not settled by the prevailing wage. Somebody will get up and say, no, it is a prevailing wage. They take a survey from contractors and find out what the prevailing wage is; then they work that out, and a board makes a determination on what is actually the prevailing wage.

It is simply not true in practice, Mr. Chairman, it is not true in practice. In practice, some advisers sit down and they decide whether people in different categories ought to have more money next year or not. It is an arbitrary, subjective decision. It is not prevailing wage.

I know this law. I have been with this for a long time. I know that it costs taxpayers a lot of money. I don’t think that there is any way to actually find out how hard this number is. I tell you, it is 8 to 35 percent. Beacon Hill has a different number of around 5 to 38.

Mine is 8 to 35. I think theirs is 5 to 38 percent. But it averages out to about 20 percent, and that does not include the inefficiencies that are wired into this.

The inefficiencies come when you have labor that is competing for the highest paying jobs and doing sometimes the most inefficient thing with the most inefficient machine because it pays the most money. It is a Jim Crow law. It needs to be eradicated. It was designed to lock African Americans out of the construction trades, particularly in New York, and now it is a Holy Grail for union wages.

I used to say for the gentleman in Massachusetts who was here at the time, when he would say any time there is a relationship between two or more consenting adults the Federal Government should not stick their nose into it, I would say I agree with that. There is no reason why I shouldn't be able to climb into my son's excavator and let him pay me \$10 an hour, whatever we agree to, or \$15 or \$20, not the mandated wage scale.

So I urge adoption of my amendment that would eliminate the enforcement of the Davis-Bacon wage scale on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the King amendment.

What is interesting to me is that the net effect of the King amendment would be to drive wages down, another Republican amendment to not really show any respect for the workers of this country. Are they all going to work for poverty wages?

Millions of our citizens still remain out of work, the middle class is shrinking, and here we have a Member that stands up and he wants to have lower wages. The public wants Congress to create middle class jobs and to pay people what they are worth.

The interesting thing about this amendment is that, when you look back at all the studies that have been done, for instance, when President Bush suspended Davis-Bacon wages during the Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts, construction costs went up due to the dramatic increase in the employment of unqualified workers.

I would like to say to the gentleman—and I know you are a handyman because you have told me you are—that the people who work on these projects are ironworkers. I defy anybody in this place to do that. I think STEPHEN LYNCH did that work. Congressman LYNCH is about the only one that survived that. Boilermakers, carpenters, operating engineers, electricians, laborers, sheet metal workers, cement masons, roofers, painters, these people go up on those high bridges and they risk their lives. They need train-

ing. And do you know what? They deserve the wage they get under contract—under contract—not by happenstance, not by accident.

I find it interesting that the gentleman offers this amendment, because in your district, since 1995, you have received \$9 billion in Federal subsidy that goes to your farmers. I don't see the gentleman railing against the subsidies that come to your district. You get insurance. Your farmers get insurance if they lose their crop. What does an ironworker get if he falls off high scaffolding in New York City or Toledo, Ohio, or Cleveland or wherever? What does that worker get?

It is interesting—I think the gentleman is kind of disingenuous—your State ranks second in the Nation for agriculture subsidies. The Federal Government holds you up. Davis-Bacon simply says that, when you go to work, the price of what you are paid, your labor, is by contract; it is not by happenstance; it is not by accident; it is not by exploitation. In fact, we know when better buildings are built, when safe bridges are built, there are no washouts under tunnels and bridges. That is a good thing. That is a good thing for America.

So I hold respect for the workers who want to work, who receive the training to work, who know how difficult the work is.

I will tell you a story from my own district. We built one of the biggest bridges in Ohio several years back. We lost ironworkers and an operating engineer in that process, though we had signed every kind of safety agreement we could possibly sign. And do you know what happened? The construction company decided, because there were at least two lanes, they would pit sets of workers against one another to see who could finish the job fast enough. What happened was some of the cranes were not secured at the base as they hung above the river. The construction company, which was supposed to be abiding by the law and all the safety standards, found a trick in order to save a couple of pennies, and it cost the lives of some of the finest workers in the country.

□ 1345

I devoted months and months and months to making sure that there were good safety standards in place. And they always find a way around it.

This is dangerous work. This is work that most people in this Chamber most likely never thought about, never did; don't understand what these workers go through in cold winter months, hanging above oil rigs across this country; handling public projects underground, above ground, above water.

It is unbelievable what these people do. They go to other countries. Look at the dangerous scaffolding that exists in places like Ukraine, and you respect

the trades of this country, who have managed to build apprenticeship and training programs so we don't lose lives needlessly.

Davis-Bacon assures we have a middle class standard; that we have labor valued by contract, not by accident, not by happenstance, not by subsidy, like the gentleman's district gets, but by plain hard work.

I couldn't be more in opposition to any amendment offered this afternoon, and I think the gentleman must be misguided in what he is trying to do here. But I think it is important to have definable standards.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would ask Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 4712 of title 41, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I think we can all agree that we want the workers at our nuclear facilities to be proactive in reporting health and safety violations. It seems pretty obvious.

In California, whistleblowers were key in pointing out critical safety problems at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Had these brave whistleblowers not come forward, we could have had a Fukushima-like meltdown right next to the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton and within 50 miles of 8 million Americans. We need more whistleblowers, not less.

That is why I was flabbergasted to learn that the Department of Energy has allowed its contractors to force their employees to sign agreements not to disclose waste, fraud, or abuse. The DOE's allowance of nondisclosure agreements has been the subject of ongoing congressional investigations, which found that whistleblowers at the

Hanford plutonium processing plant in Washington State were fired after raising safety concerns. Not only does this violate basic principles of workplace safety, but it circumvents Congress' constitutional duty to conduct oversight over governmental activities.

This is a part of pattern of abuse by contractors using employment contracts to hide outrageous crimes within their organizations.

In 2005, an employee of a contracting company deployed to Iraq was gang-raped by her coworkers and was then prevented from going to court because her employment contract said that sexual assault allegations would only be heard in private arbitration.

Another contract worker in Iraq reported \$80 million in fraud by the major defense contractor that employed him and was terminated for blowing the whistle. The employer used the excuse that the employee had missed a conference.

Shockingly, the Department of Energy is actually subsidizing this type of illegal and unethical activity with taxpayer money. In many instances, DOE is picking up the legal tabs for these contractors, funding long legal battles against the very whistleblowers who have bravely come forward to protect public health and safety.

The DOE told me just this week that they have no intention of stopping these subsidies, and that they would only seek reimbursement from the contractors if the whistleblower won in court.

My amendment is simple. It makes clear that the Department of Energy must protect non-Federal employees from whistleblower retaliation. It is the workers on the front lines who are best suited to identify and expose misconduct, but contract workers are the most vulnerable to termination.

The risk of career-ending retaliation is currently too great for most non-Federal employees to blow the whistle on their employer or contract manager.

The DOE must stop allowing its contractors to stifle whistleblowers through illegal workplace secrecy agreements and taxpayer-funded lawsuits.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SPEIER. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. We would be happy to accept the gentlewoman's amendment.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation or guidance that references or relies on the analysis contained in "Technical Support Document: - Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866" issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (February 2010), "Technical Support Document: - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866" issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (May 2013), "Technical Support Document - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order 12866" issued by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government (revised November 2013), or "Technical Support Document - Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis - Under Executive Order No. 12866", published at 78 Fed Reg. 228 (November 26, 2013).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Oklahoma and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, in 2010, the administration put together a working group to monetize the cost per ton of carbon emissions for use in cost-benefit analyses for rulemaking undertaken by all agencies in the Federal Government, and then reconvened this group again in 2013 to further increase what they called the "social cost of carbon." They increased that amount by 50 percent in just 3 years.

The process was done behind closed doors and without any public input. The administration refuses to release how much of their deliberations were done in public, how much were done in private, or any of the details of their deliberations. They refuse to release the way they used the scientific modeling or even who actually did the modeling for them, or even something as basic as the list of participants at the meeting—even when it was discussed.

Months after releasing the report—and only after sustained pressure—the administration relented, put the document and the numbers up for public comment, a procedure that is routine for the rulemaking process. But the administration has continued to use the calculations that they said they set aside. They use those calculations for the recent EPA rules decreasing emissions by 30 percent for existing power plants by 2030.

My amendment would prevent the Department of Energy from doing the same thing. This is a rule that has been set aside. It is a number that has not been agreed to and there was no public comment for. They cannot change a regulatory number without any notice and comment and without any public

input. This would prevent them from doing that.

The DOE rulemakings using the social cost of carbon have the potential to raise the cost for everyday activities and purchases for all Americans.

I would ask that this group join me in supporting the amendment, which would prohibit the flawed and capricious social cost of carbon rule from being implemented by the Department of Energy.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, this amendment tells the Department of Energy to deny the latest climate change science.

The amendment denies that carbon pollution is harmful and, according to this amendment, the cost of carbon pollution is zero. That is science denial at its worst.

You don't have to look too far to discover the damage already caused by climate change. In fact, in the State that I live in, what used to be Tennessee's ecosystem and climate zone is no more. It has been moved up. If you plant any seed in the ground, you look at the back of the packet, it has all been changed.

We see very unusual weather patterns developing all across our Nation and the world.

We can't put our heads in the sand and deny reality. There is a reality out there.

There was a book written called, "Last Child in the Woods," and it talks about how most Americans now don't spend enough time outdoors. In fact, a lot of them are even afraid to be out there. So a lot of people spend their life in air-conditioned situations or well-heated situations and don't really look at what is happening to our ecosystem.

In May, our Nation's leading climate scientists released the National Climate Assessment, which confirmed that climate change is real, it is caused by humans, and it is already harming communities across America. The assessment explains that scientific evidence is "unequivocal." This amendment tells the Department to ignore these scientific findings.

The latest science shows that climate change is expected to exacerbate heat waves. Has anybody noticed the erratic nature of what is happening in the places you live?

Droughts. I heard Senator FEINSTEIN say the other day that California is becoming a desert State. Interesting statement.

Wildfires. Who can deny those?

Floods and water- and vector-borne diseases will pose greater risk to human health, to animal life, and any living creatures around us.

It is interesting to me that, in my own State, the pork industry is undergoing an incredible implosion because of something that is infecting the hog population and they are being lost, not by the tens or the hundreds or the thousands, but by the millions. There is something wrong.

Wheat and corn yields are already experiencing negative impact due to climate change. After 2050, the risk of overall declining crop yields increases substantially.

Federal agencies have a responsibility to calculate the cost of climate change and take them into account.

Unfortunately, what this amendment would require is that the government assume zero harm and zero cost from carbon pollution and carbon change.

The truth is that unchecked climate change would have catastrophic economic impacts here in the United States and across the globe. Those who are less fortunate will bear the heaviest burdens.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. Don't be a science denier. Pretending that climate change doesn't exist won't make it go away. Maybe every single Member of this Chamber should have to enroll in some STEM classes so that science and technology and engineering and math are a part of our DNA and it might be easier to really evaluate the world around us with more objectivity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I would be glad for the Members of this body to enroll in a science class. I would also be glad for the Members of this body to enroll in a world history class and possibly look at the history of the Earth.

Do you realize there were glaciers in Ohio centuries ago?

If we are talking about weather today, we are talking about a different topic. We are talking about an administration not following the Administrative Procedure Act.

If this is about an administration saying they can change rules as they choose to, I look forward to seeing that same standard being applied to Republican Presidents in the days ahead.

But when an administration can change a rule without notice and comment and shift the social cost of carbon by 50 percent in a 3-year time period without following the rule, without following the law, so much so that when we addressed it in a hearing, they admitted it, set the rule aside, and then the EPA chose to use it anyway, we are not talking about weather anymore. We are suddenly talking about the rule of law.

□ 1400

Now, this is not an area on which we had disagreement—Republicans and Democrats—in committee because it was clear that the administration did

not follow the rule of law. This is a simple statement. It is not a statement about climate change. It is not a statement about a future ice age or of a future flood. It is a statement about: Do we choose to follow the law or not?

If someone wants to argue that we shouldn't follow the Administrative Procedure Act, I look forward to the day when we just set the entire thing aside and let the administration do whatever it wants to at any point, but I hope that day does not occur and that we do follow the rule of law and require the administration to do the same.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I would inquire of the time remaining on both sides.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The gentlewoman from Ohio has 1½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Oklahoma has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me say that Federal agencies have a responsibility to calculate the costs of climate change and to take them into account. This amendment would tell the Department to ignore those impacts, and that, in my judgment, is irresponsible.

The administration is using common sense, and that was the clear message from the Government Accountability Office when it added climate change to its high-risk list. That is exactly what the Obama administration is doing.

An interagency task force worked over the last couple of years to estimate the costs of harm from carbon pollution. The cost calculation was first issued in 2010, and a refined and updated calculation was published last year.

It incorporated updated scientific and technical information, and it was a very conservative calculation. The full costs of climate change are almost certainly going to be significantly higher, but it is better than the previous estimate, and it is much, much better than assuming that the costs are zero.

So I urge my colleagues to reject the Lankford amendment. Again, don't be a science denier. Let's not pretend climate change doesn't exist. That won't make it go away.

Let's behave as though we care about future generations and are doing our very best to meet the challenges of the current era.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. I can assure you I have great care, Mr. Chairman, for future generations, as I do for this generation and as I do for the United States Constitution.

No administration can ignore the Administrative Procedure Act, change it capriciously by 50 percent and say, I have new science, and go into a room and literally not publish who was in the room, not take any public com-

ment, not even disclose what the memos were or all of the models that were even used in the discussion, but just say, I am going to change this by 50 percent because there have been updates, and so everyone's costs just went up dramatically.

That is not the way we work things in America. This is not about science. This is about law, though this is the first time I have ever heard anyone, Mr. Chairman, discuss the loss of piglets as being connected to weather, as has been discussed on the floor today. It was a virus that spread across the entire United States. This is not about piglets. This is not about weather. This is just law.

With that, I would encourage the passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I wonder if the chairman would be willing to engage in a brief colloquy regarding transparency and accountability regarding transmission and capacity market changes imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Mr. SIMPSON. I would be happy to join the gentlelady in a colloquy.

Ms. KAPTUR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I now yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY).

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for working with me on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, in January, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, known as FERC, approved a proposal by the New York Independent System Operator to create a new capacity zone in the Hudson Valley. The committee report accompanying the fiscal year 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill acknowledges that zones like this one may result in increases in consumer energy costs.

In the case of the Hudson Valley, this new zone would impose an unprecedented \$230 million increase in energy costs for our region in just the first year and nearly \$500 million in increased costs over a 3-year period. Initial estimates suggest that customers

throughout the Hudson Valley could see their utility bills go up by 3 to 10 percent.

Not only did FERC approve this new zone, but they have completely disregarded ratepayers and local officials in this decision. They have consistently ignored local stakeholders' warnings that this zone will arbitrarily hurt families and businesses.

Moreover, they have failed to demonstrate that the zone would even achieve the result that they are seeking. FERC has also failed to take into account a wide range of ongoing investments that will facilitate the movement of energy in New York State and which may reduce or eliminate the need for such high-capacity payments.

Would the chairman and the ranking member agree that it is the intent of the report language to ensure that FERC reexamines and reforms the way they conduct this type of decision-making, so that the proceedings ensure the Commissioners hear and consider the concerns of local ratepayers?

Mr. SIMPSON. Yes, I would agree that that is the intent.

Ms. KAPTUR. I also agree.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member.

Would you also be committed to continuing to work with me during fiscal year 2015 to ensure that FERC makes reforms to ensure that the views of residents, local and State officials, regulators, and business leaders are taken into account when FERC makes these major decisions?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would agree to do so, and I believe the gentlelady from Ohio would agree to do so as well.

Ms. KAPTUR. I would.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment No. 91 at the desk, a limitation amendment regarding life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions and LNG exportation.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to apply the report entitled "Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States", published in the Federal Register on June 4, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 32260), in any public interest determination under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, the United States is the largest producer of

natural gas in the world and has a large and growing natural gas reserves base.

The Energy Information Administration estimates that proven and unproven reserves of natural gas are large enough to fuel America for over 90 years at current consumption rates, and more is being found.

A study sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and published by IHS concluded that unconventional gas development supported over 900,000 jobs in recent years.

The U.S. Department of Energy, however, recently changed the process by which it reviews and approves liquefied natural gas export projects to non-free trade agreement countries.

Among its process changes, the DOE is releasing a new environmental report that explores the life-cycle greenhouse gas impact of U.S. LNG exports. According to the DOE, the report will be used to "inform its decisions" regarding greenhouse gas emissions of U.S. LNG exports for use in electric power generation in Europe and Asia.

With this new report, the DOE is compromising with intervening environmental groups that want the criteria and scope of the "public interest" to include life-cycle greenhouse gas emission impacts.

While the DOE claims that impacts are not "reasonably foreseeable" at this time, by acknowledging special interest environmental group requests for expanded scope of review beyond the LNG facility, the DOE opens the door to prolonged litigation.

LNG export projects already go through extensive environmental impact analysis during the project's National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, review. This new report adds another layer of legal risk and uncertainty to an already extensive and difficult process.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports the Cassidy-Fleming amendment and notes that the DOE's sole jurisdiction lies in considering the public interest of exporting the commodity and should not waste funds, potentially delaying license application review in an effort beyond its jurisdiction.

The Cassidy-Fleming amendment prohibits the DOE from applying its report or the perceived impact on life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions in its LNG export public interest determination process, so I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to my colleague from Louisiana, Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. I thank my good friend, who is also from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), and I do support the Cassidy-Fleming amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the President has bragged about the increase in energy production during his tenure as President of the United States.

However, what we have actually found is that there has been a 15 per-

cent decline in energy production on Federal lands and offshore, where he is in control. On the other hand, in the private sector, we have had a veritable explosion in production, if you don't mind my using that term.

What is that reflective of? It is reflective of the miracle that is fracking, which is going on in the U.S. today.

One of the centers of that is the Haynesville shale in my district, where we have produced an abundance of natural gas. We used to have to import it from other countries. Today, we have such a glut that we have capped many of the wells.

Natural gas is the cleanest carbon-based energy; so, while we are taking down coal, why aren't we increasing the production of natural gas? In doing so, why not supply it to the rest of the world? Because the air we breathe in the United States is the same air they breathe in China and in Russia and vice versa.

I support this amendment. Let's stop throwing monkey wrenches into the machinery of natural gas production and energy production in general, and let's get the cost of energy down for Americans.

Let's stop this nonsense, this hyperregulatory atmosphere we have. Despite the President's claim, it is American ingenuity—it is innovation by Americans, specifically fracking technology and horizontal drilling—that has brought about this wonderful miracle that we have.

Let's get on board. Let's get both sides of the aisle on board with this, and let's stop messing around with our technology. This is going to be the first LNG export facility—that is, Lake Charles, which is just below my district, in Congressman BOUSTANY's district—from which we are going to be supplying the rest of the world with natural gas—which, as I say, has half the carbon footprint of coal.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, when a company wants to export liquefied natural gas, LNG, it has to submit an application with the Department of Energy.

For the export to countries with a free trade agreement with the U.S., the DOE must grant the applications without modification or delay. For the export to countries without a free trade agreement, the DOE has to approve an application, unless it finds that the proposed export will not be consistent with the public interest.

To make this determination, the DOE evaluates a range of factors. It looks at the economic impacts, the international considerations, U.S. energy security, and environmental effects.

Mr. CASSIDY's amendment would prohibit the DOE from even considering one of the most important factors: the impact of LNG exports on climate change. I don't understand why we would do that.

The world's leading scientists are unequivocal: climate change is already happening on all continents and across the oceans, and it is going to get much worse if we don't cut our emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases.

□ 1415

So that would mean that we need to scrutinize the energy infrastructure decisions that we make today for their impact on climate change in the future. Every decision to build a new LNG export terminal has climate implications. We need to understand and weigh those effects.

Now, whether exporting LNG will have a positive or a negative impact on global greenhouse gas emissions is a complex but a critical question. Natural gas consumption for electricity emits less carbon pollution than coal. So proponents of LNG exports argue these exports will displace coal consumption in these other countries, the way it is happening here in the United States, and that would produce a climate benefit; but other LNG exports will raise natural gas prices in the United States, which could increase the coal use here in the United States and carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants. So, on the one hand, it helps; on the other hand, it might hurt.

LNG exports would also drive new domestic natural gas production in the U.S. Now, that could increase emissions of methane—that is a potent greenhouse gas—unless we take measures to control that pollution at the wellhead and throughout the natural gas system.

So, if we are going to live in a carbon-constrained world, we need to understand and consider the climate impacts of key energy policy decisions, such as building a new LNG export terminal and exporting America's natural gas.

Mr. CASSIDY's amendment takes a head-in-the-sand approach. DOE shouldn't even look at this. DOE shouldn't look at the lifecycle carbon emissions from LNG. This amendment says that DOE can't even consider those findings for any future studies of climate impacts when making a public interest determination.

If you are going to have the consequences of climate change, shouldn't we know about it if we are going to say that a particular application is or is not in the public interest?

Considering climate impacts is not going to slow down the review process. Nobody has made that argument. It makes no sense to require DOE to make a determination without the benefit of all the facts.

Ignoring climate change will not make it go away. Quite the opposite. So I am urging my colleagues to oppose this amendment. It is a shortsighted amendment.

DOE has to make a determination in those cases where it is before them on what is the public interest. They have to look at the economic impacts. They have to look at international considerations. They have to look at U.S. energy security and environmental effects.

Why should we say they should look at everything else but not be able to look at the environmental effect if it deals with climate change? It is a mystery to me why we would want to do something like this.

Now, Mr. CASSIDY made an argument that that is not within the jurisdiction of DOE. Well, we know DOE can look at energy security, but the economic impacts, they are going to have to look to other agencies of the government to help them with that one. The international considerations, they will probably want the State Department and others to help them with that one.

So don't limit DOE and take away their jurisdiction as they make what is in the public interest, because it is in the public interest to look at all these considerations.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, California, like most of the West and Midwest, is suffering and enduring a devastating drought. This is impacting the livelihoods of our families, our farmers, our small businesses throughout the State. California produces about half of the Nation's fruits, vegetables, and nuts; in other words, California feeds the rest of the country.

California's Governor wants to move forward with something called the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or the BDCP, which will build two massive tunnels to facilitate shipping water from one part of the State to the other.

I agree with every Californian that we need long-term, statewide solutions to our State's water needs. There needs to be some level of predictability for our families, farmers, and small businesses about our water supply. To do that, we need to focus on conservation, recycling, reuse, and storage. The BDCP does none of these things.

California voters and the State legislature haven't agreed on whether or not to fund this project, which is expected to cost \$25 billion, a cost that keeps rising. The project is still in the draft stage. Right now, the plan is already more than 30,000 pages, and final comments aren't even due until the end of July. According to the plan, the Federal Government is expected to contribute \$4 billion.

Anyone who follows California water knows it is an emotional issue, one the State has been debating for decades. But the BDCP is not based on sound science. For example, the Delta Independent Science Board issued a report this year that said:

We find the science in this BDCP falls short of what the project requires. Many of the impact assessments hinge on overly optimistic expectations about the feasibility, effectiveness, or timing of the proposed conservation actions, especially habitat restoration.

The Science Board goes on to say:

The analyses largely neglect the influences of levee failures and environmental effects of increased water for agriculture.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for making time for me to discuss this important issue today, and I hope in the future we can look at this type of funding from the Federal Government.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, over the past four years, I have been heavily engaged in the BDCP process, actively promoting Sacramento's interest to President Obama's administration, Governor Brown's administration and the many stakeholders that would be affected by the project.

It has not been an easy road as we all know.

While I support a Delta solution because a sustainable system is necessary, I continue to have serious concerns that the BDCP process will ultimately create significant and irreversible harm to the Sacramento region.

GOVERNANCE

First, the BDCP process must respect northern California's interests. Unfortunately, it currently does not. The current governance structure of the BDCP includes the Delta water exporters and the state and federal water agencies. There is no representation for us in that structure. We cannot affect the process at all. We are left to a spectator role.

Given that this project is the largest water infrastructure project ever undertaken by California and that it has a permit for 50 years attached to it—this governance structure is totally unacceptable.

Here is why governance matters. Northern California was clearly harmed this year by the poor operations of our reservoirs. Yes, the drought has caused the low water levels in our reservoirs, but we should NEVER have a community on the brink of running out of drinking water. That is totally unacceptable. And with a BDCP in place and no role in the governance structure we would not be able to prevent operations, like this year, from happening again.

OPERATIONS

Sacramento County is the home of the BDCP's three water intakes; this will forever change our County's landscape not to mention how much water is available in the river.

The current BDCP framework does not specify how the project will be operated, quite literally building the project first and then figuring out how much water to send south later. This is also unacceptable.

You can imagine that after the Delta water exporters spend over \$15 billion building a new conveyance structure there will be tremendous pressure to maximize its water delivery output.

There have been times where the entire flow of the Sacramento River has been less than 15,000 cfs. Under the BDCP framework announced today, this would mean the Sacramento River would be reduced . . . to a trickle.

In addition, this plan must recognize senior water rights in northern California. Currently there are no assurances that those will be preserved.

THE DELTA

I also need to mention that the BDCP was created to solve two pressing issues—restoration of the Delta and a stable water supply for Delta water exporters. All I have seen is an urgency to push a new water conveyance with a guaranteed water supply for the exporters. I have not seen glowing reports from the fish agencies that the BDCP is going to guarantee restoration of the Delta ecosystem. To the contrary the state and federal Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries sound doubtful that the BDCP will recover the salmon and smelt species.

In conclusion, I will just say that what I have seen of the BDCP is alarming. I do not believe that its current form will achieve California's co-equal goals. And as for Northern California—there are no benefits—only negative impacts.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment. The proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is not a workable solution to California's water challenges.

We have a serious statewide drought in California, yet the BDCP doesn't do a single thing to alleviate this drought. Further, the current BDCP is flawed, hurts wildlife and puts the interests of South-of-Delta water contractors ahead of North-of-Delta farmers, fishers and small business owners.

Until we have a plan that is transparent, based on sound science and developed with all stakeholders at the table, the federal gov-

ernment shouldn't be wasting taxpayer dollars on this proposal.

We must remain focused on solutions to the statewide drought in California and not on a misguided plan that will risk billions in California tax dollars and thousands of jobs. I support this amendment and thank my colleague for raising this important issue.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California.

An amendment by Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon.

An amendment by Ms. SPEIER of California.

Amendment No. 15 by Ms. TITUS of Nevada.

An amendment by Mr. SCHIFF of California.

An amendment by Mr. QUIGLEY of Illinois.

An amendment by Mr. CHABOT of Ohio.

Amendment No. 14 by Ms. TITUS of Nevada.

An amendment by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut.

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa.

An amendment by Mr. LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

An amendment by Mr. CASSIDY of Louisiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 129, noes 290, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 379]

AYES—129

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black

Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Burgess

Byrne
Campbell
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble

Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Culberson
Daines
DeSantis
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fincher
Fleming
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Hall
Harris
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan

Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar

King (IA)
Kingston
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Lankford
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)

NOES—290

Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibson
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna

Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Southerland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Thornberry
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei

Maloney, Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Marino
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McAllister
 McCaul
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McNerney
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Meng
 Michaud
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Murphy (FL)
 Murphy (PA)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Nolan
 Nugent
 O'Rourke
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson

Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Rigell
 Roby
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Rothfus
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Wilson (FL)
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter

Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stivers
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walden
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Whitfield
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fitzpatrick
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Gibson
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva

Barber
 Barrow (GA)
 Bass
 Beatty
 Becerra
 Benishek
 Bera (CA)
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Bonamici
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Brownley (CA)
 Bustos
 Butterfield
 Capps
 Cárdenas
 Carson (IN)
 Cartwright
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis, Danny
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 Delaney
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deutch
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Duckworth
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Enyart
 Eshoo
 Esty
 Farr
 Fitzpatrick
 Foster
 Frankel (FL)
 Fudge
 Gabbard
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia
 Gardner
 Gibson
 Goodlatte
 Gosar
 Graves (MO)
 Grayson
 Green, Al
 Green, Gene
 Grijalva

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt
 Carney
 DesJarlais
 Grimm
 Hanabusa

Jackson Lee
 Johnson (GA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 Nunnelee
 Palazzo

Pompeo
 Rangel
 Richmond

□ 1458

Mr. GERLACH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, WELCH, RUSH, LYNCH, ELLISON, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. BARR changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. BUCSHON, RICE of South Carolina, and SOUTHERLAND changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 199, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]

AYES—221

Gutiérrez
 Hahn
 Hanna
 Harris
 Hastings (FL)
 Heck (NV)
 Heck (WA)
 Herrera Beutler
 Higgins
 Himes
 Hinojosa
 Holt
 Honda
 Horsford
 Hoyer
 Huffman
 Israel
 Jeffries
 Johnson, E. B.
 Jones
 Kaptur
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kennedy
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kind
 King (NY)
 Kirkpatrick
 Kuster
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loeback
 Lofgren
 Lowenthal
 Lowey
 Lujan Grisham (NM)
 Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
 Lynch
 Maffei
 Maloney, Carolyn
 Maloney, Sean
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCollum
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McIntyre
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNerney
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Meng
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Murphy (FL)
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Negrete McLeod
 Nolan

O'Rourke
 Owens
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters (CA)
 Peters (MI)
 Peterson
 Pingree (ME)
 Pocan
 Polis
 Posey
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Runyan
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Sinema
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth
 Young (AK)

NOES—199

Amash
 Amodei
 Bachmann
 Bachus
 Barletta
 Barr
 Barton
 Bentivolio
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (UT)
 Black
 Blackburn
 Boustany
 Brady (TX)
 Bridenstine
 Brooks (AL)
 Brooks (IN)
 Broun (GA)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burgess
 Byrne
 Calvert
 Camp
 Campbell
 Cantor
 Capito
 Capuano
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Clawson (FL)
 Cole
 Collins (GA)
 Collins (NY)
 Conaway
 Cook
 Cotton
 Cramer
 Crawford
 Crenshaw

Culberson
 Daines
 Davis, Rodney
 Denham
 Dent
 DeSantis
 Diaz-Balart
 Doyle
 Duffy
 Duncan (SC)
 Duncan (TN)
 Ellmers
 Farenthold
 Fattah
 Fincher
 Fleischmann
 Fleming
 Flores
 Forbes
 Fortenberry
 Foxx
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Garrett
 Gerlach
 Gibbs
 Gingrey (GA)
 Gohmert
 Gowdy
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Griffin (AR)
 Griffith (VA)
 Guthrie
 Hall
 Harper
 Hartzler
 Hastings (WA)
 Hensarling
 Holding
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Huizenga (MI)
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurt
 Issa
 Jenkins
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jolly
 Jordan
 Joyce

Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 Kingston
 Kinzinger (IL)
 Kline
 Labrador
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Lankford
 Latham
 Latta
 Long
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lummis
 Marchant
 Marino
 Massie
 McAllister
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 Keon
 Meadows
 Messer
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller, Gary
 Mullin
 Mulvaney
 Murphy (PA)
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Pearce
 Petri
 Pittenger
 Pitts
 Poe (TX)
 Price (GA)
 Rahall
 Reed
 Ribble
 Rice (SC)
 Rigell
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Royce
 Ryan (WI)
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Turner
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walorski
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Westrup
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt
 Carney
 DesJarlais
 Grimm

Hanabusa
 Jackson Lee
 Johnson (GA)
 McCarthy (NY)

Nunnelee
 Pompeo
 Rangel
 Richmond

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1502

Messrs. MARCHANT and MESSER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. CUMMINGS changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SPEIER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 235, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 381]

AYES—184

Amash	Grijalva	Pastor (AZ)
Bachmann	Gutiérrez	Payne
Bass	Hahn	Pelosi
Becerra	Hanna	Peters (CA)
Benishek	Hastings (FL)	Peters (MI)
Bentivolio	Holding	Petri
Bera (CA)	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Bishop (NY)	Honda	Pocan
Blumenauer	Hudson	Polis
Braley (IA)	Huelskamp	Quigley
Bridenstine	Huffman	Ribble
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rice (SC)
Brown (GA)	Israel	Roe (TN)
Brownley (CA)	Jeffries	Rohrabacher
Buchanan	Jolly	Rokita
Burgess	Jones	Rooney
Campbell	Jordan	Roybal-Allard
Capps	Keating	Royce
Carson (IN)	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Cartwright	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Rush
Chabot	Kilmer	Ryan (WI)
Chaffetz	Kind	Salmon
Chu	Kuster	Sánchez, Linda T.
Cicilline	Labrador	Sanford
Clark (MA)	Lance	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schakowsky
Clawson (FL)	Lankford	Schiff
Clay	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Cleaver	Levin	Schweikert
Coble	Lewis	Scott, Austin
Cohen	Loeb sack	Scott, David
Collins (GA)	Lofgren	Sensenbrenner
Connolly	Long	Serrano
Conyers	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
Costa	Lowe y	Sires
Crowley	Lujan Grisham	Slaughter
Cummings	(NM)	Speier
Daines	Maffei	Stockman
Davis (CA)	Marchant	Stutzman
Davis, Danny	Massie	Swalwell (CA)
Delaney	Matsui	Takano
DeSantis	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
Deutch	McDermott	Tierney
Duffy	McGovern	Titus
Duncan (SC)	McMorris	Tonko
Duncan (TN)	Rodgers	Tsongas
Edwards	Meadows	Van Hollen
Ellison	Meeks	Velázquez
Engel	Meng	Walden
Eshoo	Mica	Walz
Farr	Miller (FL)	Wasserman
Foxx	Miller (MI)	Schultz
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Waters
Franks (AZ)	Moore	Waxman
Fudge	Mulvaney	Welch
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Wenstrup
Garamendi	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Garrett	Napolitano	Woodall
Gibson	Negrete McLeod	Yoder
Gohmert	Nolan	Yoho
Gowdy	O'Rourke	
Grayson	Pallone	

NOES—235

Amodei	Butterfield	Crenshaw
Bachus	Byrne	Cuellar
Barber	Calvert	Culberson
Barletta	Camp	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Capito	DeFazio
Barrow (GA)	Capuano	DeGette
Barton	Cardenas	DeLauro
Beatty	Carter	DelBene
Bilirakis	Cassidy	Denham
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	Dent
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Diaz-Balart
Black	Coffman	Dingell
Blackburn	Cole	Doggett
Bonamici	Collins (NY)	Doyle
Boustany	Conaway	Duckworth
Brady (PA)	Cook	Ellmers
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Enyart
Brooks (IN)	Cotton	Esty
Brown (FL)	Courtney	Farenthold
Bucshon	Cramer	Fattah
Bustos	Crawford	Fincher

Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)	Roby
Fleischmann	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Fleming	Latham	Rogers (MI)
Flores	Latta	Ros-Lehtinen
Forbes	Lipinski	Roskam
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Ross
Foster	Lucas	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Runyan
Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)
Garcia	(NM)	Sanchez, Loretta
Gardner	Lummis	Scalise
Gerlach	Lynch	Schneider
Gibbs	Maloney,	Schock
Gingrey (GA)	Carolyn	Schrader
Goodlatte	Maloney, Sean	Scott (VA)
Gosar	Marino	Sessions
Granger	Matheson	Sewell (AL)
Graves (GA)	McAllister	Sherman
Graves (MO)	McCarthy (CA)	Shimkus
Green, Al	McCaul	Shuster
Green, Gene	McClintock	Simpson
Griffin (AR)	McHenry	Sinema
Griffith (VA)	McIntyre	Smith (MO)
Grimm	McKeon	Smith (NE)
Guthrie	McKinley	Smith (NJ)
Hall	McNerney	Smith (TX)
Harper	Meehan	Smith (WA)
Harris	Messer	Southerland
Hartzler	Michaud	Stewart
Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary	Stivers
Heck (NV)	Moran	Terry
Heck (WA)	Mullin	Thompson (MS)
Hensarling	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Herrera Beutler	Neal	Thornberry
Higgins	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Himes	Noem	Tipton
Hinojosa	Nugent	Turner
Horsford	Nunes	Upton
Hoyer	Olson	Valadao
Hultgren	Owens	Vargas
Hunter	Palazzo	Veasey
Hurt	Pascrell	Vela
Issa	Paulsen	Visclosky
Jenkins	Pearce	Wagner
Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter	Walberg
Johnson, E. B.	Perry	Walorski
Johnson, Sam	Peterson	Weber (TX)
Joyce	Pittenger	Webster (FL)
Kaptur	Pitts	Westmoreland
Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)	Whitfield
King (IA)	Posey	Williams
King (NY)	Price (GA)	Wilson (SC)
Kingston	Price (NC)	Wittman
Kinzinger (IL)	Rahall	Wolf
Kirkpatrick	Reed	Womack
Kline	Reichert	Yarmuth
LaMalfa	Renacci	Young (AK)
Lamborn	Rigell	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Cantor	Johnson (GA)	Richmond
Carney	McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (KY)
DesJarlais	Nunnelee	
Hanabusa	Pompeo	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1506

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 75, noes 344, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 382]

AYES—75

Amodei	Hahn	Payne
Beatty	Hastings (FL)	Pelosi
Becerra	Heck (NV)	Peters (MI)
Bishop (UT)	Holt	Pocan
Blumenauer	Honda	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Horsford	Roybal-Allard
Capps	Huffman	Ruiz
Capuano	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Castor (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Sánchez, Linda T.
Chaffetz	Lee (CA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu	Levin	Schakowsky
Clark (MA)	Lewis	Scott, David
Clarke (NY)	Lofgren	Serrano
Cleaver	Lowenthal	Shea-Porter
Conyers	Luján, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
Crowley	(NM)	Stewart
Davis (CA)	Matheson	Takano
Deutch	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	McGovern	Tierney
Edwards	McKeon	Titus
Ellison	Meeks	Tsongas
Engel	Meng	Velázquez
Eshoo	Nadler	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Napolitano	Schultz
Grijalva	Negrete McLeod	Waxman
Gutiérrez	Pallone	

NOES—344

Amash	Cooper	Granger
Bachmann	Costa	Graves (GA)
Bachus	Cotton	Graves (MO)
Barber	Courtney	Grayson
Barletta	Cramer	Green, Al
Barr	Crawford	Green, Gene
Barrow (GA)	Crenshaw	Griffin (AR)
Barton	Cuellar	Griffith (VA)
Bass	Cummings	Grimm
Benishek	Daines	Guthrie
Bentivolio	Davis, Danny	Hall
Bera (CA)	Davis, Rodney	Hanna
Bilirakis	DeFazio	Harper
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Harris
Bishop (NY)	Delaney	Hartzler
Black	DeLauro	Hastings (WA)
Blackburn	DelBene	Heck (WA)
Bonamici	Denham	Hensarling
Boustany	Dent	Herrera Beutler
Brady (PA)	DeSantis	Higgins
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Himes
Braley (IA)	Dingell	Hinojosa
Bridenstine	Doyle	Holding
Brooks (AL)	Duckworth	Hoyer
Brooks (IN)	Duffy	Hudson
Brown (GA)	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp
Brown (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Huizenga (MI)
Buchanan	Ellmers	Hultgren
Bucshon	Enyart	Hunter
Burgess	Esty	Hurt
Bustos	Farenthold	Israel
Butterfield	Farr	Issa
Byrne	Fattah	Jeffries
Calvert	Fincher	Jenkins
Camp	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (OH)
Campbell	Fleischmann	Johnson, E. B.
Cantor	Fleming	Johnson, Sam
Capito	Flores	Jolly
Cardenas	Forbes	Jones
Carson (IN)	Fortenberry	Jordan
Carter	Foster	Joyce
Cartwright	Foxx	Kaptur
Cassidy	Franks (AZ)	Keating
Castro (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Kelly (IL)
Chabot	Fudge	Kelly (PA)
Cicilline	Gabbard	Kildee
Clawson (FL)	Gallego	Kilmer
Clay	Garcia	Kind
Clyburn	Gardner	King (IA)
Coble	Garrett	King (NY)
Coffman	Gerlach	Kingston
Cohen	Gibbs	Kinzinger (IL)
Cole	Gibson	Kline
Collins (GA)	Gingrey (GA)	Kuster
Collins (NY)	Gohmert	Labrador
Conaway	Goodlatte	LaMalfa
Connolly	Gosar	Lamborn
Cook	Gowdy	Lance

Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke

Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Roskam
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskham
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions

Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Speier
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt
Carney
Culberson
DesJarlais
Garamendi

Hanabusa
Jackson Lee
Johnson (GA)
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee

Pompeo
Rangel
Richmond

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1511

Mr. CICILLINE changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 205, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 383]

AYES—216

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Connolly
Custer
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGowan
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Gerlach
Gibson
Goodlatte
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Hahn
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGowan
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Reichert
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—205

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta

Barr
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn

Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)

Buchanan
Bucshon
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eilmlers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hoyer

Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey

Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt
Billirakis
Carney
DesJarlais

Hanabusa
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee

Pompeo
Rangel
Richmond

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1515

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 239, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 384]

AYES—181

Amash	Garcia	Negrete McLeod
Bachmann	Grayson	Nolan
Bass	Griffith (VA)	O'Rourke
Beatty	Grijalva	Owens
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hanna	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Pelosi
Bonamici	Higgins	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Himes	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Hinojosa	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Holt	Petri
Burgess	Honda	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Horsford	Pocan
Butterfield	Hoyer	Polis
Capps	Huelskamp	Price (NC)
Capuano	Huffman	Quigley
Cárdenas	Israel	Rahall
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Rohrabacher
Cartwright	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Jordan	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Chu	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sanford
Clay	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kind	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kuster	Schiff
Coffman	Langevin	Schock
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Conyers	Levin	Sensenbrenner
Cooper	Lewis	Serrano
Courtney	Lipinski	Shea-Porter
Crowley	Loebach	Sherman
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Sires
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Speier
Davis, Rodney	Lowe	Stockman
DeFazio	Lynch	Takano
DeGette	Maffei	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Carolyn	Tierney
DelBene	Massie	Titus
Deutch	Matheson	Tonko
Doggett	Matsui	Tsongas
Doyle	McCollum	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McDermott	Vargas
Duncan (TN)	McGovern	Veasey
Edwards	McNerney	Velázquez
Ellison	Meeks	Visclosky
Engel	Meng	Walz
Enyart	Messer	Wasserman
Eshoo	Michaud	Schultz
Esty	Miller, George	Waters
Farr	Moore	Waxman
Fattah	Mulvaney	Welch
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Yarmuth
Fudge	Napolitano	
Garamendi	Neal	

NOES—239

Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Cole
Bachus	Brown (GA)	Collins (GA)
Barber	Brown (FL)	Collins (NY)
Barletta	Buchanan	Conaway
Barr	Bucshon	Cook
Barrow (GA)	Byrne	Costa
Barton	Calvert	Cotton
Benishek	Camp	Cramer
Bentivolio	Campbell	Crawford
Billirakis	Cantor	Crenshaw
Bishop (UT)	Capito	Cuellar
Black	Carter	Culberson
Blackburn	Cassidy	Cummings
Boustany	Chabot	Daines
Brady (TX)	Chaffetz	Denham
Bridenstine	Clawson (FL)	Dent
Brooks (AL)	Coble	DeSantis

Diaz-Balart	Kline	Rogers (KY)
Dingell	Labrador	Rokita
Duffy	LaMalfa	Rooney
Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellmers	Lance	Roskam
Farenthold	Lankford	Ross
Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Rothfus
Fitzpatrick	Latham	Royce
Fleischmann	Latta	Ruiz
Fleming	LoBiondo	Runyan
Flores	Long	Ruppersberger
Forbes	Lucas	Ryan (WI)
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Salmon
Fox	Lujan Grisham	Scalise
Franks (AZ)	(NM)	Schneider
Frelinghuysen	Luján, Ben Ray	Schrader
Gabbard	(NM)	Schweikert
Gallego	Lummis	Scott (VA)
Gardner	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
Garrett	Marchant	Sessions
Gerlach	Marino	Sewell (AL)
Gibbs	McAllister	Shimkus
Gibson	McCarthy (CA)	Shuster
Gingrey (GA)	McCaul	Simpson
Gohmert	McClintock	Sinema
Goodlatte	McHenry	Slaughter
Gosar	McIntyre	Smith (MO)
Gowdy	McKeon	Smith (NE)
Granger	McKinley	Smith (NJ)
Graves (GA)	McMorris	Smith (TX)
Graves (MO)	Rodgers	Smith (WA)
Green, Al	Meadows	Southerland
Green, Gene	Meehan	Stewart
Griffin (AR)	Mica	Stivers
Grimm	Miller (FL)	Stutzman
Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Swalwell (CA)
Hall	Miller, Gary	Terry
Harper	Moran	Thompson (PA)
Harris	Mullin	Thornberry
Hartzler	Murphy (PA)	Tiberi
Hastings (WA)	Neugebauer	Tipton
Heck (NV)	Noem	Turner
Hensarling	Nugent	Upton
Herrera Beutler	Nunes	Valadao
Holding	Olson	Wagner
Hudson	Palazzo	Walberg
Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen	Walden
Hultgren	Pearce	Walorski
Hunter	Perry	Weber (TX)
Hurt	Peterson	Webster (FL)
Issa	Pittenger	Wenstrup
Jenkins	Pitts	Westmoreland
Johnson (GA)	Poe (TX)	Whitfield
Johnson (OH)	Posey	Williams
Johnson, E. B.	Price (GA)	Wilson (SC)
Johnson, Sam	Reed	Wittman
Jolly	Reichert	Wolf
Joyce	Renacci	Womack
Kelly (PA)	Ribble	Woodall
King (IA)	Rice (SC)	Yoder
King (NY)	Rigell	Yoho
Kingston	Roby	Young (AK)
Kinzinger (IL)	Roe (TN)	Young (IN)
Kirkpatrick	Rogers (AL)	

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt Jackson Lee Rangel
 Carney McCarthy (NY) Richmond
 DesJarlais Nunnlee Rogers (MI)
 Hanabusa Pompeo Vela

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
 The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1518

So the amendment was rejected.
 The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CHABOT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 243, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 385]

AYES—176

Amash	Graves (GA)	Palazzo
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Perlmutter
Barrow (GA)	Hall	Perry
Barton	Hanna	Peters (CA)
Bentivolio	Harper	Petri
Billirakis	Harris	Pittenger
Black	Hartzler	Pitts
Blackburn	Heck (NV)	Poe (TX)
Boustany	Hensarling	Polis
Brady (TX)	Holding	Posey
Braley (IA)	Hudson	Price (GA)
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Renacci
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rice (SC)
Brown (GA)	Hunter	Rigell
Buchanan	Hurt	Roe (TN)
Burgess	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Byrne	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Cantor	Jolly	Rooney
Cassidy	Jones	Roskam
Chabot	Jordan	Ross
Chaffetz	Kind	Rothfus
Clawson (FL)	King (IA)	Royce
Coble	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Coffman	Kinzinger (IL)	Salmon
Cohen	Kline	Sanford
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Scalise
Collins (NY)	LaMalfa	Schock
Conaway	Lamborn	Schweikert
Cooper	Lance	Scott, Austin
Cotton	Lankford	Sensenbrenner
Cramer	Latta	Sessions
Crenshaw	Levin	Smith (MO)
Daines	Long	Smith (NE)
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Smith (TX)
DeSantis	Lummis	Stewart
Doggett	Maffei	Stockman
Duffy	Marchant	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	Massie	Thornberry
Duncan (TN)	Matheson	Tiberi
Ellmers	McCaul	Tipton
Farenthold	McClintock	Tonko
Fleischmann	McDermott	Upton
Fleming	McHenry	Wagner
Flores	McKinley	Walberg
Forbes	Meadows	Walorski
Fox	Messer	Weber (TX)
Franks (AZ)	Mica	Webster (FL)
Fudge	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Gardner	Mullin	Williams
Garrett	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Gingrey (GA)	Negrete McLeod	Yarmuth
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoder
Goodlatte	Noem	Yoho
Gosar	Nugent	Young (IN)
Gowdy	Olson	

NOES—243

Bachus	Campbell	Cook
Barber	Capito	Costa
Barletta	Capps	Courtney
Barr	Capuano	Crawford
Beatty	Cárdenas	Crowley
Becerra	Carson (IN)	Cuellar
Benishek	Carter	Culberson
Bera (CA)	Cartwright	Cummings
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Davis (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Castro (TX)	Davis, Danny
Bishop (UT)	Chu	DeFazio
Blumenauer	Cicilline	DeGette
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Delaney
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	DeLauro
Brown (FL)	Clay	DelBene
Brownley (CA)	Cleaver	Denham
Bucshon	Clyburn	Dent
Bustos	Cole	Deutch
Butterfield	Connolly	Diaz-Balart
Calvert	Conyers	Dingell

Doyle Lee (CA)
 Duckworth Lewis
 Edwards Lipinski
 Ellison LoBiondo
 Engel Loebsock
 Enyart Lofgren
 Eshoo Lowenthal
 Esty Lowey
 Farr Lucas
 Fattah Lujan Grisham
 Fincher (NM)
 Fitzpatrick Luján, Ben Ray
 Fortenberry (NM)
 Foster Lynch
 Frankel (FL) Maloney,
 Frelinghuysen Carolyn
 Gabbard Maloney, Sean
 Gallego Marino
 Garamendi Matsui
 Garcia McAllister
 Gerlach McCarthy (CA)
 Gibson McCollum
 Granger McGovern
 Grayson McIntyre
 Green, Al McKeon
 Green, Gene McNERNEY
 Griffith (VA) Meehan
 Grijalva Meeks
 Grimm Meng
 Guthrie Michaud
 Gutiérrez Miller (MI)
 Hahn Miller, Gary
 Hastings (FL) Miller, George
 Hastings (WA) Moore
 Heck (WA) Moran
 Herrera Beutler Murphy (FL)
 Higgins Nadler
 Himes Napolitano
 Hinojosa Neal
 Holt Nolan
 Horsford Nunes
 Hoyer O'Rourke
 Huffman Owens
 Israel Pallone
 Jeffries Pascrell
 Johnson (GA) Pastor (AZ)
 Johnson (OH) Payne
 Johnson, E. B. Pearce
 Joyce Pelosi
 Kaptur Peters (MI)
 Keating Peterson
 Kelly (IL) Pingree (ME)
 Kelly (PA) Pocan
 Kennedy Price (NC)
 Kildee Quigley
 Kilmer Rahall
 King (NY) Reed
 Kirkpatrick Reichert
 Kuster Roby
 Langevin Rogers (KY)
 Larsen (WA) Rogers (MI)
 Larson (CT) Ros-Lehtinen
 Latham Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt Honda
 Bass Jackson Lee
 Carney McCarthy (NY)
 DesJarlais McMorris
 Hanabusa Rodgers

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1522

Mrs. ELLMERS changed her vote
 from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS)
 on which further proceedings were
 postponed and on which the noes pre-
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 96, noes 326,
 not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 386]

AYES—96

Amodei Hastings (FL)
 Bass Heck (NV)
 Beatty Holt
 Becerra Honda
 Bishop (UT) Horsford
 Blumenauer Huffman
 Brownley (CA) Jones
 Capps Kennedy
 Capuano Kirkpatrick
 Cartwright Langevin
 Castor (FL) Lee (CA)
 Chaffetz Levin
 Chu Lewis
 Cicilline Lofgren
 Clark (MA) Lowenthal
 Clarke (NY) Lujan Grisham
 Conyers (NM)
 Crowley Luján, Ben Ray
 Davis (CA) (NM)
 Davis, Danny Lynch
 DeFazio Maloney,
 DeGette Carolyn
 DeLauro Matheson
 Deutch Matsui
 Doggett McGovern
 Edwards McKeon
 Ellison McNERNEY
 Engel Meeks
 Eshoo Meng
 Frankel (FL) Nadler
 Fudge Napolitano
 Garamendi Negrete McLeod
 Grijalva Pallone
 Hahn Payne

NOES—326

Amash Chabot
 Bachmann Clawson (FL)
 Bachus Clay
 Barber Cleaver
 Barletta Clyburn
 Barr Coble
 Barrow (GA) Coffman
 Barton Cohen
 Benishek Cole
 Bentivolio Collins (GA)
 Bera (CA) Collins (NY)
 Bilirakis Conaway
 Bishop (GA) Connolly
 Bishop (NY) Cook
 Black Cooper
 Blackburn Costa
 Bonamici Cotton
 Boustany Courtney
 Brady (PA) Cramer
 Brady (TX) Crawford
 Braley (IA) Crenshaw
 Bridenstine Cuellar
 Brooks (AL) Culberson
 Brooks (IN) Cummings
 Broun (GA) Daines
 Brown (FL) Davis, Rodney
 Buchanan Delaney
 Bucshon DelBene
 Burgess Denham
 Bustos Dent
 Butterfield DeSantis
 Byrne Diaz-Balart
 Calvert Dingell
 Camp Doyle
 Campbell Duckworth
 Cantor Duffy
 Capito Duncan (SC)
 Cárdenas Duncan (TN)
 Carson (IN) Ellmers
 Carter Enyart
 Cassidy Esty
 Castro (TX) Farenthold

Hastings (WA) McHenry
 Heck (WA) McIntyre
 Hensarling McKinley
 Herrera Beutler McMorris
 Higgins Rodgers
 Himes Meadows
 Hinojosa Meehan
 Holding Messer
 Hoyer Mica
 Hudson Michaud
 Huelskamp Miller (FL)
 Huizenga (MI) Miller (MI)
 Hultgren Miller, Gary
 Hunter Miller, George
 Hurt Moore
 Israel Moran
 Issa Mullin
 Jeffries Mulvaney
 Jenkins Murphy (FL)
 Johnson (GA) Murphy (PA)
 Johnson (OH) Neal
 Johnson, E. B. Neugebauer
 Johnson, Sam Noem
 Jolly Nolan
 Jordan Nugent
 Joyce Nunes
 Kaptur O'Rourke
 Keating Olson
 Kelly (IL) Owens
 Kelly (PA) Palazzo
 Kildee Pascrell
 Kilmer Pastor (AZ)
 Kind Paulsen
 King (IA) Pearce
 King (NY) Perry
 Kingston Peters (CA)
 Kinzinger (IL) Peterson
 Kline Petri
 Kuster Pingree (ME)
 Labrador Pittenger
 LaMalfa Pitts
 Lamborn Poe (TX)
 Lance Posey
 Titus Price (GA)
 Tsongas Price (NC)
 Vargas Quigley
 Velazquez Rahall
 Wasserman Reed
 Schultz Reichert
 Waters Renacci
 Waxman Ribble
 Wilson (FL) Rice (SC)
 Long Rigell
 Lowey Welch
 Lucas Roby
 Luetkemeyer Roe (TN)
 Lummis Rogers (AL)
 Maffei Rogers (KY)
 Maloney, Sean Rogers (MI)
 Marchant Rohrabacher
 Marino Rokita
 Massie Rooney
 McAllister Ros-Lehtinen
 McCarthy (CA) Roskam
 McCaul Ross
 McClintock Rothfus
 McCollum Royce
 McDermott Runyan

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt Jackson Lee
 Carney McCarthy (NY)
 DesJarlais Nunnelee
 Hanabusa Pompeo

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1526

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms.
 DELAURO) on which further proceedings
 were postponed and on which the noes
 prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 200, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 387]

AYES—221

Barber	Grayson	Neal
Barrow (GA)	Green, Al	Negrete McLeod
Barton	Green, Gene	Nolan
Bass	Griffin (AR)	O'Rourke
Beatty	Grijalva	Owens
Becerra	Guthrie	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Paulsen
Blumenauer	Heck (WA)	Payne
Bonamici	Herrera Beutler	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Perlmutter
Braley (IA)	Himes	Peters (CA)
Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Holt	Pingree (ME)
Buchanan	Honda	Pocan
Burgess	Horsford	Polis
Bustos	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Camp	Huffman	Quigley
Capito	Hunter	Rahall
Capps	Israel	Rooney
Capuano	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Royce
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Jones	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Rush
Chu	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Ciilline	Kelly (IL)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Clark (MA)	Kelly (PA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clay	Kildee	Schakowsky
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schiff
Clyburn	Kind	Schneider
Coffman	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Cohen	Kline	Schwartz
Connolly	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Langevin	Scott, David
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Costa	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Lee (CA)	Shea-Porter
Crowley	Levin	Sherman
Cummings	Lewis	Sires
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Slaughter
Davis, Danny	LoBiondo	Gohmert
Davis, Rodney	Loebach	Goodlatte
DeFazio	Loftgren	Gosar
DeGette	Lowenthal	Gowdy
Delaney	Lowe	
DeLauro	Luetkemeyer	
DelBene	Lujan Grisham	
Deutch	(NM)	
Dingell	Luján, Ben Ray	
Doggett	(NM)	
Doyle	Lynch	
Duckworth	Maffei	
Duncan (TN)	Maloney	
Edwards	Carolyn	
Ellison	Maloney, Sean	
Engel	Matsui	
Enyart	McCollum	
Eshoo	McDermott	
Esty	McGovern	
Farr	McIntyre	
Fattah	McKinley	
Fitzpatrick	McNerney	
Fortenberry	Meeks	
Foster	Meng	
Frankel (FL)	Mica	
Fudge	Michaud	
Gabbard	Miller, George	
Garamendi	Moore	
Garcia	Moran	
Gardner	Murphy (FL)	
Gibson	Nadler	
Graves (MO)	Napolitano	

NOES—200

Amash	Granger	Peterson
Amodel	Graves (GA)	Petri
Bachmann	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Bachus	Grimm	Pitts
Barletta	Hall	Poe (TX)
Barr	Hanna	Posey
Benishek	Harper	Price (GA)
Bentivolio	Harris	Reed
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Renacci
Black	Heck (NV)	Ribble
Blackburn	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Boustany	Holding	Rigell
Brady (TX)	Hudson	Roby
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Roe (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rogers (KY)
Broun (GA)	Hurt	Rogers (MI)
Bucshon	Jenkins	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Johnson (OH)	Rokita
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Calvert	Jolly	Ross
Campbell	Jordan	Rothfus
Cantor	Joyce	Runyan
Carter	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Cassidy	King (NY)	Salmon
Chabot	Kingston	Sanford
Chaffetz	Kinzinger (IL)	Scalise
Clawson (FL)	Labrador	Schock
Coble	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Cole	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Lankford	Sessions
Conaway	Latham	Shimkus
Cook	Latta	Shuster
Cotton	Long	Simpson
Cramer	Lucas	Sinema
Crawford	Lummis	Smith (NE)
Crenshaw	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Cuellar	Marino	Southerland
Culberson	Massie	Stivers
Daines	Matheson	Stockman
Denham	McAllister	Stutzman
Dent	McCarthy (CA)	Terry
DeSantis	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	McClintock	Thornberry
Duffy	McHenry	Tiberi
Duncan (SC)	McKeon	Tipton
Ellmers	McMorris	Turner
Farenthold	Rodgers	Upton
Fincher	Meadows	Valadao
Fleischmann	Meehan	Wagner
Fleming	Messer	Walberg
Flores	Miller (FL)	Walden
Forbes	Miller (MI)	Walorski
Foxx	Miller, Gary	Weber (TX)
Franks (AZ)	Mullin	Webster (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Galleo	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland
Garrett	Neugebauer	Whitfield
Gerlach	Noem	Williams
Gibbs	Nugent	Wilson (SC)
Gingrey (GA)	Nunes	Wittman
Gohmert	Olson	Womack
Goodlatte	Palazzo	Yoho
Gosar	Pearce	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Perry	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Carney	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
DesJarlais	Nunnelee	Smith (MO)
Hanabusa	Pompeo	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1529

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 239, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

AYES—181

Amash	Gingrey (GA)	Noem
Amodel	Gohmert	Nugent
Bachmann	Goodlatte	Nunes
Bachus	Gosar	Olson
Barr	Gowdy	Palazzo
Barton	Granger	Paulsen
Benishek	Graves (GA)	Pearce
Bentivolio	Griffin (AR)	Perry
Bilirakis	Griffith (VA)	Pittenger
Bishop (UT)	Guthrie	Pitts
Black	Hall	Poe (TX)
Blackburn	Harper	Posey
Boustany	Harris	Price (GA)
Brady (TX)	Hartzler	Ribble
Bridenstine	Hastings (WA)	Rice (SC)
Brooks (AL)	Hensarling	Rigell
Brooks (IN)	Herrera Beutler	Roby
Broun (GA)	Holding	Roe (TN)
Buchanan	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (MI)
Byrne	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Calvert	Hurt	Rokita
Camp	Issa	Rooney
Campbell	Jenkins	Ross
Cantor	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Carter	Jones	Royce
Cassidy	Jordan	Salmon
Chabot	King (IA)	Sanford
Chaffetz	Kingston	Scalise
Clawson (FL)	Kline	Schweikert
Coble	Labrador	Scott, Austin
Coffman	LaMalfa	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Lamborn	Sessions
Collins (GA)	Lankford	Simpson
Collins (NY)	Latham	Smith (NE)
Conaway	Latta	Smith (TX)
Cotton	Long	Southerland
Cramer	Lucas	Stewart
Crawford	Luetkemeyer	Stockman
Culberson	Lummis	Stutzman
Daines	Marchant	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Marino	Thornberry
DeSantis	Massie	Tipton
Duncan (SC)	McAllister	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Walberg
Ellmers	McCaul	Walorski
Farenthold	McClintock	Weber (TX)
Fincher	McHenry	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	McKeon	Wenstrup
Fleming	McMorris	Westmoreland
Flores	Rodgers	Williams
Forbes	Meadows	Wilson (SC)
Fortenberry	Messer	Wittman
Foxx	Mica	Wolf
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Womack
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Woodall
Gardner	Miller, Gary	Yoder
Garrett	Mullin	Yoho
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Young (IN)
	Neugebauer	

NOES—239

Barber	Braley (IA)	Castro (TX)
Barletta	Brown (FL)	Chu
Barrow (GA)	Brownley (CA)	Ciilline
Bass	Bustos	Clark (MA)
Beatty	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)
Becerra	Capito	Clay
Bera (CA)	Capps	Cleaver
Bishop (GA)	Capuano	Clyburn
Bishop (NY)	Cárdenas	Cohen
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Connolly
Bonamici	Cartwright	Conyers
Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)	Cook

Cooper Kelly (PA)
Costa Kennedy
Courtney Kildee
Crowley Kilmer
Cuellar Kind
Cummings King (NY)
Davis (CA) Kinzinger (IL)
Davis, Danny Kirkpatrick
Davis, Rodney Kuster
DeFazio Lance
DeGette Langevin
Delaney Larsen (WA)
DeLauro Larson (CT)
DeBene Lee (CA)
Deutch Levin
Diaz-Balart Lewis
Dingell Lipinski
Doggett LoBiondo
Doyle Loebsock
Duckworth Lofgren
Duffy Lowenthal
Edwards Lowey
Ellison Lujan Grisham
Engel (NM)
Enyart Luján, Ben Ray
Eshoo (NM)
Esty Lynch
Farr Maffei
Fattah Maloney,
Fitzpatrick Carolyn
Foster Maloney, Sean
Frankel (FL) Matheson
Fudge Matsui
Gabbard McCollum
Gallo McDermott
Garamendi McGovern
Garcia McIntyre
Gerlach McKinley
Gibson McNeerney
Graves (MO) Meehan
Grayson Meeks
Green, Al Meng
Green, Gene Michaud
Grijalva Miller, George
Grimm Moore
Gutiérrez Moran
Hahn Murphy (FL)
Hanna Murphy (PA)
Hastings (FL) Nadler
Heck (NV) Napolitano
Heck (WA) Neal
Higgins Negrete McLeod
Himes Nolan
Hinojosa O'Rourke
Holt Owens
Honda Pallone
Horsford Pascrell
Hoyer Pastor (AZ)
Huffman Payne
Hultgren Pelosi
Israel Perlmutter
Jeffries Peters (CA)
Johnson (GA) Peters (MI)
Johnson (OH) Peterson
Johnson, E. B. Petri
Jolly Pingree (ME)
Joyce Pocan
Kaptur Polis
Keating Price (NC)
Kelly (IL) Quigley

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt Hanabusa Pompeo
Carney Jackson Lee Rangel
Denham McCarthy (NY) Richmond
DesJarlais Nunnelee Smith (MO)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1533

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr.
LANKFORD) on which further pro-

ceedings were postponed and on which
the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 227, noes 191,
not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

AYES—227

Amash Gowdy Nugent
Amodei Granger Nunes
Bachmann Graves (GA)
Bachus Graves (MO)
Barletta Griffin (AR)
Barr Griffith (VA)
Barton Grimm
Benishke Guthrie
Bentivolio Hall
Bilirakis Hanna
Bishop (UT) Harper
Black Harris
Blackburn Hartzler
Boustany Hastings (WA)
Brady (TX) Heck (NV)
Bridenstine Hensarling
Brooks (AL) Herrera Beutler
Brooks (IN) Holding
Broun (GA) Huelskamp
Buchanan Huizenga (MI)
Bucshon Hultgren
Burgess Hunter
Byrne Hurt
Calvert Issa
Camp Jenkins
Campbell Johnson (OH)
Cantor Johnson, Sam
Capito Jolly
Carter Jones
Cassidy Jordan
Chabot Joyce
Chaffetz Kelly (PA)
Clawson (FL) King (NY)
Coble Kingston
Coffman Kinzinger (IL)
Cole Kline
Collins (GA) Labrador
Collins (NY) LaMalfa
Conaway Lamborn
Cook Lance
Cotton Lankford
Cramer Latham
Crawford Latta
Crenshaw LoBiondo
Culberson Long
Daines Lucas
Davis, Rodney Luetkemeyer
Dent Lummis
DeSantis Marchant
Diaz-Balart Marino
Duffy Massie
Duncan (SC) Matheson
Duncan (TN) McAllister
Ellmers McCarthy (CA)
Farenthold McCaul
Fincher McClintock
Fitzpatrick McHenry
Fleischmann McKeon
Fleming McKinley
Flores McMorris
Forbes Rodgers
Fortenberry Meadows
Foxy Meehan
Franks (AZ) Messer
Frelinghuysen Mica
Gardner Miller (FL)
Garrett Miller (MI)
Gerlach Miller, Gary
Gibbs Mullin
Gingrey (GA) Mulvaney
Gohmert Murphy (PA)
Goodlatte Neugebauer
Gosar Noem

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf

Womack
Woodall
Yoder

NOES—191

Barber Gibson
Barrow (GA) Grayson
Bass Green, Al
Beatty Green, Gene
Becerra Grijalva
Bera (CA) Gutiérrez
Bishop (GA) Hahn
Bishop (NY) Hastings (FL)
Blumenauer Heck (WA)
Bonamici Higgins
Brady (PA) Himes
Braley (IA) Hinojosa
Brown (FL) Holt
Brownley (CA) Honda
Bustos Horsford
Butterfield Hoyer
Capps Huffman
Capuano Israel
Cárdenas Jeffries
Carson (IN) Johnson (GA)
Cartwright Johnson, E. B.
Castor (FL) Kaptur
Castro (TX) Keating
Chu Kelly (IL)
Ciocilline Kennedy
Clark (MA) Kildee
Clarke (NY) Kilmer
Clay Kind
Cleaver Kirkpatrick
Clyburn Kuster
Cohen Langevin
Connolly Larsen (WA)
Conyers Larson (CT)
Cooper Lee (CA)
Costa Levin
Courtney Lewis
Crowley Lipinski
Cuellar Loebsock
Cummings Lofgren
Davis (CA) Lowenthal
Davis, Danny Lowey
DeFazio Lujan Grisham
DeGette (NM)
Delaney Luján, Ben Ray
DeLauro (NM)
DeBene Lynch
Deutch Maffei
Dingell Maloney,
Doggett Carolyn
Doyle Maloney, Sean
Duckworth Matsui
Edwards McCollum
Ellison McDermott
Engel McGovern
Enyart McIntyre
Eshoo McNeerney
Esty Meeks
Farr Meng
Fattah Michaud
Foster Miller, George
Frankel (FL) Moore
Fudge Moran
Gabbard Murphy (FL)
Gallo Nadler
Garamendi Napolitano
Garcia Neal

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt Hudson Pompeo
Carney Jackson Lee Rangel
Denham King (IA) Richmond
DesJarlais McCarthy (NY) Smith (MO)
Hanabusa Nunnelee

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1536

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CASSIDY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAS-
SIDY) on which further proceedings

were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 232, noes 187, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 390]

AYES—232

Amash	Gohmert	Mulvaney
Amodei	Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)
Bachmann	Gosar	Neugebauer
Bachus	Gowdy	Noem
Barletta	Granger	Nugent
Barr	Graves (GA)	Nunes
Barton	Graves (MO)	Olson
Benishkek	Griffin (AR)	Palazzo
Bentivolio	Griffith (VA)	Paulsen
Billirakis	Grimm	Pearce
Bishop (UT)	Guthrie	Perry
Black	Hall	Peterson
Blackburn	Hanna	Petri
Boustany	Harper	Pittenger
Brady (TX)	Harris	Pitts
Bridenstine	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Hastings (WA)	Posey
Brooks (IN)	Heck (NV)	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Hensarling	Rahall
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bucshon	Holding	Reichert
Burgess	Hudson	Renacci
Byrne	Huelskamp	Ribble
Calvert	Huizenga (MI)	Rice (SC)
Camp	Hultgren	Rigell
Campbell	Hunter	Roby
Cantor	Hurt	Roe (TN)
Capito	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Carter	Jenkins	Rogers (KY)
Cassidy	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (MI)
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Chaffetz	Jolly	Rokita
Clawson (FL)	Jordan	Rooney
Coble	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen
Coffman	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Cole	King (IA)	Ross
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Rothfus
Collins (NY)	Kingston	Royce
Conaway	Kinzinger (IL)	Runyan
Cook	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Cotton	Labrador	Salmon
Cramer	LaMalfa	Sanford
Crawford	Lamborn	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lance	Schock
Cuellar	Lankford	Schweikert
Culberson	Latham	Scott, Austin
Daines	Latta	Sensenbrenner
Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Sessions
Denham	Long	Shimkus
Dent	Lucas	Shuster
DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Simpson
Diaz-Balart	Lummis	Smith (MO)
Duffy	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Marino	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (TN)	Massie	Smith (TX)
Ellmers	Matheson	Southerland
Farenthold	McAllister	Stewart
Fincher	McCarthy (CA)	Stivers
Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Stockman
Fleischmann	McClintock	Stutzman
Fleming	McHenry	Terry
Flores	McKeon	Thompson (PA)
Forbes	McKinley	Thornberry
Fortenberry	McMorris	Tiberi
Fox	Rodgers	Tipton
Franks (AZ)	Meadows	Turner
Frelinghuysen	Meehan	Upton
Galleo	Messer	Valadao
Gardner	Mica	Wagner
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Walberg
Gerlach	Miller (MI)	Walden
Gibbs	Miller, Gary	Walorski
Gingrey (GA)	Mullin	Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall

NOES—187

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano

Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt
Carney
DeFazio
DesJarlais
Farr
Hanabusa
Jackson Lee
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee
Pompeo

Rangel
Richmond
Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1539

So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) having assumed

the chair, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 661;

Adopting House Resolution 661, if ordered.

Both electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5016, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4718, BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 661) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 192, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 391]

YEAS—229

Amash	Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)
Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Coble
Bachmann	Broun (GA)	Coffman
Bachus	Buchanan	Cole
Barletta	Bucshon	Collins (GA)
Barr	Burgess	Collins (NY)
Barton	Byrne	Conaway
Benishkek	Calvert	Cook
Bentivolio	Camp	Cotton
Billirakis	Campbell	Cramer
Bishop (UT)	Cantor	Crawford
Black	Capito	Crenshaw
Blackburn	Carter	Culberson
Boustany	Cassidy	Daines
Brady (TX)	Chabot	Davis, Rodney
Bridenstine	Chaffetz	Denham

Dent	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Larson (CT)	Neal	Scott (VA)	Hanna	McKinley	Salmon
DeSantis	Kingston	Rogers (KY)	Lee (CA)	Negrete McLeod	Scott, David	Harper	McMorris	Sanford
Diaz-Balart	Kinzing (IL)	Rogers (MI)	Levin	Nolan	Serrano	Harris	Rodgers	Scalise
Duffy	Kline	Rohrabacher	Lewis	O'Rourke	Sewell (AL)	Hartzler	Meadows	Schock
Duncan (SC)	Labrador	Rokita	Lipinski	Owens	Shea-Porter	Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Schweikert
Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Rooney	Loeb sack	Pallone	Sherman	Heck (NV)	Messer	Scott, Austin
Ellmers	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen	Lofgren	Pascarell	Sinema	Hensarling	Mica	Sensenbrenner
Farenthold	Lance	Roskam	Lowenthal	Pastor (AZ)	Sires	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)	Sessions
Fincher	Lankford	Ross	Lowe y	Payne	Slaughter	Holding	Miller (MI)	Shimkus
Fitzpatrick	Latham	Rothfus	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Pelosi	Smith (WA)	Hudson	Miller, Gary	Shuster
Fleischmann	Latta	Royce	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Perlmutter	Speier	Huelskamp	Mullin	Simpson
Fleming	LoBiondo	Runyan	Lynch	Peters (CA)	Swalwell (CA)	Huizenga (MI)	Mulvaney	Sinema
Flores	Long	Ryan (WI)	Maffei	Peters (MI)	Takano	Hultgren	Murphy (FL)	Smith (MO)
Forbes	Lucas	Salmon	Maloney, Carolyn	Peterson	Thompson (CA)	Hunter	Murphy (PA)	Smith (NE)
Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Sanford	Matheson	Pingree (ME)	Thompson (MS)	Hurt	Neugebauer	Smith (NJ)
Fox	Lummis	Scalise	McCollum	Pocan	Tierney	Issa	Noem	Smith (TX)
Franks (AZ)	Marchant	Schock	McDermott	Polis	Titus	Jenkins	Nugent	Southerland
Frelinghuysen	Marino	Schweikert	McGovern	Price (NC)	Tonko	Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Stewart
Gardner	Massie	Scott, Austin	Rush	Quigley	Tsongas	Johnson, Sam	Olson	Stivers
Garrett	McAllister	Sensenbrenner	McIntyre	Rahall	Van Hollen	Jolly	Palazzo	Stockman
Gerlach	McCarthy (CA)	Sessions	McNeer y	Roybal-Allard	Vargas	Jones	Paulsen	Stutzman
Gibbs	McCaul	Shimkus	Meeks	Ruiz	Veasey	Jordan	Pearce	Terry
Gibson	McClintock	Shuster	Meng	Ruppersberger	Vela	Joyce	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Gingrey (GA)	McHenry	Simpson	Michaud	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez	Kelly (PA)	Petri	Thornberry
Gohmert	McKeon	Smith (MO)	Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda T.	Visclosky	King (IA)	Pittenger	Tiberi
Goodlatte	McKinley	Smith (NE)	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Walz	King (NY)	Pitts	Tipton
Gosar	McMorris	Smith (NJ)	Moran	Sarbanes	Wasserman	Kingston	Poe (TX)	Turner
Gowdy	Rodgers	Smith (TX)	Murphy (FL)	Schakowsky	Schultz	Kinzing (IL)	Poser y	Upton
Granger	Meadows	Southerland	Nadler	Schiff	Waters	Kline	Price (GA)	Valadao
Graves (GA)	Meehan	Stewart	Napolitano	Schneider	Waxman	Labrador	Reed	Valadao
Graves (MO)	Messer	Stivers		Schrader	Welch	LaMalfa	Reichert	Wagner
Griffin (AR)	Mica	Stockman		Schwartz	Wilson (FL)	Lamborn	Renacci	Walberg
Griffith (VA)	Miller (FL)	Stutzman			Yarmuth	Lance	Ribble	Walden
Grimm	Miller (MI)	Terry				Lankford	Rice (SC)	Walorski
Guthrie	Miller, Gary	Thompson (PA)				Latham	Rigell	Weber (TX)
Hall	Mullin	Thornberry				Latta	Roby	Webster (FL)
Hanna	Mulvaney	Tiberi				LoBiondo	Roe (TN)	Wenstrup
Harper	Murphy (PA)	Tipton				Long	Rogers (AL)	Westmoreland
Harris	Neugebauer	Turner				Lucas	Rogers (KY)	Whitfield
Hartzler	Noem	Upton				Luetkemeyer	Rogers (MI)	Williams
Hastings (WA)	Nugent	Valadao				Lummis	Rohrabacher	Wilson (SC)
Heck (NV)	Nunes	Wagner				Marchant	Rokita	Wittman
Hensarling	Olson	Walberg				Marino	Rooney	Wolf
Herrera Beutler	Palazzo	Walden				Massie	Ros-Lehtinen	Womack
Holding	Paulsen	Walorski				McAllister	Roskam	Woodall
Hudson	Pearce	Weber (TX)				McCarthy (CA)	Ross	Yoder
Huelskamp	Perry	Webster (FL)				McCaul	Rothfus	Yoho
Huizenga (MI)	Petri	Wenstrup				McClintock	Royce	Young (AK)
Hultgren	Pittenger	Westmoreland				McHenry	Runyan	Young (IN)
Hunter	Pitts	Whitfield				McKeon	Ryan (WI)	
Hurt	Poe (TX)	Williams						
Issa	Poser y	Wilson (SC)						
Jenkins	Price (GA)	Wittman						
Johnson (OH)	Reed	Wolf						
Johnson, Sam	Reichert	Womack						
Jolly	Renacci	Woodall						
Jones	Ribble	Yoder						
Jordan	Rice (SC)	Yoho						
Joyce	Rigell	Young (AK)						
Kelly (PA)	Roby	Young (IN)						
King (IA)	Roe (TN)							

NAYS—192

Barber	Conyers	Garamendi
Barrow (GA)	Cooper	Garcia
Bass	Costa	Grayson
Beatty	Courtney	Green, Al
Becerra	Crowley	Green, Gene
Bera (CA)	Cuellar	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Hahn
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Hastings (FL)
Blumenauer	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
Bonamici	DeFazio	Higgins
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Himes
Braley (IA)	Delaney	Hinojosa
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Holt
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Honda
Bustos	Deutch	Horsford
Butterfield	Dingell	Hoyer
Capps	Doggett	Huffman
Capuano	Doyle	Israel
Cárdenas	Duckworth	Jeffries
Carson (IN)	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Cartwright	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Castor (FL)	Engel	Kaptur
Castro (TX)	Enyart	Keating
Chu	Eshoo	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Esty	Kennedy
Clark (MA)	Farr	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Fattah	Kilmer
Clay	Foster	Kind
Cleaver	Frankel (FL)	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Fudge	Kuster
Cohen	Gabbard	Langevin
Connolly	Gallego	Larsen (WA)

So the previous question was ordered.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the
Speaker pro tempore announced that
the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on
that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a
5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—yeas 234, nays
188, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 392]

YEAS—234

Amash	Carson (IN)	Farenthold
Amodei	Carter	Fincher
Bachmann	Cassidy	Fitzpatrick
Bachus	Chabot	Fleischmann
Barber	Chaffetz	Fleming
Barletta	Clawson (FL)	Flores
Barr	Coble	Forbes
Barton	Coffman	Fortenberry
Benishak	Cole	Fox
Bentivoglio	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Gardner
Black	Cook	Garrett
Blackburn	Costa	Gerlach
Boustany	Cotton	Gibbs
Brady (TX)	Cramer	Gibson
Buchanan	Crawford	Gingrey (GA)
Buchson	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Burgess	Culberson	Goodlatte
Byrne	Daines	Gosar
Calvert	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Camp	Dent	Granger
Campbell	DeSantis	Graves (GA)
Cantor	Diaz-Balart	Graves (MO)
Capito	Duffy	Griffin (AR)
	Duncan (SC)	Griffith (VA)
	Duncan (TN)	Grimm
	Ellmers	Guthrie
		Hall

NAYS—188

Barrow (GA)	Deutch	Kennedy
Bass	Dingell	Kildee
Beatty	Doggett	Kilmer
Becerra	Doyle	Kind
Bera (CA)	Duckworth	Kirkpatrick
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Kuster
Bishop (NY)	Ellison	Langevin
Blumenauer	Engel	Larsen (WA)
Bonamici	Enyart	Larson (CT)
Brady (PA)	Eshoo	Lee (CA)
Braley (IA)	Esty	Levin
Brown (FL)	Farr	Lewis
Brownley (CA)	Fattah	Lipinski
Bustos	Foster	Loeb sack
Butterfield	Frankel (FL)	Lofgren
Capps	Fudge	Lowenthal
Capuano	Gabbard	Lowe y
Cárdenas	Gallego	Lujan Grisham (NM)
Cartwright	Garamendi	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Castor (FL)	Garcia	Lynch
Castro (TX)	Grayson	Maffei
Chu	Green, Al	Maloney, Carolyn
Cicilline	Green, Gene	Matheson
Clark (MA)	Grijalva	Matsui
Clarke (NY)	Clarke (NY)	McCollum
Clay	Hahn	McDermott
Cleaver	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Clyburn	Heck (WA)	McIntyre
Cohen	Higgins	McNeer y
Connolly	Himes	Meeks
	Hinojosa	Meng
	Holt	Michaud
	Honda	Miller, George
	Horsford	Moore
	Hoyer	Moran
	Huffman	Nadler
	Israel	Napolitano
	Jeffries	Neal
	Johnson (GA)	Negrete McLeod
	Johnson, E. B.	
	Kaptur	
	Keating	
	Kelly (IL)	

Nolan	Ryan (OH)	Thompson (CA)
O'Rourke	Sánchez, Linda	Thompson (MS)
Owens	T.	Tierney
Pallone	Sanchez, Loretta	Titus
Pascarell	Sarbanes	Tonko
Pastor (AZ)	Schakowsky	Tsongas
Payne	Schiff	Van Hollen
Pelosi	Schneider	Vargas
Perlmutter	Schrader	Veasey
Peters (CA)	Schwartz	Vela
Peters (MI)	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Peterson	Scott, David	Visclosky
Pingree (ME)	Serrano	Walz
Pocan	Sewell (AL)	Wasserman
Polis	Shea-Porter	Schultz
Price (NC)	Sherman	Waters
Quigley	Sires	Waxman
Rahall	Slaughter	Welch
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Wilson (FL)
Ruiz	Speier	Yarmuth
Ruppersberger	Swalwell (CA)	
Rush	Takano	

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt	Jackson Lee	Rangel
Carney	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
DesJarlais	Nunnelee	
Hanabusa	Pompeo	

□ 1553

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4923.

Will the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1555

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BLACK (Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 59, line 20.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BARTON

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C.10101 et seq.), the Secretary of Energy is authorized, in the current fiscal

year and subsequent fiscal years, to conduct a pilot program, through 1 or more private sector partners, to license, construct, and operate 1 or more government or privately owned consolidated storage facilities to provide interim storage as needed for spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste, with priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor.

(b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals for cooperative agreements—

(1) to obtain any license necessary from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the construction of 1 or more consolidated storage facilities;

(2) to demonstrate the safe transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable; and

(3) to demonstrate the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as applicable, at the 1 or more consolidated storage facilities pending the construction and operation of deep geologic disposal capacity for the permanent disposal of the spent nuclear fuel.

(c) CONSENT-BASED APPROVAL.—Prior to siting a consolidated storage facility pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement to host the facility with—

(1) the State;

(2) each unit of local government within the jurisdiction of which the facility is proposed to be located; and

(3) each affected Indian tribe.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—In executing this section, the Secretary shall comply with—

(1) all licensing requirements and regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and

(2) all other applicable laws (including regulations).

(e) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—Prior to choosing a site for the construction of a consolidated storage facility under this section, the Secretary shall conduct 1 or more public hearings in the vicinity of each potential site and in at least 1 other location within the State in which the site is located to solicit public comments and recommendations.

(f) USE OF NUCLEAR WASTE FUND.—The Secretary may make expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund to carry out this section, subject to appropriations.

Mr. BARTON (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, at the end of the dialogue on this amendment, it is my intention to withdraw it, and I want the House to know that.

As we all know, we have the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 that stipulates that it is the responsibility of the

Federal Government, through the Department of Energy, to accept all high-level nuclear waste that has been generated by our civilian reactors.

This has not been done, even though we have a law that says it should be done. There is a permanent repository that is located in the State of Nevada.

The citizens of that State have serious reservations about accepting high-level waste in their State, and as a consequence, they have managed, through various bills over the years, to prevent that facility from going forward.

The amendment that I have before the body today would authorize a pilot program through the Department of Energy, on a competitive basis and its being consent-based by State, to allow interim storage at one or more facilities.

The money would come from the nuclear waste fund from which we have collected over \$15 billion. This amendment would not preclude Yucca Mountain, in any way, from being the permanent repository.

It would allow any State in the Nation that wished to submit a proposal to the Secretary of Energy within 120 days, if my amendment were to become law; then, on a competitive basis, the Secretary of Energy, after holding public hearings, would make a determination that one or more sites in the country could accept this waste on an interim basis.

I think this is a good amendment. It would cut the Gordian knot that has constrained us for over 30 years, and if we were to be allowed to vote on it, I am absolutely certain the House would pass it.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), my cosponsor on the minority side.

□ 1600

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I thank my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee and my good Texas friend.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of the amendment and will place my full statement into the RECORD.

The amendment I am offering with my friend Congressman JOE BARTON would authorize the Energy Department to start a pilot nuclear waste program.

Congress, back in 1982, passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, directing DOE and NRC to open a permanent repository for our Nation's spent nuclear fuel. Over three decades later, America is still without a repository, leaving tens of thousands of nuclear waste vulnerable to attacks of terror and other catastrophes.

The reasons behind this failure are well-known, and it is imperative that this Congress and the administration act to open a safe and permanent storage facility. Until that day, we must

find interim storage to ensure that the 70,000 tons of spent fuel sitting in our Nation's nuclear plants are safe from harm's way.

The pilot program authorized in this amendment would be paid for by funds already available in the nuclear waste fund and would direct DOE to open a pilot facility only after it was found to be safe by NRC, has gained the consent of the State's Governor, each unit of local government within the jurisdiction and affected Indian tribes, and heard from the general public.

Given the nearly \$30 billion available in the nuclear waste fund, the growing inventory of spent nuclear fuel, and the inherent hazards connected with nuclear waste, I urge my colleagues to join with Congressman BARTON and me to authorize this program.

Madam Chairman, I am also in agreement. I agree with withdrawing the amendment, but somewhere, this Congress needs to address our nuclear waste disposal and storage issue.

I thank my colleague for the time.

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, could I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time at this point in time.

The CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Idaho continue to reserve his point of order?

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve my point of order.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Chairman, I just want to say, it is my understanding the gentleman is going to withdraw the amendment, so we are not going to have to insist on the point of order.

I just want to assure both my friends from Texas that this is an issue that this body needs to deal with. We just had two votes in the last hour that were a pretty good indication that this body supports long-term storage of high-level nuclear waste.

It is an issue that we have seen linger in this Congress now, well, for the last number of decades. It needs to be resolved. I am one that believes, as you do, I think—I know—that the authorizing committee needs to deal with this forthwith; and I want to give the assurance to you and all of our colleagues that, as the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I want to continue to work on this issue on a bipartisan basis.

For me, I have got two nuclear plants in my district. Both facilities, in fact, have run out of room in their pools. They are going to be storing it on-site.

We have got a number of sites around the country that are closed at this point, and they are needing to send

their high-level nuclear waste to one safe place. That is what the Yucca Mountain bill did that we passed, that President Reagan signed into law back in the eighties.

There is a lot of discussion, particularly on the Senate side, on an interim storage site. I know that some States like Texas would very much like to participate in such a program. My concern with that approach is this, that I don't want to see that move without a permanent, full-time site like Yucca be left in the ditch, that, in fact, we might see, ultimately, the two combined.

That is not an approach that we are going to deal with on this appropriation bill but, rather, an authorization bill that certainly I would like to see happen. I know that the chairman of that subcommittee, Mr. SHIMKUS, is on board with, very much, the same thoughts. I would like to think that in the next Congress, when we have got some new faces perhaps on both sides of the House and the Senate, that we will be able to move a bipartisan bill to, in fact, deal with both long-term and short-term in terms of interim, and I look forward to being a party to try and get those two groups together.

So I would ask the two gentlemen from Texas, particularly you, Mr. BARTON, if you would withdraw the amendment knowing that we will, in fact, deal with this on another day, not today.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Idaho continue to reserve a point of order?

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I continue to reserve my point of order.

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, let me reiterate, before I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment, that, one, it is obviously bipartisan. Two, I think it would pass the House overwhelmingly, because, as the chairman of the full committee just said, we have had two votes in the last hour that were 5-1 in favor of disposing of high-level waste. I would say you could say those were votes in favor of disposing of it at Yucca Mountain, but certainly we have the votes for a permanent repository.

The amendment before the body at this moment is a pilot program. It is for interim storage. It in no way would preclude any effort to fund and develop the permanent repository at Yucca. And if the State of Nevada wanted to, they could compete for the interim storage and I think, in all probability, might decide to do so.

So I would hope that sometime in this Congress through the appropriation process with the other body or, as the full committee chairman has just promised, in the next Congress through the normal regular order authorization process that we deal both with interim storage and permanent storage.

And I think I have the chairman's commitment to do that. Is that correct?

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. I look forward to working with you on both of those accounts and move it to regular order through the authorization process. Certainly that is an issue that I want to see our committee deal with in the next Congress for sure.

Mr. BARTON. Reclaiming my time, I want to thank the subcommittee chairman, Mr. SIMPSON, for his courtesy and his staff's courtesy, the ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, the full committee, Mr. ROGERS and his staff.

I will submit a letter for the RECORD from the Governor of Texas dated July 3 in support of my amendment.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
July 3, 2014.

DEAR TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: After President Obama abandoned any further development of Yucca Mountain and Congress ceased all funding in 2011, the country must look for new solutions to the long-term issue of safe and secure handling of high level radioactive waste (HLW). Early in 2013 the U.S. Department of Energy announced that it was looking into alternative, permanent disposal solutions to replace the proposed storage facility at Yucca Mountain. By its own estimations, a permanent HLW disposal solution will not be available until 2048.

An amendment proposed by Congressman Joe Barton authorizes the Secretary of Energy to conduct a pilot program that would provide interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and HLW, with the priority for storage given to spent nuclear fuel located on sites without an operating nuclear reactor. This option could demonstrate how this waste can be transported and stored in a secure and viable manner, providing a step toward a long-term solution to this ongoing issue.

With or without a long-term solution for disposing of HLW, implementation of interim facilities is needed. I believe it is time for the Congress to act and ensure that the United States has a safe and secure solution for HLW, and I support this effort by Congressman Barton.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

Mr. BARTON. Madam Chair, I would, at this point in time, ask unanimous consent to withdraw the Barton-Green amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive

fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Chair, on May 24, 2011, President Obama issued a Memorandum on Federal Fleet Performance that requires all new light-duty vehicles in the Federal fleet to be alternate fuel vehicles, such as hybrid, electric, natural gas, or biofuel, by December 31, 2015.

My amendment echoes the Presidential Memorandum by prohibiting funds in the Energy and Water Appropriations Act from being used to lease or purchase new light-duty vehicles except in accord with the President's memorandum.

This amendment has been supported by the majority and minority on appropriations bills eight times over the past few years, and I hope it will receive similar support today.

Our transportation sector is by far the largest reason we send \$600 billion per year to hostile nations to pay for oil at ever-increasing costs. But America doesn't need to be dependent on foreign sources of oil for transportation fuel. Alternative technologies exist today that, when implemented broadly, will allow any alternative fuel to be used in America's automotive fleet.

The Federal Government operates the largest fleet of light-duty vehicles in America. According to GSA, there are over 660,000 vehicles in the Federal fleet. So, by supporting a diverse array of vehicle technologies in our Federal fleet, we will encourage development of domestic energy resources, including biomass, natural gas, agricultural waste, hydrogen, renewable electricity, methanol, and ethanol.

When I was in Brazil a few years ago, I saw how they diversified their fuel by greatly expanding their use of ethanol. When people drove to a gas station, they saw what a gallon of gasoline would cost and what an equivalent amount of ethanol would cost and could decide which was better for them.

I want the same choices for Americans. That is why the gentlewoman from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and I have submitted a bill which would provide for every fuel car built in America to be a flex-fuel car, which would cost less than \$100 per car. If they can do this in Brazil, we can do it here. We can educate people on using alternative fuels and let consumers decide which is best for them.

So, in conclusion, expanding the role these resources play in our transportation economy will help break the leverage over Americans held by foreign

government-controlled oil companies, and it will increase our Nation's domestic security and protect consumers from price spikes and shortages in the world oil markets.

I ask that my colleagues support the Engel amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I am willing to accept this amendment, and I thank the gentleman for offering it.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman for doing that.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following new section:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available in this Act may be used—

(1) to implement or enforce section 430.32(x) of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(2) to implement or enforce the standards established by the tables contained in section 325(i)(1)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(i)(1)(B)) with respect to BPAR incandescent reflector lamps, BR incandescent reflector lamps, and ER incandescent reflector lamps.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chair, today's amendment is to maintain current law.

Since the passage in 2007 of the Energy Security Act, I have heard from tens of thousands of constituents about how the language of the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act takes away consumer choice when deciding which types of lightbulbs to purchase and place in their homes.

While the government has passed energy efficiency standards in other realms over the years, never have they moved the bar so high and lowered the standard so drastically. It is to a point where technology is still years away from making lightbulbs that are compliant with the law at a price point the average American can afford.

Opponents to my amendment will claim that the 2007 language does not ban the incandescent bulb. I would stipulate that that is true. But it does ban the sale of the 100-watt, the 60-watt, and the 45-watt bulb.

The replacement bulbs are far from economically efficient, even if they are energy efficient. A family living pay-

check to paycheck can't afford to replace every single bulb in their house at \$25 to \$35 a bulb, even if those bulbs do last 20 years. And 20 years from now, who knows if the technology is going to change again, and maybe the Congress will have them change their lightbulbs again.

The economics of the lightbulb mandate are only part of the story. With the expansion of Federal powers undertaken by President Obama and the Democrats in Congress during the first 2 years of the Obama administration, Americans realized just how far the Constitution's Commerce Clause has been manipulated from its original intent. The lightbulb mandate is a perfect example of this.

The Commerce Clause was intended by our Founding Fathers to be a limitation on Federal authority, not a catchall nod to allow for any topic to be regulated by Washington that Washington felt was in the people's best interest. Indeed, it is clear that the Founding Fathers never intended this clause to be used to allow the Federal Government to regulate and pass mandates on consumer products that do not pose a risk to health or safety.

The Congress should be on the side of the average American. The Congress should be on the side of the consumer. The Congress should be on the side of consumer choice. If new, energy-efficient lightbulbs save money and are better for the environment, we should trust the American people to make the choice on their own to move toward these bulbs. We should not force these bulbs on the American people.

□ 1615

The bottom line is, the Federal Government has no business taking away the freedom of Americans to choose whatever they wish to put in their homes.

I will add that recently lightbulb manufacturers in this country have claimed that because of the stopgap provision in the 2007 law, if we continue to prevent the Department of Energy from promulgating rules pursuant to these provisions, the manufacturers will be forced to stop manufacturing compliant incandescent bulbs. But this is an argument to repeal the 2007 language in its entirety, not to force its implementation. We should not allow a stopgap trigger in the law to extort us from allowing bad policy to move forward.

This exact amendment has been accepted for the past 3 years by voice vote and has been included in the annual appropriations legislation, signed into law by President Obama each year since its first inclusion. It allows consumers to continue to have a choice. It allows consumers to continue to have a say about what they put in their homes. It is common sense. It is time we trust average Americans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I oppose this rider, which would block the Department of Energy from implementing or enforcing commonsense energy efficiency standards for lightbulbs. This rider was a bad idea 3 years ago when it was first offered, and it is even more unsupportable today.

Every claim made by proponents of this rider has been proven wrong. Mr. BURGESS told us that the energy efficiency standards would ban incandescent lightbulbs. That has been simply false. You can go to the store today and see shelves of modern energy-efficient incandescent lightbulbs that meet the standard. They are the same as the old bulbs, except that they last longer, use less electricity, and save consumers money.

We have heard for years that the energy efficiency standards restrict consumer choice. We even heard it again a minute ago. Well, if you have shopped for lightbulbs lately, you know this isn't true. Modern incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, and LEDs of every shape, size, and color are now available. Consumers have never had more choice. The efficiency standards spurred innovation that dramatically expanded options for consumers.

Critics of the efficiency standard claimed that they would cost consumers money. In fact, the opposite is true. When the standards are in full effect, the average American family will save about \$100 every year. That is \$13 billion in savings nationwide every year. But this rider threatens those savings. That is why the Consumer Federation of America and the Consumers Union oppose this anti-consumer amendment.

Here is the reality: the 2007 consensus energy efficiency standards for lightbulbs were enacted with bipartisan support, and they continue to enjoy overwhelming industry support.

U.S. manufacturers are already meeting the efficiency standards. The effect of this rider is to allow foreign manufacturers to sell old, inefficient lightbulbs in the United States that violate these efficiency standards. That is unfair to domestic manufacturers who have invested millions of dollars in U.S. plants to make efficient bulbs that meet the standards. That is following our law.

Why on Earth would we want to pass a rider that favors foreign manufacturers who ignore our laws and penalizes U.S. manufacturers who are following our laws?

But it gets even worse. The rider now poses an additional threat to U.S. manufacturing. The bipartisan 2007 energy bill required the Department of Energy to establish updated lightbulb effi-

ciency standards by January 1, 2017. It also provided that if final updated standards are not issued by then, a more stringent standard of 45 lumens per watt automatically takes effect. Incandescent lightbulbs currently cannot meet this backstop standard. This rider blocks DOE from issuing the required efficiency standards and ensures that the backstop will kick in. Ironically, it is this rider that could effectively ban the incandescent lightbulb.

The Burgess rider directly threatens existing lightbulb manufacturing jobs in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois. It would stifle innovation and punish companies that have invested in domestic manufacturing. This rider aims to reverse years of technological progress only to kill jobs, increase electricity bills for our constituents, and worsen pollution.

There is nothing in the Constitution that says that this rider makes sense, despite the arguments we have heard from the proponent of this rider.

It is time to choose common sense over rigid ideology. It is time to listen to the manufacturing companies, consumer groups, and efficiency advocates who all argue that this rider is harmful.

I urge all Members to vote "no" on the Burgess lightbulb rider, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chair, I think columnist George Will said it best back in December of 2007 when the Energy Independence and Security Act passed. He said: Look, the United States Congress has two jobs—defend the borders and deliver the mail, and instead, they have spent their time outlawing Thomas Edison's greatest invention.

I urge Members to support the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Minnesota and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Chair, today I am offering an amendment that is very simple. Basically, it is one of those issues that I think both conservatives and liberals and Republicans and Democrats ought to be able to get together and agree on. And that is, if a hardworking American earns a penny, they ought to get that penny.

So what the amendment does, it says that if there is a Federal contractor who has a demonstrated, recorded, proven history of wage theft, is in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, then they will not be able to participate in this appropriation.

This amendment addresses a very serious problem. I would like to bring to the House's attention that the Economic Policy Institute found that in total, the average low-wage worker loses a stunning \$2,634 per year in unpaid wages, representing about 15 percent of their earned income. Another report by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee of the United States Senate revealed that 32 percent of the largest Department of Labor penalties for wage theft were levied against Federal contractors. Similarly, a National Employment Law Project study found that about 21 percent of Federal contract workers were not paid overtime, and 11 percent were forced to work off the clock.

Now, we might debate taxes. We might debate how high the minimum wage should be. But I know this House, this body, as a whole, believes that hardworking people should get the money that they have worked for.

Also, the Federal Government, the government is the largest spender in the world, I think, when you add it all up. And anyone who would want a contract with the Federal Government should be a contractor who is willing to uphold the best, most ethical business standards.

We, as a body, should appropriate our money to those businesses that believe in paying the workers on time, no matter what that agreed amount of money is.

Madam Chair, let me just conclude by saying that I think this is an important amendment. I urge adoption. And as we, as a body, work hard to provide opportunity for all Americans, particularly those who work for Federal contractors, I think one thing we can do is to support this amendment today and send an important signal that a penny worked for is a penny that must be paid.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated to provide funds to any entity (as defined in section 101 of title 11 of the United States Code) that commenced a case under title 11 of the United States Code in fiscal year 2013, in fiscal year 2014, or before the date such funds would otherwise be so obligated in fiscal year 2015.

Mr. BURGESS (during the reading). Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to protect taxpayers from losing any more money, since the Department of Energy's track record of granting money to entities teetering on the brink of bankruptcy is far from stellar.

Since President Obama ramped up spending at the Department of Energy in order to push a political agenda, the Department of Energy, first under Secretary Chu and now under Secretary Moniz, has lost hundreds of millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars that the taxpayer will never see again.

Moreover, over the past decade, the Department of Energy has given the United States Enrichment Corporation billions of taxpayer funds, with absolutely nothing to show for it. Last year, we discussed the funding that was earmarked for the United States Enrichment Corporation in this very appropriations bill, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill. And this body was given assurances, assurances that, first off, this would be the last installment of Federal funding for USEC and, second, that USEC was now doing a stellar job and was nearing completion of the tests being done at its American Centrifuge Project facility and that the concerns over the loss of taxpayer funds were overblown and unwarranted.

Madam Chairman, unfortunately, both of those assertions have proven to be untrue. Not only does the underlying bill contain an additional \$96 million for the United States Enrichment

Corporation, but that corporation can no longer be considered to be on solid financial footing, having declared bankruptcy earlier this year.

So it begs the question, why are Republicans in this body providing earmarked funds for bankrupt companies? When the Department of Energy took over operations at the American Centrifuge Project, through its Oak Ridge National Laboratory, many of us had high hopes of how the facility would be run in the future. But those hopes were dashed when the Department of Energy announced that the United States Enrichment Corporation would continue to operate the facility as a subcontractor, essentially maintaining the status quo, a status quo that historically had proven to be inoperable.

Along with now-Senator MARKEY, I requested the Government Accountability Office to look into the Department of Energy's actions with regard to the United States Enrichment Corporation, providing uranium tails to the company while simultaneously harming the uranium mining industry in many of our Western States.

The Government Accountability Office, in the first of two reports this month, found the Department of Energy had been taking steps with regard to the United States Enrichment Corporation that far exceeded its legal authority.

□ 1630

Those of us who have been involved with this issue were hardly surprised by this conclusion, but the report served to undermine all of the claims that supporters of the United States Enrichment Corporation have made about the national importance of the American Centrifuge Project facility.

Now, the Government Accountability Office is scheduled to release its second report later this summer, which concerns the claims that the United States Enrichment Corporation's existence is necessary for national security.

It is clear, however, from the first GAO report, that the Department of Energy's actions have been taken in direct contradiction to Federal law. This must stop. Any further taxpayer money placed in this direction is sure to be wasted.

Madam Chairman, the Department of Energy's track record of giving money to bankrupt companies is abysmal. The House today has a chance to stand up for the American taxpayer and prevent further funding from being provided to companies that simply cannot deliver.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I must insist on my point of order.

I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation on an appropriation bill

and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Chair, I do.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BURGESS. I would merely point out that we have had this discussion on the Energy and Water Appropriations bill year in and year out on this issue.

The fact of the matter is the Department of Energy wasted money when it came to Solyndra. We should not support the additional wasting of money simply because it is nuclear energy that is involved at this point.

Realistically, this should have been stopped last year or the year before. The fact that it has not been stopped is not something that we, as Republicans, can continue to justify. This activity needs to cease. To defeat this measure on a technicality is the wrong approach.

I would encourage the Chair to allow this amendment to come forward to a floor vote. I believe it would be supported by the Members.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a determination of whether certain entities have commenced bankruptcy cases.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Chair, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill that has been considered under an open rule during this Congress.

It is also identical to the amendment that I offered to last year's Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which passed by a voice vote.

My amendment expands the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting due to serious misconduct on the part of those contractors. It is my hope that this amendment remains uncontroversial—as it has been—and, again, will be passed unanimously by the House.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAYSON. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. We are happy to accept this amendment.

Mr. GRAYSON. Thank you very much. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to regulate activities identified in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 404(f)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A), (C)) or to limit the exemption in section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A)) to established or ongoing operations.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chairman, we have heard quite a bit about the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' overreach regarding waters of the United States. In a preview of just how little regard these entities have for Congress

and the law, they have already drastically overstepped the limits Congress has placed on their power.

Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act explicitly exempts certain activities from regulation, including normal agricultural activities like plowing fields, planting and harvesting crops, and maintaining irrigation and drainage ditches. Congress made these exemptions clear when the act was passed.

Unfortunately, the EPA and Army Corps are, as usual, using creative interpretations of the law in an effort to regulate activities that are clearly exempt from their control. We have seen Federal agencies go after farmers simply for changing crops or improving their irrigation systems, with absolutely no authority to do so.

The exemption on ag activities, in section 404(f)(1) of the Clean Water Act, reads as follows:

Normal farming, silviculture, and ranching activities, such as plowing, seeding, cultivating, minor drainage, harvesting for the production of food, fiber, and forest products or upland soil and water conservation practices is not prohibited or otherwise subject to regulation.

Madam Chair, this is as clear as it can be. These activities are exempt from regulation. However, according to the corps permitting guidance to farmers and ranchers, to qualify, these exempt activities: must be a part of an established ongoing farming, silviculture, or ranching operation. An operation is no longer established when the area on which it was conducted has been converted to another use or has lain idle.

Again, the Army Corps' own words:

If the current use of a property is for growing corn, the exemption does not apply if future activities would involve conversion to an orchard or vineyards.

Nowhere in the law does a requirement that farm work be "ongoing" or "established" exist. Nowhere in the law is a prohibition on changing crops mentioned.

Madam Chair, my amendment simply directs the corps to follow the law as Congress has written it, to stop attempting to expand its reach based on fictional authority. This House unanimously passed similar language to rein in the corps last year.

Let us remind these agencies that we write the law, not unknown Federal bureaucrats, and that the law applies not just to average Americans, but to the Federal Government as well.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it is not necessary. It does not achieve the stated intent. Contrary to a lot of misinformation—and much of

it deliberate, I am afraid—that has been circulated, farmers do not need a Corps of Engineers or even an EPA permit to dig a ditch, to till a field, to create a reservoir, or to irrigate their fields.

Congress clarified this issue more than 35 years ago when it passed the 1977 amendments to the Clean Water Act. Those amendments established a well-reasoned and practical approach that ensured far-reaching protections over the Nation's waters, but also ensured that practical day-to-day operations of farmers, of ranchers, of foresters, and a host of other industrial sectors could continue without the need for Clean Water Act regulation.

Section 404(f) of the 1977 law created a list of "activity-based" exemptions for normal farming, ranching, and forestry activities, but it also included safeguards to ensure that these exempted activities were not exploited by large-scale commercial interests.

I would also like to register my strong opposition to other attacks against the Clean Water Act that are already a part of this bill, and I refer specifically to sections 105 and 106.

Section 105 blocks the Corps of Engineers from updating regulations pertaining to the definitions of "fill material" for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, and section 106 prevents the corps from finalizing its proposed regulation clarifying Federal jurisdiction.

Section 105 protects the work of some attorneys in the George W. Bush administration, who found a clever way to allow mining waste to be dumped into rivers and streams without a rigorous environmental review process.

They simply changed the definition of fill material to include "rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, and overburden from mining or other excavation activities."

What had once been a permit process intended to allow quick approval of construction projects like bridges and roads—where raising the bottom elevation of a water body or converting an area into dry land was unavoidable—it became a green light for mountaintop mining removal, where an entire mountaintop could be dumped into a stream valley; and since this clever change in definition occurred, more than 2,000 miles of streams have been buried under mining waste.

The environmental and health consequences have been shocking. People living near mountaintop-removed mines are 50 percent more likely to die of cancer and 42 percent more likely to be born with birth defects compared with other people in Appalachia.

Section 106 is another outrage that has been facilitated by interest groups with deliberately misleading statements.

The corps does need to clarify its authority because there is a lot of confusion as a result of two Supreme Court

ulings, and the proposed rule clarifies that.

Most seasonal and rain-dependent streams are protected. Wetlands near rivers and streams are protected. Other types of waters will be evaluated through a case-specific analysis. That makes sense.

The corps has encouraged recommendations from the public for how best to determine whether a water body has significant connection to downstream waters, but we have to bear in mind that 59 percent of all stream miles in the lower 48 States fall into the category of intermittent or ephemeral.

They only exist for part of the year, yet they receive 40 percent of all individual wastewater discharges. More than 117 million Americans get some of their drinking water from those streams that don't flow year round.

So including this rider to block the corps' rule will only ensure that the confusion continues and that these sources of drinking water remain at increased risk of pollution.

With rising temperatures, more severe droughts, and climate change, protection of our waters and wetlands are more important than ever. We need clarity, not more confusion, and this amendment generates more confusion, and so it should be opposed.

Madam Chairwoman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LAMALFA. I appreciate the comments and thoughts from my colleague from Virginia there.

That said, on this amendment, not the catchall on the whole bill here, we are sticking to the exemptions that have been provided for in the law by Congress for farming activities, and we do have the need for this amendment because the enforcement by the Army Corps is happening out in the field in my own district, even on these issues.

We have a screen shot right here from the Army Corps' Web site that lists some of the things I mentioned earlier, as I said, that these activities must be part of an ongoing operation or that there cannot be a crop change without requirements put forth by the Army Corps, giving you permission or denying that permission.

So it is, indeed, necessary because there is overzealous regulation and enforcement of something that doesn't exist in the law as passed duly by the Congress representing the people of the United States.

□ 1645

As I mentioned a bit earlier, once again, this House did unanimously pass similar language on this issue last year, so I would ask to have that support of the U.S. House once again to

simply allow farmers to do what they would be doing ongoing and planning to do and have done for many generations all over this country except for a reinterpretation by, in a lot of cases, out-of-control bureaucrats that have a different agenda.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Of the funds made available by title III under the heading "Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation", not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as defined in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code) a report that includes an analysis of alternatives with respect to using the existing infrastructure at the Savannah River Site of the Department of Energy, including existing mixed oxide facilities, to conduct an alternative method for meeting the nuclear disposition requirements of the United States. Such report shall include—

(1) a full description of alternatives considered, including not less than two proposals described in subsection (b);

(2) a comparison of the costs and benefits of each such alternative, including an analysis of trade-offs among cost, schedule, and performance objectives;

(3) the identification of the cost and risk of critical technology elements associated with each such alternative, including technology maturity, integration risk, manufacturing feasibility, and demonstration needs;

(4) identification of the cost and risk of additional capital asset and infrastructure capabilities required to support production and certification of each alternative; and

(5) a life-cycle cost estimate for the alternative selected that details the overall cost, scope, and schedule planning assumptions.

(b) In order to obtain alternatives to analyze in the report under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall issue a formal request for proposals for contractors to submit a formal proposal for effective plutonium disposition methods that are alternative to the mixed oxide process, giving consideration to existing capabilities and infrastructure at the Savannah River Site.

Mr. GARAMENDI (during the reading). Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, during the fifties and sixties, we were engaged in what was known as the cold war. We could not build nuclear weapons fast enough, and we surely built a lot of them. Beginning in the eighties and on into the nineties, we got a little more sane. We and Russia and others became somewhat more sane about what to do with our nuclear weapons, and we began to dismantle many of the nuclear weapons we had, as did Russia.

In the nineties, an agreement was reached between the United States and Russia on the disposition—that is, the ultimate disposition and disposal—of the unused, unnecessary plutonium that both the United States and Russia held in their various stockpiles. That was a good thing. You don't want this stuff lying around. You don't want people to get their hands on it, particularly terrorist organizations. So there was a common understanding between Russia and the United States on the disposal of this unused, unnecessary, and extraordinarily dangerous material. The United States undertook to do this in a facility in South Carolina known as the MOX facility, and we have been at it since the late nineties, putting together a facility.

It hasn't gone well. In fact, it has gone very, very badly; and in the recent last 2 or 3 years, the administration has decided that this is not going to work and that the facility as designed should be put in cold storage and there should be a new way of dealing with this issue.

This amendment would instruct the Department of Energy to undertake a very quick and, in my view, a very appropriate process of going out to those entities and businesses and others around this Nation that can find a way of disposing of this very dangerous plutonium, and do it quickly. It calls for a 6-month process in which the Department of Energy would ask for requests for proposals from qualified companies to dispose of this, including the company that presently does it, AREVA, a French company that is currently operating the facility, have them come forward with a redo of their proposal, can they do it, and other companies. I know of perhaps two that can come forward. Get this thing underway so we can once again carry out our commitment in a treaty with Russia to dispose of our plutonium material.

This does not negate the South Carolina facility. In fact, it would hold the

South Carolina facility in place and probably lead to the continuation of that facility, perhaps in a new modality, to dispose of the plutonium. That is what it does. It short-circuits—that is, shortens—the time in which the Department of Energy is already moving to do this.

Under their present proposal, I would suggest it would probably be a decade before they decide what to do. But they need a kick in the pants, which this amendment does; get out there, go to the companies that know how to do this, and get it done. It is in the interest of the United States and in the interest of Russia to dispose of this unnecessary, unused plutonium. If we don't move forward this way, we are looking at a decade, in my estimation, a decade before the Department of Energy is willing to make a decision.

So that is what the amendment does. I suspect I am going to get a point of order here, but I would like all of us to consider the alternative of not doing this. If we don't take a program such as I am proposing here, we are going to wind up with this thing just lingering out there, a huge fight with South Carolina saying we want to go forward with AREVA; AREVA is not working; on and on and on.

So I ask for an “aye” vote on the amendment and a foregoing of this point of order so we might, as the House of Representatives, take up this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I insist on my point of order.

Madam Chairwoman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation on an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rules states in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment imposes additional duties.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Yes, I do.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I guess I don't understand the suggested ruling. We are spending a pile of money here. We are going to spend, I don't know, some \$12 billion on the path we are on. The bill itself proposes to spend money to keep this project going. The administration says we can't go, it is not working, don't do it.

All my amendment does is to tell the Department of Energy, get on with what you need to do anyway; that is, figure out how to do this. It doesn't spend any more money. In fact, it

would spend a whole lot less money than in the present drafting of this legislation, and it doesn't change law at all.

All it does is it directs the Department of Energy to do something, and it specifies how it should be done. That doesn't change law. Well, this whole thing is a law, so the bill itself changes law. So this simply directs how they should carry out their action for which they already have money.

Fine, avoid the issue. Let this thing linger, let it fester and rot, and do nothing. And wait 10 years with this plutonium there while the Department of Energy does what it does best which is to contemplate the future rather than getting things done.

Now we will take up the point of order, and this amendment would fail on a point of order. I would suggest to anybody who cares to listen, this issue has to be dealt with. This amendment does not select a winner or loser and it doesn't change the fundamental underlying law that we have put in place.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the Secretary of Energy.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment to the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following.

SEC. ____ . SACRAMENTO RIVER SETTLEMENT CONTRACTS.

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Bureau of Reclamation to terminate, or implement, administer, or enforce the termination of, the existing Sacramento River Settlement Contracts before the resolution of *Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Jewell, et al.*, (9th Cir. Case No. 0917661 and USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 05-cv-01207-LJO-GSA) through decision, dismissal, withdrawal or settlement.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order against this amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, this language in this amendment will hold the Sacramento River settlement contracts in place until issues associated with the litigation or renewal of the contracts are settled. Maintaining these contracts is critically important to the effective operation of the Cen-

tral Valley Project and efficient delivery of water north and south of the delta.

The settlement contracts are foundational to the CVP and provide vital stability that benefits the Bureau of Reclamation, agricultural and municipal and industrial water users, the environment, the California State water project and its beneficiaries.

The language does not prejudice the disposition of the ongoing litigation; it simply ensures stability until such issues are resolved.

The settlement contracts, originally entered into by the Bureau in 1964 and renewed in 2005, allowed the United States to properly distribute the Sacramento River water rights and provide operational stability for the CVP. Without these contracts in place and full compliance with their terms, the underlying right to divert water from the Sacramento River will be called into question, potentially creating instability statewide. The settlement contractors would continue to divert water under their historic rights, but will begin to do so earlier in the year and during critical months. In addition, they would not be required to compensate the United States for any of the water they divert. This would cost the Treasury approximately \$12 million in lost revenue.

Moreover, the settlement contractors would no longer be obligated to schedule their water diversions with the U.S. This would result, at a minimum, in an inability to operate the CVP in an efficient manner, causing uncertainty and instability throughout the Central Valley Project and the State water project, which serve a combined 23 million people.

Finally, the contract supplies available for diversion under the existing SRS contracts were assumed in all base and future studies used in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2008 biological opinion pertaining to the delta smelt.

The Ninth Circuit recently confirmed the validity of that biological opinion, as urged by the U.S. and NRDC. Accordingly, continuing these contracts under their existing terms pending the final outcome of the NRDC v. Jewell litigation would have no adverse effect on delta smelt.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. Does the gentlewoman from Ohio continue to reserve her point of order?

Ms. KAPTUR. I continue to reserve my point of order.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, I have great respect for my friend from the Sacramento Valley and the water users he represents, but I must rise in opposition to this amendment. However well-intentioned, it has two fatal flaws.

The first is that it is completely unnecessary. Second, it directly interferes with the Federal court's ability to administer the law.

So let's start with the first one, the unnecessary part. It is true that the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in this pending litigation because these long-term Sacramento River contracts were signed on the basis of an invalidated biological opinion. But what my colleagues should know is that no party in this ongoing litigation is seeking to terminate water deliveries, nor is anybody asking for the immediate alteration or interruption of deliveries. The litigation has been going on for years, and my understanding is that there is no court action scheduled that could have any effect on water deliveries in the coming years.

If the contracts are ultimately changed to protect California salmon fisheries, that would be many years down the line, and the Sacramento River contractors will have the opportunity to negotiate changes directly with the Interior Department in a public process. That is how it works.

So this amendment puts us in a strange position of trying to bar the Bureau of Reclamation from terminating water deliveries that nobody has asked them to terminate in anticipation of a court order that nobody is seeking. It is completely unnecessary.

□ 1700

Second, this amendment interferes in a court case in a way that should worry all of us in this body. The amendment claims to be about preserving the status quo on the Sacramento River. That is all fine, but if that is the concern that contracts might be terminated—even though nobody is asking them to be terminated and they don't expire for another 30 years—why come to Congress?

The Sacramento River contractors are represented by astute and capable lawyers who could easily go to the court and seek interim relief to do this, and yet they have not sought that relief. Instead, they have come here to the House floor asking to be treated differently than every other Central Valley Project contractor. Seeking a rider to circumvent a court case that is still in its very preliminary stages is no way to make public policy. In fact, I am not aware of Congress ever taking an extraordinary step like this.

There have been many Endangered Species Act challenges to water contracts over the years in California. Never has a court simply vacated any contracts. In fact, even after finding the contracts invalid under the Endangered Species Act, courts have always given the agencies and the contractors time to do their work and renegotiate the terms without terminating anything in the interim. That is exactly

what will happen in this case if we simply let the litigation play out, as we should.

Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Contra Costa County (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), who has been such a leader on California water for his 40 years in the House of Representatives.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and thank him for reserving this time in opposition.

I think the gentleman from California has made the point very clearly, this amendment is seeking to play by a set of rules that is different than any other contractor in the State, and also makes a point very clearly that there is no intent here by any of the parties to curtail these contracts in any immediate time or suggest that they be abandoned or they be found invalid, not at all. It is just a question of whether or not the basis on which they were determined to go forward, that biological opinion, has turned out not to be valid. So they are simply asking for a re-review of these contracts.

What this amendment would say is that this group of contractors gets to play by a different set of rules than everybody else in the State. As we all know, those of us who are from California and many of our colleagues in Congress have learned over the years this is a very, very integrated system. It is a very complex system, and it has multiple claims on the water in the State, from farming, from technology, from communities, from manufacturing, from the chemistry, and from the environment, from recreational fishers, from commercial fishers, from an industry that is hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of employees.

The question is are these contracts valid in light of the biological opinions. To say that they have been assumed in the biological opinions doesn't say that they have been reviewed. So this is just a question on this amendment to this legislation as to whether these people can take themselves outside of the judicial review, take themselves outside of the environmental considerations, take themselves outside of the economic considerations that no other water district, no other contractor gets to do.

Certainly at a time when people are under such stress about the availability of water, it starts to look like a very special privilege to be able to be plucked out when everybody else is undergoing this kind of scrutiny, trying to figure out how we can make the most flexible system, a system that can respond to this very diverse California economy and to the needs of domestic households in a very serious drought and a drought that may continue in the years to come. Again, nobody has suggested that we abrogate

these contracts simply to proceed under regular order.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. I continue to reserve a point of order.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chairman, I yield, upon the heels of the statements by my bay area colleagues, 2 minutes of time to my colleague from the valley, Mr. GARAMENDI, who represents much of this area.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of this question.

I think it would be wise to really take a look at the language of the amendment. It basically says that none of the funds made available by this act may be used by the Bureau to terminate, to implement, administer, or enforce the termination. This is about the Bureau terminating. It simply says the Bureau cannot terminate the contract until this court case is settled.

Is it necessary? It really depends what the Bureau intends to do. I would suspect that the Bureau probably would not move to terminate, but they could, in which case chaos ensues.

There will be a settlement in this court case at some time in the future. We don't know when. It is a very complex case. It deals with biological opinions. It deals with the ESA. It deals with very complex biological circumstances of the fish in the delta. This amendment simply says the Bureau cannot terminate until the court case has been settled. That is it.

Is it necessary? Well, it could be necessary. Therefore, this simply puts in place a requirement that would avoid chaos in the Central Valley Project. That is it.

My colleagues with whom I normally stand side by side in protecting the rivers, I find myself on the opposite side because this amendment needs to be understood in its simplicity and in its potential importance. Therefore, I support the amendment.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, what time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. LAMALFA. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I appreciate my colleague additionally adding to that.

I think in response to the amendment not being needed or setting a bad precedent, the stability that is so desperately needed for water delivery to the whole project is why we are doing this. It will have effect for 1 year or until the case is settled. These are ongoing contracts. We are not changing anything. It is not moving in any new direction here. But the instability that can be caused by an impending ruling or maybe a change of mind by the Bureau of Reclamation would cause much chaos, as my friend had suggested. This isn't an unreasonable amendment to

add to maintain the stability we need for an additional year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states, in pertinent part, "An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional duties by requiring the Bureau to determine whether a decision constitutes a resolution.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, I do.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, I would like a ruling in opposition to that, because I think what we are talking about here does not change law. It changes nothing other than maintaining the direction we have. It is not requiring any action by the Bureau or Department of the Interior or any other government agency, nor prejudicing anything by the court, simply keeping what we have in place with the contracts and the stability that is needed.

So I think the point of order is invalid with what the intention of this amendment is.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair will rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to what constitutes the resolution of a particular court case through a decision.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. For an additional amount for programs, projects, and activities of the Bureau of Reclamation authorized under the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (title XVI of Public Law 102-575; 43 U.S.C. 390h et seq.), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy" is hereby reduced by, \$52,000,000.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, California and the rest of the West are facing a historic drought right now. Nearly 80 percent of California was under extreme drought conditions in June, and 36 percent of our State is in "exceptional" drought in that category, the highest category, in fact, on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Emergency water conservation plans are being adopted across the State, including many mandatory measures. Cities and counties are dealing with uncertain water supplies, farmers and ranchers are facing incredibly difficult decisions, and tribes and those who depend on healthy fisheries for their livelihood are facing shortages like they have never seen.

Congress can't make it rain. What we can do is invest in drought-resistant water supplies through smart, sustainable investments in conservation and water reuse, and that is what this amendment is all about.

My amendment directs \$52 million to the Bureau of Reclamation for title XVI water conservation and reuse projects. Through this program, Reclamation works across the West to support municipalities, farmers, fish and wildlife, and recreation through water-saving conservation, reuse, and recycling infrastructure projects.

Although the Energy and Water bill before us today does fund the program, this drought is showing us that we have to do a lot more.

California's State water board is stepping up. They made an \$800 million investment in water reuse projects earlier this year, but we on the Federal side should be able to add more to that. We should add \$52 million to combat this urgent problem in California and other Western States.

This amendment is offset through a reduction in the Department of Energy's nuclear energy account. We have tough choices to make. I think we all understand that. Responding, however, to this drought should be a national priority.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I strongly oppose this ill-conceived amendment.

This amendment would cut \$52 million out of the Nuclear Energy Program. This is on top of an amendment that was adopted yesterday that already cuts \$73 million out of the nuclear energy program.

What I have heard for 2 days now is that climate change is a big issue. In fact, the drought in California and the West has been blamed on climate change. It may be true. I don't know.

But if you believe that, then why are you attacking the one thing that can produce energy for this country in a carbon-free way? That makes no sense.

So I strongly oppose this amendment. As I said, I understand my colleague's support for the title XVI program. Due to the request from the gentleman and many others within this Congress, funding for the title XVI program basically is at current rate while many other programs have been cut.

We did this by balancing many priorities that the amendment would completely ignore. The amendment would cut, as I said, \$52 million from nuclear energy. This is a 6 percent cut on top of the amendment yesterday. Accepting this amendment would be a 14 percent cut in nuclear energy.

Again, if you really believe in climate change and that we have to address it, one of the major things that is going to address it is going to be nuclear energy. Well, I like wind and solar and all of those kind of things. They don't produce the energy for the base load that is necessary in this country, particularly in California.

As I said, this is an ill-conceived amendment. Funding for nuclear research and development is a critical part of this recommendation support for a balanced energy portfolio, American manufacturing, and reduced reliance on foreign energy sources. Nuclear power currently generates 20 percent of the Nation's electricity, and it will continue to play a role in the future, I hope. Nuclear energy will be part of the energy mix in the future. America invented nuclear power, but now other nations are mimicking our companies' designs and building them entirely within their own borders.

This amendment is bad policy, and I strongly oppose its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Chair, we either believe that this critical drought in California and other Western States, the most extreme drought that many of us have seen in our lifetime, we either believe it is a national crisis and a national priority, or we don't.

A few months ago, House Republicans put forward a bill that represented itself as a response to this drought, and yet it offered no immediate relief to the folks who are suffering in California.

Instead, what it did is hack away at environmental laws and try to do some violence to 100 years of deference to State policy on water rights and otherwise pick winners and losers in ways that was not responsive to this drought.

What this amendment offers, though, is something that can make an immediate difference. The water that we save through conservation, the water that we can save in the years ahead

through water recycling, is some of the firmest, most reliable, most cost-effective water that you can provide. It is one of the smartest investments you can make in a State like California.

We need it to respond to this drought, and we need it to make our water supplies more reliable and resilient for future droughts, which we know are coming with more severity and more frequency.

I will close by urging my colleagues to vote "yes" for this important amendment which does respond to the critical drought that is facing California and other Western States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LUETKEMEYER

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the study of the Missouri River Projects authorized in section 108 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009 (division C of Public Law 111-8).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Missouri and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Chair, just turn on the news and you will see reports that highlight the need for a strong and resilient flood protection system as people along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers are bracing for potential floodings.

These basins have faced major challenges over the past few years due to both extreme flooding and droughts. This devastation, combined with a sluggish economy and our aging inland waterways infrastructure, means that now, more than ever, we must be focused and responsible with taxpayer-funded river projects.

My amendment would prohibit funding for the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study, also known as MRAPS. This \$25 million-earmarked study comes on the heels of a comprehensive \$35 million, 17-year study that showed that the current authorized purposes are important and should be maintained.

This Congress and this administration need to focus on protecting human life and property by maintaining the safety and soundness of our levees. We also must support the important commercial advantages provided to us by our inland waterways system.

The Missouri River moves goods to market and is an important tool in

both domestic and international trade. That is why the American Waterways Operators, the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River, the Missouri Farm Bureau, and the Missouri Corn Growers support this amendment.

This study puts in jeopardy not only the lower Missouri River, but also the flow of the Mississippi River, which could create devastating consequences for navigation and transportation, resulting in barriers for waterways operators, agriculture, and every product that depends on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to get to market.

The current authorized uses of the Missouri River provide necessary resources and translate to continued economic stability not only for Missourians, but also for many Americans living throughout the Missouri and lower Mississippi River basins.

This study is duplicative and wasteful of taxpayer dollars. On this exact issue we have already spent 17 years and \$35 million on hundreds of public meetings and extensive litigation. I offered identical language during our first debate on the fiscal year 2011 continuing resolution. That amendment passed by a vote of 245-176. The exact amendment was also offered and passed by a voice vote in 2012 by a vote of 242-168 in 2013, and again by voice vote in last year's debate.

I appreciate my colleagues who offered their support and hope to have that support again.

Madam Chair, there is no doubt in my mind that water resources receive too little funding. It is time for the Federal Government to refocus and reprioritize to create safer, more efficient infrastructure for our inland waterways and stop spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars unnecessarily.

I ask my colleagues for support of this amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 59, after line 20, insert the following: SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a liquefied natural gas export application from a facility that would be supplied with or export liquefied natural gas on foreign-flag vessels when an application that would be supplied with or export liquefied natural gas on American-flag vessels is pending.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I reserve a point of order against the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I would hope my colleague from Idaho, after finishing the excellent explanation I have of this, would withdraw his point of order.

This is about an extraordinary opportunity that the United States has. We have been blessed with a very significant supply of natural gas. We have the technology to obtain that gas, and we also are now looking at the possibility or the reality of exporting that natural gas in the liquefied natural gas form. A facility is already licensed and is in the process of nearing construction on the Texas coast.

This amendment would actually replicate what was passed by the House of Representatives in 2006 and became law with President George W. Bush's signature, which basically said that if we are going to import natural gas, it must be imported on an American-flagged ship.

We will soon be exporting liquefied natural gas, and this is the only step available to me in this forum to replicate what we did in 2006. Now we would at least take a step towards making sure that natural gas is exported on American-flagged ships.

This is a big deal for the maritime industry of America. This is a big, big deal. Because if we fail to take steps along the way to secure the maritime industry, we will see it disappear.

We have the Jones Act, and that is good, but the Jones Act has only held the very minimum. It is 82 ships now. Forty years ago, we had 1,000 ships operating under the American flag, with American sailors and mariners.

If we allow this amendment to go into place, it would simply require that the Department of Energy put in front of other applications those applications that have utilized American-flagged ships in the export of their liquefied natural gas.

It sounds to me to be the right thing to do if you care about America. If you don't give a hoot about American sailors and American ships and the American maritime industry, then brush this aside with the point of order.

Idaho isn't on the coast, but Idaho cares deeply, deeply about the export of American grain on American ships for programs such as Food for Peace and the Jones Act.

This amendment would begin to secure the American maritime industry by simply saying to the Department of Energy: If you are going to approve an LNG export facility, then put first in line that export facility that is going to utilize American sailors, American crews, and American ships. If you care about this Nation's maritime industry, then you ought to be supporting this amendment and my next one, which goes in the same direction.

So I would ask my colleague from Idaho, who controls this debate at this moment, to put aside his point of order and allow the House of Representatives to have a vote on whether they care—all 435 of us—about the American maritime industry and this one little step in providing an opportunity for American-made ships, American sailors, American crews, and the American maritime industry to survive in a very hostile environment, where other countries, like China, and others, subsidize their maritime industry and have literally decimated the American maritime industry.

Let's support Americans. Let's support our industry. Let's have this amendment come to a vote on the floor and let us all see whether we stand with the American Shipbuilding Council and the Navy League and others who do support this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I reserve my point of order and claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I don't usually do that, but since he challenged me directly, let me see if I have got this straight. We have a law that says if you are going to import natural gas, it has to be on an American-flagged ship. And now we want to put in a law that says if you export natural gas, it has to be on an American ship.

So, as I understand it, if every other country adopted a law similar to this, according to their country, we could neither import nor export natural gas around this world. So while this might be a good law, seemingly, I don't see how it would actually be beneficial.

The gentleman always has thoughtful amendments which always seem to be out of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Of course I do.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. GARAMENDI. My colleague from Idaho correctly asked me a question: How does this work? Would this in fact stop the export of LNG?

No, it absolutely would not. Other countries who want the LNG may or may not operate ships. The fact of the matter is it is going to take hundreds of ships to export this natural gas.

The reality is that this amendment—

The CHAIR. The gentleman will confine his remarks to the point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I will take your admonition and continue on.

How much time do I have to talk on the point of order?

The CHAIR. This debate is not timed.

The gentleman must confine his remarks to the merit of the point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Did the Chairwoman say that the time is unlimited as long as I speak to the subject?

The CHAIR. It is within the discretion of the Chair to entertain argument on a point of order.

The gentleman may be heard on the point of order only.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We will come back at this in the proper way.

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination of the flag status of vessels on pending export applications.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LUETKEMEYER

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. It is amendment No. 62.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to continue the study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to section 5018(a)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Missouri and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Chair, just last week, folks along the Missouri River were bracing for the river to possibly reach flood stage.

Should the basin have received a few more inches of runoff, homes, farms, and businesses would have been inundated with devastating flood waters. While it appears the danger has subsided for now, these citizens are not in the clear and will have to remain prepared for the rest of the flood season. These recent events serve to highlight the importance of maintaining effective flood control infrastructure.

Though it is one of our region's greatest resources, the Missouri River would produce extreme, erosive regular flooding and be mostly unfit for navigation, if not for the aggressive long-

term management by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Congress first authorized the Missouri River bank stabilization and navigation project, BSNP, in 1912, with the intention of mitigating flood risk and maintaining a navigable channel from Sioux City, Iowa, to the mouth in St. Louis.

Though the BSNP's construction was completed in the 1980s, the corps' ability to make adjustments as needed remains crucial to this day.

President Obama, in his fiscal year 2015 budget, requested \$56 million for the Missouri River Recovery Program, which primarily goes towards the funding of environmental restoration studies and projects.

This funding dwarfs the insufficient \$8.5 million that was requested for the entire operations and maintenance of the aforementioned BSNP. It is preposterous to think that environmental projects are more important than the protection of human life.

I do not take for granted the importance of river ecosystems. I grew up near the Missouri River, as did many of the people I represent, yet we have reached a point in our Nation at which we value the welfare of fish and birds more than the welfare of our fellow human beings. Our priorities are backwards, Madam Chair.

My amendment will eliminate the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan, or MRERP, a study that has become little more than a tool of the environmentalists for the promotion of returning the river to its most natural state, with little regard for flood control, navigation, trade, power generation, or the people who depend on the Missouri River for their livelihoods.

The end of the study will in no way jeopardize the corps' ability to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. MRERP is one of no fewer than 70 environmental and ecological studies focused on the Missouri River.

The people who have had to foot the bill for these studies, many of which take years to complete and are ultimately inconclusive, are the very people who have lost their farms, their businesses, and their homes.

Our vote today will also show our constituents that this Congress is aware of the gross disparity between the funding for environmental projects and efforts and the funding for the protection of our citizens.

This exact amendment has been passed by voice vote during debate in the last 3 fiscal year Appropriations bills, which were ultimately signed into law by President Obama. It is supported by the American Waterways Operators, the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River, the Missouri Farm Bureau, and the Missouri Corn Growers Association.

It is time for Congress to take a serious look at the water development

funding priorities, and it is time to send a message to the Federal entities that manage our waterways. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and support our Nation's river communities and encourage more balance in Federal funding for water infrastructure and management.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues for their support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, I have amendment No. 102 at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 59, after line 20, insert the following: SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve an application for the supply or export of liquefied natural gas unless the Department of Energy has consulted with the United States Maritime Administration on the availability of United States-flag vessels to transport the liquefied natural gas.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, it is *deja vu*. I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, before we go to the point of order dance, which we seem to be pretty good at, I want to explain why this is an important step. It is not as strong as the previous issue I raised, but it is, nonetheless, a very, very important step in the process of how we are going to export our liquefied natural gas.

As I said earlier, the United States is blessed with a very significant amount of natural gas. Many people raise the question about whether we should export it at all. That question is interesting, but moot because we are going to export it.

We have already had one facility that has been approved and will be soon exporting gas. The question that this amendment addresses is: Will that gas be exported on American ships, with American flags, with American sailors?

As I said with regard to the previous amendment that I brought up, this issue has already been resolved with regard to the importation of natural gas. We are now talking about the exportation of natural gas, and therefore, we would simply do the same thing we do with import—do it on American ships, with American sailors, with the American flag.

There is a reason for that. I explained that earlier. It has to do with our mari-

time industry. It has to do with the safety of those ships. Let me just tell you that these ships carry an extraordinary amount of natural gas, and should there be an incident, then it could be extraordinarily dangerous in our ports. That is why the original law in 2006 was put in place.

All this amendment does is to set small criteria for what already happens. The Department of Energy does consult with MARAD. They already do the consultation.

This simply says: in that consultation, consider the American flagging of these ships. It doesn't set a requirement. It doesn't set new law. It simply says: when you consult, Mr. Secretary of Energy, with MARAD, then consider the American flagging of these ships. That is it—nothing more.

I have got to tell you that this is important stuff, and that is why the Navy League and that is why the Shipbuilders Council and, as I said, others—I don't have their letters with me today—have said in their letter—and I will read this paragraph—that one proposed amendment would require the Department of Energy, DOE, to consult with MARAD on the availability of U.S.-flagged vessels in processing applications for the export of liquefied natural gas, LNG.

That is it. They support this. Why? Because they see the opportunity for the maritime industry to do in the export what is required in the import. That is it. How this could be ruled out of order, I don't understand, but when that opportunity comes, I intend to take that up also.

Why don't we vote? As Members of this House, why don't we vote on whether we support our maritime industry or not?

I yield the remaining time to my colleague from the great State of Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I would just like to thank the gentleman for offering his amendment.

Even though it is subject to a point of order, I think you are drawing attention to the importance of the U.S. maritime industry, and this burgeoning opportunity is extraordinarily important.

I just wanted to commend the gentleman for that, and I know how hard you fight for our ports and for our maritime community. Let's find a way to do this somehow.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I don't know what more to say here. The points of order are useful, I suppose, but not to me.

Madam Chair, to this issue, I would love to see a vote on the House floor on whether we really support our maritime industry, on whether we really support our sailors or not.

This is about as minimal an amendment as I could imagine, and I am al-

most embarrassed in bringing something so weak before this floor on something so important as the future of our maritime industry.

I don't know that I have any choice, but to at least try with this small step to bring before the House an amendment that would really help our industries.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve my point of order, and I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, the gentleman brings up an interesting subject, as the gentlewoman from Ohio said, and it is something that I would hope he would continue to work on through the appropriate channels. There are problems that may exist with his proposal here, and this is not the right place to do it, on the appropriations bill.

The amendment would prevent the Department of Energy from approving an application for liquefied natural gas export, unless the Department has consulted with the U.S. Maritime Administration on the availability of U.S.-flagged vessels to transport the liquefied natural gas. The Department does not have nor are applicants for LNG export currently required to provide information on which vessels will be used for transportation.

In fact, shipping companies are separate and distinct from companies applying for export licenses, and assessing the shipping requirements for LNG is not within the DOE's current realm of technical expertise. The reality is that there are a few, if any, U.S.-flagged vessels capable of carrying LNG at this point.

I know the gentleman would like to change that, and I agree with him on that, but we need to do it through the proper channels. We need to do it through legislation that, I understand, the gentleman is probably working on now through the authorizing committees.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment imposes additional requirements.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I do, Madam Chair.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Chair, keeping in mind your admonition that I speak to the point of order and not to the underlying amendment, I don't believe this changes any existing law; although, the entire bill changes existing law.

This amendment speaks to one part of what already takes place, and that is that the Department of Energy does consult with MARAD on this subject matter. This amendment simply says that the Department, in that consultation, shall consider the issue of availability of American-flagged crude-LNG tankers. It doesn't say you can't go forward. You can go forward. It doesn't say anything about that. It simply says that, in that consultation, take into account this simple issue.

With regard to the point of order, the amendment that preceded my attempt with this amendment did, in fact, change law, but it was not ruled out of order.

Now, I accept the fact that I can't have it my way. In fact, I am one of seven children, and I have never really had it my way. But this is not a substantive or even a minor change in law compared to what preceded this amendment.

Okay. I know I am going to lose this one, but I am not going to give up on this issue. I appreciate the support of the chair on building American LNG tankers, and we will bring that to the appropriate committee at the appropriate time.

In the meantime, Madam Chair, I think you are about to make a ruling.

□ 1745

The CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule on the point of order.

The Chair finds that this amendment imposes new duties on the Department of Energy to consult with the U.S. Maritime Administration.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM.

No funds made available by this Act may be used for the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, we have seen, as you get on the plane you fly into San Jose, Madam Chairman, as

you fly and drive south, you will see a huge building which was built with taxpayer money. This building is known as Solyndra, and the assets that were contained within were sold to the Chinese for 10 cents on a dollar. So our money, our taxpayer dollars, went to a program which failed.

Again and again, you see the Energy Department investing and calling winners and losers; and I, for one, want to see a stop to the money that flows from the taxpayers into failed, non-productive industries.

This amendment simply eliminates the funding for a program which has already been demonstrated as an embarrassment, not just to our government, but actually to the administration. I think that, quite frankly, it is a simple amendment, and it would do great justice to the American taxpayers and would do great justice to America if we stop funding the Chinese technology through "gimme" loan programs and selling our assets at 10 cents on a dollar.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I rise strongly to oppose the amendment of my friend. The funds my colleague seeks to remove are administrative costs that the Department of Energy needs to conduct oversight of its existing loan portfolio.

The recent loan guarantee to create the first new nuclear facilities in over 30 years at the Vogtle plant in Georgia will create thousands of jobs and will need oversight to ensure funds are spent properly.

In April, the Department made available \$8 billion of loan guarantees to accelerate advanced fossil energy technologies on the cusp of development. These loan guarantees, among others, need administrative support for decades to come.

Without those administrative costs, the Department would not be able to monitor risk, manage projects, or provide the proper financial analysis that a loan guarantee needs. These activities are essential to ensure that taxpayer funds are protected in the existing loan portfolio.

For these reasons, Madam Chairman, I cannot support our colleague's amendment, and I urge Members to vote "no."

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, I respect my colleague, and I think he has some valid points; however, we repeat this mistake over and over again when we invest in failed projects that continually end up costing the taxpayers money and then we end up selling it to

a Third World or some other country, and our taxpayers are losing money.

I, for, one, would like to send a message to the Department telling them we as taxpayers don't want to see them wasting money, and, hopefully, this will be a shot across the bow where they are more studious with our money and more aware of the taxpayers' concern that they should not invest in every kind of program.

In fact, the administration just again loaned more money to solar panels, which, again, is going to go bankrupt. In fact, almost all the solar panels which they have loaned money to have all gone bankrupt, and that ends up coming out of the pockets of the taxpayers.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chairman, I yield 1 minute to our distinguished colleague from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman of the full committee for yielding and rise to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I find it extremely shortsighted because in this particular program we have so many successes. We have built 15 advanced vehicle manufacturing facilities, one of the largest wind farms in the world; constructed the first nuclear power plant in the country in more than 3 decades, the largest photovoltaic generation facility of its kind, the largest concentrated solar power plant in the world.

I can tell you this isn't just—this is new technology. This is like NASA at the beginning, where we have got private sector money involved but also public sector money.

There will be some errors made, that is true. And let me tell you, the Chinese undercut the market. I have seen it happen. I am from the solar valley of Ohio, and I saw what the Chinese did.

We still have First Solar, the best company in the country in terms of volume and so forth, and that was largely privately funded; but at the beginning it had some photovoltaic research dollars that came from the Department.

So we are talking about inventing the future. This isn't quite the same as going out for a car loan, because when you have predators like China come and literally buy your technology from under you in your startup company, it is a very slippery playing field.

I would say they have done a commendable job in embracing the future. I think the gentleman's amendment really is not constructive.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I oppose the amendment and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STOCKMAN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____ OFFSHORE DRILLING PERMITS.

No funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to block approval of offshore drilling permits.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chair, there is oversight. I would argue that there is oversight on the permits such as off the coast of Texas in which we have been developing it, and there has been, I feel, unfair interference. I think to send a signal to the Department that we are serious about allowing us to become number one in the world of energy, my district alone employs thousands and thousands of people in the energy industry, and having these kind of restrictions laid upon the industry is not long sighted but, rather, short sighted.

So I would ask that the amendment be accepted as proposed. I think that, overall, it will be a benefit to the United States if we develop.

Off the coast of California, they have as much as \$1 trillion in reserves, and much of it is actually seeping up naturally onto the shores of California. Actually, by allowing industry to develop those fields, you would actually have less seepage of oil up on the coast of California.

I, for one, want us to continue to create jobs, and the number one job creator in the United States now and today is energy. I think that if we look at the future, the future of the United States is going to be in the energy industry as we surpass Saudi Arabia.

Madam Chairman, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chairman, I rise to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Number one, it is nongermane to our bill. In fact, the amendment is actually unnecessary because there are no funds related to this purpose in our bill at all. Perhaps the gentleman could

present the amendment to another bill, but literally, it is extraneous. It has no relationship to the bill before us here in the House, and I would ask my colleagues to oppose it.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STOCKMAN. My colleague from Ohio, whom I have for many years admired, if that is accurate, then it shouldn't be a problem supporting it if it doesn't have any impact on the bill. I believe it does. From what I understand, it would be germane, but that is a difference of opinion.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STOCKMAN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, or enforce any rule that would increase electricity prices or reduce electricity reliability.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Chairman, I want to begin by congratulating my colleagues, Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR, for crafting a strong bipartisan bill that enhances our Nation's energy infrastructure, strengthens our nuclear weapon security programs, and ensures investments are made to grow jobs here in America.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member and the hardworking committee staff for accepting language into the base bill regarding navigable waters. This past April, 28 of my colleagues joined me in a letter to the Appropriations Committee suggesting language be included. I am pleased that it ended up in the final product, and I thank you, Chairman SIMPSON, as do our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

The amendment I bring to the floor today would limit the administration's ability to create and enforce rules through the Department of Energy, rules that would increase our cost of electricity and decrease the reliability of our electric grid.

This administration has made unprecedented rules and regulations when it comes to the sources of our electric generation. This President's ideological stance against fossil fuels, which supplies 80 percent of our domestic electricity, is crippling industry and increasing costs for all Americans.

These policies injure low-income Americans the most. Those with the least amount of disposable income in my north central Florida region and district will have to choose between feeding their families or possibly turning on their air conditioner.

This is America, and we have the means to produce inexpensive, reliable energy sources, and we need to do just that. We do it responsibly, and we have become great stewards of the environment.

□ 1800

We, as the people of government, in government, should do what is best for the American people, for the American economy, increasing our security, energy security, and our competitiveness.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) for any remarks that he may have.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I want to say, even though I am going to raise a point of order against this amendment, I support the idea of what he is trying to do.

I am concerned about some of the unintended consequences this amendment might have. But I agree with its intent, to prevent administration rules that increase electricity prices or reduce electricity reliability.

I look forward to working with my colleague to identify and mitigate, if necessary, its unintended consequences and the ways that we might be able to do this that don't subject themselves to a point of order.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Chair, I understand that, and I appreciate that the chairman's concern is the broad nature of the amendment.

Still, my hope is to work with Chairman SIMPSON and Chairman UPTON to find a solution to this problem. I cannot and shall not sit idly while this administration singlehandedly destroys the most reliable and affordable energy source in the world.

And with that, Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

The amendment requires a new determination.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to the effect of a rule on electricity prices or reliability.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY OF NEW YORK

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the order entitled “Order Accepting Proposed Tariff Revisions and Establishing a Technical Conference” issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on August 13, 2013 (Docket No. ER13-1380-000).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from New York and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Chair, many of my colleagues may be familiar with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also known as FERC. But I imagine few of my colleagues have experienced an agency with the accountability that we have experienced in the Hudson Valley recently, or have seen how a few unelected bureaucrats can wreak havoc, literally, on our utility bills and those of our struggling neighbors without regard for basic facts, like how those people use energy or how those bills will be paid or whether people can even afford to pay these bills after the worst winter and the highest energy costs we have seen in a generation. This egregious bureaucratic overreach has to stop.

In January, FERC approved a plan to create what is called a new capacity zone in the Hudson Valley. Now, this new zone would arbitrarily impose an unprecedented \$230 million increase in energy costs in my region for just the first year alone, and nearly \$500 million in increased costs over the first 3 years. This is absolutely outrageous and unnecessary.

No one elected anyone in the FERC, and they are accountable to no one. But their decisions affect all of us and,

in this case, affect the struggling ratepayers of the Hudson Valley.

Initial estimates suggest that customers throughout the Hudson Valley could see their utility bills go up by as much as 10 percent. This, again, after the worst winter and highest energy costs in a generation.

Every single day, I am hearing from my neighbors about how awful this decision is and their fears of how they will pay for their energy. I heard from Russ in Putnam Valley, who told me that, as a senior on a fixed income, this is an increase that he simply can't afford. He is expected to pay \$120 more over the next year, and he doesn't have it.

And it is not just families that will be hit. Schools, like those in Carmel, are scrambling to find ways to cut budgets that are already stretched thin. And our large employers, like IBM, estimate that this FERC decision could cost just IBM up to \$10 million over the next year.

Now, you might think that any agency with that kind of destructive power might be accountable to someone, but apparently you would be wrong.

Last week, I received a letter from Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro stating that, in the 20 years that he has been in elected office, “I have never interacted with a less accessible, less accountable government entity, seemingly impervious to legislative and public scrutiny.” I couldn't agree more, and we have that agreement across party lines and across levels of government.

The new capacity zone is an unnecessary and destructive step designed to fix a problem that we can fix in so many other ways, and we have to rein in these unaccountable Washington bureaucrats.

So my amendment is simple. It would specifically prohibit funds from going towards allowing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to enforce the decision that created the new capacity zone. Because a runaway agency like this needs a serious wake-up call, and this amendment will let FERC know that they are accountable to folks like Russ and the people in Carmel and the seniors in my district and to this Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. And I certainly understand the gentleman's concerns.

We engaged in a colloquy an hour or so ago. And I supported the Member's concerns, and I still do. However, this amendment goes beyond what I can support.

I am concerned that such a blunt action, as this amendment, may have un-

intended consequences. We simply have not had time to understand all of the implications to electricity prices and electricity reliability or other interactions with the FERC order referenced in the amendment. Therefore, I must oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his assistance with the colloquy earlier. I respect his remarks.

Let me just point out that this amendment relates to a specific FERC docket. So by definition, it can affect nothing other than this specific decision that I have referred to.

I yield for such time as he may wish to consume to the gentleman from New York, CHRIS GIBSON, my colleague from across the aisle who also represents the Hudson Valley.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my friend SEAN PATRICK MALONEY. We are working together on this amendment, and we are fighting for our constituents.

We just came through last winter, one of the harshest winters for those in upstate New York, where we saw our gas and home heating prices rise. We saw our electricity prices double. And yet as my friend Mr. MALONEY just pointed out, we see that FERC wants to continue on and has moved forward with this new capacity zone, which they claim is going to lead to more generation.

But, look, these rising rates, they are not necessary. We already have interest in our region for more generation, and this is just more burden on our constituents.

And if you take a look at how this is impacting across the area, this is hurting hardworking families. It is impacting small businesses. So we are talking about a loss of jobs, we are talking about heartache on families, all for something that is unnecessary. And, as Mr. MALONEY pointed out, this is coming from FERC, which has really been unaccountable when it comes to our concerns.

Mr. MALONEY and I, our Governor, one of our Senators—we have had leaders at every echelon reach out to FERC and explain to them, especially given the harsh winter that we went through and the fact that it is unnecessary. This is tone-deaf and outrageous that they are going forward. We want to fight this.

We thank the chairman and ranking member for their acknowledgement in the report language. Going forward, we think that will be helpful. But we need relief right now.

We are asking for support for this amendment. We think this is the right thing to do. And I would ask all my colleagues to stand up. Let's fight for families. Let's fight for small business.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCALISE

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used within the borders of the State of Louisiana by the Mississippi Valley Division or the Southwestern Division of the Army Corps of Engineers or any district of the Corps within such divisions to implement or enforce the mitigation methodology, referred to as the "Modified Charleston Method".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to present an amendment that is a bipartisan amendment that has passed for the last 2 years that this bill has come before the House.

What this deals with is a change in process for mitigation methods that the Corps of Engineers implemented back in 2011 called the Modified Charleston Method. And when they implemented this new method of mitigation, it basically started making a lot of projects—surely in southeast Louisiana—unworkable, including, Mr. Chairman, flood protection projects.

One of the things we have seen is that it actually has increased the cost of flood protection projects along the coast by over 300 percent, which in many cases has made those flood protection projects unaffordable for local governments to be able to afford for themselves, where they are putting up their own money. It is not even Federal money.

And here comes the Federal Government, putting in an unworkable plan that makes it cost-prohibitive to actually implement flood protection. And, of course, we have seen at the Federal level what happens if you don't have that kind of protection. We sure don't want to be in a position where we are stopping local communities from being able to protect themselves against flood with their own money.

What is even more ironic about this, Mr. Chairman, is that the Corps of Engineers, while they have imposed this on local governments and private business, they have exempted themselves from it. The Corps of Engineers doesn't even use this method that they have imposed on everybody else—I am sure because they recognize it would be unworkable for them. But they impose it on everybody else. That is not the way we should do business, Mr. Chairman.

What this amendment says is that no funds can be expended to implement that unworkable method. Let's get back to the normal way of doing mitigation, which was practical, which was the way most other places in the country do it.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from my colleague from Louisiana, CEDRIC RICHMOND, who is also in strong support and is the lead cosponsor of this amendment.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2014.

Hon. MIKE SIMPSON, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies House Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SIMPSON: I would like to express my support for this amendment being offered by my colleague from Louisiana, Mr. Scalise to H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This amendment deals with the use of the Modified Charleston Method by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans district. This method is different from the method used for other areas across the country and has caused unique and significant problems for our area.

By increasing the cost of mitigation for a wide variety of important projects, the MCM has made some projects in our region dramatically, and in some cases even prohibitively, more expensive. These increasing costs for critical infrastructure and flood protection projects are deeply concerning, especially given the important flood protection projects currently being planned for in my district. Projects like the levee project for the West Shore of Lake Pontchartrain which would protect the homes of thousands of residents as well as businesses and energy infrastructure that is critical to the entire nation. We must ensure that the people of the River Parishes get the protection they need as quickly as possible. The escalating costs brought about by the MCM are concerning because of the effect it could have on projects like this.

This amendment says that we need to move forward with a better way to handle mitigation. We understand the need and the importance of proper mitigation for all projects. We just need to make sure that the method we use does not keep us from protecting our citizens or hamper our future economic development.

Sincerely,

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND.

Mr. SCALISE. I urge adoption, Mr. Chairman, and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. YOHO

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for "DE-FOA0000697: Sustainable Cities: Urban En-

ergy Planning for Smart Growth in China and India".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, at a time of deep deficits and a mounting national debt, we cannot allow our taxpayers' dollars to be squandered away in order to upgrade cities in China and India.

In 2012, a program was issued by the Department of Energy with the purpose of "conducting international collaborative efforts that accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies" at the expense of the American taxpayer.

While this appropriation bill does not explicitly include funding for these projects, I believe this amendment is essential to ensure the administration cannot misuse hard-earned taxpayer money.

All in this Chamber have seen what the President is capable of, given the opportunity to invoke his ideological agenda. It is not America's job to help foreign nations upgrade their cities. Countries like China and India have their own taxpayers and are among the largest economic engines in the world.

Our country was founded on the principle of self-determination. Enticing economic change in foreign countries with money borrowed from future generations is a gross departure of that principle, especially in these hard economic times.

And with that, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), my colleague and good friend.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida yielding.

And really, I think this just goes back to a simple reflection of priorities. We are here tonight, and both sides are coming to the floor. They are offering amendments. They are talking about energy and water. And Chairman SIMPSON has done a fine job of bringing this to the floor, and I think we have some good stuff going here.

But this is about priorities. Why should we be looking at funding priorities for other countries who have their own sufficient taxpayer money, their own sufficient taxpayer growth?

□ 1815

They may have trouble in growth, but why are we looking at it from a perspective that we should possibly say we are going to use our funds to do this on? This is not something we need to be a part of. It is not saying: just let China and India take care of themselves, we don't have a part.

We have plenty of private industry that will go in at a fee and also do this.

Why would we be putting government funds possibly towards this.

I think this is another area where we deal with sustainable cities. This is a concern of many of my constituents. Some have actually called this looking at how we go across the world an agenda 21 wannabe. This is just simply something we shouldn't be doing.

This is just something that we want to limit and simply say: we are going to be a leader, let's let the rest of the world lead, but let's let them pay with their own dollars.

I appreciate the gentleman from Florida bringing this.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Chairman, we, again, as people in government that represent our constituents, we should do everything in our power to make America stronger, more economically sound, and more competitive across the world, not less.

Again, this amendment will prevent future actions from the administration causing hardworking American taxpayers' money to be spent to subsidize clean energy in countries like China and India.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman and Members, this amendment would prohibit funding for what is called the sustainable cities program, which is aimed at deploying U.S. technical expertise to urban energy planning for cities in places like India and China. So the gentleman and I look at this in a little bit of a different way.

Mr. Chairman, this effort is aimed at developing markets for U.S. products in places that are growing, and I think census figures show that India and China are absolutely growing, and their economies are growing.

In fact, in places like China, it is growing so fast that they are actually often stealing our technology and buying our companies out from underneath us, and we lose market edge.

Mr. Chairman, this particular program encompasses a variety of technical assistance activities to actually prime those markets for our clean technologies in places where there is population increase and a need for product and would help potentially to support the export of American clean energy technologies. That means jobs here at home; it means exports out of the United States, rather than imports in here in two major economies.

Working closely with U.S. companies, the Department of Commerce and other governments will focus on product testing and developing minimum standards, certifying that we can actually achieve the installation of these clean energy products. Here at home,

obviously, we help our clean energy sector to develop.

Specific examples already underway include facilitating a memorandum of understanding that could lead to the first commercial-scale deployment of concentrated solar power deployment in China—a deal that could be valued at \$350 million—with manufacturing of the key intellectual property here in the United States.

Another involves gaining access to the wind energy market in China—which is a growing market—coordination and exchanges between our department and private sector, our U.S. and Chinese cities, has led to increasing sales of U.S. clean energy goods in China already.

It is no secret that China has some challenges—and India has challenges—dealing with the enormity of their populations and the stress on their energy infrastructure.

We need to boost innovation here at home. This is one very modest program, but one, I think, that deserves attention. The last time I looked, we, as a country, had a gigantic trade deficit with China. That means more goods coming in here than our goods going out.

Mr. Chairman, this is one small step forward to try to penetrate those markets using some of the higher tech technologies that we have in the energy field, so I oppose the gentleman's amendment. I think he might look at the program in a different way than I do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose it, as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 113-486.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee to carry out section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 16421a; added by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to, again, offer an amendment

that would stop a loan program created by the 2009 stimulus bill.

Last year's amendment passed the House by a significant margin, and the administration appeared to get the message, not authorizing any new projects during the fiscal year.

However, in their most recent budget request, they plan to receive and review 100 project proposals, review six business plan proposals, provide technical assistance for the development of four projects, and assist with two projects in the financing phase.

One of the future projects is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion for the Federal share alone, which is almost half of the Western Area Power Administration's borrowing authority.

How bad is this program? It is not merely a loan guarantee program, like the one that backed Solyndra. It is an actual loan from the Federal Government, with a built-in bailout mechanism. That's right, built in to the law is this actual bailout.

I am going to quote from what the law says:

If, at the end of the useful life of a project, there is a remaining balance owed to the Treasury under this section, the balance shall be forgiven.

That means we have got agenda-driven, uneconomical renewable energy projects being funded directly by the Federal Government, and if they fail, taxpayers are on the hook once again.

What has been the performance of these projects so far? In November 2011, the Department of Energy inspector general issued a lengthy management alert on the stimulus borrowing authority. To quote from that report:

Because of a variety of problems, the project is estimated to be 2 years behind schedule and \$70 million over budget; essentially out of funds; and currently at a standstill, with no progress being made. Western had not completed a formal root-cause analysis and corrective action plan designed to ensure more effective program safeguards are in place going forward. Because Western has committed \$25 million in developmental funding to a potential \$3 billion project that could ultimately require an investment of \$1.5 billion in Recovery Act borrowing authority, we are issuing this report as a management alert.

That is why last year's Republican budget noted:

The \$3.25 billion borrowing authority in the Western Area Power Administration's Transmission Infrastructure Program provides loans to develop new transmission systems aimed solely at integrating renewable energy. This authority was inserted into the stimulus bill without the opportunity for debate. Of most concern, the authority includes a bailout provision that would require American taxpayers to pay outstanding balances on projects that private developers failed to repay.

As I and many others have pointed out when the bill was passed, the stimulus—which was billed as funding shovel-ready programs—actually became a vehicle to bake in higher levels of

spending and new government programs.

As with other government loan programs, we have all too often seen abuses and mismanagement, and this program is no exception.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. McCLINTOCK and Chairman HASTINGS, for their past work in offering and marking up a bill to repeal this program. I urge my colleagues, again, to support and pass this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I think the gentleman's amendment, including some vagueness of his language, will likely have many unintended consequences. For example, one of the projects, the Enbridge corporation, which constructed the Montana-Alberta power line, has already repaid our government \$161 million of its borrowed authority—its loan—decades ahead of schedule, showing that transmission projects, when vetted properly, are sound investments.

Essentially, his proposal would repeal the Western Area Power Administration's borrowing authority for the construction of transmission lines that would bring renewable energy to market.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided \$3.25 billion in borrowing authority for WAPA. This authority allowed for the construction of new transmission lines to deliver power from renewable energy sources.

By repealing their authority, it is just another example of, unfortunately, the Republican Party's anti-renewable energy strategy.

The borrowing authority has already led to the financing of two much-needed transmission lines out West—not even in my own part of the country—the one that I mentioned, the Montana-Alberta transmission line, which brings wind power to markets in our country, and the Palo Verde Electrical District 5 in Arizona. The Tohono O'odham Nation is already looking to utilize the PV-ED5 line to bring solar power generated on to their reservation.

Mr. Chairman, if adopted, the amendment would have the following impacts: for the Palo Verde project, which is customer driven, it is 92 percent complete, and it could be brought to a halt.

It supports mostly rural customers and Native American tribes and is a model of public-private partnership for which this program was created.

It will also allow those customers—and potentially others—to add renewable energy to the grid, while strengthening the transmission system in an

area which is seeking growth and actually has more demand.

If that project is totally completed, something that is jeopardized by this amendment, the benefits of the project include providing customer access to the Palo Verde trading hub and also providing 300 megawatts of unconstrained transfer capability from ED5 to Palo Verde, to support and enhance the viability of renewable resources in development in southern Arizona.

Jobs and transmission investment capability would be negatively impacted, and it could impact how—on behalf of the ED5 project—how it reimburses staff for work in support of the project.

Now, I mentioned that there are projects already underway that this amendment would bring to a halt. What sense does that make? I mean, we have already got issues in our country.

We need jobs in this country. We need affordable energy in this country. We need diversified energy in this country. I really don't understand why the gentleman is offering this amendment, but I can tell you the attorneys who looked at this language continue to find there will be additional impacts due to the vagueness of the language you have proposed.

I would guess your amendment will likely have many other unintended consequences, such as impacts on the preference power customers.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLEMING. Well, my response, Mr. Chairman, is, first of all, there is nothing vague about the billions and billions of dollars that have already been wasted through corporate welfare, giving loans that are guaranteed by the Federal Government, loans to companies such as Solyndra and a whole list of others that now have failed and taken the taxpayer money with them.

Now, with regard to the gentlewoman's claim that programs and projects already in progress would be stopped, well, that is absolute nonsense because those deals have been signed. That money has already been committed.

What we are talking about is stopping any new projects. Again, I would emphasize here that, if these projects made sense—whether it is renewable or nonrenewable, whether it is carbon-based or noncarbon-based, there is plenty of capital out there to lend. There are a lot of people who want to make money on energy. There are a lot of people who have made money on energy.

The reason why there isn't a private market out there primarily is because

the government has displaced that private market; and number two, in many cases, when the question is asked—in fact, the President of the United States—why is the government lending this money?

His answer was: well, because you can't get it from the private market and private investors. Why? Because it is a dumb idea. They will never get their money back.

So why in the world do we want to let the taxpayer money go down the tubes when other people, who are a heck of a lot smarter than we are, see that it is unfit for lending and for capital production?

Mr. Chairman, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1830

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out section 801 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17281).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chair for the good work done on this piece of legislation, but I offer an amendment that would prohibit the use of funds to carry out a national media campaign to promote alternative green technologies.

In 2007, Congress authorized the Department of Energy to create a national media campaign to convince Americans to buy green technologies at the tune of \$5 million a year. Now, my amendment would simply prohibit funds from going to this misguided, unnecessary, government-run campaign.

As constituents in my Michigan district are struggling to deal with \$4 a gallon gas prices and energy costs brought about by this administration's harmful energy limitation policies, the last thing we need, Mr. Chairman, is Washington bureaucrats telling them how to live their lives.

They are smart enough to know, as are the overwhelming majority of American citizens in all of our districts, Mr. Chairman, to know what energy sources work for them, work best for their families, for their businesses, and especially when our country has emerged and is emerging still further—if we would allow it and encourage it as

an energy superpower—and now leads the world in natural gas and oil production.

Instead of funding unnecessary ad campaigns, let's get to work on energy policy which takes advantage of our energy abundance and leads to lower prices, more jobs and greater global security.

Green technologies should be a part of a real all-of-the-above energy policy, but picking winners and losers is not the role of the Federal Government, nor is it in the core mission of the Department of Energy.

I was pleased that this amendment was adopted when I offered it last year, and I encourage my colleagues to once again support it.

Mr. Chairman, having said what I think is necessary, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to design, implement, administer, or carry out the United States Global Climate Research Program National Climate Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the United Nation's Agenda 21 sustainable development plan, the May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866, or the July 2014 Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations' pathways to deep decarbonization report.

Mr. MCKINLEY (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is similar to ones that have been offered in previous appropriations bills, and all have passed with strong bipartisan support.

This amendment would prohibit agencies like the Department of Energy and the Corps of Engineers from being required to spend money on climate change policies forced upon them by the Obama administration and which have been based on biased studies.

In a time of fiscal austerity and prioritization of spending, how can we justify taking money away from our country's leading scientists, physicists, and engineers at the National Energy Technology Lab, but at the same time ask them to research and develop clean coal technologies, carbon capture and sequestration, increased efficiencies for our turbines and power plants, and improving our natural gas extraction techniques from shale?

We should not be reducing funds for rejuvenating our locks and dams along America's rivers, especially when the American Society for Civil Engineers have rated our Nation's waterway infrastructure and land infrastructure a D-plus. Mr. Chairman, a D may be a passing grade for our President, but it is a failing mark in my book.

Spending precious resources to pursue a dubious climate change agenda compromises our clean energy research and America's infrastructure. When similar amendments were adopted previously, some claimed we were denying agencies the use of science.

That is simply not true, Mr. Chairman. We want them to use science, but, Mr. Chairman, I want them to use science that doesn't come with a biased agenda.

For example, the United Nations report says that the Antarctic ice is shrinking; however, NSA's satellites have confirmed that Antarctic ice levels have increased—increased by the size of Greenland, an alltime record.

Congress should not be spending money pursuing ideologically-driven experiments when we face real, serious challenges to our country's infrastructure and its pursuit for energy efficiency. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. It flies in the face of 97 percent of the world's scientists who agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities and could impose significant human and economic costs on societies, including ours.

This amendment requires the Department of Energy to assume that carbon pollution isn't harmful and that climate change won't cost a thing. That is nothing but fantasy.

The Republicans, in general, don't seem to trust the scientists, and I would hope that they would listen to the economists and business leaders ringing alarm bells about the potential costs of unmitigated climate change.

Standard & Poor's rating services recently released a report warning that climate change will put downward pressure on the sovereign credit rat-

ings of countries around the world. They wrote:

Climate change is likely to be one of the global megatrends impacting sovereign creditworthiness, in most cases, negatively.

For example, Standard & Poor's concludes that:

Extreme weather events, especially floods, can be expected to increasingly take a toll on a country's infrastructure and, thus, productivity.

Standard & Poor's also warned that fiscal performance will decline as government budgets come under increased stress from climate-induced emergency support and infrastructure reconstruction costs. We have had a little bit of that in our country already.

Last month, three former Secretaries of Treasury released a report on the economic costs of inaction on climate change. Henry M. Paulson, Treasury Secretary under President George Bush said:

Our economy is vulnerable to an overwhelming number of risks from climate change.

The report identifies numerous economic risks, including large-scale losses of coastal property and infrastructure, extreme heat across the Nation that threatens labor productivity, human health and energy systems, and shifting agricultural patterns and crop yields.

Secretary Paulson wrote that:

These risks include the potential for significant Federal budget liabilities, since many businesses and property owners turn to the Federal Government as the insurer of last resort.

The economic impacts of climate change will be felt globally, particularly by the poorest countries. Last year, the World Economic Forum released its annual global risks report, which was based on a survey of 1,000 experts from industry, government, academia, and nonprofits around the world on the global risks most likely to manifest over the next 10 years and those that could have the greatest impacts.

The report found that rising greenhouse gas emissions posed one of the biggest global risks in the coming decade and that failure to adapt to climate change could have a tremendous socioeconomic impact across the globe.

This is not just a looming threat. We are suffering, in our country, the cost of climate change today—the skyrocketing costs of fighting wildfires, for example; the mounting costs to farmers of losing their crops and their livestock to more frequent and severe droughts; the enormous costs of rebuilding infrastructure swept away by more intense storms or threatened by steadily rising seas. Ask the people in Louisiana or New Jersey or New York.

This amendment ignores everything that is already happening and all of the warnings that it is going to get a lot worse. This amendment denies economic reality and decrees that climate

change imposes no costs at all. Of course, ignoring the costs won't make them go away.

In fact, all evidence shows that the longer we wait, the more we will allow the risks to compound and accumulate, the more costly it will be to solve the problem in the end. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transform the National Energy Technology Laboratory into a government-owned, contractor-operated laboratory, or to consolidate or close the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from West Virginia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, because there has been efforts, I suppose, to privatize and consolidate the National Energy Technology Laboratory, also known as NETL, this amendment is offered to eliminate that uncertainty and to continue the present public-private partnership.

NETL is our Nation's premier energy laboratory for fossil energy, using 600 government scientists, technicians, and employees, but they couple that with nearly 1,200 private sector contractors.

Through this partnership, NETL has developed breakthrough research, carbon capture, enhanced natural gas exploration and production, emission control for our power plants, and steam and gas turbine efficiency.

Mr. Chairman, the bottom line is that no other national laboratory has the expertise and the capabilities in fossil fuel energy to develop what NETL already has.

This public-private model has also been used by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Mr. Chairman, if our government research laboratories were privatized,

what assurance would Members of Congress have that that research would be done in America?

Just pick up a newspaper on any day and you will read about another corporation moving its research and development work offshore. People looking to privatize and consolidate these laboratories seem to be searching for a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WEBER OF TEXAS

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer a very simple and fiscally responsible amendment that should be supported by all Members of this body to prevent the DOE from moving forward on a loan guarantee to an offshore wind project. Let me hasten to add that Texas is the leading State for producing wind energy in this great country.

You know, Mr. Chairman, earlier this month, the Department of Energy approved a \$150 million conditional loan guarantee for the Cape Wind offshore wind energy project.

This project consists of 130 wind turbines, each 440 feet in height, spanning an area the size of Manhattan, and it is located in the Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts.

□ 1845

This project would be funded and built primarily by foreign businesses and would fail to create significant local employment opportunities. Rather than using local businesses in the State of Massachusetts, or even in the United States, Cape Wind has outsourced the building of turbines to Denmark and the production of turbine foundations to Germany.

It doesn't take more than a simple Google search, Mr. Chairman, to find out that this offshore wind project has been mired in controversy and litigation for the past 13 years.

Federal agencies were recently required by the courts to conduct more

scientific reviews to better assess Cape Wind's impacts to the environment. Cape Wind's litigation troubles are far from over as project opponents—which include the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, the Town of Barnstable, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head—can appeal the project after the court rules on the agencies' response.

In addition, there remains an outstanding appeal of the Cape Wind project brought by the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound and the Town of Barnstable against Massachusetts' regulators, the utility NSTAR, and Cape Wind. According to the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound's president and CEO:

Our case that alleges NSTAR was coerced into signing a no-bid contract that violates Federal law, discriminates against affordable green power producers from out of State, and burdens small businesses and municipalities with unnecessarily high electricity costs.

Mr. Chairman, this loan guarantee is a wasteful gesture by DOE to support a project that falls into the same category as Solyndra, the "solar energy giant" that received over \$500 million in taxpayer money before its spectacular crash and burn 3 years ago. We cannot afford to have another failure like this occur paid for by our constituents.

Mr. Chairman, by supporting this amendment, the House can send an important message to this administration that every penny of taxpayer money is precious. If Cape Wind has merit, then it should be built on those merits from solely private dollars and not on the backs of American taxpayers.

I urge adoption of this amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MRS.

BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the recognition of my amendment, and it is only a two-line amendment.

Before I get into the specifics on that amendment, I do want to thank Mr.

DENT, the subcommittee chair, and Chairman ROGERS for the work they did on another issue on this bill which deals with the Department of Energy rules finalizing for “Standards for Ceiling Fans and Ceiling Fan Light Kits” and prohibiting money from being used on that regulation because of the impact that it would have on our constituents and on the price of ceiling fans. I appreciate the good work that they have done on that issue. I also appreciate the great work that they have done on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, we have got a \$34 billion bill in front of us. I so appreciate the work of the appropriators as they have approached this and the responsible manner that they have gone about in bringing this bill forward. It is a bill that is going to spend \$50.5 million less than in 2014. That is a good thing. The appropriators are to be commended for that. In addition, it is \$326.9 million less than what the President wanted. All of those are the facts and figures.

Tonight, this two-line amendment that I have says this is great work, but we have got problems. When you look at the economic situation in this country, when you look at what is happening with our debt, as we are pushing toward that \$18 trillion in debt, you have to say: How is it fair for us to keep borrowing money, borrowing money and spending it on Federal programs that are going to be left for our children and grandchildren to pay for? These are programs that many of them will never use. They are programs that will have outlived their usefulness by the time my two grandsons earn their first paycheck. By borrowing and not continuing to cut a little bit more and a little bit more, what we are doing is passing the bill to them. It is passing the buck onto future generations to pay for it.

My amendment is another 1 percent across-the-board cut. It would be another \$341 million in savings. What it says, very simply, to all of our agencies that are involved in this bill, everybody, a penny on the dollar; just reduce your spending by one penny on a dollar. Get in here, challenge yourselves, challenge your employees to save a cent, one penny, out of what they have been appropriated. Do it responsibly. And do it not only for the sovereignty of this Nation; do it for our children and our grandchildren. Don't burden them with debt.

What is happening with all this Nation's debt is the ultimate cap-and-trade. What we are doing is capping our children's future and trading it, trading it.

While there has been tremendous work done and our Republican-led Appropriations Committee is doing work which never has been done and reducing this spending and pulling it back, we need to challenge these agencies to

join us in this effort. Just as our businesses in each of our districts are cutting back and saving money, the Federal Government needs to be doing the very same thing.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

While I commend my colleague for her consistent work to protect taxpayer dollars, this is not an approach I can support. What she suggests of just saving one penny from the Federal agencies is what we have been doing for the last 4 years on the Appropriations Committee, as she recognized. We have been reducing spending. In fact, we have reduced spending much more than 1 percent.

This bill is fully consistent with the Ryan-Murray budget compromise, and it spends, as was mentioned, \$50 million below last year's level. The Ryan-Murray budget deal was passed by this House.

While difficult tradeoffs had to be made, this bill in its current form balances our needs. We prioritize funding for critical infrastructure and our national defense. These tradeoffs were carefully weighed for their respective impacts and are responsible, yet the gentleman's amendment proposes an across-the-board cut on every one of these programs. It makes no distinction between where we need spending to invest in our infrastructure, promote jobs, meet our national security needs, and where we need to limit spending to meet our deficit reduction goals.

The basic problem I have and have always had with across-the-board cuts is that it doesn't recognize the programs that are priorities and things that we ought to be spending money on, the Federal Government ought to be spending money on, and those things that maybe we ought to cut more.

In the Appropriations Committee, every time we do an appropriation bill, those are the decisions we make. We prioritize them. When the Democrats are in the majority, the priorities go toward their priorities; the spending goes toward their priorities more. When we are in the majority, the spending goes more toward our priorities.

If you look at our bill, there are areas in there that, if I were king for a day and could write any bill I wanted, there are areas I would probably cut more; there are areas that I would probably spend more. But this is a bill that is a compromise, hopefully a compromise for 435 Members of Congress that have different priorities and different needs. It does meet the budget

goals that we have established in the Republican budget that was passed this year.

With that, I oppose this amendment, and I yield to my good friend from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and would merely echo his comments and say that Mrs. BLACKBURN's amendment is well-intentioned.

I think we have already met the goal in our subcommittee. We are \$50 million—million—below last year. It is important to keep your eye on the context. The context is, in the last 10 years—well, a little more than that. Since 2003, our country has spent \$2.3 trillion on paying for imported petroleum—\$2.3 trillion.

When you look at the budget deficit, ask yourself why this country has lost economic muscle inside our borders. Our meager \$34 billion tries to compensate for that \$2.3 trillion of loss. With oil at \$100 a barrel now, we could lose, probably in the next 20 years, close to \$10 trillion of economic activity related to the import of very expensive petroleum.

So what we try to do is to fund critical projects in this bill to help us crawl our way back to energy independence in this country, all the while cutting all our accounts. I think you can't cut the future off. You have to recognize the context in which you are operating.

So I think you are well-intentioned, but I think you are misfocused and I think you are missing the bigger—excuse the analogy—elephant in the room here, which is that we are losing wealth and losing strength economically because of these incredible imports that have just catapulted over the years.

In 1998, we began importing over half of what we consumed in petroleum. It is simply unsustainable. We have to reinvent our way forward in order to grow this economy at home and create the kind of robust middle class jobs and middle class incomes that the American people are asking us for.

I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

I oppose the amendment, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate their arguments. I am not going to argue with much of what they had to say. Indeed, the committee has met its goal. But to say this is not the context, I would beg to differ with the gentleman from Ohio.

If we wanted to spur energy production in this country, the President could go out here and do a one-stop shop. He could lift the ban on leases. He could open up U.S. production and exploration. Yes, there is a way to do

that, and we would love to see him do that rather than restricting energy production.

When it comes to across-the-board cuts, whether it is a Democratic Governor like in Missouri with Nixon or when you have Cuomo in New York, they have done across-the-board cuts. Why do they do them? Because it works. It spurs economic growth.

Go back to 1964 with Johnson and the Revenue Act. Why did they lower unemployment and generate revenue growth? Because they cut Federal spending.

There is a benefit to getting your fiscal house in order. While we may have set a goal and met that goal, which I applaud, I continue to say it is not going to be enough while we continue the deficit spending. It is time to get our fiscal house in order.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order No. 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes), including the National Ocean Policy developed under such Executive Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce this amendment on behalf of my distinguished colleague and fellow member of the Natural Resources Committee, Representative BILL FLORES of Texas.

The National Ocean Policy, created under Executive Order 13547, was signed by President Obama in 2010 and requires that various bureaucracies work together to essentially “zone the ocean” and the sources thereof, largely affecting the ways in which we utilize our ocean resources and impacting both our marine and inland economy.

□ 1900

You have heard of a land grab. This is an ocean grab.

This is a simple amendment. It says that none of the funds made available by this act can be used to implement, administer, or enforce this executive order.

This policy has large implications for our marine resources, but reaches much further than the ocean itself. Essentially, a drop of rain that falls on your land could cause the Federal Government to have jurisdiction over your property under the notion that this drop will eventually wind up in the ocean.

That the EPA, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, recently released a “Waters of the U.S.” rule which vastly expands the agency’s jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act by redefining “navigable waterways” serves as an example. I commend the committee for including a provision in this bill barring the implementation of such a rule.

The National Ocean Policy not only restricts ocean and inland activities, but it deters the intended focus and finances of over 20 Federal agencies that meet as a part of the National Ocean Policy, a council that has no statutory authority to exist and no congressional appropriation.

Both the Natural Resources Committee and the Appropriations Committee have asked for detailed spending reports on this overreaching policy, and neither committee has yet to receive any information.

Numerous and varied industries will suffer as a result of this well-meaning but ill-conceived policy, including but not limited to agriculture, energy, fisheries, mining, and marine retail enterprises, to just name a few. This has the potential to be devastating for coastal communities such as in my district—a coastal district located on the Gulf of Mexico, where the previously mentioned industries play a critical role in our economy.

Those who are affected most by the policy won’t have a say or any representation in the rulemaking process because there is no current system of oversight in place for the regional planning agencies created as an arm of the National Ocean Council. Much uncertainty remains regarding program implementation, its impact, the limits of its authority, and lack of true stakeholder involvement.

The President has indicated that he will use his pen and his phone to create policy against the will of Congress, and the National Ocean Policy is a perfect opportunity for him to do so.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to stop excessive regulation and protect our ocean and affiliated inland economies, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment that is offered here today, which would block funding for the implementation of National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Policy seeks to improve the coordinated management of our oceans and coasts and to address the most pressing issues facing our oceans, resources, and coastal communities.

In fact, just 2 weeks ago, there were over 100 different ocean users meeting in Massachusetts to help develop New England’s ocean plan. This included lobstermen from Maine, my home State; science educators from New Hampshire, fishermen from Massachusetts, clean energy representatives from Rhode Island, and recreational fishermen from Connecticut, all meeting with Federal and State agencies to talk about how to improve their options for their local businesses, build resiliency for coastal communities in the face of extreme weather events, and maintain the health of the ocean that provides us with goods and services we need and enjoy.

The National Ocean Policy does not call for “zoning” the ocean. Rather, it is a strategy to increase efficiency by bringing stakeholders together and giving citizens and businesses a voice in the decisionmaking process. This policy provides a way for the Federal Government to hear from and to coordinate activities with States, communities, and business owners.

Many State and local interests are eager to coordinate with the Federal Government, and this policy is already helping to make that happen.

Let’s be clear. The policy is really about helping agencies like NOAA fisheries work more closely with fishermen and the Navy to coordinate with port communities. Why should we consider prohibiting these critically important relationships between businesses, States, and Federal interests?

The National Ocean Policy helps to ensure that our resources, our culture, our history, and the economic vitality of our communities are fully considered in the decisions concerning our oceans.

I urge my colleagues to join me, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Byrne amendment, which would prohibit implementation of the National Ocean Policy, which permits better coordination among Federal agencies responsible for coastal planning.

This amendment, by preventing agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers from coordinating with Federal and State partners, would impede States like Rhode Island, my home

State, from managing their own resources in the ways that best fit their needs and priorities, and advancing policies that protect our oceans in a responsible way.

The administration has made it clear that the National Ocean Policy does not create new regulations, supersede current regulations, or modify any agency's established mission, jurisdiction, or authority. Rather, it helps coordinate the implementation of existing regulations by Federal agencies to establish a more efficient and effective decisionmaking process.

In the Northeast, our Regional Ocean Council has allowed States to pool resources and businesses to have a voice in decisionmaking, and has coordinated with Federal partners to ensure all stakeholders have a voice in the process.

Allowing Federal agencies to coordinate implementation of over 100 ocean laws and giving States and local governments a voice in the ocean planning process is smart public policy, and I urge my colleagues to reject this very misguided amendment.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island for his articulate thoughts and for reinforcing what those of us in coastal communities truly believe.

Mr. Chairman, I just want to say one more time that this is critically important policy for our country. I am fortunate to represent a State that has some of the highest level of shoreline of any State in the Nation. We have fishermen. We have economic interests on the shore. Everyday, I hear from my constituents who are deeply concerned about the changes that we are facing, whether it is the sea level rising, changing in the fisheries, loss of species, economic issues involving our coastlines, working waterfront—these are serious issues. This represents people's livelihoods. Coastal communities, businesses, our economic interests are here at stake. I can't imagine the idea that we would move backward in National Ocean Policy and that we would lose the opportunity to coordinate on these critical interests, that we would do anything that would endanger the economic development and the economic and cultural future of our communities, our fisheries, and so many businesses that States like mine are completely dependent on.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and recognize that we have severe issues ahead of us and we have a lot of work to do.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to read the amendment. It doesn't stop any group of people in any State or any coastal area in this country from working together to do the things they have to do to protect their waters and to use their waters. In fact,

it frees them up, because, under this executive order that in this amendment we say we are not going to use the money from this bill to fund, they could be restricted.

In my coastal communities, we do meet together. The Federal Government is not a good partner. In fact, they have been a hindrance to our ability to use our waters. Because there are people in the Federal Government who, unfortunately, believe that the oceans belong to the government, not to the people.

We need to adopt this amendment for coastal communities throughout the United States of America so that we can protect the people's right to control their own oceans and their own waters so that fishermen and commercial uses and recreational uses of our waters are kept and preserved for communities throughout the country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Department of Energy's Climate Model Development and Validation program.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to save taxpayers money, help the Department of Energy avoid duplicative programs, and to ensure its limited resources focus on programs directly related to its mission to ensure energy security for the United States.

This simple amendment would prohibit the use of funds to be used towards the proposed Climate Model Development and Validation program within the Department of Energy.

The duplicative and wasteful nature of this new program has been recognized by several outside spending watchdog groups. My amendment is supported by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, the American Conservative Union, Eagle Forum, and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

The committee has recommended no funding for the new climate model development and validation activity in the report. I commend the committee for this recommendation and their work on this issue.

I feel strongly that the full House of Representatives needs to support the committee recommendation and send a strong message to the Senate that we should not be wasting taxpayer resources on new programs that compete with the private sector and should be funded through private investment.

If funded, this program would be yet another new addition to the ever-growing list of global warming programs that have been instituted and funded all over the Federal Government in recent years. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service estimates this administration has already squandered \$77 billion from fiscal year 2008 to 2013 studying and trying to develop global climate change regulations.

Consequently, I am very concerned by ongoing efforts by this administration to waste even more taxpayer dollars on new programs for Climate Model Development and Validation.

The President's budget request for this program states:

New investment in Climate Model Development and Validation will enable restructuring the model architecture, new software engineering and computational upgrades, and incorporating scale-aware physics in all model components.

Climate modeling and all of these things are being done by dozens of government, academic, business, and nonprofit organizations across the globe. While research and modeling of the Earth's climate and how and why the Earth's climate is changing can be of value, it is not central to the Department's mission.

Considering the extensive work that is being done to research, model, and forecast climate change trends by other areas in government, in the private sector, and internationally, funding for this specific piece of President Obama's climate agenda is not only redundant, it is also inefficient.

I thank the chairman and committee for their work on this bill, and this issue specifically. This amendment is about effective use of taxpayers' money, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Chairman, this amendment blocks funding for the Department of Energy's Climate Model Development and Validation program. This is climate science denial at its worst.

The world's top scientific institutions are all telling us that we have a rapidly closing window to reduce our carbon pollution before the catastrophic impacts of climate change cannot be avoided.

So far, the world has already warmed by 0.8 degrees Celsius, and we are already seeing the effects of climate change. Most scientists agree that 2 degrees Celsius is the maximum amount we can warm without really dangerous effects, although many scientists now believe that even 2 degrees is far too much, given the effects we are already seeing. But absent dramatic action, we are on track to warm 4 to 6 degrees Celsius by mid-century. That is more than 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

The International Energy Agency has concluded that if the world does not take action to reduce carbon pollution by 2017—just 3 years from now—then it will be virtually impossible to limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

How do we know all this? There are multiple lines of evidence, including direct measurements. But scientists also use sophisticated computer models of how the atmosphere and oceans work and how they respond to different atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping gases.

For projection of future emissions and their impacts, scientists have made numerous advances by collaborating across academic fields, including climatology, chemistry, biology, economics, energy dynamics, agriculture, scenario building, and risk management.

□ 1915

These projections are critical as they provide guideposts to understanding how quickly and how steeply the world needs to cut carbon pollution in order to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

The goal of the DOE's climate model development and validation program is to further improve the reliability of climate models and equip policymakers and citizens with tools to predict the current and future effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, and drought.

Mr. GOSAR's amendment scraps this program. It says no to enhancing the reliability of our climate models. It says no to improving our understanding of how the climate is changing. It says no to informing policymakers about the consequences of unmitigated climate change. I think that is absolutely irresponsible.

The amazing thing is that the base bill already zeros out the funding for this program; but, apparently, that isn't enough to satisfy the Republicans' climate denial.

So Mr. GOSAR has offered this amendment to just reiterate the point that the House Republicans reject the overwhelming scientific evidence about climate change. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is not about making a statement on climate change or the va-

lidity of climate science. This is an amendment about fiscal responsibility and efficiency.

More than 50 universities and academic institutions around the globe are engaged in climate modeling. This particular issue has been addressed very well by the academic and the nonprofit sectors with much greater efficiency and speed than any government bureaucracy can ever look at.

The President has already spent \$77 billion since 2008. This is on top of the billions of dollars being spent by institutions and organizations around the world. Let's start talking about that.

The Nation is currently \$17.5 trillion in debt. The Federal Government spends a trillion more dollars than it takes in.

Fact: more than 50 of the world's leading scientific institutions are already deeply engaged in climate modeling and spending billions of their own dollars on this research.

Fact: Congress must make tough choices to cut duplicative programs in government and get Federal spending under control.

Let's look at these prestigious universities that obviously don't know what they are doing: the University of Colorado at Boulder, Harvard University, MIT, Princeton University, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the University of Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Chairman, the last I looked, these are some of the leading institutions in the country, and I think they know a little bit better than the Federal Government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have amendment No. 173 at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to award grants or provide funding for high-efficiency toilets or indoor water-efficient toilets.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to save taxpayer money and get the government out of the business of subsidizing expensive toilet exchanges and upgrades that yield highly questionable returns.

This amendment has support from several spending watchdog groups, including the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Eagle Forum, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, and Generation Opportunity.

If toilet exchange programs were as efficient as the EPA and Bureau of Reclamation claim, then such products would save consumers so much money and water over time that they would sell themselves in the private marketplace and would not need taxpayer subsidies.

According to the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Bureau of Reclamation's own data show that the agency has awarded a number of questionable grants on these projects since 2005, totaling almost \$2 million.

The Federal expenditures spent on toilet exchange programs include a \$200,000 grant to San Francisco in 2007 and a \$300,000 grant to Texas and California during 2011.

Further, in 2013, Reclamation awarded nearly \$210,000 for high-efficiency flush valves to be installed on urinals in one city in California as part of its WaterSMART program, despite the fact that the investment on this project is estimated to save only 123 acre-feet of water per year.

For 2014, the agency wishes to grant funds toward a nearly million-dollar project for indoor water-efficient fixtures and toilet upgrades in California. At the same time, Federal policies have allowed for more than 300 billion gallons of water to be diverted into the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean to protect a 3-inch fish, known as the Delta smelt.

If we are truly concerned about saving water, then we should, instead, invest in new infrastructure and water storage projects, including reservoirs, which would yield significantly higher returns on our investment.

Our country's Federal multipurpose dams and reservoirs provide abundant amounts of water and allow for clean hydropower generation. This infrastructure investment helps provide the foundation for economic growth and long-term job security.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration continues to focus solely on conservation and has actually taken action to reduce water storage capacity—actions which include calling for the removal of four privately held dams.

This defies common sense. We should, instead, have a balanced approach that includes both conservation and storage. Expensive toilet exchange programs are not the answer, and here are

the facts and figures about those programs.

Customers are eligible for a \$100 rebate for installing 1.28-gallon toilets in exchange for their 1.6-gallon toilets. These new toilets cost between \$200 and \$500 each.

An average toilet is flushed six times per day, while each federally-subsidized upgrade yields about \$7 per year in water and utility savings. Thirty-year mortgages provide quicker returns on investments.

The kicker is these taxpayer-funded toilets are significantly smaller and, in many cases, have to be flushed twice. Furthermore, these government-subsidized toilets are a bad investment, as they eventually leak.

If people are going to spend \$200 to \$500 on new high-efficiency toilets, a \$100 rebate from the Federal Government is not what makes their decisions to purchase the toilets in the first place. At the rate we are subsidizing this program, we may as well be flushing taxpayer dollars down these upgraded toilets.

With this ludicrous return on investment, it should go without saying that these projects are a waste of hard-earned taxpayer money.

I ask you to ponder on the countless ways this money could be spent more wisely, including on investments to increase water storage capacity. This amendment is about the effective use of taxpayer money, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KELLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 210(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(d)(1)(B)(ii)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply requires that the harbor maintenance funding provided in this Appropriations bill comply with the recently enacted WRRDA law and that the 10 percent funding requirement for the Great Lakes be met.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, which this body

passed by a 412-4 vote, includes an allocation for the Great Lakes navigation system of 10 percent of harbor maintenance funding provided above the fiscal 2012 baseline, but this amendment is more than about that. This is a bill that really dwells on the Great Lakes.

What a great gift from God this Nation was given with the Great Lakes. One-fifth of the world's freshwater—not one-fifth of Pennsylvania's freshwater and certainly not one-fifth of America's freshwater—but one-fifth of the world's freshwater is in our Great Lakes. There is also a commerce element there.

Now, where does that fit in, and why do we talk about that? Here is why: we are talking about jobs. We are talking about jobs at our Great Lakes. We are talking about 128,000 American jobs, over \$33.6 billion in annual revenue, and it is 3 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product.

This commonsense amendment just directs the Army Corps of Engineers to use the allocated funds as directed.

We talk about the Great Lakes, and we talk about it an awful lot. I think that, sometimes, we forget how great this gift is and what our responsibility is.

Sure, it is a gift from God, but it is up to men to maintain it. This great body is looking at this opportunity that we have right now to actually direct the funding that makes sure that we can still navigate through our Great Lakes—that we can dredge our harbors, that we can do breakwater maintenance, and that we can do jetties, which are all of those things that are necessary to keep that line open.

The Great Lakes are truly our door to the world. It is our responsibility, and it falls on our shoulders right now to support that.

I appreciate the chairman and the ranking member's willingness to consider this amendment, and I appreciate their support for our Great Lakes. I would also like to thank Representative CANDICE MILLER for her great work on the WRRDA bill on behalf of our Great Lakes.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and keep open our Great Lakes to the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment.

On this particular issue, applying the referenced WRRDA provision to this fiscal year 2015 bill means that, roughly, \$30 million must be provided for the harbor maintenance of the Great Lakes navigation system.

The underlying bill funds the budget request, which includes approximately

\$100 million for the Great Lakes. Therefore, while I believe it is unnecessary, I do not object to this amendment and will support it.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my good friend.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the chairman for yielding, and I commend Representative KELLY for offering this important effort in highlighting the importance of the Great Lakes.

I feel that you may be the last speaker this evening—I don't know—but we would say "last, but not least," especially for those of us from the Great Lakes, and we love the attention because we most often don't get it.

We had conversations today about oceans and about other parts of the country, and it is just so great to have someone with your commitment to the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chairman, we know it is the largest body of freshwater on the face of the Earth and that commerce moving through the seaways is the shortest distance between the United States, Europe, and ports even on the western side of Africa, if you look at the way the globe actually works.

So to have this kind of work by yourself, by the chairman of our subcommittee—Mr. SIMPSON—by CANDICE MILLER, by Congressman VISCLOSKEY, and by so many others who work on Great Lakes issues is wonderful and to have this team put together and to see that we have done a better job for our Great Lakes in this bill than in past bills.

By the way, I might say that the lake on which the communities I represent are situated, Lake Erie, is the most drawn upon of the lakes and the most fragile, and we share her with Canada, so it even gets a little more complex, as we move forward.

I just wanted to commend the gentleman, and I thank the chairman for giving me the time. I know the people who are listening from the Great Lakes region greatly appreciate the attention and what we do in this bill to make sure that those lakes are maintained.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, Hudson No. 36.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the amounts made available by this Act may be used for any program not authorized by law as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts under the headings

“National Nuclear Security Administration”, “Environmental and Other Defense Activities”, or “Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from North Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to offer an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would prohibit the funding for any program included that is not authorized by law.

For far too long, Congress has continued to appropriate spending on government programs with little to no oversight. Our country has essentially been on autopilot towards a cliff of fiscal and economic disaster.

□ 1930

This has resulted in a massive and out-of-control bureaucracy that is wasteful and inefficient. In this bill alone there are 23 unauthorized programs. Some of these programs were last authorized in 1981, and there are others that have never been authorized. In total, these unauthorized and unchecked programs in this legislation receive around \$25 billion.

With over \$17 trillion in debt, we owe it to our constituents to review each agency and program to determine if they are the best use of taxpayer dollars to serve the public need.

Additionally, the rules of the House require that appropriations may only be made for purposes authorized by law. The prohibition on unauthorized appropriations cannot be enforced because the rules that bring appropriation bills to the floor routinely prevent a point of order from being raised.

My amendment prohibits spending on unauthorized programs, but it exempts defense-related programs because these were authorized by the House when we passed the defense authorization bill in May.

This amendment parallels with my bill, H.R. 3847, the Federal Sunset Act of 2014, which would force Congress to evaluate each agency and program and consider recommendations to reform or abolish specific entities to ensure the best use of our resources.

Mr. Chairman, this type of sweeping reform would dramatically overhaul the way that Washington budgets and spends hard-earned tax dollars and allow Congress to finally take back control, scale back our bloated bureaucracy, and provide accountability to the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I have to tell you that I am sympathetic to

what the gentleman is trying to do. It is a concern that I have had for a number of years. And, in fact, a few years ago, when I was chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, we brought down a bill and we completely defunded any listing of new species or designation of critical habitat because the Endangered Species Act hadn't been reauthorized for, like, 26 years or something like that. Our intent was not to get rid of the Endangered Species Act or to get rid of the designation of critical habitat. Our intent was to send the message that the authorizing committees need to do their job.

I was supported in that, actually, by the chairman of the Resources Committee that is in charge of reauthorizing that bill. So far that has not been done. They haven't been able to get it done.

As you know, it is sometimes very difficult to pass reauthorization bills for a lot of these different programs, but many of these different programs are very, very important. I continue to try to seek a way to put pressure on the authorizing committees to actually do their job, to get these done.

So far, just defunding them has not been successful in achieving that, and I don't know why that is. It is frustrating both to me and to the sponsor of this amendment. Yet this amendment would do great damage to the Department of Energy. And I guess you could use this government-wide.

There are a lot of programs. You would be surprised which programs haven't been reauthorized. I think the Department of State hasn't been reauthorized. Most seniors programs have not been reauthorized. If we can find a way to put pressure on the authorizing committees to do this, I would be more than happy to work with the gentleman to try to accomplish that goal, but ending the programs this way, I think, would be too dramatic of an effect.

So, while I sympathize with what the gentleman is trying to do, I have to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. ____ (a) Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 7.4831 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts under the headings

“National Nuclear Security Administration”, “Environmental and Other Defense Activities”, or “Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 641, the gentleman from North Carolina and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise this evening to offer an amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill that would cut spending back to the fiscal year 2008 level.

While I appreciate the work of the Appropriations Committee in crafting this important bill that does decrease spending, we must all recognize that a cut of \$50 million is a rounding error here in Washington.

My amendment makes an across-the-board cut of 7.48 percent to the bill in order to decrease the amount back to the fiscal year 2008 level. The Congressional Budget Office confirms my amendment would reduce budget authority by \$1.34 billion. Defense accounts are exempt from these savings because this House just addressed defense programs in the National Defense Authorization Act a few months ago.

Mr. Chairman, we are on a path to a horrific debt crisis in this country. When I ran for Congress, I repeatedly said the first step we must take to reduce spending and get our fiscal house in order is to go back to 2008 levels, and then let's go program by program and find savings, find duplicative programs that we need to cut, find the waste.

Again, Mr. Chairman, we have got to get our fiscal house in order, get ourselves back on track. My amendment does just that, allows us to return to a point where we can finally get serious about making real substantive cuts to begin to pay down our debt and save future generations from this horrific debt crisis that we are on a collision course with as things now stand.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I guess the first question I would ask is: Why 2008 spending levels? Why not 2006 or 2004 or 2000 or 1998 spending levels, or 1972 or 1900?

What we need to do is look at what we are spending now and create savings by deciding what is important and what we ought to be doing and what are those things that we might like to do but we just don't have the money to do, and eliminate those programs or reduce the spending in many of those programs, which is what the Appropriations Committee does every day.

When these bills come down here, we have had hearings on the different functions of the Federal Government.

And believe me, if you or I were to sit down and discuss what the Federal Government ought to be doing, we would agree on a lot. There would be things we would disagree on that I think are essential and things that I would disagree that you would think were essential. We have 435 Members, represent all corners of this country, and a budget is, by its very nature, a compromise in those different opinions on what ought to be funded and what the proper role of government is.

One thing we do know, that we are \$17 trillion in debt, and that a portion of that, a portion of the solution, is reducing our discretionary spending. We have been doing that for the last 4 years, and it has been hard work by the Appropriations Committee.

We also know that you cannot get this budget to balance, no matter how hard you try, by reducing discretionary spending. It is not large enough, in the overall context of things, to cut it enough to get the budget to balance. You have got to do other things. You have got to have tax reform. You have got to have entitlement reform. We have to look at every area that the government is spending. Right now, I think it is about 28 percent of the total expenditures of the Federal Government are discretionary spending. About 72 percent of them are mandatory. They are on autopilot. They just go on unless we change the underlying law.

So we have got to have the courage to address a lot of the things that are driving our debt. I will tell you, you will never balance this budget until you get the economy growing again. That is the reality.

When you looked at the late 1990s, when President Clinton and a Republican Congress balanced the budget—or at least that is who was in charge at the time. We can argue about who balanced it. But at that period of time, it wasn't because Republicans were so conservative that they came in and reduced spending and the budget all of a sudden got balanced, or it wasn't that President Clinton came in and just raised taxes and everything and all of sudden we had a ton more revenue. What it was is that the economy grew, and I mean it boomed.

We had the dot-com bubble, if you remember, where we had more money coming in to the Federal Government than we knew what to do with. In fact, when we talked about paying off the national debt at the time, I actually heard debates from leading economists that said we could pay off the national debt too fast—we had that much money coming in—because the debts wouldn't come due when all the money was coming in.

But then, of course, that turned around when the dot-com bubble burst, and since that, then 9/11 happened and a whole bunch of other things and two wars and et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

The reality is that you can't balance this budget simply by reducing discretionary spending, but I will tell you that the Appropriations Committee has been doing their job. They have been looking at the proper role of Federal Government, what our responsibilities are, what we must fund, and what we should fund, and also at what we would like to do and sometimes just don't have the money to do. So those are the difficult decisions we have been making, and we continue to do that.

This type of approach, I think, that would take these accounts, only some accounts, back to the 1998 levels, I think, would hurt our economy. And, in fact, one of the big parts of our account is the Army Corps of Engineers, which does water infrastructure, locks, dams, harbor maintenance, all of that kind of stuff which is vital to our economy. I don't know that you want to go in and cut that by 7.8 percent. The President proposed a \$1 billion cut in it, a huge cut in it. We restored it because we, both Republicans and Democrats, realize how important the water infrastructure of this country is.

Those are the decisions that we make on the Appropriations Committee, a committee that I am proud to serve on, that has made, over the last several years, some very, very difficult decisions, and will continue to do so because, just like every Member of this Congress, we realize we can't continue racking up the debt as we have over the last several decades.

So I appreciate that, and I would oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I would like to rise in opposition to the gentleman's well-intentioned amendment, and it is obvious he pays attention to the math.

What is important about the math of our deficit is that we haven't been growing fast enough to meet the needs of this country. We have a demand problem among vast numbers of the American people who aren't consuming as fast as they used to because they have lost their jobs, they have lost their equity because of the housing crisis, and because, if they have gone back to work, they aren't earning as much as they used to earn. The middle class is shrinking, as you well know, and the ranks of the poor are growing. So we have a demand problem in this society.

The energy question, and the reason I am opposing your amendment is because our budget, our allocation is about \$34 billion. If you look just at this year, we will have over \$200 billion in imported energy that sucks the wealth out of this country and sends it

somewhere else. The portion of our bill that deals with energy is not \$34 billion, but maybe a third of that. So you have got maybe 10, 12 billion, \$15 billion at the most in our bill that deals directly with energy versus over \$200 billion in terms of energy imports. So we are way out of balance as a society.

The portion of the investment that we make here to invent a new energy future is moving us in the right direction but too slowly.

So do I feel we are going to meet the needs that we need to for the future? I fear our generation is failing the next, as hard as we try here. If I look at the progress we have made, in 1998, that was the first year where America imported over half its energy. The decade before that it had been about 40 percent. Before that, the last 30 years we have hemorrhaged in bringing all this stuff in. This year, about 40 percent of what we consume will be imported. So we have moved from 1998, importing 50 percent of what we used, to 40 percent.

I think President Obama has made a difference. Some of my colleagues may not agree with that. But with drilling, opening up drilling on lands across this country, we have begun to close the gap.

Drilling our way out of this is not a total solution. We need new energy technologies. This bill moves us in that direction.

Don't allow your amendment to stop us from increasing our ability to become energy independent again and create the kind of demand inside this economy that will create the jobs that we need for the future to heal our middle class and move people out the ranks of poverty. So you are well-intentioned, but I think you are out of focus in terms of where the real challenge lies.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments from my colleagues. I appreciate, particularly, the work Chairman SIMPSON and his staff have done preparing this bill. I understand the challenges they face, and I appreciate the cuts they have made.

But, Mr. Chairman, we are on a path to absolute ruin in this country. If we don't spend one new dollar, we are headed toward a fiscal crisis in a very short time, and we have got to get off that path. One way to do it is to go back to 2008 spending levels, and then let's do the work that the Appropriations Committee has done on this bill. Let's start at 2008 and look at which programs we want to keep, which programs are duplicative, where is the waste.

□ 1945

But we have got to start somewhere. And, frankly, \$50 million is a start, but it is not a big enough start. So I would encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1959

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 7 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 641 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4923.

Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) kindly take the chair.

□ 2000

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes,

with Ms. FOXX (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on an amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), had been postponed and the bill had been read through page 59, line 20.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. BURGESS of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. LAMALFA of California.

An amendment by Mr. STOCKMAN of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. STOCKMAN of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. MCKINLEY of West Virginia.

Amendment No. 22 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

An amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

An amendment by Mr. HUDSON of North Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 193, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 393]

AYES—226

Amash	Byrne	Culberson
Amodei	Calvert	Daines
Bachmann	Camp	Davis, Rodney
Bachus	Campbell	Denham
Barletta	Cantor	Dent
Barr	Capito	DeSantis
Barton	Carter	Diaz-Balart
Benish	Cassidy	Duffy
Bentivolio	Chabot	Duncan (SC)
Bilirakis	Chaffetz	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (UT)	Clawson (FL)	Ellmers
Black	Coble	Farenthold
Blackburn	Coffman	Fincher
Boustany	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Brady (TX)	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Brooks (AL)	Conaway	Flores
Brooks (IN)	Cook	Forbes
Brown (GA)	Cotton	Fortenberry
Buchanan	Cramer	Fox
Bucshon	Crawford	Franks (AZ)
Burgess	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen

Gardner	Luetkemeyer	Rooney
Garrett	Lummis	Ros-Lehtinen
Gerlach	Marchant	Roskam
Gibbs	Marino	Ross
Gibson	Massie	Rothfus
Gingrey (GA)	McAllister	Royle
Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)	Runyan
Goodlatte	McCaul	Ryan (WI)
Gosar	McClintock	Salmon
Gowdy	McHenry	Sanford
Granger	McIntyre	Scalise
Graves (GA)	McKeon	Schock
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Schweikert
Griffin (AR)	McMorris	Scott, Austin
Griffith (VA)	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Grimm	Meadows	Sessions
Guthrie	Meehan	Shimkus
Hall	Messer	Shuster
Harper	Mica	Simpson
Harris	Miller (FL)	Smith (MO)
Hartzler	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)
Heck (NV)	Mullin	Smith (TX)
Hensarling	Mulvaney	Southerland
Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)	Stewart
Holding	Neugebauer	Stivers
Hudson	Noem	Stockman
Huelskamp	Nugent	Terry
Huizenga (MI)	Nunes	Thompson (PA)
Hultgren	Olson	Thornberry
Hunter	Palazzo	Tiberi
Hurt	Paulsen	Tipton
Issa	Pearce	Turner
Jenkins	Perry	Upton
Johnson (OH)	Peterson	Valadao
Johnson, Sam	Petri	Walberg
Jones	Pittenger	Walden
Jordan	Pitts	Walorski
Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)	Weber (TX)
King (IA)	Posey	Webster (FL)
King (NY)	Price (GA)	Wenstrup
Kingston	Rahall	Westmoreland
Kinzinger (IL)	Reed	Whitfield
Kline	Renacci	Williams
Labrador	Ribble	Wilson (SC)
LaMalfa	Rice (SC)	Wittman
Lamborn	Rigell	Wolf
Lance	Roby	Womack
Lankford	Roe (TN)	Woodall
Latham	Rogers (AL)	Yoder
Latta	Rogers (KY)	Yoho
LoBiondo	Rogers (MI)	Young (AK)
Long	Rohrabacher	Young (IN)
Lucas	Rokita	

NOES—193

Barber	Davis (CA)	Holt
Barrow (GA)	Davis, Danny	Honda
Bass	DeFazio	Horsford
Beatty	DeGette	Hoyer
Becerra	Delaney	Huffman
Bera (CA)	DeLauro	Israel
Bishop (GA)	DelBene	Jackson Lee
Bishop (NY)	Deutch	Jeffries
Blumenauer	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Bonamici	Doggett	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Doyle	Jolly
Braley (IA)	Duckworth	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	Edwards	Keating
Brownley (CA)	Ellison	Kelly (IL)
Bustos	Engel	Kennedy
Butterfield	Enyart	Kildee
Capps	Eshoo	Kilmer
Capuano	Esty	Kind
Cárdenas	Farr	Kirkpatrick
Carson (IN)	Fattah	Kuster
Cartwright	Foster	Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL)	Frankel (FL)	Larson (CT)
Castro (TX)	Fudge	Lee (CA)
Chu	Gabbard	Levin
Cicilline	Gallego	Lewis
Clark (MA)	Garamendi	Lipinski
Clarke (NY)	Garcia	Loebsack
Clay	Grayson	Lofgren
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lowenthal
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lowe
Cohen	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Connolly	Gutiérrez	(NM)
Conyers	Hahn	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cooper	Hanna	(NM)
Costa	Hastings (FL)	Lynch
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Maffei
Crowley	Higgins	Maloney,
Cuellar	Himes	Carolyn
Cummings	Hinojosa	Maloney, Sean

Matheson	Peters (MI)	Sinema	Bustos	Heck (NV)	Poe (TX)	Gutiérrez	Maffei	Sánchez, Linda
Matsui	Pingree (ME)	Sires	Byrne	Hensarling	Posey	Hahn	Maloney,	T.
McCollum	Pocan	Slaughter	Calvert	Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta
McDermott	Polis	Smith (WA)	Camp	Holding	Rahall	Heck (WA)	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
McGovern	Price (NC)	Speier	Campbell	Hudson	Reed	Higgins	Matsui	Schakowsky
McNerney	Quigley	Swalwell (CA)	Cantor	Huelskamp	Renacci	Himes	McCollum	Schiff
Meeks	Reichert	Takano	Capito	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble	Hinojosa	McDermott	Schneider
Meng	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)	Cassidy	Hultgren	Rice (SC)	Holt	McGovern	Schrader
Michaud	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)	Chabot	Hunter	Rigell	Honda	McNerney	Schwartz
Miller, George	Ruppersberger	Tierney	Chaffetz	Hurt	Roby	Horsford	Meeks	Scott (VA)
Moore	Rush	Titus	Clawson (FL)	Issa	Roe (TN)	Hoyer	Meng	Scott, David
Moran	Ryan (OH)	Tonko	Coble	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)	Huffman	Michaud	Serrano
Murphy (FL)	Sánchez, Linda	Tsongas	Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)	Israel	Miller, Gary	Sewell (AL)
Nadler	T.	Van Hollen	Cole	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)	Jackson Lee	Miller, George	Shea-Porter
Napolitano	Sanchez, Loretta	Vargas	Collins (GA)	Jolly	Rohrabacher	Jeffries	Moore	Sherman
Neal	Sarbanes	Veasey	Collins (NY)	Jones	Rokita	Johnson (GA)	Moran	Sinema
Negrete McLeod	Schakowsky	Vela	Conaway	Jordan	Rooney	Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Nolan	Schiff	Velázquez	Cook	Joyce	Ros-Lehtinen	Kaptur	Murphy (PA)	Slaughter
O'Rourke	Schneider	Visclosky	Costa	Kelly (PA)	Roskam	Keating	Nadler	Smith (WA)
Owens	Schrader	Walz	Cotton	King (IA)	Ross	Kelly (IL)	Napolitano	Speier
Pallone	Schwartz	Wasserman	Cramer	King (NY)	Rothfus	Kennedy	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Pascarell	Scott (VA)	Schultz	Crawford	Kingston	Royce	Kildee	Negrete McLeod	Takano
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, David	Waters	Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Runyan	Kilmer	O'Rourke	Thompson (CA)
Payne	Serrano	Waxman	Cuellar	Kline	Ryan (WI)	Kind	Owens	Thompson (MS)
Pelosi	Sewell (AL)	Welch	Culberson	Labrador	Salmon	Kirkpatrick	Pallone	Titus
Perlmutter	Shea-Porter	Wilson (FL)	Daines	LaMalfa	Sanford	Kuster	Pascarell	Tierney
Peters (CA)	Sherman	Yarmuth	Davis, Rodney	Lamborn	Scalise	Langevin	Pastor (AZ)	Titus
			Denham	Lance	Schock	Larsen (WA)	Payne	Tonko
				Lankford	Schweikert	Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Tsongas
			Dent	Latham	Scott, Austin	Lee (CA)	Perlmutter	Van Hollen
			DeSantis	Latta	Sensenbrenner	Levin	Peters (CA)	Veasey
			Diaz-Balart	Duffy	LoBiondo	Lewis	Peters (MI)	Vela
			Duncan (SC)	Long	Shimkus	Lipinski	Pingree (ME)	Velázquez
			Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Shuster	Loeb sack	Pocan	Visclosky
			Ellmers	Luetkemeyer	Simpson	Lofgren	Polis	Wasserman
			Farenthold	Lummis	Smith (MO)	Lowenthal	Price (NC)	Schultz
			Fincher	Marchant	Smith (NE)	Lowe	Quigley	Waters
			Fitzpatrick	Marino	Smith (NJ)	Lujan Grisham	Roybal-Allard	Waxman
			Fleischmann	Massie	Smith (TX)	(NM)	Ruiz	Welch
			Fleming	Matheson	Southerland	Luján, Ben Ray	Ruppersberger	Wilson (FL)
			Flores	Flores	Stewart	(NM)	Rush	Yarmuth
			Forbes	McAllister	Stivers	Lynch	Ryan (OH)	
			Fortenberry	McCarthy (CA)	Stockman			
			Fox	McCaul	Terry			
			Franks (AZ)	McClintock	Thompson (PA)			
			Frelinghuysen	McHenry	Thornberry			
			Gallego	McIntyre	Tiberi			
			Galleo	McKeon	Tipton			
			Garamendi	McKinley	Turner			
			Garcia	McMorris	Upton			
			Gardner	Rodgers	Valadao			
			Garrett	Meadows	Vargas			
			Gerlach	Meehan	Wagner			
			Gibbs	Messer	Walberg			
			Gibson	Mica	Walden			
			Gingrey (GA)	Miller (FL)	Walorski			
			Gohmert	Miller (MI)	Walz			
			Goodlatte	Mullin	Weber (TX)			
			Gosar	Mulvaney	Webster (FL)			
			Gowdy	Neugebauer	Wenstrup			
			Granger	Noem	Westmoreland			
			Graves (GA)	Nolan	Whitfield			
			Graves (MO)	Nugent	Williams			
			Griffin (AR)	Nunes	Wilson (SC)			
			Griffith (VA)	Olson	Wittman			
			Grimm	Palazzo	Wolf			
			Guthrie	Paulsen	Womack			
			Hall	Pearce	Woodall			
			Hanna	Perry	Yoder			
			Harper	Peterson	Yoho			
			Harris	Petri	Young (AK)			
			Hartzler	Pittenger	Young (IN)			
			Hastings (WA)	Pitts				

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt
Carney
DesJarlais
Hanabusa
Joyce

Langevin
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee
Pompeo
Rangel

Richmond
Stutzman
Wagner

□ 2029

Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. JOLLY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. SHUSTER changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 393 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Stated against:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, on rollcall 393 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LA MALFA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 182, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 394]

AYES—239

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton

Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany

Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess

Barber
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)

NOES—182

Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene

Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva

Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine

Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot

Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Daines
Davis, Rodney

NOT VOTING—11

Aderholt
Carney
DesJarlais
Hanabusa

McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee
Pompeo
Rangel

□ 2035

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STOCKMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 140, noes 282, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 395]

AYES—140

Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Bentivolio
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine

Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot

Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Daines
Davis, Rodney

Denham	Lamborn	Posey	McAllister	Rahall	Speier	Chaffetz	Hunter	Price (GA)
DeSantis	Lance	Ribble	McCollum	Reed	Stivers	Clawson (FL)	Hurt	Reed
Duffy	Lankford	Rice (SC)	McDermott	Reichert	Swalwell (CA)	Coble	Issa	Reichert
Duncan (SC)	Latta	Rohrabacher	McGovern	Renacci	Takano	Coffman	Jenkins	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	LoBiondo	Rokita	McIntyre	Rigell	Terry	Cole	Johnson (OH)	Ribble
Farenthold	Long	Rooney	McNerney	Roby	Thompson (CA)	Collins (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rice (SC)
Fincher	Lucas	Roskam	Meehan	Roe (TN)	Thompson (MS)	Collins (NY)	Jones	Rigell
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Ross	Meeks	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Conaway	Jordan	Roby
Fleming	Lummis	Rothfus	Meng	Rogers (KY)	Tierney	Cook	Joyce	Roe (TN)
Flores	Marchant	Royce	Michaud	Rogers (MI)	Tipton	Costa	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Forbes	Massie	Ryan (WI)	Miller, George	Ros-Lehtinen	Titus	Cotton	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Fox	McCarthy (CA)	Salmon	Moore	Roybal-Allard	Tonko	Cramer	Kingston	Rogers (MI)
Franks (AZ)	McCaul	Sanford	Moran	Ruiz	Tsongas	Crawford	Kinzingler (IL)	Rohrabacher
Garrett	McClintock	Scalise	Murphy (FL)	Runyan	Turner	Crenshaw	Kline	Rokita
Gohmert	McHenry	Schweikert	Murphy (PA)	Ruppersberger	Upton	Culberson	Labrador	Rooney
Gosar	McKeon	Scott, Austin	Nadler	Rush	Valadao	Daines	LaMalfa	Roskam
Gowdy	McKinley	Sensenbrenner	Napolitano	Ryan (OH)	Van Hollen	Davis, Rodney	Lamborn	Ross
Graves (GA)	McMorris	Sessions	Neal	Sánchez, Linda	Vargas	Denham	Lance	Rothfus
Graves (MO)	Rodgers	Smith (MO)	Negrete McLeod	T.	Veasey	Dent	Lankford	Royce
Griffin (AR)	Meadows	Smith (NE)	Noem	Sanchez, Loretta	Vela	DeSantis	Latham	Ryan (WI)
Grimm	Messer	Smith (NJ)	Nolan	Sarbanes	Velázquez	Diaz-Balart	Latta	Salmon
Hall	Mica	Smith (TX)	O'Rourke	Schakowsky	Visclosky	Duffy	LoBiondo	Sanford
Harris	Miller (FL)	Southerland	Owens	Schiff	Walden	Duncan (SC)	Long	Scalise
Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Stewart	Pallone	Schneider	Walorski	Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Schock
Herrera Beutler	Miller, Gary	Stockman	Pascarell	Schock	Walz	Ellmers	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Hudson	Mullin	Thornberry	Pastor (AZ)	Schrader	Wasserman	Farenthold	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Huelskamp	Mulvaney	Tiberi	Paulsen	Schwartz	Schultz	Fincher	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer	Wagner	Payne	Scott (VA)	Waters	Fleischmann	Marino	Sessions
Hultgren	Nugent	Walberg	Pelosi	Scott, David	Serrano	Fleming	Massie	Simpson
Hurt	Nunes	Weber (TX)	Perlmutter	Serrano	Sewell (AL)	Flores	McAllister	Smith (MO)
Jenkins	Olson	Westmoreland	Peters (CA)	Sewell (AL)	Shea-Porter	Forbes	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (NE)
Johnson, Sam	Palazzo	Williams	Peters (MI)	Sherman	Whitfield	Fortenberry	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
Jones	Pearce	Wittman	Peterson	Shimkus	Wilson (FL)	Fox	McClintock	Smith (TX)
Jordan	Perry	Woodall	Petri	Shuster	Wilson (SC)	McHenry	McIntyre	Southerland
Kingston	Pittenger	Yoder	Pingree (ME)	Simpson	Wolf	Frelinghuysen	McMorris	Stewart
Labrador	Pitts	Yoho	Pocan	Sinema	Womack	Gardner	McKeon	Stivers
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Young (IN)	Polis	Sires	Yarmuth	Garrett	McKinley	Stockman
			Price (GA)	Slaughter	Young (AK)	Gerlach	McMorris	Terry
			Price (NC)	Smith (WA)		Gibbs	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)
			Quigley			Gingrey (GA)	Meadows	Thornberry
						Gohmert	Meehan	Tiberi
						Goodlatte	Messer	Tipton
						Gosar	Mica	Turner
						Gowdy	Miller (FL)	Upton
						Granger	Miller (MI)	Valadao
						Graves (GA)	Miller, Gary	Wagner
						Graves (MO)	Mullin	Walberg
						Griffin (AR)	Mulvaney	Walden
						Griffith (VA)	Murphy (PA)	Weber (TX)
						Grimm	Neugebauer	Webster (FL)
						Guthrie	Noem	Wenstrup
						Hall	Nugent	Westmoreland
						Harper	Nunes	Whitfield
						Harris	Olson	Williams
						Hartzler	Palazzo	Wilson (SC)
						Hastings (WA)	Paulsen	Wittman
						Heck (NV)	Pearce	Wolf
						Hensarling	Perry	Womack
						Holding	Petri	Woodall
						Hudson	Pittenger	Yoder
						Huelskamp	Pitts	Yoho
						Huizenga (MI)	Poe (TX)	Young (AK)
						Hultgren	Posey	Young (IN)

NOES—282

Amodei	Davis (CA)	Himes
Barber	Davis, Danny	Hinojosa
Barletta	DeFazio	Holding
Barr	DeGette	Holt
Barrow (GA)	Delaney	Honda
Barton	DeLauro	Horsford
Bass	DeBene	Hoyer
Beatty	Dent	Huffman
Becerra	Deutch	Hunter
Benishek	Diaz-Balart	Israel
Bera (CA)	Dingell	Issa
Bilirakis	Doggett	Jackson Lee
Bishop (GA)	Doyle	Jeffries
Bishop (NY)	Duckworth	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Edwards	Johnson (OH)
Bonamici	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Brady (PA)	Ellmers	Jolly
Braley (IA)	Engel	Joyce
Brooks (IN)	Enyart	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Keating
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Kelly (IL)
Bucshon	Farr	Kelly (PA)
Bustos	Fattah	Kennedy
Butterfield	Fitzpatrick	Kildee
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kilmer
Camp	Foster	Kind
Capito	Frankel (FL)	King (IA)
Capps	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Capuano	Fudge	Kinzingler (IL)
Cárdenas	Gabbard	Kirkpatrick
Carson (IN)	Galleo	Kline
Cartwright	Garamendi	Kuster
Castor (FL)	Garcia	Langevin
Castro (TX)	Gardner	Larsen (WA)
Chu	Gerlach	Larson (CT)
Cicilline	Gibbs	Latham
Clark (MA)	Gibson	Lee (CA)
Clarke (NY)	Gingrey (GA)	Levin
Clay	Goodlatte	Lewis
Cleaver	Granger	Lipinski
Clyburn	Grayson	Loebback
Cohen	Green, Al	Lofgren
Cole	Green, Gene	Lowenthal
Collins (NY)	Griffith (VA)	Lowe
Connolly	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Conyers	Guthrie	(NM)
Cooper	Gutiérrez	Luján, Ben Ray
Costa	Hahn	(NM)
Courtney	Hanna	Lynch
Cramer	Harper	Maffei
Crawford	Hartzler	Maloney,
Crenshaw	Hastings (FL)	Carolyn
Crowley	Hastings (WA)	Maloney, Sean
Cuellar	Heck (NV)	Marino
Culberson	Heck (WA)	Matheson
Cummings	Higgins	Matsui

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
Carney	Nunnelee	Stutzman
DesJarlais	Pompeo	
Hanabusa	Rangel	

□ 2039

Mr. PITTENGER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. STOCKMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STOCKMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 204, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

AYES—218

Amash	Black	Burgess
Amodei	Blackburn	Byrne
Bachmann	Boustany	Calvert
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Camp
Barletta	Bridenstine	Campbell
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Cantor
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Capito
Benishek	Broun (GA)	Carter
Bentivolio	Buchanan	Cassidy
Bishop (UT)	Bucshon	Chabot

NOES—204

Barber	Clyburn	Foster
Barrow (GA)	Cohen	Frankel (FL)
Bass	Connolly	Fudge
Beatty	Conyers	Gabbard
Becerra	Cooper	Galleo
Bera (CA)	Courtney	Garamendi
Bilirakis	Crowley	Garcia
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Gibson
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Grayson
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Green, Al
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Green, Gene
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Grijalva
Braley (IA)	DeGette	Gutiérrez
Brown (FL)	Delaney	Hahn
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Hanna
Bucshon	DeBene	Hastings (FL)
Bustos	Deutch	Heck (WA)
Butterfield	Dingell	Herrera Beutler
Capps	Doggett	Higgins
Capuano	Doyle	Himes
Cárdenas	Duckworth	Hinojosa
Carson (IN)	Edwards	Holt
Cartwright	Ellison	Honda
Castor (FL)	Engel	Horsford
Castro (TX)	Enyart	Hoyer
Chu	Eshoo	Huffman
Cicilline	Esty	Israel
Clark (MA)	Farr	Jackson Lee
Clarke (NY)	Fattah	Jeffries
Clay	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (GA)
Cleaver		

Johnson, E. B.	Michaud	Schneider	Cole	Jolly	Ribble	Johnson (GA)	Meng	Schneider
Jolly	Miller, George	Schrader	Collins (GA)	Jones	Rice (SC)	Johnson, E. B.	Michaud	Schrader
Kaptur	Moore	Schwartz	Collins (NY)	Jordan	Rigell	Kaptur	Miller, George	Schwartz
Keating	Moran	Scott (VA)	Conaway	Joyce	Roby	Keating	Moore	Scott (VA)
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Scott, David	Cook	Kelly (PA)	Roe (TN)	Kelly (IL)	Moran	Scott, David
Kennedy	Nadler	Serrano	Cotton	King (IA)	Rogers (AL)	Kennedy	Murphy (FL)	Serrano
Kildee	Napolitano	Sewell (AL)	Cramer	King (NY)	Rogers (KY)	Kildee	Nadler	Sewell (AL)
Kilmer	Neal	Shea-Porter	Crawford	Kingston	Rogers (MI)	Kilmer	Napolitano	Shea-Porter
Kind	Negrete McLeod	Sherman	Crenshaw	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher	Kind	Neal	Sherman
King (NY)	Nolan	Shimkus	Cuellar	Kline	Rokita	Kirkpatrick	Negrete McLeod	Sinema
Kirkpatrick	O'Rourke	Shuster	Culberson	Labrador	Rooney	Kuster	Nolan	Sires
Kuster	Owens	Sinema	Daines	LaMalfa	Ros-Lehtinen	Langevin	O'Rourke	Slaughter
Langevin	Pallone	Sires	Davis, Rodney	Lamborn	Roskam	Larsen (WA)	Owens	Smith (WA)
Larsen (WA)	Pascarella	Slaughter	Denham	Lance	Ross	Larson (CT)	Pallone	Speier
Larson (CT)	Pastor (AZ)	Smith (WA)	Dent	Lankford	Rothfus	Lee (CA)	Pascarella	Swalwell (CA)
Lee (CA)	Payne	Speier	DeSantis	Latham	Royce	Levin	Pastor (AZ)	Takano
Levin	Pelosi	Swalwell (CA)	Diaz-Balart	Latta	Runyan	Lewis	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Lewis	Perlmutter	Takano	Duffy	LoBiondo	Ryan (WI)	Lipinski	Perlmutter	Thompson (MS)
Lipinski	Peters (CA)	Thompson (CA)	Duncan (SC)	Long	Salmon	Loeb sack	Peters (CA)	Tierney
Loeb sack	Peters (MI)	Thompson (MS)	Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Sanford	Lofgren	Peters (MI)	Titus
Lofgren	Peterson	Tierney	Ellmers	Luetkemeyer	Scalise	Lowenthal	Pingree (ME)	Tonko
Lowenthal	Pingree (ME)	Titus	Farenthold	Lummis	Schock	Lowe y	Pocan	Tsongas
Lowe y	Pocan	Tonko	Fincher	Marchant	Schweikert	Lujan Grisham	Polis	Van Hollen
Lujan Grisham	Polis	Tsongas	Fitzpatrick	Marino	Scott, Austin	(NM)	Price (NC)	Vargas
(NM)	Price (NC)	Van Hollen	Fleischmann	Massie	Sensenbrenner	Luján, Ben Ray	Quigley	Veasey
Luján, Ben Ray	Quigley	Vargas	Fleming	Matheson	Sessions	(NM)	Rahall	Vela
(NM)	Rahall	Veasey	Forbes	Flores	Shimkus	Lynch	Ros-Lehtinen	Velázquez
Lynch	Ros-Lehtinen	Vela	Fortenberry	McAllister	Shuster	Maffei	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky
Maffei	Roybal-Allard	Velázquez	Fox x	McCauley	Simpson	Maloney,	Ruiz	Walz
Maloney,	Ruiz	Visclosky	McClintock	McHenry	Smith (MO)	Carolyn	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Carolyn	Runyan	Walorski	McClintock	McKeon	Smith (NE)	Maloney, Sean	Rush	Schultz
Maloney, Sean	Ruppersberger	Walz	McHenry	McKinley	Smith (NJ)	Matsui	Ryan (OH)	Sanchez, Loretta
Matheson	Rush	Wasserman	McKeon	McMorris	Smith (TX)	McCollum	Sánchez, Linda	T.
Matsui	Ryan (OH)	Schultz	McKinley	Rodgers	Southerland	McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta	Waters
McCollum	Sánchez, Linda	Waters	Garrett	Meadows	Stewart	McGovern	Sarbanes	Waxman
McDermott	T.	Waxman	Gerlach	Meehan	Stivers	McNerney	Schakowsky	Welch
McGovern	Sanchez, Loretta	Welch	Gibbs	Messer	Stockman	Meeks	Schiff	Yarmuth
McNerney	Sarbanes	Wilson (FL)	Gingrey (GA)	Mica	Terry			
Meeks	Schakowsky	Yarmuth	Gohmert	Miller (FL)	Thompson (PA)			
Meng	Schiff		Goodlatte	Miller (MI)	Thornberry			
			Gowdy	Miller, Gary	Tiberi			
			Granger	Mullin	Tipton			
			Graves (GA)	Mulvaney	Turner			
			Graves (MO)	Murphy (PA)	Upton			
			Griffin (AR)	Neugebauer	Valadao			
			Griffith (VA)	Noem	Wagner			
			Grimm	Nugent	Walberg			
			Guthrie	Nunes	Walden			
			Hall	Olson	Walorski			
			Hanna	Palazzo	Weber (TX)			
			Harper	Paulsen	Webster (FL)			
			Harris	Pearce	Wenstrup			
			Hartzler	Perry	Westmoreland			
			Hastings (WA)	Peterson	Whitfield			
			Heck (NV)	Pittenger	Williams			
			Hensarling	Pitts	Petri			
			Herrera Beutler	Poe (TX)	Wilson (SC)			
			Holding	Posay	Wittman			
			Hudson	Price (GA)	Wolf			
			Huelskamp	Reed	Womack			
			Hultgren	Reichert	Woodall			
			Hunter	Renacci	Yoder			
			Issa		Yoho			
			Jenkins		Young (AK)			
			Johnson (OH)		Young (IN)			
			Johnson, Sam					

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
Carney	Nunnelee	Stutzman
DesJarlais	Pompeo	
Hanabusa	Rangel	

□ 2042

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 229, noes 188, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 397]

AYES—229

Amash	Black	Calvert
Amodei	Blackburn	Camp
Bachmann	Boustany	Campbell
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Cantor
Barletta	Bridenstine	Capito
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Carter
Barrow (GA)	Brooks (IN)	Cassidy
Barton	Brown (GA)	Chabot
Benishke	Buchanan	Chaffetz
Bentivolio	Bucshon	Clawson (FL)
Bilirakis	Burgess	Coble
Bishop (UT)	Byrne	Coffman

Barber	Clyburn	Fattah
Bass	Cohen	Foster
Beatty	Connolly	Frankel (FL)
Becerra	Conyers	Fudge
Bera (CA)	Cooper	Gabbard
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Gallago
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Crowley	Garcia
Bonamici	Cummings	Gibson
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Grayson
Braley (IA)	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Brown (FL)	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Grijalva
Bustos	Delaney	Gutiérrez
Butterfield	DeLauro	Hahn
Capps	DelBene	Hastings (FL)
Capuano	Deutch	Heck (WA)
Cardenas	Dingell	Higgins
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Himes
Cartwright	Doyle	Hinojosa
Castor (FL)	Duckworth	Holt
Castro (TX)	Edwards	Honda
Chu	Ellison	Horsford
Ciilline	Engel	Hoyer
Clark (MA)	Enyart	Huffman
Clarke (NY)	Eshoo	Israel
Clay	Esty	Jackson Lee
Cleaver	Farr	Jeffries

NOES—188

Fattah	Johnson (GA)	Meng
Foster	Johnson, E. B.	Michaud
Frankel (FL)	Kaptur	Miller, George
Fudge	Keating	Moore
Gabbard	Kelly (IL)	Moran
Gallago	Kennedy	Murphy (FL)
Garamendi	Kildee	Nadler
Garcia	Kilmer	Napolitano
Gibson	Kind	Neal
Grayson	Kirkpatrick	Negrete McLeod
Green, Al	Kuster	Nolan
Green, Gene	Langevin	O'Rourke
Grijalva	Larsen (WA)	Owens
Gutiérrez	Larson (CT)	Pallone
Hahn	Lee (CA)	Pascarella
Hastings (FL)	Levin	Pastor (AZ)
Heck (WA)	Lewis	Pelosi
Higgins	Lipinski	Perlmutter
Himes	Loeb sack	Peters (CA)
Hinojosa	Lofgren	Peters (MI)
Holt	Lowey	Pingree (ME)
Honda	Lujan Grisham	Pocan
Horsford	(NM)	Polis
Hoyer	Luján, Ben Ray	Price (NC)
Huffman	(NM)	Quigley
Israel	Lynch	Roybal-Allard
Jackson Lee	Maffei	Ruiz
Jeffries	Maloney,	Ruppersberger
	Carolyn	Rush
	Maloney, Sean	Ryan (OH)
	Matsui	Sánchez, Linda
	McCollum	T.
	McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta
	McGovern	Sarbanes
	McNerney	Schakowsky
	Meeks	Schiff

NOT VOTING—15

Aderholt	Huizenga (MI)	Pompeo
Carney	Hurt	Rangel
DesJarlais	McCarthy (NY)	Richmond
Gosar	McIntyre	Stutzman
Hanabusa	Nunnelee	Wilson (FL)

□ 2046

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. HUIZENG of Michigan. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 397 there was a technical issue with my voting card and I was detained getting to the well of the House to vote by physical card. I would have voted "yes."

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MRS.

BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 150, noes 271, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 398]

AYES—150

Amash	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (AL)
Barton	Black	Brooks (IN)
Benishke	Blackburn	Brown (GA)
Bentivolio	Brady (TX)	Buchanan
Bilirakis	Bridenstine	Bucshon

Burgess
Byrne
Camp
Campbell
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Daines
DeSantis
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleming
Flores
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren

Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Long
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pitts

Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McAllister
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napollitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Young (IN)

O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano

Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce

Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Nunes
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—271

Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Costa

Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gerlach
Gibbs

Gibson
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham

NOT VOTING—11

McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee
Pittenger
Pompeo

□ 2050

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 398, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 194, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 399]

AYES—226

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr

NOES—194

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty

Farr	Lofgren	Ruiz	Burgess	Hurt	Poe (TX)	Luetkemeyer	Pastor (AZ)	Sherman
Fattah	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger	Byrne	Jenkins	Posey	Lujan Grisham	Payne	Shimkus
Foster	Lowe	Rush	Campbell	Johnson, Sam	Price (GA)	(NM)	Pelosi	Simpson
Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham	Ryan (OH)	Chabot	Jones	Ribble	Luján, Ben Ray	Perlmutter	Sinema
Fudge	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda	Chaffetz	Jordan	Rice (SC)	(NM)	Peters (CA)	Sires
Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray	T.	Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rigell	Lynch	Peters (MI)	Slaughter
Gallego	(NM)	Sanchez, Loretta	Coble	King (IA)	Rogers (AL)	Maffei	Peterson	Smith (NJ)
Garamendi	Lynch	Sarbanes	Coffman	Kingston	Rohrabacher	Maloney, Sean	Pingree (ME)	Smith (WA)
Garcia	Maffei	Schakowsky	Collins (GA)	Kline	Rokita	Carolyn	Pocan	Speier
Gibson	Maloney, Carolyn	Schiff	Conaway	Labrador	Rooney	Maloney, Sean	Polis	Stewart
Grayson	Maloney, Sean	Schneider	Cook	LaMalfa	Royce	Marino	Price (NC)	Stivers
Green, Al	Matheson	Schrader	Cotton	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)	Matheson	Quigley	Swalwell (CA)
Green, Gene	Matsui	Schwartz	Daines	Lance	Salmon	Matsui	Rahall	Takano
Grijalva	McCollum	Scott (VA)	DeSantis	Lankford	Sanford	McAllister	Reed	Thompson (CA)
Gutiérrez	McDermott	Serrano	Duffy	Latta	Scalise	McCarthy (CA)	Reichert	Thompson (MS)
Hahn	McGovern	Sewell (AL)	Duncan (SC)	Long	Schweikert	McCollum	Renacci	Thompson (PA)
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Shea-Porter	Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Scott, Austin	McDermott	Roby	Tierney
Heck (WA)	Meeks	Sherman	Farenthold	Lummis	Sensenbrenner	McGovern	Roe (TN)	Titus
Higgins	Meng	Sinema	Fincher	Marchant	Sessions	McIntyre	Rogers (KY)	Tonko
Himes	Michaud	Sires	Fleming	Massie	Shuster	McKeon	Rogers (MI)	Tsongas
Hinojosa	Miller, George	Slaughter	Flores	McCaul	Smith (MO)	McKinley	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner
Holt	Moore	Smith (WA)	Foxx	McClintock	Smith (NE)	McNerney	Roskam	Upton
Honda	Moran	Speier	Franks (AZ)	McHenry	Smith (TX)	Meehan	Ross	Valadao
Horsford	Murphy (FL)	Swalwell (CA)	Garrett	McMorris	Southerland	Meeks	Rothfus	Van Hollen
Hoyer	Nadler	Takano	Gingrey (GA)	Rodgers	Stockman	Meng	Roybal-Allard	Vargas
Huffman	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)	Gohmert	Meadows	Terry	Michaud	Ruiz	Veasey
Israel	Neal	Thompson (MS)	Goodlatte	Messer	Thornberry	Miller, Gary	Runyan	Vela
Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod	Tierney	Gosar	Mica	Tiberi	Miller, George	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
Jeffries	Nolan	Titus	Goody	Miller (FL)	Tipton	Moore	Rush	Visclosky
Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke	Tonko	Graves (GA)	Miller (MI)	Walberg	Moran	Ryan (OH)	Wagner
Johnson, E. B.	Owens	Tsongas	Graves (MO)	Mulvaney	Walorski	Mullin	Sánchez, Linda	Walden
Kaptur	Pallone	Van Hollen	Guthrie	Neugebauer	Weber (TX)	Murphy (FL)	T.	Walz
Keating	Pascarell	Vargas	Harper	Olson	Webster (FL)	Murphy (PA)	Sanchez, Loretta	Wasserman
Kelly (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Veasey	Hensarling	Palazzo	Williams	Nadler	Sarbanes	Schultz
Kennedy	Payne	Vela	Holding	Paulsen	Wilson (SC)	Napolitano	Schakowsky	Waters
Kildee	Pelosi	Velázquez	Hudson	Pearce	Wittman	Neal	Schiff	Waxman
Kilmer	Perlmutter	Visclosky	Huelskamp	Perry	Woodall	Negrete McLeod	Schneider	Welch
Kind	Peters (CA)	Walz	Huizenga (MI)	Petri	Yoder	Noem	Schock	Wenstrup
Kirkpatrick	Peters (MI)	Wasserman	Hultgren	Pittenger	Yoho	Nolan	Schrader	Whitfield
Kuster	Pingree (ME)	Schultz	Hunter	Pitts		Nugent	Schwartz	Wilson (FL)
Langevin	Pocan	Waters				Nunes	Scott (VA)	Wolf
Larsen (WA)	Polis	Welch				O'Rourke	Scott, David	Womack
Larson (CT)	Posey	Wilson (FL)				Owens	Serrano	Yarmuth
Lee (CA)	Price (NC)	Yarmuth				Pallone	Sewell (AL)	Young (AK)
Levin	Quigley					Pascarell	Shea-Porter	Young (IN)
Lewis	Reichert							
Lipinski	Roybal-Allard							
Loebback								

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt	McCarthy (NY)	Rangel
Carney	McIntyre	Richmond
DesJarlais	Nunnelee	Stutzman
Hanabusa	Pompeo	Webster (FL)

□ 2054

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 131, noes 289, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 400]

AYES—131

Amash	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Bachus	Bishop (UT)	Bridenstine
Barton	Black	Brooks (AL)
Bentivolio	Blackburn	Brooks (IN)

NOES—289

Cramer	Grijalva
Crawford	Grimm
Crenshaw	Gutiérrez
Crowley	Hahn
Cuellar	Hall
Culberson	Hanna
Cummings	Harris
Davis (CA)	Hartzler
Davis, Danny	Hastings (FL)
Davis, Rodney	Hastings (WA)
DeGette	Heck (NV)
Delaney	Heck (WA)
DeLauro	Herrera Beutler
DelBene	Higgins
Denham	Himes
Dent	Hinojosa
Deutch	Holt
Diaz-Balart	Honda
Dingell	Horsford
Doggett	Hoyer
Doyle	Huffman
Duckworth	Israel
Edwards	Issa
Ellison	Jackson Lee
Ellmers	Jeffries
Engel	Johnson (GA)
Enyart	Johnson (OH)
Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Esty	Jolly
Farr	Joyce
Fattah	Kaptur
Fitzpatrick	Keating
Fleischmann	Kelly (IL)
Forbes	Kennedy
Fortenberry	Kildee
Foster	Kilmer
Frankel (FL)	Kind
Frelinghuysen	Kinzinger (IL)
Fudge	Kirkpatrick
Gabbard	Kuster
Gallego	Langevin
Garamendi	Larsen (WA)
Garcia	Larson (CT)
Gardner	Latham
Gerlach	Lee (CA)
Gibbs	Levin
Gibson	Lewis
Granger	Lipinski
Grayson	LoBiondo
Green, Al	Loebback
Green, Gene	Lofgren
Griffin (AR)	Lowenthal
Griffith (VA)	Lowey

NOT VOTING—12

□ 2058

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read the last three lines.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015”.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4923) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, directed her to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under House Resolution 641, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 2100

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. ENYART. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Enyart moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4923 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 26, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 27, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill, as amended, will immediately proceed to final passage. Today, we come together to vote on an amendment that will not only create infrastructure, but create much-needed jobs as well.

Before joining the ranks of Congress last year, I served in the ranks of our Nation's military. As a commander of the Illinois National Guard, I oversaw the largest deployment of troops overseas since World War II.

Also well known across the State and particularly along Illinois' Mississippi River border were the efforts of men and women of the Illinois National Guard during flood season—efforts, resources, and dollars that can be saved with the preventative measures funded in this amendment.

The amendment before us today provides an additional \$10 million to the Army Corps of Engineers for projects that could include levee construction, levee repair, flood mitigation, and flood prevention.

Too often, I sent those guardsmen and -women to fight floodwaters from the Mississippi River. Too often, I have seen levees break, rivers flow over

their banks, and sandbags give way; and all too often, I have seen the aftereffects of destroyed homes, lost belongings, and the anguish of starting over again.

Just in the past week, three bridges across the Mississippi River have been closed due to flooding. Twenty roads, highways, and interstates have been closed or temporarily shuttered in Illinois alone, due to floodwaters, and the Mississippi River is expected to crest 10 feet above flood stage in some areas this week.

This isn't just a Midwestern issue. In the past 5 years, every single State in our great Nation has experienced floods or flash flooding.

Every dollar that we send to the Army Corps to prevent flooding will be put back into our economy if American families are spared the expense of flood cleanup. We must pass this amendment to provide critical dollars to the Army Corps, while creating good-paying jobs for men and women across our Nation.

This amendment makes all the difference for the people of Alton, Illinois, where the Mississippi River is at flood stage this week.

This amendment makes all the difference for the people of Grand Tower, Illinois, where the Army Corps doesn't have the funding to fix the structural inadequacies of the levees the Corps built 60 years ago. Communities are depending on us for leadership.

Also included in this amendment is an additional \$10 million for the energy efficiency and renewable energy account. Current language in the bill is almost \$113 million less than in 2014 and \$530 million less than the administration's request.

We simply cannot afford such harsh reductions in funding for an area where our country desperately needs growth: energy efficiency and independence. A great example of energy-efficient infrastructure and operations is at Southern Illinois University, which is in my home district and is my alma mater.

SIU is committed to sustainability and green operations across campus. The university believes that higher education should be ecologically sound, socially just, and economically viable, giving students a healthy environment in which to live and learn.

SIU was, again, named a Green College by the Princeton Review. SIU maintains green jobs and green processes through their vermicomposting center—designed to take food scraps from dormitories and turn them into compost for campus gardens. The new transportation education center earned an LEED silver certificate. It is programs like these that this amendment will support.

Like all of you, I had the opportunity to listen to my constituents this past week. Over and over again, my constituents stopped me to ask: Why do we spend billions of tax dollars to build

and rebuild other nations around the world, while so many of our critical improvements need to be made here at home?

This amendment won't address all of those needs here in America, but it is an improvement to this Appropriations bill and an investment in the long-term needs of our country.

I urge you to vote “yes” for flood safety, to vote “yes” for jobs, to vote “yes” for energy independence. I urge you to vote “yes” for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish the gentleman who just spoke would call the administration. His budget request was nearly \$1 billion below last year's for the Army Corps of Engineers. That is what the administration proposed to us.

We restored that and, in fact, increased last year's Army Corps of Engineers budget by \$25 million while, at the same time, cutting \$50 million out of the overall bill, so I wish he would talk to the administration about its budget request.

This is a balanced bill, made more balanced by the 2 days of amendments we have debated—some accepted, some not accepted—from all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

We have already taken \$45 million out of the DA account. I know it is an easy account to target, to just take money out of, but at some point in time, you have to stop, and we have already taken \$45 million out of the DA account.

An important characteristic of any Member of this body is to know when to talk and when to shut up. It is after 9. I encourage my colleagues to vote against the motion to recommit and for the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 231, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 401]

AYES—188

Barber Grayson Nolan
 Barrow (GA) Green, Al O'Rourke
 Bass Green, Gene Owens
 Beatty Grijalva Pallone
 Becerra Gutierrez Pascarell
 Bera (CA) Hahn Pastor (AZ)
 Bishop (GA) Hastings (FL) Payne
 Bishop (NY) Heck (WA) Perlmutter
 Blumenauer Higgins Peters (CA)
 Bonamici Himes Peters (MI)
 Brady (PA) Hinojosa Pingree (ME)
 Braley (IA) Holt Pocan
 Brown (FL) Honda Polis
 Brownley (CA) Horsford Price (NC)
 Bustos Huffman Quigley
 Butterfield Jackson Lee Rahall
 Capps Jeffries Roybal-Allard
 Capuano Johnson (GA) Ruiz
 Cárdenas Johnson, E. B. Ruppertsberger
 Carson (IN) Kaptur Rush
 Cartwright Keating Kelly (IL)
 Castor (FL) Kelly (IL) Kennedy
 Castro (TX) Kennedy Kildee
 Chu Kildee Sanchez, Loretta
 Cicilline Kilmer Sarbanes
 Clark (MA) Kind Schakowsky
 Clarke (NY) Kirkpatrick Schiff
 Clay Kuster Schneider
 Cleaver Langevin Schradler
 Clyburn Larsen (WA) Schwartz
 Cohen Larson (CT) Scott (VA)
 Conyers Lee (CA) Scott, David
 Cooper Levin Serrano
 Costa Lewis Lipinski
 Courtney Lipinski Sewell (AL)
 Crowley Loeb sack Shea-Porter
 Cuellar Lofgren Sherman
 Cummings Lowenthal Sinema
 Davis (CA) Lowey Sires
 Davis, Danny Lujan Grisham
 DeFazio (NM) Smith (WA)
 DeGette Luján, Ben Ray Speier
 Delaney (NM) Swallow (CA)
 DeLauro Lynch Takano
 DelBene Maffei Thompson (CA)
 Deutch Maloney, Carolyn Thompson (MS)
 Dingell Carolyn Tierney
 Doggett Maloney, Sean Titus
 Doyle Matheson Tonko
 Duckworth Matsui Tsongas
 Edwards McCollum Van Hollen
 Ellison McDermott Vargas
 Engel McGovern Veasey
 Enyart McIntyre Vela
 Eshoo McNeerney Velázquez
 Esty Meeks Visclosky
 Farr Meng Walz
 Fattah Michaud Wasserman
 Foster Miller, George Schults
 Frankel (FL) Moore Waters
 Fudge Murphy (FL) Waxman
 Gabbard Nadler Welch
 Gallego Napolitano Wilson (FL)
 Garamendi Neal Yarmuth
 Garcia Negrete McLeod

NOES—231

Amash Campbell DeSantis
 Amodei Cantor Diaz-Balart
 Bachmann Capito Duffy
 Bachus Carter Duncan (SC)
 Barletta Cassidy Duncan (TN)
 Barr Chabot Ellmers
 Barton Chaffetz Farenthold
 Benishek Clawson (FL) Fincher
 Bentivolio Coble Fitzpatrick
 Billakis Coffman Fleischmann
 Bishop (UT) Cole Fleming
 Black Collins (GA) Flores
 Blackburn Collins (NY) Forbes
 Boustany Conaway Fortenberry
 Brady (TX) Connolly Foxx
 Bridenstine Cook Franks (AZ)
 Brooks (AL) Cotton Frelinghuysen
 Brooks (IN) Cramer Gardner
 Broun (GA) Crawford Garrett
 Buchanan Crenshaw Gerlach
 Bucshon Culberson Gibbs
 Burgess Daines Gingrey (GA)
 Byrne Davis, Rodney Gohmert
 Calvert Denham Goodlatte
 Camp Dent Gosar

Gowdy McAllister
 Granger McCarthy (CA) Royce
 Graves (GA) McCaul Royce
 Graves (MO) McClintock Runyan
 Griffin (AR) McHenry Ryan (WI)
 Griffith (VA) McKeon Salmon
 Grimm McKinley Sanford
 Guthrie McMorris Scalise
 Hall Rodgers Schock
 Meadows Meehan Schweikert
 Harper Meehan Scott, Austin
 Harris Messer Sensenbrenner
 Hartzler Mica Sessions
 Hastings (WA) Miller (FL) Shimkus
 Heck (NV) Miller (MI) Shuster
 Hensarling Miller, Gary Simpson
 Herrera Beutler Moran Smith (MO)
 Holding Mullin Smith (NE)
 Hudson Mulvaney Smith (NJ)
 Huelskamp Murphy (PA) Smith (TX)
 Huizenga (MI) Neugebauer Southerland
 Hultgren Noem Stewart
 Hunter Nugent Stivers
 Hurt Nunes Stockman
 Issa Olson Stutzman
 Jenkins Palazzo Terry
 Johnson (OH) Paulsen Thompson (PA)
 Johnson, Sam Pearce Thornberry
 Jolly Perry Tiberi
 Jones Peterson Tipton
 Jordan Petri Turner
 Joyce Pittenger Upton
 Kelly (PA) Pitts Valadao
 King (IA) Poe (TX) Wagner
 King (NY) Posey Walberg
 Kingston Price (GA) Walden
 Kinzinger (IL) Reed Walorski
 Kline Reichert Weber (TX)
 Labrador Renacci Webster (FL)
 LaMalfa Ribble Wenstrup
 Lamborn Rice (SC) Westmoreland
 Lance Rigell Whitfield
 Lankford Roby Williams
 Latham Roe (TN) Wilson (SC)
 Latta Rogers (AL) Wittman
 LoBiondo Rogers (KY) Wolf
 Long Rogers (MI) Womack
 Lucas Rohrabacher Woodall
 Lummis Rokita Yoder
 Marchant Rooney Yoho
 Marino Roskam Young (AK)
 Massie Ross Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—13

Aderholt Hoyer Pompeo
 Carney Israel Rangel
 DesJarlais McCarthy (NY) Richmond
 Gibson Nunnelee
 Hanabusa Pelosi

□ 2115

Mr. SWALWELL of California changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 253, nays 170, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 402]

YEAS—253

Amodei Bishop (UT) Bucshon
 Bachmann Black Burgess
 Bachus Blackburn Byrne
 Barletta Boustany Calvert
 Barr Brady (TX) Camp
 Barrow (GA) Bridenstine Campbell
 Barton Brooks (AL) Cantor
 Benishek Brooks (IN) Capito
 Bentivolio Brown (GA) Carter
 Billakis Bera (CA) Cassidy
 Bishop (GA) Brownley (CA) Chabot
 Buchanan Buchanan Chaffetz

Clawson (FL) Johnson, E. B. Reichert
 Coble Johnson, Sam Renacci
 Coffman Jolly Ribble
 Cole Jones Rice (SC)
 Collins (GA) Jordan Rigell
 Collins (NY) Joyce Roby
 Conaway Kaptur Roe (TN)
 Cook Kelly (PA) Rogers (AL)
 Costa King (IA) Rogers (KY)
 Cotton King (NY) Rogers (MI)
 Cramer Kingston Rohrabacher
 Crawford Kinzinger (IL) Rokita
 Crenshaw Kline Rooney
 Cuellar LaMalfa Ros-Lehtinen
 Culberson Lamborn Roskam
 Daines Lance Ross
 Davis, Rodney Lankford Rothfus
 Denham Latham Royce
 Dent Latta Ruiz
 DeSantis Lipinski Runyan
 Diaz-Balart LoBiondo
 Duckworth Long Rush
 Duffy Lowey Ryan (WI)
 Duncan (SC) Lucas Salmon
 Duncan (TN) Luetkemeyer Sanford
 Ellmers Lujan Grisham Scalise
 Farenthold (NM) Schneider
 Fattah Luján, Ben Ray Schock
 Fincher (NM) Schradler
 Fitzpatrick Lummis Schweikert
 Fleischmann Maloney, Sean Scott, Austin
 Fleming Marchant Sessions
 Flores Marino Sewell (AL)
 Forbes Matsui Shimkus
 Fortenberry McAllister Shuster
 Foxx McCarthy (CA) Simpson
 Frelinghuysen McCaul Smith (MO)
 Garamendi McHenry Smith (NE)
 Garcia McIntyre Smith (NJ)
 Gardner McKeon Smith (TX)
 Garrett McKinley Southerland
 Gerlach McMorris Stewart
 Gibbs Rodgers Stivers
 Gibson Meadows Stutzman
 Gingrey (GA) Meehan Terry
 Gohmert Messer Thompson (PA)
 Goodlatte Mica Thornberry
 Gosar Miller (FL) Tiberi
 Gowdy Miller (MI) Tipton
 Granger Miller, Gary Turner
 Graves (GA) Mullin Upton
 Graves (MO) Mulvaney Valadao
 Green, Gene Murphy (FL) Vela
 Griffin (AR) Murphy (PA) Visclosky
 Griffith (VA) Neugebauer Wagner
 Grimm Noem Walberg
 Guthrie Nolan Walden
 Hall Nugent Walorski
 Hanna Nunes Weber (TX)
 Harper Olson Webster (FL)
 Harris Owens Westmoreland
 Hartzler Palazzo Whitfield
 Hastings (WA) Paulsen Williams
 Hensarling Pearce Wilson (FL)
 Herrera Beutler Perry Wilson (SC)
 Holding Peters (CA) Wittman
 Hudson Peterson Wolf
 Huelskamp Pittenger Womack
 Huizenga (MI) Pitts Woodall
 Hultgren Poe (TX) Yoder
 Hunter Posey Yoho
 Hurt Price (GA) Young (AK)
 Issa Rahall Young (IN)
 Jenkins Reed

NAYS—170

Amash Chu DeLauro
 Barber Cicilline DelBene
 Bass Clark (MA) Deutch
 Beatty Clarke (NY) Dingell
 Becerra Clay Doggett
 Bishop (NY) Cleaver Doyle
 Blumenauer Clyburn Edwards
 Bonamici Cohen Ellison
 Brady (PA) Connolly Engel
 Braley (IA) Conyers Enyart
 Bustos Cooper Eshoo
 Butterfield Courtney Farr
 Capps Crowley Foster
 Capuano Cummings Davis (CA)
 Cárdenas Davis, Danny Davis, Danny
 Carson (IN) DeFazio Davis, Danny
 Cartwright DeGette Davis, Danny
 Castor (FL) DeLauro Davis, Danny
 Castro (TX) Delaney Davis, Danny

Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Labrador
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsock
Lofgren
Lowenthal

Lynch
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Massie
Matheson
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wenstrup
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Aderholt
Carney
DesJarlais

Hanabusa
McCarthy (NY)
Nunnelee

Pompeo
Rangel
Richmond

□ 2122

Mr. LOWENTHAL changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 10, I was unavoidably detained in my State on official business until 8:00 p.m. tonight, and I would like to indicate how I would have voted had I been present.

On rollcall vote No. 379, under the bill H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 380, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 381, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 382, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 383, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 384, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 385, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 386, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 387, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote No. 388, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 389, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 390, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 391, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall vote No. 392, I would have voted "no."

STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY
IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week I joined my colleague, Mr. MESSER, to introduce the Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, legislation which will ensure useful information is easily accessible, deliver data that includes the entire college population, and improve coordination between Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, students and families must wade through massive and often conflicting amounts of information in order to make informed college decisions. The Higher Education Act, HEA, alone requires 26 different categories of information be available, and there are many additional State and Federal requirements.

Our bill will streamline the overwhelming maze of information with a consumer-tested College Dashboard. The College Dashboard will provide students with key information, enrollment, completion, net price, and average loan debt and Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data.

With college costs steadily rising, prospective students need to make informed decisions about their future. The Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act will help them do just that.

WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is our job to work on behalf of the American people, and in H.R. 4923, I am very pleased to note that two Jackson Lee amendments passed that I think will expand the opportunities for small businesses and promote the environment.

One amendment, of course, increased funding for the Office of Minority Economic Impact to be able to reach out to small businesses, MWBEs, in order to create jobs, a challenge that the American people asked us to meet.

My second amendment that was accepted in a bipartisan manner reprograms funds for the Department of Energy's departmental administration to increase support for environmental justice. That is very important to very many sites in the 18th Congressional District, from northeast to southeast.

As you well know, Mr. Speaker, I also was able to get an amendment in

the bill dealing with the Department of the Interior and set up an office on minority business and contracting and outreach for jobs.

We must create more jobs. We must help create more jobs, and leading out by this Nation to create more jobs is very important.

I am also pleased that the dredging funding that the Houston Port needed was put in this bill, joined by my colleagues from the Houston delegation. Now the Houston Port will be able to continue to serve as one of the largest ports in the world.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that this legislation had these elements in it. I look forward to the bill going to the Senate so that we can come back and vote for this bill.

FIREFIGHTER DANIEL GROOVER,
FIRE STATION 104, HOUSTON,
TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when there is a blaze, when there is a fire, when there is an explosion, when someone has an emergency medical problem, the firefighters rush in. While others flee danger, the firefighters, with sirens, red lights, horns, red-and-white trucks, charge into the jaws and midst of danger. Sometimes, the danger is overwhelming and firefighters are injured and killed.

Yesterday afternoon, with temperatures approaching 100 degrees outside, in an area called Forest Cove, near the San Jacinto River in Houston, Texas, the fire alarm sounded at the fire station. A house fire then turned into two alarms. The firefighters rushed and battled a fire in the hot, humid Texas summer heat.

Firefighter Daniel Groover was on the second floor of the house when he collapsed in the heat. He was pulled from the blaze by other firefighters, but later Daniel died.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel, like his dad, was a career firefighter.

Groover, a 21-year veteran of the Houston Fire Department, lived in Spring, Texas. He was 46 years old. Daniel was married to Elia and had three sons.

Chief Terry Garrison said of Groover: Firefighters risk a lot to save lives, and that's what Daniel was doing.

Daniel and his fellow firefighters are a remarkable breed, a rare breed—the American breed.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that all people are created equal, but a few become firefighters. One of those was Daniel Groover.

And that's just the way it is.

This is a list of the other Houston firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty in the last 12 months:

Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, 35, of Station 51;

Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, 41, of Station 51;

Firefighter EMT Robert Garner, 29, of Station 68;

Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan, 24, of Station 68.

□ 2130

THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALMON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, "these are the times that try men's souls."

Having been to the border a couple of weeks ago, going to the border tomorrow and next weekend, I know from my experiences there that it is a traumatic time for so many. But I keep coming back to what a West African told me a few years ago when my wife and I were in West Africa with mercy ships, there in the harbor in Togo, caring for people there.

A number of the West Africans had wanted to meet before I left. They knew I was a Member of Congress. And the oldest, a very wise man, after we had a lovely time visiting, said, Well, we wanted to meet with you so that we could give you a message to take back to Washington. He said, we were so excited here in Africa when you elected your first black President of the United States. He said, but since that happened, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. And basically, he was saying that we know, as Christians, where we go when we die. But our chance of having peace in this life can only come if America is strong. So he implored me to go back and share here in Washington that Africa wants a strong America, that Africans who love peace want and need a strong America.

When I was in Nigeria recently visiting with heartbroken, devastated mothers of daughters who were kidnapped by radical Islamists, they wept as they would talk about their experiences. Three girls who had been captured and had been able to escape, their tales of the horrors of radical Islam were sickening, especially for a father of three girls.

But again, the message there in Nigeria that was conveyed—different people, different ways, different words but, in essence, just as the elderly African gentleman had said a few years ago: Please stop getting weaker. You are hurting all of us. We need a strong America.

Mr. Speaker, a strong America means an America that abides by the law and does what is talked about throughout the Bible, about being impartial and

fair. And that means enforcing the law impartially, that no matter who you are, we must enforce the law across the board. That means, whatever your age, wherever you are coming from, you must abide by the laws, just as the people who are American citizens do. It means that if we do not keep America strong economically by not spending more than we have coming in, have national security through our military and through our different departments and branches that are supposed to keep us secure, if we don't apply the law across the board and make sure that people attempting to come into this country have the law impartially enforced, we will not stay strong. We move into that Third World category where the law is unfairly enforced. It is enforced against different people to different measures.

And as someone, like me, who has been a judge and has had to look civil litigants and felons in the eye and tell them what the law required, even at times when I disagreed with the law but I knew it was constitutional, I applied the law because it is what must be done to keep America strong. Because when we begin to play favorites, we weaken America. When we cut our Defense Department just down to the nub and require them to do so many things with much less money, we are hurting our security. We are not remaining strong.

When we have a Fed that is creating money—and, as I was told at the Fed one day, oh, we can't possibly print all the money we are creating; we are just adding digits—they are cheapening the value of the dollar, and it will pay a toll someday. That weakens us.

We have got to abide by the law, and that means the President of the United States must do so. It means the Attorney General of the United States, the highest-ranking law enforcement officer, as Attorney General, must apply the law fairly, not unfairly and unjustly, and showing great partiality, as this Attorney General has been doing in his coverups, in his aggressively going after political enemies of the President, in his refusing and wholly failing and refusing to go after the IRS to investigate. It is very clear: the smell gets worse daily from those involved in the scandal at the IRS. And this Attorney General does nothing.

The message continues to go out around the world that the once great America no longer stands firmly on the Constitution, stands firmly on the law, and enforces it across the board.

The chairman of the Judiciary, the gentleman from Virginia, BOB GOODLATTE, put together just a little note indicating things that the President can do without Congress doing anything more at all, things that this administration can do. And as my friend Chairman GOODLATTE points out, President Obama's policies have caused the

crisis at our southern border. And he has tools at his disposal to fix it.

Here are several steps the President can take now to stop the surge at the border. Number one, send the strong public message that those who enter illegally will be returned. He can use the bully pulpit to make clear, you are not coming into the United States illegally. You come through our ports of entry, and you must come legally, or you will be returned from where you came.

Some have been coached, apparently—we hear and read—to claim asylum once you are here. Well, even under the Wilberforce bill, you don't get asylum if you are coming in from a country where you are not at risk.

Another point from Chairman GOODLATTE: Stop abusing prosecutorial discretion authority. Over the past 5 years, President Obama and administration officials have abused prosecutorial discretion, a tool that was meant to give the executive branch flexibility in individual cases. Instead, he stretched this authority beyond all recognition to shield entire categories of people, not researching individual cases to determine whether prosecutorial discretion would require non-prosecution, just exempting massive numbers of people. That is not discretion. That is mass amnesty. And this President has been doing it, and it has to stop. The message sent to the world is that if you get in the U.S., you will not be deported.

Stop releasing convicted criminal aliens from detention. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—and I don't blame them. I know too many ICE agents. They are good people. They want to do the right thing, but they have a Commander in Chief that is directing them to do the wrong thing. They have released over 36,000 criminal aliens from detention who were removed or were in removal proceedings or had been ordered removed. That is 36,000 criminal aliens.

You know, Texas has statistics indicating there have been over 100,000 criminal aliens responsible for over 600,000 crimes against American citizens. And what does this administration do? It protects and encourages criminality by failing to enforce the law. Implement tougher standards for credible fear claims.

Apparently, this administration is happy to just accept someone saying the words "credible fear." That is not a credible fear.

They can detain asylum seekers until their claims are proved valid. Instead, this administration just gives a slip of paper that people coming in illegally think is their ticket to stay in the United States illegally. And it makes sense for them to think that because it tells them, they must report to a court in the United States at some point in the future. How can they report to the

court if they don't stay in the United States illegally?

The President can also restore agreements with local law enforcement agencies and allow them to enforce immigration laws. That was our history. The Supreme Court, which is not concerned about precedent so much as they were supposed to be, decided that Arizona had to allow lawlessness because this administration was allowing lawlessness.

The administration can employ diplomatic resources to stop the border crisis. Let's look, for example, at these numbers. Well, for fiscal year 2014, El Salvador, which appears to be happy with thousands and thousands of its people coming illegally through Mexico to America—now we read that Mexico is actually complicit with some of these countries and is encouraging them, virtually, to come to America illegally. El Salvador, for fiscal year 2014, is supposed to get \$22,281,000 and for fiscal year 2015 is supposed to get \$27,600,000.

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We are increasing by \$5 million the amount of money—at least the administration wants us to. Give \$5 million more to El Salvador—for what reason? Well, gee, I don't know. About the only thing they are known for right now is sending people illegally into the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Seeing no designee of the minority leader seeking recognition, under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. So it would seem to reasonable people, reasonable minds would think that, if El Salvador is costing America a huge hunk of what the President says needs to be \$3.7 billion to deal with the crisis that El Salvador is helping cause, then perhaps we ought to stop sending them money when they are costing us even more money.

So let's get this right. We are paying El Salvador to cost us billions of dollars in return. That doesn't seem to be a very good investment.

How about Guatemala? Gee, fiscal year 2014 has had \$65,249,000 appropriated to be given to Guatemala, and I have been down to the border in recent weeks and heard people say they were coming from Guatemala. Of course, they don't say, "We are coming from violence."

Violence seems to be down, certainly not up. It is certainly not spiking, so it makes it clear that the reason that there is a huge spike in people rushing to America is because this Obama administration is making clear to Central America and South America that, if you come, you get to stay.

Why? Because they are not interested in what words politicians are saying here in Washington. They are more interested in what those politicians in the Obama administration are doing, and what they are doing is allowing hundreds of thousands of people to stay in America once they get here illegally.

For fiscal year 2015, apparently, this administration thinks that Guatemala is costing America what this administration says is a need for billions of dollars. Gee, they are doing such a good job of flooding us with immigrants, this administration is now asking, for the upcoming fiscal year, that we increase the \$65 million to \$77,107,000.

Then there is Honduras, \$41,850,000 in foreign assistance to Honduras. We have got people flooding up here from Honduras. So what does this administration do? Since Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador—their policies are actually causing people to rush to America because this President won't stand firm and enforce our borders and our laws.

The administration says let's give them an extra \$7 million for next year. Let's take \$41 million to \$48,176,000.

Even Mexico, our dear friends in Mexico, they just, in foreign assistance, were supposed to receive \$206,590,000, \$206,590,000 this year. Now, it is understandable that this administration would have a guilty conscience when it comes to Mexico because it was this administration—it was this Attorney General Eric Holder's Justice Department that forced the sale of 2,000 or so weapons to criminals they expected to go to the drug cartels in Mexico that we know have caused at least one American agent's death—Brian Terry—and suspected hundreds of deaths in Mexico.

If I were a Mexican official, I would be outraged at this administration. This is no way to perpetuate a strong America for future generations.

People say: What about the children? Well, let me tell you about a 16-year-old that came to me in tears. She said that she was driving there in Tyler, and an illegal alien without a driver's license and without insurance slammed his car into hers, and it totaled her car.

Since the family of this poor child consisted of this girl and her single mom and she and her mom, as she explained, were struggling to pay their bills—and to get by, she was working after school, and her mom was working all she could.

Even with her mom working as hard as she could and with her working after school and trying to study, they couldn't afford to pay for comprehensive on her car. All they could afford was liability, as the law requires. You have to have at least liability, in case you cause an accident.

Her car was totaled. The illegal alien's car was damaged, but he was

able to drive it away—was allowed to drive it away because this administration says: Hey, States, you can't enforce immigration law, it is only us that can do that, and we are not doing it.

That is what this administration's actions clearly show. For this poor child, she says: What do I do? We can't afford another car. We couldn't afford comprehensive insurance. We can't afford—we still have to pay that car off. How are we going to get by? We can't buy me another car, which means I can't get to work, which means I can't pay my bills; and my mom, she is doing all she can. She is heartbroken because now it means we can't get by.

Why? Because this administration's cynicism and cavalier attitude toward our laws and our border are allowing people to flood into this country illegally; and because this administration fights so hard, legally using every measure it can to keep States from using their own law enforcement to protect themselves, the States are not able to arrest illegal aliens.

So you wonder how many people have to suffer in this country before the law will be enforced and it will be impartially applied across the board.

How many times do we have to do damage to people in other countries who want to come legally, who have been spending money and time, year after year, to apply to come legally, when we are sending the message and doing them damage psychologically?

We make it clear: look, you ought to be cheating like these other people. Do you want to get in? Come illegally because this President won't send you back. It doesn't matter what he says. Don't look at his lips. Don't listen to his words. Look at what they are doing. They are not sending people back.

Think about all the children in American schools around this country—because this administration, to their credit, is trying to be fair and impartial with all the disasters they are causing, they are shipping people with disease, people who will not be able to help pay for their educations, they are shipping them all over the country, and it is going to cost the local communities and those States all over the country because this administration will not enforce the border.

Well, it is interesting, looking at one provision of the Constitution I haven't heard anybody talk about—we have been talking about it in my office. I have been talking with some friends about it. I called my constitutional law professor from Baylor University. He is looking at it. Well, what do you do?

Did the Founders ever think about what a State could do when the Federal Government refuses to protect them and the State is being invaded?

Mr. Speaker, what would you call it when about 300,000 people come into

your State in a matter of months—short months—and then the report comes that there are 300,000 or so people in the pipeline on their way up, and then we get the story in the news that Mexico has reached an agreement to facilitate more people coming from Guatemala?

Hey, we will let you come. Just come on. If you are going illegally into the United States, then consider free passage through Mexico.

That would seem to be a bit of a conspiracy between countries conspiring to help violate United States law. So what is this administration's response with regard to Mexico and Guatemala? Let's keep sending them millions of dollars.

Every dime ought to be cut off from any country that does not help the United States enforce our own laws, but if the United States, the Federal Government, the Obama administration won't enforce the laws, what is a State to do?

Well, if you look at article I, section 10, the third clause down there—the third provision in section 10—apparently, they anticipated times—I can't find that it has been used yet—but times when the Federal Government has not or will not or cannot protect a State from an invasion, then it says—the actual wording:

No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded.

There is a disjunctive “or” for another provision, but if a State is actually invaded, this says, basically, that the State can start putting taxes on things—traveling and interstate commerce—in order to pay for its ability to defend its borders.

It can call up troops. It can even use ships of war, even in times of peace. It can enter agreements with other States, say, New Mexico or Arizona, if they were interested, or even with a foreign country. If this is an invasion, Texas could enter agreements with Mexico directly, if there is an actual invasion.

So, Mr. Speaker, what do you call it when 300,000 people, twice as many as invaded France on D-day, come into your State so quickly and you get word 300,000 more are on their way up, and you know that those little children sitting in schoolrooms are going to have people forced in the rooms without any more money to provide for them?

So people ask: What about the children? It would seem that our oaths here in Congress should require us to provide for the common defense and to provide for those within our jurisdiction, that we should not encourage other countries against the will of the American people or against the will of any State to force them to assume

hundreds of thousands of people that will bankrupt the State, bankrupt their schools, and do great damage to their children and to their neighborhoods because the people are forced there by a government that refuses to follow the Constitution or the law.

We have interesting days ahead. May God give us wisdom and discernment to choose wisely.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 247. An act to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources;

In addition, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 311. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 354. An act to modify the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 363. An act to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

S. 476. An act to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 11, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6312. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Sheep Industry Improvement Center [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-14-0028] received June 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6313. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a emergency supplemental appropriations request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014; (H. Doc. No. 113-130); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6314. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Captain Ross A. Myers and Captain John W. Tammen, Jr., United States Navy, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6315. A letter from the Director, Congressional Activities, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the “World Wide Threat Report”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6316. A letter from the Chairman, Appraisal Subcommittee, transmitting the 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6317. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Starke County, IN, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2014-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8333] received June 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6318. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Manufactured Housing Constructions and Safety Standards: Correction of Reference Standard for Anti-Scald Valves [Docket No.: FR-5787-F-01] (RIN: 2502-AJ21) received June 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6319. A letter from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the June 2014 Report to Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6320. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6321. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6322. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting a piece of draft legislation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6323. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 131203999-4326-02] (RIN: 0648-XD020) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6324. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; [Docket No.: 120705210-4423-03] (RIN: 0648-XC101) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6325. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule —

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD260) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6326. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140117052-4402-02] (RIN: 0648-XD298) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6327. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Annual Specifications and Management Measures for the 2014 Tribal and Non-Tribal Fisheries for Pacific Whiting [Docket No.: 131119977-4381-02] (RIN: 0648-BD75) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6328. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Limited Commercial and Recreational Fishing Seasons for Red Snapper in the Southern Atlantic States [Docket No.: 121004515-3608-02] (RIN: 0648-XD307) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6329. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 130214139-3542-02] (RIN: 0648-XD277) received June 20, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6330. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Emergency Rule to Revise the Recreational Accountability Measures and Revise the 2014 Recreational Fishing Season for Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: 140416344-4344-01] (RIN: 0648-BE18) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6331. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 130722647-4403-02] (RIN: 0648-BD55) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6332. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "2013 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics", pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6333. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River; Pittsburgh, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0157] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6334. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Fireworks Displays Ohio River, Mile 460.9 — 461.3; Cincinnati, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0238] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6335. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Terrebonne Bayou, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-1072] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6336. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; West Pearl River, Pearl River, LA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0197] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6337. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Pelican Island Causeway, Galveston Channel, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0063] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6338. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tiburon's 50th Anniversary Fireworks, San Francisco Bay, Tiburon, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0175] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6339. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Titusville, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0279] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6340. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a final report on the Neuse River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, North Carolina; (H. Doc. No. 113-131); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6341. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the final report on Jordan Creek project in the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri; (H. Doc. No. 113-132); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6342. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the integrated report on the Willamette River Floodplain Restoration Project, Lower Coast Fork and the Middle Fork, Oregon; (H. Doc. No. 113-133); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6343. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of De-

fense, transmitting the final report on the Walton County, Florida hurricane and storm damage reduction project; (H. Doc. No. 113-134); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6344. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of the determination of a waiver under Subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Turkmenistan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6345. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Changes to Scheduling and Appearing at Hearings [Docket No.: 2011-0056] (RIN: 0960-AH37) received June 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6346. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting Naval Petroleum Reserves Annual Report of Operations for Fiscal Year 2013; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 5052. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect and conserve species and the lawful possession of certain ivory in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5053. A bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the expedited removal of unaccompanied alien children who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5054. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Whistleblower and Patient Protection; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr.

CARNEY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. POLIS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 5055. A bill to reform the housing finance system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. PETERS of California):

H.R. 5056. A bill to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5057. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 5058. A bill to amend the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act to provide for State and tribal management and protection of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BARBER, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. ROONEY):

H.R. 5059. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to review the terms or characterization of the discharge or separation of certain individuals from the Armed Forces, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FALCOMA, Ms. SABLAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 5060. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5061. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 5062. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege is maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 5063. A bill to promote the development of a commercial asteroid resources industry for outer space in the United States and to increase the exploration and utilization of asteroid resources in outer space; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. HALL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 5064. A bill to require government-wide application of continuous process improvement methods to reduce waste and improve the effectiveness of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5065. A bill to establish an integrated Federal program to respond to ongoing and expected impacts of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, restoring, and conserving the natural resources of the United States, and to maximize government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments and other entities; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 5066. A bill to reauthorize the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program Act of 2005 through 2019; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 5067. A bill to require the Federal Insurance Office to carry out a study on illegal steering and redlining in the insurance industry; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 5068. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study regarding the proposed United States Civil Rights Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLEMING (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5069. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 5070. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for improved compliance with the requirements of the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 5071. A bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to non-prohibited discharges of dredged or fill material under the Clean Water Act; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 5072. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of

1978 to establish a Federal renewable electricity standard for retail electricity suppliers and a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5073. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JONES, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HARPER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BARR, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HALL, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.J. Res. 118. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the garnishment of non-Federal wages to collect delinquent non-tax debts owed to the United States without first obtaining a court order; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H. Res. 663. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to protect religious minorities from persecution from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) as it expands its control over areas in northwestern Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H. Res. 664. A resolution providing for the arrest of Lois G. Lerner to answer the charge of contempt of Congress; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DENT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. GRIMM):

H. Res. 665. A resolution condemning the murder of Israeli and Palestinian children in Israel and the ongoing and escalating violence in that country; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

231. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Colorado, relative to House Joint Resolution 14-1012 requesting the Congress to increase the federal minimum wage and thereafter tie it to inflation; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

232. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Florida, relative to Senate Memorial 1174 urging Congress to direct the Environmental Protection Agency in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil-fueled electric

generating units; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

233. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 21 designating the month of April 2014 as "California Month of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

234. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Vermont, relative to Joint Senate Resolution No. 27 petitioning the Congress to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5052.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 5054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 5055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The primary constitutional authority for this bill is Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 5056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 5057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 5058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 allows Congress "[t]o make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 5059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 5062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 5064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, under which Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 5065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 5066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States:

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 5067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause Article I, Section 8,

By Mr. CLAY:

H.R. 5068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause Article I, Section 8,

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 5069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which states "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 5070.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 7, and Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 5071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.J. Res. 118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 32: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
- H.R. 40: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 140: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 223: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
- H.R. 274: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. SCHIFF.
- H.R. 303: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
- H.R. 449: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
- H.R. 477: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 486: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 532: Mr. DEUTCH.
- H.R. 543: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
- H.R. 565: Mr. LEVIN.
- H.R. 594: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
- H.R. 640: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 806: Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 830: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 949: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
- H.R. 997: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 1091: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
- H.R. 1284: Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 1289: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 1337: Mr. PERRY.
- H.R. 1518: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
- H.R. 1527: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 1696: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. GRAYSON.
- H.R. 1750: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
- H.R. 1771: Ms. KAPTUR.
- H.R. 1772: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 1821: Mr. DEFazio.
- H.R. 1852: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FATTAH, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
- H.R. 1976: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 2001: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 2066: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 2084: Mr. JORDAN.
- H.R. 2139: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 2144: Mr. McDERMOTT.
- H.R. 2149: Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD.
- H.R. 2220: Mr. WILLIAMS.
- H.R. 2263: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
- H.R. 2278: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 2283: Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. DENT.
- H.R. 2305: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
- H.R. 2315: Mr. SHIMKUS.
- H.R. 2398: Mr. HUDSON.
- H.R. 2529: Ms. ESTY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. CAPUANO.
- H.R. 2536: Mr. GOODLATTE.
- H.R. 2602: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 2692: Ms. WATERS.
- H.R. 2772: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 2959: Mr. NUNES and Mr. TIPTON.
- H.R. 3116: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
- H.R. 3374: Mr. HIMES.
- H.R. 3383: Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 3456: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. DOYLE.
- H.R. 3465: Ms. McCOLLUM.
- H.R. 3482: Mr. BURGESS.
- H.R. 3489: Mr. AMODEI.
- H.R. 3543: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 3580: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 3662: Mr. RAHALL.
- H.R. 3673: Mr. GRIMM.
- H.R. 3708: Mr. JOLLY.
- H.R. 3717: Mr. DENHAM.
- H.R. 3740: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 3742: Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 3833: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 3899: Mr. VEASEY.
- H.R. 3969: Mr. BURGESS.
- H.R. 3978: Mr. POCAN and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 3991: Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 3992: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
- H.R. 4013: Mr. LAMALFA.
- H.R. 4041: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4047: Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. LAMBORN.
- H.R. 4059: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 4060: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 4075: Mr. FATTAH.
- H.R. 4083: Mr. RAHALL.
- H.R. 4119: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. BORDALLO.
- H.R. 4148: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 4169: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 4190: Mr. PEARCE.
- H.R. 4227: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 4250: Mr. CHABOT.
- H.R. 4319: Mr. HARPER.
- H.R. 4351: Mr. GARDNER.
- H.R. 4361: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
- H.R. 4365: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
- H.R. 4377: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. PITTS.
- H.R. 4404: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4408: Mr. PETERSON.
- H.R. 4446: Mr. McDERMOTT and Mr. GARAMENDI.
- H.R. 4449: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 4450: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
- H.R. 4462: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 4521: Mr. COOPER, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. LANKFORD.
- H.R. 4525: Ms. LEE of California.
- H.R. 4551: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H.R. 4574: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 4582: Mr. LOEBSACK.
- H.R. 4612: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. BROWN of Georgia.
- H.R. 4628: Mrs. CAPPS.
- H.R. 4636: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ROSKAM.
- H.R. 4651: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
- H.R. 4703: Mr. LATTA.
- H.R. 4765: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 4772: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 4773: Mr. MULVANEY.
- H.R. 4792: Mr. MULLIN.
- H.R. 4814: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 4816: Mr. VELA, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. RAHALL.
- H.R. 4826: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
- H.R. 4828: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
- H.R. 4841: Mr. SIRES.
- H.R. 4843: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. COURTNEY.
- H.R. 4865: Mr. MORAN, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. ESTY.
- H.R. 4902: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 4920: Mr. LATTA and Mr. BARLETTA.
- H.R. 4933: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. STEWART.
- H.R. 4934: Mr. DAINES, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 4936: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
- H.R. 4947: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. JONES.
- H.R. 4951: Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 4958: Mr. OLSON.
- H.R. 4962: Mr. MARCHANT.
- H.R. 4964: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 4971: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. WALZ.
- H.R. 4978: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
- H.R. 4986: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. STIVERS.
- H.R. 4989: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PEARCE.
- H.R. 4994: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 5009: Mr. RUSH, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. TSONGAS.
- H.R. 5014: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.
- H.R. 5019: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. REED, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
- H.R. 5033: Ms. ESHOO and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 5038: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 5051: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. HIMES.
- H.J. Res. 40: Mr. MARINO.
- H.J. Res. 113: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
- H. Con. Res. 69: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. BASS, and Mr. SIRES.
- H. Res. 85: Mr. MEEKS.
- H. Res. 231: Mr. McCAUL and Mrs. NOEM.
- H. Res. 281: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
- H. Res. 428: Mr. YOHO.
- H. Res. 456: Mr. DEUTCH.
- H. Res. 525: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
- H. Res. 619: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H. Res. 620: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
- H. Res. 621: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
- H. Res. 623: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
- H. Res. 633: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
- H. Res. 657: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DENT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARINO, Mr. McALLISTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YODER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. LAMALFA

AMENDMENT No. 24: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to regulate activities identified in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 404(f)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A), (C)) or to limit the exemption in section 404(f)(1)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A)) to established or ongoing operations.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. LAMALFA

AMENDMENT No. 25: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. **SACRAMENTO RIVER SETTLEMENT CONTRACTS.**

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Bureau of Reclama-

tion to terminate, or implement, administer, or enforce the termination of, the existing Sacramento River Settlement Contracts before the resolution of *Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Jewell, et al.*, (9th Cir. Case No. 0917661 and USDC E.D. Cal. Case No. 05-cv-01207-LJO-GSA) through decision, dismissal, withdrawal or settlement.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY OF NEW YORK

AMENDMENT No. 26: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the order entitled "Order Accepting Proposed Tariff Revisions and Establishing a Technical Conference" issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on August 13, 2013 (Docket No. ER13-1380-000).

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. MCKINLEY

AMENDMENT No. 27: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to design, implement, administer, or carry out the United States Global Climate Research Program National Climate Assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report, the United Nation's Agenda 21 sustainable development plan, the May 2013 Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866, or the July 2014 Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations' pathways to deep decarbonization report.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. MCKINLEY

AMENDMENT No. 28: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transform the National Energy Technology Laboratory into a government-owned, contractor-operated laboratory, or to consolidate or close the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

SENATE—Thursday, July 10, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, You are our God. We earnestly search for You, the source of our hope and the center of our joy. Enable our Senators to gaze upon Your power and experience Your glory. Lord, encourage them with Your precepts that provide light for the dark road ahead. Answer their prayers and arm our lawmakers with Your might, giving them reverential awe that will keep them from evil. Strengthen them to be faithful during life's crises as well as the routine of daily duties. O God, we belong to You. Crown our years with the bountiful harvest that Your mercy provides.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 438, S. 2244, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 438, S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate resume consideration of S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, and the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the cloture vote, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, there will be a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 11:45 a.m. there will be a cloture vote on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, as we just had approved by the Chair. The filing deadline for all first-degree amendments to S. 2363 is 10:30 a.m. this morning and the deadline for second-degree amendments is 11:30 a.m. this morning.

Following the vote, the Senate will turn to executive session to consider the nominations of Shaun Donovan to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Douglas Silliman to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Dana Smith to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar. At 2 p.m. the Senate will proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed. I expect a rollcall vote on the Donovan nomination and voice votes on the Silliman and Smith nominations.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, I was late coming in here today because I just completed a conversation with John Kerry, the Secretary of State of our country. Because of his travel schedule and my schedule and the time difference, it has been difficult for us to talk the last 24 hours, but we were able to speak as he was

rushing to an airplane, going from China to Afghanistan. He called me to lament what is going on in the U.S. Senate about these nominations. He has 53 State Department nominations pending—53.

We have problems all over the world. We have the Afghan war. We have the problems with Pakistan. We have the Middle East, which every country there is in some form of difficulty. We have a problem in the Far East—all kinds of problems there. It is all over the news today. We have the situation in Israel. The Palestinians—rocket fire coming from Palestine; nondirected missiles, similar to the Fourth of July. They set them off. They don't know or care where they go. And we are being held up here as a country from doing the country's work as a result of this stalling, this obstruction, the constant filibusters we have in the Senate.

We have these Ambassadors who have worked their entire lives. They are brilliant. It is hard to be a Foreign Service officer, but these men and women work very hard all over the world. They dignify our country. Then they work their way up to make it to this "Super Bowl." They are selected to be an ambassador, and do you know what happens? They get stalled here—stalled. Who are the Republicans hurting? They are not hurting me. Is this some payback for me? What about the President? He has a country to run, a world to take care of, and we are being held up here. I truly appreciate today. We get two ambassadors. We only have 27 more to go, plus all the other State Department people.

The Secretary of State is a very busy man. He has been trying for 24 hours to tell me how bad the situation is around the world. He does not have people to do this country's work. Twenty-five percent of the Ambassadors in Africa are not there.

So I do not understand this. They want to hold up some of the President's nominations to be Assistant Secretary of this or Deputy Secretary of that. It is unfair. But that is fine. What they are doing to these Ambassadors is outrageous.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2578
AND S. 2579

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2578) to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

A bill (S. 2579) to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what is the name of the legislation S. 2578?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. "To ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to both of these bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the Calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HELPING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the ongoing humanitarian crisis at the border seems to be getting worse by the day. Large numbers of foreign nationals are unlawfully entering our country, and it is mainly due to the administration's failure to enforce immigration laws and secure the border.

This is a real crisis. So we are taking a hard look at the proposal the President sent over, but we want to make sure we actually get the right tools to fix the problem, and that is not what we have seen so far from the President. What he appears to be asking for is a blank check—one that would allow him to sustain his current failed policy.

Last night in a speech that attempted to shift the blame from his failed approach, he doubled down on a blank check, which is what he has asked for. He led Americans to believe that the problem could be solved if only Congress would pass his last-minute request, but it is not that simple. Much more needs to be done, and the President certainly knows it. His original letter to Congress called for reforms we all know are needed to address the crisis. Under pressure from the left, he has since backed away from these critical reforms, but lawmakers in both parties have not. So he needs to work with us to get the right policy into effect, not just throw money at the problem—get the right policy into effect.

He needs to halt this endless campaigning, at least for a moment. With the President actually in the region right now, one would think he would be able to carve out just a few minutes to view the situation on the border for himself. Apparently, though, he has decided there are more important things to do—such as campaigning with Gary Hart and practicing his bank shot.

All this continues to make the President look detached from the ongoing crisis on the border. Even a Democratic

Congressman has called it "bizarre." Honestly, this is just the latest example of a much broader pattern he has displayed, a pattern that makes him appear disconnected from the day-to-day concerns of most Americans.

The fact is on issue after issue—but especially on issues affecting the middle class—instead of addressing the huge problems his policies have created, the President keeps retreating into the bubble with his favorite left-wing pals—the kind of folks who always tell him what a great job he is doing, and of course that is what they do. Unlike most Americans, these are not generally the kinds of people who worry about car payments or utility bills or tuition or medical costs.

When the President does try to prove he is willing to listen to the concerns of average Americans—as he did this week—it is usually little more than a photo-op. But if the President is truly serious about helping the middle class, he will stop trying to convince everyone of that. He will join Republicans to actually do something about it because we have been asking him to join us for a long time now. It is about time he took us up on the offer.

We have already introduced a number of bills aimed squarely at addressing the squeeze our constituents are feeling. One of our bills would restore the 40-hour workweek and reverse a pay cut that is built into ObamaCare. Others would do things such as increase educational opportunities and put an end to policies that prevent women from getting pay raises when they outperform their male colleagues.

One bill I introduced with Senator AYOTTE—the Family Friendly and Workplace Flexibility Act—would allow workers to take time off as a form of overtime compensation. It is an idea that is tailored to the needs of our modern workforce. It is something a lot of working men and women say they want, and there is no reason not to provide a little more flexibility to working families.

Another bill I introduced would reduce the cost and hassle of childcare for working parents by allowing them to write off a home office, even if they happen to have a crib in the room. Current law prevents working moms and dads from taking that deduction if they care for a child while working at home. This is simply unfair.

Making that change is just common sense, and so are all of the bills we have introduced.

Our middle-class agenda is not built around creating massive government bureaucracies or taking from one struggling neighbor to give to another. It is about identifying smart, commonsense fixes that can have a significant impact on the lives of the people we represent—middle-class Americans who have never felt more squeezed.

There is no reason the President and his Democratic allies should not be

able to embrace such commonsense ideas too. Unfortunately, President Obama's Democratic majority in the Senate has blocked just about everything we have proposed—just as they blocked the dozens of bills that have already passed the House of Representatives.

As just about everyone acknowledges at this point, the Democratic-run Senate has become the place where good ideas go to die. The Democratic leadership will not even listen to its own Members anymore. So it is no wonder that one Democratic Senator remarked that he has never experienced a less productive time in his life than right now in the Senate. That was a Democratic Senator saying that—never experienced a less productive time in his life than right now in the Senate.

Well, it is time for Washington Democrats to stop obstructing jobs and opportunity for the middle class. They need to understand that their powerful pals on the left will continue doing just fine in the Obama economy. It is time to stop worrying so much about them and to start paying more attention to the vast American middle class, to the people who feel Washington has not been listening to them over the past few years.

I am talking about people whose wages are stagnant, people who are either unemployed or cannot find work to match their skills, and people who feel the burden of outdated policies that are diminishing opportunities in the workplace and leaving them torn between the demands of work and family.

Republicans are committed to doing everything we can to deliver relief and innovative new ideas to help these Americans. I hope President Obama and Washington Democrats will at some point here finally join us in the effort.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPORTSMEN'S AMENDMENTS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, we are back for another week of work, but the play-book hasn't changed.

Once again the majority leader has prevented 98 Senators from offering amendments to improve a bill he chose for us to debate. I would like to speak for a few moments about some of the amendments the Democratic leader prevented us from voting on this week.

First, I have been working on amendments with Senators BENNET, FLAKE, RISCH, SESSIONS, and THUNE to allow bows and archery equipment to be transported through the national parks. This bipartisan effort is necessary because some bow hunters need to travel across national parks to get to land where they intend to hunt.

It is also important for our archery competitors who currently have to go out of their way to avoid national parks to get to their tournaments. A lot of people don't realize that Yellowstone National Park, which is in the upper left-hand corner of Wyoming, is about the size of Connecticut. To get to Idaho, sometimes you have to go 250 miles out of your way if you can't go through the park. There is a lot of competition between Wyoming and Idaho when it comes to archery and vice versa. The same can happen getting into Montana.

This is just a commonsense amendment because it provides parity for bows and firearms. In 2009 Congress passed a law to prevent the right of individuals to bear arms in units of the national park system and the National Wildlife Refuge System. This body considered it a commonsense provision before. Language on this issue was included in the Sportsmen's Act of 2012, S. 3525, but now the Senate won't even get a chance to vote on whether to add this language to the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. This is the appropriate place for sportsmen's issues to be brought up.

Second, I offered an amendment with Senators LEE and THUNE to ensure that those traveling with a properly secured knife are not prosecuted under local or State laws which banned certain knives. This amendment is necessary because there is a broad patchwork of State and local laws regulating knife possession.

For example, 36 States allow civilian possession of automatic knives to varying degrees. But there are no restrictions at all in 22 States, and in some States possession is a serious crime. This can be incidental, again, just passing through a State.

The current situation with knives is similar to the circumstances that existed for gun owners before the passage

of the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986. That law protects law-abiding gun owners from an inconsistent patchwork of laws, and my amendment provides parity between knife and gun owner. This commonsense amendment uses language similar to that used in the 1986 law.

I have also filed an amendment with Senators BARRASSO, CRAPO, HATCH, LEE, MURKOWSKI, and RISCH to require the Department of Interior to suspend for 10 years the listing decision in States with approved or endorsed sage-grouse management plans. Wyoming has an endorsed and an approved plan, and sage-grouse is coming back. A new report on numbers just showed an increase. The amendment allows States to manage and conserve sage-grouse in a manner that protects their jurisdiction over State wildlife and takes into account local stakeholders.

I believe it is related to the underlying bill because of the substantial impact a sage-grouse listing would have on sporting and recreation in Western States. Incidentally, even though they say there is a sage-grouse problem, the bag limits for hunting them have not gone down.

I have also cosponsored some amendments that would improve this bill. One of these amendments by Senator BARRASSO would prevent the EPA from regulating all bodies of water—even ones that are dried up, even ones that are seasonal—no matter how small and regardless of whether the water is on public or on private property.

Mark Twain once said: "[In the West] Whiskey is for drinking; Water is for fighting over."

So for States such as Wyoming, water is scarce, and we try to save every drop. One-size-fits-all Federal control like the EPA wants to impose won't work, but Senator BARRASSO won't get a vote on his amendment.

Another amendment by Senator WICKER, which I have cosponsored, would allow folks to carry firearms on Corps of Engineers recreational property. This is another parity amendment. But in this case, we would allow law-abiding gun owners to carry firearms on Corps land just as they can carry firearms on national park and National Wildlife Refuge lands, but Senator WICKER won't get a vote on his amendment.

I am also supporting an amendment from Senator TESTER to make cabin user fees more affordable and predictable, allowing families to keep their cabins on Forest Service land on which some have been for generations. Wyoming cabin owners shouldn't have to worry about the Forest Service trying to drive them off with ever-increasing fees—sometimes a 300-percent increase in a single year.

Incidentally, the Federal Government pays taxes in lieu of private ownership of the land. Those don't go up by

300 percent. It seems to me that if the value of the land went up by 300 percent, the Federal Government's payment in lieu of taxes would go up by the same amount. It doesn't happen. Wyoming cabin owners shouldn't have to worry about the Forest Service trying to drive them off with ever-increasing fees.

This amendment provides a consistent, fiscally responsible formula for how the fees are calculated so families can spend more time enjoying the outdoors instead of worrying about the uncertainty of next year's fees, but Senator TESTER won't get a vote on his amendment.

These aren't the only good amendments to this bill. There have been 80 amendments filed on this bill—about a third filed by the majority party. Many of the amendments are bipartisan, but it sounds as if only the one chosen by the majority leader is going to get a vote.

I am sad to say no one should be surprised by this because it has become par for the course. In 2005 and 2006 the Senate voted on almost 700 amendments on the Senate floor. In 2011 and 2012 it was about half that, around 350 amendments. In the past year the majority leader has allowed only 11 Senate Republican amendments. Let me repeat that. In the past year the majority leader has allowed votes on only 11 Senate Republican amendments. Over that same period of time the House has voted on 169 Democratic amendments. How can the House, which has more constraint than the Senate, have that many more votes for the minority party—169 to our 11? The majority party in the Senate isn't faring any better. I am told the majority leader has only allowed his own party to have seven amendments voted on since July of last year. In fact, my friends on the other side of the aisle haven't gotten a vote on one of their amendments in over 100 days—and they are in control.

To prevent us from offering amendments, the majority leader has used a tactic called filling the amendment tree. In the last 8 years he has used this tactic 90 times. By comparison, the last six majority leaders combined only filled the tree 40 times in over 16 years. So the last 8 years, 90 times; the previous 16 years, 40 times.

Almost half of the Senate has been here less than 6 years. Forty-five of the 100 Senators are in their first term, so they may think this is the way the Senate does business. I say to those Senators, there is a better way. We need to be able to vote on amendments. We need the bills to go to committee. We need to have bills come to the floor. We need amendments both places. All 100 Members of the Senate should have an opportunity to improve the bills we consider because each of us looks at every proposal from a different point of view and different experience. When all

the decisions are made by the majority leader, the vast majority of Americans get shortchanged. This won't change unless those who are here exercise our rights.

It is time for the 99 Senators who are being denied the opportunity to represent their constituents to stand up to the leader and insist on amendments. We should all demand that we be allowed to do our jobs. That will show up in votes, and it has shown up in votes. When our side doesn't get amendments, we don't let the bill pass. We have that capability, and the minority needs that capability in order to get control of situations such as this.

We need to be able to vote on amendments. It has been the process of this body for the history of the United States, with unlimited debate in the Senate. Occasionally, when the debate has gone on for 2 or 3 days or 2 or 3 weeks, there has been the exercise we see here but not at the start of a bill so that no amendments can be voted on.

It doesn't take very long to vote if you get to vote. But what we are going through is a process of negotiations to see if the majority leader can pick the votes for the minority party. That is not right. That hasn't happened, and we don't intend to let it happen.

It is time that we have our amendments, particularly amendments that are relevant to the bill. This is the sportsmen's bill. I am talking about the right to take archery equipment through a national park. We can do that with guns, but we can't do that with bows? Some of those parks are pretty big, and you have to go 250 miles out of the way to get around them. That shouldn't be imposed on sportsmen. They ought to have the right to do that, and we are going to be denied that vote and all of the others that I mentioned this morning.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of our time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about our Nation's broken criminal justice system, a system that has taken an unimaginable and I believe unsustainable toll on our Nation.

The United States remarkably is home to between 4 and 5 percent of the entire globe's population, but we have 25 percent of the world's prison population. This phenomenon is unacceptable, that the land of the free would have 25 percent of the globe's imprisoned people. What is startling about that is the majority of those people are nonviolent offenders. In fact, the majority are nonviolent drug offenders.

This phenomenon has largely emerged since around 1980, a period during which the Federal prison population has grown nearly tenfold. Since 1980 we have seen a 10-time increase in our prison population. Again, if we were locking up violent offenders, peo-

ple who are terrorizing our streets or inflicting vicious and violent harm on our communities, then ridding our streets of such dangerous criminals would be understandable and it would be a price worth paying. But that is not the story of this unbelievable explosion of our Federal prisons and our Nation's incarcerated people. The reality is that nearly three-quarters of Federal prisoners are nonviolent and have no history of violence whatsoever.

What is worse and what is anguishing is that once they are convicted of a crime, American citizens then face daunting obstacles to successfully rejoin society, to being able to raise their family, put food on the table, provide for themselves. As a result of that, our State and Federal prison exits have now become revolving doors, with two of every three ex-offenders getting rearrested within 5 years. Two-thirds of those nonviolent folks leaving our prisons come back within 5 years.

When ex-offenders return to prison again and again, they are not just paying a price; we all are paying the price. We are contributing so much of our national treasure to rearresting the same people over and over, to reincarcerating the same people over and over. A recent Pew report concluded that if just 10 States cut their recidivism just 10 percent, it would save taxpayers \$470 million—money this Nation urgently could use either to keep in the pockets of taxpayers or invest in things such as lowering the cost of college or in our roads and bridges or our crumbling infrastructure.

As hard-working, taxpaying Americans have increased the fund for our prisons, funding more and more, there have been fewer and fewer resources left for these other crucial parts of our society—fewer resources for law enforcement, fewer resources for rehabilitative programs, fewer resources for proven investments in children that help prevent crime in the first place. The result has been a cycle of spending and incarceration that has led to the ballooning of this Federal prison bureaucracy, more than one-quarter of a trillion dollars a year from our economy going to unproductive and even counterproductive uses.

Our country's misguided criminal justice policies place an economic drag on local communities and on our Nation's global competitiveness. Remember, if we are putting 25 percent of the globe's prison population in our American prisons, paying the price for that, our competitive democracies, our competitive economies aren't paying that price, we are paying this egregious price, and it is not making us any more safe. In fact, I would say it is making us less safe as a community.

Many of my colleagues in this body, I am proud to say, recognize the urgent need for reform and have already put forth pieces of legislation that seek to

improve various parts of this broken system. I am grateful and I applaud the bipartisan efforts that exist in this body amongst my colleagues—Senators LEAHY, FLAKE, DURBIN, LEE, WHITEHOUSE, LANDRIEU, FRANKEN, and others—who stand up to say: We have to save taxpayer dollars, we have to elevate human potential, and we have to make our streets safer.

So to build off the momentum of these leaders in the Senate, I join with Senator RAND PAUL to introduce today the RECORD Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment—or REDEEM—Act. This bipartisan legislation will establish much needed, sensible, pragmatic reforms that keep kids out of an adult system in the first place, protect their privacy so a youthful mistake can remain a youthful mistake and not haunt young people throughout their lives, and help make it actually less likely that low-level nonviolent offenders reoffend.

Among other measures, our bill incentivizes States to raise the age of original jurisdiction for criminal courts to 18 years old. Trying juveniles who have committed low-level, non-violent crimes as adults is counterproductive. They don't emerge from prison reformed and ready to reintegrate into a high school. The criminal record they have won't help them as they try to get a job. We need a system that treats juveniles toughly but fairly and with an eye toward a productive adulthood, with an eye toward restorative justice.

For kids in the dozen States that treat 17- and even 16-year-olds as adults, no longer would it be likely that getting into a scuffle at school would result in an adult record that could follow an individual for the rest of their life, restricting access to a college degree, limiting employment prospects, and increasing the likelihood of engaging in further criminal activity. It is time that we empower our children to succeed, not undermine their long-term prospects for life's success.

The REDEEM Act also enhances Federal juvenile record confidentiality provisions and provides for automatic expungement of records for kids who commit nonviolent crimes before they turn 15 and automatic sealing of records for those who commit non-violent crimes after they turn 15.

It will also ban the very cruel and counterproductive practice of juvenile solitary confinement that can have immediate and long-term detrimental effects on youth detainee mental and physical health. In fact, the majority of suicides by juveniles in prisons happens by young people who are in solitary confinement. Other nations even consider it torture.

For adults, this legislation offers the first broad-based Federal path to the sealing of criminal records. A person who commits a nonviolent crime will

be able to petition a court and make his or her case.

Furthermore, employers requesting a background check from the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be provided with only relevant and accurate information thanks to a provision that will protect job applicants by improving the quality of the Bureau's background check.

Think about this: 17 million background checks were done by the FBI last year, many of them for private providers, and upward of half of them were inaccurate or incomplete, often causing people to lose a job, miss an economic opportunity, and be trapped with few options to address the basic economic security that could lead someone to reoffend in order to feed a child. The REDEEM Act lifts a ban on receiving Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits. These benefits were conceived in a way that should empower people when they have to leave, and those convicted of drug use or possession having paid their dues now have a path to the reinstatement of those benefits so that they can get their lives together so they can be empowered and successful.

Taken together, these measures will help keep kids who get in trouble out of a lifetime of crime and help adults who commit nonviolent crimes become more self-reliant and less likely to reoffend.

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to let our criminal justice system continue to grow at the rate that it is. We cannot afford to sap billions of taxpayer dollars from a broken system that is locking people up and then doing nothing to empower them to succeed. We are wasting human potential and human productivity. We are hurting our economy, and by trapping people without options, we often end up making our communities less safe.

We have seen how other individual States are doing things to address this issue and are actually lowering recidivism and lowering their prison population and on top of it lowering actual crime in their States. It is time that the Federal Government act to do the same.

I urge my colleagues to support the REDEEM Act so we can make our communities safer and stronger and truly be a nation that savors and values freedom and empowers its citizens to live productive, strong lives of contribution.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPRING, TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, before I begin my prepared remarks today I want to offer my sympathy to the community of Spring, TX. Last night in this quiet suburban area north of Houston they experienced the horrific murders of six people. It is reported that four of these people who were killed were young people. As we move forward in the days and weeks ahead I hope we will keep these victims and the community in our thoughts and prayers.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. CORNYN. Shifting to a different part of my State where they are experiencing another type of crisis, every day this week I have come to the floor and spoken on President Obama's refusal to travel to the southern border of Texas where a humanitarian crisis continues to unfold. Those aren't just my words; those are the President's words—a humanitarian crisis.

As I have said before, the President has been in Dallas; he has been in Austin, where he spent the night last night; and he is there this morning speaking, reportedly, on the economy. Why he persists in his refusal to travel to the border really is beyond my imagination. I just don't understand it. The fact that the President has himself described it as a humanitarian crisis makes this even more strange.

People can infer whatever they want to about his potential motivations. I don't know whether it means he doesn't really understand it, whether his handlers have kept him in the bubble so much that simply the facts are not getting through to him or whether he is surrounded by political advisers who say: This is going to be a political liability for you, Mr. President. Don't travel there. If you show up and have your picture taken with these children who are traveling by the tens of thousands unaccompanied from Central America to Mexico, you will own the problem. I don't know whether that is the advice he is getting. Surely it cannot be that he doesn't care.

But I will tell you that many of my constituents—Republicans and Democrats alike—and many of my colleagues in the Congress are wondering: Why would the President show such little respect for what the communities along the border are experiencing as they try to deal with this humanitarian crisis? Why would the President show such little respect for the Border Patrol, FEMA, and other Federal actors that are trying to help these communities deal with this crisis? It just does not add up.

Since the President so stubbornly refuses to visit the border even though he

is in Texas and has been there for the last 2 days, people have asked me: Well, if the President showed up, what would he see?

First of all, he would learn this crisis is in large part a product of the President's own policy judgments, particularly starting with the ICE memo in 2011, the so-called Morton memo No. 1, then the Morton memo No. 2, and then the deferred action Executive order saying that certain young people would never be returned to their country of origin but the President will act alone to defer action against them.

Then there is the continued discussion the President has here in Washington that says he wants to go even further. So I think one of the things the President would learn is that people actually pay attention to what he is saying. The impression is that he is not going to faithfully execute the law.

So the children continue to come, and they will continue to come until we fix the problem. The President has to be an important part of that solution.

As I have said before, these young children traveled through some of the most dangerous territory on the planet, because the smuggling corridors are controlled by cartels such as the Zetas and these cartels are in the business of crime—smuggling people, drugs, weapons, you name it—smuggling women for sex slavery and human trafficking. They don't really care about the human element. They care about the money. Migrants who travel across Mexico from Central America are subjected to rape and kidnapping—where they are held for ransom so their relatives will pay off the cartels to let them go and continue their journey. We don't know how many of the children that start this long journey from Central America—some 1,200 miles from Guatemala City to McAllen, TX, alone—how many of them die in the process and never make it. So the 52,000-plus so far who have been detained at our southwestern border since October are the ones who made the trip successfully. We don't know how many children and their parents have died in the process.

I do know—having traveled to Brooks County, Texas—that I have seen some of the grave sites of unknown migrants who have actually died trying to get through—to get past the Border Patrol checkpoint at Falfurrias, for example. So I am sure, tragically, that many migrants don't make it and die in the process.

There is a powerful incentive for people to travel to the United States. Obviously, we understand people who want opportunity, people who are trying to flee violence. But the President has effectively encouraged children and their parents to make this treacherous, life-threatening journey by suggesting that he won't enforce the law. The

President himself admits that even under his deferred action order—his Executive order that he issued in 2012—these children wouldn't be covered, but they come because they have the impression that they will be allowed to stay once they make it here.

The New York Times recently reported the story of one 13-year-old Honduran boy who was detained in Mexico trying to reach the United States. The Times reported that this young boy said his mother believed the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy with regard to unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across, he would have a better shot at staying. And, in fact, that is proving to be true.

So many of these children are now, because of a 2008 law, placed with relatives here in the United States who themselves may not be legally present. They are given a notice to appear for a subsequent court hearing and the overwhelming number of them never show up. Having done so, they have made it because we don't have the resources. We certainly don't have the laws on the books necessary to fill this hole that the cartels are exploiting and that is what we need to work on together as part of this supplemental appropriation to try to fix. We cannot just vote for more money when the cause of the problem that needs fixing remains unfixed.

The cartels are happy to tell parents: Yes, send your kids to America, turn them over to us, write us a check for \$5,000—or whatever the amount is—and maybe they will be able to escape Central America and make it to the United States. For every one of the parents who take the cartels up on that deal, for every one of the children subjected to this horrific journey from Central America to the southern part of the United States, the cartels are making money. So as long as the hole in the 2008 law remains unfilled—and the President certainly hasn't requested we fix it, but we need to do that—we will keep spending billions of dollars, and we will continue to see the surge of unaccompanied minors continue to go up.

In 2011 there were about 6,000 unaccompanied minors detained at the southwestern border. But just since October there have been more than 50,000. So something is going on here, and this 13-year-old Honduran boy interviewed for the New York Times story said: "Well, my mom thought President Obama was changing his policies and I would be able to stay if I made it."

Since the President decided not to make the short trip from Austin or Dallas to McAllen, TX, I wanted to share a few stories about what I saw there when I visited. I had a chance to visit the McAllen Border Patrol station, one of the busiest and most crowded of the facilities which are try-

ing to deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors. I met another 13-year-old boy who had just arrived from Central America. We asked him to come out of the detention cell that was so jam-packed with teenage boys that nobody even had space to lay down and sleep. I hate to think about how unhygienic those circumstances are. But this young 13-year-old boy—we asked him, through a wonderful young woman who works with me in my Harlingen general office in South Texas who asked him in Spanish: "Where are your parents?" He said, "They are both dead." It was heartbreaking. I think the President would benefit from seeing and talking to young victims of this trafficking like this Honduran boy.

As I said, inside these facilities there are dozens of children packed into holding cells, with one toilet, that are meant for just a few people. There were young women only 15 years of age who were pregnant, some of whom already had babies that they were nursing. The babies were clothed only in diapers and sleeping on cement floors. Unless you see it for yourself, I don't think you get a full appreciation of the nature and scope of this process. That is something I think the President could benefit from.

Conditions are so bad they are housing people in a garage at the Border Patrol facility. I don't have to tell the Presiding Officer, but it is hot in Texas in July, and you can imagine what the conditions are like in that garage. There must have been 100 people basically sitting or standing on that garage floor because they simply don't have the capacity to deal with them. They simply don't have the capacity to deal with them, and they certainly don't have the capacity to deal with the numbers that are coming through.

I wish to do something that I wish the President of the United States would do in person by traveling to McAllen. I wish to thank the Border Patrol and the leadership of Chief Kevin Oaks, who has been doing a magnificent job under very difficult circumstances. I thank all of the Border Patrol—FEMA and other Federal employees—who are down there trying to help the local community and the State of Texas deal with this crisis.

Chief Oaks has maybe one of the toughest jobs on the planet these days. He is in charge of Rio Grande Valley sector. It encompasses more than 1,700 square miles in 19 Texas counties. It shares 320 river miles with Mexico and 250 coastal miles. This is the sector through which this flood of humanity is coming. They have detained 418,000 people last year alone. That number is growing, and they are mainly coming through the Rio Grande sector—418,000 people from 100 different countries.

If you go to Brooks County and look at some of the rescue beacons—they

have actually put out rescue beacons. If an immigrant is so sick or suffering from exposure or dehydrated, they can hit the rescue beacon and a light will go off and the Border Patrol will rescue them. If they are at risk of losing their lives, sure, they may not want to be caught, but they would rather be caught than die due to exposure. Those rescue beacons are not just written in Spanish and English, they are also written in Chinese.

Yesterday I said I don't know a lot of Chinese speakers from Brooks County, TX. It is a small rural county. The reason that rescue beacon is written in Chinese, among other languages, is because people can come from all over the world through the southern border of Mexico into the United States. There were 418,000 people detained from more than 100 countries. Admittedly, most were from Mexico and Central America, but they also come from nations that are state sponsors of international terrorism, which is why General Kelly, the head of Southern Command, said this is a national security threat.

The President would learn more about this if he took the trouble to go to the border and talk to people such as Chief Oaks and learn of the challenges they dealing with day in and day out. They are doing the best they can, but they simply don't have the resources or the manpower to handle this influx, particularly of unaccompanied children.

I am told that because the Border Patrol has to deal with these children and make sure they are taken care of—which they should be—they are not interdicting illegal drugs coming across the border, and that should concern all of us.

I ask unanimous consent for an additional 5 minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank my colleague from Maine for his courtesy.

This is something I hope my colleagues who have not spent as much time thinking about this—and that is logical because they don't come from a State contiguous to the Mexican border or Central America and South America, but they need to know the facts, that these areas are now controlled by cartels and transnational criminal organizations.

One official from the mayor's office in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, reported—when talking about the cartels that control the smuggling—that in his city "the Zetas control all trafficking, sending men to recruit women in Central America and sometimes even kidnapping migrant women riding the buses. They sell the women to truck drivers for a night and then throw them away like unwanted scraps."

The bottom line is there is nothing humane and nothing compassionate

about encouraging people to travel through cartel-dominated smuggling routes in hopes of reaching the United States only to find out our law does not permit them to stay. There is nothing humane about that. There is nothing compassionate about that. Yet that is the impression. Nobody should be traveling to America this way and especially not young children.

This is something the President of the United States needs to see. If it is serious enough for him to call this a humanitarian crisis and ask Congress to appropriate more than \$3 billion on an emergency basis to help pay for additional capacity, it is serious enough to warrant his personal attention. I just don't get it. I really don't.

I had an occasion to work with President Obama when he was in the Senate. I see him less often now that he is over in that big house on Pennsylvania Avenue, but that doesn't strike me as who he is. I wonder what in the world could be going on. Is he too wrapped up with living in his bubble? I guess all Presidents have experienced that. He needs to break out of the bubble and find out what is actually happening on the ground. At the very least, I would think the President would want to take the opportunity to say thank you to Chief Oaks, the Border Patrol, FEMA, and other Federal agencies that are trying to help local communities.

The invitation still stands. I think the President is still in Austin speaking at the Paramount Theater in my hometown where I live now, but he is talking about the economy instead of talking about this crisis. I bet the invitation still stands for him to take the short trip to McAllen and about an hour out of his day to say thank you to the Border Patrol and other Federal agencies and see for himself this unfolding—and I would say escalating—humanitarian crisis.

I thank the Chair and the Senator from Maine for his courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, a few years ago Tom Brokaw wrote a brilliant and important book called "The Greatest Generation," and he described our fathers and grandfathers and mothers and grandmothers and what they did for this country by coming through the searing fire of the Great Depression, fighting and winning World War II, and then rebuilding our economy in the 1950s. We owe that generation everything we have. That generation sacrificed—I have to repeat that word "sacrificed"—on our behalf. We are literally standing on their shoulders. We are driving on the highways they built. We enjoy our freedoms because of their sacrifice in World War II and in Korea.

If Tom Brokaw writes another book about us, I don't know what it will be called, but it will not have "greatest"

in the title. Instead of a compliment, it would be more of an epithet. We are leaving our children a gigantic national debt, crumbling infrastructure, and a changing climate that threatens their well-being and future opportunities in this country.

I rise to talk about one of those factors; that is, infrastructure. I had a great insight when I was the Governor of Maine because every year Governors go to New York to go through a ceremony of genuflecting and kissing the ring of the rating agencies in order to try to get our States a high bond rating so they will have a low interest rate on their loans. I was all prepared for my meeting with the rating agencies. I had all kinds of data about how prudent Maine was, how low our debt level was, how we paid it off in 10 years, and how low our debt level was per capita. I was in the middle of this presentation when one of the rating agency officials stopped me and said: Governor, just because you have low debt, if you are not fixing your infrastructure, that is debt just as if it is debt on the books, just as if it is dollars you owe because the infrastructure is eventually going to have to be fixed. Of course, when it is fixed, the later you do it, the more it is going to cost. That was an insight for me.

We have this sort of mental book-keeping where we have the dollars we owe, but we don't think about a bridge being fixed as a form of debt. Yet that is exactly what we have in this country. We are handing our children a gigantic debt on all fronts because we are unwilling to pay the bills.

I had another exchange once with a fellow who was a clerk in a hardware store. This was in the early 2000s, and I said: What do you think of the tax cuts we recently passed? I was just making conversation.

He said: There haven't been any tax cuts.

I said: What are you talking about? You see it all over the news. There are all these tax cuts we just passed in Washington.

He said: No. No, we haven't passed any tax cuts.

I said: Don't you watch the news?

He said: Look, if you pass tax cuts when you are in a deficit situation, all you are doing is borrowing more money and your kids are going to have to pay for it with interest, so you are merely shifting the taxes from us to them.

I had never thought about it that way before. Of course, he was exactly right. If we cut taxes and cut expenditures at the same time, OK, that is legitimate public policy, but if we cut taxes and borrow the difference, we are just shifting the cost to the next generation, and that is what we are doing right now, today, and we are doing it on all fronts. We are doing it in our Federal debt and deficit posture, and we are doing it in our infrastructure posture.

This is going to cost all of us. The subject I am addressing—which I neglected to clarify at the beginning—is the fact that the highway trust fund goes broke in just a few weeks.

Funding from the Federal Government for highways for infrastructure around the country will decline precipitously starting in August, and around here we are about a patch, about something that will get us through 2 or 3 months or maybe 8 months, but nobody is talking about solving the problem. Everybody is talking about all of these convoluted ways to avoid the reality that we need to pay for what we do. We need to pay for our highways, for our roads, for our bridges, and right now we are not doing it.

This is really going to hurt Maine. The estimates from our Department of Transportation is that it is going to cut our highway funding in our State by 17 percent—almost 20 percent. It is particularly going to hurt if we don't do something in the next month because we have a short construction season. If we lose our funding between August and October, we have effectively lost it for the next 8 or 9 months. It is going to impair projects that are ongoing, and it is going to essentially eliminate—across the country—new highway and infrastructure projects.

By the way, if you are the head of the Department of Transportation and your funding is going to be cut, what are you going to do? You are going to maintain, not invest. Maintaining is the bare minimum, but it is not investing because investing is where we have our wherewithal to compete in a global economy.

It is very revealing to me to compare the funding levels of our infrastructure, maintenance, and investment with other countries. That is a fair comparison. It sort of tells us how we are doing. It puts it in perspective. Right now our infrastructure investment is about 2.6 percent of gross domestic product—2.6 percent of GDP. In Japan it is 5 percent and in China it is 8.5 percent. It is more than three times the level in our principal future economic competitor. They are investing, and we are disinvesting because the infrastructure is crumbling faster than we are fixing it.

The joke in Maine this winter was the potholes were so bad that instead of filling them, we were going to lower the roads. That is a joke, but it says something about the seriousness of this issue. Maine is no different than any other State. In fact, I would argue we have some of the best roads in the country, particularly given the far-flung nature of our State, but this is going to hurt us. It is going to hurt every State in the country. Yet we are around here trying to avoid talking about paying for them.

There are indirect and direct costs. Not fixing the highways is costing our

drivers more than an increase in the gas tax in terms of delay, in terms of maintenance of automobiles, in terms of bent wheels from potholes.

I talked to some people from the United Parcel Service, UPS. As to their fleet nationwide, a 5-minute delay per vehicle—because of congestion, because of lack of infrastructure investment—costs that company \$100 million a year—a 5-minute delay. Multiply that by everybody in the country and we are paying a high price.

The point is, we are paying a high price, but it is hidden. We do not notice it. If we increase the gas tax, everybody is going to notice that. But that is called paying your bills.

As a young man, I represented a client before the Maine legislature that was an engineering firm that was owed a bill by the State of Maine, and for some reason it had not been taken care of. I ended up appearing before the appropriations committee. This was 40 years ago. But I remember distinctly going before the committee and saying: Here is this bill and it has to be paid, and the members of the committee—by the way, the senior members were all Republicans—they looked at each other and said: We have to pay our bills. That is called governing, and right now we are not paying our bills. It seems to me that is what we have to do.

One interesting thing about the gas tax is—which, by the way, has not been increased since 1993, 21 years ago; it has fallen in value by something like 35 percent because of inflation over that period—but the interesting thing about the gas tax is, it is the only tax that is not effectively indexed. By that I mean the sales tax, which many States have—my State does—5 percent. You say: Well, that is fixed over time. It is not indexed. But it is because the value of goods to which the sales tax applies goes up over time. On a hundred-dollar tire, the sales tax, at 5 percent, is \$5. But 5 years from now, that tire is probably going to cost \$110, so it is going to be higher revenue. It is the same thing with the income tax. It may be at a flat level—22 percent or 15 percent or in Maine 5 or 6 percent—but incomes go up, so revenues go up proportionately to the changes in the economy.

The gas tax is a fixed number—18.4 cents. That is what it has been since 1993. It does not change at all. Do you think, Mr. President, the cost of building a road is the same today as it was in 1993—21 years ago? The answer is no.

We have to grapple with this. To me, what bothers me about this is it is part of a pattern. I started with Tom Brokaw and the “greatest generation.” If you think of the legacy that “greatest generation” left us—because they were willing to make sacrifices on our behalf—and then you say: What is the legacy of our generation? it is debt and it is crumbling infrastructure and it is

the crippling of our ability to compete in a globalized economy. Shame on us.

I do not know exactly what the answer is. I do not know whether it is a gas tax, a mileage tax, a change of the tax to the wholesale level as opposed to the retail level. I do not know. But I do know that no matter what we do, and no matter how much we try to avoid it, we are going to have to pay our bills; and to not pay our bills, we have to realign, is simply passing those bills to our kids. That is unethical. It is immoral, it is wrong, and it is not what our parents and grandparents did for us.

I think we owe the same level of consideration, the same level of sacrifice, the same level of realism, the same level of paying our bills to our children and grandchildren that we have been the beneficiaries of.

So I hope, as this debate unfolds in the next several weeks, that we pay attention to the critical importance infrastructure plays in the competitiveness of our society and in the future of our children. The “greatest generation” built the Interstate Highway System, and we cannot even keep it maintained. That is inexcusable. It is inexcusable, Mr. President, and I am sorry to be so preachy about this, but I think this is a really important issue, and I think it goes in some ways to the heart of our politics today where we are trying to do things and accomplish things but not pay for them. The point of my comments, though, is: They are going to be paid for; it is just going to be somebody else, that is, our children and grandchildren, who are going to be paying that bill. I think we ought to stand up and pay the bills ourselves and maintain the infrastructure this country needs to compete and give the same opportunity to our children and grandchildren we were given by the “greatest generation.”

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Maine withhold his suggestion?

Mr. KING. I withhold my suggestion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, in a few minutes the Senate will vote on whether to invoke cloture on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014—legislation I have introduced with my friend and colleague from Alaska, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI.

At a time when Washington is stuck in political gridlock, I am proud to have partnered with Senator MURKOWSKI to develop this sportsmen's package that is cosponsored by 46 of the Senators here in this Chamber—almost half of this body—19 Democrats, 26 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

We actually put politics aside to get behind a bill that benefits tens of millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts across our country—a bill that protects our outdoor traditions for future generations and ensures the outdoor recreation economy can continue to support jobs and local communities in our States nationwide.

This kind of widespread bipartisan support has been virtually unheard of in these days. And not surprisingly, the list of organizations that support the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is equally long and diverse. More than 40 organizations that span the ideological spectrum have actually endorsed this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that six letters and statements of support that I have received on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Feb. 4, 2014]

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS CO-CHAIR INTRODUCES BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, in a significant advancement for sportsmen and women across the country, members of the Senate Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) introduced the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. Introduced by CSC Senate Co-Chair, Senator Kay Hagan and CSC member Senator Lisa Murkowski, this bipartisan legislative package includes 12 bills that would ensure our sportsmen's traditions are protected and advanced, and addresses some of the most current concerns of American hunters and recreational anglers and shooters.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is cosponsored by CSC Vice-Chair, Sen. Mark Pryor and CSC members, Sens. Mark Begich, John Boozman, Dean Heller, John Hoeven, Mary Landrieu, Joe Manchin, Rob Portman, Jon Tester and David Vitter.

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) President, Jeff Crane praised the introduction of this vital legislation. “We thank CSC Co-Chair Senator Hagan and CSC member Senator Murkowski for introducing this bipartisan package of legislation that includes provisions vital to protecting our hunting and angling traditions in the U.S., which the CSC and organizations within the sportsmen's community have been working on for years.”

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act contains six bills that are also found in the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act (H.R. 3590), which has been introduced in the House of Representatives by House CSC Co-Chairs, Representatives Bob Latta and Bennie Thompson and Vice-Chairs, Representatives Rob Wittman and Tim VVALZ. Similar provisions include protecting traditional lead ammunition and fishing tackle from unwarranted regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act, amending the Pittman-Robertson Act to allocate a greater proportion of funding for shooting ranges, allowing film crews of five or fewer persons on federal lands with an annual permit for \$200, and allowing the Secretary of Interior to authorize a permanent electronic duck stamp, among others.

“I am proud to have partnered with Senator Lisa Murkowski to develop the bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014,” said CSC Co-

Chair, Sen. Kay Hagan. "In North Carolina, hunting, fishing and shooting are a way of life. Many of these traditions have been handed down through my own family, and I'm proud that our bill protects these activities for future generations while ensuring that outdoor recreation can continue to support jobs and local economies across the country. At a time when Washington is stuck in political gridlock, our bill demonstrates that Democrats and Republicans can work together to find common ground, and I look forward to working with Senator Murkowski to advance this package through the Senate and into law."

In addition to the bills shared by H.R. 3590, priorities in the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act include: reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, which allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell land to private owners for ranching, community development, and conservation projects; reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act; and "Making Public Lands Public," which requires that 1.5% of the Land and Water Conservation Fund be used for ensuring recreational public access to federal public lands that have significantly restricted access to fishing and hunting.

"Senator Hagan and I have been able to combine the best of the bills from our individual packages to support outdoor recreation and created a truly bipartisan package that will improve access to public lands for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters across the nation," Sen. Murkowski said. "I'm hopeful that the Senate can follow suit and work together to pass a sportsmen's package this Congress, because these are some of the last remaining 'easy' issues that enjoy widespread support here on Capitol Hill."

The SHARE Act is expected to be voted on in the House of Representatives on February 5. CSF will continue to work with our bipartisan partners in the CSC to advance these sportsmen's priorities through Congress.

[From the Media Center, Feb. 4, 2014]

SENATE SPORTSMEN'S BILL UPHOLDS PUBLIC ACCESS, CONSERVATION

WASHINGTON—A bipartisan legislative package introduced today in the U.S. Senate would increase public access opportunities and advance conservation and is drawing widespread support from prominent sportsmen's groups, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership announced today.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act (S. 1996), introduced by Sens. Kay Hagan and Lisa Murkowski, attracted an impressive range of co-sponsors, including Sens. Mark Begich, John Boozman, Dean Heller, John Hoeven, Mary Landrieu, Joe Manchin, Rob Portman, Mark Pryor, Jon Tester and David Vitter.

"The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership supports the bipartisan sportsmen's package led by Senators Hagan and Murkowski," said TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh. "Sportsmen rely on both the conservation of important habitat and, just as important, reasonable access to that habitat to enjoy productive days afield. This package includes bills that achieve both of those goals."

"Hunting and fishing directly contribute more than \$86 billion to the U.S. economy each year and support approximately 1.5 million non-exportable jobs," Fosburgh continued. "Sportsmen also are integral to the broader outdoor recreation and conservation economy, which is responsible for \$646 billion in direct consumer spending annually."

The Senate legislation includes the following:

Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act (S. 170), requiring federal land managers to consider how management plans affect opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing and recreational shooting and requiring the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to keep BLM lands open to these activities.

Making Public Lands Public, requiring that 1.5 percent of annual Land and Water Conservation Fund monies be made available to secure public access to existing federal lands that have restricted access to hunting, fishing and other recreational activities.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (S. 738), authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow any state to provide federal duck stamps electronically.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Reauthorization (S. 741), reauthorizing through fiscal year 2017 NAWCA, which provides matching grants to organizations, state and local governments, and private landowners for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wetlands critical to the habitat of migratory birds.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization (S. 51), reauthorizing NFWF, a nonprofit that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats.

Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (S. 1505), exempting lead fishing tackle from being regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (S. 1212), enabling states to allocate a greater proportion of federal funding to create and maintain shooting ranges.

Prominent sportsmen's groups commended the bill.

"Pope and Young Club, speaking on behalf of bowhunting, is excited to see the bipartisan support for the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014," said Mike Schlegel, conservation committee chairman of the Pope & Young Club. "This act contains titles that address key issues of concern within the conservation community nationwide."

"The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 would expand hunter access and enable active habitat management, including conservation of some of the nation's most valuable federal lands," said Becky Humphries, executive vice president of conservation for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "The National Wild Turkey Federation strongly supports this pro-sportsmen legislative package."

"More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. "DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sportsmen and -women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships."

"Bipartisanship requires compromise," said Dr. Steve Williams, president of the Wildlife Management Institute and former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "and this bipartisan bill encompasses many of sportsmen's priority issues. While not all of our needs are addressed, we commend our Senate leaders for introducing legislation that speaks to the values—responsive natural resources management, conservation and increased access opportunities among them—that are central to our outdoor traditions."

APRIL 8, 2014.

Re Promoting Legislation to Improve Hunting in America

Senator KAY HAGAN,
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Co-Chair,
Washington, DC.

Senator LISA MURKOWSKI,
Energy and Natural Resources Committee,
Ranking Member, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS HAGAN AND MURKOWSKI, We write you to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership during the 113th Congress for hunting and conservation. Individually you introduced pro-hunting and conservation legislation. Collectively we are all recipients of the Diana Award. This award is bestowed on one female huntress annually for their achievement in big game hunting, ethics in the field, and giving of their money, time and energies to enhance wildlife conservation and education.

We are now delighted to learn you are working together to introduce bipartisan pro-hunting and pro-conservation legislation. Your ongoing effort to introduce bipartisan legislation is a monumental step in breaking the deadlock that hunters have felt in previous legislative efforts.

Improving hunting opportunities across the U.S., being good role models for other female hunters, and improving funding for wildlife conservation has been a priority goal throughout our lives. We are proud to see your leadership as fellow female hunter-conservationists in the U.S. Senate. Furthermore as leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, your colleagues are all looking to you for guidance on good public policy for hunting and conservation. We applaud your efforts and we are anxious to see you reach your legislative goals.

Our organization, Safari Club International, has an office in Washington, DC which we trust is working closely with your staffs to see your legislation become law. As fellow female hunters, thank you for your leadership and demonstrating that we all have a vested interest in our hunting heritage and wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Atwood, Diana Award Winner 1997; Jackie Bartels, Diana Award Winner 2007; Suzie Brewster, Diana Award Winner 2010; Deb Cunningham, Diana Award Winner 2002; Abigail Day, Diana Award Winner 2008; Olivia Nalos Opre, Diana Award Winner 2014; Charlotte M. Peyerk, Diana Award Winner 2011; Barbara Sackman, Diana Award Winner 1999; Sandra Sadler, Diana Award Winner 2005; Renee Snider, Diana Award Winner 2012; Ingrid-Poole Williams, Diana Award Winner 1998.

NATIONAL SHOOTING
SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.,
Newtown, CT, June 11, 2014.

Senator KAY HAGAN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HAGAN: The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry. On behalf of our over 10,000 members, I would like to express our appreciation to you for your leadership and support in co-sponsoring the "Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014" (S. 2363).

As you know, S. 2363 is simply the most important package of measures for the benefit of sportsmen in a generation. This package of pro-sportsmen legislation will promote, protect, and preserve our cherished

outdoor activities of hunting and the shooting sports.

This vital piece of legislation will prevent anti-hunting groups from taking away the right of hunters to use the ammunition of their choice, provide state fish and game agencies with more flexibility to use Pittman-Robertson funds to build and maintain badly needed public shooting ranges so that tens of millions of recreational target shooters will have a place to safely enjoy their sport and hunters will have places to sight in their firearms for the hunting season. The bill will also help facilitate and provide for more access to public lands and waters for hunting, recreational fishing, and shooting. It will also prohibit additional fees for commercial filming on federal lands and waters.

Companies in the United States that manufacture, distribute, and sell firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment employ as many of 112,000 people in the United States and are responsible for as much as \$37.7 billion in total economic activity in the country. In these difficult economic times the firearms, ammunition, and hunting industries are still one of the few domestic industries that has grown its profits while also contributing increased tax revenues. We as an industry appreciate your continued support of legislation to protect the hunting and shooting sports.

I want to thank you again for co-sponsoring this important legislation. Thank you for your service on behalf of America's hunting, shooting, and conservation community.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE G. KEANE.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR, On behalf of The Wilderness Society and our 500,000 members and supporters, I am writing to express our support for S. 1996, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014, sponsored by Senator Hagan. We believe that hunting and fishing are important uses of our public lands, and this legislation would advance several vital programs which would both safeguard sportsmen's access to world class hunting and angling opportunities while simultaneously supporting many programs that protect the high quality fish and wildlife habitat upon which sportsmen rely.

The Wilderness Society strongly supports several provisions of this legislation, specifically:

*Reauthorization of the Federal Land Trans-
action Facilitation Act (FLTFA)*

This legislation would also renew FLTFA, an important tool allowing federal land management agencies to fund the acquisition of critical conservation areas—including wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests and more—through the sale of BLM lands with lower conservation values which have been identified for disposal. This common sense "land for land" approach not only provides increased public access for hunting and fishing, but also benefits local businesses, counties, economies, private land owners, and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Making Public Lands Public

This provision would require the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to spend at least 1.5 percent of Land and Water Conservation Fund resources each year on parcels, easements or road maintenance projects which increase access to our public lands for hunters, anglers and other recreational users. We support this provision, and further, we support full and permanent

authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure continued access to and protection of our public lands and waters.

*Reauthorization of the North American Wet-
lands Conservation Act (NAWCA)*

NAWCA is a proven and popular conservation program with more than 25 years of success in partnering with state, local and non-profit organizations to leverage federal dollars in the restoration and protection of over 27 million acres of wetlands. The reauthorization of NAWCA is essential for the protection and restoration of wetland habitat, which supports an enormous variety of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

*Reauthorization of the National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*

Since its inception, NFWF has leveraged \$576 million in federal funds into \$2 billion in on-the-ground conservation. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation works with public and private partners in all 50 states to protect species and habitats and promote local stewardship of natural places, from community parks to wildlife refuges. Reauthorization of NFWF will ensure continued substantial leveraging of federal dollars in the protection of species and habitats that sportsmen depend on.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act

This title gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to permanently authorize electronic duck stamps. For 80 years duck stamps have served a dual role, both as a license to hunt waterfowl and as one of the most effective and important programs to protect wetland and wildlife refuge habitat. For every dollar spent on federal duck stamps, 98 cents goes to acquiring or leasing wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Permanently authorizing the electronic duck stamp will significantly increase both access to hunting licenses for sportsmen and protection of high quality habitat for waterfowl and other species.

Further, the legislation does not include any of the provisions included in H.R. 3590, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, that would undermine the integrity of America's National Wilderness Preservation system.

For these reasons, we urge you to support S. 1996, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

Sincerely,

ALAN ROWSOME,
Senior Director of Gov-
ernment Relations
for Lands, The Wil-
derness Society.

JULY 9, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KAY HAGAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SENATOR HAGAN AND SENATOR MURKOWSKI: The sportsmen and women conservationists who we represent across the Nation deeply appreciate the strong bipartisan leadership that you have shown to bring the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 (S. 2363) to the floor this week. S. 2363 includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and expand public access for hunters and anglers. We know that

time on the floor of the Senate is extremely limited and precious, but we believe that this bill is worthy of expedited floor consideration.

It is a rare and splendid occurrence that such a large and diverse coalition of hunting, shooting, angling and other conservation organizations are so united behind a bill. Therefore, we urge you to maximize the value of such a rare opportunity for sportsmen by ensuring that floor consideration of this important legislation and amendments filed to it will be open, transparent and limited to issues that enhance our nation's rich sportsmen's heritage.

In particular, we urge you to oppose any amendments that would derail the proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency to clarify and restore longstanding Clean Water Act protections for headwater streams and wetlands across the country. On June 3, 2014, we and 12 other sportsmen's conservation groups wrote to you and urged you to reject such legislation (attached). Such legislation would severely undermine, not enhance, sportsmen's interests.

Please take advantage of the great opportunity that you and the outstanding group of bipartisan cosponsors of S. 2363 have worked so hard to achieve on behalf of sportsmen this week. Pass a strong sportsmen's bill.

Sincerely,

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation; Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; Scott Kovarovich, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America; Chris Wood, President and CEO, Trout Unlimited.

Mrs. HAGAN. I also want to share some excerpts from these letters and statements.

This one is from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act "is simply the most important package of measures for the benefit of sportsmen in a generation. This package of pro-sportsmen legislation will promote, protect, and preserve our cherished outdoor activities of hunting and the shooting sports."

The CEOs of the National Wildlife Federation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Izaak Walton League of America, and Trout Unlimited, in one letter, wrote: The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 "includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and expand public access for hunters and anglers. We know that time on the floor of the Senate is extremely limited and precious, but we believe that this bill is worthy of expedited floor consideration. It is a rare and splendid occurrence that such a large and diverse coalition of hunting, shooting, angling and other conservation organizations are so united behind a bill."

Then a letter from Jeff Crane, who is president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. Senator MURKOWSKI and I both have worked very closely with Jeff Crane, who is president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. In his letter he said:

We thank Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Co-Chair Senator Hagan and CSC member Senator Murkowski for introducing this

bipartisan package of legislation that includes provisions vital to protecting our hunting and angling traditions in the U.S., which the CSC and organizations within the sportsmen's community have been working on for years.

From the Wilderness Society, in their letter:

On behalf of our 500,000 members and supporters, I am writing to express our support for the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. We believe that hunting and fishing are important uses of our public lands, and this legislation would advance several vital programs which would both safeguard sportsmen's access to world class hunting and angling opportunities while simultaneously supporting many programs that protect the high quality fish and wildlife habitat upon which sportsmen rely.

That was from the Wilderness Society.

The women of Safari Club International wrote to Senator MURKOWSKI and me. This letter was dated in April.

We are delighted to learn you are working together to introduce bipartisan pro-hunting and pro-conservation legislation. Your ongoing effort to introduce bipartisan legislation is a monumental step in breaking the deadlock that hunters have felt in previous legislative efforts.

The CEO of Ducks Unlimited said:

More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing. DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sports men and women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships.

I agree. We have an opportunity today to take action on a bill that advances critical priorities for a wide range of sportsmen and conservation groups across the country, bringing those two groups together.

I am proud of the package Senator MURKOWSKI and I crafted and put together. I also recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas on how to strengthen this bill.

It was always my hope we could take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen-related amendments to the bill, including amendments on some gun issues that are important to sports men and women in my State and across the country. I am disappointed we were not able to reach an agreement to do so.

However, we should not let partisan politics get in the way of passing a good bill that already has strong bipartisan support. It is fiscally responsible, and it is endorsed by more than 40 groups and stakeholders across the United States—6 of whom I have just made statements about from letters we have received.

So here is what I am going to ask all of my colleagues to do today: If you support this bill, vote for this bill. Outdoor recreation activities are a way of life in States across the country. Just as importantly, they are the lifeblood

of many of our local communities. These activities actually contribute \$145 billion to our economy every year, and they support over 6 million jobs in this country. This is big business—and especially at a time when we are looking at jobs and the economic recovery.

So at a time when we are desperately trying to help the job market and get our economy back on track, I urge my colleagues to please put politics aside and vote to move forward with this balanced bipartisan bill that boosts our economy, protects our outdoor traditions, and preserves the special places in this country where we hunt, where we fish, where we enjoy the outdoors, and to do this for our future generations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, S. 2363. This legislation aims to support outdoor recreation by improving access for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters. It would also advance conservation by reauthorizing programs that protect wildlife species and habitats, wetlands, migratory birds, and waterfowl.

Hunting, angling, outdoor recreation, and conservation are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the country, including many across the State of Maine. The Federal Government is an important partner in preserving our natural treasures, enhancing recreation, promoting economic growth, and helping to protect the environment, which are all components in sustaining our Nation's outdoor heritage and traditions.

While I understand the concerns that have been raised about the need to strengthen the bill's conservation measures, on balance S.2363 would benefit hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation. One provision would promote hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal public lands, preventing arbitrary closures. Another would help States construct and maintain public shooting ranges by allowing a larger proportion of Federal funding to be used for this purpose. Additionally, the bill would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which leverage funding for critical wetlands, migratory birds, native fish and wildlife species, and habitat projects. A permanent authorization of electronic duck stamps, the proceeds of which go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, is also included in the bill.

I am also pleased to be the sponsor of a bipartisan amendment that highlights the many important contributions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the last 50 years. In addition to calling for the reauthorization of this landmark conservation program, the amendment calls for full, permanent, and dedicated funding,

making good on the promise that was made to the American people in 1964 to take the proceeds from natural resource development and invest a small portion in conservation and outdoor recreation. I am deeply concerned about the continued annual diversion of these funds from their original conservation intent to other purposes. We will not balance our Nation's books today by shortchanging our future.

Upholding Maine's strong tradition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, and protecting access to the great outdoors for the enjoyment of all Americans continue to be priorities of mine. I also strongly support conservation programs and actions to preserve wildlife and natural habitats. The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our environment because we understand its tremendous value to our way of life. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act would have a positive impact on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation, and I support its passage.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2363, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Udall (CO)/Risch) amendment No. 3469, to clarify a provision relating to the nonfederal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.

Reid amendment No. 3490 (to amendment No. 3469), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 3491, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3492 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3491), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3493 (to amendment No. 3492), of a perfecting nature.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Joe Donnelly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reid
Begich	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Franken	McCaskill	Walsh
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warner
Hagan	Murray	Whitehouse
Harkin	Nelson	Wyden
Heinrich	Pryor	

NAYS—56

Alexander	Enzi	Menendez
Ayotte	Feinstein	Moran
Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Flake	Murphy
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Booker	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Burr	Hirono	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Durbin	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Cardin	Mikulski	Schatz
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 41, the nays are 56. Three-fifths of the Senators present and voting have not voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for those students who are out there trying to learn what goes on in the Senate and for those professors who teach what goes on in the Senate, this is not totally new, but this is in the category of being fairly new.

This is an example of the Republicans filibustering not one of our bills but their own bill. How about that? There are 26 Republican cosponsors, and they filibustered their own bill.

We have asked on a number of occasions for what we have done around this body for decades: You come up with a list of amendments, you come up with a list of amendments, and we will work through those amendments.

Do you know why we don't do that anymore? The Republicans cannot agree among themselves what they want as amendments. They cannot come up with a list. They are so tangled up with the tea party here, the tea party there, people running for President, they cannot decide on a list of amendments to bring before the body. So what do they do? They block everything.

I was hoping that with the majority of the Republicans sponsoring a bill, we could at least move forward on it. People who sponsored this bill voted against it. They are bringing to this body a new definition of what it means to sponsor legislation. I mean, who, of the people who have come before us in this body, ever voted to filibuster their own bill? That is what they have done. But it is nothing new.

I see on the floor the senior Senator from New Hampshire. She worked for more than a year with some Republican colleagues to do something that is so badly needed in this country now; that is, energy efficiency. Energy is wasted every day in this country. She and some Republican colleagues worked on a measure to reduce the waste of energy. It is called the energy efficiency bill. Guess what. The Republicans voted to kill their own bill.

I was originally told by Republicans: Go ahead and let's just vote on it as it is.

I thought that was great because they had been working on it in committee. They had a significant number of amendments that had been dealt with before on the floor, and they put them in the bill and they brought it to the floor. But then I am told—and I have said this before, and I will say it again because we need to repeat something that needs repeating—give us a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. All we want is a sense of the Senate.

I didn't like that because we already had an agreement. I came back and said: OK, do it.

Then we came back after a recess of a few days, and they said: Well, we have a new deal now.

What is that?

We want an up-or-down vote on Keystone.

We cannot do that. We already have an agreement to get this moving.

I go back and mostly talk to myself, quite frankly, because it is not very logical what I am being asked to do, but I talk to myself for a while, and I

come back and say: OK, on Keystone, an up-or-down vote right here on the Senate floor.

They couldn't take yes for an answer even on that.

And then—the audacity—Republican Senators have come to the floor since then and said: They won't give us a vote on Keystone.

They did it on Shaheen-Portman. We had an economic development revitalization act. One of the Republican cosponsors there voted to block that. Small business innovation—three Republican cosponsors voted to block that.

This is a new phenomenon for the professors and the students to figure out. You sponsor a bill and then you vote to kill it before you even bring it to the floor. So I guess sponsorship doesn't mean what it used to mean anymore. It means "I am sponsoring this bill, but watch out because I may vote against myself."

So we are going to continue to work on this side of the aisle to try to get work done, but observers need to look no further than Republican sponsors voting against their own bills to see where the problem lies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SHAUN L.S. DONOVAN TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT

NOMINATION OF DANA SHELL SMITH TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Shaun L.S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait; and Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador of the United States to the State of Qatar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDCARE TAX CREDIT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to discuss legislation that I introduced this week with our colleagues, BARBARA BOXER, PATTY MURRAY and KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND. Our legislation responds to the rising cost of childcare in the United States and the impact it is having on millions of working families.

Our bill, called the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, would help these working parents. It would help them afford childcare so they can go to work and support their families. What it does is update the child and dependent care tax credit that was passed in 1976 and has only been updated once since that time.

Access to affordable childcare is a necessity for working parents. I raised three daughters and I have seven grandchildren, so I appreciate just how important it is for working parents to know their children are being supervised by quality caregivers.

Sadly, I struggled with childcare from the time my first child was born in 1974 until the year my last child finally went off to college in 2004. Unfortunately, I am watching my daughters deal with that same struggle of how to find quality childcare for their kids.

A working parent can be productive in the workforce only when they know their children are safe. That is why the rising cost of childcare is a real burden for millions of families—especially for working mothers. Childcare costs are taking up an increasingly larger share of a typical family's take-home pay.

I visited a great NAEYC accredited childcare center in Nashua, NH, earlier this week, and I saw their infant room—where they care for infants. The average cost for full-time care for an infant in New Hampshire in a childcare center was almost \$12,000 in 2012, the last year for which we have data. It costs \$12,000. For a family trying to make ends meet, this is a huge cost.

In fact, in the Northeast the cost of full-time, center-based care for children now represents the highest single expense for a typical household. It costs more than housing, more than college tuition, more than transportation, food, utilities or health care.

Unfortunately, as the cost of childcare has grown, one critical tax credit that helps defray childcare costs has failed to keep pace. The child and dependent care tax credit was first enacted in 1976 with strong bipartisan support. It was supported by both Democrats and

Republicans. This credit provides a tax credit to working parents for a portion of their childcare expenses. However, the limits on the credit are not indexed to inflation, and so their value has actually decreased over time. In fact, the limits have been increased just once in the past 25 years. The tax credit simply is not keeping pace with the growing cost of childcare.

The Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act would update and improve this tax credit so it responds to the increasing burden of childcare costs. First, the bill would increase the amount of childcare expenses that are eligible for the credit. Right now families can only claim expenses up to \$3,000 for one child and \$6,000 for two or more children. That just doesn't make sense in New Hampshire or anywhere else in the country. In New Hampshire the average cost of childcare can exceed \$12,000 for a single child.

This bill increases the tax credit starting in 2015 and indexes the cost to inflation so they will continue to keep pace with rising childcare costs. The bill also makes the tax credit fully refundable and phases out the credit for families making over \$200,000 a year. It better targets how the money is spent.

Right now the tax credit is poorly targeted. It provides zero benefit for too many families who need it the most. By making the credit refundable, the bill better targets the tax credit to families who are most in need of childcare assistance.

I have been working on early childcare and education for most of my public career, especially during my years as Governor of New Hampshire. One of the lessons I have learned is that providing access to early and affordable childcare and education is not just about helping families make ends meet—although that is an important piece of it—it is also a short-term and long-term issue for our businesses and our economy.

As Governor I worked with the New Hampshire business community and established the Governor's Business Commission on Child Care and Early Childhood Education to engage business leaders in addressing the State's childcare and early education needs. We did a study that looked at the impact of the shortage of quality childcare in New Hampshire back in the 1990s. We found that businesses were losing up to \$24 million a year as a result of childcare-related absenteeism, and nearly one in four employees was forced to change jobs or switch to part time as a result of their inability to find satisfactory childcare.

We have many national studies that show that quality, dependable childcare for employees is vital to a company's productivity. In fact, researchers estimate that childcare breakdowns leading to employee absences cost businesses \$3 billion a year

because parents are concerned about where their kids are.

In addition, a majority of companies report that employee absenteeism is reduced when quality childcare services are offered. Employee turnover is also reduced, and we know how important employee retention is to a business's bottom line.

The long-term benefits to our workforce are also clear. Research shows that quality childcare and early childhood development are critical to preparing our children for tomorrow's jobs. We know that the first 5 years are the most critical in the development of a child's brain. During these years children develop their cognitive, social, emotional, and language skills that form a solid foundation for their lives.

Research shows that children who received quality childcare do much better in school; they are less likely to drop out; they are more likely to read at grade level; they are less likely to repeat grades; they are less likely to need special education; and they are less likely to get into trouble. The experiences children have in their first few years will affect them, their families, and our society for the rest of their lives. I think it makes more sense for us to invest in early childhood care and education because we can either spend the money then or we can spend a whole lot more money later. When kids don't get a good start in life, they wind up getting into trouble and can end up in prison.

I used to talk about the cost of early care and education being about \$1 for \$7 that gets spent at the other end if we don't pay for these costs. It is a whole lot cheaper to pay for childcare than it is to pay for prison. That is why we have to respond to the rising cost of childcare. We have to ensure that working families can afford quality childcare.

The legislation we introduced this week will help working families in the short term, and it will especially help working mothers as they go to work. It will support the early development of our children, which is so critical to our future, our economy, and our workforce.

I am hopeful we can get a lot of sponsors for this legislation and get bipartisan support just as the credit had when it passed in 1976 so we can provide the help that working families need.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I first wish to say to the distinguished majority leader that the recent filibuster was supported by a number of Democratic Members, but most importantly it was supported by Members who did, in fact, favor the legislation. The reason they refused to go forward

with the bill is because Senator REID—in a dictatorial manner—has announced that he intends to control amendments. You don't get an amendment unless you grovel to the majority leader.

There is no reference to the majority leader in the Constitution of the United States. He doesn't get to tell an individual Senator they can't have an amendment on a bill. He has been doing that consistently, and it is not right. We have been on this bill long enough to cast 10 or 15 votes. It is not a question of time as to why he will not allow amendments.

The reason the majority leader will not allow amendments is because he wants to protect his Members from actually being held accountable by the voters of the United States of America by having to cast votes and choose sides. That is what it is all about. It has gone on way too long. It is demeaning to this Senate, and he demeans the loyal opposition who are doing the only thing they have as a tool, which is refusing to move forward with a bill because the majority leader is going to use parliamentary maneuvers to block anybody's amendment. I wish it were not true.

I will not go quietly and allow him to come down and blame others for the problem he has caused. We could have already had this bill up for final passage. It is not a question of time. It is a question of control and domination of the Senate, and the majority leader is not entitled to do that. He is not entitled to do that, and it is not going to continue. This will be broken sooner or later.

If the majority leader wants to move important legislation, he is going to have to agree to a process that allows duly elected representatives of various States in America to be able to at least offer an amendment.

My remarks today are to discuss the nomination of Shaun Donovan to be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. This is a very important office.

I voted against Mr. Donovan in the Budget Committee, and I wish to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues my concerns. My concerns are not related to his character or personality or decency but his experience and qualifications to serve as the Nation's chief financial manager—the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Alexander Hamilton explained in Federalist 76 why the Senate was assigned a role in the confirmation process:

It would be an excellent check upon the spirit of favoritism in the President, and would tend greatly to prevent the appointment of unfit characters from State prejudice, from family connection, from personal attachment, or from a view to popularity.

The President has the right to nominate, and his nominations should be

given deference, but as Hamilton made clear, when the President's nominee does not have the fitness necessary for a critical position, the Senate should not provide its consent.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is one of the most important positions in the entire government, entrusted to oversee our massive Federal bureaucracy and budget process during a time when the Nation is facing tremendous financial danger.

Only weeks ago the Director of the Congressional Budget Office reaffirmed in testimony before Congress that the debt of this country is on an "unsustainable path," and he meant exactly that. He went on to say that America faces the "risk of a fiscal crisis." He means Greece when he says "a fiscal crisis."

Whoever holds the job of budget director must be one of the toughest, strongest, most able, and disciplined managers in America. We ought to be looking for the very best. We need someone who already understands this massive Federal Government, the financial stresses we are under, where the problems arise, and how to manage it.

We need somebody with the capability and credibility to deal with strong-willed cabinet people who, as history shows, always want to spend more and need to be told no by the Office of Management and Budget.

Sadly, what has become clear is that the President did not choose Mr. Donovan because he met those criteria. That was not what he was looking for. Mr. Donovan does not come close to meeting those qualifications. He just does not. I enjoyed meeting with him, but I asked him questions that deal with fundamental issues everybody in Congress understands but he doesn't understand because he hasn't had experience with them. Instead, it would seem Mr. Donovan, as with the President's past Budget Directors, was chosen because he has good people skills and personality and is politically loyal and would defend the administration's goals and priorities even when the result might be unfavorable to the public's fiscal health.

We have seen this time and again in the President's Budget Office. His past Budget Directors have done more to conceal financial problems the Congressional Budget Office has told us we face than to illuminate those problems. They have steadfastly sought to avoid serious discussions about the unsustainable debt course we are on and to lay out any credible policies to fix that problem. They have been unresponsive to congressional inquiry. They make false statements about what their budget would actually do. Indeed, they have repeated—Mr. Lew did when he was Director—that our budget would pay down the debt when, in fact, there was not a single year in

his 10-year budget that the deficit was less than \$500 billion. They have tried to break spending caps that are agreed to by the President and are in law, and they refused to comply with legal requirements to submit a plan to prevent Medicare's insolvency—an edict the law requires him to do, and President Bush did.

The Office of Management and Budget should be one of the least political departments in government. Instead, the President has made it one of the most political. Shouldn't the American people be able to look to their Budget Director with confidence, knowing their tax dollars have been entrusted to someone with great wisdom and experience and independence? Shouldn't they be able to know their Budget Director will look the American people in the eye and tell them squarely what the true facts are we are facing today, and is someone who could lay out a plan that would actually work to fix the debt course we are on?

The President had the ability to scour the country for the most skilled, talented, disciplined, and gifted manager he could find for this office. Very few people of prominence would turn down a request from the President to fulfill that duty. A renowned manager of great financial acumen and recognized independence is what we are looking for—someone with a track record, a proven record of saving taxpayers' dollars, developing new efficiencies, taking on entrenched interest in the service of the public good, not the special interest good. They have to be capable of meeting with someone such as PAUL RYAN, chairman of the House Budget Committee, to meet with members of the Budget Committee such as Senator ROB PORTMAN who was also a former OMB Director; Senator PAT TOOMEY, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, Senator RON JOHNSON, a businessman and an accountant. They know about these matters. They have been working on them. They have been negotiating and producing plans. Mr. Donovan has no knowledge of them. He cannot discuss it with them intelligently. He has no background in that. He has shown no interest in it. I suspect Mr. Donovan was stunned when he was offered this job. He certainly has not prepared himself for it. I am not criticizing him specifically as a person; I am saying this is not the kind of person we need today. There is nothing in his background to suggest he is up to the task this urgent hour requires.

More troublingly, Mr. Donovan himself has a poor record of financial management at HUD. He is the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. During his tenure HUD has received repeated and stark criticism from his own agency's inspector general. They appoint, within these Cabinet positions, an inspector general who analyzes and acts independently to advise

the Secretary and the Congress if something is wrong. Well, I would suggest that I am going to say evidences that Mr. Donovan's skill is in spending money and making investments rather than saving dollars and managing money.

His record at HUD shows he spent money illegally, violating the Antideficiency Act—a very important act. On the great financial issue of our time—our Nation's crippling debt burden—I asked Mr. Donovan at the hearing in the Budget Committee about what he would propose to fix the unsustainable debt course. Shouldn't he do that? He offered no serious ideas to get our debt under control. Clearly, he has no intention of providing the leadership needed to reverse our disastrous current debt course.

For instance, the President's most recent 10-year budget plan he submitted would break the in-law spending limits he agreed to and increase our Nation's total debt by an average of \$800 billion a year. Over the next 10 years, under his budget plan, we could be expected to average deficits of \$800 billion a year, almost \$1 trillion. Indeed, in the 10th year, it is virtually \$1 trillion.

I asked Mr. Donovan about this and he replied:

The President's . . . budget includes fully-paid for, fiscally responsible investments that will create jobs, grow the economy, and expand opportunity for all Americans.

That is the answer we got. I submit that is not responsible. That is not serious. He is not in touch with reality.

When Mr. Donovan was forced to admit in follow-up written questions that the President's budget plan would add \$6 trillion to the public debt over the next 10 years, he called the increase "nominal." It is precisely this cavalier attitude from government elites that is leading our Nation to financial catastrophe. CBO says these deficits put us on a path to a fiscal crisis. Last year we paid \$220 billion in interest on our \$17 billion debt. But the Congressional Budget Office projects that interest rates are going to return to more normal levels in a few years and we continue to add more deficits every year. They project that in 10 years, interest on the debt will be \$800 billion. It will pass the defense budget—interest in 1 year will pass the size of the defense budget by 2019. This is dangerous. We cannot continue on this course.

I would also share that in talking to my colleagues about their discussions with Mr. Donovan, they expressed concern that when he met with them individually, he lacked basic knowledge about the fundamentals of the Federal budget. Consider the written testimony he later provided to the committee about his specific plans for entitlement reform—mandatory spending reform. He said:

I have not . . . written any papers or given any talks or lectures that specifically lay out a comprehensive plan for Medicare or Social Security.

So this is the person who is supposed to coordinate the effort to rein in spending and put us on a sound path. I would say not only has he not written any papers or given any lectures, I am not aware he has given any thought at all to fixing Medicare and Social Security, two of the biggest challenges this Nation faces. I don't think he has ever expressed a serious thought about these issues.

In response to one question about Medicare data, Mr. Donovan told me the data did not exist. But the data does, in fact, exist. And his response cited the very report from which the data was found. At his hearing, Mr. Donovan could not answer fundamental questions from Senator JOHNSON about the Social Security trust fund. That is very important. With only 2 years left in the President's Administration, the Nation needs to have someone at OMB who can hit the ground running, who knows these issues.

I asked him about defense. I am a senior member of the Armed Services Committee. He didn't understand the F-35 program. He is not able to converse intelligently about the troop levels we are talking about having to reduce. He couldn't talk about aircraft carriers—something he has never had any experience with whatsoever. That is why he couldn't talk about it, and he has never given any thought to it.

This lack of basic knowledge and professionalism is evidenced in the inspector general reports about his tenure at Housing and Urban Development. Here, for instance, is a representative example from an IG report issued on February 19 of this year about his multifamily project refinances program. They came up with a plan that supposedly refinanced housing loans and saved money. This is what the inspector general said:

HUD did not have adequate controls to ensure that all Section 202 refinancing resulted in economical and efficient outcomes.

They went on to say:

Specifically, (1) HUD did not ensure that at least half the debt service savings that resulted from refinancing were used to benefit tenants or reduce housing assistance payments, (2) consistent accountability for the debt service savings was not always maintained, and (3) some refinancing were processed for projects that had negative debt service savings—

In other words, instead of saving money, the refinancings cost money.

—which resulted in higher debt service costs than before the refinancing.

It goes on to say:

These deficiencies were due to HUD's lack of adequate oversight and inconsistent nationwide policy implementation regarding debt service savings realized from Section 202 refinancing activities. As a result, millions of dollars in debt service savings were

not properly accounted for and available, the savings may not have been used to benefit tenants or for the reduction of housing assistance payments, and some refinanced projects ended up costing HUD additional housing assistance payments because of the additional cost for debt service.

That is not the kind of glowing review one would hope to accompany a nominee to an office who would oversee the entire Government of the United States of America.

But the problems get worse. Every year, the HUD inspector general conducts an audit to determine if HUD's financial statements are in order. When an agency's financial statements are in order, that agency is awarded an unqualified or clean audit, meaning there are no material defects in the way the agency is managing its books. For the years 2012 and 2013, under Secretary Donovan's leadership, HUD received failing grades or a qualified audit, which means material problems were found with HUD's financial statements. Twenty-four agencies undergo the audit process every year. Only two failed in 2013: HUD and DOD. And we all know DOD has never yet reached the kind of accounting the government requires in that massive agency. So HUD is the only non-DOD agency that failed last year.

Whereas DOD has historically had problems with financial statements, HUD had, prior to Mr. Donovan, received clean reports. The inspector general, in failing Mr. Donovan, noted that HUD had improper budgetary accounting and lacked proper accounting for cash management. HUD, under Mr. Donovan's watch, was also recently charged with an Antideficiency Act violation by the inspector general—a big problem, in my opinion. It is serious.

The Antideficiency Act essentially prohibits government employees or agencies from spending money that has not been appropriated by Congress. No President, no Cabinet Secretary can spend money under the Constitution that has not been appropriated for that purpose by Congress.

So according to information received from the HUD inspector general, HUD, under Mr. Donovan's watch, has at least seven instances of violating the Antideficiency Act. These violations include overobligation of personnel or payroll funds, making student loan payments in excess of the funds allowed for that purpose, and obligating funds that were no longer available, and some of these were done after clear warnings to stop it.

In one of the most recent violations, HUD paid more than \$620,000 to a senior adviser to Secretary Donovan—personally his adviser, his staff—but they paid for it not from Mr. Donovan's budget for that purpose—to hire staff with—they paid for it out of the Office of Public and Indian Housing funds even though Mr. Donovan's adviser in

his office was not employed in the Office of Public and Indian Housing section. This adviser's pay was required to come from the funds in the secretary's office, his budget.

The inspector general found that HUD had ignored the advice of its own legal counsel and disregarded concerns that had been previously expressed by the House Appropriations Committee on antideficiency matters at HUD.

I do not see how he could not be aware of this. This is his own adviser. His own lawyer said: You should not pay for it out of the Office of Public and Indian Housing funds. But he did it anyway.

Congress had specifically addressed HUD's salary funding for the Secretary's senior advisers—it had been a subject of House discussion, which is unusual—and previous ADA violations. According to a July 26, 2010, House of Representatives report, "all senior advisers to the Secretary should be funded directly through the Office of the Secretary." Of course. In addition, a HUD appropriations attorney in the HUD staff wrote in a January 13, 2011, email that a special adviser to the Office of the Secretary would need to be paid by that office—the Secretary's office—and not another office within HUD. Despite the direction in the House report and guidance from his own appropriations attorney, HUD paid this adviser for his services from the Office of Public and Indian Housing program.

Subsequently, in June 2012, Congress again admonished HUD for the lack of staffing data it provided and had available internally. Congress wrote:

This lack of essential information led to multiple Anti-Deficiency Act violations in fiscal year 2011, in which HUD hired more people than it had resources to pay. To date, HUD has not even tried to address these problems and thus the Committee has no faith in HUD's ability to appropriately staff its operations.

It is a very serious criticism of the management ability of the man now put in charge of managing an entire government. It is not the kind of activity that warrants a promotion.

Finally, I have to say this. I have to mention this little matter: Mr. Donovan's membership in the Owl Club at Harvard—an item many of our Democratic colleagues found most reprehensible when Justice Alito came up for confirmation for the Supreme Court. This is a club the late Senator Ted Kennedy, resigned from because it did not admit female members. Indeed, Harvard kicked the club off campus in 1984, but that was the very year Mr. Donovan became a member and remained so until 1987. I have heard no complaints from my colleagues about Mr. Donovan's membership in the Owl Club even after it was kicked off campus, but they howled mightily when Justice Alito was found to be a member of a similar club at Princeton.

So I would ask my colleagues, in conclusion, does this sound like the background of someone who really is the right man for the job at this time? That is my fundamental concern. I do not believe his background, skills, and record indicate he is ready for one of the toughest jobs in government.

This President, even more than most Presidents in their second term—and they all tend to do this—is surrounding himself closer and closer with a small group of political loyalists—Secretary Lew, Secretary Johnson, Secretary Perez. So do we need another loyalist who protects him better? Wouldn't the American people and the President himself be better off with a strong, capable manager who can see through all the fog and the political faldral and make good decisions, preserving the taxpayers' resources?

We need someone who will act independently on behalf of the President and the American people, who will respect the jurisdiction of Congress and legitimate congressional powers, who will follow the law and submit a Medicare plan, as the law requires, because it is going into default. The law says if it goes into default and the Medicare trustees send a notice—and they have—the President is supposed to submit a plan to fix it. OMB is the place that has always come from. It has come from there previously. And shouldn't he tell the White House no if he is asked to do something that is improper for the financial future of America?

Well, I do not like having to oppose Mr. Donovan. He seems like a nice person. But he is the wrong man for this important job. I think he has been chosen for the wrong reasons, not for the right reasons. I will oppose his nomination. The President himself, I truly believe, and the Nation would benefit from the most capable, strong, and competent nominee the country can produce at this critical time. That's not Mr. Donovan.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

(The remarks of Mr. KAINE and Mr. PORTMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2584 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, the committee which I am privileged to chair, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and on which Senator PORTMAN serves is responsible for working with the administration and others to help make sure that Federal agencies work better and more efficiently with the resources we entrust to them.

During my years of public service, I have learned that an essential ingredient in enabling organizations of any type to work well is leadership. It is

what they say about integrity: If you have it, nothing else matters; if you don't have it, nothing else matters. In an organization, if you have great leadership, that is most important.

That is the case both in government and the private sector and in organizations large and small. Part of our responsibility here is ensuring that we have effective leaders in place across our Federal Government.

It is every Senator's constitutional role to provide advice and consent on the President's nominations in a thorough and timely manner as part of the Senate's confirmation process.

Today we have an important nomination before us. It is the nomination of Shaun Donovan to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I wish to express my sincere gratitude, not just to Secretary Donovan for his willingness to take on this critical role, but also I wish to thank his wife. I would like to thank his two boys who joined him at a hearing, and I want to say if my son were that age, there is no way he could sit through that: attentive, listening, thoughtful. What a tribute to their dad. It is all well and good what the rest of us think, but to have that kind of show of support from teenagers is pretty amazing these days.

While Shaun has very large shoes to fill left by Sylvia Mathews Burwell, I believe he is up to the task and, maybe more importantly, she believes he is up to the task. Sylvia is somebody who we admire deeply around here. She did a great job as OMB Director. She is now the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

She has known Shaun Donovan since they were undergraduates together at Harvard. She knows what he is made of, she knows his values, she knows just how smart, how bright, and also just how hard-working he is, and she has known him for a long, long time.

Secretary Donovan's nomination was successfully reported out of both the Senate Budget Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I am hopeful that we will be able to do our part today and vote to fill this key vacancy.

We know that Secretary Donovan is a strong leader who can take on and solve tough problems. As Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the past 5 years, he has guided our Nation through one of the worst housing crises in our lifetime.

We also know that Secretary Donovan is someone who can cut through red tape and work together with agencies more effectively. That is precisely why the President asked him to chair the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force—and boy did he do a job.

He has also had high-level experience in local government, as commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and has worked in the private

sector and the nonprofit sector. He knows this job. He knows his governing responsibilities from all angles. He knows how the Federal budget is impacted not only by Federal agencies but communities, businesses, and individual Americans and their families.

I believe he has the diverse experience, strong work ethic, and leadership skills to get the job done and successfully continue his public service as Director of OMB.

As Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Secretary Donovan will be faced with helping to lead our country back to a more fiscally sustainable path. Let me just say, 5 years ago when this administration took office, they inherited a deficit that was \$1 trillion. After the stimulus package, it was \$1.4 trillion. This year we expect it to have been reduced by two-thirds. Is that good enough? Should we be satisfied and pat ourselves on the back? No, but we are headed in the right direction. Under Shaun's stewardship we will continue to do just that.

I believe that the grand budget compromise that we need, though, must have three essential ingredients:

No. 1, we need entitlement reform that saves money, saves those programs for our children and grandchildren, and does not savage old people or poor people.

No. 2, we need tax reform, and not only to lower—in my view—the corporate rates to be competitive with the rest of the world. We can forget all this inversions mess—the nonsense that is going on. We need to do that but also do tax reform and do it in a way that actually generates some additional revenues, and then we use those revenues for deficit reduction.

No. 3, we need to look at everything we do in government and ask this question: How do we get a better result for less money—everything we do from A to Z—and act accordingly.

OMB is critically involved in all three of those approaches, whether it is entitlement reform that is consistent with the values for the least of these in our society or tax reform that generates some additional revenues and lowers corporate rates. We are actually getting more for our money in everything we do.

OMB is essential and critical, and the OMB Director is going to be the point person for making sure we continue to make progress in each of those three areas.

I know from my own conversations with Shaun Donovan—which now stretch over 5 years—he will be a strong voice for fiscal responsibility and effective government management. As Senator COLLINS and I pointed out in introducing Secretary Donovan before our committee just a couple of weeks ago, he is known for using rigorous data analysis to demand better results from government programs and

to save taxpayer money. She also pointed out he will be a leader of integrity and intelligence in a critical job.

I mentioned the word “integrity” before, and I will say it again: Integrity, if you have it, nothing else matters; if you don't have it, nothing else matters.

He has integrity. He is a bright guy, a very smart guy, hard-working, a wonderful family, and a great track record—not just in government but in the private sector, nonprofits, local, State, and Federal governments.

He has demonstrated what he can do leading a big agency such as Housing and Urban Development and how he can lead in a cross-agency way when we were suffering under Superstorm Sandy, which came right through our part of the country.

I think he is well qualified for the position for which he is nominated. I am pleased the President nominated him, and I am pleased Sylvia Mathews Burwell is still around over at HHS.

Sean has done a wonderful job at HUD, and he will do a great job at OMB. I am pleased to support his nomination, and I hope all my colleagues will as well.

I ask unanimous consent that the vote on confirmation of the Donovan nomination occur at 2:05 p.m. and that Senator MURRAY be in control of the final 2 minutes prior to the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNACCOMPANIED BORDER CHILDREN

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the growing crisis of unaccompanied alien children streaming across our southern border. It has been called a mounting crisis, including the security crisis it is. There are some 52,000 who have come across in the last several months, according to recent reports—up from just a few thousand 1 year ago—and the threat is that will grow significantly. It is continuing to grow.

This has been called a humanitarian crisis, and it is. These are, in most cases, vulnerable children who were taken through by human smugglers, by drug cartels, by other folks who do not—absolutely do not—have their best interests in mind. These children are often mistreated in all sorts of despicable ways through that journey.

How do we address this crisis? It seems to me we need to get our core response right, and the only way to stop this increasing flow is to make clear this activity will not be successful.

The only way to do that is to detain these illegal aliens in our country and keep them under our supervision until we quickly deport them to their countries of origin.

That is the only response, the only message, the only visual that will stop this mounting flow from continuing to

grow. That is the most humanitarian response that will stop more and more of these Central and South American children from being put in this illegal trade and being victimized along the way.

Now, unfortunately, so far, that is not the response President Obama has made.

After speaking for weeks about the 2008 change in immigration law as a factor in this scenario, when President Obama presented a request to Congress on this issue, he did not request any change in that law. He talked about it. He pointed to that law for weeks saying this was the root cause of the problem. Yet in his request to Congress he is not proposing we change that law.

Instead, all he is proposing is more money—a lot more money—\$3.7 billion. Now, some more response and some more resources are undoubtedly necessary, but the lion's share of that, again, doesn't go to enforcement, doesn't go to deportation, doesn't go to sending these illegals back to their home country quickly, humanely, and efficiently. It goes to feeding them and housing them in this country for an extended, indefinite period of time.

That is not what we need again.

What we need, instead, is whatever changes to the law are necessary to allow us to detain these folks in a proper, humane way and quickly move them back to their home countries. We need the will and the resources to get that done in a quick, efficient way. That is what I will be proposing with many others in both the House and the Senate.

For this to work we also need the will and the cooperation of the administration, and I am concerned that there isn't that real focus, real determination, and real will. It is great to have the right law written down on a piece of paper, the right words on a page, but it is equally as important—perhaps more important—to have the right administration, the right spirit, the right execution, the right follow-through on those words on a page.

Unfortunately, we haven't had that in the Obama administration either.

The Los Angeles Times, not exactly a right-leaning publication, has noted that deportations of illegals has plummeted from the high in 2008, plummeted every year since then, to an absolute low in 2013 of about 1,669—from a high of 8,100, down each and every year to 1,600.

This first drop probably had a lot to do with the change in the law to which President Obama has alluded. We need to fix that. But these other drops have to do with the spirit, the focus, and the determination—or lack thereof—of the present administration.

Similarly, about 600 minors—all illegals—were ordered deported each year from nonborder States a decade ago—a decade ago 600 and last year

only 95. Again, this is the same plummeting trend, the same absolutely plummeting trend. That is what we need to fundamentally reverse.

To reverse that I have joined with other Members, as I suggested, to get the right solution in Congress, both changes in the law we need to make and the resources we need to hold these illegal aliens and quickly turn around the flow and send them back to their home countries. That is why I have joined already with Senator FLAKE in his amendment, which he was trying to propose on the Senate floor this week, to repeal the troublesome part of the 2008 law.

That is why I am going further and drafting additional legislation to give this administration the mandate, the ability, the directive it clearly needs to change that practice and to change that policy—not to allow these illegals to be released into the country simply on the honor system that they might show up for a court date—we know that well over 90 percent never show up—and not simply send more money to HHS to properly care for these illegal aliens with no end in sight.

Of course, they need to be properly treated and cared for when they are in this country and beyond, but we should not just write a blank check to keep them here forever but change the law and have the procedure in place to detain them—not to release them—and to quickly, effectively, bring them back to their home country.

That is what happens in a much more routine way for illegal aliens from border countries such as Mexico and Canada. That is what happens effectively in those situations. We need to mirror that. We need to copy that and make sure that happens effectively when the illegal alien is from a border State.

I wrote a letter to DHS Secretary Johnson back in January of this year regarding this very issue, before it became the current crisis, regarding reports detailing actual DHS assistance in the completion of smuggling illegal alien minors.

In that case, a smuggled child in many cases was transferred to illegal alien parents actually by DHS—by HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement. So actually, in those cases, the Federal Government was not completing the object of the criminal conspiracy—was not stopping the smuggling, not punishing the smugglers, but completing the operation. Again, it is another classic case of sending the wrong message—a message that will increase the flow and increase the problem, not decrease it.

Ultimately, that goes back to the humanitarian issue too, because encouraging human smuggling enriches drug cartels, allows them to continue using violence as a means to an end, and wages war on Mexican and American citizens alike as well as the folks in-

involved from Central and South American countries.

We need to change that basic message. We need to turn around those basic incentives. The only way to do that is to have a law and the execution of the law that is reversing that flow, that is apprehending these folks, that is treating them humanely, that is not releasing them out into American society, and that is quickly and effectively returning them to their home countries.

That is the only message, that is the only visual, that will stop this mounting wave and will address the horrible humanitarian problems that flow directly from it.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor for the last minute of this debate to support Sean Donovan's nomination to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I have worked very closely with Secretary Donovan over the last 5 years, and I know he has the skills and experience to work with Congress on creating jobs and tackling our long-term budget challenges fairly and responsibly.

In his role as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Donovan has proven time and again that he is focused first and foremost on strengthening our middle class by expanding opportunities for families and communities.

From his work on stabilizing the housing market following the financial crisis, to reinforcing the agency's role in providing access to affordable housing and building strong, sustainable neighborhoods, to ensuring communities hit hard by natural disasters have the resources they need to get back on their feet, Secretary Donovan has been a highly effective and responsive leader and a great partner to us in Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Secretary Donovan's nomination passed through the Budget Committee with bipartisan support. I am confident he will bring these strengths and many more to the OMB. His leadership will be critical, because while we have made progress on our budget challenges, there is a lot of work yet to be done.

I look forward to working with Secretary Donovan to strengthen our fiscal outlook over the long term and ensure we can make critical investments in jobs and opportunities to support our families, workers, and the economy. I know Secretary Donovan will be a great partner in addressing these challenges, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Shaun L.S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget?

Ms. COLLINS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 221 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Flake	Merkley
Ayotte	Franken	Mikulski
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Begich	Graham	Murphy
Bennet	Hagan	Murray
Blumenthal	Harkin	Nelson
Booker	Hatch	Portman
Brown	Heinrich	Pryor
Burr	Heitkamp	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Reid
Cardin	Hoeven	Sanders
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johanns	Shaheen
Chambliss	Johnson (SD)	Shelby
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Coburn	King	Tester
Cochran	Klobuchar	Udall (CO)
Collins	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Coons	Leahy	Vitter
Corker	Levin	Walsh
Crapo	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	Markey	Warren
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Enzi	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—22

Barrasso	Inhofe	Roberts
Blunt	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Boozman	Kirk	Scott
Cornyn	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Grassley	Paul	
Heller	Risch	

NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Rockefeller	Schatz
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SILLIMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Silliman nomination.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask that we yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Smith nomination.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask that we yield back all remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Qatar?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, the Senator from Minnesota was going to be recognized first. She is not in the Chamber, so I will go first and then we will get back in order.

I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, now that the results are in, I think it is time to talk again—as we did 5 years ago—about what is happening on what I consider to be the greatest failed foreign policy we have experienced.

When we look around the world and we see what happened and what is going on now—and this may be a narrow opinion—it is a result of the apology tour President Obama took immediately after becoming President of the United States.

I remember standing at this podium at that time and saying you don't go to the Muslim world and say: I will not make a speech until we have the Muslim Brotherhood coming with their required numbers. That was not good. This is a deviation from what we always stood for and that was certainly a slap in the face of our best friends in the Middle East, Israel.

Two weeks ago, three Israeli teenagers were found dead in shallow graves in a West Bank village, and it was such a tragedy, and, of course, rec-

iprocity has taken place since then. Hamas has launched over 365 rockets indiscriminately into the Israeli civilian population. I have to say that when I look at some of the things we have worked on together with Israel—for example, the iron dome has performed very well during that period of time. Also, I will say that Prime Minister Netanyahu responded with some 700 or so airstrikes primarily using F-16s and doing it very well. This started 5 years ago, and we have had unrest in that area ever since then.

The Israeli Defense Minister said this week: "We are preparing for a battle against Hamas which will not end within a few days."

Obviously, I strongly support our greatest ally in the Middle East, and so often we do what we can to directly and indirectly continue that support. There has been unrest in Israel for the past 5 or 6 years.

We sent letters to the President some time ago regarding Iraq in 2013. We said when you leave Iraq, be sure to leave the intelligence and the logistics. You cannot just walk out. Yes, we have great trained fighters in the Iraqi security force, but they cannot be totally on their own. They needed to have ISR support. ISR is intelligence and reconnaissance. We have to learn a lesson from this so we don't make the same mistake in Afghanistan. But nonetheless, we did. So now Al Qaeda-inspired terrorists have returned and have overtaken key cities.

ISIS is the most terrifying terrorist group out there. They have taken over towns such as Mosul, Tikrit, Ramadi, and Fallujah.

I have a guy who works for me as a field representative in my State of Oklahoma. His name is Brian Hackler. Prior to the time he came to work for me, he was in the Marines. He was actually deployed twice to Fallujah. If you will remember, Fallujah was the closest thing we had to door-to-door combat like we had in World War II, and we lost a lot of lives.

When I called him, he had not yet heard that we lost Fallujah after they took it over. He actually physically cried. He said, the blood, the sweat, and the tears of all of my friends. He said, we had that secured, and we have now lost it.

We are doing everything we can now to rectify that situation. I am glad the Obama administration is doing what we asked them to do 2 years ago. While we will lose lives, hopefully we can keep the terrorists from having a safe haven in that area.

I am very much concerned about what has happened in Iraq. While the President continues his assessments, it leads me to wonder what the people in our embassy have been doing over there. We are empowering Russia and Iran to lead and become key influences in the region.

Iran reportedly has two battalions of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC, in Iraq. It is kind of funny. Right now a lot of people are saying Iran is our friend. Let's keep in mind that our intelligence determined quite a number of years ago that Iran will have the weapon and the delivery system for that weapon by 2015. Well, 2015 is on us now, so I think if anyone out there is naive enough to think we can depend on Iran to help our situation, they are sadly mistaken.

We have a very serious problem now in Iraq. While the United States has most recently provided some equipment intelligence, this is what we should have been doing and preparing for 2 years ago. Since January, Prime Minister Maliki has asked for help, and the President waited until it became a dire crisis.

Then there is Afghanistan. We know what is happening in Afghanistan. Currently the Presidential election in Afghanistan has taken place. The primary took place and the runoff took place, but the problem is it is obviously a sham. The election is not an honest, transparent election. I believe there is no greater threat that can be imposed on us than by allowing the people of Afghanistan to look at an election and find out it is a rigged election.

I will give an example. While we have not taken sides in this country between Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, I personally would fall down on the side of Abdullah. It seems as though all of the real problems in that election ended up benefiting Ghani as opposed to Abdullah.

For example, in one province—it was Wardak Province—17,000 votes were cast in April. Now the runoff came along and 170,000 votes were cast. If you stop to think about it, that is mathematically impossible, so we know that is rigged. While everyone agrees that Ghani's support is in the rural areas, I would defy anyone to come down to the Senate floor and point out an election that has ever taken place where you have a much larger percentage of rural votes as opposed to urban votes. There is a logical reason—rural voters have to walk a long way to get to the polls and some voters can't get there as easily.

The results of the runoff: There was a 75-percent turnout from the rural areas as opposed to a 24-percent turnout in the urban areas. That couldn't happen. We have to have an audit. I think everybody agrees we have to have an audit, but it has to be a thorough and transparent audit. We have to be sure the Afghan people, when they determine the outcome of this election, know it was a legitimate election so they can rejoice in it.

I think most everyone knows a few hours ago Abdullah declared victory in spite of the fact that the first count I described showed him as losing.

We have this problem right now. It is a problem I hang on President Obama and his administration because we told them in advance what needed to be done to avoid this type of situation from happening.

We are now looking at a situation there that is one where we can act now and preclude something from happening there and is happening as we speak in Iraq.

Remember what took place in terms of the five Taliban terrorists who were released. We thought—and I felt all the time—that was a very controversial issue. A lot of people wanted to close Gitmo, and I have strong feelings against that. We need to have that facility and that resource, which I will explain in a moment.

When the President turned the five Taliban leaders loose—these were the most brutal and heinous of all the terrorists who were in Gitmo. There were five of them. When they found out, they were celebrating. One of the terrorists released was referred to as the toughest of all of them. One of the top people who was on the other side of the Taliban said in response to the release of the terrorists that this is the Taliban rejoicing that the President has turned loose five of the terrorists who were incarcerated in Gitmo. They said it is like putting 10,000 Taliban fighters into battle on the side of jihad. Now the Taliban have the right to lead them into the final moments before victory in Afghanistan.

We all knew the President should not have done it. Anticipating that the President was going to do this, the last bill we passed before the current one, which is on here, we put language in there anticipating that the President, in order to reach his goal and ultimately close Gitmo, might take some of the worst individuals and turn them loose. We put language in there from section 1035(d) of the Defense Authorization Act. He said the President had to notify us 30 days in advance if he was going to release or make any transfers from Gitmo. He blatantly broke that law and did not do it. Everyone was on our side in terms of why we should not let this, what they referred to as the “Taliban dream team,” be turned loose. Right now, supposedly, there is some kind of a deal made where they are in Qatar for a period of a year, but even if they were able to enforce that—stop and think about the theory behind this. The President is saying in essence we are going to turn you guys loose but you have to promise not to kill Americans for a period of a year. Because it says for 1 year they have to remain under some level of control by a country that hasn't even told us how they are going to do that. Consequently, I have no doubt they are free to go anywhere they want.

We had reviews conducted by the Department of Defense, Department of

State, the Department of Justice, Homeland Security, the National Intelligence, and all the rest of them saying these five people are too dangerous to release. Leon Panetta, who was the Secretary of Defense at that time, made the same statement. He said these people are too dangerous, as did General Dunford. By the way, General Dunford, who is the commander in Afghanistan, was not even notified in advance this was going to take place.

So we have all of these circumstances that are going on right now. We have the law that was broken. My feeling has always been, as we are getting down midway into the President's second term, looking at what he is going to have for a legacy, one of his desired legacies would be to close Gitmo. He has talked about that for a long period of time. I think the American people have now caught on, because there is a poll on June 13 by Gallup that shows 66 percent of Americans oppose the closing of Gitmo. So this has changed now.

Why is it important? There is no place else anywhere in the world where we can put these enemy combatants. These guys are not criminals; they are enemy combatants. They are terrorists. And when the President came up with the original idea of putting them into our prison system, we had to go and make sure everyone was aware they are terrorists and not criminals. By definition, they teach other people to be terrorists. If there is anything we don't want in our prison system, it is for all of those criminals to learn how to become terrorists.

We have had Gitmo since 1903. It is one of the few good deals we have wherein we pay a little over \$4,000 a year for that facility. We should stop and see the advantages we have in Gitmo as opposed to putting them someplace else where they can either get out through jail breaks, as has been happening, or if they were to be intermingled in the United States with our prison population.

One of the places, incidentally, that the President first wanted to send the Gitmo inmates was to Fort Sill in my State of Oklahoma. I went to Fort Sill and they said, We don't have the capability here to get this done. So what we want to do is—in fact, the lady who runs the facility at Fort Sill said, I don't know what it is that individuals don't understand. She said she had three deployments to Gitmo. It is the perfect institution for these people. They are well taken care of. The Red Cross and everyone who goes down there says, Yes, the health facilities are better than they have ever had before, the food is the best they have ever had. So it is a facility we need to continue to use.

BENGHAZI

Lastly, before I completely run out of time, I want to jump ahead a little bit and mention Benghazi. I think it is im-

portant for us to understand there are four people in our system who advise the President of the United States. We have the CIA Director who, at the time this happened in Benghazi, was John—anyway, the CIA Director; the Director of National Intelligence, that was James Clapper; the Secretary of Defense, who was Leon Panetta; and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dempsey. All of those people said they knew unequivocally, in Benghazi, when they bombed the annex, it was an organized terrorist activity. I think right now people are realizing that was the real issue. It is not who is responsible for it; it is the fact that we knew it was going to happen. Our Ambassador, who was killed, gave us ample warning for well over a month and a half before it took place that it was going to take place.

So I think we understand now why Gitmo is important and we understand the whole reason this is taking place. I am certainly hoping we can stick together and make sure we don't end up losing one of the most valuable facilities we have in this day of terrorists by having to close it down.

We have a serious problem. I think if there is anything we should learn from this, it is, No. 1, we have a valuable institution called Gitmo. No. 2, what is important is that we don't let happen this year what happened last year. Last year we didn't get the NDAA bill until December. If we had gone to December 31, there would not have been hazard pay and a number of bad things would have happened, but we ended up finally at the last minute getting it done. I have talked to both the majority and minority leaders about the advisability of bringing the NDAA to the floor of the Senate, and consequently we now have invited Members to send their amendments down. We have almost 100 amendments already on the floor. So I am hoping during the next week, we can come down with a specific date—hopefully before the August recess—where we can bring up the NDAA and let the people know who go over there risking their lives that we are going to be here to support them. We are going to be putting together an NDAA bill.

I know my time has expired. I will not suggest the absence of a quorum quite yet because no one has arrived.

Going back to Benghazi, everybody had the information on Benghazi. I neglected to mention we also had General Hamm come in and testify before us, again, that he was one of several who was fully aware of what happened.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINNESOTA FLOODING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor today to speak about the recent heavy rain storms in Minnesota that have caused significant flooding in our State. This was not a one-day disaster. This was not a sudden flash flood such as we saw in Duluth a few years ago or a tornado coming in. This was, in fact, a disaster that occurred over a series of weeks where we had rainfall after rainfall after rainfall. From International Falls on the Canadian border down to Luverne, MN, on the Iowa border, torrential rains have washed out roads, bridges, and culverts, damaged infrastructure and caused significant crop damage. In some of our counties, 40 percent of the farmlands are under water.

These storms have led to states of emergency being declared for 51 of Minnesota's 87 counties. We have not seen anything like this for a while. It tended to be, in the past, that we had a corner of our State that would see trouble, but here we have 51 of Minnesota's 87 counties being declared a state of emergency.

Over the past few weeks I have visited many of these affected areas and seen the damage firsthand.

The city of Norwood Young America saw nearly 9 inches of rain in one night that caused more than \$1 million in damage to its wastewater treatment facility. I saw how water-covered roads strained rural communities, how washed-out rail beds have caused another setback for our already-strained rail system, and how closed township bridges have further delayed shipments of agricultural products.

In southwest Minnesota, along with Senator FRANKEN and Governor Dayton, I met with farmers who were among those hardest hit by the storms. Up until a month ago, the same crop and pasture land in southern Minnesota that is now completely under water had been under drought conditions since 2011. And now not only are these farmers dealing with damage to crops, buildings, and fences due to the flooding, they also experienced losses in the past from a devastating hail storm.

In Rock County in southwestern Minnesota initial estimates indicate 100,000 acres of corn and soybeans are damaged, and the official U.S. Department of Agriculture number will likely be even greater. The extent of the crop damage is really not yet known. Excessive moisture can kill crops altogether or stunt their growth or put them at risk of diseases at lower yields. This disaster has repercussions that will be felt for months to come.

I talked with farmers in Luverne and in Mankato who are worried about how

they will recover these losses and make ends meet. Farmers who were trying to finish planting now may have no hope of getting a crop into their flooded fields at all this summer, and those who did get a crop in are now watching their fields fill with water.

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials are still assessing the damage, and crop insurance adjusters are out in full force so that accurate reports can be filed with county FSA offices. This is a critical step to ensure that farmers and ranchers are not left out of the disaster assistance process.

Farmers operate at the mercy of the weather. Listening to stories of the great financial risk these small business owners face every single day—our State is a State of many small farms—it makes me proud of the work we did in the Senate and the work I did as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and conference committee to fight for permanent disaster programs with mandatory funding in the farm bill that we reauthorized earlier this year. If that were not in place, these farmers and, as a result, our food supply would be facing—Minnesota being one of the top agricultural producers in the country—a very uncertain future. These programs, in addition to the farm bill's improvements to crop insurance, will help provide a safety net for the farmers and the ranchers affected by the flood.

Last week Secretary Vilsack visited our State. He was up in the Moorhead area, and Senator HOEVEN, Senator HEITKAMP, Congressman PETERSON, and I met with him about some conservation issues up there with flooding. They are one of the areas of the State that have some flooding, but not as much right now; they usually have the most flooding. But when he was there he committed to me that the Farm Service Agency will do everything they can to provide any necessary resources and support for our farmers and ranchers.

Just yesterday the Minnesota FSA executive director informed me that she has directed county FSA offices to immediately begin holding community meetings to ensure that farmers and ranchers impacted by these floodwaters have the information they need. Because here we have a new farm bill, and while it is very similar to the last one, there are new rules in place. They have to make critical decisions about if they replant, if they can get emergency loans; what they should plant, if their fields have been devastated, including cover crop; and what is going to be happening in the next few months. They need the information.

Floods have a devastating impact not only on farmers but also on families and small businesses. The damage that these storms caused will not be undone overnight. There is still a lot of hard work ahead of us, and the long cleanup

process has already begun. But we have already seen a swift and efficient response on the part of State and local officials. And in our State, FEMA may be a four-letter word, but it is a good four-letter word. When we saw what had happened in Grand Forks, the Nation was riveted many, many years ago by the flooding in North Dakota and Minnesota. That has recovered. Those are booming areas now. Fargo-Moorhead also experienced significant funding, and FEMA was involved and helped us there. We appreciate the work they are doing in assessing the damage now and the help we know will be coming.

It is critical that the Federal Government do its part to ensure that the resources these families, businesses, and communities need are there to get them back on their feet. Two weeks ago I spoke directly with the President in the White House about the flood damage across the State, and he assured me there would be an immediate Federal response.

That is why the action by Governor Dayton yesterday to formally request that the President issue a major disaster declaration was so important. That is why we sent a letter to the President—our entire congressional delegation; all of the eight House Members and the two Senators—urging swift approval of this request.

Although work to assess the damage remains ongoing, so far nearly \$11 million in eligible damages has been documented in just eight counties. That is just eight counties. One county alone, we know, has \$9 million in damage. This is well above the \$7.5 million threshold that Minnesota has to meet to get the 75-percent Federal match for those counties that have \$3.50 per capita damage. So we imagine that a lot of these counties will be getting Federal help for infrastructure damage at that 75-percent mark.

Believe me when I say Minnesotans just are not sitting around waiting for help. The hard work of assessing the damage continues this week and is even expected to extend into the following week. Even though the damage across the State has reached a level high enough to trigger eligibility, each county is doing its damage assessment.

In some States, as I say, they have had problems with FEMA, but in our State for the most part we have been happy with the work they have done. In my time as a Senator, I have seen the 35W bridge collapse, I have seen the Federal Government step in with inordinate help to get that bridge rebuilt in less than a year.

I saw a tornado come into Wadena, MN, and literally pick up a high school like it was in the "Wizard of Oz," the bleachers landing a mile away. In that town—because of Federal assistance in alerting those citizens about how to use their emergency systems—because

of an alarm system and a siren that worked, despite the fact that their high school looked like a bomb had hit it, a major, large high school—not one person was killed. There was a high school lifeguard watching over 40 little kids at a swimming pool. The sirens went off. The parents got there within 10 minutes and had them all gone, and the few kids that were left ran over with the lifeguard, who had the presence of mind to stay in a neighbor's basement who they did not even know. Not one person died because that siren system worked, because people had practiced, because they knew what to do, and because we had the emergency system in place.

That high school is now rebuilt. Along with that high school being rebuilt, there is a beautiful new company that was rebuilt that is in the farming area, in the farm financing area. Their company was devastated. They did not have a basement. All they had was one safe that the man had bought, and he had joked that it was big enough to hold a few employees. That day when that tornado hit, there were four employees on duty. They went into that safe. That was the only thing that remained of that business. When that man rebuilt, he bought a big enough safe for all 20 of his employees—a true story.

But this is how Minnesota responds to disasters. Few things are more humbling than standing in those kinds of wreckages. Natural disasters are humbling because they remind us that nature is still more powerful than all the technology we have. But they are also humbling because they bring out the best in our communities. From what I have seen in our State—from those emergency responders diving into the Mississippi River over and over to look for survivors in the 35W bridge disaster or what I saw in Fargo-Moorhead, where a man was volunteering to give out food and lunches at the emergency center and I said to him: Oh, thank you for volunteering. What brings you here? He said: I lost my entire house. I said: And you came to volunteer? He said: It is the best thing I could do with my time—those are the things that I remember.

What I remember from these floods across the State—where, again, despite this incredible damage not one person died in our State from this flooding—I remember, again, those first responders and the normal citizens who just got up and helped their neighbors.

We saw this spirit of solidarity when a 911 call came in from a woman who was driving home to Anoka, MN, from Sioux Falls, SD, when her car spun out of control and was swept away. Water was inching up to the windows.

State Trooper Brian Beuning pushed through the rushing water when she called for help. He got her out of the car and held on to her until help ar-

rived. The car ended up in a field a quarter of a mile away. A boat tried to rescue them, but the current was too swift. Finally, two firefighters from Luverne, MN, tied themselves to a semitruck and got the woman and the trooper to safety. Rather than running from disaster, those first responders bravely ran toward it; and that is my State for you.

In the face of ice storms, historic floods, tornadoes, even the collapse of that bridge, Minnesota does not fall apart. Minnesota comes together. When disaster hits our State, we hit the ground running and do not stop until we have the resources in place to ensure our communities are made whole. That means local and State help, but that also means Federal help.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed for the next 30 minutes to engage in a colloquy between myself, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator BARRASSO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the introduction of S. 2592 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is S. 2363, the sportsmen's bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 5 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESERVING AN OPEN INTERNET

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last week I chaired a field hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Burlington, VT, on an issue of critical importance: preserving an open Internet. Our committee heard testimony about the need for concrete, fundamental protections to ensure that the Internet is not abused by those who control how we connect to the Internet.

The timing of the hearing was not a coincidence. I convened it during a week when Americans were gathering to celebrate what our Founders put in

motion more than 200 years ago. While no one then could have imagined how important the Internet would become, the sentiment and priorities expressed at the hearing would have made our Founders proud. We heard from hard-working business owners and consumers about the role of the Internet in enhancing free expression, and also as a free and open marketplace where competition drives innovation.

I brought the Judiciary Committee to Burlington to show the Federal Communications Commission and Congress that the decisions we make on this issue will have deep and wide impact far outside of the Nation's capital, and in the economies of our local communities.

Witnesses at this field hearing warned of how the FCC's proposed approach to new Net neutrality rules would actually harm small businesses, community institutions, and consumers—the people we have in every one of our States whom we represent. I will give an example. Cabot Orton, the proprietor of the Vermont Country Store, testified that they started off as just a local general store in Vermont and now have an e-commerce site that accounts for 40 percent of their overall revenue. One-third of their 450 employees support those Internet transactions. These are a lot of people hired in our little State of Vermont because they have open access to the Internet.

Mr. Orton was clear about his concerns. He said:

We're not asking for special treatment, incentives or subsidies. All the small business community asks is simply to preserve and protect Internet commerce as it exists today, which has served all businesses remarkably well.

I have to agree with him.

Another Vermont small business owner, Lisa Groeneveld, explained that her company Logic Supply spent money building a quality product, not purchasing preferential Internet access. She said that "without an Open and Fair Internet based on the equal access, our business wouldn't even exist today." This successful company is an amazing example of how the Internet can help grow small businesses in Vermont.

Both of these witnesses testified that the success they have achieved with their online businesses would have been difficult to accomplish if the Internet had been a pay-to-play world when they initially launched their sites.

Think of all the companies, whether in Vermont, Massachusetts, or any other State, next year or the year after that want to launch online if suddenly the rules were different for them than for a company that has a lot of money.

We heard other perspectives too. Vermont's State librarian, Martha Reid, testified about the need to ensure equal access for those who rely on public libraries for their Internet access,

which includes many people in rural areas.

Vermonters know of my love for the library I frequented growing up, the Kellogg Hubbard Library. I received my first library card there, in Montpelier, when I was 4. I went there to learn, not just to read.

Ms. Reid testified that “all Americans—including the most disenfranchised citizens, those who would have no way to access the Internet without the library—need to be able to use Internet resources on an equal footing.”

Ms. Reid’s testimony was supported by former FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, who explained that “an Internet controlled and managed for the benefit of the ‘haves’ discriminates against our rights not just as consumers but, more importantly, as citizens.”

The testimony from these individuals offers a relevant selection of the real-world experiences that have to be heard by the FCC and Congress as this debate continues. That is why I took the hearing 500 miles from the Senate—they could be heard.

I don’t want to see an Internet that is divided into the haves and have-nots. I agree with the Vermonters who testified: I don’t want to see an Internet where those who can afford to pay muffle the voices of those who cannot.

An online world that is split into fast lanes and slow lanes, where pay-to-play deals dictate who can reach consumers, runs counter to everything on which the Internet was founded.

Last month I joined Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI to introduce the Online Competition and Consumer Choice Act that requires the FCC to ban online pay-to-play deals. Open Internet principles are the bill of rights for the online world. We must get this right. If we fail to get it right, I guarantee that we will not get another chance and we will not have these companies growing and starting up throughout all our States.

I see the distinguished Senator from Montana here. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, back in 2012 the people of Montana stood up against the influence of corporations and big money in elections. By a 3-to-1 margin, they called on their congressional delegation to introduce a constitutional amendment overturning the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision. That ruling paved the way for more secret money in politics. It allowed corporations to make contributions to political campaigns on the grounds that corporations should have the same right to freedom of speech as any individual.

In response to the overwhelming vote by the people of Montana, I proudly introduced this amendment, which af-

firms what we all know: Corporations are not people, and they do not have the same rights as you or I.

Two years later Americans are realizing that Montanans were pretty forward-looking. That is because in Montana we value independence. We value our individual rights. And we don’t think a faceless entity should be able to tell us what to do. We don’t like it when secretive, shadowy groups try to tell us how to vote, and we don’t like it when corporations dictate our health care decisions. But that is exactly what happened with last week’s Hobby Lobby decision. The Supreme Court decided corporations can limit their employees’ health care options, thereby restricting our individual freedoms. That is un-American. Affording corporations the same constitutional rights to speech—and now to religion—that Montanans and all American people cherish is the exact opposite of what our Founding Fathers envisioned. This is not freedom. It is a slippery slope to granting large corporations greater power over everyday Americans’ lives.

With the Hobby Lobby decision, the Supreme Court found that corporations can hold religious-based objections to providing insurance coverage for certain medical care. The corporations do not have religions; people do. The First Amendment was meant to protect individuals’ religious freedoms, not those of corporations. Now, the religious beliefs of corporations will dictate the health care options of people. It starts with contraceptive care, but where does it end?

It is clear that the Supreme Court is putting the rights of corporations over the rights of people. So much for treating all Americans equally. If you are a corporation with money, you could influence our elections to a far greater extent than ever before. Now, if you have a corporation, you can influence our access to health care too.

Justice Ginsburg said in her dissent:

The decision would deny legions of women who do not hold their employers’ beliefs access to contraceptive coverage.

Let me say that again. These are Justice Ginsburg’s words:

The decision would deny legions of women who do not hold their employers’ beliefs access to contraceptive care.

Where will this end?

Being a woman cannot be a pre-existing condition. Contraception is basic health care, and 99 percent of American women currently use or have used birth control at some point in their lives. But now a manless, faceless corporation can stand between women and their access to this basic care, all because an activist Supreme Court thinks corporations have the same rights as people.

This Supreme Court continues to redefine individual rights as corporate rights: freedom of speech, freedom of

religion. We have to ask ourselves, where will this end? It seems as if anything is possible when it comes to this Supreme Court, where five men can determine a woman’s health care. But it doesn’t need to be this way. My constitutional amendment makes it 100 percent clear that the rights enshrined in our Constitution are meant for the American people—real folks who work day in and day out to put food on the table—not corporate entities.

My amendment also allows the American people to once again regulate corporations through the representatives they elect in State and Federal government.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me and Senators MURPHY, BEGICH, WALSH, MARKEY, and WHITEHOUSE in supporting this commonsense step. But it is going to take a comprehensive approach to make sure real people, not corporations, are in charge. Whether it is elections or health care, people should be free to make their own choices without the undue influence of corporate entities.

Montanans voted in 2012 to limit constitutional rights to individual people, but it was 100 years earlier that we also voted to limit corporate influence in elections after wealthy mining companies bought influence and even paid for a U.S. Senate seat. We recognized the negative impact wealthy corporations were having on our electoral process. But this Supreme Court, using its Citizens United decision as justification, overturned our century-old law just 2 years ago, creating the same kind of election-spending free-for-all in Montana that we are witnessing nationwide.

Before the Hobby Lobby decision, the fight against corporate influence was mainly about making sure real people and their ideas were in charge of elections. But now it is no longer just about a democracy; it is about keeping corporations out of our private lives, out of our bedrooms, and out of our religious decisions. It is an even bigger fight now.

If you don’t want to find out where corporate influence and the Supreme Court will go next, I would encourage you to join me and fight back with smart, responsible measures that will put real people back in charge of our lives. Our democracy has been under attack before but never to this extent.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE POWER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the great pamphleteer of the American Revolution, Thomas Paine, famously characterized our Nation at its founding by asserting that in America the law is king. This sentiment has undergirded centuries of our Nation's political culture: The rule of law protects us from arbitrary government actions. It is what guarantees our liberties, it is what fosters our prosperity and our flourishing as a free people, and it is a source of our Republic's legitimacy. For as the Declaration of Independence teaches, governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

For these reasons, when drafting the Constitution, the Framers obligated the President to take care that our laws be faithfully executed, but they were careful not to give the President the authority to make or change the law on his own.

Our Nation's Founders knew, in the sage words of Montesquieu, that "in all tyrannical governments . . . the right both of making and of enforcing the laws is vested in one and the same man, or . . . body of men; and wherever these two powers are united together, there can be no public liberty."

To safeguard our liberties as the Constitution requires, the Constitution vests Federal legislative powers in the Congress—the House of Representatives and the Senate—which were designed to engage in a particularly thorough and deliberative legislative process. By ratifying the Constitution, the American people established this system as the supreme law of the land applying to all of us—including the President.

Despite these Constitutional foundations, President Obama has simply decided that he "won't take no for an answer" when Congress refuses to go along with his far left agenda. In direct opposition to our centuries-old system of legislation and the binding authority of the Constitution, the President has audaciously declared that "when Congress won't act, I will." And he has followed up these threats with a variety of unilateral executive actions, many of which are flatly inconsistent with the law and the Constitution.

Over the past weeks and months I have come to the Senate floor to speak out about a series of specific instances that exemplified the brazen lawlessness of this administration. This pervasive and illegitimate outreach has come in many different forms. We have seen the President regulate contrary to the plain text of the law, simply ignoring the clear commands of duly enacted Federal statutes. For example, a hallmark of the President's so-called pen-and-phone strategy has been an Executive order forcing contractors to raise their minimum wage. He issued this directive despite the fact that a Federal

statute already governs the minimum wage for Federal contractors.

Although a different statute gives the President some discretion in the area of Federal procurement, its plain language demands, as courts of law have upheld, that there be a sufficient nexus between the President's orders and the statute's stated goal of efficiency and economy in Federal procurement. President Obama's order increasing contractors' labor costs by hiking their minimum wage is thus wholly inconsistent with the law.

We have seen the Obama administration seek to rewrite existing law and thereby usurp Congress's legislative authority through the use of conditioned waivers. Consider how the Department of Education has issued waivers of No Child Left Behind's requirements to 43 of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Even when Democrats had large majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, President Obama refused to pursue legislative reauthorization of the statute to set realistic goals going forward. Apparently, he wanted to avoid spending his energies and political capital on a legislative process that might expose divisions within his own party or force him to compromise.

The President chose simply to establish an entirely different set of education policies by attaching his own conditions to the waivers that States need to receive Federal money. His administration has not been shy about enforcing conditions that bear little resemblance to provisions of the law itself.

The State of Washington learned this recently when it became the first to lose its waiver and much of its Federal funding primarily because it did not meet the administration's mandate for teacher and principal evaluation—a mandate that has no grounding in the actual statute.

We have seen President Obama and his subordinates stretch what lawful authorities the executive branch does have beyond recognition to advance its preferred policies. Take, for example, the Nation's drug laws, an area in which the Obama administration decided it disagrees with the criminal statutes on the books and wants to implement a different policy. The President has demonstrated an eagerness to do so unilaterally, no matter the governing Federal law, and no matter the broad and bipartisan support for sentencing reform in Congress. The administration's new clemency push for drug offenders seeks to employ the President's specific constitutional power—one limited to relieve individual instances of injustice—to provide relief to large swaths of criminals who fit a few broad criteria. The President has also directed major changes over which Federal drug crimes are charged and at

what level to do this. His administration has cited prosecutorial discretion—a limited authority derived from the power to adapt enforcement for an individual's specific circumstances—to implement what are, in fact, broad standards affecting thousands upon thousands of prosecutions.

Given the scope of these actions, compared to the Executive's narrowly tailored authorities, the administration's invocation of prosecutorial discretion and the clemency power have become transparent excuses to justify flouting existing Federal law.

We have seen President Obama claim the power to gut the law by unilaterally creating gaping enforcement carve-outs, thereby effectively rewriting policy set by legislation. Take immigration, an area in which many of us—myself included—support reform but which is currently governed by existing law. For years the Obama administration has advanced a growing number of enforcement carve-outs for increasingly expansive classes of illegal immigrants. First, it exempted those brought here as children, then veterans, then their families. Now the administration is contemplating excluding from the application of duly enacted immigration law anyone who has not committed serious felonies. While nearly everyone agrees that violent criminals should be our highest priority, the administration has gone much further and essentially declared its intention to make current immigration law a dead letter in virtually every other case.

We have seen the Obama administration openly ignore its statutory obligations without meaningful justification. Consider the President's decision to release the top five Taliban leaders in U.S. custody without notifying Congress, as required by Federal law. The administration's excuses for delaying notification could not stand up to scrutiny under the President's own rationales. Indeed, the administration's own statements demonstrate that it deliberately withheld advance notification of the release from Congress for the illegitimate purpose of minimizing congressional opposition.

We have seen some of the Obama administration's worst abuses of executive power in creating and implementing its signature legislative programs. In Dodd-Frank, for example, the administration created a new agency with unprecedented and unchecked power—no meaningful administrative controls on its power, no congressional control over its budget, and no effective judicial review of its far-reaching decisions.

And of course, any discussion of executive overreach by this administration must include ObamaCare. Back when the administration was writing that 2,000-plus page monstrosity, the bill's proponents argued that its length and

complexity were necessary evils—that its many intricate parts were essential to achieving the bill's promised objectives.

The individual mandate, the employer mandate, the minimum coverage requirements, the cuts to Medicare Advantage, and the limits for subsidies to State-run exchanges—we were promised these provisions and others were both critical and carefully timed to expand coverage and rein in costs. Yet, when the time came to implement the law, the administration's tune changed. To justify violating a number of clear statutory mandates, the administration has mustered a weak and unconvincing hodgepodge of legal acrobatics—all for the purpose of allowing the administration to avoid enforcing the central provisions of its own signature law.

Consider some of these particularly egregious justifications: claiming that limited transition authority exercised by one agency justified another agency exerting that power even more broadly; or asserting that subjective impressions of excessive cost could justify a hardship exemption, when the statute specifically defines excessive costs in objective terms; or defining explicit, carefully timed deadlines written into the law by Congress, the timing of which is supposed to anchor the whole statutory scheme; or abusing a small pilot program to mitigate the law's vast cuts to Medicare Advantage; or simply ignoring a critical provision limiting how billions of dollars in tax subsidies are to be spent.

These are only a few examples of this administration's lawlessness in implementing ObamaCare. I could continue on about the significant legal concerns surrounding this administration's abusive handling of high-risk pools, its dubious actions involving the small business exchange, its sweetheart deals granting unauthorized exemptions for labor unions, and many other similarly problematic actions.

But the point is clear: Time and again, the Obama administration has flouted its constitutional responsibilities, exceeded its legitimate authority, ignored duly enacted law, and sought to escape any accountability for its unilateralism.

Today I have simply scratched the surface of the Obama administration's legally dubious actions. I could also discuss the way the administration is manipulating the Endangered Species Act to assert control over private property, or the EPA's many abuses: its existing source rule, its cross-State air pollution rule, its waters of the United States rule, and its CAFE standards. Or I could catalog the illegal actions of the President's appointees to the National Labor Relations Board, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or the Federal Communications Commission.

In each of these areas, the Obama administration's executive overreach

simply cannot stand—and it won't. The President is rightly facing increased scrutiny and criticism in a range of areas for his illegitimate approach. Over the past two weeks, the Supreme Court strongly rebuked the President's lawlessness in three key cases.

The Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA case involves one of the most controversial issues debated today: regulating carbon dioxide emissions in an effort to stop global warming. Americans and their elected representatives have been seriously debating whether and how to pursue that, just as we should when weighty matters of national policy are considered. Congress has considered various pieces of legislation over the years to grant Federal authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, most notably President Obama's 2009 cap-and-trade bill. Each time we have considered such legislation, the majority of us have made the careful choice that the purported benefits are not worth the undeniably massive costs: hundreds of thousands of jobs destroyed and gas and electricity prices sent soaring.

President Obama, though, told us again that he “won't take no for an answer”—or, in other words, that he refuses to accept that the Constitution delegates to the people's representatives in Congress—and not to him alone—the power to make or change the law. Defying Congress and the law, he claimed authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon emissions from powerplants. But the Clean Air Act plainly does not provide him that authority.

In attempting to provide a shred of legal justification for its actions, the Obama administration took a detailed provision of the law, complete with precise numerical thresholds, and unilaterally rewrote it through regulation to claim power Congress never, in fact, gave.

The Supreme Court rightly struck down the administration's abuse of authority in this instance, as it has done in past cases. But, unfortunately, such regulatory overreach has become so common in the Obama administration that Federal bureaucrats have become experts in manufacturing supposed legal authority out of thin air. And the courts are simply unable to keep up with the explosion of executive overreach by President Obama's administration.

Perhaps the most extreme example of such executive abuse was at issue in the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* case. Under the auspices of ObamaCare, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a regulation requiring employers to pay for a full complement of birth control methods for every employee. The Obama administration applied this mandate to almost all employers—even those who run small, closely-held businesses and whose deep-

ly-held religious beliefs conflict with the mandate.

Some media outlets have focused on the conflict between this latest ObamaCare abuse and the principles enshrined in the First Amendment's protection of the free exercise of religion. Others have focused on the Obama administration's argument that corporations are not people—as if the particular form of how individuals organize themselves to do business somehow allows the Federal Government to trample their religious liberties.

But in all of the sound and the fury, a central point has been lost: The *Hobby Lobby* case was actually about a direct threat to the separation of powers. It pitted the Obama administration's unilateral mandate against a law passed by Congress.

In issuing this regulation, the Obama administration completely disregarded a duly enacted Federal statute, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which specifically bars such government infringement on Americans' right to exercise their religious beliefs. The ObamaCare contraception mandate flies in the face of the law's requirement that the government not substantially burden the exercise of religion unless it is the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling government purpose. I know. I was the prime sponsor of that bill in the Senate, and I got my friend Senator Kennedy to go along with me. The President said it was one of the most important bills in history, that religious freedom may be the most important of all of our freedoms.

As a lead author of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, it has been particularly frustrating to see the Justices of the Supreme Court wrongly criticized for supposedly limiting access to birth control. In reality, all the Court did was hold the Obama administration accountable to the law—specifically, a law that passed Congress with near unanimity and was signed by President Clinton, who lauded the law. I was there. I was on the south lawn when he signed that. So were many others.

In the *NLRB v. Noel Canning* case, by contrast, the administration violated one of the Constitution's central checks on Presidential power, the requirement that nominations of principal officers receive the advice and consent of the Senate except during the recess of the Senate.

Concern about Executive appointment abuse was on the minds of our Fathers when they devised the Senate's role in the process. Their fears were strikingly similar to what President Obama has sought to make reality: a radical set of National Labor Relations Board appointees who promised to tip

the balance of the Board toward an extreme and divisive agenda and a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director nominee endowed with unprecedented power—no checks on his removal, no congressional control over his budget, and no effective judicial review of his actions.

But President Obama again claimed he would not take no for an answer and claimed the power to use the recess appointment power to install these four nominees, even though the Senate had completely different rules. But even the Department of Justice admitted that a 3-day adjournment was too short to give the President lawful authority to bypass the Senate.

Instead, the President audaciously claimed the power to decide that, in his opinion, our so-called pro forma sessions during this period did not count as sessions of the Senate, even though they had always counted, and the Senate should decide its own rules, and that has always been the rule around here.

Not only, as Hamilton explained in Federalist 69, did the Framers specifically deny our President the King's power to deem the legislature out of session, but during these sessions the Senate was fully capable of engaging in its business. In fact, during similar sessions the previous fall, the Senate had twice passed legislation that President Obama himself signed.

So extreme were the administration's arguments that the Supreme Court unanimously held President Obama's actions unconstitutional. In doing so, the Court confirmed that the Constitution does not create in the President an endlessly flexible power to bypass Congress when he happens to disagree with us—as if our advice-and-consent role were merely an inconvenience to be avoided, rather than the organizing principle of how the constitutional process is designed to work.

Taken together, these three cases represent a resounding victory for the rule of law and the Constitution over the President's unilateralism, and they are far from unique examples. The Court has ruled unanimously, by a vote of 9 to 0, against the Obama administration 20 times—20 times, 9 to zip. These include many significant cases, such as the Hosanna-Tabor case, in which the Obama administration tried to control a religious organization's hiring of its ministers; the Sackett case, in which the Obama administration tried to take away the lawful right to challenge unlawful EPA fines of up to \$75,000 a day on a poor couple who were just trying to improve their property; and the Arizona case, in which the Obama administration tried to displace State law with mere Federal enforcement priorities.

But instead of taking these rebukes to heart, the President has doubled down on his go-it-alone attitude. He

has vowed more Executive orders of questionable legality, he has reaffirmed his commitment to an extreme anti-energy agenda and a willingness to abuse his legal authorities to unleash an onslaught of new regulations, and he has used the mistrust he created by refusing to enforce existing immigration law to justify further non-enforcement.

President Obama's shameful defiance in the face of the Supreme Court's rulings means our fight against his lawless overreach has only just begun. While we should applaud the Court's recent decisions, we should also realize the limits of courtroom litigation to check executive branch abuse. Indeed, the Obama administration has gone to great lengths to shield its lawlessness from judicial review by surreptitiously crafting many of such actions to prevent any plaintiff from having legal standing to launch a challenge in court, by aggressively challenging the legitimacy of suits that have been filed, by significantly curtailing the availability of judicial review, and by brazenly packing the DC Circuit—the Nation's most important court for most regulatory cases—with compliant judges.

The Speaker of the House has announced plans to vote on a measure to authorize a lawsuit against President Obama for his unfaithful execution of the law. While I support the legislative branch using every tool at our disposal to hold this President accountable to his constitutional obligations, we should also be mindful of our decades-long fight to limit the judicial power to its proper role under the Constitution. We should not seek to replace one constitutional travesty—the lawlessness of this President—with another by breaking down the structural limits on the judicial power. On the other hand, the House may very well succeed because of the actions of this President because something has to be done to curtail these inappropriate, unilateral, illegal actions.

In the end, we cannot rely on the courts alone. With such a powerful and aggressive President, all of us must stand and fight back against this executive lawlessness. I urge all my colleagues—both Democratic and Republican—to use the rightful and legitimate constitutional authorities the Framers gave us to stand and resist the President's recklessness.

But whether blinded by partisan loyalty to the President or too inexperienced to understand this body from any other perspective than having a like-minded Senate majority and President, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have allowed—even facilitated—this administration's attempts to break down the constitutional checks on Executive power.

I urge them to change course. That is the tradition of some of the greatest

Senators on both sides of the aisle—of Mike Mansfield, Howard Baker, and Robert Byrd. That is the purpose of the Constitution's division of powers, for as Madison counseled in Federalist 51, “. . . the great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachment of the others.”

If this body is to maintain a meaningful role in preserving liberty and prosperity, we must dutifully fulfill our constitutional obligation of checking the President's unlawful attempts to assert illegitimate power.

I began my service here in 1977. Bob Byrd was the newly elected majority leader. R.C. Byrd was one of the all-time procedural experts in this body. He was a very strong personality. He would not be putting up with what this President is doing. He would not be putting up with the usurpation of the Senate's power or of the legislature's power, the Congress's power.

I call on my Democratic friends on the other side to start standing up. If they do not start standing up, I think the people are going to hold them accountable because these are separated powers and the legislative body is supposed to handle these matters and not some President unilaterally changing the law at his whimsy.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE LAWLESSES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to congratulate two long-time friends.

Sixteen years ago, after moving to America, Billy Lawless and Anne O'Toole Lawless today became citizens of the United States of America. This is a cause for celebration, not just for Billy and Anne but for the entire city of Chicago. You see, the Lawless family is part of the restaurant royalty in Chicago.

Billy and Anne and their four grown children—Billy, Jr., Amy, John Paul, and Clodagh—own and operate three of the best-loved—and my favorite—restaurants and pubs in Chicago. They are going to open another set very soon. Good food, good fun, great people, that is what the Lawless restaurants are all about. Billy Lawless is also a tireless and eloquent advocate for immigration reform.

One of the great heroes of Irish mythology is a benevolent giant by the name of Finn McCool, a great defender of Ireland.

In his younger days, Billy Lawless was a championship rower. At 6-foot-2, with a broad rower's chest and strong arms, he looks a little bit like Finn McCool. And he is chairman of the group called Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform.

But it is not just Irish immigrants Billy cares about. Billy Lawless understands that America's history of welcoming immigrants from across the globe—and he knows; he is part of it—is what makes our Nation great. He is a great defender not just of the rights of Irish immigrants but all immigrants. So it was perfect that he and Anne swore their citizenship oaths today with 137 other new Americans from 39 different countries and 5 continents.

Billy grew up on a dairy farm in Galway, a city in the west of Ireland. In the late 1970s, he sold the farm and went into the pub business. Over the next 20 years, Billy and Anne had four children, and they owned and operated several well-known pubs and restaurants in Galway. Life was good.

Then their daughter Amy—an excellent athlete herself in rowing—won a full college scholarship to Amherst College in Massachusetts.

For years, it had been Billy's dream to open a business in America. At the age of 48, when his daughter headed off to America, he decided to give it a shot. His friends thought he was crazy. Anne waited several months before she followed Billy to the States for this venture. She wanted to make sure this wild idea had a possibility of success.

Billy looked at opportunities in Boston and Philadelphia. But on December 31, 1997, New Year's Eve, Billy arrived in Chicago. He knew he had found a new home.

Today, Chicago is home to Billy and Anne Lawless, all four of their children, and their seven American-born grandchildren. As Billy says:

I can think of no other place in the world where our family could have achieved what it has in America.

Billy and Anne, thank you and all your family for what you have given to Chicago, to Illinois, and to our Nation. You have waited a long time and worked hard for this day. Now it is here. I am proud to call you not only my friends but my fellow Americans. Congratulations on becoming citizens of the United States.

Madam President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2244

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by me, after consultation with Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 438, S. 2244; that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered original text for the purposes of further amendment; that the only amendments in order to the bill be the following: Coburn No. 3549, Vitter No. 3550, Flake No. 3551, and Tester No. 3552; that each amendment have 1 hour of debate, equally divided between the proponents and opponents; that there be 1 hour of general debate on the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the amendments in the order listed; that there be no second-degree amendments in order to any of the amendments prior to the votes; that upon disposition of the Tester amendment, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. So, Mr. President, we understand that in getting this agreement, Senators should expect a rollcall vote in relation to the Coburn amendment and another rollcall vote on passage of the bill, as amended. The other amendments in this agreement are expected to be subject to voice votes.

Mr. President, we have whipped right through this very quickly, but it is an extremely important piece of work that was done on a bipartisan basis on a very, very important piece of legislation. We have to do this, this terrorism insurance. With all the things going on in the world, if we do not finish this, there will be no construction in America. We went through this a number of years ago. Construction came to a screeching halt. It was bad enough, but with this not being able to be done, it made it even worse. So we are very fortunate we will complete it next week—with this UC agreement.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EASTER HOMILY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Father O'Donovan is one of the dearest friends

I have from my association with Georgetown past or present. Marcelle and I were privileged to help him celebrate his 80th birthday and join him for church the next day. His homily is truly reflective of the wonderful human he is and I wanted to share it with my fellow Senators. I ask unanimous consent that Father O'Donovan's April 27, 2014 homily be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A JESUIT'S JOURNEY
HOMILY IN DAHLGREN CHAPEL
ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
27 APRIL 2014

Dear Friends: I beg your indulgence this morning to speak more personally than the Second Sunday of Easter would ordinarily suggest. You may permit me to do so, however, since you have come to the Hilltop not only to help me celebrate a very "round" birthday but also to give your support to the education of young Jesuits. And so the story of this one Jesuit's journey will be linked to that of my fellow Jesuits as well as to you, my very dear friends.

When yesterday, it seems—I entered the Society of Jesus, I was setting forth on a journey for which there were indeed words—the love of God, the service of our fellow human beings, a vowed life in the Church—but only a fairly shallow grasp of what they might mean. Yesterday, with other newly entered Jesuits, we were young, vigorous, some had great dreams, others cherished a blessed sense of duty, all sensed that somehow the life they gave to the esteemed Society of Jesus would also be found, truly, in that least Society.

And now, suddenly, I find myself . . . 80 years old. When I entered the Novitiate during the presidency of Dwight D. Eisenhower, under the papacy of Pius XII, and with John Baptist Janssens as General Superior of the Society of Jesus, order was a relative constant in our experience. Soon the constant became change. In our formative years our nation was shaken, for good and ill, by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, Watergate. The Second Vatican Council, with roots, we learned, in the liturgical, patristic, theological and ethical scholarship of many Jesuits among others, convened in a miraculous rush of time between 1962 and 1965. New hope dawned for the Church in the world, most of us thought, just when the world seemed most to need such a beacon. Within a decade, the journey on which we had embarked seemed to have mysteriously changed—to have become, in fact, far more an adventure. We were invited to change, too, if we were really to live in the time we were being given. Many other friends had experiences somewhat similar, not least because children change everything.

THE GOD OF TIME

The time we were being given: through it all there was this constant: the patience and fidelity of God. In the Society of Jesus we wanted liturgical participation, social renewal, a newly intimate community life. Indeed, as the Society began remarkably to appropriate the *aggiornamento* of the Council in its General Congregations from the 31st onward, under the new and (I deeply believe) sainted leadership of Pedro Arrupe, we were called officially and authoritatively to recognize that a community of loved sinners

can only be faithful if it seeks the unloved, stands with those who have been shunned, lives but also learns in solidarity with the poor.

How clumsily, how unrealistically, with what a rush we often sought our new goals and discovered that God, the Holy Mystery who is our Absolute future, was patient with our straining time, was even taking it into God's own life. (Some of us became aware of what can only be called God's sense of humor before the human spectacle.) The love of neighbor which had seemed like the love of God, a moral imperative and recommended pattern of behavior, proved to be far more: the discovery of and entry into God's own life. God was not just pleased if we could be healing, or encouraging, or messengers of justice. God was there, in the care and hope and justice, taking our time into God's own.

For if God is eternal but also offers divine life and grace to a freely created world, then that world's time and history, our time and history, becomes God's time and history truly, too.

We had set off on a journey to a goal—and discovered that we were already, however and even desperately unworthily, already living in it. Through the patience of the Great Tutor we were learning that incarnation was specific to a certain time and place—but also calls all time and space to union with it.

THE GOD OF SUFFERING

Incarnation, however, means becoming fully human, and sooner or later, one learns the cost of the endeavor. There were ghastly events in political society such as the Balkans war or the Rwanda genocide. There were what many of us considered retreats from the "aggressive fidelity" of the Council. Our own nation's struggles with racism, sexism, and the serious poverty of many Americans seemed to fail as often as they succeeded.

But there were more personal losses as well. We lost parents and friends. We struggled with alcoholism and other addictions. Cherished projects all too often failed. The social legislation we favored did not pass. The promotion we hoped for went to someone else. Anxiety became a nearer neighbor. Many fellow Jesuits, a Provincial and not a few best friends among them, left our company. The symphony's scherzo proved to be a threnody.

But God was patient, was indeed perhaps most patient with our suffering. The cross of Christ before which we had been encouraged to ask: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What shall I do for Christ?" became something not imagined but rather our immediate experience. His suffering was ours, and ours his, because he had given himself for and to us, and had claimed us to and for him.

And so, even more miraculous than life itself, there Christ is—in the illiterate village, the anguished schizophrenic, the solitary death row, all the battlegrounds of the world—the whole Christ to whom all belong and they to him, the crucified and risen one who is never a stranger but the patient one who waits for us always—and from whose love nothing, nothing, nothing can separate us.

THE GOD OF BEAUTY

If the cross of Christ seals our time and shares our suffering, revealing the patience of God, it awakens us also, in ways I scarcely could have imagined all those years ago on this Hilltop—yesterday—to the beauty of God. Darwin wrote toward the end of his life

and without apparent regret that his scientific studies had led him no longer to be able to enjoy Shakespeare. Dostoevsky, on the other hand, let Prince Myshkin speak his hope: Beauty will save the world.

For many young people, "the beautiful" is a preoccupation for an elite few. But with fellow Jesuits and so many of you here today, I have learned how wonderfully various and compelling God's world is. My Jesuit classmates included a poet, historians, literary critics, high school and college administrators, journalists and prolific authors, theologians and philosophers, spiritual directors and retreat masters, ethicists. We have served in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. And if beauty is what arrests and compels human attention, whether in the splendor of a sunset or the sorrow of a scar, a Frederick Edwin Church landscape or a character such as August Wilson's King Hedley II, we have seen too much marvelous variety not to have become more alert to the beauty of the artisan of it all.

It was easy enough to appreciate the harmonious, the splendid, the musical moments of our experience. Harder to recognize what distortion, darkness, dissonance reveal. But the same Spirit that establishes order can comfort tears; the Spirit that illumines can guide through the night; the Spirit that teaches song can interpret discord. The beauty of God can come in the mode of fulfillment, in achieved form and luminous color and delicate balance, but also in the mode of hope, in protest against violence, in fury at injustice, in conscientious objection.

To say that the Spirit of God teaches us to see again and to hope to see wholly is not to claim completion. I find myself at 80 each year happier and more blessed to be a Jesuit priest—but journeying still. This too: beauty is always fresh, new, surprising. And if a patient God has made our time God's own, and our suffering God's own, then how can we not hope that in today's liturgy indeed but one day finally and forever, God's Spirit will teach each of us the most beautiful words of all:

Take me. I am yours.

LEO J. O'DONOVAN, S.J.

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is always good to have someone in the media with a sense of history. Walter Pincus demonstrates that time and again. His June 19 column in *The Washington Post* is a prime example and I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *Washington Post*, June 19, 2014]

DICK CHENEY WANTS TO FORGET HISTORY AND WRITE HIS OWN VERSION

(By Walter Pincus)

Why should anyone take seriously what Dick Cheney says about President Obama's policy in Iraq?

In their *Wall Street Journal* op-ed this week, Cheney and his daughter Liz began by cherry-picking Obama quotes from over three years about the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

That warmed-over technique is what Cheney, President George W. Bush and other top aides cleverly used with intelligence reports

in the fall of 2002 as they drummed up public support for their invasion of Iraq. That, of course, set the stage for today's terrible events.

"Rarely has a U.S. president been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many," the Cheneys chortled. "Too many times to count, Mr. Obama has told us he is ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—as though wishing made it so."

Let's return to a Dick Cheney speech on Aug. 27, 2002, in Nashville, before the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and see how many times a vice president could be "so wrong about so much at the expense of so many."

He told his audience: "In Afghanistan, the Taliban regime and al-Qaeda terrorists have met the fate they chose for themselves. And they saw . . . the new methods and capabilities of America's armed services."

Here's another applause line: "In the case of Osama bin Laden—as President Bush said recently—"If he's alive, we'll get him. If he's not alive—we already got him."

The Bush team never got him. Obama did.

When Cheney was speaking, bin Laden was very much alive. Al-Qaeda terrorists and the Taliban had just retreated, but they were able to regroup as the Bush team, satisfied with its "victory" in Afghanistan, had turned its attention and U.S. military forces toward Iraq.

It was in this speech that Cheney began what a former Bush chief of staff, Andrew Card, would describe as the fall 2002 public-relations plan to "educate the public" about the so-called threat from Iraq. That effort would lead to a congressional joint resolution authorizing the president to use U.S. armed forces to "defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq" and "enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

Cheney told the VFW: "The Iraqi regime has in fact been very busy enhancing its capabilities in the field of chemical and biological agents. And they continue to pursue the nuclear program they began so many years ago."

He added: "We've gotten this from the firsthand testimony of defectors—including Saddam's own son-in-law, who was subsequently murdered at Saddam's direction. Many of us are convinced that Saddam will acquire nuclear weapons fairly soon."

A former White House deputy press secretary, Scott McClellan, would later write that a White House Iraq Group (WHIG) was "set up in the summer of 2002 to coordinate the marketing of the [Iraq] war," and will continue "as a strategic communications group after the invasion had toppled Saddam [Hussein's] regime."

It was Cheney at the VFW convention who first said: "Regime change in Iraq would bring about a number of benefits to the region. When the gravest of threats are eliminated, the freedom-loving peoples of the region will have a chance to promote the values that can bring lasting peace."

He also said: "Extremists in the region would have to rethink their strategy of Jihad. Moderates throughout the region would take heart. And our ability to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process would be enhanced, just as it was following the liberation of Kuwait in 1991."

Show me a better example of "as though wishing made it so."

The Cheneys also cavalierly forget that the status of forces agreement with Iraq that Bush signed Dec. 14, 2008, made way for the

withdrawal of all U.S. combat troops by the end of 2011. That agreement protected U.S. forces on duty from prosecution by Iraqi courts. It was the Iraqis' desire to modify this that led Obama—on the advice of his military chiefs—to not leave a residual force of military trainers.

One more sign of the Cheneys' convenient amnesia: They said of Obama's initiative toward involving Tehran in the effort to put down ISIS advances in Iraq, "Only a fool would believe American policy in Iraq should be ceded to Iran, the world's largest sponsor of terror."

In November 2001, the Bush White House, despite icy relations, approved talking directly to Iran diplomats before and during the Bonn conference called to try to establish a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan. As a result, U.S. Ambassador James Dobbins got what he described as Tehran's "major contribution to forge a solution" among various Afghan groups, which in turn led to a unified temporary Kabul government under Hamid Karzai.

On Dec. 5, 2001, a White House spokesman described Bush as "very pleased" with the Afghan agreement. However, in his Jan. 29, 2002, State of the Union speech, Bush described Iran, Iraq and North Korea as the "axis of evil" at the same time there were meetings underway between U.S. and Iranian diplomats to see whether talks could go beyond Afghanistan.

In contrast to the Cheneys, people should listen to former secretary of state James Baker III, who in Thursday's Wall Street Journal called on the United States to organize an international coalition of regional countries, including Iran. Recalling Iran's cooperation on Afghanistan, Baker said today's "reality is that Iran is already the most influential external player in Iraq and so any effort without Iranian participation will likely fail."

Baker has a successful track record and a memory. The Cheneys have neither.

NEVADA TRIBAL LANDS TRANSFER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing to address five important pieces of legislation. Two of these bills, the Moapa Band of Paiutes Land Conveyance Act—S. 2479—and the Nevada Native Nations Land Act—S. 2480—will transfer land into trust for a total of eight Indian tribes in Nevada for heritage preservation and economic development.

Nevada's Great Basin has always been home to the Washoe, Paiute and Western Shoshone Peoples. The First Nevadans have long been a voice for protecting our wild landscapes and enriching our State through their language and cultural heritage. I take the many obligations that the United States has to tribal nations seriously. Land is lifeblood to Native Americans and these bills provide space for housing, economic development, traditional uses and cultural protection. I would like to commend the tribes, whose immense work and collaboration made these bills possible, and I look forward to continuing to work with our First Nevadans on protecting homelands.

The Moapa Band of Paiute Indians have been in Nevada and the West since time immemorial and suffered great land losses through Federal Indian policy. When the Moapa River Reservation was established in the late 1800s, it consisted of over 2 million acres. In its lust to settle the West, Congress drastically reduced the reservation to just 1,000 acres in 1875. It wasn't until 1980 that Congress restored 70,500 acres to the reservation. Today the reservation is approximately 71,954 acres.

The Moapa Band of Paiutes Land Conveyance Act, S. 2479, would direct the Secretary of the Interior to take more than 26,000 acres of land currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management—BLM—and the Bureau of Reclamation into trust for the Moapa People who live outside of Las Vegas, NV. This legislation would provide much needed land for the tribe's housing, economic development and cultural preservation.

Located on I-15, the tribe runs the Moapa Paiute Travel Plaza. The tribe is the first in Indian Country to develop utility-scale solar projects on tribal lands. Since southern Nevada has critical habitat for the desert tortoise, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the tribe works closely with Federal, State, and local partners, members of the conservation community and interested stakeholders to develop their community in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Nevada Native Nations Land Act, S. 2480, would transfer land into trust for seven northern Nevada tribes—the Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians, the Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe, the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribes, the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians. As does S. 2479, the Nevada Native Nations Land Act would allow these seven tribes to build housing for their members, preserve their cultural heritage and traditions, and provide opportunities for economic development.

Since time immemorial, the Western Shoshone have been living in what is now known as southern Idaho, central Nevada, northwestern Utah, and the Death Valley region of southern California. The Elko and South Fork Bands are two of four bands that comprise the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians.

The Elko Band's reservation, or colony, is landlocked by the growing City of Elko, where band members have been coming for mining and railroad jobs for decades. The colony needs additional lands for housing and economic development. My legislation would expand the Elko Band's reservation by transferring 373 acres of BLM-managed land into trust for the tribe.

S. 2480 would also convey 275 acres, just west of the City of Elko, to Elko County to provide space for a BMX, motocross, off-highway vehicle, and stock car racing area.

The South Fork Reservation, home to the South Fork Band, is comprised of 13,050 acres. The Band was one of the groups of Western Shoshone that refused to move to the Duck Valley Reservation and stayed at the headwaters of the Reese River, near the present Battle Mountain Colony. Established by Executive order in 1941, the colony was originally 9,500 acres of land purchased under the Indian Reorganization Act. In addition to rugged high desert terrain near the foothills of the Ruby Mountains, the reservation has open range which is used for open cattle grazing and agricultural uses. The Nevada Native Nations Land Act would place 28,162 acres of BLM land into trust for the tribes and release the Red Spring Wilderness Study Area—WSA—from further study.

The Northern Paiutes made their homes throughout what is now known as Idaho, California, Utah and Nevada. Due to westward expansion, our government pushed some Western Shoshones and Northern Paiutes into the same tribe and onto the same reservation where their descendants remain.

The Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribe now make their home along the Nevada-Oregon border. Starting as a military fort in 1865, the military reservation was turned into an Indian Agency in 1889 then established as an Indian reservation in 1936. The reservation is currently made up of 16,354 acres in Nevada and 19,000 acres in Oregon. The Nevada Native Nations Land Act would add 19,094 acres now managed by the BLM in Nevada to the lands already held in trust for the tribe.

The Duck Valley Indian Reservation is the home of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes who live along the State line between Nevada and Idaho. The reservation is 289,819 acres, including 22,231 acres of wetlands. The tribes have limited economic opportunities and tribal members have made their way farming and ranching. This bill would place 82 acres of U.S. Forest Service land into trust for the tribes. The tribes plan to rehabilitate structures that were used by Forest Service employees into much-needed housing on the parcel.

The Summit Lake Reservation is one of the most rural and remote reservations in Nevada along the Oregon and California borders. Established in 1913 for the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, the reservation today is 12,573 acres. The tribe seeks land to maintain the integrity of its reservation, protect Summit Lake and restore the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. S. 2480 would transfer 941 acres of BLM-managed land into trust for the tribe.

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony has a very small 28-acre reservation in Reno,

NV. The colony has 1,100 Paiute, Shoshone and Washoe members some of whom live on a 1,920 acre reservation in Hungry Valley, which is 19 miles north of Reno. The Hungry Valley Reservation is surrounded by shooting and ATV activities and tribal members have requested a buffer zone to ensure the safety of their community. The legislation would transfer 13,434 acres of BLM land into trust for the tribe.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe have made their homelands around Pyramid Lake, a unique desert terminal lake. Pyramid Lake is one of the most valuable assets of the tribe and is entirely enclosed within the boundaries of the reservation. S. 2480 would expand the reservation with an additional 30,669 acres of BLM-managed land.

This legislation is so important to me and the Indian tribes in Nevada. Throughout the history of our country, Native Americans have been removed and disenfranchised from their homelands. They have been treated so poorly. One of the first pieces of legislation I worked on when I came to Congress was the historic Pyramid Lake/Truckee-Carson Water Rights Settlement. This involved two States, several cities, a lake, a river, endangered species, and two Indian tribes. These Indian water rights needed to be protected, just as tribal lands need to be restored especially in Nevada where tribal landbases are smaller and more rural and remote than any other parts of Indian Country. During my time in the Senate, I will continue to do what I can to right some of the many wrongs and help tribes restore their homelands.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER AND ALAN DIXON

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Nation recently lost two distinguished former members of this body. I join those who mourn former Senate majority leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, and former Senator Alan Dixon of Illinois. And I am reminded by their passing of the passing of an era they helped forge, one in which elected officials of strong opinions but good will sought to accommodate the diverse viewpoints of this great Nation, rather than using them to divide our people and obstruct the operations of government.

Howard Baker became known as “the Great Conciliator.” I am one of the few members of the current Senate who served alongside him. We came from different places, and from different political traditions. We saw the world differently. But I knew him, as all who worked with him knew him, as someone who would fight for his positions but also work to understand the positions of others.

He described himself as a moderate at a time when that word wasn’t out of fashion. And that moderation and sense of fairness are what guided him

as he helped guide the Nation through one of the most searing experiences in our history, the Watergate scandal. As the ranking Republican on the Senate committee investigating the scandal, he was a calm, collected, comforting presence at a time of great tumult. By placing the good of the Nation and the need to protect our democracy ahead of his own party’s interests, he provided a powerful example for us to follow, just as he did in helping to build bipartisan support for important civil rights and environmental legislation.

Alan Dixon, too, was shaped by, and helped to shape, a different era in politics. In his memoir, Senator Dixon wrote: “Generally speaking, my political career was built on goodwill and accommodation.” Too few political figures can make such a claim today. As an elected official in Illinois, as a Senator, and as a valued member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Dixon gained a reputation for fairness, balance and understanding. I remember this well-earned reputation made him a great help to Senator Sam Nunn, the Democratic leader on the Armed Services Committee, during debate on the annual Defense Authorization Act. It is also why he was chosen for the difficult and important responsibility of leading the base closure commission.

Senator Dixon showed that a fairness and accommodation need not contradict fighting strongly for your beliefs. He often told the story of how during committee debate on a defense bill during the 1980s the committee was poised to sign off on buying a new anti-aircraft system. Dixon had read that system had serious problems, and though he was then relatively junior on the committee, he objected to its inclusion in the defense bill. The powerful chairman at the time, Senator Goldwater, told Dixon that if he thought there was a problem, he should go down to Fort Bliss, TX, that weekend, check it out, and report back to the committee. Dixon did, and when he asked, somewhat to the chagrin of his military tour guides, for a demonstration of the system, it fired at 88 targets and missed 87. When he reported back to the committee on his findings, it quickly decided to cancel the program, a decision even the Pentagon had to support.

Now, some might see that story as an illustration of the need to challenge authority, an argument against going along to getting along—And it is—But it is important to note that Alan Dixon didn’t try to demonize his opponents, didn’t portray them as enemies. He honestly disagreed, raised his objections, pursued the facts, laid them before his colleagues, and trusted in their good judgment.

Our Nation is no less diverse than it was when Howard Baker and Alan Dixon practiced the principled politics

of accommodation. Our challenges are no smaller. The need to bridge gaps rather than widen them is just as urgent for us as it was for them. We can, and I hope we will, learn from their examples as we confront the challenges we face and the needs of the Nation we serve.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SERGEANT JAMES E. DUTTON

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to remember Army SGT James E. Dutton. James died March 31, 2012 in Logar province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

James was born December 25, 1986 in Weleetka, OK. He graduated from Weleetka High School in 2006 and later moved with his parents to Checotah, OK where he served as a firefighter for the Lotawatah Rural Fire Department and worked for Winkle’s Hardware until joining the Army.

After completing basic combat training at Fort Jackson, SC, James was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY where he worked as a firefighter and mechanic. In 2008, James had a son, William Tyler Anderson and in 2009, shortly after the birth of his son, he was deployed to Afghanistan.

He returned to Fort Drum in 2010 and in October of 2011 he was reassigned to the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3d Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based at Fort Bliss, TX. He deployed for his second tour to Afghanistan in December 2011.

James loved the U.S. Army and planned on a long career serving his country. He believed in and loved what he was doing and that is where he wanted to be.

On April 23, 2012, the family held a funeral service at First Baptist Church in Checotah, OK and James was laid to rest in Fort Gibson National Cemetery in Fort Gibson, OK.

James was preceded in death by his sister Kimberly Ann Dutton, grandfather James H. Dutton, grandmother Ruby M. Dutton, and his great grandfather Sgt. Charles William “CW” Kincannon. James leaves behind his wife Ellen Marie Dutton, parents James K. and Trina M. Dutton of Checotah, his young son William Tyler Anderson of El Paso, TX; sisters: Valarie Hammond and Roxanne Gibson, both of Weleetka, and Stephanie Walker of Oklahoma City, brothers: Derek and Jeremy Johnson, both of Wewoka; special friends, Brittany Brown and daughter Ally, of Watertown, NY, Jerie-Lynn Woody, mother of William Tyler Anderson, Jacob Rector of Weleetka, Dale McBride of Checotah, his extended family of Army brothers and sisters; as well as many other relatives, friends and loved ones too numerous to mention.

Today we remember Army SGT James E. Dutton, a young man who

loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ARMY SERGEANT DICK A. LEE, JR.

Mr. President, as well I would like to pay tribute to Army SGT Dick A. Lee, Jr., Alson, and his assigned military working dog, Fibi, both of whom died April 26, 2012 in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Alson was born July 23, 1980 in Keystone Heights, FL and graduated from Keystone Heights High School in 2000. He enlisted in the Army in August of that same year.

Alson was assigned as a military working dog handler with the 529th Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Sembach, Germany. He stayed safe on three previous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, but this deployment only lasted 23 days before the incident that tragically claimed his life.

His commanding officer remembered him as a great soldier and dog handler. "Always quick with a smile and laugh, he was the kind of person you always wanted to be around," said COL Brian Bisacre.

On May 15, 2012, the family held a funeral service and Alson was laid to rest in Jacksonville Memorial Gardens in Orange Park, FL.

"He was the best handler I had in my kennels and the best NCO I had in my kennels," SFC Joseph Jones, the 529th Military Police Company's kennel master said after the service. "He wasn't just good, he was great."

Alson is survived by his wife Katherine Lee, a native of Shreveport, LA; their two sons: David and Joshua, his mother Brenda Carroll, and her husband Larry of Keystone Heights, FL, his father Dick Lee of Newcastle, OK, a sister Vanessa Compton, and her husband Danny of Fort Riley, KS, his nephews: Zachary, Devin and Eric, of Fort Riley, KS, and a brother Michael Carroll of Keystone Heights, FL.

Today we remember Army SGT Dick A. Lee, Jr., a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ARMY CAPTAIN JESSE A. OZBAT

Mr. President, it is my honor to also pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army CPT Jesse A. Ozbat. Jesse died May 20, 2012 in Tarin Kowt Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The son of a retired Army first sergeant, Jesse was born February 21, 1984 in Caro, MI. He was a member of the Prince George High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in Virginia and graduated in 2002. He then enrolled in Virginia State University's Reserve Officer Training Corps program where he earned his commission on May 13, 2006, finishing in the top 10 percent of all cadets nationwide.

Upon entering active service, Jesse attended Basic Officer Leaders Course, BOLC II at Fort Benning, GA, and BOLC III at Fort Sill, OK. He was then assigned as the fire support officer for the C/1—4 Stryker Infantry Company, Schofield Barracks, HI, where he deployed to the 1st and 14th Infantry, 2nd Stryker Brigade in support of Iraqi Freedom in 2009. He then returned to Fort Sill where he graduated from the field artillery captain's career course and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, HHB, 214 Fires Brigade as the fire controller officer and Current Operations Office. From Sept. 2010–March 2012, he served as the commander of the HHB, 214th Fires Brigade.

"He was a soldier. That's all he ever wanted to be . . . a soldier. He died doing what he wanted to be," said his grandmother Shirley Scott.

A funeral service was conducted on June 2, 2012 at Fort Lee, VA. Interment with full military honors followed the service at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, VA.

He is survived by his wife Danielle T. Ozbat of Petersburg, VA, parents Aaron M. and Cynthia A. Ozbat of Prince George, VA, mother and father-in-law Dahlia and Anthony Fontaine of Petersburg, VA, brother Elijah A. Ozbat, sister Marisa N. Ozbat, both of Prince George, VA, grandmother Lillian Scott of Petersburg, and grandparents Richard and Shirley Scott of Caro, MI, as well as many other relatives, friends and loved ones too numerous to mention.

Today we remember Army CPT Jesse A. Ozbat, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

REMEMBERING JACOB CALVIN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Tipton County sheriff's deputy Jacob Calvin. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Deputy Calvin served with the Tipton County Sheriff's Department since 2012.

On Saturday, June 28, 2014, Deputy Calvin responded to reports of an injured motorist involved in a car crash. While driving to the scene of the crash, Deputy Calvin's patrol car left the road and was involved in an accident. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs and medical personnel, Deputy Calvin, 31, succumbed to his wounds.

"He was doing what he was supposed to do . . . I take a lot of comfort knowing that he was going to help someone," said his father, Dan Calvin.

An Indiana native, Deputy Calvin lived in the town of Kempton. Jacob learned at an early age the importance of community and possessed a servant

heart. After graduating from Carroll High School, Jacob enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1999 at the age of 17. He served as a staff sergeant with the security police in the Air Force for 6 years and was stationed in Iraq for a tour of duty which he completed in 2005. During his time serving in the Air Force, Jacob was recognized on multiple occasions for his outstanding performance as a soldier. After his discharge, Jacob graduated from Lincoln Technical Diesel Mechanic School and would later start his own business, Infinity Diesel.

In addition to his service with the Air Force and the sheriff's department, Jacob was a member of the Kempton Volunteer Fire Department and was a trained EMT. He was a member of the Future Farmers of America, a Brother of the Free and Accepted Masons Mulberry Lodge, 10-year member of 4-H, Civil Air Patrol receiving the "Billy Mitchell Award" and a devoted congregant of the Flora First Christian Church. Known for his tenacious spirit and concern for others, Jacob was well known and respected by those in the Tipton County community.

"I'm very honored that I had Jake Calvin work for me for two and a half years," said Tipton County Sheriff John Moses.

Deputy Calvin is survived and deeply missed by his parents Dan Calvin (Carla) and Penny Williams Visser (John), his fiancée Ms. Samantha J. Hawkins, paternal grandparents Robert and Anna Marie Calvin, step-paternal grandparents Richard and LaVerne VonAhrens, brother Luke Calvin (Lea-Anndra), stepbrother Zach Visser, step-sister Victoria Visser, his three nephews: Dakota, Evan and Emmett, as well as other relatives, friends, the Tipton County Sheriff's Department family, the Kempton Volunteer Fire Department family and Hoosiers across the state.

Deputy Calvin loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the citizens of Indiana. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Deputy Calvin demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, as a member of the U.S. Air Force, a son and friend to so many—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and treasure the memory of this stalwart, brave man and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOUNT CHASE MAINE SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. Today I commemorate the 150th anniversary of

the town of Mount Chase, ME. Mount Chase was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this sesquicentennial marks Mount Chase's incorporation, the year 1864 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the land surrounding Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Penobscot and Maliseet tribes. In the 1830s, the first white settlers were drawn by the fertile soil, vast stands of timber, and fast-moving streams, and the young village became a center of the Maine North Woods lumber industry. The wealth produced by the forests and saw mills was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. The incorporated town that followed was named for the prominent mountain peak, Mt. Chase, which towers more than a half-mile above the farms and forests below.

The arrival of the railroads in the aftermath of the Civil War further secured Mount Chase's prominence in the lumber industry, and the town was home to the largest cold-storage plant on the line for wild game and other perishable food products. By the end of the 19th century, modern transportation and the region's spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife combined to create a new economic opportunity—great sporting camps and lodges that drew outdoor enthusiasts from around the world. Today, the people of Mount Chase continue to honor the strong land use traditions and love of the outdoors that have helped make such places as Shin Pond a favorite recreation destination for residents and visitors.

In the early 20th century, the history, industry, and beauty of the Mount Chase region were made immortal by the great Swedish-born artist Carl Sprinchorn, who spent many years at Shin Pond. From his paintings of the strenuous daily life of lumberjacks to his evocative landscapes, the artist recorded a very special time in Maine history and a place that remains special today.

This 150th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years, it is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for generations have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Mount Chase has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.●

HONORING DR. ROBERT COPE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me

today in honoring Lemhi County commissioner Dr. Robert Cope, who is retiring from the Lemhi County Commission after 14 years of exemplary service.

Cope is not one to shy away from challenges; he faces them head on. He recognizes a problem and works diligently to fix it. This characteristic has been instrumental in his ability to address critical natural resources and environmental challenges. The common sense, wisdom, and humor he brings often to contentious issues have been invaluable in achieving solutions. He is truly a pleasure to work with and know. Throughout his time as commissioner, we have greatly valued his input and approach. Through his efforts with the Idaho Roadless Rule, addressing noxious weed control and many other land management concerns, he has helped bring about solutions important both locally and nationally. He is well-respected as a problem solver and consensus builder.

His public service is shaped by his deep personal knowledge and influenced by his distinguished career. Cope, a U.S. Presidential Scholar and Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduate, thankfully fell in love with Idaho and made Salmon, Idaho, home. He has spent nearly 40 years in veterinary practice, a critical part of the community, working with Lemhi cattle ranchers. He has been counted on to work cattle at all hours of the day and night, often in difficult conditions. The respect many have for his work and understanding of natural resources issues has inevitably led to his service in leadership roles on numerous boards and commissions, including the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Forest Service's National Planning Rule Implementation Committee and the Idaho Roadless Commission.

We have greatly valued your insight, Dr. Cope, and thank you for your hard work and outstanding service. We are fortunate that you chose to be an Idahoan. Congratulations on your retirement from the commission. We hope it provides you with more time to spend with your many friends and family, including your wife, Terrie. We wish you all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES R. COOPER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring James R. Cooper, who is retiring from the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, where he was a great asset to Idaho during his tenure with the Idaho Operations Office.

Jim is retiring as deputy manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. His responsibilities have included management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and the exhumation and disposal of cold-war era buried trans-

uranic waste. His work advancing the environmental cleanup mission at the site has helped reduce risk to workers, the public, and the environment. It has also continued protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Through his leadership, environmental cleanup projects have been finished ahead of schedule and under cost, which has enabled resources to be reinvested into furthering the cleanup efforts. Jim's commitment to timely and cost-effective management is commendable.

Prior to his position with the Idaho Cleanup Project, Jim worked as the facility and material disposition program manager and was responsible for ensuring the safe and compliant deactivation and decommissioning of nuclear test reactors and other retired nuclear facilities at the Idaho National Laboratory. During this time, he helped lead the cleanup team in successful deactivation and decommissioning projects at the Idaho Site. This included a visionary change in the approach of cleanup at the site.

Under Jim's management Idaho crews decontaminated and decommissioned more than 200 facilities. Recognizing this hard work, the Idaho contamination and decommissioning project was awarded the 2013 Secretary's Excellence and Achievement Award for completion of the project's work scope ahead of schedule and under budget. Jim is well respected for his strong leadership and ability to develop relationships and communications that are instrumental in advancing cleanup.

Thank you, Jim, for your more than 30 years of service, including 22 years of project management within DOE. You made great progress in the critical effort of cleanup. As you retire, you are truly leaving our State and Nation in better condition. Current and future generations will benefit from your hard work. You have much to be proud of for a job well done. Congratulations on your retirement. We thank you for your outstanding service and wish you all the best.●

REMEMBERING MOON WHEELER

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of former Idaho State Senator Ralph Merrill "Moon" Wheeler, Jr. His nearly 40 years of service to the people of Idaho will not be forgotten.

With close to 40 years in elected office, Moon was dedicated to improving his community and his State. His public service included time as an Idaho State Senator, a member of the Idaho State House of Representatives, Power County commissioner, and American Falls City councilman and mayor. He was part of numerous Idaho State Senate committees, including on the Health and Welfare and Local Government and Taxation Committees, and

interim committees. He also served as chairman of the Indian Affairs Council. Additionally, during his time as Power County commissioner, he was the legislative chair for the Idaho Association of Counties.

He had numerous other leadership roles, and he has been widely recognized for his outstanding leadership. This includes his tenure as the president of the Idaho Cities Association. Moon also served on the Idaho State University Alumni Board and on the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Pharmacy. He earned the College of Pharmacy's 1999 Professional Achievement Award. In 1998, he was recognized with American Falls High School Education Foundation's first Outstanding Alumna Award, and Moon and his wife Ann were honored with the school's Heritage Award in 2009. These are just a few of his many achievements throughout his well-respected career and community involvement.

His considerable personal experience helped shape his public service. His family homesteaded in Idaho. He attended the University of Idaho and earned a pharmacy degree from Idaho State University. He utilized his degree as manager and owner of Rockland Pharmacy for more than 30 years. He was also a farmer, retaining the family farm until 2008. He was also an avid fly fisherman, camper, and gardener.

I extend my deep condolences to Ann, their children, grandchildren, great-grandson, and many friends and other family members. Moon built a legacy of dedicated service. He left a lasting mark in our communities through the many projects he spearheaded and supported and the countless lives he touched. His commitment to family and community and his exceptional work for Idahoans are central to his remarkable legacy of service.●

REMEMBERING BRYCE J. WINTERBOTTOM

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish today to honor the life of Bryce Winterbottom, who left a legacy of kindness, care for others, hard work and warmth in his too few years of life.

Bryce lived life to the fullest, and had a strong grasp on the things that mattered most. He is remembered as usually having at least one of his children—Caleb, Maryanne, Henry, and Timothy—by his side as he worked on a variety of projects that included building rockets and cars, stargazing and landscaping. He is known as someone who worked hard and enjoyed the outdoors, spending time with family and friends, hiking, gold panning, camping and flying. Bryce encouraged those around him, he was uplifting and liked to help others. Bryce was an Eagle Scout who mentored Boy Scouts and helped advise in the Lewiston High School Skills USA program. He was

also a member of the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Air Posse.

Bryce is greatly missed in his hometown of Lewiston, where he was part of the heart of the community. He attended elementary, junior, and senior high school in Lewiston, and went on to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Colorado Springs, CO, before obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Idaho and then working for Schweitzer Engineering. He married his high school sweetheart Amanda, and they built a wonderful family together.

May Bryce's love of life, service to others, enthusiasm, warmth and devotion to family live on in his children. I extend my deepest condolences to Amanda, Caleb, Maryanne, Henry, and Timothy; his parents Ed and Chris, his brothers and sisters, and his many other loved ones and friends. Bryce's light will burn bright in this world through the hearts of those who had the good fortune of being part of his beautiful life.●

CONGRATULATING ALLYSON LAMMIMAN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Ms. Lammiman for being awarded the National Association of Agricultural Educators Agriscience Teacher of the Year award. Ms. Lammiman will receive her award at the NAAE convention in Las Vegas on December 5, along with a grant to purchase supplies and equipment for her classes. I am humbled and honored to congratulate her on being presented this prestigious award.

The National Association of Agricultural Educators named only six educators throughout the United States this year, and Ms. Lammiman, who is a teacher at Douglas High School in Minden, NV, is among the select few chosen. The National Agriscience Teacher of the Year award recognizes teachers who have inspired and enlightened their students through engaging and interactive lessons in the science of agriculture. Ms. Lammiman, who has taught at Douglas High School for the past 9 years, exemplifies these qualities. During her tenure, she has created several hands-on courses that allow students to apply in-class lessons to real-life situations in agricultural science.

Her mission to teach her students to think, rather than what to think, is displayed in the courses that she has available for students. Ms. Lammiman's students are truly receiving a hands-on education through her classes in floriculture, where children learn to operate a self-sufficient floriculture business; equine science, where they aided in the training and care of an adopted, orphaned foal named

"Flash;" and natural resources, where the students create trails, raise Lahontan Cutthroat trout, and collect data on Nevada's wild horse population. Ms. Lammiman is not only an advocate for agriculture in the classroom, but is also a co-advisor for the local Future Farmers of America chapter. Through her role as a co-advisor, she recruits volunteers from the community to coach FFA teams, teaches the students to train horses, provides placements for the individualized work experience internship courses, and helps the students to raise livestock. The FFA serves to provide students the opportunity to become well-educated, skilled, and productive citizens through agricultural education.

It is no secret that teaching is one of the hardest jobs in the world and one of the most important. As a father of four children who attended Nevada's public schools, and as the husband of a lifelong teacher, I understand the important role that teachers play in enriching the lives of Nevada's students. Ensuring that America's youth are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. The State of Nevada is fortunate to be home to an educator like Ms. Lammiman, whose mission to educate children extends far beyond the walls of the classroom.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Ms. Lammiman for dedication to enriching the lives of Nevada's students and congratulating her on this great achievement.●

DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Davis County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy,

better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$30 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memory of working together has to be the community's success in earning grants for fire safety equipment and facilities through FEMA, working with Bloomfield to renovate the Davis County Courthouse, and the J.H. Leon Building through Main Street Iowa challenge grant funds.

Among the highlights:

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Davis County's fire departments have received over \$1.9 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns such as Bloomfield to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Davis County has earned \$63,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Davis County has received \$659,000 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Davis County have received funds that I des-

ignated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$35,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Davis County has received more than \$3.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed-captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Davis County, both those with and without disabilities. They make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Davis County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Davis County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

DELAWARE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its

vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. It has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Delaware County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$9 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memory of working together has to be working together to mitigate and prevent damage from natural disasters. In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 has provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Delaware County has received over \$5 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a

half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Delaware County has received \$458,158 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Delaware County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$27,650.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Delaware County has received more than \$6.5 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Delaware County's fire departments have received over \$1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities

in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Delaware County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Delaware County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Delaware County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL CARROLL

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the remarkable life of a young West Virginian, Michael Carroll, who sadly lost his life to cancer on July 3. Although he said goodbye to family, friends and loved ones far too early, Michael led a tremendously accomplished life during his 17 years, and he truly touched the lives of so many with his heartfelt and inspirational efforts to help other children around the world battle cancer. Although we are all heartbroken about Michael's passing, it is a privilege to celebrate his extraordinary achievements.

A Wheeling native, Michael Paul Carroll was diagnosed with leukemia in 2003. After 3 years of treatment, he won his battle with cancer. Unfortunately in 2013, after years in remission, Michael was diagnosed with a glioblastoma grade IV brain tumor due to the radiation from previous treatment.

Yet, even though he was once again fighting for his own life, Michael's illness never stopped him from making a difference in the lives of other children suffering from cancer. While battling his brain tumor, Michael came up with the idea to design a stress relief toy that helps kids cope with cancer. The idea is that anytime young cancer patients feel frustrated with their treatment or have a bad day, they can exert their anger into these toys. After some thought and help from the community, he created Michael's Meanies so "a child with cancer can give it back to their sickness," he said. Michael invented three beanies after the three types of childhood cancers: Terry the Terrible Tumor, Lily Lymphoma, and Lousy Louie Leukemia.

Michael once said:

I wanted to give something to the kids that they could take their anger out on. I

thought of making these into a stress ball-like toy that the kids can squeeze hard, punch or even throw them. My ultimate goal is for every child diagnosed with cancer to get one during their treatment.

Although his ultimate goal has yet to be achieved, Michael's reach knows no bounds and he was able to help children around the world. With 15,000 meanies made, it is not rare to see a child holding one of Michael's Meanies in a children's hospital in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Through his meanies, Michael continues to make children's daily battle with cancer a little easier.

While making a difference throughout West Virginia, the United States and the world, Michael also made a significant impact in his hometown of Wheeling. He truly touched each person he met. Michael attended Wheeling Park High School, and also volunteered at the Ohio Valley Medical Center and St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. He often visited children's hospitals to spread laughter and joy while meeting with cancer patients. Michael said, "I take everything with humor," and wisely stated that laughter is the best medicine.

The strength that Michael mustered every day should inspire not only our sick young, but his resilience and goodwill should inspire all of us. His legacy and influence will live on through his meanies as they comfort children fighting for their lives around the world. Michael, thank you for the gift you have left for us all.●

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize two exceptional Floridians who have sacrificed to serve as caregivers for Alzheimer's patients. Their stories were recently published in the latest edition of "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living with Alzheimer's & Other Dementias." The book, a compilation of 101 short stories, has previously discussed a range of other medical issues and diseases. For this latest publication, "Chicken Soup" partnered with the national Alzheimer's Association to tackle the difficult topic of Alzheimer's disease and dementias and to share the stories of the families who face the challenges of this disease. The heartbreaking stories that Laura Suihkonen Jones, of Lighthouse Point, and Jean Salisbury Campbell, of Fort Lauderdale, shared of their families' experience with Alzheimer's were chosen for inclusion from nearly 4,000 entries.

Today, Laura serves the Alzheimer's Association's Southeast Florida Chapter as its liaison to Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL, and coordinates an Alzheimer's support group at Calvary Chapel in Fort Lauderdale. She wrote

her story, "Fear and Self-Pity Are My Mortal Enemies," to share both the pain and joy of caring for her husband, Jay, who received his diagnosis 7 years ago at age 50 when their daughter was just 3 years old. Laura strives every day to be a message of hope, particularly for those families who receive Alzheimer's diagnoses at younger ages. Alzheimer's disease is growing rapidly, and recently 5.2 million people age 65 and older, as well as 200,000 individuals under age 65 were diagnosed.

Jean, a retired Broward County school psychologist, shares her personal testimony of caring for her elderly mother, the late Elizabeth Salisbury. Her essay, "The Bird," recounts an experience in an early stage of her mother's disease. In the middle of the night, her mother frantically woke up her family insisting that a bird had flown into the house. Those caring for her insisted there was no bird and that she was suffering from a hallucination common of the disease until they escorted her back to her room, where they found a large black bird in the room. This particular incident serves to remind of the importance of treating Alzheimer's patients with dignity and listening to what they have to say regardless of their disease.

As chairman of the Aging Committee, I want to recognize these two exceptional caregivers, whose heart-wrenching stories will become all too common among American families in the coming decades. This new edition of "Chicken Soup" is particularly timely as our Nation grapples with a significant increase in Alzheimer's disease, with the number of diagnoses expected to rise to 16 million by 2050. In Florida today, nearly half a million Floridians over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's disease, and this number is projected to continue rising in the coming years.

As we recall our recent observance of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June and recognize the stories of these two Florida women, it is important that we take the time to focus our resources to address this disease and remember that an Alzheimer's diagnosis impacts not only the patient, but the whole family. As the number of American families facing similar and equally difficult circumstances increases, we must ensure that those living with the disease are guaranteed the best quality care and their loved ones, like Laura and Jean, are supported as much as possible.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 803) to reform, and strengthen the workforce investment

system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century, and that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the aforementioned bill.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2578. A bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

S. 2579. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6384. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Inventory of Contracts for Services"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6385. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard T. Tryon, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6386. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Required Fees for Mining Claims or Sites" (RIN1004-AE35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6387. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-015); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6388. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-026); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6389. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6390. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-030); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6391. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6392. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-025); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6393. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-033); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6394. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6395. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the current and future military strategy of Iran (OSS-2014-0967); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6396. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0964); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6397. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0965); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6398. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to revoking the designation of a group designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (OSS-2014-0968); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6399. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country (OSS-2014-0966); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6400. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Nanticoke River; Bivalve, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0138)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6401. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Annual Swim around Key West, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0073)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6402. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Execpro Services Fireworks Display, Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, NV" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-

0402)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6403. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lady Liberty Sharkfest Swim; Upper New York Bay, Liberty Island, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0117)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6404. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hudson River Swim for Life; Hudson River, Sleepy Hollow, New York" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0363)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6405. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hawaiian Island Commercial Harbors, HI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0021)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6406. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; TriRock San Diego, San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6407. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fairfield Estates Fireworks Display, Atlantic Ocean, Sagaponack, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2013-0212)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6408. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Schuylkill River; Philadelphia, PA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0342)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6409. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Annually Recurring Events in Coast Guard Southeastern New England Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0061)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6410. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Tennessee River, Mile 464.0 to 465.0, Chattanooga, TN" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0323)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6411. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Arts Project Cherry Grove Pride Week Fireworks Display; Great South Bay; Cherry Grove, Fire Island, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0180)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6412. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Texas City Channel, Texas City, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0034)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6413. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; July 4th Fireworks Displays within the Captain of the Port Zone, Miami, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0165)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6414. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tennessee River mile 4.8 to 5.8; Ledbetter, KY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0301)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6415. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Chesapeake Bay; Cape Charles, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0298)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6416. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, Urbanna Creek; Saluda, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0372)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6417. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cape Fear River; Wilmington, NC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0413)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of

the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6418. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; I-90 Inner-belt Bridge Demolition, Cuyahoga River, Cleveland, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0425)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6419. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules and Regulations Under the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939" (RIN3084-AB29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6420. A communication from the Secretary, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN3072-AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6421. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral William D. French, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Labeling of Pesticide Products and Devices for Export" ((RIN2070-AJ53) (FRL No. 9913-18)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6423. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions" (RIN0579-AD83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6424. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Military Electronic Equipment and Other Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)" (RIN0694-AF39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6425. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware, District of Columbia, and West Virginia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incinerator

Units" (FRL No. 9913-32-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Low Emission Vehicle Program" (FRL No. 9913-30-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6427. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Regional Haze" (A-1-FRL-9810-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6428. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Control of Commercial Fuel Oil Sulfur Limits for Combustion Units" (FRL No. 9913-26-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6429. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9913-12-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6430. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Latham Pool Adjusted Standard" (FRL No. 9912-19-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6431. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Minor New Source Review" (FRL No. 9913-42-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6432. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho: Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9913-28-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6433. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to the New Source Review State Implementation Plan; Flexible Permit Program" (FRL No. 9913-48-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6434. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" (FRL No. 9910-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6435. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9913-41-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6436. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Longevity Annuity Contracts" ((RIN1545-BK23) (TD 9673)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6437. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6438. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Health, United States, 2013"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6439. A communication from the Special Counsel, Office of the Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2013"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-294. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, urging the Ohio congressional delegation to support all peaceful political actions that would result in the reunification of Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-295. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Upland, California, urging the California congressional delegation to support postal reform that would: secure the continuance of 6-day mail delivery; stabilize the Postal Service's finances by reforming or eliminating future retiree health financing policies that are crippling the

Postal Service's finances; strengthen and protect the Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail, and last-mile delivery networks that together comprise a crucial part of the nation's infrastructure; retain door-to-door delivery for 30 million plus households and businesses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

POM-296. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Redlands, California, urging the California congressional delegation to support postal reform that would: secure the continuance of 6-day mail delivery; stabilize the Postal Service's finances by reforming or eliminating future retiree health financing policies that are hindering the Postal Service's finances and growth opportunities; strengthen and protect the Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail, and last-mile delivery networks that together comprise a crucial part of the nation's infrastructure; retain door-to-door delivery for 30 million plus households and businesses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

POM-297. A resolution approved by the Electors of the City of Lake Mills, Wisconsin, supporting the passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating: only human beings—not corporations, limited liability companies, unions, non-profit organizations, or similar associations and corporate entities—are endowed with Constitutional rights, and spending money is not speech protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and, therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-298. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of Miami, Florida, urging the President of the United States and members of the Congress of the United States to grant temporary protective status to Venezuelans living in the United States and to suspend any further deportations of unauthorized Venezuelan individuals with no serious criminal history, to extend Deferred Action to all eligible undocumented members of Venezuelan immigrant families, to end the firing of Venezuelan undocumented workers by ending the I-9 audits and the use of E-Verify System, and to encourage the Secretary of Homeland Security to approve TPS for Venezuelans whose immigration status has expired; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-299. A resolution adopted by the City Council of Big Spring, Texas, calling upon the Texas congressional delegation to affirm the rights of citizens under the Second Amendment and that all federal acts, laws, executive orders, agency orders, and rules or regulations of any kind that confiscate any firearm, ban any firearm, limit the size of a magazine for any firearm, impose any limit on the ammunition that may be purchased for any firearm, special taxation on any firearm or ammunition, or require the registration of any firearm or ammunition therefore, infringes upon the right to bear arms in direct violation of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-300. A resolution approved by the Electors of the Town of Waterloo, Wisconsin, supporting the passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating: only human beings—not corporations, unions, limited liability companies, non-profit organizations, or similar associations and corporate entities—are endowed with Constitutional rights, and money is not speech, and

therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-301. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Greene County, New York, urging the Congress of the United States to support the health and welfare of all veterans as a priority, and to pass H.R. 1494, the "Blue Water Navy Accountability Act"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-302. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Greene County, New York, urging the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to the United States veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and the airspace over the combat zone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 517. A bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. 2588. A original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2580. A bill to redesignate the Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia, to revise the boundary of that monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2581. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2582. A bill to establish a pilot program to assist in expanding and diversifying the business of small business concerns that rely on amounts awarded for Federal contracts and subcontracts; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2583. A bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2584. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006

to raise the quality of career and technical education programs and to allow local eligible recipients to use funding to establish high-quality career academics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2585. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran to protect against human rights abuses in Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 2586. A bill to establish a smart card pilot program under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 2587. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect and conserve species and the lawful possession of certain ivory in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2588. An original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2589. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to improve protections for employees and retirees in business bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2590. A bill to advance the purposes of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2591. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2592. A bill to promote energy production and security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 2593. A bill to amend the FLAME Act of 2009 to provide for additional wildfire suppression activities, to provide for the conduct of certain forest treatment projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 2594. A bill to redesignate the railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly known as "30th Street Station", as the "William H. Gray 30th Street Station"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2595. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic

Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. HELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COATS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 498. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. Res. 499. A resolution congratulating the American Motorcyclist Association on its 90th Anniversary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 500. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Con. Res. 39. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding support for voluntary, incentive-based, private land conservation implemented through cooperation with local soil and water conservation districts; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 517

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 517, a bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1391

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1391, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1517, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.

S. 1923

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of own-

ership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2250, a bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2363

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.

S. 2406

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2406, a bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand

the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to provide greater controls and restriction on revolving door lobbying.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2481

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 2538

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2538, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 2545

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2545, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 2565

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

AMENDMENT NO. 3444

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3444 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational

hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3451

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3451 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3458

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3458 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3474

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3474 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3475

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3475 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3478

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3478 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3478 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 3480

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3480 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3501

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3501 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3502

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No.

3502 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3503

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3503 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3521

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3521 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2581. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, we all recognize the danger that many hazardous chemicals and over-the-counter drugs pose to children. That's why we require child-resistant packaging for these substances to prevent accidental poisonings that could result in serious injury or death.

Unfortunately, there is no child-resistant packaging required for concentrated liquid nicotine, which can be toxic if ingested or even absorbed through skin in large amounts. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP, some small 15 ml bottles of liquid nicotine contain as much as 540 mg of nicotine. At the estimated lethal dose range of nicotine, AAP notes that this small bottle contains enough nicotine to kill 4 small children. And even a very small amount of the liquid splashed on a child's skin can make the child very ill.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers, AAPCC, reports that local poison control centers had already received 1,571 calls between January 1 and May 31 of this year related to liquid nicotine exposure. According to some experts who study nicotine exposure, it's only a matter of time before an accidental nicotine ingestion results in death.

Today I am introducing the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act

with Senators PRYOR, BENNET, BLUMENTHAL, BOXER, BROWN, DURBIN, HARKIN, MARKEY, MERKLEY, and SCHUMER to prevent these unnecessary tragedies. This commonsense legislation gives the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, authority and direction to issue rules requiring safer, child-resistant packaging for liquid nicotine products within 1 year of passage.

The CPSC already requires child-resistant packaging for many household products, including over-the-counter medicines and cleaning agents. These rules have prevented countless injuries and deaths to children. There is no reason that bottles of liquid nicotine should not also be required to have child-resistant packaging as well.

I invite my colleagues to join us to support the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act. Working together, we can take simple steps to prevent accidental child nicotine poisonings.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2581

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. CHILD SAFETY PACKAGING FOR LIQUID NICOTINE CONTAINERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(2) LIQUID NICOTINE CONTAINER.—The term "liquid nicotine container" means a consumer product, as defined in section 3(a)(5) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(5)) notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of such section, that consists of a container that—

(A) has an opening that is accessible through normal and reasonably foreseeable use by a consumer; and

(B) is used to hold liquid containing nicotine in any concentration.

(3) NICOTINE.—The term "nicotine" means any form of the chemical nicotine, including any salt or complex, regardless of whether the chemical is naturally or synthetically derived.

(4) SPECIAL PACKAGING.—The term "special packaging" has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471).

(b) REQUIRED USE OF SPECIAL PACKAGING FOR LIQUID NICOTINE CONTAINERS.—

(1) RULEMAKING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3(a)(5)(B) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(5)(B)) or section 2(f)(2) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1261(f)(2)), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate a rule requiring special packaging for liquid nicotine containers.

(B) AMENDMENTS.—The Commission may promulgate such amendments to the rule promulgated under subparagraph (A) as the Commission considers appropriate.

(2) EXPEDITED PROCESS.—The Commission shall promulgate the rules under paragraph (1) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.—The following provisions shall not apply to a rulemaking under paragraph (1):

(A) Sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 2058).

(B) Section 3 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (15 U.S.C. 1262).

(C) Subsections (b) and (c) of section 3 of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1472).

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or diminish the authority of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the manufacture, marketing, sale, or distribution of liquid nicotine, liquid nicotine containers, electronic cigarettes, or similar products that contain or dispense liquid nicotine.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Portman, and Mr. Warner):

S. 2584. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to raise the quality of career and technical education programs and to allow local eligible recipients to use funding to establish high-quality career academics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act of 2014. This is a bipartisan bill with Senator Portman, who will follow me on the floor today. Senator Portman and I are working together as coauthors of the Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus.

Let me first explain why career and technical education is important to me.

I grew up in a household in Kansas City where my dad ran a union-organized ironworking shop. He was the owner. Ironworkers and welders—in a good year, eight employees; in a bad year, five employees. My mother and my brothers and I worked in my dad's shop, and I came to appreciate working in that ironworking shop, the tremendous craftsmanship and skill that went into being an ironworker. That lesson has stuck with me for the rest of my life, and I really credit my dad with my work ethic. In a manufacturing welding shop, you get up and you go to work early because you want to get the work done before it gets too hot in the middle of the day.

I then had the experience in 1980 to take a year off from Harvard Law School and go to Honduras, where I was the principal of the Instituto Tecnico Loyola, which was a school that taught kids to be welders and carpenters. I was able to use the trades I had learned in my dad's shop, and what I saw in Honduras was the same thing: that the acquisition of skills—whether it be welding or carpentry or other skills—is a great path to life's success.

But one thing I noticed about the education system in my country—even

as I was working in my dad's shop, even as I was a principal of the school in Honduras—was in the United States we sort of downgrade career and technical education. When I was a kid, it was called vocational education. Often, in high schools especially, students who were thought to be kind of problems or not college material would kind of get trapped into vocational education curricula, and that would usually not be a good sign.

In fact, a friend of mine, who is a middle school teacher in southwest Virginia, told me that she would often see her students after they had gone to the high school and ask, "Hey, tell me what you are up to." And when a student said "I am in the vocational education program," the student would almost slump their shoulders, like "I know you are going to be disappointed to hear this: I am in the vocational education program."

Career and technical education is a very important pathway for life's success, and there should be no stigma surrounding career and technical education programs. But whether it is in our K-12 schools or in the higher ed world or in the mindset of parents or guidance counselors or even in the military—in the military today, our military members can get tuition assistance benefits, but they can only be used for college courses. You can get up to \$4,500 a year in the military as a tuition assistance benefit, but you cannot use even \$500 of it to take the certification exam from the American Welding Society to get your welding certificate. We still have a stigma against career and technical education, and we should not.

CTE integrates numerous aspects of liberal arts degrees for practical and applied purposes. CTE prepares students with industry-recognized credentials, professional certificates, occasionally college credits, and, most importantly, training for careers as varied as nursing, physician assistant, business administration, manufacturing, oil and natural gas exploration, automotive maintenance, agriculture, welding, software programming, culinary arts, and many other careers.

CTE happens in interesting places. CTE happens in K-12 school systems. It happens on community college campuses. It happens in 4-year colleges. It happens in stand-alone institutions such as the Newport News Shipbuilding apprenticeship program, where people learn to manufacture the largest items on planet Earth: nuclear aircraft carriers and submarines in Newport News, VA. It happens online. It happens anywhere where there is somebody who wants to attain a skill and there is a qualified teacher or program that can convey and educate a student in that skill so they can get a good job.

CTE programs are proven solutions for creating jobs, for retraining work-

ers, older workers who need to find new skills so they can be successful and fill open jobs in the market, and ensure that students of all ages and walks of life are ready for a successful career.

When I was Governor, I worked on a number of educational issues, but one I was very proud of was starting Governor's Career and Technical Academies. We had 17 in Virginia—Governor's schools—that were college prep, academic, regional, magnet public high schools. It started in the 1970s. But when I was running for Governor, I realized, wow, we do not have a single school in the State that is a career and technical education program that we have deemed fit to hang the Governor's label: This is a Governor's career and technical academy. I said this has to be just as important as college prep. So when I was Governor, we started Governor's Career and Technical Academies. By the end of my one term—and that is all you get in Virginia—we had nine. The Republican Governor who followed me liked the idea. By the end of his term, we had 22. The Democratic Governor who has followed him is continuing to expand it, and we now have academies around the Commonwealth, developed at partnerships among schools, employers, business organizations, and postsecondary institutions looking for these skills.

Last week, during our break week, I traveled in Virginia, and I heard the same message from employers and educators: Education has to be job relevant. It has to start at earlier grades. Completion rates need to be maximized. We need to make sure all of our students have the skills they will need to be able to build successful careers throughout their lives.

One entrepreneur even said to me: I am so glad I ended up going to the Valley Career and Technical Education Program in the Shenandoah Valley and went into CTE because it has enabled me to be my own boss.

I said: What do you mean by that?

He said: If I had gone to college, I would have gotten a good job offer from a good company and would have taken it, and I probably would still be there. I would have been having a good career, but somebody else would have been my boss. But by going to a career and technical program and learning a skill, it also encouraged me to be entrepreneurial. So I did not join somebody else's company; I started my own company. CTE promotes entrepreneurial activity.

It is essential for the United States to invest in creating a world-class system of education across the spectrum to ensure the technically skilled and well-trained workforce we need. That is why we are introducing this bill—Senator Portman and I—the Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act.

Here is what the legislation does.

It takes the existing Carl D. Perkins career and technical education program, which is the major source for Federal funding for programs that connect education to real-world careers, and it amends it by doing a couple of things.

First, it ensures that students have access to high-quality CTE programs in their schools so they can prepare to be college and career ready. Second, it defines what a rigorous program of study for CTE students is that links secondary and postsecondary education, to culminate in a degree or a credit or a credential or a license or an apprenticeship or a postsecondary certificate.

It emphasizes the opportunities for secondary students to earn college or postsecondary credits while they are in high school. I was able to graduate from college in 3 years because of credits I earned in high school. That was at a time when it was critically important financially for my family that I was able to get through college in 3 years.

This dual enrollment piece of our bill is a piece that Senator PORTMAN worked very hard to make sure was included. The legislation allows the Perkins funding to be used by States that want to establish CTE academies as we did in Virginia and ensures that the academies are of a high quality.

Finally, the bill promotes the kinds of partnerships we need between businesses, industries, postsecondary and other community stakeholders. Partnerships are important to connect people to the workforce. The Southern Regional Education Board cites that students with highly integrated CTE programs, where the CTE programs and the academic programs are integrated together, that those schools have significantly higher achievement rates in reading, mathematics, and sciences than students at schools that do not have integrated programs.

In closing, and then I defer to my colleague from Ohio, I noticed something when I was mayor of Richmond and Governor that was a change in the kind of economic development world. As mayor, I was often trying to get a business to come to Richmond. I was competing against Savannah or against the county next door. What I found was in these competitions, the closing factor was always the incentive package: Mr. Mayor, how much money can you put on the table? What kind of tax incentives can you put on the table?

Oh, you either beat the other guy or you don't. But by the time I—5, 6, 7 years later I was Governor, the last issue now was not the incentive package anymore. The deciding issue for companies that were choosing whether to come to Virginia or South Carolina or Singapore was not the tax incentives, it was the workforce.

Tell me, Governor, that we will have the kind of people we need when we

open the door tomorrow. Give me confidence that we will have the kind of people we need 20 years from now. Long after the ribbon has been cut and the photos have been taken, are we still going to have the kinds of people we need to do to the kind of work that has to be done?

In today's world, talent is the most precious asset—more than oil, more than water, more than rare Earth minerals. It is talent and human capital that is precious. Recently we did something good in this body, Democrats and Republicans together. We passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. It was passed in the House yesterday.

This looks at the Nation's workforce programs and makes them stronger. Now we have to make the policy changes that go into our education programs and match what we did in the WIOA reauthorization to prepare our students for a 21st century workforce. I very much hope the Senate moves forward on the Carl D. Perkins Act this year. I look forward to promoting this bill as part of that reauthorization. I am honored to have Senator PORTMAN, my cochair on the CTE caucus, as the cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2584

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Educating Tomorrow's Workforce Act of 2014."

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (9), (10) through (23), and (24) through (34), as paragraphs (7) through (10), (12) through (25), and (27) through (37), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OF STUDY.—The term 'career and technical education program of study' means a coordinated, non-duplicative sequence of secondary and postsecondary academic and technical courses that—

"(A) incorporate rigorous, State-identified college and career readiness standards, including state-identified career and technical education standards that address both academic and technical contents;

"(B) support attainment of employability and career readiness skills;

"(C) progress in content specificity (by beginning with all aspects of an industry or career cluster and leading to more occupationally specific instruction or by preparing students for ongoing postsecondary career preparation);

"(D) incorporate multiple entry and exit points with portable demonstrations of technical or career competency, which may include credit-transfer agreements or industry-recognized certifications; and

"(E) culminate in the attainment of—

"(i) an industry-recognized certification, credential, or license;

"(ii) a registered apprenticeship or credit-bearing postsecondary certificate; or

"(iii) an associate or baccalaureate degree.";

(3) by inserting after paragraph (10), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

"(11) CREDIT-TRANSFER AGREEMENT.—The term 'credit-transfer agreement' means an opportunity for secondary students to be awarded transcribed postsecondary credit, supported with a formal agreement between secondary and postsecondary education systems, for—

"(A) technical credit such as dual enrollment, dual credit, or articulated credit, which may include credit by examination or credit by performance on technical assessments; or

"(B) academic credit such as dual enrollment, dual credit, or articulated credit, which may include credit by examination or credit by performance on academic assessments."; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (25), as redesignated by paragraph (1), the following:

"(26) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term 'registered apprenticeship program' means an apprenticeship program—

"(A) registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.); and

"(B) that meets such other criteria as may be established by the Secretary under this section.".

SEC. 3. STATE PLAN.

Section 122(c)(1) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2342(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (L) as subparagraphs (A) through (K), respectively; and

(3) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated by (2), by striking "the career and technical programs of study described in subparagraph (A)" and inserting "career and technical education programs of study, including a description of how the eligible agency will ensure the quality of any program of study culminating in an industry-recognized certificate, credential, or license".

SEC. 4. STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.

Section 124 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(6), by striking "programs of study, as described in section 122(c)(1)(A)" and inserting "education programs of study"; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking ", career academies,";

(B) in paragraph 16(B), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(18) support for career academies, which—

"(A) implement a college and career ready curriculum at the secondary education level that integrates rigorous academic, technical, and employability contents through career and technical education programs of study and high-quality elements, including those described in section 134(b)(7);

"(B) include experiential or work-based learning for secondary school students, in collaboration with local and regional employers;

“(C) include opportunities for secondary school students to earn postsecondary credit while in secondary school, such as through credit transfer agreements including dual enrollment; and

“(D) establish and maintain ongoing partnerships—

“(i) between the local educational agency, business and industry, and institutions of higher education, or postsecondary vocational institutions (as defined in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c))); and

“(ii) which may also include local government, such as workforce and economic development entities.”.

SEC. 5. LOCAL PLAN FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Section 134(b) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2354(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “programs of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A)” and inserting “education programs of study”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) describe how the eligible recipient will conduct an assessment of local needs related to career and technical education as part of the local plan development process and how such needs assessment will be updated annually in subsequent years of the local plan, including how the needs assessment includes an evaluation of progress toward specific elements leading to high-quality implementation of career and technical education programs of study, including—

“(A) sustained, intensive, and focused professional development for teachers, principals, administrators, and school counselors on both content and pedagogy that—

“(i) supports high-quality academic and career and technical education instruction; and

“(ii) ensures local, regional, and State labor market information as applicable is utilized to make informed decisions about program offerings and to advise students of career opportunities and benefits;

“(B) a curriculum aligned with the requirements for a career and technical education program of study;

“(C) teaching and learning strategies focused on the integration of academic and career and technical education content, including supports necessary to implement such strategies;

“(D) ongoing relationships between education, business and industry, and other community stakeholders;

“(E) opportunities for secondary students to earn postsecondary credit while in secondary school, such as through credit transfer agreements including dual enrollment;

“(F) career and technical student organizations, or other activities that promote the development of leadership and employability skills;

“(G) appropriate equipment and technology aligned with business and industry needs;

“(H) a continuum of work-based learning opportunities, such as job shadowing, mentorships, internships, apprenticeships, clinical experiences, service learning experiences, and cooperative education;

“(I) valid and reliable technical skills assessments to measure student achievement, which may include industry-recognized certifications or may lead to other credentials;

“(J) support services to ensure equitable participation for all students; and

“(K) recruitment and retention efforts to ensure highly effective educators, principals, and administrators.”.

SEC. 6. LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.

Section 135 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2355) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “programs of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A)” and inserting “education programs of study”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “career and technical program of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A)” and inserting “career and technical education program of study”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (19)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by striking “programs of study described in section 122(c)(1)(A)” and inserting “education programs of study”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (20), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(21) to provide support for career academies, as described in section 124(c)(18).”.

SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 113 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(4)(C)(ii)(I), by striking “section 3(29)” and inserting “section 3(32)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking “section 3(29)” and inserting “section 3(32)”.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Virginia and appreciate his comments. He has a passion for this issue. It fits very well with what so many of us are trying to do in the Congress, which is to put in place policies that actually create more opportunities for our young people.

We are living through the weakest economic recovery we have had in this country since the Great Depression. I know we have seen some improvement recently in the job numbers, but in fact unemployment remains way too high. If we take into account folks who have dropped out of the workforce altogether as compared to 4 or 5 years ago, we have unemployment rates at over 10 percent.

Among young people coming out of school it is far higher. It is double digits, about 12 or 13 percent for 18 to 25 year olds, we are told. Again, the real numbers are worse than that when we take out the folks who have dropped out of the workforce altogether.

Our GDP growth, the growth of our economy, is too low. So there are a number of things we ought to do, in my view. One is, we have to deal with ensuring that we have a workforce that is trained for these 21st century jobs that are out there. We also need to reform our Tax Code. We need to put regulatory relief in place that is sensible. We need to do much more to take advantage of the energy resources we have in this country. We need to get back in the business of exporting and trade.

There are some things relatively quickly we could do to get the country back on track, but none is more important than having that workforce. Because we can have a great environment—which unfortunately we do not have now for many businesses because we have not created the climate for economic growth with good policy in Washington.

But if we had that—if we do not have the workers in this increasingly competitive global economy we are in, jobs will be created somewhere else. That is happening right now. It is happening partly because we do not have the skilled workers to be able to attract those jobs here, those businesses here, and to fill the jobs here in America.

Four and one-half million jobs are open right now, they say. That might surprise some people listening because they are thinking: Wow. I cannot get a job or my son or daughter cannot get a job or my neighbor cannot get a job. As I said, unemployment is high. Yet there are 4½ million jobs open. When we look at those jobs and what is available out there—and Senator Kaine talked some about this, a lot of them require skills that young people and workers who are shifting careers, maybe they have lost a job, are in their forties or fifties, skills they do not have.

So it is IT, it is high-tech jobs, it is health care jobs, it is bioscience jobs. Yes, it is manufacturing jobs. My own State of Ohio is a big manufacturing State. We are particularly sensitive to this. There are lots of manufacturers in Ohio who are saying: If we had the workers, we could add new jobs, new opportunities, grow this economy. The spinoff from that, all of the other jobs that are created through a successful manufacturing company that makes something is the backbone of our higher economy, international economy.

This is exciting for me to work with Senator Kaine and others who say: Let's take a piece of this, which is career and technical education, to encourage young people to get these skills, to be able to access these great jobs. Some of them, by the way, will do it right out of high school.

I was in Ohio on Monday. We had a roundtable on this. We had a bunch of employers there. We had some educators there. We had some students there. One was a senior in high school who is currently in career and technical school. For those who do not follow this closely, you probably are more familiar with the word “vocational” school, because that is typically what it has been called over the years. That is the same thing as the career and technical schools.

Again, Senator Kaine and I have co-founded this Career and Technical Education Caucus in the Senate over the last couple of months. We have a number of our colleagues now joining and

so on. We are trying to raise this, let people know about this great opportunity out there.

This young man is a senior. He is going back to his high school and saying: You Guys are crazy not to do this CTE stuff because I am getting great skills, where I can get a great job, and I am getting college credit because they have one of those dual credit programs in this particular CTE program.

Then there were two students there who graduated earlier this year. They both have been in the CTE program. They both have been taking advantage of it to get the skills but also working part time as apprentices or interns—19 years old, two young men. Both of them are now out in the workforce, working for these manufacturers. One of their bosses was there, one of the executives from one of the small manufacturing companies.

These young men at 19 years old are making \$50,000 a year. They have benefits on top of that. They have the opportunity now to run very sophisticated machines. Both of them started off learning as apprentices. Now they are both running machines. These machines are worth over \$1 million apiece. These are in CNC machines. In one case it is a plastic injecting molding machine. It is very exciting. By the way, they now have been encouraged to go back to their high school and say: Hey, 4-year college or university, that is great if you want to do that, but here is another opportunity.

By the way, they may go back to school. They both have some credit where they could go back and maybe get an associate's degree or a 4-year degree or maybe a graduate engineering degree someday, but in the meantime they are providing the opportunities for these companies in Ohio to have skilled workers so they can compete globally. For them and their families, they are providing a tremendous opportunity, rather than graduating with a bunch of debt. The average debt is \$20,000, \$30,000 a year now. Instead of having debt, they are making money.

For the next 4 years, even if they are not promoted 0—0 which I think they will be, having met these two young men—that is \$200,000 they are going to be making and spending and investing in our economy.

I am very excited about this opportunity to hold this up to say there is a way for us to help get this economy moving by helping to fill this skills gap. In Ohio alone, if you go on ohiomeansjobs.com right now, go on their Web site, you will see about 140,000 jobs open. Yet we have about 400,000 people out of work. If you look at these jobs, again, you will see a lot of them require skills that simply are not out there in the workforce now.

Help provide these skills and we are going to see some of these jobs get filled. That helps our economy, keeps

businesses here, and expands businesses here. We did, as Senator Kaine said, just pass the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, so-called WIOA. I was very pleased about that. The House just passed it this week. The Senate passed it 2 weeks ago.

In that there is something called the CAREER Act that Senator BENNET and I have been promoting the last few years. We were able to include a number of our provisions in there to add more accountability, to add more performance measures to improve that legislation. I am happy that was done. That helps on retraining. That is critically important. We spend about \$15 billion a year on that at the Federal Government level.

What we are talking about is starting with the career and technical education even before we get into the WIOA programs and the retraining money that is necessary when somebody loses a job and needs to move to another job. We are talking about young people coming up and having this opportunity. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Ohio is gaining jobs in manufacturing. That is great news. But we also hear, in the latest skills gap report by the Manufacturing Institute, 74 percent of manufacturers are experiencing workforce shortages or skill deficiencies that keep them from expanding their plant and operations and improving productivity—74 percent.

We could be doing much more to close that skills gap. The legislation that Senator Kaine and I talked about that we are introducing today is a very important step toward that. It is going to help open opportunities for the next generation of workers by ensuring that they have these skills to participate in the 21st century economy.

We were talking a moment ago, some of us, about high school graduation rates. Unfortunately, we have unacceptably high numbers of people who do not graduate from high schools in this country. So there was a lot of discussion about postsecondary and so on. But we have a real problem: Our high school graduation rate is way too low. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 81 percent of high school dropouts say real-world learning opportunities would have kept them in school. That is interesting. The average high school graduation rate is now about 80 percent—way too low. In fact, it is closer to 50 percent in some of our great cities and in some of our poorer rural areas. But even 80 percent is the average—way too low for high school graduation.

But what they say is they would have been more likely to stay in school if they had real-world learning opportunities. That is why the graduation rates for kids involved in CTE—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. PORTMAN. I would ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. For kids in CTE concentrations, it is a 90-percent graduation rate. That is because they are getting that real-world experience. So I think a good place to start, again, is with this legislation we are introducing today. This is legislation that begins with reforms to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. It needs to be reauthorized. The reauthorization ought to include these reforms that Senator Kaine and I have talked about.

This is the major source of Federal support for the development of CTE skills. It was last reauthorized in 2006. So it has to be modernized to meet the demands of this workforce today to ensure that students have access to these programs.

It does a few different things. Senator Kaine has talked about it. It requires a more rigorous CTE curriculum, requiring Perkins grant participants to incorporate key elements into the programs; that is, things such as academic and technical skill assessments to measure student achievement, making sure they are actually accomplishing what they are supposed to be based on industry standards, making sure the CTE curriculum is in alignment with whatever the local and regional needs are in the workforce, what the demands are. Employers are looking for kids who have specific skills. We have to be sure we are providing them.

It also increases flexibility for States and localities, allowing them to use these Perkins grant funds to establish academies such as the one Governor Kaine started when he was in Virginia.

It also improves the link between high school and postsecondary education to ease the attainment of industry-recognized credentials, licensing, apprenticeship, postsecondary certificates. We do a lot of that in Ohio, the dual credit programs I talked about earlier.

It promotes partnerships between local businesses, regional industries, and other community stakeholders to create pathways for students through more internships, service opportunities, and so on.

I believe this legislation is urgently needed, and we have to move forward with it. If we do, we are going to be able to provide more opportunity for our young people and more jobs in this country because we will be filling that skills gap and we will be able to have more young people who will be able to have this experience, such as these two young men I met earlier this week, where they are able to go out on their own, get a good job, good benefits, help themselves and their family, and help create a stronger economy for all of us.

I thank my colleague from Virginia for his hard work on this legislation, and I look forward to working with him toward its passage.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2589. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to improve protections for employees and retirees in business bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2589

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—IMPROVING RECOVERIES FOR EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Sec. 101. Increased wage priority.
Sec. 102. Claim for stock value losses in defined contribution plans.
Sec. 103. Priority for severance pay.
Sec. 104. Financial returns for employees and retirees.
Sec. 105. Priority for WARN Act damages.

TITLE II—REDUCING EMPLOYEES’ AND RETIREES’ LOSSES

Sec. 201. Rejection of collective bargaining agreements.
Sec. 202. Payment of insurance benefits to retired employees.
Sec. 203. Protection of employee benefits in a sale of assets.
Sec. 204. Claim for pension losses.
Sec. 205. Payments by secured lender.
Sec. 206. Preservation of jobs and benefits.
Sec. 207. Termination of exclusivity.
Sec. 208. Claim for withdrawal liability.

TITLE III—RESTRICTING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 301. Executive compensation upon exit from bankruptcy.
Sec. 302. Limitations on executive compensation enhancements.
Sec. 303. Assumption of executive benefit plans.
Sec. 304. Recovery of executive compensation.
Sec. 305. Preferential compensation transfer.

TITLE IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Union proof of claim.
Sec. 402. Exception from automatic stay.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Business bankruptcies have increased sharply in recent years and remain at high levels. These bankruptcies include several of the largest business bankruptcy filings in history. As the use of bankruptcy has expanded, job preservation and retirement security are placed at greater risk.

(2) Laws enacted to improve recoveries for employees and retirees and limit their losses

in bankruptcy cases have not kept pace with the increasing and broader use of bankruptcy by businesses in all sectors of the economy. However, while protections for employees and retirees in bankruptcy cases have eroded, management compensation plans devised for those in charge of troubled businesses have become more prevalent and are escaping adequate scrutiny.

(3) Changes in the law regarding these matters are urgently needed as bankruptcy is used to address increasingly more complex and diverse conditions affecting troubled businesses and industries.

TITLE I—IMPROVING RECOVERIES FOR EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

SEC. 101. INCREASED WAGE PRIORITY.

Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)—
(A) by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$20,000”;

(B) by striking “within 180 days”; and

(C) by striking “or the date of the cessation of the debtor’s business, whichever occurs first,”;

(2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking—

(A) “within 180 days”; and

(B) “or the date of the cessation of the debtor’s business, whichever occurs first”; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) for each such plan, to the extent of the number of employees covered by each such plan, multiplied by \$20,000.”.

SEC. 102. CLAIM FOR STOCK VALUE LOSSES IN DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS.

Section 101(5) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) right or interest in equity securities of the debtor, or an affiliate of the debtor, held in a defined contribution plan (within the meaning of section 3(34) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(34))) for the benefit of an individual who is not an insider, a senior executive officer, or any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees of the debtor (if 1 or more are not insiders), if such securities were attributable to either employer contributions by the debtor or an affiliate of the debtor, or elective deferrals (within the meaning of section 402(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), and any earnings thereon, if an employer or plan sponsor who has commenced a case under this title has committed fraud with respect to such plan or has otherwise breached a duty to the participant that has proximately caused the loss of value.”.

SEC. 103. PRIORITY FOR SEVERANCE PAY.

Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) severance pay owed to employees of the debtor (other than to an insider, other senior management, or a consultant retained to provide services to the debtor), under a plan, program, or policy generally applicable to employees of the debtor (but not under an individual contract of employment), or owed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, for layoff or termination on or after

the date of the filing of the petition, which pay shall be deemed earned in full upon such layoff or termination of employment; and”.

SEC. 104. FINANCIAL RETURNS FOR EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES.

Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The plan provides for recovery of damages payable for the rejection of a collective bargaining agreement, or for other financial returns as negotiated by the debtor and the authorized representative under section 1113 (to the extent that such returns are paid under, rather than outside of, a plan).”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (13) and inserting the following:

“(13) With respect to retiree benefits, as that term is defined in section 1114(a), the plan—

“(A) provides for the continuation after its effective date of payment of all retiree benefits at the level established pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(B) or (g) of section 1114 at any time before the date of confirmation of the plan, for the duration of the period for which the debtor has obligated itself to provide such benefits, or if no modifications are made before confirmation of the plan, the continuation of all such retiree benefits maintained or established in whole or in part by the debtor before the date of the filing of the petition; and

“(B) provides for recovery of claims arising from the modification of retiree benefits or for other financial returns, as negotiated by the debtor and the authorized representative (to the extent that such returns are paid under, rather than outside of, a plan).”.

SEC. 105. PRIORITY FOR WARN ACT DAMAGES.

Section 503(b)(1)(A)(ii) of title 11, United States Code is amended to read as follows:

“(ii) wages and benefits awarded pursuant to a judicial proceeding or a proceeding of the National Labor Relations Board as back pay or damages attributable to any period of time occurring after the date of commencement of the case under this title, as a result of a violation of Federal or State law by the debtor, without regard to the time of the occurrence of unlawful conduct on which the award is based or to whether any services were rendered on or after the commencement of the case, including an award by a court under section 2901 of title 29, United States Code, of up to 60 days’ pay and benefits following a layoff that occurred or commenced at a time when such award period includes a period on or after the commencement of the case, if the court determines that payment of wages and benefits by reason of the operation of this clause will not substantially increase the probability of layoff or termination of current employees or of non-payment of domestic support obligations during the case under this title.”.

TITLE II—REDUCING EMPLOYEES’ AND RETIREES’ LOSSES

SEC. 201. REJECTION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.

Section 1113 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (a) through (f) and inserting the following:

“(a) The debtor in possession, or the trustee if one has been appointed under this chapter, other than a trustee in a case covered by subchapter IV of this chapter and by title I of the Railway Labor Act, may reject a collective bargaining agreement only in accordance with this section. In this section, a reference to the trustee includes the debtor in possession.

“(b) No provision of this title shall be construed to permit the trustee to unilaterally

terminate or alter any provision of a collective bargaining agreement before complying with this section. The trustee shall timely pay all monetary obligations arising under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. Any such payment required to be made before a plan confirmed under section 1129 is effective has the status of an allowed administrative expense under section 503.

“(c)(1) If the trustee seeks modification of a collective bargaining agreement, the trustee shall provide notice to the labor organization representing the employees covered by the agreement that modifications are being proposed under this section, and shall promptly provide an initial proposal for modifications to the agreement. Thereafter, the trustee shall confer in good faith with the labor organization, at reasonable times and for a reasonable period in light of the complexity of the case, in attempting to reach mutually acceptable modifications of such agreement.

“(2) The initial proposal and subsequent proposals by the trustee for modification of a collective bargaining agreement shall be based upon a business plan for the reorganization of the debtor, and shall reflect the most complete and reliable information available. The trustee shall provide to the labor organization all information that is relevant for negotiations. The court may enter a protective order to prevent the disclosure of information if disclosure could compromise the debtor's position with respect to its competitors in the industry, subject to the needs of the labor organization to evaluate the trustee's proposals and any application for rejection of the agreement or for interim relief pursuant to this section.

“(3) In consideration of Federal policy encouraging the practice and process of collective bargaining and in recognition of the bargained-for expectations of the employees covered by the agreement, modifications proposed by the trustee—

“(A) shall be proposed only as part of a program of workforce and nonworkforce cost savings devised for the reorganization of the debtor, including savings in management personnel costs;

“(B) shall be limited to modifications designed to achieve a specified aggregate financial contribution for the employees covered by the agreement (taking into consideration any labor cost savings negotiated within the 12-month period before the filing of the petition), and shall be not more than the minimum savings essential to permit the debtor to exit bankruptcy, such that confirmation of a plan of reorganization is not likely to be followed by the liquidation, or the need for further financial reorganization, of the debtor (or any successor to the debtor) in the short term; and

“(C) shall not be disproportionate or overly burden the employees covered by the agreement, either in the amount of the cost savings sought from such employees or the nature of the modifications.

“(d)(1) If, after a period of negotiations, the trustee and the labor organization have not reached an agreement over mutually satisfactory modifications, and further negotiations are not likely to produce mutually satisfactory modifications, the trustee may file a motion seeking rejection of the collective bargaining agreement after notice and a hearing. Absent agreement of the parties, no such hearing shall be held before the expiration of the 21-day period beginning on the date on which notice of the hearing is provided to the labor organization representing the employees covered by the agreement.

Only the debtor and the labor organization may appear and be heard at such hearing. An application for rejection shall seek rejection effective upon the entry of an order granting the relief.

“(2) In consideration of Federal policy encouraging the practice and process of collective bargaining and in recognition of the bargained-for expectations of the employees covered by the agreement, the court may grant a motion seeking rejection of a collective bargaining agreement only if, based on clear and convincing evidence—

“(A) the court finds that the trustee has complied with the requirements of subsection (c);

“(B) the court has considered alternative proposals by the labor organization and has concluded that such proposals do not meet the requirements of paragraph (3)(B) of subsection (c);

“(C) the court finds that further negotiations regarding the trustee's proposal or an alternative proposal by the labor organization are not likely to produce an agreement;

“(D) the court finds that implementation of the trustee's proposal shall not—

“(i) cause a material diminution in the purchasing power of the employees covered by the agreement;

“(ii) adversely affect the ability of the debtor to retain an experienced and qualified workforce; or

“(iii) impair the debtor's labor relations such that the ability to achieve a feasible reorganization would be compromised; and

“(E) the court concludes that rejection of the agreement and immediate implementation of the trustee's proposal is essential to permit the debtor to exit bankruptcy, such that confirmation of a plan of reorganization is not likely to be followed by liquidation, or the need for further financial reorganization, of the debtor (or any successor to the debtor) in the short term.

“(3) If the trustee has implemented a program of incentive pay, bonuses, or other financial returns for insiders, senior executive officers, or the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants providing services to the debtor during the bankruptcy, or such a program was implemented within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition, the court shall presume that the trustee has failed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (c)(3)(C).

“(4) In no case shall the court enter an order rejecting a collective bargaining agreement that would result in modifications to a level lower than the level proposed by the trustee in the proposal found by the court to have complied with the requirements of this section.

“(5) At any time after the date on which an order rejecting a collective bargaining agreement is entered, or in the case of an agreement entered into between the trustee and the labor organization providing mutually satisfactory modifications, at any time after such agreement has been entered into, the labor organization may apply to the court for an order seeking an increase in the level of wages or benefits, or relief from working conditions, based upon changed circumstances. The court shall grant the request only if the increase or other relief is not inconsistent with the standard set forth in paragraph (2)(E).

“(e) During a period in which a collective bargaining agreement at issue under this section continues in effect, and if essential to the continuation of the debtor's business or in order to avoid irreparable damage to the estate, the court, after notice and a hear-

ing, may authorize the trustee to implement interim changes in the terms, conditions, wages, benefits, or work rules provided by the collective bargaining agreement. Any hearing under this subsection shall be scheduled in accordance with the needs of the trustee. The implementation of such interim changes shall not render the application for rejection moot.

“(f)(1) Rejection of a collective bargaining agreement constitutes a breach of the agreement, and shall be effective no earlier than the entry of an order granting such relief.

“(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), solely for purposes of determining and allowing a claim arising from the rejection of a collective bargaining agreement, rejection shall be treated as rejection of an executory contract under section 365(g) and shall be allowed or disallowed in accordance with section 502(g)(1). No claim for rejection damages shall be limited by section 502(b)(7). Economic self-help by a labor organization shall be permitted upon a court order granting a motion to reject a collective bargaining agreement under subsection (d) or pursuant to subsection (e), and no provision of this title or of any other provision of Federal or State law may be construed to the contrary.

“(g) The trustee shall provide for the reasonable fees and costs incurred by a labor organization under this section, upon request and after notice and a hearing.

“(h) A collective bargaining agreement that is assumed shall be assumed in accordance with section 365.”

SEC. 202. PAYMENT OF INSURANCE BENEFITS TO RETIRED EMPLOYEES.

Section 1114 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “, without regard to whether the debtor asserts a right to unilaterally modify such payments under such plan, fund, or program” before the period at the end;

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting after “section” the following: “, and a labor organization serving as the authorized representative under subsection (c)(1),”;

(3) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f)(1) If a trustee seeks modification of retiree benefits, the trustee shall provide a notice to the authorized representative that modifications are being proposed pursuant to this section, and shall promptly provide an initial proposal. Thereafter, the trustee shall confer in good faith with the authorized representative at reasonable times and for a reasonable period in light of the complexity of the case in attempting to reach mutually satisfactory modifications.

“(2) The initial proposal and subsequent proposals by the trustee shall be based upon a business plan for the reorganization of the debtor and shall reflect the most complete and reliable information available. The trustee shall provide to the authorized representative all information that is relevant for the negotiations. The court may enter a protective order to prevent the disclosure of information if disclosure could compromise the debtor's position with respect to its competitors in the industry, subject to the needs of the authorized representative to evaluate the trustee's proposals and an application pursuant to subsection (g) or (h).

“(3) Modifications proposed by the trustee—

“(A) shall be proposed only as part of a program of workforce and nonworkforce cost savings devised for the reorganization of the debtor, including savings in management personnel costs;

“(B) shall be limited to modifications that are designed to achieve a specified aggregate financial contribution for the retiree group represented by the authorized representative (taking into consideration any cost savings implemented within the 12-month period before the date of filing of the petition with respect to the retiree group), and shall be no more than the minimum savings essential to permit the debtor to exit bankruptcy, such that confirmation of a plan of reorganization is not likely to be followed by the liquidation, or the need for further financial reorganization, of the debtor (or any successor to the debtor) in the short term; and

“(C) shall not be disproportionate or overly burden the retiree group, either in the amount of the cost savings sought from such group or the nature of the modifications.”;

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “(g)” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(g)(1) If, after a period of negotiations, the trustee and the authorized representative have not reached agreement over mutually satisfactory modifications and further negotiations are not likely to produce mutually satisfactory modifications, the trustee may file a motion seeking modifications in the payment of retiree benefits after notice and a hearing. Absent agreement of the parties, no such hearing shall be held before the expiration of the 21-day period beginning on the date on which notice of the hearing is provided to the authorized representative. Only the debtor and the authorized representative may appear and be heard at such hearing.

“(2) The court may grant a motion to modify the payment of retiree benefits only if, based on clear and convincing evidence—

“(A) the court finds that the trustee has complied with the requirements of subsection (f);

“(B) the court has considered alternative proposals by the authorized representative and has determined that such proposals do not meet the requirements of subsection (f)(3)(B);

“(C) the court finds that further negotiations regarding the trustee’s proposal or an alternative proposal by the authorized representative are not likely to produce a mutually satisfactory agreement;

“(D) the court finds that implementation of the proposal shall not cause irreparable harm to the affected retirees; and

“(E) the court concludes that an order granting the motion and immediate implementation of the trustee’s proposal is essential to permit the debtor to exit bankruptcy, such that confirmation of a plan of reorganization is not likely to be followed by liquidation, or the need for further financial reorganization, of the debtor (or a successor to the debtor) in the short term.

“(3) If a trustee has implemented a program of incentive pay, bonuses, or other financial returns for insiders, senior executive officers, or the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants providing services to the debtor during the bankruptcy, or such a program was implemented within 180 days before the date of the filing of the petition, the court shall presume that the trustee has failed to satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (f)(3)(C).”; and

(B) by striking “except that in no case” and inserting the following:

“(4) In no case”; and

(5) by striking subsection (k) and redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively.

SEC. 203. PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS IN A SALE OF ASSETS.

Section 363(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In approving a sale under this subsection, the court shall consider the extent to which a bidder has offered to maintain existing jobs, preserve terms and conditions of employment, and assume or match pension and retiree health benefit obligations in determining whether an offer constitutes the highest or best offer for such property.”.

SEC. 204. CLAIM FOR PENSION LOSSES.

Section 502 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) The court shall allow a claim asserted by an active or retired participant, or by a labor organization representing such participants, in a defined benefit plan terminated under section 4041 or 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, for any shortfall in pension benefits accrued as of the effective date of the termination of such pension plan as a result of the termination of the plan and limitations upon the payment of benefits imposed pursuant to section 4022 of such Act, notwithstanding any claim asserted and collected by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to such termination.

“(m) The court shall allow a claim of a kind described in section 101(5)(C) by an active or retired participant in a defined contribution plan (within the meaning of section 3(34) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(34))), or by a labor organization representing such participants. The amount of such claim shall be measured by the market value of the stock at the time of contribution to, or purchase by, the plan and the value as of the commencement of the case.”.

SEC. 205. PAYMENTS BY SECURED LENDER.

Section 506(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: “If employees have not received wages, accrued vacation, severance, or other benefits owed under the policies and practices of the debtor, or pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, for services rendered on and after the date of the commencement of the case, such unpaid obligations shall be deemed necessary costs and expenses of preserving, or disposing of, property securing an allowed secured claim and shall be recovered even if the trustee has otherwise waived the provisions of this subsection under an agreement with the holder of the allowed secured claim or a successor or predecessor in interest.”.

SEC. 206. PRESERVATION OF JOBS AND BENEFITS.

Chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 1101 the following:

“§ 1100. Statement of purpose

“A debtor commencing a case under this chapter shall have as its principal purpose the reorganization of its business to preserve going concern value to the maximum extent possible through the productive use of its assets and the preservation of jobs that will sustain productive economic activity.”;

(2) in section 1129(a), as amended by section 104, by adding at the end the following:

“(18) The debtor has demonstrated that the reorganization preserves going concern value to the maximum extent possible through the productive use of the debtor’s assets and preserves jobs that sustain productive economic activity.”;

(3) in section 1129(c)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”; and

(B) by striking the last sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) If the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) are met with respect to more than 1 plan, the court shall, in determining which plan to confirm—

“(A) consider the extent to which each plan would preserve going concern value through the productive use of the debtor’s assets and the preservation of jobs that sustain productive economic activity; and

“(B) confirm the plan that better serves such interests.

“(3) A plan that incorporates the terms of a settlement with a labor organization representing employees of the debtor shall presumptively constitute the plan that satisfies this subsection.”; and

(4) in the table of sections, by inserting before the item relating to section 1101 the following:

“1100. Statement of purpose.”.

SEC. 207. TERMINATION OF EXCLUSIVITY.

Section 1121(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) For purposes of this subsection, cause for reducing the 120-day period or the 180-day period includes the following:

“(A) The filing of a motion pursuant to section 1113 seeking rejection of a collective bargaining agreement if a plan based upon an alternative proposal by the labor organization is reasonably likely to be confirmed within a reasonable time.

“(B) The proposed filing of a plan by a proponent other than the debtor, which incorporates the terms of a settlement with a labor organization if such plan is reasonably likely to be confirmed within a reasonable time.”.

SEC. 208. CLAIM FOR WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY.

Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 103 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) with respect to withdrawal liability owed to a multiemployer pension plan for a complete or partial withdrawal pursuant to section 4201 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1381) where such withdrawal occurs on or after the commencement of the case, an amount equal to the amount of vested benefits payable from such pension plan that accrued as a result of employees’ services rendered to the debtor during the period beginning on the date of commencement of the case and ending on the date of the withdrawal from the plan.”.

TITLE III—RESTRICTING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 301. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION UPON EXIT FROM BANKRUPTCY.

Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following: “Except for compensation subject to review under paragraph (5), payments or other distributions under the plan to or for the benefit of insiders, senior executive officers, and any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants providing services to the debtor, shall not be approved except as part of a program of payments or distributions generally applicable to employees of the debtor, and only to the extent that the court determines that such payments are not excessive or disproportionate compared to distributions to the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) the compensation disclosed pursuant to subparagraph (B) has been approved by, or is subject to the approval of, the court as reasonable when compared to individuals holding comparable positions at comparable companies in the same industry and not disproportionate in light of economic concessions by the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce during the case.”

SEC. 302. LIMITATIONS ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ENHANCEMENTS.

Section 503(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(A) by inserting “, a senior executive officer, or any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants” after “an insider”;

(B) by inserting “or for the payment of performance or incentive compensation, or a bonus of any kind, or other financial returns designed to replace or enhance incentive, stock, or other compensation in effect before the date of the commencement of the case,” after “remain with the debtor’s business,”; and

(C) by inserting “clear and convincing” before “evidence in the record”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) other transfers or obligations, to or for the benefit of insiders, senior executive officers, managers, or consultants providing services to the debtor, in the absence of a finding by the court, based upon clear and convincing evidence, and without deference to the debtor’s request for such payments, that such transfers or obligations are essential to the survival of the debtor’s business or (in the case of a liquidation of some or all of the debtor’s assets) essential to the orderly liquidation and maximization of value of the assets of the debtor, in either case, because of the essential nature of the services provided, and then only to the extent that the court finds such transfers or obligations are reasonable compared to individuals holding comparable positions at comparable companies in the same industry and not disproportionate in light of economic concessions by the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce during the case.”

SEC. 303. ASSUMPTION OF EXECUTIVE BENEFIT PLANS.

Section 365 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and (d)” and inserting “(d), (q), and (r)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(q) No deferred compensation arrangement for the benefit of insiders, senior executive officers, or any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees of the debtor shall be assumed if a defined benefit plan for employees of the debtor has been terminated pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, on or after the date of the commencement of the case or within 180 days before the date of the commencement of the case.

“(r) No plan, fund, program, or contract to provide retiree benefits for insiders, senior executive officers, or any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees of the debtor shall be assumed if the debtor has obtained relief under subsection (g) or (h) of section 1114 to impose reductions in retiree benefits

or under subsection (d) or (e) of section 1113 to impose reductions in the health benefits of active employees of the debtor, or reduced or eliminated health benefits for active or retired employees within 180 days before the date of the commencement of the case.”

SEC. 304. RECOVERY OF EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 562 the following:

“§ 563. Recovery of executive compensation

“(a) If a debtor has obtained relief under subsection (d) of section 1113, or subsection (g) of section 1114, by which the debtor reduces the cost of its obligations under a collective bargaining agreement or a plan, fund, or program for retiree benefits as defined in section 1114(a), the court, in granting relief, shall determine the percentage diminution in the value of the obligations when compared to the debtor’s obligations under the collective bargaining agreement, or with respect to retiree benefits, as of the date of the commencement of the case under this title before granting such relief. In making its determination, the court shall include reductions in benefits, if any, as a result of the termination pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, of a defined benefit plan administered by the debtor, or for which the debtor is a contributing employer, effective at any time on or after 180 days before the date of the commencement of a case under this title. The court shall not take into account pension benefits paid or payable under such Act as a result of any such termination.

“(b) If a defined benefit pension plan administered by the debtor, or for which the debtor is a contributing employer, has been terminated pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, effective at any time on or after 180 days before the date of the commencement of a case under this title, but a debtor has not obtained relief under subsection (d) of section 1113, or subsection (g) of section 1114, the court, upon motion of a party in interest, shall determine the percentage diminution in the value of benefit obligations when compared to the total benefit liabilities before such termination. The court shall not take into account pension benefits paid or payable under title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as a result of any such termination.

“(c) Upon the determination of the percentage diminution in value under subsection (a) or (b), the estate shall have a claim for the return of the same percentage of the compensation paid, directly or indirectly (including any transfer to a self-settled trust or similar device, or to a non-qualified deferred compensation plan under section 409A(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) to any officer of the debtor serving as member of the board of directors of the debtor within the year before the date of the commencement of the case, and any individual serving as chairman or lead director of the board of directors at the time of the granting of relief under section 1113 or 1114 or, if no such relief has been granted, the termination of the defined benefit plan.

“(d) The trustee or a committee appointed pursuant to section 1102 may commence an action to recover such claims, except that if neither the trustee nor such committee commences an action to recover such claim by the first date set for the hearing on the confirmation of plan under section 1129, any party in interest may apply to the court for authority to recover such claim for the ben-

efit of the estate. The costs of recovery shall be borne by the estate.

“(e) The court shall not award postpetition compensation under section 503(c) or otherwise to any person subject to subsection (c) if there is a reasonable likelihood that such compensation is intended to reimburse or replace compensation recovered by the estate under this section.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 562 the following:

“563. Recovery of executive compensation.”

SEC. 305. PREFERENTIAL COMPENSATION TRANSFER.

Section 547 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) The trustee may avoid a transfer—

“(A) made—

“(i) to or for the benefit of an insider (including an obligation incurred for the benefit of an insider under an employment contract) made in anticipation of bankruptcy; or

“(ii) in anticipation of bankruptcy to a consultant who is formerly an insider and who is retained to provide services to an entity that becomes a debtor (including an obligation under a contract to provide services to such entity or to a debtor); and

“(B) made or incurred on or within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

“(2) No provision of subsection (c) shall constitute a defense against the recovery of a transfer described in paragraph (1).

“(3) The trustee or a committee appointed pursuant to section 1102 may commence an action to recover such transfer, except that, if neither the trustee nor such committee commences an action to recover such transfer by the time of the commencement of a hearing on the confirmation of a plan under section 1129, any party in interest may apply to the court for authority to recover the claims for the benefit of the estate. The costs of recovery shall be borne by the estate.”

TITLE IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. UNION PROOF OF CLAIM.

Section 501(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, including a labor organization,” after “A creditor”.

SEC. 402. EXCEPTION FROM AUTOMATIC STAY.

Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (27), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (28), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(29) of the commencement or continuation of a grievance, arbitration, or similar dispute resolution proceeding established by a collective bargaining agreement that was or could have been commenced against the debtor before the filing of a case under this title, or the payment or enforcement of an award or settlement under such proceeding.”

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2592. A bill to promote energy production and security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. HOEVEN. We are here today to talk about energy—energy for our

country but also energy for our allies. This is a discussion not just about energy, it is about jobs, good-paying jobs. It is also about economic growth. It is about generating tax revenues to help reduce the debt and the deficit without raising taxes. It is about national security—not only our national security but also working with our closest friend and ally, Canada, as well as our allies in Europe, the European Union, and working to help countries such as the Ukraine that very much need energy supply from sources other than Russia.

With the current events going on in the Ukraine, it is very clear that we need to play a long-term game, a long-term strategy—deploy a long-term strategy when it comes to helping our allies, not only in terms of our national security but working with our allies to make them stronger, their strength, their national security. The national security of allies also contributes to our strength and our security here at home. So that is what we are here to talk about. We are here to talk about the North Atlantic Energy Security Act, legislation we are introducing today—myself, Senator BARRASSO, Senator McCAIN, and Senator MURKOWSKI.

I am going to take a few minutes to talk about energy production, transportation, and export in terms of building our energy future in this country and working with our allies. Senator BARRASSO is here, and he will be talking about the specific legislation. Senator McCAIN will join us as well to talk about the national security issues and implications.

I will start with the first chart.

Very simply, what we want to do is continue to produce more energy in our Nation, in the heartland of our Nation and throughout our country. We want to transport that increased production to market. That includes not only markets domestically but also markets where we can export it to our friends and allies in the European Union, to the Ukraine, and to Japan. That is the simple equation we are working on. Again, it is about energy. It is about jobs. It is about a growing economy. It is very much about national security.

That gas is produced throughout our country, more and more all the time. Right now we produce 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year. We only use 26 trillion cubic feet of natural gas a year, so we are already producing more than we consume, and that number is growing.

What happens when you produce more than you consume and you do not have a market for that gas? In places such as North Dakota, we are flaring off that gas. Right now, just in my State alone, we flare \$1.5 million a day of natural gas—\$1.5 million a day. That is natural gas that we need to capture, that we need to get in gathering systems, that we need to transport to

markets, and we need markets for that gas. This is just common sense.

How do we move gas from North Dakota to places such as Ukraine, where there is much need for a market? Well, we need both interstate and intrastate pipeline systems. On this chart, you can see that the purple is the interstate. That is how we move gas across State lines. But we also need intrastate gathering systems. A lot of oil wells produce natural gas as a byproduct; other wells are just gas wells. But you need gathering systems, the blue systems that go to all those wells so that gas can be gathered, put in the interstate system, and moved to markets—markets throughout the United States and markets overseas.

As I said a minute ago, we produce 30 trillion cubic feet a year, States such as North Dakota, Wyoming, and many others. That number is growing. We produce 30 trillion cubic feet a year, but we only consume 26 trillion, so we are flaring off that gas.

We need markets. As we work to build those gathering systems and those interstate pipelines, how do we get markets? Well, we move that product to overseas as liquefied natural gas, LNG. It is cooled and condensed, put on ships, and moved to other markets—the European Union, Ukraine, Japan—by ship. But we need the LNG facilities to do it. We do not have them. So that is a problem, right? Well, it is, except we have many companies that are not only ready and willing but anxious to build the facilities. Here are 16 right here, 16 applications.

Of the 26 applications that are pending, many of them have been pending for over a year waiting to get approval from the Department of Energy and from the FERC. So here we are flaring off natural gas, as I showed a minute ago—\$1.5 million a day in my State—flaring it off because we produce more than we consume. We need markets. These applications are just sitting there and have been for more than a year.

If they get approved, what happens? Let's take an example. Here is one by a company everybody has heard of—Exxon. Exxon has an application. As you can see here, they have had an application in for over a year waiting to get approved at Sabine Pass, TX, which is right down in that gulf area. They are ready, willing, and able to spend \$10 billion right now, today, to build that facility.

Where are they going to move the gas? They are going to move it to the United Kingdom so it can go right into the European system. We will touch on that European system and how it gets to places such as the Ukraine in a minute. But if they can get approval—I have already talked to their CEO, Mr. Rex Tillerson. He indicates that within 36 to 40 months of approval, they can

be moving gas into the European markets. Does that sound realistic? It certainly does. Obviously that is a very large company with the capabilities to do what they say they are willing and want to do.

Here is another example. Here is Cheniere. Same place—Sabine Pass. This is one that did get approved. This is one that did get approval. They intend to be delivering gas into the European market by the middle of next year—middle of next year. So this is not something that is going to take forever to happen.

We not only have the fact that we can start moving natural gas over here in a very reasonable amount of time, but think of the impact on the markets in Europe and the impact on Russia and gas prices when they know it is coming.

I am going to ask Senator McCAIN to step in here. I mentioned a minute ago that application I showed you that is pending from Exxon. They want to move that natural gas to market right here in the UK.

What this chart shows is the pipeline network throughout Europe that will enable them to move that product throughout Europe and even into Eastern Europe, including places such as Ukraine.

Right now where is all that gas coming from? Russia, Gazprom. All these pipelines are coming down from Russia and providing that gas to the European countries, to the European Union, and to the Ukraine. Of course, that makes them dependent on Russia and that enables Russia to engage in the kind of activity we have seen and we can't always be reacting short term. We need a long-term strategy to break that hold.

Here are some of the numbers. This shows not only Ukraine but look at the impact on other NATO countries, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, 100 percent of their gas coming from Russia. Think of the leverage that gives Russia in this situation.

The last chart is the North Atlantic Energy Security Act. Quite simply, we are going to cut the redtape that is holding up production and infrastructure, we are going to reduce flaring, and we are going to expedite LNG to our friends and allies, to countries such as the European Union, to Ukraine, to Japan. We reduce the redtape that is holding up production. We are producing 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and we can produce a lot more, but we have to cut through the redtape. We also enhance and expand our ability to build the gathering systems that move that natural gas to market, and we allow export.

We have an expedited process so we can export that gas to the markets we need, to our friends, and to our allies. Again, this is about energy, but it is about creating jobs, it is about growing our economy, it is about the national

security of our country and our allies, and it is about having a long-term strategy that works, not going from crisis to crisis.

With that, I turn to my colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona, to comment on some of the national security implications.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent the colloquy between the three of us be allowed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my two colleagues from North Dakota and Wyoming. There are no two Members of the Senate who know more and have worked harder on this energy issue. There are no two Senators who have worked harder to try to bring to the American people the fact that if we could export energy to these countries, it could literally change the world. This is not only when it actually arrives, but when Vladimir Putin gets the message, within 3 years—as I understand the Senator from North Dakota's context—we could be sending energy to the living rooms.

If you would put the numbers back up with the countries and their dependence on Russian energy.

Within 3 years the people within Latvia, Estonia, members of NATO, would no longer be reliant—and it gets very cold up in those Baltic countries as well. It can have a significant effect on the entire world.

I would also point out if that energy—and I would ask my colleagues from Wyoming or North Dakota—could get to the living room of Kiev—which the Senator showed the different pipelines that cross Ukraine—that has a huge effect.

I would ask my friend from Wyoming to comment.

We have threatened Russians time after time after they absorbed Crimea in violation of an agreement they made in Budapest to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine. They absorbed Crimea. They continue to provoke unrest in Eastern Ukraine.

They have been threatened time after time by the United States and Europe, and I would argue that the handful of sanctions on individuals has had very little effect whatsoever on Russian behavior.

I ask the Senator from Wyoming as well, this is not only about the fact that the United States of America would be an energy exporter—which is a huge effect on our economy—but this could have a huge effect on the entire European Continent, because if Vladimir Putin understands that this energy is coming from a friend of the ally of the United States America, as opposed to them being dependent on Russian oil and energy, I would argue that it could change the entire shape of the world as we know it.

I thank both of the Senators who have been involved in this issue for

many years. I don't know how many times both Senators have come to the floor—and I might just say I don't claim to be an expert on energy as my two colleagues are—but I will say the presentation the Senator from North Dakota just made should be understandable and I believe is understandable to every American citizen how we can, within 3 years as I understand it, achieve a level of energy independence and that for Europe that could literally change the entire equation in Europe and in the United States.

Mr. BARRASSO. My friend and colleague from Arizona is absolutely right. The three of us have traveled together to Ukraine. We have traveled together to Latvia and Lithuania.

What we hear everywhere we go is: Please sell us natural gas. Please sell us energy. Please help us undermine what Putin is doing to us.

Energy should be used as a geopolitical weapon, and it is the advances in technology in just the last decade that have made all of this possible. The Senators from Arizona and North Dakota are both correct. We are producing more now than ever. They are well aware of that throughout Europe and throughout the Baltics—to the point that Lithuania is even in the middle of acquiring an at-sea platform to change liquefied natural gas into natural gas—to warm it up, if you will, for use—and it is called the Independence. That is the name of this platform. It is to give them independence from Russia.

That is what they are investing in, and now they are saying to us: Please send it our way.

The technology has changed so much that in 2005 a book came out called "Beyond Oil," and it was sent to every University of Wyoming first-year student coming in. They were invited to read it, and there was a whole section on liquefied natural gas.

At the time the technology wasn't developed enough for us to be so blessed in the United States to produce it, so that they were talking about actually building terminals in Louisiana, Texas, to import liquefied natural gas from other places.

Now we have reversed it. We are now in a position where we have such an abundance of liquefied natural gas, as my colleague from North Dakota said, we are flaring it off, burning it to the point of \$1.5 million a day. That is the value of that gas, and there is also tax revenue that is not being collected because this isn't being sold, so our States could use the revenue. The Federal Government would benefit from us selling this rather than burning it, but yet we don't have the opportunity to do so because of the specifics of the laws with which we are faced.

We need to change the law. We need to be able to export. We need to be able to have permits to export, and we are

seeing a lot of foot-dragging by this administration, which is why there are bills on this floor, bipartisan pieces of legislation, to help us use our energy abundance as a geopolitical weapon to undermine Vladimir Putin's ability to use energy as a weapon of his own, a club against, as we have said, Ukraine, Moldova, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia—all of these areas that are so dependent upon Russia for their gas, when they would rather buy it from us.

It would be an opportunity for us in America to become a net exporter in a way that would help balance our trade and balance our payments. It would bring cash back into the United States and we would be so much less dependent on the Middle East for sources of energy. We should be relying on that at home.

I look to my colleague from Arizona and say he is absolutely right in his leadership, in his direction, and in his global view that he has seen in his incredible service to our country. He has seen the shift. He has seen the future, and he knows the future success for our country comes in exporting liquefied natural gas to Europe, to our NATO allies, to Ukraine.

That is why we bring to the floor today the North Atlantic Energy Security Act, which we believe will help our country, help globally, and help us not just economically but help us geopolitically as well.

I turn to my friends from either Arizona or North Dakota to continue in this discussion, and then I will get back to some specific things that are happening around the world.

Mr. MCCAIN. I say to both of my colleagues, the Senator from North Dakota, Americans understand, I believe, that we need to do what we can to help our European friends become independent of Vladimir Putin as a source of energy.

They also are beginning to understand the United States of America is going to be an exporter of energy, which will obviously change our dependence on Middle Eastern energy and on other forms of energy, but the way the Senator from North Dakota described this, I think every American, if they saw it, would ask: Why don't we move in that direction? Why don't we believe the major energy companies that say within 3 years—and beginning, I understand, next year with some of them—we could be supplying these countries with energy which would then give them not only the ability to have energy without dependency, but it also sends a huge message to Vladimir Putin and to Europe that they are no longer dependent on his largesse. There have been times in the past where Vladimir Putin has shut off the energy in the wintertime, and it gets very cold in some of these countries in the wintertime.

It might also send a message to Vladimir Putin himself that he is not

going to get away with the kind of behavior that he has.

I would ask the Senator from North Dakota, what does it require—suppose I am just an average citizen—to capture that natural gas that is being burned for \$1 million-plus a day? What does it require to capture that and then get it to that port where it is going to be exported?

I would finally say I intend to go every place I can in America in the next few months and give the same presentation the Senator from North Dakota did and help the American people understand that we don't have to do a lot.

The energy is there. The question is, Do we have the national will and legislative will to take the action necessary to get that energy to the people who need it so badly, who are literally under the threat of freezing cold this coming winter?

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Arizona for his comments, his leadership, and for his willingness to work on this vitally important issue.

In terms of responding to his question: OK. What needs to happen—I wish to take a minute to give an overview of the legislation and then ask the Senator from Wyoming to comment in more detail.

As I said at the outset, and I actually have said several times, this is about more energy, it is about job creation, it is about growing the economy, and it is about national security.

It is also very much about environmental benefits. I showed you gas being flared off a well. This gas is just being flared.

Not only is that wasting a natural resource which we can capture and get value for, but when we capture that, we also create environmental benefits.

Nationally, we flare or vent, burn off, 212 billion cubic feet of gas a year—212 billion cubic feet of gas a year now being burned off.

Mr. MCCAIN. Which is roughly how much money?

Mr. HOEVEN. Oh, boy. To convert it, it is billions, right, it is in the billions of dollars. I don't have the exact number, but it is a huge amount. It is \$1.5 million a day in my State alone so the Senator can see we are talking billions of dollars. There are also tremendous environmental benefits as well.

But let's go to the legislation for a minute because I think this is responsive to the question asked by the Senator from Arizona about: OK. How do we make it happen?

The reality is we are producing the energy now, we can produce more, and this doesn't cost taxpayer money.

This creates revenues without raising taxes. This is going to create revenues to help address the debt and the deficit. This is enabling and empowering the private companies to make investments to create jobs, make investments to produce the energy.

Going back to this chart, Exxon wants to invest \$10 billion today, creating thousands of jobs and a tremendous amount of revenue for the Federal Government to reduce the deficit and debt. It doesn't cost a penny. That is not what it is about. It is about streamlining the regulation, cutting the redtape. That means making sure we streamline and expedite the process to get wells approved. That is the first area of legislation that increases our production onshore. We can do it offshore as well. But we are talking about more production. As I say, we are already producing more than we consume.

Second, it is about building those gathering systems. It requires permits and approvals to build gathering systems, so we are not able to build those gathering systems. If you can't build a gathering system, what happens? You burn off the gas because you can't get it to market. So that process is being held up. Again, it is about cutting through the redtape, reducing the regulation and bureaucracy. It doesn't cost anything.

The final piece, the same thing—getting approval to export LNG. Right now there is one that has final approval from the DOE and FERC. There are 26 applications pending. One has final approval from the DOE—Department of Energy—and the FERC. Six have conditional approval and 26 are pending. It is as simple as getting the approvals and cutting through that redtape. This is not about spending taxpayer dollars; it is about generating revenues.

Mr. MCCAIN. If I could ask the Senator from North Dakota one additional question, and maybe the Senator from Wyoming would comment on it too. What about the environmental aspects of using natural gas as opposed to other forms of energy, whether it be coal or oil or other forms of energy?

Mr. HOEVEN. I would respond briefly to the Senator from Arizona and then turn to the Senator from Wyoming on that issue as well for more detail on the legislation. He has tremendous expertise in this area and has been working on it for a long time.

Clearly, it is a double win because not only are we no longer burning off or flaring that natural gas, but we are using natural gas, which is a very clean resource, for a whole range of energy uses, whether it is powering homes or many other uses. So it is a huge environmental win.

Mr. MCCAIN. So I would think the EPA would be out there in front arguing for this legislation.

Mr. HOEVEN. Absolutely an environmental win.

Mr. BARRASSO. It is interesting. The Senator from South Dakota, the Senator from Arizona, and I were reviewing this article in today's Wall Street Journal, Thursday, July 10.

The headline is "In the Arctic, Shipping Route Is Set to Supply LNG to Asia," and there is a map of the globe. It says:

Shipping companies in China and Japan said they would start a regular service to carry Siberian natural gas across the Arctic Ocean to East Asia, showing how Asian demand for the fuel is reshaping global shipping routes.

So with the forces at play—Asia's demand for natural gas, Japan's move away from nuclear power, China's struggle with pollution—this is an opportunity for us to use a resource we have in the United States and export it in a very profitable way for our country, put people to work, increase tax revenues to the States, increase tax revenues to the Nation, and improve our balance of trade. The technology is now allowing us to do it, but the government is not. That is the biggest problem we have—a bureaucratic Federal Government that is not allowing what we have and what we have learned to use. The government is blocking it, and that is why we have come to the floor today to try to encourage additional exports to Europe and support the North Atlantic Energy Security Act.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I turn to the good Senator from Arizona for any final comments. Seeing that he doesn't have any, I thank him.

I also thank the good Senator from Wyoming and ask if there are any final comments he might have on the legislation. He has been an author of much of this legislation. I thank him for that tremendous work and for being part of this effort.

Mr. BARRASSO. The legislation is bipartisan. We have Republicans and Democrats alike who realize there are incredible values to us as a nation to be exporting liquefied natural gas.

At a time when the technology is there, the will is there, we need to get a vote on the Senate floor. I offered the amendment before and bring it again today as legislation, the North Atlantic Energy Security Act. It is about energy, it is about security—our economic security, our energy security—and our opportunities on the geopolitical stage to use our resources to the best advantage of our Nation and our Nation's citizens.

I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his continued leadership in this area.

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Senator from Wyoming.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 498—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST UNPROVOKED ROCKET ATTACKS FROM THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KIRK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. HELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COATS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LEE, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 498

Whereas Hamas is a United States-designated terrorist organization whose charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas continues to reject the core principles of the Middle East Quartet (the United Nations, the United States, the European Union, and Russia)—recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

Whereas Hamas has killed hundreds of Israelis and dozens of Americans in rocket attacks and suicide bombings;

Whereas, since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas and other terrorist groups have fired thousands of rockets at Israel;

Whereas Hamas has entered into a unity governing arrangement with Fatah and the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas the unity governing agreement implies Fatah's and the Palestinian Authority's support for Hamas' belligerent actions against Israel, potentially contributing to a false perception of legitimacy for Hamas' belligerent actions;

Whereas, since June 2014, Hamas has fired nearly 300 rockets at Israel;

Whereas Hamas's weapons arsenal includes approximately 12,000 rockets that vary in range;

Whereas innocent Israeli civilians are indiscriminately targeted by Hamas rocket attacks; and

Whereas 5,000,000 Israelis are currently living under the threat of rocket attacks from Gaza: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend its citizens and ensure the survival of the State of Israel;

(2) condemns the unprovoked rocket fire at Israel;

(3) calls on Hamas to immediately cease all rocket and other attacks against Israel; and

(4) calls on Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to dissolve the unity governing arrangement with Hamas and condemn the attacks on Israel.

SENATE RESOLUTION 499—CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MANCHIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 499

Whereas the American Motorcyclist Association has been promoting and protecting the motorcyclist lifestyle since 1924;

Whereas the members of the American Motorcyclist Association are the world's largest and most dedicated group of motorcycle enthusiasts;

Whereas the American Motorcyclist Association represents motorcycle riders, who are among the most passionate motorcycle enthusiasts in the United States;

Whereas through member clubs, promoters, and partners, the American Motorcyclist Association authorizes almost 3,000 motorsports competition events annually; and

Whereas the American Motorcyclist Association's headquarters in Pickerington, Ohio, is home to the American Motorcyclist Association Motorcycle Hall of Fame, which honors those who have contributed to the history of motorcycling through political activism, culture, and sport, and which preserves the heritage of motorcycling for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the American Motorcyclist Association on its 90th Anniversary and commends it for promoting and protecting the rights and interests of motorcyclists and motorcycle enthusiasts since 1924.

SENATE RESOLUTION 500—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO ENHANCED RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 500

Whereas the United States has enjoyed warm relations with the Republic of Moldova since the Republic of Moldova's independence in 1991;

Whereas, since the Republic of Moldova's independence, the United States has provided financial assistance to support the efforts of the people of the Republic of Moldova to build a prosperous European democracy;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Moldova further strengthened their partnership through the launching of a Strategic Dialogue on March 3, 2014;

Whereas the Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement containing comprehensive free trade provisions with the European Union on June 27, 2014 and ratified the agreement on July 2, 2014;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Moldova made extraordinary efforts to comply with the criteria for an Association Agreement with the European Union, including significant legislative reforms to improve the rule of law and curtail corruption;

Whereas new parliamentary elections are expected to be held in the Republic of Moldova in November 2014;

Whereas the United States Government supports the democratic aspirations of the people of the Republic of Moldova and their expressed desire to deepen their association with the European Union;

Whereas the United States supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and, on that basis, participates as an observer in the "5+2" negotiations to find a comprehensive settlement that will provide a special status for the separatist region of Transnistria within the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas, in September 2013, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin said that Moldova "would lose Transnistria if Moldova continues moving toward the European Union" and that "Moldova's train en route to Europe would lose its wagons in Transnistria";

Whereas in 2013, the Government of the Russian Federation banned the import of Moldovan wine and certain agricultural products in anticipation of Republic of Moldova initialing the Association Agreement with the European Union;

Whereas, in response to the Republic of Moldova signing and ratifying the Association Agreement with the European Union, the Government of the Russian Federation has banned additional agricultural products and threatened to curtail the supply of energy resources to the Republic of Moldova, expel Moldova from the Commonwealth of Independent States free trade zone, and impose stricter labor migration policies on the people of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation maintains a contingent of Russian troops and a stockpile of Russian military equipment and ammunition within the Moldovan region of Transnistria;

Whereas the Government of Russia has been actively issuing Russian passports to the residents of the Transnistria region in the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Government of the Republic of Moldova have called upon the Government of the Russian Federation to remove its troops from the territory of the Republic of Moldova;

Whereas authorities in the Republic of Moldova's Transnistria region have restricted the access of OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors to the Transnistria region, thereby preventing the Mission from providing impartial reporting on the security situation in the region;

Whereas the House of Representatives and the Senate both passed, by an overwhelming majority, and the President signed into law the Act relating to "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions", approved April 3, 2014 (Public Law 113-96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), providing for a United States international broadcast programming surge to counter misinformation from Russian-supported news outlets and ensuring that Russian-speaking populations in Ukraine and Moldova have access to independent news and information; and

Whereas Moldova has been a valued and reliable partner in promoting global security by participating in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Georgia, and Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United States Government to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova and the inviolability of its borders;

(2) supports the Strategic Dialogue as a means to strengthen relations between the Republic of Moldova and the United States and to enhance the democratic, economic, and security reforms already being implemented by the Republic of Moldova;

(3) urges the President to consider increasing security and intelligence cooperation with the Government of Moldova;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to enhance United States cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Moldova and civil society organizations and to focus assistance on rule of law, anti-corruption efforts, energy security, and improving trade relations and investment opportunities;

(5) supports increased educational exchanges between the United States and the Republic of Moldova;

(6) encourages the President to expedite the implementation of the Act relating to "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions", approved April 3, 2014 (Public Law 113-96; 22 U.S.C. 6211 note), especially because it relates to populations in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova;

(7) affirms the Republic of Moldova's sovereign right to determine its own partnerships free of external coercion and pressure, and affirms the Republic of Moldova's right to associate with the European Union and any other regional organization;

(8) urges the European Union to continue to work for greater political, economic, and social integration with the Republic of Moldova;

(9) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to refrain from using economic coercion against the Republic of Moldova, cease support for separatist movements in the territory of the Republic of Moldova, and fulfill its commitments made at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) 1999 summit in Istanbul to withdraw its military forces and munitions from within the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Moldova;

(10) supports constructive engagement and confidence-building measures between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the authorities in the Transnistria region in order to secure a peaceful, comprehensive resolution to the conflict that respects the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(11) urges officials in the Transnistrian region to allow OSCE Mission to Moldova monitors unrestricted access to that region;

(12) discourages any unilateral actions that may undermine efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution, as well as the agreements already reached, and encourages leaders of the Transnistrian region to resume negotiations toward a political settlement; and

(13) affirms that lasting stability and security in Europe is a key priority for the United States Government which can only be achieved if the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all European countries is respected.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 39—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTARY, INCENTIVE-BASED, PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTED THROUGH COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas over 70 percent of the contiguous United States is privately owned;

Whereas the future of the environment is determined by the decisions made by the men and women who own and manage that land, including urban landscapes;

Whereas world population is projected to reach 9,000,000,000 people by 2050;

Whereas increased production will be needed from agricultural land to feed the increasing population;

Whereas meeting these needs will make caring for the environment more difficult; and

Whereas landowners work to ensure they sustain a healthy environment to support abundant wildlife: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) Congress supports the conservation of the Nation's natural resources and working lands; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that voluntary, incentive-based, private land conservation, provided in partnership with local conservation districts, is necessary to sustain natural resources, meet the needs of a growing population, and ensure safe, abundant, and adequate resources for current and future generations.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3531. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3532. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3533. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3534. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BURR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3535. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BURR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3536. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3537. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3538. Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3539. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3540. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3541. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3542. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3543. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3544. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3545. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3546. Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3456 submitted by Mr. CRUZ and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3547. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3548. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3549. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3550. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3551. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3552. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3553. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S.

Res. 412, reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes.

SA 3554. Mr. REID (for Mr. PAUL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 412, *supra*.

SA 3555. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 412, *supra*.

SA 3556. Mr. REID (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3531. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. OVERNIGHT PARKING AT UNITS OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), the Secretary of the Interior shall issue to covered individuals described in subsection (b) permits to park for a period of not more than 72 consecutive hours unattended off-highway vehicles in any area of a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System in which parking is permitted.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—A covered individual referred to in subsection (a) is an individual that is—

- (1) at least 65 years of age;
- (2) a veteran with a service-connected disability (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code); or
- (3) entitled to benefits under section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423).

SA 3532. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

TITLE III—RURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2014 SEC. 301. SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF QUALIFIED CONSERVATION CONTRIBUTIONS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Subparagraph (E) of section 170(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (vi).

(2) CORPORATIONS.—Subparagraph (B) of section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iii).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 302. ELIMINATION OF CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR EASEMENTS ON GOLF COURSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by

adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) EXCEPTION FOR EASEMENTS FOR GOLF COURSES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified conservation contribution’ shall not include any contribution of an easement for use on, or intended for use on, a golf course.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3533. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP.

(a) INCREASE IN PRICE OF MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP TO FUND ACQUISITION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS.—The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act is amended—

(1) in section 2(b) (16 U.S.C. 718b(b))—

(A) by striking “1990, and” and inserting “1990.”; and

(B) by striking “for each hunting year thereafter” and inserting “for hunting years 1991 through 2013, and \$25 for each hunting year thereafter”;

(2) by adding at the end of section 2 (16 U.S.C. 718b) the following:

“(c) REDUCTION IN PRICE OF STAMP.—The Secretary may reduce the price of each stamp sold under the provisions of this section for a hunting year if the Secretary determines that the increase in the price of the stamp after hunting year 2013 resulted in a reduction in revenues deposited into the fund.”; and

(3) in section 4 (16 U.S.C. 718d)—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period the following: “, in which there shall be a subaccount to which the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer all amounts in excess of \$15 that are received from the sale of each stamp sold for each hunting year after hunting year 2013”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “So much” and inserting “except as provided in paragraph (4), so much”;

(C) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (3) and (4)”;

(D) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following:

“(4) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—Amounts in the subaccount referred to in subsection (a)(3) shall be used by the Secretary solely to acquire easements in real property for conservation of migratory birds.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.—Section 4 of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (16 U.S.C. 718d) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking so much as precedes “The Secretary may” and inserting the following: ““(c) PROMOTION OF STAMP SALES.—”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each annual report of the Commission under section 3 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715b)—

“(1) a description of activities conducted under subsection (c) in the year covered by the report; and

“(2) an annual assessment of the status of wetlands conservation projects for migratory bird conservation purposes, including a clear and accurate accounting of—

“(A) all expenditures by Federal and State agencies under this section;

“(B) all expenditures made for fee-simple acquisition of Federal lands in the United States, including the amount paid and acreage of each parcel acquired in each acquisition.”.

SA 3534. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BURR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–5) (referred to in this subsection as the “Fund”), the most successful and enduring conservation and outdoor recreation program of the United States.

(2) The Fund will expire in 2015 unless Congress takes action to renew this important program.

(3) The Fund has protected outdoor recreation sites in every State and nearly every county in the United States by ensuring access to hunting and fishing areas, protecting the most historic sites of the United States, supporting working forests and ranches, creating national scenic and historic trails, and conserving critical habitats.

(4) The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–4 et seq.) has a 50-year history of bipartisan support as, with the overwhelming support of Congress—

(A) support for the Act began during the Eisenhower Administration;

(B) the Act was proposed to Congress by President Kennedy; and

(C) the Act was signed into law by President Johnson.

(5) The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–4 et seq.) is fully funded, without relying on tax dollars, through the annual collection of \$900,000,000 by the Treasury of the United States from a small percentage of royalties from offshore drilling and other Federal energy revenue sources.

(6) The Fund honors the principles of fiscal conservatism by reinvesting revenues from the sale of 1 national resource to protect other natural resources and ensure outdoor recreation for all people of the United States.

(7) Over the 50-year history of the Fund, more than half the amount credited to the Fund account has been diverted for other purposes.

(8) Continued investments in the Fund will stimulate the economy of the United States, create jobs, and strengthen infrastructure.

(9) Outdoor recreation and conservation activities are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the United States.

(10) The Fund drives local economies by growing recreational land to match increases in population and development pressure while also creating and protecting jobs in working forests and on working farms and ranches.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.) should be reauthorized; and

(2) full, permanent, and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund would keep the promise that was made to the people of the United States in 1964 to invest a small portion of the proceeds from natural resource development in conservation and outdoor recreation.

SA 3535. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BURR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:
SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–5) (referred to in this subsection as the “Fund”), the most successful and enduring conservation and outdoor recreation program of the United States.

(2) The Fund will expire in 2015 unless Congress takes action to renew this important program.

(3) The Fund has protected outdoor recreation sites in every State and nearly every county in the United States by ensuring access to hunting and fishing areas, protecting the most historic sites of the United States, supporting working forests and ranches, creating national scenic and historic trails, and conserving critical habitats.

(4) The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.) has a 50-year history of bipartisan support as, with the overwhelming support of Congress—

(A) support for the Act began during the Eisenhower Administration;

(B) the Act was proposed to Congress by President Kennedy; and

(C) the Act was signed into law by President Johnson.

(5) The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.) is fully funded, without relying on tax dollars, through the annual collection of \$900,000,000 by the Treasury of the United States from a small percentage of royalties from offshore drilling and other Federal energy revenue sources.

(6) The Fund honors the principles of fiscal conservatism by reinvesting revenues from the sale of 1 national resource to protect other natural resources and ensure outdoor recreation for all people of the United States.

(7) Over the 50-year history of the Fund, more than half the amount credited to the Fund account has been diverted for other purposes.

(8) Continued investments in the Fund will stimulate the economy of the United States, create jobs, and strengthen infrastructure.

(9) Outdoor recreation and conservation activities are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the United States.

(10) The Fund drives local economies by growing recreational land to match increases in population and development pressure while also creating and protecting jobs in working forests and on working farms and ranches.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.) should be reauthorized; and

(2) full, permanent, and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund would keep the promise that was made to the people of the United States in 1964 to invest a small portion of the proceeds from natural resource development in conservation and outdoor recreation.

SA 3536. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 203 and insert the following:
SEC. 203. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2019.”

(b) CERTAIN PROPOSED RULE.—For the purposes of implementing this Act, during the period of fiscal years 2014 through 2019, the proposed rule entitled “Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ Under the Clean Water Act” (79 Fed. Reg. 22188 (April 21, 2014)) shall not apply.

SA 3537. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STATE AND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND BURROS.

Public Law 92–195 (16 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act”) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 12. STATE AND TRIBAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), at the request of a State legislature, Governor of a State, or the governing body of a federally recognized Indian tribe, the Secretary shall allow the State or federally recognized Indian tribe to assume all management and protection functions under this Act with respect to wild free-roaming horses and burros on land within the boundaries of the State or federally recognized Indian tribe.

“(b) MANAGEMENT.—Beginning on the date on which a State or federally recognized In-

dian tribe assumes the functions under subsection (a), the State or federally recognized Indian tribe shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros on land within the boundaries of the State or federally recognized Indian tribe—

“(1) in accordance with this Act; and

“(2) in the same manner as any other non-federally regulated species with respect to functions not specified in this Act.

“(c) INVENTORY.—Notwithstanding the assumption of functions by a State or federally recognized Indian tribe under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall continue to maintain the inventory required by section 3(b)(1).”

SA 3538. Mr. JOHANNES (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:
SEC. 2 ____ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION AREAS.

No funds made available under section 101 or the amendments made by section 201 or 203 shall be used by the Secretary of the Interior to acquire any land or interests in land for the Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas unless the Secretary of the Interior solicits input from, and receives the consent of, the Governor and legislature of the State in which the land is located with respect to the acquisition.

SA 3539. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:
SEC. 1 ____ . NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY SYSTEM.

In administering the National Fish Hatchery System, the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) shall give priority to increasing recreational fishing opportunities for the public.

SA 3540. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:
TITLE III—ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.
This title may be cited as the “Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. ANTI-STRAW PURCHASING AND FIREARMS TRAFFICKING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 932. Straw purchasing of firearms
“(a) For purposes of this section—
“(1) the term ‘crime of violence’ has the meaning given that term in section 924(c)(3);

“(2) the term ‘drug trafficking crime’ has the meaning given that term in section 924(c)(2); and

“(3) the term ‘purchase’ includes the receipt of any firearm by a person who does not own the firearm—

“(A) by way of pledge or pawn as security for the payment or repayment of money; or

“(B) on consignment.

“(b) It shall be unlawful for any person (other than a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed collector, or licensed dealer) to knowingly purchase, or attempt or conspire to purchase, any firearm in or otherwise affecting interstate or foreign commerce—

“(1) from a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed collector, or licensed dealer for, on behalf of, or at the request or demand of any other person, known or unknown; or

“(2) from any person who is not a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed collector, or licensed dealer for, on behalf of, or at the request or demand of any other person, known or unknown, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such other person—

“(A) is under indictment for, or has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year;

“(B) is a fugitive from justice;

“(C) is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802));

“(D) has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to any mental institution;

“(E) is an alien who—

“(i) is illegally or unlawfully in the United States; or

“(ii) except as provided in section 922(y)(2), has been admitted to the United States under a nonimmigrant visa (as that term is defined in section 101(a)(26) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(26));

“(F) has been discharged from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions;

“(G) having been a citizen of the United States, has renounced his or her citizenship;

“(H) is subject to a court order that restrains such person from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner of such person or child of such intimate partner or person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child, except that this subparagraph shall only apply to a court order that—

“(i) was issued after a hearing of which such person received actual notice, and at which such person had the opportunity to participate; and

“(ii) (I) includes a finding that such person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of such intimate partner or child; or

“(II) by its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against such intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury;

“(I) has been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence;

“(J) intends to—

“(i) use, carry, possess, or sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm or ammunition in furtherance of a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime; or

“(ii) export the firearm or ammunition in violation of law;

“(K)(i) does not reside in any State; and

“(ii) is not a citizen of the United States; or

“(L) intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm or ammunition to a person described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (K).

“(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who violates subsection (b) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 15 years, or both.

“(2) If a violation of subsection (b) is committed knowing or with reasonable cause to believe that any firearm involved will be used to commit a crime of violence, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 25 years.

“(d) Subsection (b)(1) shall not apply to any firearm that is lawfully purchased by a person—

“(1) to be given as a bona fide gift to a recipient who provided no service or tangible thing of value to acquire the firearm, unless the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe such recipient is prohibited by Federal law from possessing, receiving, selling, shipping, transporting, transferring, or otherwise disposing of the firearm; or

“(2) to be given to a bona fide winner of an organized raffle, contest, or auction conducted in accordance with law and sponsored by a national, State, or local organization or association, unless the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe such recipient is prohibited by Federal law from possessing, purchasing, receiving, selling, shipping, transporting, transferring, or otherwise disposing of the firearm.

“§ 933. Trafficking in firearms

“(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to—

“(1) ship, transport, transfer, cause to be transported, or otherwise dispose of a firearm to another person in or otherwise affecting interstate or foreign commerce, if the transferor knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the use, carrying, or possession of a firearm by the transferee would be in violation of, or would result in a violation of, any Federal law punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding 1 year;

“(2) receive from another person a firearm in or otherwise affecting interstate or foreign commerce, if the recipient knows or has reasonable cause to believe that such receipt would be in violation of, or would result in a violation of, any Federal law punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding 1 year; or

“(3) attempt or conspire to commit the conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2).

“(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 15 years, or both.

“(2) If a violation of subsection (a) is committed by a person in concert with 5 or more other persons with respect to whom such person occupies a position of organizer, leader, supervisor, or manager, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 25 years.

“§ 934. Forfeiture and fines

“(a)(1) Any person convicted of a violation of section 932 or 933 shall forfeit to the United States, irrespective of any provision of State law—

“(A) any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds the person obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such violation; and

“(B) any of the person's property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of, such violation.

“(2) The court, in imposing sentence on a person convicted of a violation of section 932 or 933, shall order, in addition to any other sentence imposed pursuant to section 932 or 933, that the person forfeit to the United States all property described in paragraph (1).

“(b) A defendant who derives profits or other proceeds from an offense under section 932 or 933 may be fined not more than the greater of—

“(1) the fine otherwise authorized by this part; and

“(2) the amount equal to twice the gross profits or other proceeds of the offense under section 932 or 933.”

(b) TITLE III AUTHORIZATION.—Section 2516(1)(n) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “sections 922 and 924” and inserting “section 922, 924, 932, or 933”.

(c) RACKETEERING AMENDMENT.—Section 1961(1)(B) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “section 932 (relating to straw purchasing), section 933 (relating to trafficking in firearms),” before “section 1028”.

(d) MONEY LAUNDERING AMENDMENT.—Section 1956(c)(7)(D) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 924(n)” and inserting “section 924(n), 932, or 933”.

(e) DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and amend its guidelines and policy statements to ensure that persons convicted of an offense under section 932 or 933 of title 18, United States Code, and other offenses applicable to the straw purchases and trafficking of firearms are subject to increased penalties in comparison to those currently provided by the guidelines and policy statements for such straw purchasing and firearms trafficking offenses. The Commission shall also review and amend its guidelines and policy statements to reflect the intent of Congress that a person convicted of an offense under section 932 or 933 of title 18, United States Code, who is affiliated with a gang, cartel, organized crime ring, or other such enterprise should be subject to higher penalties than an otherwise unaffiliated individual.

(f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“932. Straw purchasing of firearms.

“933. Trafficking in firearms.

“934. Forfeiture and fines.”

SEC. 303. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 922(d).

Section 922(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by striking the matter following paragraph (9) and inserting the following:

“(10) intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm or ammunition to a person described in any of paragraphs (1) through (9); or

“(11) intends to sell or otherwise dispose of the firearm or ammunition in furtherance of a crime of violence or drug trafficking offense or to export the firearm or ammunition in violation of law.

This subsection shall not apply with respect to the sale or disposition of a firearm or ammunition to a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or licensed collector who pursuant to subsection (b) of

section 925 is not precluded from dealing in firearms or ammunition, or to a person who has been granted relief from disabilities pursuant to subsection (c) of section 925.”.

SEC. 304. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 924(a).

Section 924(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “(d), (g),”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) Whoever knowingly violates subsection (d) or (g) of section 922 shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both.”.

SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 924(h).

Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h)(1) Whoever knowingly receives or transfers a firearm or ammunition, or attempts or conspires to do so, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such firearm or ammunition will be used to commit a crime of violence (as defined in subsection (c)(3)), a drug trafficking crime (as defined in subsection (c)(2)), or a crime under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), or section 212(a)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(C)) shall be imprisoned not more than 25 years, fined in accordance with this title, or both.

“(2) No term of imprisonment imposed on a person under this subsection shall run concurrently with any term of imprisonment imposed on the person under section 932.”.

SEC. 306. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 924(k).

Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (k) and inserting the following:

“(k)(1) A person who, with intent to engage in or to promote conduct that—

“(A) is punishable under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), or chapter 705 of title 46;

“(B) violates any law of a State relating to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802); or

“(C) constitutes a crime of violence (as defined in subsection (c)(3)), smuggles or knowingly brings into the United States, a firearm or ammunition, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years, fined under this title, or both.

“(2) A person who, with intent to engage in or to promote conduct that—

“(A) would be punishable under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), or chapter 705 of title 46, if the conduct had occurred within the United States; or

“(B) would constitute a crime of violence (as defined in subsection (c)(3)) for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, if the conduct had occurred within the United States,

smuggles or knowingly takes out of the United States, a firearm or ammunition, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years, fined under this title, or both.”.

SA 3541. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Park System Donor Contribution Acknowledgment Act of 2014”.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “donor acknowledgment” means a statement, logo, trademark, proper legal name, or other reasonable form of credit acknowledging a contribution by a donor.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “donor acknowledgment” does not include—

(i) a sign or other fixture that would block or obstruct a natural or historic site or view; or

(ii) a statement or credit that promotes a political candidate or issue.

(2) ELIGIBLE STRUCTURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible structure” means a structure at a unit of the National Park System.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “eligible structure” includes—

(i) a visitor center;

(ii) an administrative structure; and

(iii) a specific room or section of a visitor center or an administrative structure.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term “eligible structure” does not include a commemorative work (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(3) LANDSCAPE FEATURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “landscape feature” means a component that conveys the historic character or significance of a landscape.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “landscape feature” includes—

(i) an original component of, a replacement of an original component of, a compatible alteration to, or a new addition to the landscape;

(ii) a component that ranges in scale from a single specimen tree to—

(I) a group of plantings (such as a hedge or an allée of trees); and

(II) an entire orchard; and

(iii) a pathway, stairway, or plaza.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 303. DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AT NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall allow the display of donor acknowledgments at eligible structures, fixtures, and landscape fixtures within the National Park System.

(b) ELIGIBLE FIXTURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Donor acknowledgments under subsection (a) may be affixed to benches, furnishings, bricks, and vehicles.

(2) LIMITATION.—Any donor acknowledgment under subsection (a) associated with a landscape feature, an item in a museum collection, or a historic structure shall—

(A) be freestanding; and

(B) not be affixed to the landscape feature, item, or structure.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Donor acknowledgments under subsection (a) shall be displayed—

(1) in a manner that is approved by the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent at the unit of the National Park System in which the eligible structure is located, after taking into account any input from the donating entity; and

(2) for a period of time, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Superintendent at the unit of the National Park System in which the eligible structure is located, that is commensurate with the amount of the contribution and the life of the eligible structure.

(d) EXPANSION OF DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Secretary may authorize the use of donor acknowledgments under this section to include donor acknowledgments on digital and media platforms, including online applications and web-based product downloads relating to a specific unit of the National Park System.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement this section.

(f) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section requires the Secretary to accept a donation.

SEC. 304. DONOR CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO BE DISPLAYED AT COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.

Section 8905 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (7); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONOR CONTRIBUTION.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior or Administrator of General Services, as applicable, may permit a sponsor to acknowledge donor contributions at the commemorative work.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An acknowledgment under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be displayed inside an ancillary structure associated with the commemorative work; and

“(B) conform to applicable National Park Service or General Services Administration guidelines for donor recognition, as applicable.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—An acknowledgment under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be limited to an appropriate statement or credit recognizing the contribution;

“(B) be displayed in a form approved by the National Mall and Memorial Parks Donor Recognition Plan and General Services Administration guidelines;

“(C) be displayed for a period of up to 10 years, with the display period to be commensurate with the level of the contribution, as determined in accordance with the plan and guidelines described in subparagraph (B);

“(D) be freestanding; and

“(E) not be affixed to—

“(i) any landscape feature at the commemorative work; or

“(ii) any object in a museum collection.

“(4) COST.—The sponsor shall bear all expenses related to the display of donor acknowledgments under paragraph (1).

“(5) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply to any commemorative work dedicated after January 1, 2010.”.

SA 3542. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other

purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—TERMINATION OF OPERATION CHOKE POINT

SECTION 301. TERMINATION OF OPERATION CHOKE POINT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No agency of the Federal Government may initiate, undertake, or continue—

(1) any investigation pursuant to section 951 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1833a) for the purpose of carrying out Operation Choke Point;

(2) any industry-wide investigation of non-depository lenders, payment processors, or persons licensed pursuant to chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, that are regulated by the Federal Government or a State government to engage in lawful activities, as such investigations were described in a presentation made by the Department of Justice to the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council on September 17, 2013; and

(3) any enforcement action under section 8(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818(a)), any cease and desist order, or any bank examination for the purpose of terminating the relationship between a bank and any legally authorized business based on the products or services provided by that business.

(b) DEFINITION OF STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term “State” means any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or the United States Virgin Islands or any Indian tribe included on the list published by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a-1).

SA 3543. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—FOREST MANAGEMENT Subtitle A—FLAME Act Amendment

SEC. 301. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) over the past 2 decades, wildfires have increased dramatically in size and costs;

(2) existing budget mechanisms for estimating the costs of wildfire suppression are not keeping pace with the actual costs for wildfire suppression due in part to improper budget estimation methodology;

(3) the FLAME Funds have not been adequate in supplementing wildland fire management funds in cases in which wildland fire management accounts are exhausted; and

(4) the practice of transferring funds from other agency funds (including the hazardous fuels treatment accounts) by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior to pay for wildfire suppression activities, commonly known as “fire-borrowing”, does not support the missions of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior with respect to protecting human life and property from the threat of wildfires.

SEC. 302. FLAME ACT AMENDMENT.

(a) FUNDING.—Section 502(d) of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “shall consist of” and all that follows through “appropriated to” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “shall consist of such amounts as are appropriated to”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(2) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5).

(b) USE OF FLAME FUND.—Section 502(e) of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(e)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated to a FLAME Fund, in accordance with section 251(b)(2)(E) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 902(b)(2)(E)), shall be available to the Secretary concerned for wildfire suppression operations if the Secretary concerned issues a declaration and notifies the relevant congressional committees that a wildfire suppression event is eligible for funding from the FLAME Fund.

“(2) DECLARATION CRITERIA.—A declaration by the Secretary concerned under paragraph (1) may be issued only if—

“(A) an individual wildfire incident meets the objective indicators of an extraordinary wildfire situation, including—

“(i) a wildfire that the Secretary concerned determines has required an emergency Federal response based on the significant complexity, severity, or threat posed by the fire to human life, property, or a resource;

“(ii) a wildfire that covers 1,000 or more acres; or

“(iii) a wildfire that is within 10 miles of an urbanized area (as defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United States Code); or

“(B) the cumulative costs of wildfire suppression and Federal emergency response activities, as determined by the Secretary concerned, would exceed, within 30 days, all of the amounts otherwise previously appropriated (including amounts appropriated under an emergency designation, but excluding amounts appropriated to the FLAME Fund) to the Secretary concerned for wildfire suppression and Federal emergency response.”.

(c) TREATMENT OF ANTICIPATED AND PREDICTED ACTIVITIES.—Section 502(f) of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(f)) is amended by striking “(e)(2)(B)(i)” and inserting “(e)(2)(A)”.

(d) PROHIBITION ON OTHER TRANSFERS.—Section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a) is amended by striking subsection (g) and inserting the following:

“(g) PROHIBITION ON OTHER TRANSFERS.—The Secretary concerned shall not transfer funds provided for activities other than wildfire suppression operations to pay for any wildfire suppression operations.”.

(e) ACCOUNTING AND REPORTS.—Section 502(h) of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) ESTIMATES OF WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS COSTS TO IMPROVE BUDGETING AND FUNDING.—

“(A) BUDGET SUBMISSION.—Consistent with section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the President shall include in each budget for the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior information on estimates of appropriations for wildfire suppression costs based on an out-year forecast that uses a statistically valid regression model.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The estimate of anticipated wildfire suppression costs under subparagraph (A) shall be developed using the best available—

“(i) climate, weather, and other relevant data; and

“(ii) models and other analytic tools.

“(C) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The methodology for developing the estimates of wildfire suppression costs under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to periodic independent review to ensure compliance with subparagraph (B).

“(D) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the schedule described in clause (ii) and in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary concerned shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives an updated estimate of wildfire suppression costs for the applicable fiscal year.

“(ii) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary concerned shall submit the updated estimates under clause (i) during—

“(I) March of each year;

“(II) May of each year;

“(III) July of each year; and

“(IV) if a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service for the following fiscal year has not been enacted by September 1, September of each year.

“(3) REPORTS.—Annually, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall jointly submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that—

“(A) provides a summary of the amount of appropriations made available during the previous fiscal year, which specifies the source of the amounts and the commitments and obligations made under this section;

“(B) describes the amounts obligated to individual wildfire events that meet the criteria specified in subsection (e)(2); and

“(C) includes any recommendations that the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior may have to improve the administrative control and oversight of the FLAME Fund.”.

SEC. 303. WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

“(i)(I) The adjustments for a fiscal year shall be in accordance with clause (ii) if—

“(aa) a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that—

“(AA) specifies an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior; and

“(BB) specifies a total amount to be used for the purposes described in subclause (II) in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior that is not less than 50 percent of the amount described in subitem (AA); and

“(bb) as of the day before the date of enactment of the bill or joint resolution all amounts in the FLAME Fund established under section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a) have been expended.

“(II) The purposes described in this subclause are—

“(aa) hazardous fuels reduction projects and other activities of the Secretary of the

Interior, as authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) and the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a); and

“(bb) forest restoration and fuel reduction activities carried out outside of the wildland urban interface that are on condition class 3 Federal land or condition class 2 Federal land located within fire regime I, fire regime II, or fire regime III.

“(ii) If the requirements under clause (i)(I) are met for a fiscal year, the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in the bill or joint resolution described in clause (i)(I)(aa) for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed \$1,000,000,000 in additional new budget authority in each of fiscal years 2015 through 2021.

“(iii) As used in this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of wildfire suppression operations that is equal to the greater of the amount in excess of—

“(aa) 100 percent of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 5 years; or

“(bb) the estimated amount of anticipated wildfire suppression costs at the upper bound of the 90 percent confidence interval for that fiscal year calculated in accordance with section 502(h)(3) the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a(h)(3)); and

“(II) the term ‘wildfire suppression operations’ means the emergency and unpredictable aspects of wildland firefighting including support, response, and emergency stabilization activities; other emergency management activities; and funds necessary to repay any transfers needed for these costs.

“(iv) The average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 5 years shall be calculated annually and reported in the President’s Budget submission under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for each fiscal year.”

(b) DISASTER FUNDING.—Section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” and inserting “plus”;

(B) in subclause (II), by striking the period and inserting “; less”; and

(C) by adding the following:

“(III) the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding fiscal year.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) Beginning in fiscal year 2016 and in subsequent fiscal years, the calculation of the ‘average funding provided for disaster relief over the previous 10 years’ shall not include the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E).”

Subtitle B—Forest Treatment Projects

SEC. 311. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered project” means a project that involves the management or sale of national forest material within a Forest Management Emphasis Area.

(2) FOREST MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Forest Management Emphasis Area” means National Forest System land identified as suitable for

timber production in a forest management plan in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Forest Management Emphasis Area” does not include National Forest System land—

(i) that is a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(ii) on which removal of vegetation is specifically prohibited by Federal law.

(3) NATIONAL FOREST MATERIAL.—The term “national forest material” means trees, portions of trees, or forest products, with an emphasis on sawtimber and pulpwood, derived from National Forest System land.

(4) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “National Forest System” has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “National Forest System” does not include—

(i) the national grasslands and land utilization projects administered under title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

(ii) National Forest System land east of the 100th meridian.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 312. PROJECTS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS.

(a) CONDUCT OF COVERED PROJECTS WITHIN FOREST MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct covered projects in Forest Management Emphasis Areas, subject to paragraphs (2) through (4).

(2) DESIGNATING TIMBER FOR CUTTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 14(g) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(g)), the Secretary may use designation by prescription or designation by description in conducting covered projects under this subtitle.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The designation methods authorized under subparagraph (A) shall be used in a manner that ensures that the quantity of national forest material that is removed from the Forest Management Emphasis Area is verifiable and accountable.

(3) CONTRACTING METHODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Timber sale contracts under section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) shall be the primary means of carrying out covered projects under this subtitle.

(B) RECORD.—If the Secretary does not use a timber sale contract under section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) to carry out a covered project under this subtitle, the Secretary shall provide a written record specifying the reasons that different contracting methods were used.

(4) ACREAGE TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) TOTAL ACREAGE REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall identify, prioritize, and carry out covered projects in Forest Management Emphasis Areas that mechanically treat a total of at least 7,500,000 acres in the Forest Management Emphasis Areas during the 15-year period beginning on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Secretary assigns the acreage treatment requirements under subparagraph (B).

(B) ASSIGNMENT OF ACREAGE TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS TO INDIVIDUAL UNITS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to clause (ii), the Secretary, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, shall assign

the acreage treatment requirements that shall apply to the Forest Management Emphasis Areas of each unit of the National Forest System.

(ii) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding clause (i), the acreage treatment requirements assigned to a specific unit of the National Forest System under that clause may not apply to more than 25 percent of the acreage to be treated in any unit of the National Forest System in a Forest Management Emphasis Area during the 15-year period described in subparagraph (A).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS FOR COVERED PROJECTS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS AREAS.—

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) by completing an environmental assessment that assesses the direct environmental effects of each covered project proposed to be conducted within a Forest Management Emphasis Area, except that the Secretary shall not be required to study, develop, or describe more than the proposed agency action and 1 alternative to the proposed agency action for purposes of that Act.

(2) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—In preparing an environmental assessment for a covered project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide—

(A) public notice of the covered project; and

(B) an opportunity for public comment on the covered project.

(3) LENGTH.—The environmental assessment prepared for a covered project under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 100 pages in length.

(4) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—The Secretary may incorporate, by reference, into an environmental assessment any documents that the Secretary, in the sole discretion of the Secretary, determines are relevant to the assessment of the environmental effects of the covered project.

(5) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary has published notice of a covered project in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall complete the environmental assessment for the covered project.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.—To comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Secretary shall use qualified professionals on the staff of the Forest Service to make determinations required under section 7 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1536).

(d) LIMITATION ON REVISION OF NATIONAL FOREST PLANS.—The Secretary may not, during a revision of a forest plan under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604), reduce the acres designated as suitable for timber harvest under a covered project, unless the Secretary determines, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, that the reduction in acreage is necessary to prevent a jeopardy finding under section 7(b) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(b)).

SEC. 313. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW; ARBITRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—Administrative review of a covered project shall occur only in accordance with the special administrative review process established by section 105 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6515).

(b) ARBITRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department of Agriculture a pilot program that—

(A) authorizes the use of arbitration instead of judicial review of a decision made following the special administrative review process for a covered project described in subsection (a); and

(B) shall be the sole means to challenge a covered project in a Forest Management Emphasis Area during the 15-year period beginning on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Secretary assigns the acreage treatment requirements under section 312(a)(4)(B).

(2) **ARBITRATION PROCESS PROCEDURES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any person who sought administrative review for a covered project in accordance with subsection (a) and who is not satisfied with the decision made under the administrative review process may file a demand for arbitration in accordance with—

- (i) chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code; and
- (ii) this paragraph.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS FOR DEMAND.**—A demand for arbitration under subparagraph (A) shall—

- (i) be filed not more than 30 days after the date on which the special administrative review decision is issued under subsection (a); and
- (ii) include a proposal containing the modifications sought to the covered project.

(C) **INTERVENING PARTIES.**—

(i) **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION; REQUIREMENTS.**—Any person that submitted a public comment on the covered project subject to the demand for arbitration may intervene in the arbitration under this subsection by submitting a proposal endorsing or modifying the covered project by the date that is 30 days after the date on which the demand for arbitration is filed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) **MULTIPLE PARTIES.**—Multiple objectors or intervening parties that meet the requirements of clause (i) may submit a joint proposal under that clause.

(D) **APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATOR.**—The United States District Court in the district in which a covered project subject to a demand for arbitration filed under subparagraph (A) is located shall appoint an arbitrator to conduct the arbitration proceedings in accordance with this subsection.

(E) **SELECTION OF PROPOSALS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An arbitrator appointed under subparagraph (D)—

- (I) may not modify any of the proposals submitted under this paragraph; and
- (II) shall select to be conducted—

(aa) a proposal submitted by an objector under subparagraph (B)(ii) or an intervening party under subparagraph (C); or

(bb) the covered project, as approved by the Secretary.

(ii) **SELECTION CRITERIA.**—An arbitrator shall select the proposal that best meets the purpose and needs described in the environmental assessment conducted under section 312(b)(1) for the covered project.

(iii) **EFFECT.**—The decision of an arbitrator with respect to a selection under clause (i)(II)—

- (I) shall not be considered a major Federal action;
- (II) shall be binding; and
- (III) shall not be subject to judicial review.

(F) **DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a demand for arbitration is filed under subparagraph (A), the arbitration process shall be completed.

SEC. 314. DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE.

(a) **PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter until the

termination date under section 316, the Secretary shall provide to each county in which a covered project is carried out annual payments in an amount equal to 25 percent of the amounts received for the applicable fiscal year by the Secretary from the covered project.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—A payment made under paragraph (1) shall be in addition to any payments the county receives under the payment to States required by the sixth paragraph under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” in the Act of May 23, 1908 (35 Stat. 260; 16 U.S.C. 500), and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (36 Stat. 963; 16 U.S.C. 500).

(b) **DEPOSIT IN KNOTSON-VANDENBERG AND SALVAGE SALE FUNDS.**—After compliance with subsection (a), the Secretary shall use amounts received by the Secretary from covered projects during each of the fiscal years during the period described in subsection (a) to make deposits into the fund established under section 3 of the Act of June 9, 1930 (commonly known as the “Knutson-Vandenberg Act”) (16 U.S.C. 576b) and the fund established under section 14(h) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(h)) in contributions equal to the amounts otherwise collected under those Acts for projects conducted on National Forest System land.

(c) **DEPOSIT IN GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY.**—After compliance with subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall deposit into the general fund of the Treasury any remaining amounts received by the Secretary for each of the fiscal years referred to in those subsections from covered projects.

SEC. 315. PERFORMANCE MEASURES; REPORTING.

(a) **PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**—The Secretary shall develop performance measures that evaluate the degree to which the Secretary is achieving—

- (1) the purposes of this subtitle; and
- (2) the minimum acreage requirements established under section 312(a)(4).

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Annually, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives—

- (1) a report that describes the results of evaluations using the performance measures developed under subsection (a); and
- (2) a report that describes—

(A) the number and substance of the covered projects that are subject to administrative review and arbitration under section 313; and

(B) the outcomes of the administrative review and arbitration under that section.

SEC. 316. TERMINATION.

The authority of this subtitle terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Forest Stewardship Contracting

SEC. 321. CANCELLATION CEILINGS.

Section 604(d) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c(d)) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) **CANCELLATION CEILINGS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chief and the Director may obligate funds to cover any potential cancellation or termination costs for an agreement or contract under subsection (b) in stages that are economically or program-

matically viable.

“(B) **NOTICE.**—

“(i) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days before entering into a multiyear agreement or contract under subsection (b) that includes a cancellation ceiling in excess of \$25,000,000, but does not include proposed funding for the costs of cancelling the agreement or contract up to the cancellation ceiling established in the agreement or contract, the Chief and the Director shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a written notice that includes—

“(I)(aa) the cancellation ceiling amounts proposed for each program year in the agreement or contract; and

“(bb) the reasons for the cancellation ceiling amounts proposed under item (aa);

“(II) the extent to which the costs of contract cancellation are not included in the budget for the agreement or contract; and

“(III) a financial risk assessment of not including budgeting for the costs of agreement or contract cancellation.

“(ii) **TRANSMITTAL TO OMB.**—At least 14 days before the date on which the Chief and Director enter into an agreement or contract under subsection (b), the Chief and Director shall transmit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget a copy of the written notice submitted under clause (i).”.

SA 3544. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE III—PROTECTION OF TREATIES AND RIGHTS OF INDIAN TRIBES

SEC. 3. PROTECTION OF TREATIES AND RIGHTS OF INDIAN TRIBES.

(a) **DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.**—In this section, the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(b) **EFFECT OF ACT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act affects or modifies any treaty or other right of any Indian tribe, including the protection of sacred and cultural areas.

(c) **DUTIES OF THE SECRETARIES WITH RESPECT TO TREATY RIGHTS.**—In carrying out this Act or the amendments made by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall take appropriate measures to uphold treaty and other rights of Indian tribes, including protecting and preserving sacred and cultural areas of Indian tribes located on Federal public land.

SA 3545. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEALED CARRY RECIPROCITY ACT OF 2014.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2014”.

(b) RECIPROCITY FOR THE CARRYING OF CERTAIN CONCEALED FIREARMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 926C the following:

“§ 926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of the law of any State or political subdivision thereof to the contrary—

“(1) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and a valid license or permit which is issued pursuant to the law of a State and which permits the individual to carry a concealed firearm, may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

“(A) has a statute that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

“(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes; and

“(2) an individual who is not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm, and who is carrying a government-issued photographic identification document and is entitled and not prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm in the State in which the individual resides otherwise than as described in paragraph (1), may possess or carry a concealed handgun (other than a machinegun or destructive device) that has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce in any State other than the State of residence of the individual that—

“(A) has a statute that allows residents of the State to obtain licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms; or

“(B) does not prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms by residents of the State for lawful purposes.

“(b) CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—The possession or carrying of a concealed handgun in a State under this section shall be subject to the same conditions and limitations, except as to eligibility to possess or carry, imposed by or under Federal or State law or the law of a political subdivision of a State, that apply to the possession or carrying of a concealed handgun by residents of the State or political subdivision who are licensed by the State or political subdivision to do so, or not prohibited by the State from doing so.

“(c) UNRESTRICTED LICENSE OR PERMIT.—In a State that allows the issuing authority for licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms to impose restrictions on the carrying of firearms by individual holders of such licenses or permits, an individual carrying a concealed handgun under this section shall be permitted to carry a concealed handgun according to the same terms authorized by an unrestricted license of or permit issued to a resident of the State.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt any provision of State law with respect to the issuance of licenses or permits to carry concealed firearms.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 926C the following:

“926D. Reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.”.

(3) SEVERABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if any provision of this section, or any amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, this section and amendments made by this section and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3546. Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3456 submitted by Mr. CRUZ and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be added, add the following:

SEC. _____. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST SELLING FEDERAL LAND IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the houses, or conference report that sells any Federal land and uses the proceeds of the sale to reduce the Federal deficit.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the sale of Federal land as part of a program that acquires land in the same State that is of comparable value or contains exceptional resources.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

SA 3547. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title V, add the following:

SEC. 515. RIGHTS OF APPEAL IN CERTAIN ADVERSE PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR MILITARY TECHNICIANS.

(a) RIGHTS OF GRIEVANCE, ARBITRATION, APPEAL, AND REVIEW BEYOND AG.—Section 709 of title 32, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Notwithstanding any other provision of law and under” and inserting “Under”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “a right of appeal” and inserting “subject to subsection (j), a right of appeal”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j)(1) Notwithstanding subsection (f)(4) or any other provision of law, a technician and a labor organization that is the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit including the technician shall have the rights of grievance, arbitration, appeal, and review extending beyond the adjutant general of the jurisdiction concerned and to the Merit Systems Protection Board and thereafter to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in the same manner as provided in sections 4303, 7121, and 7701-7703 of title 5, with respect to a performance-based or adverse action imposing removal, suspension for more than 14 days, furlough for 30 days or less, or reduction in pay or pay band (or comparable reduction).

“(2) This subsection does not apply to a technician who is serving under a temporary appointment or in a trial or probationary period.”.

(b) ADVERSE ACTIONS COVERED.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by striking “, 3502, 7511, and 7512” and inserting “and 3502”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 7511(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively.

SA 3548. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. METHODS FOR VALIDATING CERTAIN SERVICE CONSIDERED TO BE ACTIVE SERVICE BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Merchant Marine Act, 1936 established the United States Maritime Commission, and stated as a matter of policy that the United States should have a merchant marine that is “capable of serving as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency”.

(2) The Social Security Act Amendments of 1939 (Public Law 76-379) expanded the definition of employment to include service “on or in connection with an American vessel under contract of service which is entered into within the United States or during the performance of which the vessel touches at a port in the United States, if the employee is employed on and in connection with such vessel”.

(3) The Joint Resolution to repeal sections 2, 3, and 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939, and for other purposes (Public Law 77-294; 55 Stat. 764) repealed section 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 (related to the arming of United States vessels) and authorized the President during the national emergency to arm or permit to arm any United States vessel.

(4) On February 7, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, through Executive Order Number 9054, established the War Shipping Administration that was charged with building

or purchasing, and operating the civilian shipping vessels needed for the war effort.

(5) During World War II, United States merchant mariners transported goods and materials through “contested waters” to the various combat theaters.

(6) At the conclusion of World War II, United States merchant mariners were responsible for transporting several million members of the United States Armed Forces back to the United States.

(7) The GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202) provided that the Secretary of Defense could determine that service for the Armed Forces by organized groups of civilians, or contractors, be considered “active service” for benefits administered by the Veterans Administration.

(8) Department of Defense Directive 1000.20 directed that the determination be made by the Secretary of the Air Force, and established the Civilian/Military Service Review Board and Advisory Panel.

(9) In 1987, three merchant mariners along with the AFL-CIO sued Edward C. Aldridge, Secretary of the Air Force, challenging the denial of their application for veterans status. In *Schumacher v. Aldridge* (665 F. Supp. 41 (D.D.C. 1987)), the Court determined that Secretary Aldridge had failed to “articulate clear and intelligible criteria for the administration” of the application approval process.

(10) During World War II, women were repeatedly denied issuance of official documentation affirming their merchant marine seamen status by the War Shipping Administration.

(11) Coast Guard Information Sheet #77 (April 1992) identifies the following acceptable forms of documentation for eligibility meeting the requirements set forth in GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202) and Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-368):

(A) Certificate of shipping and discharge forms.

(B) Continuous discharge books (ship’s deck or engine logbooks).

(C) Company letters showing vessel names and dates of voyages.

(12) Coast Guard Commandant Order of 20 March, 1944, relieved masters of tugs, towboats, and seagoing barges of the responsibility of submitting reports of seamen shipped or discharged on forms, meaning certificates of shipping and discharge forms are not available to all eligible individuals seeking to document their eligibility.

(13) Coast Guard Information Sheet #77 (April 1992) states that “deck logs were traditionally considered to be the property of the owners of the ships. After World War II, however, the deck and engine logbooks of vessels operated by the War Shipping Administration were turned over to that agency by the ship owners, and were destroyed during the 1970s”, meaning that continuous discharge books are not available to all eligible individuals seeking to document their eligibility.

(14) Coast Guard Information Sheet #77 (April 1992) states “some World War II period log books do not name ports visited during the voyage due to wartime security restrictions”, meaning that company letters showing vessel names and dates of voyages are not available to all eligible individuals seeking to document their eligibility.

(b) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to sec-

tion 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (d)(1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(c) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Homeland Security pursuant to subsection (b)(2) shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(d) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) BURIAL BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY.—Service of an individual that is considered active duty pursuant to subsection (b) shall be considered as active duty service with respect to providing burial benefits under chapters 23 and 24 of title 38, United States Code, to the individual.

(2) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (b) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(3) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (b) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

(e) DETERMINATION OF COASTWISE MERCHANT SEAMAN.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall verify that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman pursuant to this section without regard to the sex, age, or disability of the individual during the period in which the individual served as such a coastwise merchant seaman.

(f) DEFINITION OF PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN.—In this section, the term “primary next of kin” with respect to an individual seeking recognition for service under this section means the closest living relative of the individual who was alive during the period of such service.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3549. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, line 21, strike “(i)”.

On page 4, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(i) in clause (i)—

On page 4, line 22, strike “(i)” and insert “(I)” and move such subclause 2 ems to the right.

On page 4, line 23, strike “(I)” and insert “(aa)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 1, strike “(II)” and insert “(bb)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 3, strike “(ii)” and insert “(II)” and move such subclause 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 4, strike “(I)” and insert “(aa)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 6, strike “(II)” and insert “(bb)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 8, strike “(III)” and insert “(cc)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 10, strike “(iii)” and insert “(III)” and move such subclause 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 11, strike “(I)” and insert “(aa)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 13, strike “(II)” and insert “(bb)” and move such item 2 ems to the right.

On page 5, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

On page 5, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) DEADLINE EXTENSIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—If the mandatory recoupment amount under subparagraph (A) is more than \$1,000,000,000 in any given calendar year, the Secretary may extend the applicable deadline for collecting terrorism loss risk-spreading premiums under clause (i) for a period not to exceed more than 10 years after the date on which such act of terrorism occurred.

“(II) DETERMINATION.—Any determination by the Secretary to grant an extension under subclause (I) shall be based on—

“(aa) the economic conditions in the commercial marketplace, including the capitalization, profitability, and investment returns of the insurance industry and the current cycle of the insurance markets;

“(bb) the affordability of commercial insurance for small- and medium-sized businesses; and

“(cc) such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(III) REPORT.—If the Secretary grants an extension under subclause (I), the Secretary shall promptly submit to Congress a report—

“(aa) justifying the reason for such extension; and

“(bb) detailing a plan for the collection of the required terrorism loss risk-spreading premiums.”.

SA 3550. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, after line 22, add the following:
SEC. 8. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first undesignated paragraph of section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 241) is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: “In selecting members of the Board, the President shall appoint at least 1 member with demonstrated primary experience working in or supervising community banks having less than \$10,000,000,000 in total assets.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to appointments made on and after that effective date, excluding any nomination pending in the Senate on that date.

SA 3551. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, after line 22, insert the following:

SEC. 8. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RISK-SHARING MECHANISMS.

(a) FINDING; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that it is desirable to encourage the growth of nongovernmental, private market reinsurance capacity for protection against losses arising from acts of terrorism.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) shall prohibit insurers from developing risk-sharing mechanisms to voluntarily reinsure terrorism losses between and among themselves.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RISK-SHARING MECHANISMS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish and appoint an advisory committee to be known as the “Advisory Committee on Risk-Sharing Mechanisms” (referred to in this subsection as the “Advisory Committee”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice, recommendations, and encouragement with respect to the creation and development of the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under subsection (a).

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 9 members who are directors, officers, or other employees of insurers, reinsurers, or capital market participants that are participating or that desire to participate in the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under subsection (a), and who are representative of the affected sectors of the insurance industry,

including commercial property insurance, commercial casualty insurance, reinsurance, and alternative risk transfer industries.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

SA 3552. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2244, to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 202. REESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title III of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6751 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“Subtitle C—National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers

“SEC. 321. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (referred to in this subtitle as the ‘Association’).

“(b) STATUS.—The Association shall—

“(1) be a nonprofit corporation;

“(2) not be an agent or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

“(3) be an independent organization that may not be merged with or into any other private or public entity; and

“(4) except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, be subject to, and have all the powers conferred upon, a nonprofit corporation by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act (D.C. Code, sec. 29–301.01 et seq.) or any successor thereto.

“SEC. 322. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of the Association shall be to provide a mechanism through which licensing, continuing education, and other non-resident insurance producer qualification requirements and conditions may be adopted and applied on a multi-state basis without affecting the laws, rules, and regulations, and preserving the rights of a State, pertaining to—

“(1) licensing, continuing education, and other qualification requirements of insurance producers that are not members of the Association;

“(2) resident or nonresident insurance producer appointment requirements;

“(3) supervising and disciplining resident and nonresident insurance producers;

“(4) establishing licensing fees for resident and nonresident insurance producers so that there is no loss of insurance producer licensing revenue to the State; and

“(5) prescribing and enforcing laws and regulations regulating the conduct of resident and nonresident insurance producers.

“SEC. 323. MEMBERSHIP.

“(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any insurance producer licensed in its home State shall, subject to paragraphs (2) and (4), be eligible to become a member of the Association.

“(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE.—Subject to paragraph

(3), an insurance producer is not eligible to become a member of the Association if a State insurance regulator has suspended or revoked the insurance license of the insurance producer in that State.

“(3) RESUMPTION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Paragraph (2) shall cease to apply to any insurance producer if—

“(A) the State insurance regulator reissues or renews the license of the insurance producer in the State in which the license was suspended or revoked, or otherwise terminates or vacates the suspension or revocation; or

“(B) the suspension or revocation expires or is subsequently overturned by a court of competent jurisdiction.

“(4) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUIRED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An insurance producer who is an individual shall not be eligible to become a member of the Association unless the insurance producer has undergone a criminal history record check that complies with regulations prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States under subparagraph (K).

“(B) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUESTED BY HOME STATE.—An insurance producer who is licensed in a State and who has undergone a criminal history record check during the 2-year period preceding the date of submission of an application to become a member of the Association, in compliance with a requirement to undergo such criminal history record check as a condition for such licensure in the State, shall be deemed to have undergone a criminal history record check for purposes of subparagraph (A).

“(C) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUESTED BY ASSOCIATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall, upon request by an insurance producer licensed in a State, submit fingerprints or other identification information obtained from the insurance producer, and a request for a criminal history record check of the insurance producer, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(ii) PROCEDURES.—The board of directors of the Association (referred to in this subtitle as the ‘Board’) shall prescribe procedures for obtaining and utilizing fingerprints or other identification information and criminal history record information, including the establishment of reasonable fees to defray the expenses of the Association in connection with the performance of a criminal history record check and appropriate safeguards for maintaining confidentiality and security of the information. Any fees charged pursuant to this clause shall be separate and distinct from those charged by the Attorney General pursuant to subparagraph (I).

“(D) FORM OF REQUEST.—A submission under subparagraph (C)(i) shall include such fingerprints or other identification information as is required by the Attorney General concerning the person about whom the criminal history record check is requested, and a statement signed by the person authorizing the Attorney General to provide the information to the Association and for the Association to receive the information.

“(E) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Upon receiving a submission under subparagraph (C)(i) from the Association, the Attorney General shall search all criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including records of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the Attorney General determines

appropriate for criminal history records corresponding to the fingerprints or other identification information provided under subparagraph (D) and provide all criminal history record information included in the request to the Association.

“(F) LIMITATION ON PERMISSIBLE USES OF INFORMATION.—Any information provided to the Association under subparagraph (E) may only—

“(i) be used for purposes of determining compliance with membership criteria established by the Association;

“(ii) be disclosed to State insurance regulators, or Federal or State law enforcement agencies, in conformance with applicable law; or

“(iii) be disclosed, upon request, to the insurance producer to whom the criminal history record information relates.

“(G) PENALTY FOR IMPROPER USE OR DISCLOSURE.—Whoever knowingly uses any information provided under subparagraph (E) for a purpose not authorized in subparagraph (F), or discloses any such information to anyone not authorized to receive it, shall be fined not more than \$50,000 per violation as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

“(H) RELIANCE ON INFORMATION.—Neither the Association nor any of its Board members, officers, or employees shall be liable in any action for using information provided under subparagraph (E) as permitted under subparagraph (F) in good faith and in reasonable reliance on its accuracy.

“(I) FEES.—The Attorney General may charge a reasonable fee for conducting the search and providing the information under subparagraph (E), and any such fee shall be collected and remitted by the Association to the Attorney General.

“(J) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as—

“(i) requiring a State insurance regulator to perform criminal history record checks under this section; or

“(ii) limiting any other authority that allows access to criminal history records.

“(K) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall prescribe regulations to carry out this paragraph, which shall include—

“(i) appropriate protections for ensuring the confidentiality of information provided under subparagraph (E); and

“(ii) procedures providing a reasonable opportunity for an insurance producer to contest the accuracy of information regarding the insurance producer provided under subparagraph (E).

“(L) INELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Association may, under reasonably consistently applied standards, deny membership to an insurance producer on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E), or where the insurance producer has been subject to disciplinary action, as described in paragraph (2).

“(ii) RIGHTS OF APPLICANTS DENIED MEMBERSHIP.—The Association shall notify any insurance producer who is denied membership on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E) of the right of the insurance producer to—

“(I) obtain a copy of all criminal history record information provided to the Association under subparagraph (E) with respect to the insurance producer; and

“(II) challenge the denial of membership based on the accuracy and completeness of the information.

“(M) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘criminal history record

check’ means a national background check of criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

“(b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA.—The Association may establish membership criteria that bear a reasonable relationship to the purposes for which the Association was established.

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLASSES AND CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.—The Association may establish separate classes of membership, with separate criteria, if the Association reasonably determines that performance of different duties requires different levels of education, training, experience, or other qualifications.

“(2) BUSINESS ENTITIES.—The Association shall establish a class of membership and membership criteria for business entities. A business entity that applies for membership shall be required to designate an individual Association member responsible for the compliance of the business entity with Association standards and the insurance laws, rules, and regulations of any State in which the business entity seeks to do business on the basis of Association membership.

“(3) CATEGORIES.—

“(A) SEPARATE CATEGORIES FOR INSURANCE PRODUCERS PERMITTED.—The Association may establish separate categories of membership for insurance producers and for other persons or entities within each class, based on the types of licensing categories that exist under State laws.

“(B) SEPARATE TREATMENT FOR DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS PROHIBITED.—No special categories of membership, and no distinct membership criteria, shall be established for members that are depository institutions or for employees, agents, or affiliates of depository institutions.

“(d) MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association may establish criteria for membership which shall include standards for personal qualifications, education, training, and experience. The Association shall not establish criteria that unfairly limit the ability of a small insurance producer to become a member of the Association, including imposing discriminatory membership fees.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—In establishing criteria under paragraph (1), the Association shall not adopt any qualification less protective to the public than that contained in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (referred to in this subtitle as the ‘NAIC’) Producer Licensing Model Act in effect as of the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014, and shall consider the highest levels of insurance producer qualifications established under the licensing laws of the States.

“(3) ASSISTANCE FROM STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Association may request a State to provide assistance in investigating and evaluating the eligibility of a prospective member for membership in the Association.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION OF INFORMATION SHARING.—A submission under subsection (a)(4)(C)(i) made by an insurance producer licensed in a State shall include a statement signed by the person about whom the assistance is requested authorizing—

“(i) the State to share information with the Association; and

“(ii) the Association to receive the information.

“(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as requiring

or authorizing any State to adopt new or additional requirements concerning the licensing or evaluation of insurance producers.

“(4) DENIAL OF MEMBERSHIP.—The Association may, based on reasonably consistently applied standards, deny membership to any State-licensed insurance producer for failure to meet the membership criteria established by the Association.

“(e) EFFECT OF MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) AUTHORITY OF ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.—Membership in the Association shall—

“(A) authorize an insurance producer to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance in any State for which the member pays the licensing fee set by the State for any line or lines of insurance specified in the home State license of the insurance producer, and exercise all such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry out such activities, including claims adjustments and settlement to the extent permissible under the laws of the State, risk management, employee benefits advice, retirement planning, and any other insurance-related consulting activities;

“(B) be the equivalent of a nonresident insurance producer license for purposes of authorizing the insurance producer to engage in the activities described in subparagraph (A) in any State where the member pays the licensing fee; and

“(C) be the equivalent of a nonresident insurance producer license for the purpose of subjecting an insurance producer to all laws, regulations, provisions or other action of any State concerning revocation, suspension, or other enforcement action related to the ability of a member to engage in any activity within the scope of authority granted under this subsection and to all State laws, regulations, provisions, and actions preserved under paragraph (5).

“(2) VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1994.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to alter, modify, or supercede any requirement established by section 1033 of title 18, United States Code.

“(3) AGENT FOR REMITTING FEES.—The Association shall act as an agent for any member for purposes of remitting licensing fees to any State pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(4) NOTIFICATION OF ACTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when an insurance producer has satisfied the membership criteria of this section. The States (including State insurance regulators) shall have 10 business days after the date of the notification in order to provide the Association with evidence that the insurance producer does not satisfy the criteria for membership in the Association.

“(B) ONGOING DISCLOSURES REQUIRED.—On an ongoing basis, the Association shall disclose to the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC a list of the States in which each member is authorized to operate. The Association shall immediately notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when a member is newly authorized to operate in one or more States, or is no longer authorized to operate in one or more States on the basis of Association membership.

“(5) PRESERVATION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND MARKET CONDUCT REGULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No provision of this section shall be construed as altering or affecting the applicability or continuing effectiveness of any law, regulation, provision, or other action of any State, including those described in subparagraph (B), to the extent that the State law, regulation, provision, or

other action is not inconsistent with the provisions of this subtitle related to market entry for nonresident insurance producers, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

“(B) PRESERVED REGULATIONS.—The laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions of any State referred to in subparagraph (A) include laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions that—

“(i) regulate market conduct, insurance producer conduct, or unfair trade practices;

“(ii) establish consumer protections; or

“(iii) require insurance producers to be appointed by a licensed or authorized insurer.

“(f) BIENNIAL RENEWAL.—Membership in the Association shall be renewed on a biennial basis.

“(g) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall establish, as a condition of membership, continuing education requirements which shall be comparable to the continuing education requirements under the licensing laws of a majority of the States.

“(2) STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.—A member may not be required to satisfy continuing education requirements imposed under the laws, regulations, provisions, or actions of any State other than the home State of the member.

“(3) RECIPROCITY.—The Association shall not require a member to satisfy continuing education requirements that are equivalent to any continuing education requirements of the home State of the member that have been satisfied by the member during the applicable licensing period.

“(4) LIMITATION ON THE ASSOCIATION.—The Association shall not directly or indirectly offer any continuing education courses for insurance producers.

“(h) PROBATION, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.—

“(1) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—The Association may place an insurance producer that is a member of the Association on probation or suspend or revoke the membership of the insurance producer in the Association, or assess monetary fines or penalties, as the Association determines to be appropriate, if—

“(A) the insurance producer fails to meet the applicable membership criteria or other standards established by the Association;

“(B) the insurance producer has been subject to disciplinary action pursuant to a final adjudicatory proceeding under the jurisdiction of a State insurance regulator;

“(C) an insurance license held by the insurance producer has been suspended or revoked by a State insurance regulator; or

“(D) the insurance producer has been convicted of a crime that would have resulted in the denial of membership pursuant to subsection (a)(4)(L)(i) at the time of application, and the Association has received a copy of the final disposition from a court of competent jurisdiction.

“(2) VIOLATIONS OF ASSOCIATION STANDARDS.—The Association shall have the power to investigate alleged violations of Association standards.

“(3) REPORTING.—The Association shall immediately notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when the membership of an insurance producer has been placed on probation or has been suspended, revoked, or otherwise terminated, or when the Association has assessed monetary fines or penalties.

“(i) CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall—

“(A) refer any complaint against a member of the Association from a consumer relating

to alleged misconduct or violations of State insurance laws to the State insurance regulator where the consumer resides and, when appropriate, to any additional State insurance regulator, as determined by standards adopted by the Association; and

“(B) make any related records and information available to each State insurance regulator to whom the complaint is forwarded.

“(2) TELEPHONE AND OTHER ACCESS.—The Association shall maintain a toll-free number for purposes of this subsection and, as practicable, other alternative means of communication with consumers, such as an Internet webpage.

“(3) FINAL DISPOSITION OF INVESTIGATION.—State insurance regulators shall provide the Association with information regarding the final disposition of a complaint referred pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), but nothing shall be construed to compel a State to release confidential investigation reports or other information protected by State law to the Association.

“(j) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Association may—

“(1) share documents, materials, or other information, including confidential and privileged documents, with a State, Federal, or international governmental entity or with the NAIC or other appropriate entity referenced in paragraphs (3) and (4), provided that the recipient has the authority and agrees to maintain the confidentiality or privileged status of the document, material, or other information;

“(2) limit the sharing of information as required under this subtitle with the NAIC or any other non-governmental entity, in circumstances under which the Association determines that the sharing of such information is unnecessary to further the purposes of this subtitle;

“(3) establish a central clearinghouse, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a central clearinghouse, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators), through which members of the Association may disclose their intent to operate in 1 or more States and pay the licensing fees to the appropriate States; and

“(4) establish a database, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a database, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators) for the collection of regulatory information concerning the activities of insurance producers.

“(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect on the later of—

“(1) the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014; and

“(2) the date of incorporation of the Association.

“SEC. 324. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a board of directors of the Association, which shall have authority to govern and supervise all activities of the Association.

“(b) POWERS.—The Board shall have such of the powers and authority of the Association as may be specified in the bylaws of the Association.

“(c) COMPOSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the 112th Congress, of whom—

“(A) 8 shall be State insurance commissioners appointed in the manner provided in paragraph (2), 1 of whom shall be designated by the President to serve as the chairperson of the Board until the Board elects one such State insurance commissioner Board member to serve as the chairperson of the Board;

“(B) 3 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with property and casualty insurance producer licensing; and

“(C) 2 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with life or health insurance producer licensing.

“(2) STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Before making any appointments pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the President shall request a list of recommended candidates from the States through the NAIC, which shall not be binding on the President. If the NAIC fails to submit a list of recommendations not later than 15 business days after the date of the request, the President may make the requisite appointments without considering the views of the NAIC.

“(B) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 Board members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall belong to the same political party.

“(C) FORMER STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If, after offering each currently serving State insurance commissioner an appointment to the Board, fewer than 8 State insurance commissioners have accepted appointment to the Board, the President may appoint the remaining State insurance commissioner Board members, as required under paragraph (1)(A), of the appropriate political party as required under subparagraph (B), from among individuals who are former State insurance commissioners.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—A former State insurance commissioner appointed as described in clause (i) may not be employed by or have any present direct or indirect financial interest in any insurer, insurance producer, or other entity in the insurance industry, other than direct or indirect ownership of, or beneficial interest in, an insurance policy or annuity contract written or sold by an insurer.

“(D) SERVICE THROUGH TERM.—If a Board member appointed under paragraph (1)(A) ceases to be a State insurance commissioner during the term of the Board member, the Board member shall cease to be a Board member.

“(3) PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—In making any appointment pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), the President may seek recommendations for candidates from groups representing the category of individuals described, which shall not be binding on the President.

“(4) STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘State insurance commissioner’ means a person who serves in the position in State government, or on the board, commission, or other body that is the primary insurance regulatory authority for the State.

“(d) TERMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the term of service for each Board member shall be 2 years.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) 1-YEAR TERMS.—The term of service shall be 1 year, as designated by the President at the time of the nomination of the subject Board members for—

“(i) 4 of the State insurance commissioner Board members initially appointed under

paragraph (1)(A), of whom not more than 2 shall belong to the same political party;

“(ii) 1 of the Board members initially appointed under paragraph (1)(B); and

“(iii) 1 of the Board members initially appointed under paragraph (1)(C).

“(B) EXPIRATION OF TERM.—A Board member may continue to serve after the expiration of the term to which the Board member was appointed for the earlier of 2 years or until a successor is appointed.

“(C) MID-TERM APPOINTMENTS.—A Board member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the predecessor of the Board member was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

“(3) SUCCESSIVE TERMS.—Board members may be reappointed to successive terms.

“(e) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of initial Board members shall be made no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014.

“(f) MEETINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

“(A) at the call of the chairperson;

“(B) as requested in writing to the chairperson by not fewer than 5 Board members; or

“(C) as otherwise provided by the bylaws of the Association.

“(2) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A majority of all Board members shall constitute a quorum.

“(3) VOTING.—Decisions of the Board shall require the approval of a majority of all Board members present at a meeting, a quorum being present.

“(4) INITIAL MEETING.—The Board shall hold its first meeting not later than 45 days after the date on which all initial Board members have been appointed.

“(g) RESTRICTION ON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Board members appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (c)(1) shall not have access to confidential information received by the Association in connection with complaints, investigations, or disciplinary proceedings involving insurance producers.

“(h) ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Board shall issue and enforce an ethical conduct code to address permissible and prohibited activities of Board members and Association officers, employees, agents, or consultants. The code shall, at a minimum, include provisions that prohibit any Board member or Association officer, employee, agent or consultant from—

“(1) engaging in unethical conduct in the course of performing Association duties;

“(2) participating in the making or influencing the making of any Association decision, the outcome of which the Board member, officer, employee, agent, or consultant knows or had reason to know would have a reasonably foreseeable material financial effect, distinguishable from its effect on the public generally, on the person or a member of the immediate family of the person;

“(3) accepting any gift from any person or entity other than the Association that is given because of the position held by the person in the Association;

“(4) making political contributions to any person or entity on behalf of the Association; and

“(5) lobbying or paying a person to lobby on behalf of the Association.

“(i) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no Board member may receive any compensation from the Association or

any other person or entity on account of Board membership.

“(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES AND PER DIEM.—Board members may be reimbursed only by the Association for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates consistent with rates authorized for employees of Federal agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from home or regular places of business in performance of services for the Association.

“SEC. 325. BYLAWS, STANDARDS, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

“(a) ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—The Association shall adopt procedures for the adoption of bylaws and standards that are similar to procedures under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(2) COPY REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—The Board shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, all proposed bylaws and standards of the Association, or any proposed amendment to the bylaws or standards of the Association, accompanied by a concise general statement of the basis and purpose of such proposal.

“(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any proposed bylaw or standard of the Association, and any proposed amendment to the bylaws or standards of the Association, shall take effect, after notice under paragraph (2) and opportunity for public comment, on such date as the Association may designate, unless suspended under section 329(c).

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to subject the Board or the Association to the requirements of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(b) DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE ASSOCIATION.—

“(1) SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES.—In any proceeding to determine whether membership shall be denied, suspended, revoked, or not renewed, or to determine whether a member of the Association should be placed on probation (referred to in this section as a ‘disciplinary action’) or whether to assess fines or monetary penalties, the Association shall bring specific charges, notify the member of the charges, give the member an opportunity to defend against the charges, and keep a record.

“(2) SUPPORTING STATEMENT.—A determination to take disciplinary action shall be supported by a statement setting forth—

“(A) any act or practice in which the member has been found to have been engaged;

“(B) the specific provision of this subtitle or standard of the Association that any such act or practice is deemed to violate; and

“(C) the sanction imposed and the reason for the sanction.

“(3) INELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—Board members appointed pursuant to section 324(c)(3) may not—

“(A) participate in any disciplinary action or be counted toward establishing a quorum during a disciplinary action; and

“(B) have access to confidential information concerning any disciplinary action.

“SEC. 326. POWERS.

“In addition to all the powers conferred upon a nonprofit corporation by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Association shall have the power to—

“(1) establish and collect such membership fees as the Association finds necessary to impose to cover the costs of its operations;

“(2) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, procedures, or standards governing the conduct of Association business and performance of its duties;

“(3) establish procedures for providing notice and opportunity for comment pursuant to section 325(a);

“(4) enter into and perform such agreements as necessary to carry out the duties of the Association;

“(5) hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and elect or appoint officers, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and give them appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, and determine their qualification;

“(6) establish personnel policies of the Association and programs relating to, among other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, where applicable, and qualifications of personnel;

“(7) borrow money; and

“(8) secure funding for such amounts as the Association determines to be necessary and appropriate to organize and begin operations of the Association, which shall be treated as loans to be repaid by the Association with interest at market rate.

“SEC. 327. REPORT BY THE ASSOCIATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, the Association shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, a written report regarding the conduct of its business, and the exercise of the other rights and powers granted by this subtitle, during such fiscal year.

“(b) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) with respect to any fiscal year shall include audited financial statements setting forth the financial position of the Association at the end of such fiscal year and the results of its operations (including the source and application of its funds) for such fiscal year.

“SEC. 328. LIABILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall not be deemed to be an insurer or insurance producer within the meaning of any State law, rule, regulation, or order regulating or taxing insurers, insurance producers, or other entities engaged in the business of insurance, including provisions imposing premium taxes, regulating insurer solvency or financial condition, establishing guaranty funds and levying assessments, or requiring claims settlement practices.

“(b) LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES.—No Board member, officer, or employee of the Association shall be personally liable to any person for any action taken or omitted in good faith in any matter within the scope of their responsibilities in connection with the Association.

“SEC. 329. PRESIDENTIAL OVERSIGHT.

“(a) REMOVAL OF BOARD.—If the President determines that the Association is acting in a manner contrary to the interests of the public or the purposes of this subtitle or has failed to perform its duties under this subtitle, the President may remove the entire existing Board for the remainder of the term to which the Board members were appointed and appoint, in accordance with section 324 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the

112th Congress, new Board members to fill the vacancies on the Board for the remainder of the terms.

“(b) REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER.—The President may remove a Board member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

“(c) SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS AND PROHIBITION OF ACTIONS.—Following notice to the Board, the President, or a person designated by the President for such purpose, may suspend the effectiveness of any bylaw or standard, or prohibit any action, of the Association that the President or the designee determines is contrary to the purposes of this subtitle.

“SEC. 330. RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.

“(a) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAWS.—State laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions purporting to regulate insurance producers shall be preempted to the extent provided in subsection (b).

“(b) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No State shall—

“(A) impede the activities of, take any action against, or apply any provision of law or regulation arbitrarily or discriminatorily to, any insurance producer because that insurance producer or any affiliate plans to become, has applied to become, or is a member of the Association;

“(B) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it pay fees different from those required to be paid to that State were it not a member of the Association; or

“(C) impose any continuing education requirements on any nonresident insurance producer that is a member of the Association.

“(2) STATES OTHER THAN A HOME STATE.—No State, other than the home State of a member of the Association, shall—

“(A) impose any licensing, personal or corporate qualifications, education, training, experience, residency, continuing education, or bonding requirement upon a member of the Association that is different from the criteria for membership in the Association or renewal of such membership;

“(B) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it be licensed, registered, or otherwise qualified to do business or remain in good standing in the State, including any requirement that the insurance producer register as a foreign company with the secretary of state or equivalent State official;

“(C) require that a member of the Association submit to a criminal history record check as a condition of doing business in the State; or

“(D) impose any licensing, registration, or appointment requirements upon a member of the Association, or require a member of the Association to be authorized to operate as an insurance producer, in order to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance for commercial property and casualty risks to an insured with risks located in more than one State, if the member is licensed or otherwise authorized to operate in the State where the insured maintains its principal place of business and the contract of insurance insures risks located in that State.

“(3) PRESERVATION OF STATE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a State from investigating and taking appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of authority of an insurance producer to do business in a State, in accordance with State law and that is not inconsistent with the provisions of this section, against a member of the Association as a result of a complaint

or for any alleged activity, regardless of whether the activity occurred before or after the insurance producer commenced doing business in the State pursuant to Association membership.

“SEC. 331. COORDINATION WITH FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

“The Association shall coordinate with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in order to ease any administrative burdens that fall on members of the Association that are subject to regulation by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, consistent with the requirements of this subtitle and the Federal securities laws.

“SEC. 332. RIGHT OF ACTION.

“(a) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person aggrieved by a decision or action of the Association may, after reasonably exhausting available avenues for resolution within the Association, commence a civil action in an appropriate United States district court, and obtain all appropriate relief.

“(b) ASSOCIATION INTERPRETATIONS.—In any action under subsection (a), the court shall give appropriate weight to the interpretation of the Association of its bylaws and standards and this subtitle.

“SEC. 333. FEDERAL FUNDING PROHIBITED.

“The Association may not receive, accept, or borrow any amounts from the Federal Government to pay for, or reimburse, the Association for, the costs of establishing or operating the Association.

“SEC. 334. DEFINITIONS.

“For purposes of this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

“(1) BUSINESS ENTITY.—The term ‘business entity’ means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity.

“(2) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘depository institution’ has the meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

“(3) HOME STATE.—The term ‘home State’ means the State in which the insurance producer maintains its principal place of residence or business and is licensed to act as an insurance producer.

“(4) INSURANCE.—The term ‘insurance’ means any product, other than title insurance or bail bonds, defined or regulated as insurance by the appropriate State insurance regulatory authority.

“(5) INSURANCE PRODUCER.—The term ‘insurance producer’ means any insurance agent or broker, excess or surplus lines broker or agent, insurance consultant, limited insurance representative, and any other individual or entity that sells, solicits, or negotiates policies of insurance or offers advice, counsel, opinions or services related to insurance.

“(6) INSURER.—The term ‘insurer’ has the meaning as in section 313(e)(2)(B) of title 31, United States Code.

“(7) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS.—The term ‘principal place of business’ means the State in which an insurance producer maintains the headquarters of the insurance producer and, in the case of a business entity, where high-level officers of the entity direct, control, and coordinate the business activities of the business entity.

“(8) PRINCIPAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE.—The term ‘principal place of residence’ means the State in which an insurance producer resides for the greatest number of days during a calendar year.

“(9) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes any State, the District of Columbia, any territory of the United States, and Puerto Rico,

Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(10) STATE LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘State law’ includes all laws, decisions, rules, regulations, or other State action having the effect of law, of any State.

“(B) LAWS APPLICABLE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—A law of the United States applicable only to or within the District of Columbia shall be treated as a State law rather than a law of the United States.

“SEC. 335. SUNSET.

“The provisions of this subtitle, and any program or authorities established or granted therein or derived therefrom, shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Association approves its first member pursuant to section 323.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle C of title III and inserting the following new items:

“Subtitle C—National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers

“Sec. 321. National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers.

“Sec. 322. Purpose.

“Sec. 323. Membership.

“Sec. 324. Board of directors.

“Sec. 325. Bylaws, standards, and disciplinary actions.

“Sec. 326. Powers.

“Sec. 327. Report by the Association.

“Sec. 328. Liability of the Association and the Board members, officers, and employees of the Association.

“Sec. 329. Presidential oversight.

“Sec. 330. Relationship to State law.

“Sec. 331. Coordination with Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

“Sec. 332. Right of action.

“Sec. 333. Federal funding prohibited.

“Sec. 334. Definitions.

“Sec. 335. Sunset.”

SA 3553. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 412, reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes; as follows:

On page 13, line 24, strike “HD-981” and insert “Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981)”.

SA 3554. Mr. REID (for Mr. PAUL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 412, reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

SA 3555. Mr. REID (for Mr. MENENDEZ) proposed an amendment to the

resolution S. Res. 412, reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes; as follows:

Beginning in the thirteenth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “Organization’s” and all that follows through “Law of the Sea” in the forty-seventh whereas clause and insert the following: “Organization and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to “refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered”;

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China’s unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China’s declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People’s Republic of China’s declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China’s declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China’s declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement

its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, “We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.”;

Whereas over half the world’s merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to “reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law” and to “resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force”;

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People’s Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN’s Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed “the commitment of ASEAN Member States to: . . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”;

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world’s second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the “contiguous zone” in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas, although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People’s Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on May 1, 2014, the People's Republic of China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, placed its deepwater semi-submersible drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), accompanied by over 25 Chinese ships, in Block 143, 120 nautical miles off Vietnam's coastline;

Whereas, from May 1 to May 9, 2014, the number of Chinese vessels escorting Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) increased to more than 80, including seven military ships, which aggressively patrolled and intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of COLREGS, reportedly intentionally rammed multiple Vietnamese vessels, and used helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas, on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), which undermines maritime safety in the area and is in violation of universally recognized principles of international law;

Whereas China's territorial claims and associated maritime actions in support of the drilling activity that Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) commenced on May 1, 2014, have not been clarified under international law

SA 3556. Mr. REID (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia; as follows:

On page 1, line 5, strike "2013" and insert "2014".

On page 5, strike line 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

On page 5, line 9, strike "2013 through 2017" and insert "2015 through 2019".

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on July 17, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "More Than 1,000 Preventable Deaths a Day Is Too Many: The Need to Improve Patient Safety."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Bill Gendel of the committee staff on (202) 224-5480.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 10, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 10, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Preserving American's Transit and Highways Act."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 10, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASSESSING PROGRESS IN HAITI ACT OF 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1104) to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Assessing Progress in Haiti Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck near the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, leaving an estimated 220,000 people dead, including 103 United States citizens, 101 United Nations personnel, and nearly 18 percent of the nation's civil service, as well as 300,000 injured, 115,000 homes destroyed, and 1,500,000 people displaced.

(2) According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the Government of Haiti, with technical assistance from the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the European Commission, an estimated 15 percent of the population was directly affected by the disaster and related damages and economic losses totaled \$7,804,000,000.

(3) Even before the earthquake, Haiti had some of the lowest socioeconomic indicators and the second highest rate of income disparity in the world, conditions that have further complicated post-earthquake recovery efforts and, according to the World Bank, have significantly reduced the prospects of addressing poverty reduction through economic growth.

(4) According to the World Food Programme, more than 6,700,000 people in Haiti (out of a population of about 10,000,000) are considered food insecure.

(5) In October 2010, an unprecedented outbreak of cholera in Haiti resulted in over 500,000 reported cases and over 8,000 deaths to date, further straining the capacity of Haiti's public health sector and increasing the urgency of resettlement and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) efforts.

(6) The international community, led by the United States and the United Nations, mounted an unprecedented humanitarian response in Haiti, with donors pledging approximately \$10,400,000,000 for humanitarian relief and recovery efforts, including debt relief, supplemented by \$3,100,000,000 in private charitable contributions, of which approximately \$6,400,000,000 has been disbursed and an additional \$3,800,000,000 has been committed as of September 30, 2013.

(7) The emergency response of the men and women of the United States Government, led by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Southern Command, as well as of cities, towns, individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations across the United States, was particularly swift and resolute.

(8) Since 2010, a total of \$1,300,000,000 in United States assistance has been allocated for humanitarian relief and \$2,300,000,000 has been allocated for recovery, reconstruction, and development assistance in Haiti, including \$1,140,000,000 in emergency appropriations and \$95,000,000 that has been obligated specifically to respond to the cholera epidemic.

(9) Of the \$3,600,000,000 in United States assistance allocated for Haiti, \$651,000,000 was apportioned to USAID to support an ambitious recovery plan, including the construction of a power plant to provide electricity for the new Caracol Industrial Park (CIP) in northern Haiti, a new port near the CIP, and permanent housing in new settlements in the Port-au-Prince, St-Marc, and Cap-Haïtien areas.

(10) According to a recent report of the Government Accountability Office, as of June 30, 2013, USAID had disbursed 31 percent of its reconstruction funds in Haiti, the port project was 2 years behind schedule and USAID funding will be insufficient to cover a majority of the projected costs, the housing project has been reduced by 80 percent, and the sustainability of the power plant, the port, and the housing projects were all at risk.

(11) GAO further found that Congress has not been provided with sufficient information to ensure that it is able to conduct effective oversight at a time when most funding remains to be disbursed, and specifically recommends that a periodic reporting mechanism be instituted to fill this information gap.

(12) Donors have encountered significant challenges in implementing recovery programs, and nearly 4 years after the earthquake, an estimated 171,974 people remain displaced in camps, unemployment remains high, corruption is rampant, land rights remain elusive, allegations of wage violations are widespread, the business climate is unfavorable, and government capacity remains weak.

(13) For Haiti to achieve stability and long term economic growth, donor assistance will have to be carefully coordinated with a commitment by the Government of Haiti to transparency, a market economy, rule of law, and democracy.

(14) The legal environment in Haiti remains a challenge to achieving the goals supported by the international community.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to support the sustainable rebuilding and development of Haiti in a manner that—

(1) promotes efforts that are led by and support the people and Government of Haiti at all levels so that Haitians lead the course of reconstruction and development of Haiti;

(2) builds the long term capacity of the Government of Haiti and civil society in Haiti;

(3) reflects the priorities and particular needs of both women and men so they may participate equally and to their maximum capacity;

(4) respects and helps restore Haiti's natural resources, as well as builds community-level resilience to environmental and weather-related impacts;

(5) provides timely and comprehensive reporting on goals and progress, as well as transparent post program evaluations and contracting data;

(6) prioritizes the local procurement of goods and services in Haiti where appropriate; and

(7) promotes the holding of free, fair, and timely elections in accordance with democratic principles and the Haitian Constitution.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that transparency, accountability, democracy, and good governance are integral factors in any congressional decision regarding United States assistance, including assistance to Haiti.

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than December 31, 2014, and annually thereafter through December 31, 2017, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake recovery and development efforts in Haiti.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a summary of “Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Renewal and Economic Opportunity”, including any significant changes to the strategy over the reporting period and an explanation thereof;

(2) a breakdown of the work that the United States Government agencies other than USAID and the Department of State are conducting in the Haiti recovery effort, and the cost of that assistance;

(3) an assessment of the progress of United States efforts to advance the objectives of the “Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Renewal and Economic Opportunity” produced by the Department of State, compared to what remains to be achieved to meet specific goals, including—

(A) a description of any significant changes to the Strategy over the reporting period and an explanation thereof;

(B) an assessment of progress, or lack thereof, over the reporting period toward meeting the goals and objectives, benchmarks, and timeframes specified in the Strategy, including—

(i) a description of progress toward designing and implementing a coordinated and sustainable housing reconstruction strategy that addresses land ownership, secure land tenure, water and sanitation, and the unique concerns of vulnerable populations such as women and children, as well as neighborhood and community revitalization, housing finance, and capacity building for the Government of Haiti to implement an effective housing policy;

(ii) a description of United States Government efforts to construct and sustain the proposed port, as well as an assessment of the current projected timeline and cost for completion; and

(iii) a description of United States Government efforts to attract and leverage the investments of private sector partners to the CIP, including by addressing any policy impediments;

(C) a description of the quantitative and qualitative indicators used to evaluate the progress toward meeting the goals and objectives, benchmarks, and timeframes specified in the Strategy at the program level;

(D) the amounts committed, obligated, and expended on programs and activities to implement the Strategy, by sector and by implementing partner at the prime and subprime levels (in amounts of not less than \$25,000); and

(E) a description of the risk mitigation measures put in place to limit the exposure of United States assistance provided under the Strategy to waste, fraud, and abuse;

(4) a description of measures taken to strengthen, and United States Government efforts to improve, Haitian governmental and non-governmental organizational capacity to undertake and sustain United States-supported recovery programs;

(5) as appropriate, a description of United States efforts to consult and engage with Government of Haiti ministries and local authorities on the establishment of goals and timeframes, and on the design and implementation of new programs under the Post-Earthquake USG Haiti Strategy: Toward Renewal and Economic Opportunity;

(6) a description of efforts by Haiti's legislative and executive branches to consult and engage with Haitian civil society and grassroots organizations on the establishment of goals and timeframes, and on the design and implementation of new donor-financed programs, as well as efforts to coordinate with and engage the Haitian diaspora;

(7) consistent with the Government of Haiti's ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, a description of efforts of the Governments of the United States and Haiti to strengthen Government of Haiti institutions established to address corruption, as well as related efforts to promote public accountability, meet public outreach and disclosure obligations, and support civil society participation in anti-corruption efforts;

(8) a description of efforts to leverage public-private partnerships and increase the involvement of the private sector in Haiti in recovery and development activities and coordinate programs with the private sector and other donors;

(9) a description of efforts to address the particular needs of vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons, women, children, orphans, and persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of new programs and infrastructure;

(10) a description of the impact that agriculture and infrastructure programs are having on the food security, livelihoods, and land tenure security of smallholder farmers, particularly women;

(11) a description of mechanisms for communicating the progress of recovery and development efforts to the people of Haiti, including a description of efforts to provide documentation, reporting and procurement information in Haitian Creole;

(12) a description of the steps the Government of Haiti is taking to strengthen its capacity to receive individuals who are removed, excluded, or deported from the United States; and

(13) an assessment of actions necessary to be taken by the Government of Haiti to assist in fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy.

SEC. 6. STRATEGY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, shall coordinate and transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a three-year Haiti strategy based on rigorous assessments that—

(1) identifies and addresses constraints to sustainable, broad-based economic growth and to the consolidation of responsive, democratic government institutions;

(2) includes an action plan that outlines policy tools, technical assistance, and anticipated resources for addressing the highest-priority constraints to economic growth and the consolidation of democracy, as well as a specific description of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress; and

(3) identifies specific steps and verifiable benchmarks appropriate to provide direct bilateral assistance to the Government of Haiti.

(b) *ELEMENTS.*—The strategy required under subsection (a) should address the following elements:

(1) A plan to engage the Government of Haiti on shared priorities to build long-term capacity, including the development of a professional civil service, to assume increasing responsibility for governance and budgetary sustainment of governmental institutions.

(2) A plan to assist the Government of Haiti in holding free, fair and timely elections in accordance with democratic principles.

(3) Specific goals for future United States support for efforts to build the capacity of the Government of Haiti, including to—

(A) reduce corruption;

(B) consolidate the rule of law and an independent judiciary;

(C) strengthen the civilian police force;

(D) develop sustainable housing, including ensuring appropriate titling and land ownership rights;

(E) expand port capacity to support economic growth;

(F) attract and leverage the investments of private sector partners, including to the Caracol Industrial Park;

(G) promote large and small scale agricultural development in a manner that reduces food insecurity and contributes to economic growth;

(H) improve access to potable water, expand public sanitation services, reduce the spread of infectious diseases, and address public health crises;

(I) restore the natural resources of Haiti, including enhancing reforestation efforts throughout the country; and

(J) gain access to safe, secure, and affordable supplies of energy in order to strengthen economic growth and energy security.

(c) *CONSULTATION.*—In devising the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary should—

(1) coordinate with all United States Government departments and agencies carrying out work in Haiti;

(2) consult with the Government of Haiti, including the National Assembly of Haiti, and representatives of private and nongovernmental sectors in Haiti; and

(3) consult with relevant multilateral organizations, multilateral development banks, private sector institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and foreign governments present in Haiti.

(d) BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of State, at the request of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, shall provide a quarterly briefing that reviews progress of the implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a).

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I do not know of any further debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The bill (S. 1104), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 268.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 653) to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Blunt amendment at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3556) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 1, line 5, strike “2013” and insert “2014”.

On page 5, strike line 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

On page 5, line 9, strike “2013 through 2017” and insert “2015 through 2019”.

Mr. REID. I personally do not know of any more debate on this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill (S. 653), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

S. 653

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL ENVOY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The President may appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia (in this Act referred to as the “Special Envoy”) within the Department of State. The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador and shall hold the office at the pleasure of the President.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of human rights and religious freedom and with expertise in the Near East and South Central Asia.

SEC. 3. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Special Envoy shall carry out the following duties:

(1) Promote the right of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia, denounce the violation of such right, and recommend appropriate responses by the United States Government when such right is violated.

(2) Monitor and combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeted against religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(3) Work to ensure that the unique needs of religious minority communities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia are addressed, including the economic and security needs of such communities.

(4) Work with foreign governments of the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia to address laws that are discriminatory toward religious minority communities in such countries.

(5) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of that portion of the report required by sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d) and 2304(b)) relating to the nature and extent of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(6) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of that portion of the report required by section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) relating to the nature and extent of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties under subsection (a), the Special Envoy shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and other relevant Federal agencies and officials.

SEC. 4. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.

Subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, the Special Envoy is authorized to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia in—

(1) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations of which the United States is a member; and

(2) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to religious freedom in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

SEC. 5. CONSULTATIONS.

The Special Envoy shall consult with domestic and international nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations and institutions, as the Special Envoy considers appropriate to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on October 1, 2019.

SEC. 7. FUNDING.

Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Secretary of State for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs” for fiscal years 2015 through 2019, the Secretary of State is authorized to provide to the Special Envoy \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year for the hiring of staff, the conduct of investigations, and necessary travel to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar Nos. 454 through 457, which are all post office naming bills.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

The bill (S. 2056) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the “Sergeant Brett E. Gorniewicz Memorial Post Office”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT BRETT E. GORNEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office”.

SPECIALIST RYAN P. JAYNE POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (S. 2057) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the “Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2057

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST RYAN P. JAYNE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building”.

JUDGE SHIRLEY A. TOLENTINO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1376) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the “Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LANCE CORPORAL DANIEL NATHAN DEYARMIN, JR., POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 1813) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the “Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building”, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LAWFUL USES OF ASIA-PACIFIC MARITIME DOMAINS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of Calendar No. 380, S. Res. 412.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 412) reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments and an amendment to the preamble.

(The part of the resolution intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the resolution intended to be inserted is shown in italic.)

(The part of the preamble to be inserted is shown in italic.)

S. RES. 412

Whereas Asia-Pacific's maritime domains, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the United States is a long-standing Asia-Pacific power and has a national interest in maintaining freedom of operations in international waters and airspace both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the United States Government, alongside United States allies and partners, has played an instrumental role in maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific, including safeguarding the prosperity and economic growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States, from the earliest days of the Republic, has had a deep and abiding national security interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of the seas, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce, including in the East China and South China Seas;

Whereas the United States alliance relationships in the region, including with Japan, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, are at the heart of United States policy and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, and share a common approach to supporting the maintenance of peace and stability, freedom of navigation, and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas territorial and maritime claims must be derived from land features and otherwise comport with international law;

Whereas the United States Government has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes and is firmly opposed to coercion, intimidation, threats, or the use of force;

Whereas the South China Sea contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas the United States is not a claimant party in either the East China or South China Seas, but does have an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of operations, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas the United States supports the obligation of all members of the United Nations to seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas, on November 23, 2013, the People's Republic of China unilaterally and without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, also announcing that all aircraft entering the PRC's self-declared ADIZ, even if they do not intend to enter Chinese territorial airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense or face “emergency defensive measures”;

Whereas the “rules of engagement” declared by China, including the “emergency defensive measures”, are in violation of the concept of “due regard for the safety of civil aviation” under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Chicago Convention and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to “refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered”;

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People's Republic of China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China's declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does

not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China's declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, "We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.";

Whereas over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law" and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People's Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from ex-

ercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN's Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed "the commitment of ASEAN Member States to: . . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).";

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world's second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the "contiguous zone" in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas, although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United

States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People's Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on May 1, 2014, the People's Republic of China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, placed its deepwater semi-submersible drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), accompanied by over 25 Chinese ships, in Block 143, 120 nautical miles off Vietnam's coastline;

Whereas, from May 1 to May 9, 2014, the number of Chinese vessels escorting HD-981 increased to more than 80, including seven military ships, which aggressively patrolled and intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of COLREGs, reportedly intentionally rammed multiple Vietnamese vessels, and used helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas, on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around HD-981, which undermines maritime safety in the area and is in violation of universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

Whereas China's territorial claims and associated maritime actions in support of the drilling activity that HD-981 commenced on May 1, 2014, have not been clarified under international law, including as defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, constitute a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force, and appear to be in violation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea;

Whereas, on January 19, 1998, the United States and People's Republic of China signed the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, creating a mechanism for consultation and coordination on operational safety issues in the maritime domain between the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, inaugurated in 1988 and comprising the navies of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States, and Vietnam, whose countries all border the Pacific Ocean region, provides a forum where leaders of regional navies can

meet to discuss cooperative initiatives, discuss regional and global maritime issues, and undertake exercises to strengthen norms and practices that contribute to operational safety, including protocols for unexpected encounters at sea, common ways of communication, common ways of operating, and common ways of engagement;

Whereas, Japan and the People's Republic of China sought to negotiate a Maritime Communications Mechanism between the defense authorities and a Maritime Search and Rescue Agreement and agreed in principle to these agreements to address operational safety on the maritime domains but failed to sign them;

Whereas the Changi Command and Control Center in Singapore provides a platform for all the countries of the Western Pacific to share information on what kind of contact at sea and to provide a common operational picture for the region;

Whereas 2014 commemorates the 35th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China that becomes a responsible international stakeholder, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede freedom of operations in international airspace by military or civilian aircraft, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to refrain from implementing the declared East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region[; and];

(3) commends the Governments of Japan and of the Republic of Korea for their restraint, and commends the Government of the Republic of Korea for engaging in a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan and China prior to announcing its adjustment of its Air Defense Identification Zone on December 9, 2013, and for its commitment to implement this adjusted Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in a manner consistent with international practice and respect for the freedom of overflight and other internationally lawful uses of international airspace; and

(4) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to withdraw its HD-981 drilling rig and associated maritime forces from their current positions, to refrain from maritime maneuvers contrary to COLREGS, and to return immediately to the status quo as it existed before May 1, 2014.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) reaffirm its unwavering commitment and support for allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region, including longstanding

United States policy regarding Article V of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and that Article V of the United States-Japan Mutual Defense Treaty applies to the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands;

(2) oppose claims that impinge on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belong to all nations;

(3) urge all parties to refrain from engaging in destabilizing activities, including illegal occupation or efforts to unlawfully assert administration over disputed claims;

(4) ensure that disputes are managed without intimidation, coercion, or force;

(5) call on all claimants to clarify or adjust claims in accordance with international law;

(6) support efforts by ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to develop an effective Code of Conduct, including the "early harvest" of agreed-upon elements in the Code of Conduct that can be implemented immediately;

(7) reaffirm that an existing body of international rules and guidelines, including the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGS), is sufficient to ensure the safety of navigation between the United States Armed Forces and the forces of other countries, including the People's Republic of China;

(8) support the development of regional institutions and bodies, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus, the East Asia Summit, and the expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, to build practical cooperation in the region and reinforce the role of international law;

(9) encourage the adoption of mechanisms such as hotlines or emergency procedures for preventing incidents in sensitive areas, managing them if they occur, and preventing disputes from escalating;

(10) fully support the rights of claimants to exercise rights they may have to avail themselves of peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms;

(11) encourage claimants not to undertake new unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including not asserting administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea;

(12) encourage the deepening of partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building, as well as efforts by the United States Government to explore the development of appropriate multilateral mechanisms for a "common operating picture" in the South China Sea that would serve to help countries avoid destabilizing behavior and deter risky and dangerous activities; and

(13) assure the continuity of operations by the United States in the Asia-Pacific region, including, when appropriate, in cooperation with partners and allies, to reaffirm the principle of freedom of operations in international waters and airspace in accordance with established principles and practices of international law.

Mr. REID. I further ask that the committee-reported amendments to the resolution be agreed to; the Menendez amendment to the resolution, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the Paul amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; further, that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the Menendez amendment to the preamble, which is

at the desk, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and finally, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3553) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 13, line 24, strike "HD-981" and insert "Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981)".

The amendment (No. 3554) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify that nothing in the resolution shall be construed as a declaration of war or authorization to use force)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

The resolution (S. Res. 412), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3555) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the preamble)

Beginning in the thirteenth whereas clause of the preamble, strike "Organization's" and all that follows through "Law of the Sea" in the forty-seventh whereas clause and insert the following: "Organization and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to "refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered";

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People's Republic of China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international

airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China's declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China's declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, "We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.";

Whereas over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law" and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by

any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People's Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN's Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed "the commitment of ASEAN Member States to: . . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).";

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world's second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the "contiguous zone" in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas, although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands,

the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People's Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on May 1, 2014, the People's Republic of China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, placed its deepwater semi-submersible drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), accompanied by over 25 Chinese ships, in Block 143, 120 nautical miles off Vietnam's coastline;

Whereas, from May 1 to May 9, 2014, the number of Chinese vessels escorting Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) increased to more than 80, including seven military ships, which aggressively patrolled and intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of COLREGs, reportedly intentionally rammed multiple Vietnamese vessels, and used helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas, on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), which undermines maritime safety in the area and is in violation of universally recognized principles of international law;

Whereas China's territorial claims and associated maritime actions in support of the drilling activity that Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) commenced on May 1, 2014, have not been clarified under international law

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

(The Resolution (S. Res. 412), as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:)

S. RES. 412

Whereas Asia-Pacific's maritime domains, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the United States is a long-standing Asia-Pacific power and has a national interest in maintaining freedom of operations in international waters and airspace

both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

Whereas for over 60 years, the United States Government, alongside United States allies and partners, has played an instrumental role in maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific, including safeguarding the prosperity and economic growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States, from the earliest days of the Republic, has had a deep and abiding national security interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of the seas, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce, including in the East China and South China Seas;

Whereas the United States alliance relationships in the region, including with Japan, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, are at the heart of United States policy and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, and share a common approach to supporting the maintenance of peace and stability, freedom of navigation, and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas territorial and maritime claims must be derived from land features and otherwise comport with international law;

Whereas the United States Government has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes and is firmly opposed to coercion, intimidation, threats, or the use of force;

Whereas the South China Sea contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas the United States is not a claimant party in either the East China or South China Seas, but does have an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of operations, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas the United States supports the obligation of all members of the United Nations to seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas, on November 23, 2013, the People's Republic of China unilaterally and without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, also announcing that all aircraft entering the PRC's self-declared ADIZ, even if they do not intend to enter Chinese territorial airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense or face "emergency defensive measures";

Whereas the "rules of engagement" declared by China, including the "emergency defensive measures", are in violation of the concept of "due regard for the safety of civil aviation" under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to "refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in

flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered";

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People's Republic of China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China's declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China's declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, "We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.";

Whereas over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea,

and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law" and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People's Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN's Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed "the commitment of ASEAN Member States to: . . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”;

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world's second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the “contiguous zone” in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People's Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas, on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on May 1, 2014, the People's Republic of China's state-owned energy company, CNOOC, placed its deepwater semi-submersible drilling rig Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), accompanied by over 25 Chinese ships, in Block 143, 120 nautical miles off Vietnam's coastline;

Whereas from May 1 to May 9, 2014, the number of Chinese vessels escorting Hai

Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) increased to more than 80, including seven military ships, which aggressively patrolled and intimidated Vietnamese Coast Guard ships in violation of COLREGs, reportedly intentionally rammed multiple Vietnamese vessels, and used helicopters and water cannons to obstruct others;

Whereas, on May 5, 2014, vessels from the Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSAC) established an exclusion zone with a radius of three nautical miles around Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981), which undermines maritime safety in the area and is in violation of universally recognized principles of international law;

Whereas China's territorial claims and associated maritime actions in support of the drilling activity that Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) commenced on May 1, 2014, have not been clarified under international law, constitute a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force, and appear to be in violation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea;

Whereas, on January 19, 1998, the United States and People's Republic of China signed the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, creating a mechanism for consultation and coordination on operational safety issues in the maritime domain between the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, inaugurated in 1988 and comprising the navies of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States, and Vietnam, whose countries all border the Pacific Ocean region, provides a forum where leaders of regional navies can meet to discuss cooperative initiatives, discuss regional and global maritime issues, and undertake exercises to strengthen norms and practices that contribute to operational safety, including protocols for unexpected encounters at sea, common ways of communication, common ways of operating, and common ways of engagement;

Whereas Japan and the People's Republic of China sought to negotiate a Maritime Communications Mechanism between the defense authorities and a Maritime Search and Rescue Agreement and agreed in principle to these agreements to address operational safety on the maritime domains but failed to sign them;

Whereas the Changi Command and Control Center in Singapore provides a platform for all the countries of the Western Pacific to share information on what kind of contact at sea and to provide a common operational picture for the region;

Whereas 2014 commemorates the 35th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China that becomes a responsible international stakeholder, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean, including open

access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede freedom of operations in international airspace by military or civilian aircraft, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to refrain from implementing the declared East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region;

(3) commends the Governments of Japan and of the Republic of Korea for their restraint, and commends the Government of the Republic of Korea for engaging in a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan and China prior to announcing its adjustment of its Air Defense Identification Zone on December 9, 2013, and for its commitment to implement this adjusted Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in a manner consistent with international practice and respect for the freedom of overflight and other internationally lawful uses of international airspace; and

(4) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to withdraw its Hai Yang Shi You 981 (HD-981) drilling rig and associated maritime forces from their current positions, to refrain from maritime maneuvers contrary to COLREGs, and to return immediately to the status quo as it existed before May 1, 2014.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) reaffirm its unwavering commitment and support for allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region, including longstanding United States policy regarding Article V of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and that Article V of the United States-Japan Mutual Defense Treaty applies to the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands;

(2) oppose claims that impinge on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belong to all nations;

(3) urge all parties to refrain from engaging in destabilizing activities, including illegal occupation or efforts to unlawfully assert administration over disputed claims;

(4) ensure that disputes are managed without intimidation, coercion, or force;

(5) call on all claimants to clarify or adjust claims in accordance with international law;

(6) support efforts by ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to develop an effective Code of Conduct, including the “early harvest” of agreed-upon elements in the Code of Conduct that can be implemented immediately;

(7) reaffirm that an existing body of international rules and guidelines, including the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs), is sufficient to ensure the safety of navigation between the United States Armed Forces and the forces of other countries, including the People's Republic of China;

(8) support the development of regional institutions and bodies, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus, the East Asia Summit, and the expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, to build practical cooperation in the region and reinforce the role of international law;

(9) encourage the adoption of mechanisms such as hotlines or emergency procedures for preventing incidents in sensitive areas, managing them if they occur, and preventing disputes from escalating;

(10) fully support the rights of claimants to exercise rights they may have to avail themselves of peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms;

(11) encourage claimants not to undertake new unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including not asserting administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea;

(12) encourage the deepening of partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building, as well as efforts by the United States Government to explore the development of appropriate multilateral mechanisms for a "common operating picture" in the South China Sea that would serve to help countries avoid destabilizing behavior and deter risky and dangerous activities; and

(13) assure the continuity of operations by the United States in the Asia-Pacific region, including, when appropriate, in cooperation with partners and allies, to reaffirm the principle of freedom of operations in international waters and airspace in accordance with established principles and practices of international law.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to take just a little bit of time to say a few things about the health care bill. The shrill cries from the other side have lessened in recent weeks, and obviously for good reason. The New York Times reports today—I won't read the whole column but I will read quite a bit.

It says less than "15 percent of adults younger than 65 now lack health insurance, down from 20 percent before the Affordable Care Act rolled out in January."

In fact, we have information from the Gallup organization today that came out after this New York Times article that the rate is down to 13.4 percent. It is the lowest quarterly average recorded since Gallup began tracking the percentage of uninsured Americans. That is pretty good.

The Gallup poll says:

The uninsured rate has decreased sharply since the Affordable Care Act's requirement for most Americans to have health insurance went into effect beginning 2014.

So in the fourth quarter of 2013 the average was 17.1 percent, and now it is down to 13.4. This is remarkable.

Carrying on with the information from the New York Times, people who got new coverage—we heard all the cries about how upset people were with the new health insurance, but they are very happy with the new product; 73 percent of the people who bought health care plans and 80 percent of those who signed up for Medicaid said they were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied. That is 73 percent with their new health insurance; 74 percent of newly insured Republicans like their plans; 77 percent of people who had insurance before, including members of the much-publicized group whose plans got cancelled last year, were happy with their new coverage.

A survey also said that a majority of people are using their new insurance. They like it. They are glad they have it.

People who have the insurance are going to a doctor, they are going to the hospital, and most people seeking new primary care doctors found the process easy and had to wait less than 2 weeks for an appointment. Sixty percent said they wouldn't have been able to afford the care without the new coverage.

These statistics are really staggering.

The article closes by saying:

There is a reason to think that the good feelings may linger. . . . An Associated Press poll in January found that 73 percent of all Americans with insurance before the rollout of the law were satisfied.

So we are doing overall very well. My Republican colleagues come to the floor and say: Oh, this is just awful, people are so upset.

It simply is not true.

This is not my opinion. It is statistics and facts.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 6 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session of the Senate. The next rollcall vote will begin at 12 noon on Tuesday, July 15, 2014. Those will be cloture votes on the Bay and LaFleur nominations to be members of the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 14, 2014, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 10, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

DANA SHELL SMITH, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SHAUN L. S. DONOVAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE FIRST SHILOH
HOUSING CORPORATION

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Shiloh Housing Corporation for its inspired and visionary role in the successful conversion of the Ellicott Mall Development to an impressive mixed-use neighborhood including patio homes, town houses, apartments and a senior citizens center. Today, we come together in a community celebration to reflect on how far this neighborhood has come, and embrace the bright future ahead.

Over twenty years ago, this area was an eight-tower, crime-ridden housing project in the heart of the City of Buffalo. Today, under the decades-long stewardship of the First Shiloh Baptist Church and its member-led Housing Corporation, this community exemplifies the good work happening to transform our hometown. From disinvestment to investment, from rundown to a return of residents filled with pride and optimism, its metamorphosis is truly remarkable.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the unique public-private partnership that came together in the early 1990's to harness the power of the federal low-income housing credit program which provided the financial foundation that fueled overdue demolitions, renovated apartments and private residences guided by the spirit of the newly formed First Shiloh Housing Corporation.

The First Shiloh Housing project began laying this foundation in 1992 when the Church, along with Norstar Development and the city of Buffalo, took matters into their own hands through a development strategy that included the residents. Putting people first was the guiding principle of the first president of the First Shiloh Development Corporation, Clemmon H. Hodges, whose name now graces the community center.

With \$40 million of reconstruction completed in 1998, First Shiloh added management and maintenance to its services to assist the rebirth of the neighborhood, now known as Ellicott Town Center.

Today, surrounded by a downtown, waterfront and growing medical campus, this neighborhood is attracting increased commercial attention as a once shuttered hospital is now undergoing a \$20 million renovation in close proximity to the Ellicott Town Center.

With a richly deserved sense of accomplishment and confidence in the future, I am honored to join together with the board of directors of First Shiloh Housing Corporation under the leadership of the Reverend Jonathan R. Staples and President Grace Tate for this well-deserved community celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with the residents, families, stakeholders and fellow officials to offer congratulations and deepest appreciation for the faith and fortitude of First Shiloh Baptist Church. Thank you for allowing me to share this success story as it begins its next chapter.

CONGRATULATING THE
LEIGHTON BAND FOR 150 SEA-
SONS OF PERFORMANCES

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Leighton Band of Leighton, Pennsylvania as the organization celebrates 150 seasons of performances.

Founded in 1864, the Leighton Band has provided live music to the people of Carbon County and its surrounding communities for over a century. The Leighton Band is comprised of approximately fifty members of the community with ages ranging from 16 to 80 years old. The group performs multiple concerts a year, including a spring concert to kick off each new season, a concert to celebrate Christmas, and several performances each summer in Weatherly and Leighton that feature musical programs highlighting pieces from a variety of periods and styles. The Leighton Band also makes itself available for performances at picnics, reunions, and other community engagements. Through the generosity and support of local professionals, businesses, and individuals with a strong love and appreciation for music and the arts, the band has continued to perform at no cost to the public, selflessly donating their time and talents for the enjoyment of others. I know that I speak on the behalf of the Carbon County community when I say that the Leighton Band is a source of pride for not the residents, but also for the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, as they celebrate 150 seasons of performances, I would like to thank the Leighton Band for their musical contributions and wish them many more successful years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF UNION DAIRY IN
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union Dairy of Freeport, Illinois, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

Union Dairy started as a partnership between Albert J. Hill and Conrad F. Kaiser who had been delivering milk to customers across town. They began producing ice cream in 1934. Many of their original flavors were created by their early employees, including Orange Pudding, which is still a favorite today.

Over the past 100 years, Union Dairy has excelled at providing good old fashioned American treats and delights to its loyal customers. They still offer classic ice cream soda, a traditional treat that you don't see every day. Over its history, Union Dairy has produced as much as one hundred thousand gallons of ice cream in a year, and sold as much as six hundred gallons of ice cream per week.

Today, Union Dairy, in addition to their long-established offerings, also prepares standard fare that is anything but. With a focus on local ingredients, they serve hamburgers ground fresh daily from a local family owned butcher shop and Freeport's own Mrs. Mikes potato chips.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to recognize Union Dairy on this notable event, and am glad that places like this exist, helping to bring smiles to faces of people throughout our community.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERV-
ICE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL
CHARLES R. "C.R." DAVIS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant General Charles R. "C.R." Davis upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of honorable service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force.

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, General Davis' career in the Air Force began in 1979 after receiving his commission through the Air Force Academy. Throughout his decorated career and myriad assignments ranging from flying test aircraft to setting acquisition plans and policy, General Davis' commitment to service never wavered. As a testament to his dedication, General Davis was a distinguished graduate from every school he attended, as well as a First Assignment Instructor Pilot. As all great leaders do, General Davis led from the front by setting the example that others should follow.

In his final assignment as the Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, General Davis was responsible for the research and development, test, production, and modernization of all Air Force programs, an annual combined worth of \$40 billion. Other career highlights include Senior Acquisition Executive for the Air Force, where

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

he was responsible for the award of over 260 major contracts that directly preserved and enhanced over 250 mobility, fighter/attack, bomber, and other weapons systems and Commander, Air Armament Center and the Air Force Program Executive Officer for Weapons, Air Force Material Command at Eglin Air Force Base in my district, where he oversaw the development, acquisition, testing, deployment and sustainment of all air-delivered weapons.

Having flown over 3,400 hours in 53 different types of aircraft, General Davis has either been protecting our Nation's skies in fighter jets or ensuring that our Nation's skies remain protected by testing or procuring our Nation's latest technology. While he has had to make tough decisions to achieve cost savings, he also contributed to the Secretary of Defense's initiative to rebuild the acquisition workforce, resulting in 1,465 new positions. Whether instructor pilot, fighter pilot, test pilot, squadron commander, system program office director, wing commander, program executive officer, or center commander, General Davis always exemplified the Air Force core value of exuding excellence in everything he did.

Mr. Speaker, General Davis leaves a legacy of integrity, selfless service, and an excellence that is unparalleled. He consistently conducted himself in a professional manner, which brought great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. His exemplary character and years of service has helped shape Air Force acquisitions, while ensuring the tip of the spear is always sharp and that our Nation's Air Force was equipped to remain the greatest in the world. Without question, he concludes a career of which he and his family can be very proud. On behalf of the entire United States Congress, it is a privilege to honor the career and service of Lieutenant General C.R. Davis. My wife Vicki and I congratulate him and wish him, his wife Susan, and their family all the best.

CONGRATULATING MARTHA
HERRON ON HER RETIREMENT
FROM PPL

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Martha Herron on the occasion of her retirement as Regional Director of the PPL Corporation. In her remarkable 47 year career with PPL, Ms. Herron has had a profound impact on both the company, and the greater Hazleton community through her assiduous service and leadership.

Initially unable to afford college, Ms. Herron worked at a textile factory and saved money so that she could enroll in business school, eventually earning a certificate that ultimately helped her get her first job in 1967 as a clerk at PPL, then known as the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. Through hard work and dedication, she rose through the ranks to become the regional affairs director in 1995, a position she has held to this day.

When Ms. Herron began her career, she found a professional environment that was not

sympathetic to females with few women available to serve as mentors. The decision to fill this void lead Ms. Herron to begin her legacy of helping other women develop professionally by providing the needed resources to foster growth and development. She challenged and successfully changed PPL's policy of requiring expecting mothers to resign and then reapply, and also served as a founding member of the PPL Women's Network, a group dedicated to assisting developing women in a competitive work environment in order to reach their highest potential.

As a result of her efforts, Ms. Herron received the Woman of the Year Award by Soptimist International, was named on the list of "Who's Who of American Women," and was recognized as one of Pennsylvania's "50 Best Women in Business." As well as helping women throughout the Hazleton area, Ms. Herron has volunteered countless hours and resources to multiple organizations such as the Community Area New Development Organization (CAN DO), the Greater Hazleton United Way, the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, and Volunteers of America. In her role with PPL, Ms. Herron has had the opportunity to work with colleagues throughout the 29 counties that PPL served. Through that exposure, she was able to bring back ideas and programs to Hazleton, creating groups such as Leadership Hazleton, an organization modeled after Leadership Wilkes-Barre and dedicated to training volunteers to serve area nonprofits. I can personally attest to Ms. Herron's dedication to bettering Hazleton. During my time as mayor of Hazleton, Ms. Herron was always a willing and helpful resource to my office.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement, I commend Martha Herron for her years of service to PPL and to our community. I know that she looks forward to spending time with her family and friends, including her husband, Terrance, her son and his wife, Terry and Kelly, and her grandsons TJ and Jack. I thank her for all that she has done and continues to do for Northeastern Pennsylvania and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, due to Maryland's Federal Primary Election day being Tuesday, June 24, 2014, I was absent from votes in the House, and instead in my Congressional District in Maryland. I, therefore, missed rollcall votes 341 and 350-354. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Nay" on rollcall No. 341 (H. Res. 636, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act, and H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act);

"Aye" on rollcall No. 350 (Pallone amendment);

"Aye" on rollcall No. 351 (Waxman amendment);

"Aye" on rollcall No. 352 (Welch amendment);

"Aye" on rollcall No. 353 (Motion to recommit H.R. 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act); and

"Nay" on rollcall No. 354 (Final passage of H.R. 3301).

RECOGNIZING NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITION—NATIVE VOICES: NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCEPTS OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a new interactive exhibition, Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness. This new exhibition, which examines concepts of health and medicine among contemporary American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, will start to travel on August 26, 2014, throughout the United States and is scheduled to open in Oklahoma, a state with a rich Native American heritage that I have the privilege to represent.

Native Voices, developed by the National Library of Medicine, part of the National Institutes of Health, explores the connection between wellness, illness, and cultural life through a combination of interviews with Native people, artwork, objects, and interactive media.

The National Library of Medicine has a history of working with Native communities as part of the library's commitment to make health information resources accessible to people no matter where they live or work. The Native Voices exhibition concept grew out of meetings with Native leaders across the country.

According to the Library's Director, Donald A.B. Lindberg, MD, the exhibition honors the Native tradition of oral history and establishes a unique collection of information that visitors will find both educational and inspirational.

Topics featured in the exhibition include: Native views of land, food, community, earth/nature, and spirituality as they relate to Native health. It also highlights the relationship between traditional healing and Western medicine in Native communities as well as economic and cultural issues that affect the health of Native communities. Other efforts by Native communities to improve health conditions is included as well. The exhibition also touches on the role of Native Americans in military service and healing support for returning Native veterans.

To make the Native Voices exhibition accessible to people even if they cannot visit it when it comes to a nearby community, there is an online version of the exhibition at www.nlm.nih.gov/nativevoices and a free iPad App available through iTunes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, and 367. If present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote Nos. 362, 363, 364, 366, and 367, and "no" on rollcall vote No. 365.

HONORING RICK LEONARD

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rick Leonard of Winchester, Virginia, who has served as superintendent of Winchester Public Schools since 2009. Mr. Leonard retired from his post at the end of June after 34 years of service to the school system.

After graduating from James Madison University in 1980, Rick began his teaching career when he accepted a job teaching biology at Handley High School. During his time at Handley, he served as a coach, assistant principal and principal of the school.

Mr. Leonard worked his way to superintendent of Winchester Public Schools, assuming this role on July 1, 2009. He held that post until his retirement last month. It's my understanding that he hopes to enjoy some personal time before returning to teach in higher education or run a small business.

I am pleased to submit the following article from *The Winchester Star* on Mr. Leonard's retirement and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for many years of distinguished service to our nation's youth.

[From the *Winchester Star*, June 27, 2014]

RETIRING CITY SCHOOLS LEADER CREDITS MENTORS

(By Rebecca Layne)

WINCHESTER.—During an Army exercise in 1991, Rick Leonard and George Craig discussed their futures while leaning on the hood of a jeep.

A biology teacher in the Winchester Public Schools, Leonard was in the interview process to become the assistant principal at Handley High School.

But could he hold down the new job and remain in the Virginia Army National Guard?

Craig, now a coordinator of curriculum and instruction in the city school system, thought his friend could do it.

Leonard, however, chose to focus his sole attention on one task.

"If he was going to be the assistant principal, they were going to get everything he had," Craig said. "He had a very, very promising career in the Army. But he chose schools. He wanted to give the schools all of his time."

Leonard, 56, stuck to his promise, and more than 20 years after that conversation, he will retire at the end of the month as the division's superintendent, a job he held for five years.

Despite the hefty title, Leonard said, he has never left the classroom.

"I'm retiring as a public school teacher," he said. "I'm still an educator. I'm a teacher for other adults who work directly or indirectly with students, parents and the community."

Leonard started his stint in the classroom when he was a senior at Warren County High School and took on the role of night custodian.

From there, he went on to the College of William and Mary and later transferred to James Madison University, where he was team captain and an academic All-American in football.

He graduated in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in biology and became a part-time military officer in the Army National Guard.

Also that year, he was hired as a biology teacher at Handley and through the years has served as a teacher, a coach, an assistant principal and a principal—all in the Winchester Public Schools. He has held his superintendent post since July 1, 2009.

"You can always rely on Rick to give a straightforward, honest, thoughtful answer to whatever you're working on," Craig said. "I don't know if I've ever seen Rick not smiling and not positive and enthusiastic about what we're doing. When he leaves [your desk], you're a better person. It's been a good conversation and you know things will be OK."

Leonard said his biggest accomplishments are the successes of the students and the "highly qualified and compassionate" teachers and staff members who guided the division through a lack of adequate funding, an increase in testing rigor, a more diverse student population and increasing poverty rates—a "perfect storm of challenges."

"We were still able to weather the worst recession since the Great Depression of the '30s with a rich curriculum, high standards and schools meeting state and federal requirements," he said.

Leonard also had a role in getting the new \$20 million John Kerr Elementary School project off the ground (it is scheduled to open in fall 2016), along with improving recruitment strategies to attract teachers; expanding the Career and Technical Education program; and creating a part-time, temporary workforce of credentialed teachers to support struggling learners through the Response to Intervention program.

He credits former superintendents Glenn Burdick and Dennis Kellison as his mentors along the way.

Despite his employment in the division for 34 years, Leonard doesn't think he's changed. He says he still talks way too fast and veins still pop out on his neck when he believes in something strongly, such as making sure all students have a chance to be successful.

"I still have the same drive and belief in all students," he said.

Craig said his colleague's ability to make thoughtful decisions and to be active and decisive is unchanged, but his perspective has expanded.

"He thinks on almost a global perspective with the schools," he said. "Now he has the vision to be able to see the whole system and the challenges that could come later on."

Lynda Hickey, director of the instruction department, said Leonard always stayed the course in promoting the school's mission and vision of learning for all, challenged the staff members to be the best they could be and made students the heart of every decision.

Leonard's executive assistant Bonnie Stickley has worked with him for five years.

She considers him a class act, funny and positive.

"I'm going to miss him," she said. "Not just as a boss, but as a friend."

Leonard said no single reason has spurred him to retire.

"I'm running out of energy," he said. "I want to leave at a time when my heart is still full of what my life's work has been: helping children, helping the next generation."

Leonard said he might eventually like to teach in higher education or help to run a small business in the private sector, but first he will spend a lot of time in waders.

"The first thing I'll do is fish for a while," he said. "And exercise a lot. Then I'll get back in the game. I just haven't decided what game that's going to be yet."

"For me, it's not necessarily retirement. It's more of a sabbatical."

Leonard and his wife Patty have three sons.

HONORING ARAGON, GEORGIA ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CHARTERING

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Aragon. Lying in the Coosa Valley of Northwest Georgia, in Polk County, Aragon was founded in 1899 as a mill site. The city of Aragon is a small, but hard working group of families who are proud of their heritage.

Whether it was named for the Hotel Aragon located on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, Georgia, where some of the Mill owners stayed when visiting the area, or whether it was named for the mineral aragonite that was mined nearby, the city of Aragon has been home to many dedicated men and women for over 115 years, even as the town has changed.

In recent years, even in the aftermath of the mill's destruction by fire in 2002, the people of Aragon have committed to remaining a city. It is with this commitment that they commemorate July 23, 2014, as the 100th anniversary of their city charter being adopted, and then approved by Georgia's 60th Governor, John Slaton.

One hundred years later, Aragon's future shines brightly. This is not a city resting on its laurels after tragedy, but a city ready to meet tomorrow's challenges head on, remaining true to its motto "A Proud Past With A Promising Future".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 355, "yea."

On rollcall No. 356, "yea."
 On rollcall No. 357, "nay."
 On rollcall No. 358, "nay."
 On rollcall No. 359, "yea."

HONORING JACQUE JOHANNES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Jacque Johannes who is retiring after 27 years as a Department of Defense civilian with the United States Air Force.

She received an Associate of Arts in Education from Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kansas, in 1975 and her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas in 1977.

That same year, she married Don Johannes and began traveling the world and working for the DoD as the spouse of an active duty Air Force member. For her first jobs she worked as a substitute teacher in the Denver Public Schools system and then as a cashier for the base commissary.

In 1979, she moved with her husband to Hellenikon Athens, Greece and worked as a substitute teacher for the DoD schools and eventually as a clerk for the Hellenikon AFB Child Development Center.

In 1982, she moved again with her spouse to Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota where Jacque worked for the base commissary as a cashier. In 1984, she and her family moved to Little Rock, Arkansas and this is where she found her most rewarding career working with young children.

In 1988, she began teaching preschool for the evening classes at the Little Rock AFB Child Development Center. The next year, she became a full time preschool teacher and taught three and four year olds in the Air Force Preschool. In 1997, she became the first USDA/Resource & Referral for the Family Child Care (FCC) Program.

In 2000, Jacque was hired as the junior FCC Coordinator and during this time helped to win the provider of the year for 2004. In 2005, she took over the lead coordinator's position and with the help of her fellow Coordinator, Jill Lund, she was able to train and establish the first three National Family Child Care (NAFCC) Accredited FCC providers at Little Rock AFB.

During her years as coordinator, Jacque's program was selected to be a test base for the Mildly Ill Program and the new AF Expanded Child Care Programs.

In 2007, with the hard work and dedication of Jacque, the FCC Program won AETC FCC Program of the Year for the first time since the inception of the child care programs at Little Rock AFB. When the program was under the AETC Majcom, Jacque was asked by AETC staff to mentor new providers.

She would also work closely with fellow coordinators from other bases to gain new ideas or find better ways to improve the FCC program at Little Rock.

Jacque has a love of music and especially enjoys singing. She is a member of Park Hill Christian Church Chancel Choir and also performs solos for special music functions and serves as Chairman of the Trustees for PHCC as well as serving on the Church Cabinet and Church Board. She is also a member of the Arkansas Chorale Society (ACS) where she sings in the Messiah and their spring concerts. During these concerts she has provided various solos. Jacque previously served on the Board of Directors for the ACS and as a judge for the Arkansas Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year in Little Rock.

Jacque sat on the planning committees for the annual Spring Family Fun festivals and the 4th of July celebrations. She along with her providers would have a game/information booth at the Fun Festival each year.

Jacque lives with her husband Don in Cabot, AR. Her children and grandchildren are the lights of her life. Jacque's sons, Josh and wife Jennifer along with their children Holt and Violet reside in Sherwood, and son Chris and wife Leah along with their children Aliden and Ava reside in North Little Rock. Her daughter Amanda and husband SSgt. Kevin Schroeder along with Amanda's daughter Aislinn Grubb are stationed in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Jacque also has a step-granddaughter, Sylvia Schroeder, who resides in Manhattan, KS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Jacque Johannes for her years of dedication and hard work.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,596,427,039,854.56. We've added \$6,969,549,990,941.48 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE DUCHOSSOIS

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the nationally revered horseman and longtime supporter of equestrian rights, Bruce Duchossois, who passed away at the age of 64. The Chicago native's passion for horses and the sport of riding developed at a young age and was the impetus for much of his life's work.

Mr. Duchossois began riding hunters in the 1960s, and in 1973 rode his hunter, Kim's Song, to an American Horse Show Association Horse of the Year title. Throughout his ca-

reer, Mr. Duchossois earned many awards for his talents and contributions. Most recently in May, he was inducted into the National Show Hunter Hall of Fame and was honored with the Equestrian Aid Foundation Luminary Award.

Mr. Duchossois worked for the betterment of the sport in the U.S. on and off the field. He served as a member of the executive committee, as the chairman of the Development Committee, and as a trustee of the United States Equestrian Team Foundation for 16 years before becoming Vice President of the organization, which helps fund riding competitions. Mr. Duchossois also supported many nonprofit organizations such as Vincere Therapeutic Riding Center. He had donated a horse to the center every year since becoming involved, and even took care of their retired horses at his own barn.

The generosity and compassion of Mr. Duchossois was deeply felt by all who engaged with him, and he has made an unforgettable impact on the equestrian community of the United States. Together with his family and friends, we remember the enthusiastic, animal-loving, and carpe diem spirit of the life of Bruce Duchossois.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 9, 2014 I was not present to vote on H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been present to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 378, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING MARBLE BREWERY

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Marble Brewery on their achievement during the 2014 World Beer Cup awards.

Twice a year the Brewers Association hosts this prestigious event featuring an array of high-quality beers from across the globe. The 2014 competition was the largest yet, hosting a panel of 219 experts from 31 countries who conducted the blind tasting evaluations and judged 4,754 beers from 1,403 breweries in over 57 countries. Beers were judged in 91 categories ranging from "Coffee Beer" to "Wood- and Barrel-Aged Sour Beer" with the top three beers receiving gold, silver, and bronze medals.

I am honored to know that Albuquerque, New Mexico's very own Marble Brewery received the Gold in the "Kellerbier or Zwickelbier" category, beating out 59 entries from around the world. In 2008, Co-Founders Ted Rice, Jeff Jinnett, and John Gozigan first

opened Marble Brewery in downtown Albuquerque, on First Street and Marble Avenue. Their mission then, and still today: to provide bold, hand-crafted ales and lagers to the southwest.

As a small locally owned manufacturing and service business Marble Brewery represents the prosperity of a burgeoning local craft beer industry in New Mexico. In fact, the successes of Marble Brewery can be directly attributed to Livability.com naming Albuquerque, New Mexico the number 1 beer city in the country for their "Top 10 Beer Cities" list. Marble Brewery is a testament to the contributions small businesses make to our country and the idea that with hard work and dedication nothing is unattainable.

Not only is Marble Brewery a thriving business in the heart of downtown Albuquerque, but they are an active and engaged partner in our local community. Marble Brewery supports fundraising efforts for dozens of organizations from the Downtown Growers Market, to the Hispanic Cultural Center, the Healthcare for the Homeless, and the Cancer and Lymphoma Society to name a few.

It was President Lincoln, who once said:

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts, and beer.

To this day lawyers, government officials, business leaders, political icons, artists and students continue to enjoy exquisite beers in Marble's friendly atmosphere. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize Marble Brewery for their accomplishments in the 2014 World Beer Cup competition and commitment to our community at large. I am proud to know that we have a great business located in the First Congressional District of New Mexico.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF WAREHAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the Town of Wareham.

Wareham was first settled in 1678 by a group of brave men and women who embodied the true American spirit that is still celebrated today. Wareham was officially incorporated in 1739 and became known for its local expertise in shipbuilding and other industries supporting the shipping trade. The town's beauty was quickly realized as it soon became a place where many came to enjoy its scenic beaches on Buzzard's Bay and other waterways, including Buttermilk Bay.

The people of Wareham were emblematic of the American spirit and resolve during the War of 1812. At that time, Wareham was an enticing target for the British due to its shipbuilding expertise and ironworking abilities. In 1814, when the British warship HMS *Nimrod* was anchored in Buzzard's Bay off the coast of Wareham, the townspeople refused to pay

tribute to the British in exchange for the cessation of gunfire from the mighty eighteen-gun ship. However, the residents of Wareham fought courageously and succeeded in repelling the British despite the large amount of damage done to the town.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 275th anniversary of Wareham. May this beautiful Massachusetts town flourish for many years to come.

HONORING BEN CARLSON

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, July 13, 2014, family, friends, and admirers—they are legion—of Ben Carlson will gather in Newport Beach, California, to honor the memory of a local hero. Those gathered, many wearing the favored "aloha shirts" and beach wear of his beloved surfing community, will not, however, think of him simply as a local hero. His heroism inspires us universally. Just last Sunday he perished when he jumped out of a lifeguard boat to save a body surfer caught in a rip current. The surfer lived. Ben was overwhelmed by the sort of monster wave he had spent years conquering. His own body, its full measure exhausted, was found three hours later. The beach lifestyle, Mr. Speaker, is often treated in our popular culture as frivolous, superficial, pampered. Many Americans and visitors from abroad do find the Southern California coastline to be a special place for recreation and relaxation, a place to restore their spirits. Ben Carlson confounded that image. He was the classic rugged individualist of American lore and legend. With his high level of schooling in psychology, he could have advanced through more traditional careers in business, education, or whatever field beckoned him. He chose to follow his calling on the beach, where for a decade and a half he protected and saved the lives of countless shoreline visitors, thereby contributing beyond measure to our local bounty. Though his distinct profile was known to those who loved him, he blended perfectly into the beach culture. His livelihood came courtesy of his status as an internationally recognized surfer and his convivial service behind the bar at a popular fish taco restaurant. Ben created his primary identity as one who chose to save lives. In my book, that makes him all we may expect of a true American of whom we all may be proud.

IN HONOR OF HOOSIER HERO, OFFICER PERRY RENN

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a profound sense of sadness, as I grieve with the City of Indianapolis and the entire law enforcement community over the loss of a true

public servant. Today, we remember Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer Perry Renn, a fallen Hoosier who dedicated his life to serving others.

Over the Fourth of July holiday weekend, Officer Renn responded to a call where shots had already been fired at the scene. Upon his arrival, he acted without regard to his own life in order to protect those of his fellow officers and innocent bystanders. In doing so, he made the ultimate sacrifice.

As a 20 year veteran of the IMPD, this was not the first time Officer Renn had risked his own life in an effort to protect his fellow Hoosiers. In 2003, he received the department's Medal of Bravery and later received a Letter of Commendation for his valiant effort to save lives after a stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair. Officer Renn's years of heroism, dedication and self-sacrifice have left a lasting legacy on the Indianapolis community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Officer Renn's wife and family, and pay tribute to his life by maintaining our steadfast support for local law enforcement officers who selflessly serve in our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 26, 2014, due to a death in my family, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 360, "yea."
On rollcall No. 361, "nay."
On rollcall No. 362, "nay."
On rollcall No. 363, "nay."
On rollcall No. 364, "nay."
On rollcall No. 365, "yea."
On rollcall No. 366, "nay."
On rollcall No. 367, "nay."
On rollcall No. 368, "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2014, I was unavoidably detained attending to representational activities in my congressional district and accompanying the President of the United States to Austin, Texas, and thus unable to return in time for rollcall Votes 379 through 392. I ask the RECORD to reflect that had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 379 I would have voted "no."

(McClintock Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reducing the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account, the Nuclear Energy account, the Fossil Energy Research and Development account, the Departmental Administration account, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Salaries and Expenses account by

\$121.3 million collectively and applying the savings to the Spending Reduction Account)

2. On rollcall No. 380 I would have voted "yes."

(Bonamici Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, increasing the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$9 million and reducing the Departmental Administration account by the same amount)

3. On rollcall No. 381 I would have voted "no."

(Speier Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reducing the Fossil Energy Research and Development account by \$30.9 million and applying the savings to the Spending Reduction Account)

4. On rollcall No. 382 I would have voted "yes."

(Titus Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, eliminating funding for the Yucca Mountain project at the Department of Energy and applying the \$150 million savings to the Spending Reduction Account)

5. On rollcall No. 383 I would have voted "yes."

(Schiff Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, increasing the Advanced Research Projects Agency by \$20 million and reducing the Departmental Administration account by the same amount)

6. On rollcall No. 384 I would have voted "yes."

(Quigley Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, reducing the Atomic Energy Defense Activities and National Nuclear Security Administration Weapons Activities account by \$7.6 million and applying the savings to the Spending Reduction Account)

7. On rollcall No. 385 I would have voted "no."

(Chabot Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, zeroing out funding for the Denali Commission (a \$10 million cut) and applying that savings to the Spending Reduction Account)

8. On rollcall No. 386 I would have voted "yes."

(Titus Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, striking Section 506 which prohibits funds from being used to close Yucca Mountain)

9. On rollcall No. 387 I would have voted "yes."

(DeLauro Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year

2015, prohibiting the awarding of contracts to "inverted" corporations that have changed their residence from the United States to the tax havens of Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, avoiding U.S. corporate taxes)

10. On rollcall No. 388 I would have voted "no."

(King (IA) Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, prohibiting the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements in the Davis-Bacon Act)

11. On rollcall No. 389 I would have voted "no."

(Lankford Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, prohibiting the use of funds to prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation or guidance that references or relies on the analysis contained in "Technical Support Document: The Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis—Under Executive Order 12866")

12. On rollcall No. 390 I would have voted "no."

(Cassidy Amendment to H.R. 4923, Energy and Water Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, prohibiting the use of funds by the Department of Energy to apply the report entitled "Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States" in any decision to export Liquefied Natural Gas from the U.S.)

13. On rollcall No. 391 I would have voted "no."

(Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5016 and H.R. 4718.)

14. On rollcall No. 392 I would have voted "no."

(H. Res. 661, Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5016, Financial Services and General Government Appropriations, 2015; and H.R. 4718, To Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Modify and Make Permanent Bonus Depreciation)

CELEBRATING SAN DIEGO'S 2014 LGBT PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the San Diego community in celebrating the 2014 San Diego LGBT Pride festival and parade.

From that historic night at Stonewall, 45 years ago, to California icon Harvey Milk, to

the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, and last year's overturning of DOMA and Prop 8—we have experienced uneven but unmistakable progress towards equality for our LGBT family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

In San Diego we have seen momentous contributions from the LGBT community—from The Center, an organization devoted to the care and well-being of the local LGBT community, where I was privileged to serve on the Board of Directors.

To my friend and City Council colleague Toni Atkins, recently elected the first San Diegan and openly lesbian Speaker of the California Assembly, and Todd Gloria who stepped in and stabilized our city in a time of crisis.

To local leaders like Robert Gleason who has been named the 2014 LGBT Pride Month Local Hero. Robert's tireless efforts and ability to build consensus helped create San Diego's LOST Community Leadership Council.

While we've made progress, establishing marriage equality in California and numerous other states across the country—a number that is growing—the fight for full equality is far from over.

Currently, there is no federal law that explicitly protects LGBT individuals from employment discrimination.

I am proud to be a strong and vocal supporter of LGBT civil rights, including a comprehensive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to ensure that LGBT Americans in every state can live their lives openly without the fear of being fired from their jobs for who they are or who they love.

It is time for Congress to do its job and pass this bipartisan legislation. Thankfully there is progress on this front. A few months ago I sent President Obama a letter urging him to bar workplace discrimination by federal contractors.

I am proud that President Obama has decided to do just that and announced executive orders to protect LGBT federal employees and those working for federal contractors from workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

As we work toward full equality, I will continue to be a strong advocate for the rights of the LGBT community as I have been in the past. I hope you will stay engaged and active in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing San Diego's LGBT community and look forward to celebrating with them during this year's Pride festival.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Friday, July 11, 2014*

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In these most important days and debates here in the people's House, we beg You to send Your spirit of wisdom as the Members struggle to do the work that has been entrusted to them. Inspire them to work together with charity, and join their efforts to accomplish what our Nation needs to live into a prosperous and secure future.

Please keep all the Members of this Congress, and all who work for the people's House, in good health, that they might faithfully fulfill the great responsibility given them by the people of this great Nation.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ENYART led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ACTING VA SECRETARY VISITS HOSPITALS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, Acting VA Sec-

retary Sloan Gibson visited the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. Then he toured the Charlie Norwood VA Hospital in Augusta, Georgia. VA Chairman JEFF MILLER visited both hospitals in January, promoting the expedited health care for our veterans.

The lack of treatment our veterans are receiving from the VA is inexcusable. Sadly, we have learned about lack of care at VA facilities across the country leading to death, cancer, and other progressive illnesses—a preview of ObamaCare chaos. This has been a failure by the President, who was alerted by his transition team in 2009 that there was mismanagement.

Finally, now, as the former president and CEO of the United Services Organization, USO, Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson has the experience to restore accountability with our veterans. Moving forward, I have faith that the professional staffs at Dorn and Charlie Norwood VA hospitals will ensure those who fought for our freedom receive the health care services they deserve.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th—as the President should take action for victory—in the global war on terrorism.

DEMAND ACTION ON H.R. 4594

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just shared with the Speaker that the battle to save the lives of Afghans who helped Americans as guides and interpreters has been a roller coaster, documented again Wednesday night in a gripping film, “The Interpreters,” by VICE News, about the American failure to protect those who helped us.

The program was brought back to life during the difficult government shutdown period by a bipartisan effort. Now that same bipartisan spirit is needed again, because only a few hundred visas remain with 6,000 people in the pipeline, with thousands more who must not be left to the tender mercies of the Taliban seeking revenge to torture and kill them.

It is the moral obligation of every Member of Congress to protect the men and women who helped Americans, who protected us in some of the most difficult of circumstances.

Please don't just cosponsor H.R. 4594; demand action before we adjourn. Lives are at stake.

THE NEED FOR A MORE EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF TITLE I FUNDING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, I had the opportunity to join rural school advocates from across the country here in Washington for the release of the Why Rural Matters 2013-2014 report, a biennial report from the Rural School and Community Trust which analyzes the state of rural education for communities in each of the 50 States.

This important research document gives policymakers and the public fresh insight into the social and economic contexts that influence educational outcomes and also reinforces how these conditions must be better understood, including in the context of how the Federal Government allocates title I funding.

Title I was initially created to offset the impacts of poverty on student learning. Unfortunately, the report shows once again that children receive preferential treatment based not only on their economic circumstances, but on the basis of their ZIP Code.

Surely my colleagues on both sides of the aisle believe that all children are equal. Unfortunately, most are surprised to learn, as we were reminded again this week, this is not the case.

I believe this body can do better, for our children deserve as much.

PASSING OF U.S. SENATOR ALAN DIXON

(Mr. ENYART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a good friend, a hardworking public servant, and a true advocate for the American people. Today, I rise to talk about Senator Alan Dixon, the gentleman from Illinois.

Senator Dixon was from my hometown, Belleville. He was one of the finest public servants our country has ever known. Through a storied career, he walked the halls of power in Springfield, Illinois, and Washington, D.C., but never forgot his southern Illinois roots.

He was a mentor to generations of southern Illinoisans. His sense of civility is a commodity that was sorely

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

needed during his time in government and is in even greater demand today.

It is in his honor and memory that I encourage the spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation as we continue to serve our fellow citizens in America.

AMERICA'S FLEET SHOULD LEAVE THE COAST OF ISRAEL

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, last month, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas openly united with the evil terrorist group Hamas, and at this very moment they are raining down rockets upon the innocent citizens of Israel. Half of all Israelis have sought cover in bomb shelters across their tiny country. And the Obama administration has had the reprehensible gall to praise Abbas as someone who is "committed to nonviolence and cooperation with Israel," and to further proclaim in an Israeli newspaper that "finally, peace is possible."

Mr. Speaker, I thought nothing this President could ever say or do would surprise me anymore, but this flushed and breathless rush to embrace terrorists launching rockets at Israeli children is an unprecedented act of cowardice and betrayal.

America's fleet should, this minute, be off the coast of Israel, and the world, including Abbas, Hamas, and Hezbollah, should know that America's arsenal of freedom stands ready to defend our most precious ally on Earth.

END THE VIOLENCE IN INDIANAPOLIS

(Mr. CARSON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness and outrage over the violence that has ravaged my Indianapolis congressional district.

Eighty people, Mr. Speaker, have been murdered so far in 2014. In the last year alone, two police officers—Officer Rod Bradway and Officer Perry Renn—were senselessly gunned down in the line of duty.

Enough is enough. I am calling on my fellow Hoosiers to end this violence, and I am asking my colleagues here in Congress and in the administration for help.

With violence on the rise, police levels in Indianapolis have dropped below 1,500 officers, the lowest number in 7 years. We need increased funding for law enforcement and programs that keep our children off of our streets. We need the resources to not only combat crime, but prevent it from happening in the first place.

It is time for us to end the violence and make our streets safe again.

BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 661, I call up the bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 113-517, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4718

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BONUS DEPRECIATION MODIFIED AND MADE PERMANENT.

(a) MADE PERMANENT; INCLUSION OF QUALIFIED RETAIL IMPROVEMENT PROPERTY.—Section 168(k)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(2) QUALIFIED PROPERTY.—For purposes of this subsection—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified property' means property—

"(i)(I) to which this section applies which has a recovery period of 20 years or less,

"(II) which is computer software (as defined in section 167(f)(1)(B)) for which a deduction is allowable under section 167(a) without regard to this subsection,

"(III) which is water utility property,

"(IV) which is qualified leasehold improvement property, or

"(V) which is qualified retail improvement property, and

"(ii) the original use of which commences with the taxpayer.

"(B) EXCEPTION FOR ALTERNATIVE DEPRECIATION PROPERTY.—The term 'qualified property' shall not include any property to which the alternative depreciation system under subsection (g) applies, determined—

"(i) without regard to paragraph (7) of subsection (g) (relating to election to have system apply), and

"(ii) after application of section 280F(b) (relating to listed property with limited business use).

"(C) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(i) SALE-LEASEBACKS.—For purposes of clause (ii) and subparagraph (A)(ii), if property is—

"(I) originally placed in service by a person, and

"(II) sold and leased back by such person within 3 months after the date such property was originally placed in service, such property shall be treated as originally placed in service not earlier than the date on which such property is used under the lease-back referred to in subclause (II).

"(ii) SYNDICATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), if—

"(I) property is originally placed in service by the lessor of such property,

"(II) such property is sold by such lessor or any subsequent purchaser within 3 months

after the date such property was originally placed in service (or, in the case of multiple units of property subject to the same lease, within 3 months after the date the final unit is placed in service, so long as the period between the time the first unit is placed in service and the time the last unit is placed in service does not exceed 12 months), and

"(III) the user of such property after the last sale during such 3-month period remains the same as when such property was originally placed in service, such property shall be treated as originally placed in service not earlier than the date of such last sale.

"(D) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 280F.—For purposes of section 280F—

"(i) AUTOMOBILES.—In the case of a passenger automobile (as defined in section 280F(d)(5)) which is qualified property, the Secretary shall increase the limitation under section 280F(a)(1)(A)(i) by \$8,000.

"(ii) LISTED PROPERTY.—The deduction allowable under paragraph (1) shall be taken into account in computing any recapture amount under section 280F(b)(2).

"(iii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2014, the \$8,000 amount in clause (i) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

"(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by

"(II) the automobile price inflation adjustment determined under section 280F(d)(7)(B)(i) for the calendar year in which such taxable year begins by substituting '2013' for '1987' in subclause (II) thereof.

If any increase under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$100, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

"(E) DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.—For purposes of determining alternative minimum taxable income under section 55, the deduction under section 167 for qualified property shall be determined without regard to any adjustment under section 56."

(b) EXPANSION OF ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—Section 168(k)(4) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(4) ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a corporation elects to have this paragraph apply for any taxable year—

"(i) paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(D)(i), and (5)(A)(i) shall not apply for such taxable year,

"(ii) the applicable depreciation method used under this section with respect to any qualified property shall be the straight line method, and

"(iii) the limitation imposed by section 53(c) for such taxable year shall be increased by the bonus depreciation amount which is determined for such taxable year under subparagraph (B).

"(B) BONUS DEPRECIATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The bonus depreciation amount for any taxable year is an amount equal to 20 percent of the excess (if any) of—

"(I) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be allowed under this section for qualified property placed in service by the taxpayer during such taxable year if paragraph (1) applied to all such property, over

"(II) the aggregate amount of depreciation which would be allowed under this section for qualified property placed in service by the taxpayer during such taxable year if

paragraph (1) did not apply to any such property.

The aggregate amounts determined under subclauses (I) and (II) shall be determined without regard to any election made under subsection (b)(2)(D), (b)(3)(D), or (g)(7) and without regard to subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(ii) **LIMITATION.**—The bonus depreciation amount for any taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of—

“(I) 50 percent of the minimum tax credit under section 53(b) for the first taxable year ending after December 31, 2013, or

“(II) the minimum tax credit under section 53(b) for such taxable year determined by taking into account only the adjusted net minimum tax for taxable years ending before January 1, 2014 (determined by treating credits as allowed on a first-in, first-out basis).

“(iii) **AGGREGATION RULE.**—All corporations which are treated as a single employer under section 52(a) shall be treated—

“(I) as 1 taxpayer for purposes of this paragraph, and

“(II) as having elected the application of this paragraph if any such corporation so elects.

“(C) **CREDIT REFUNDABLE.**—For purposes of section 6401(b), the aggregate increase in the credits allowable under part IV of subchapter A for any taxable year resulting from the application of this paragraph shall be treated as allowed under subpart C of such part (and not any other subpart).

“(D) **OTHER RULES.**—

“(i) **ELECTION.**—Any election under this paragraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(ii) **PARTNERSHIPS WITH ELECTING PARTNERS.**—In the case of a corporation which is a partner in a partnership and which makes an election under subparagraph (A) for the taxable year, for purposes of determining such corporation's distributive share of partnership items under section 702 for such taxable year—

“(I) paragraphs (1)(A), (2)(D)(i), and (5)(A)(i) shall not apply, and

“(II) the applicable depreciation method used under this section with respect to any qualified property shall be the straight line method.

“(iii) **CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS.**—In the case of a partnership in which more than 50 percent of the capital and profits interests are owned (directly or indirectly) at all times during the taxable year by 1 corporation (or by corporations treated as 1 taxpayer under subparagraph (B)(iii)), each partner shall compute its bonus depreciation amount under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by taking into account its distributive share of the amounts determined by the partnership under subclauses (I) and (II) of such clause for the taxable year of the partnership ending with or within the taxable year of the partner.”.

(c) **SPECIAL RULES FOR TREES AND VINES BEARING FRUITS AND NUTS.**—Section 168(k) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) **SPECIAL RULES FOR TREES AND VINES BEARING FRUITS AND NUTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any tree or vine bearing fruits or nuts which is planted, or is grafted to a plant that has already been planted, by the taxpayer in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's farming business (as defined in section 263A(e)(4))—

“(i) a depreciation deduction equal to 50 percent of the adjusted basis of such tree or vine shall be allowed under section 167(a) for

the taxable year in which such tree or vine is so planted or grafted, and

“(ii) the adjusted basis of such tree or vine shall be reduced by the amount of such deduction.

“(B) **ELECTION OUT.**—If a taxpayer makes an election under this subparagraph for any taxable year, this paragraph shall not apply to any tree or vine planted or grafted during such taxable year. An election under this subparagraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(C) **ADDITIONAL DEPRECIATION MAY BE CLAIMED ONLY ONCE.**—If this paragraph applies to any tree or vine, such tree or vine shall not be treated as qualified property in the taxable year in which placed in service.

“(D) **COORDINATION WITH ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS.**—If a corporation makes an election under paragraph (4) for any taxable year, the amount under paragraph (4)(B)(i)(I) for such taxable year shall be increased by the amount determined under subparagraph (A)(i) for such taxable year.

“(E) **DEDUCTION ALLOWED IN COMPUTING MINIMUM TAX.**—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (2)(E) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.”.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 168(e)(8) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) Section 168(k) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) **ELECTION OUT.**—If a taxpayer makes an election under this paragraph with respect to any class of property for any taxable year, this subsection shall not apply to all property in such class placed in service (or, in the case of paragraph (5), planted or grafted) during such taxable year. An election under this paragraph may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary.”.

(3) Section 168(l)(5) of such Code is amended by striking “section 168(k)(2)(G)” and inserting “section 168(k)(2)(E)”.

(4) Section 263A(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) **COORDINATION WITH SECTION 168(k)(5).**—This section shall not apply to any amount allowable as a deduction by reason of section 168(k)(5) (relating to special rules for trees and vines bearing fruits and nuts).”.

(5) Section 460(c)(6)(B) of such Code is amended by striking “which—” and all that follows and inserting “which has a recovery period of 7 years or less.”.

(6) Section 168(k) of such Code is amended by striking “ACQUIRED AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2007, AND BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014” in the heading thereof.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2013.

(2) **EXPANSION OF ELECTION TO ACCELERATE AMT CREDITS IN LIEU OF BONUS DEPRECIATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The amendment made by subsection (b) (other than so much of such amendment as relates to section 168(k)(4)(D)(iii) of such Code, as added by such amendment) shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2013.

(B) **TRANSITIONAL RULE.**—In the case of a taxable year beginning before January 1, 2014, and ending after December 31, 2013, the bonus depreciation amount determined under section 168(k)(4) of such Code for such year shall be the sum of—

(i) such amount determined without regard to the amendments made by this section and—

(I) by taking into account only property placed in service before January 1, 2014, and

(II) by multiplying the limitation under section 168(k)(4)(C)(ii) of such Code (determined without regard to the amendments made by this section) by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of days in the taxable year before January 1, 2014, and the denominator of which is the number of days in the taxable year, and

(ii) such amount determined after taking into account the amendments made by this section and—

(I) by taking into account only property placed in service after December 31, 2013, and

(II) by multiplying the limitation under section 168(k)(4)(B)(ii) of such Code (as amended by this section) by a fraction the numerator of which is the number of days in the taxable year after December 31, 2013, and the denominator of which is the number of days in the taxable year.

(3) **SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN TREES AND VINES.**—The amendment made by subsection (c)(2) shall apply to trees and vines planted or grafted after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4718.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our current Tax Code is a wet blanket on this economy. It puts our businesses, their workers, and their products at a severe disadvantage. In this current climate, businesses aren't growing and hardworking Americans are seeing stagnant wages and fewer hours.

Adding insult to injury, the United States is the only country that allows important pieces of its Tax Code to expire. The result: businesses and their workers are left constantly guessing whether certain policies will be around next year, hurting their ability to plan for the future.

The National Association of Manufacturers told Congress that the “expiration of bonus depreciation at the end of 2013 has had a chilling effect on the

economy.” This statement is clearly supported by the fact that for the first 3 months of 2014 total capital investment across the country fell by almost 12 percent, a major factor in why the entire U.S. economy contracted by nearly 3 percent.

A survey of NAM members found that nearly a third of business owners would not make any investments this year without bonus depreciation and section 79 expensing, which the House voted on a bipartisan basis to make permanent in May.

The legislation we have before us today would provide a permanent 50 percent bonus depreciation deduction and make the deduction available to more farmers and business owners across the country.

In Congress, we always find a way to make things more complicated, but today we can enact a simple, bipartisan provision that provides an immediate incentive for businesses to invest and hire new workers. Bonus depreciation has received longstanding bipartisan support and has been renewed on a short-term basis 9 out of the last 12 years. After so many years of this policy being in place, it is time for us to agree that we should make it permanent so businesses can do what they do best: invest in the economy and hire new workers.

The effects of making bonus depreciation permanent are real. Analysis done by the Tax Foundation found that permanent bonus depreciation would grow the economy by 1 percent, which would add \$182 billion to the economy; would increase capital stock by over 3 percent; would increase wages by about 1 percent, or \$500 for an individual making \$50,000 a year; and would create 212,000 jobs.

Growing a healthier economy, creating jobs, and helping Americans see bigger paychecks is exactly what this country needs.

Making 50 percent bonus depreciation permanent is supported by associations representing a variety of industries: farmers, telecommunications, manufacturers, energy, construction, retailers, and technology. Over 100 groups have voiced their support for bonus depreciation stating that it “will provide an immediate incentive for businesses to make additional capital investments, thereby boosting the U.S. economy and job creation.”

This provision has gained strong bipartisan support in the past, as have many of the permanent tax policies the House has voted on this year. By making longstanding features of the Tax Code permanent, we can facilitate a comprehensive overhaul of the Tax Code. Such an overhaul in turn will create an America that works with a strong, vibrant economy. Today’s vote will bring the immediate economic relief so many businesses and hard-working taxpayers are asking for.

I urge my colleagues to join us in making a stronger, healthier economy by passing this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order against the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a copy of the Budget Act of 1974. If you look at section 311, it is entitled, “Enforcement of Budget Aggregates.”

The bill before us, Mr. Speaker, violates that section of the Budget Act because it cuts the revenues below the levels that were set forth in the Republican budget that was passed on this House floor with much fanfare on May 15. The bill before us does not keep the revenues at those levels.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of this point of order, to point out that on May 15 of this year Chairman RYAN, chairman of the Budget Committee, filed a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reporting the current revenue level for fiscal year 2015 and the remainder of the budget window.

□ 0915

And this is what he said when he filed that. This is, Mr. Speaker, in the RECORD of May 15, page H4428. This is what Mr. RYAN said:

“This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution’s aggregate levels.”

This piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, clearly violates that provision of the statute of section 311(a) of the Budget Act because it increases the deficit to the taxpayer by \$287 billion above what was cited in the budget resolution adopted by this House. It is a clear breach of the rule.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask that the point of order be sustained and that the House Republicans have to live up to their own budget resolution which, as I say, they passed with much fanfare not that long ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that the gentleman’s position has absolutely no merit after the failures of this administration to grow the economy and create jobs. We have an economy that is contracting. We have more kids living at home than ever before. We have real wages declining.

After the failure of the policies of this administration to get the economy moving—

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CAMP. I do not yield.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan will suspend.

Does the gentleman from Michigan wish to direct his comments to the point of order?

Mr. CAMP. I do.

After the failures of the policies of this administration, the House has spoken, and the gentleman’s position has absolutely no merit.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, further on the point of order, the gentleman from Michigan clearly wasn’t addressing any of the issues raised in the point of order.

I would ask the gentleman about section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which is what this point of order is based on. Let’s talk about the point of order.

The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee voted for the House Budget Act. He voted for it, and now he is bringing to the floor of the House a provision that violates the same Budget Act that that budget was passed pursuant to.

So, Mr. Speaker, let’s continue to focus on this point of order because what we have here is a situation where Republicans came to this House floor not long ago, passed that budget, and are now here on the floor today with another bill that violates the Budget Act’s section 311(a).

So I would like a ruling on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Maryland makes a point of order against consideration of the bill. Any such point of order is untimely at this point. The gentleman from Maryland is free to engage in debate on the bill.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Is the point of order as a result of the fact that the Republicans apparently passed a rule that waives section 311(a) of the Budget Act?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The legislation before the House is already under consideration. Therefore, the gentleman’s point of order is not timely. The gentleman’s point of order would have had to have been made before the legislation was being considered.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Did the Republican rule—the rule that was brought to the floor of the House—include a provision that waived section 311(a) of the Budget Act?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may consult House Resolution 661 for the answer to that question.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I am looking at that, and it does indicate to me that the House Republican rule actually waived the statutory provision that requires that the bill that they brought to the floor comply with their own budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry. The gentleman was free to make those points during debate either on the rule or during the consideration of the legislation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I just would point out, Mr. Speaker, that here is exactly what happened. The rule—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland will suspend.

The gentleman from Maryland is not recognized.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN raises such an important point. What is being done here is totally inconsistent, and I will come to that a bit later, but what is really important today about this bill is not what is being done here, but what is not being done here.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN points out how inconsistent this bill is. But no matter how inconsistent, it is going nowhere. And it should go nowhere.

Essentially, what it does is to make permanent what has always been considered temporary. Bonus depreciation, which has been temporarily enacted during the previous two recessions to help assist the economy during the short term—that is what it has been—allows companies to write off investments more quickly than normal, providing them an incentive to make capital investments now rather than later. And that incentive actually disappears when the provision is made permanent. That is why CRS has said its temporary nature “is critical to its effectiveness.”

Secondly, it is unpaid for. Talk about consistency, talk about a budget bill that talks about the importance of deficit reduction, and here you have the Republicans proposing a bill that would add \$287 billion in debt. That would bring the total of the bills that the Republicans have brought forth here to over \$500 billion.

When all is said and done, House Republicans will have added more than \$1 trillion to the deficit by permanently extending a select group of corporate tax cuts.

But let me just say I must confess I am amazed at the inconsistency of this position. It was 5 months ago in the chairman's and the Republican Ways and Means draft that they proposed to

eliminate this provision entirely. Bonus depreciation was gone. And now they come forth and they say, Let's make it permanent.

That gives inconsistency a bad name. It is appalling. It is really also dangerous. And let me indicate why.

The more than \$500 billion in tax spending that the House Republicans will have approved today is the equivalent of what we spent last year on all nondefense domestic discretionary spending, which Republicans have cut so deeply in recent years that it is at its lowest level on record as a percentage of GDP. That includes spending for such vital domestic priorities as health research, food safety, and veterans' health.

Left unaddressed in this approach with the Republicans are key domestic priorities such as the New Markets Tax Credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and the renewable energy tax credits.

So here we are.

Unfortunately, this bill is going nowhere. There likely will be an extension of bonus depreciation in an extender package, if we ever get to it, but for a short period of time, costing a fraction of this bill.

So what is really important today is not a bill that is going nowhere—and should go nowhere—but for what is not being done.

I just want to list what is not being done.

We have immigration reform. A Senate bill is not being brought up by the House Republicans. On unemployment insurance, a Senate bill providing help for those looking for work is not brought up here.

The employment nondiscrimination bill, the Senate bill is not brought up here. Paycheck fairness is not brought up. A minimum wage bill is not brought up.

We have the Ex-Im Bank caught in the contest and the conflicts within the Republican Conference. We also have a highway bill we are going to get next week with another patch because of the inability of the House Republicans to face up to the need for a long-term highway bill. And voting rights reform, you have a bill sponsored by a senior Republican in this House, and it has not seen the light of day.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to finish by saying how appalling it is that the Republicans come forth and say, Let's make it permanent, unpaid for, costing \$287 billion, when in the proposal that they put forth, this provision would have been eliminated.

That is 180 degrees in a split second. It just shows, I think, the hypocrisy of bringing this bill up, made especially hypocritical when there has been this utter failure to address all of these other legislative proposals, many of which have passed the Senate.

So we are going through the motions here today. It is really a sad moment for this institution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) control the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. TIBERI. Thank you, Chairman CAMP, for your leadership on this important issue and your leadership on the tax-writing committee. If we would have had similar leadership in the Senate and at the White House, we would have a different discussion today, and that would be one on comprehensive tax reform.

Unfortunately, we are not having that discussion because there hasn't been leadership. In fact, there has been zero leadership from this White House. And after 5½ years of this President being in the White House, he still doesn't want to take responsibility for this economy. Taxes are higher. We have more regulations. We have an economy that is sputtering along. In fact, the facts are that the first quarter of this year, our economy retracted.

This bill is a jobs bill. It is that simple. It is a jobs bill. We have had bonus depreciation since 2002. This isn't new. It has been in the Tax Code under temporary law since 2002, and extended many times—many times, retroactively. It expired, ladies and gentlemen, in December.

I was talking to a CFO of a large American manufacturer this week, and he said to me, You understand that when you retroactively do this, it doesn't help our economy.

□ 0930

When you only do it, in essence, for 1 year, which is the narrative that my friends on the other side of the aisle are acquiescing to, in that this is a fruitless waste of time because we should just accept the Senate bill that passed out of the Senate Finance Committee at the end of the year, which will retroactively extend bonus depreciation back to January of this year for another year—next year, 2015—that doesn't do a whole lot to grow our economy.

It is better than a sharp stick in the eye, 1 year; yet, if you talk to a CFO, like I did this week and as I have over and over and over again, a business plan is for several years.

When a business owner who is a manufacturer buys a piece of machinery to make a widget, it costs a lot of money. This expense is 50 percent of that, Mr. Speaker.

Guess what? You can make more widgets, and you can hire a new employee. The new employee makes

money, pays taxes to the city of Columbus, pays taxes to the State of Ohio, pays taxes to the Federal Government—more tax revenue, a job, more jobs.

That is why hundreds of businesses and organizations are for this piece of legislation, which has been around—unpaid for—for 10 years.

I mean, think of the logic here, ladies and gentlemen. If we extend spending, we tell the American people that it doesn't cost them any more money. If we extend a current tax cut—so stopping a tax hike—it costs them more money. That is Washington, D.C., math. It makes no sense. That is the inconsistency.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is this is about jobs; this is about our economy. This is bipartisan. It doesn't need to be partisan. I have said before that I don't want to give up my voting card to the U.S. Senate. Let the House speak.

Let's have a good, old-fashioned conference committee. I don't expect I will get my way. I know Chairman CAMP doesn't expect he will get his way. We will have a good, old-fashioned compromise. I know that is a dirty word sometimes around here.

As my sixth grade daughter says: Isn't it supposed to work where the House passes a bill, and the Senate passes a bill, then you kind of work out the differences, and it goes to the President?

Yes, Angelina, that is the way it is supposed to work.

I wish the folks on the other side of the aisle would allow us to change this narrative of the Senate won't accept this, so let's just take the Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), another member of our committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, Republicans say they would like to help, but they claim we just don't have enough resources for medical research in order to address cures for Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and other dread diseases—diabetes, for example.

Wildfire season is approaching, and there are not enough resources to begin planning to prevent those wildfires because there is not enough money to actually address the fires when they begin, and delay is occurring.

We have hurricane season and tornadoes all over the country, but there is not enough money for the National Weather Service to give us all of the details we need.

Only yesterday, we learned that Republicans were refusing, once again, to correct the bankrupt transportation fund. The best they can do is postpone the bankruptcy into next year—after the election—as our highways crumble and bridges literally fall down.

As for the comprehensive safety inspection of our food and our drugs, they would like to do it, but there is just not enough money, and there are not enough funds available to monitor effectively infectious diseases or to produce vaccines to stop other diseases.

There is not enough to adequately staff our Federal prisons. There is not enough to fully fund Federal law enforcement. There is certainly not enough to provide strong, effective foster care for the many children, after having been abused and neglected, who are removed from their homes.

As for workforce development, so that we can be competitive with our friends abroad, there doesn't seem to be the resource to permit children from pre-K to postgrad to achieve their full God-given potential.

While there are so many vital needs that we just don't seem to have the resources to address, these same Republicans tell us today that we can afford to borrow from the Chinese or the Saudis—or whoever will lend to us—the resources to deliver bonuses to some people. They urge more public debt to fund more bonuses.

While they rightfully argue on every expenditure program that we should be looking for evidence-based programs—programs that actually work and that provide the promised outcomes—and that we ought to eliminate duplication and inefficiency, they have absolutely no interest in evidence-based tax expenditures, which is what is involved today. When the evidence conflicts with their ideology, they abandon evidence and pursue ideology.

The evidence-based approach to this particular expenditure could not be clearer. What is involved here is that when any business goes out and obtains machinery, a vehicle, a truck, a building, they depreciate it over the useful lifetime of that asset—standard accounting principles.

What is involved here today is Washington math. It is the Washington manipulation of traditional accounting rules. It is a matter of violating those traditional accounting rules, and we have learned from the economic studies that that is a very sorry, not evidence-based investment.

Indeed, even as a stimulus, the analysis shows that, for every dollar that is invested, we get 20 cents of growth. A fellow could go bankrupt with that kind of economics, and that is exactly what they would have the country doing and not meeting its other needs while funding something that doesn't work.

Both the Federal Reserve bank and Goldman Sachs—which is not exactly a Democratic organization—concluded this year that letting this special tax treatment expire that they want to make permanent and extend forever will not have any significant economic impact.

Today's bill is an example of the very kind of waste and inefficiency line items that they always say, in campaign rallies, they can discover and eliminate, but which, today, they are perpetuating.

I am for a pro-growth, pro-jobs creation set of government policies—including tax policies—that promote competitiveness. It is competitiveness that involves an adequate transportation system, a trained workforce, the research in medicine as well as in technology to help us compete, but we don't have the Federal resources to hand out one bonus after another to corporations when we know it won't work, when it will not grow our economy and at the same time that the same people who are advocating for policies that don't work refuse to pay for policies that do work.

We should reject this bill. It is not in the interest of the country. It may be good politics in an election year, but it is bad economic policy, as near every economist who has looked at the issue in an objective way has concluded.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and an outstanding member of the Select Revenue Subcommittee.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that short-term tax policy is bad for business, bad for the economy, and bad for jobs, yet we have heard today from our friends on the other side of the aisle a couple of things.

Number one, some have argued that we are too busy, and there are too many other things to be dealing with in Congress and so forth, and we ought to be doing other things rather than this. I guess you could make that argument. I don't think it is really persuasive. We can do all of these things, and they are not mutually exclusive.

There is some argument that said that this proposal somehow is a manipulation. That is how the gentleman from Texas described it. I think the manipulation is having something in the Tax Code that we know we need to make permanent and not making it permanent, so let's manipulate the adverse effect out of the Tax Code. That is what we should be doing.

There are some who have said that this is insignificant. I heard that a couple of minutes ago. This is not insignificant. According to the Tax Foundation, they say:

Permanent bonus depreciation would grow the economy by 1 percent.

That is not insignificant.

It would increase capital stock by over 3 percent.

That is not insignificant.

It would increase wages by 1 percent, and it would create over 200,000 jobs.

That is not insignificant. That is according to the Tax Foundation.

So what is the choice? The choice is to vote “no” and walk away from that type of growth, Mr. Speaker. Now, who would do that?

You get these types of numbers, according to the Tax Foundation, by just pushing the green button. You get that type of growth by voting “yes” and then by getting out of the way and letting the economy come back.

The gentleman from Ohio is not over-characterizing this. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI)—who has great insight, by the way—is not somebody who is saying this is the panacea, and it all goes away. That was the hype we heard during the stimulus debate.

Do you remember that, Mr. Speaker? It was the characterization of, if you just spend \$1 trillion, it is all going to be roses after that. There is hardly anybody who uses the word “stimulus” anymore on the other side of the aisle with a straight arrow. It has been completely eviscerated from the talking points of the White House.

The point is we can do something significant today—not monumental, not colossal—but to characterize the type of growth that the Tax Foundation has said this will yield to as “insignificant” is either not a clear view of economic reality or it is just too dismissive and too much a view that we can just be saviors in this situation.

We can do some good things today, and we can support the gentleman from Ohio. We can make permanent this proposal, and we can move this economy forward.

I urge an “aye” vote.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

To the gentleman from Illinois, I favor long-term tax reform. He helped produce a long-term proposal that eliminated this provision. It eliminated it.

Now, you come down and say you want to make it permanent. I guess I can't speak directly to you.

Mr. ROSKAM. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. ROSKAM. You make a fair point, and that is that permanency is something that we need to strive for. You and I would be on common ground with the idea of permanently fixing this provision.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Michigan has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself another minute.

Mr. ROSKAM. Will the gentleman yield 20 seconds?

Mr. LEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. ROSKAM. I take your point that permanency is a good thing.

Mr. LEVIN. I said “long-term.”

My point is you, 6 months ago, helped produce a package that elimi-

nated this provision, and now, you come here, and you say you want it permanent. This is acrobatics. This is congressional acrobatics.

You are just spinning in an opposite direction, and you are making this place a circus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this place is riddled with ironies from week to week, and this week is no different.

Yesterday, the Ways and Means Committee was working on a markup of legislation for another short-term extension of the highway trust fund—the transportation and infrastructure investment we desperately need in this country.

We were scratching and clawing to try to find an additional \$10 billion over the next 10 months to try to keep some of these projects moving forward; and here, today, we have another permanent change to the Tax Code at a cost of \$287 billion over the next 10 years and not a nickel of it paid for—no offset, no effort to pay for this at all; yet our roads are deteriorating, and our bridges are falling down.

We are literally becoming a Third World nation when it comes to our infrastructure system, and I am afraid that is becoming an insult to Third World countries today. We are turning into a Fourth World nation when it comes to our infrastructure.

Instead of having this fruitless debate on the floor yet again, knowing that this legislation won't be moving forward, we ought to be having a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee to develop consensus on a 6-year transportation bill that every State desperately needs in our country, but we are not doing that. In fact, the easiest thing to do during an election year, apparently, is to support tax cuts without paying for them.

Every economist and virtually every business owner will tell you that, substantively, this doesn't make any sense either. The whole point of bonus depreciation is to try to spur capital investment at a time when the marketplace has frozen up, and it is the fear of uncertainty that is preventing business owners from moving forward on their capital purchases.

□ 0945

You take away that temporary nature of bonus depreciation and you ruin the whole desired effect of what you are trying to accomplish.

But I have a feeling that the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP, and others in the committee, they already know this, and that is why, earlier this year, when they introduced their comprehensive tax reform discussion draft, they completely eliminated bonus depreciation.

And not only that, they clawed back the accelerated depreciation, which is the basis of this as well, in order to help pay for a lowering of rates overall.

I would submit, of the 14 tax bills that would permanently change the Code that have been reported out of the committee so far at a cost of close to \$900 billion, none of which is being proposed, if we support those measures and they get enacted into law, we might as well kiss comprehensive tax reform good-bye, because the tools that we will need to be able to lower the rates and broaden the base and make our Code more competitive are taken away from us. If you permanently extend bonus depreciation, you take away an important tool when we do run into recessionary times when businesses may need an additional incentive to invest capital and get off the sidelines.

That hasn't been the problem here. Since 2002, we have had bonus depreciation. We have got a track record now. You look back on it. Most economists will tell you it has been dubious, at best.

The 2000s were the worst job growth decade in our Nation's history. When President Bush left office in 2008, he had a net negative job growth during those 8 years when he was in office.

Since bonus depreciation expired at the end of last year, we have been averaging, every month, close to 240,000 additional private sector jobs being created in our economy today. That is without bonus depreciation being in place.

So what we ought to be doing today is having a serious discussion of how we can come together as an institution and find a way to help pay for a 6-year infrastructure bill that will create jobs, that will start spurring the economic activity that we desperately need, that will lay the foundation for long-term economic growth with a viable infrastructure system that is there to sustain it, rather than having another debate that we know is going nowhere.

And that is unfortunate because we do—and I agree with my friend from Texas, we need a pro-growth, competitive economic policy for the American people, one that recognizes reform the Tax Code to help our businesses, large and small, to be more competitive globally, but one that also recognizes that there are important public investments that we have to make as a nation in order to ensure the type of growth in the future.

Part of that is the infrastructure investment that is being neglected, or 23 extensions merely being kicked down the road with short-term measures. Part of it is having a top-flight, quality education system and a workforce development system so that we have got the best educated, best trained workforce in order to compete with increased global competition. It is

broadband expansion in every inch of our territory. It is basic research funding. It is these type of things that, yes, we are going to need some resources in order to do an effective job.

But we keep coming to the floor, week after week, calling for permanent changes to the Tax Code without any ability to pay for it, that is going to hinder our flexibility in the future to really spur the type of economic growth and job creation that we desperately need.

I encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on this. Let’s start coming together on a real pro-growth strategy and work on the jobs that we desperately need.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume, and then I will yield to Mr. ROSKAM.

To the American people it must be really confusing. So we have had bonus depreciation, this tax policy, temporary for over 10 years, unpaid for; supported by many on the other side of the aisle, unpaid for; temporary, many times retroactive. And yet, moving that policy forward for 10 more years, the same way it has been paid for over 10 years, costs money, bad policy, even though we are giving for the first time certainty, predictability to people who actually create jobs in America, who must have a business plan and must make those big purchases. Amazing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to address two of the criticisms that I heard from my colleague.

The gentleman from Michigan makes a fair point about permanency. Look, permanency is a great goal. Permanency in tax reform is an outstanding goal. In this current environment it becomes clear that the President of the United States has made raising marginal rates a precondition for tax reform. We are of the view that that doesn’t help grow the economy. The President clings to his orthodoxy that it does, and so it is not likely that this is going to be—a massive tax reform effort is going to be completed.

So then the alternative is, all right, well, so what do you do in the meantime? I think in the meantime what we do is we make this provision permanent. It keeps open the opportunity for us to revisit tax reform in the future. But we ought not to be leaving the types of numbers that I mentioned a minute ago.

Just to refresh your recollection, Mr. Speaker, those numbers were, by voting “yes” on this, according to the Tax Foundation, it grows the economy by 1 percent, increases capital stock by over 3, increases wages by 1 percent, and creates over 200,000 jobs.

Now, the gentleman from Wisconsin made an interesting point. There were

several assertions, but one of them I found to be very, very broad. He says, substantively, this doesn’t make any sense. Those were his words. Those aren’t my words. Those were his words.

Now, think about that assertion, Mr. Speaker, in the context of dozens and dozens and dozens of business groups who say this does make sense, including, from his home State, the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce; the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association; American Farm Bureau; the Associated Equipment Dealers; Illinois Manufacturers’, from my home State; and, Mr. Speaker, from the great State of Kansas, which is near and dear to you, the Kansas Chamber of Commerce, all of which say that this makes sense.

This is not dubious, as the gentleman from Wisconsin said, that—what?—dozens of economists from all over the world have said, oh, this is a nefarious plot and it is completely not going to do anything. That is ridiculous. This is good.

The gentleman from Ohio has been working on this for months and months and months. And while it is not about him, he brings great insight to this debate. There is an opportunity, by voting “yes,” according to the Tax Foundation, to grow this economy. We should vote “aye.”

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Let the facts be shown: in 2006 and 2007, bonus depreciation expired, and it was renewed when the recession really took a hold. CRS has said research suggests that bonus depreciation was not very effective. We will renew it, but not for 10 years, costing \$287 billion made permanent.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), also a member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding.

The longer I listen to this discussion and debate, it reminds me of a game that children play: around and around and around we go, around the mulberry bush, because we keep going around and around and around.

I strongly oppose the bill that is before us that would make bonus depreciation permanent. Yes, I support bonus depreciation on a short-term basis to boost the economy if there is a letdown and to provide some incentives to do things that we might not be doing. But I cannot support adding \$287 billion to our deficit for a permanent corporate giveaway while tens of thousands of my constituents and tens of millions of Americans experience deep poverty, unemployment, and economic distress.

H.R. 4718 is a corporate giveaway that even the Republican tax reform bill repealed.

There is a tremendous need to incentivize economically distressed

communities like many parts of Chicago, other urban as well as rural areas, and those incentives have lapsed. They are threatened. We are not sure that they are going to be coming.

This bill continues the Republican legislative focus on the wrong issues, ignoring the key programs that create jobs, strengthen our citizens, and grow our economy.

Just imagine what unemployment insurance does. It allows the person who does not have a job—the knowledge that something is going to be coming—to go to the grocery store and buy milk or bread.

Or what happens when there is employment opportunities, if roads and bridges are being repaired? A person gets a sense of confidence that there might be work for them to do.

I remember a song several years ago about “Get a Job”; and the guy said that every day, when he reads the paper, he reads it through and through, trying to find out if there is any work for me to do, but his wife says, “Get a job.”

Individuals who have become totally upset because, no matter what they seem to do, there is no relief. So how could I vote for this bill when there are still 3.3 million long-term unemployed individuals who have not been aided?

I can’t go to church on Sunday or walk down the street without somebody asking me: When is Congress going to do something about our unemployment checks? Are they going to come?

Or they ask: When are the repairs going to be made on our roads and bridges? When are we going to get some new sidewalks? How do you fix the potholes that are erupting all over our community?

When are we going to really take care of the Medicare physician or doctors fix?

When are we going to stop irrational budget cuts that strangle education, research, and innovation?

When are we going to provide confidence and hope?

When are we going to stop the process where the rich continue to get rich and the poor continue to get poor, and the middle class gets squeezed in to where we almost create two groups and two categories of people: those who have much and those who have little?

So I would urge that we vote “no” on this bill and give confidence to the American people that their needs will be taken care of.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentlewoman from Kansas, I would like to submit, for the RECORD,

a letter from over 100 associations that represent thousands of employers and job creators, of whom represent hundreds of thousands of employees. In the letter they say, this piece of legislation that we are about to vote on today helps them create jobs and increases productivity.

JULY 9, 2014.

TO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned associations—and the companies we represent—appreciate the efforts of the House Ways and Means Committee to make permanent important tax provisions that expired at the end of 2013. In particular, we support swift action on legislation (H.R. 4718) to permanently extend bonus depreciation, creating a pro-investment tax climate that will spur much needed economic growth and jobs and provide a bridge to broader tax reform.

Continued uncertainty about bonus depreciation is discouraging investment in the United States and, in some cases, keeping companies totally on the sidelines. This impacts both companies that make investments and companies that manufacture capital equipment.

In contrast, since 2008, members of our associations have responded positively to the availability of 50 percent expensing, including an important part of the legislation allowing companies to utilize Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) credits in lieu of 50 percent expensing.

Many of our companies have been recognized for this commitment to domestic investment that creates jobs and increases productivity. Renewing bonus depreciation and the comparable AMT credit in lieu of bonus depreciation will provide an immediate incentive for businesses to make additional capital investments, thereby boosting the U.S. economy and job creation.

Thank you in advance for supporting this important legislation when it comes to the House floor for a vote later this week. Our associations and member companies will continue to support comprehensive tax reform, but until an agreement becomes effective, extending bonus depreciation is essential to maintaining the nation's economic momentum. In order to plan with certainty, companies must know as soon as possible what the tax rules for capital investment and job creation in America will be in 2014 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association; Aerospace Industries Association; Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; Airlines for America; American Boat Builders & Repairers Association; American Composites Manufacturers Association; American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association; American Farm Bureau Federation; American Foundry Society; American Lighting Association; American Petroleum Institute; American Trucking Associations; AMT—The Association For Manufacturing Technology; Arizona Manufacturers Council; Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce; Associated Equipment Distributors; Associated Industries of Arkansas; Associated Industries of Florida; Associated Industries of Missouri; Association of American Railroads.

Association of Equipment Manufacturers; Association of Washington Business; Auto Care Association; Biotechnology Industry Organization; Book Manufacturers' Institute, Inc.; California Manufacturers & Technology Association; Chemical Coaters Association International; Colorado Association

of Commerce & Industry; Corn Refiners Association; Council of Industry of Southeastern New York; CTTA—The Wireless Association; Forging Industry Association; Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association; General Aviation Manufacturers Association; Georgia Association of Manufacturers; Greater North Dakota Chamber; Illinois Manufacturers' Association; INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry; Indiana Manufacturers Association.

Industrial Energy Consumers of America; Industrial Fasteners Institute; Industrial Heating Equipment Association; Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries; Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute; International Sign Association; Iowa Association of Business and Industry; IPC—Association Connecting Electronics Industries; ISSA—The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association; ITTA—The Voice of Mid-Size Telecommunications Carriers; Kansas Chamber of Commerce; Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association; Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA); Metals Service Center Institute; Mississippi Manufacturers Association; Missouri Association of Manufacturers; Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association; National Air Transportation Association; National Association of Electrical Distributors; National Association of Manufacturers.

National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers; National Association of Trailer Manufacturers (NATM); National Automatic Merchandising Association; National Business Aviation Association; National Cable & Telecommunications Association; National Council for Advanced Manufacturing; National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); National Marine Manufacturers Association; National Mining Association; National Propane Gas Association; National Roofing Contractors Association; National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association; National Tooling and Machining Association; National Waste & Recycling Association; Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Nevada Manufacturers Association; New Jersey Business & Industry Association; Non-Ferrous Founders' Society; North American Die Casting Association; North Carolina Chamber.

NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Convening Technologies; NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association; Outdoor Power Equipment Institute; Portland Cement Association; Precision Machined Products Association; Precision Metalforming Association; Resilient Floor Covering Institute; Rhode Island Manufacturers Association; San Antonio Manufacturers Association; Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART); South Carolina Chamber of Commerce; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; Specialty Equipment Market Association; Specialty Graphics Imaging Association.

SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association; Steel Manufacturers Association; Texas Association of Manufacturers; Textile Rental Services Association; The Hardwood Federation; The State Chamber of Oklahoma; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; United States Telecom Association; USA Rice Federation; Valley Industrial Association; Window and Door Manufacturers Association; Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce; Woodworking Machinery Industry Association; World Alliance for Decentralized Energy.

Mr. TIBERI. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

□ 1000

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill to make 50 percent bonus depreciation permanent because it grows the economy and creates jobs. Short of comprehensive tax reform, a permanent extension of bonus depreciation is our best option to grow the economy, create jobs, and lift wages.

This bill is important to Kansas manufacturers and to Kansas farmers and ranchers. The Tax Foundation found that permanent bonus depreciation would grow the economy by 1 percent, adding \$182 million to the economy, increase wages, and create over 210,000 jobs. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this legislation will increase economic growth and could reduce the debt by as much as \$10 billion.

But, most importantly, today's bill moves our Tax Code in the right direction. It is broad-based in that it does not pick winners and losers and does not favor one type of investment over another. Simply, it favors investment in the types of capital that create jobs and put more money in people's pockets.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. NEAL. I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today with this faulty effort for one reason and one reason only: the failure of fundamental tax reform.

Now, a good-faith effort was made in terms of drafting the proposal, but it really didn't go anywhere.

I would note in this institution, known for its emotions, that the response of the Democratic minority to the Camp draft proposal was fairly muted, thinking that this might be a worthwhile start to an ongoing conversation that would be bipartisan and bicameral.

A good start, we had. The model that we embraced over 3 years really worked quite well. Without the glare of publicity, we actually had an adult conversation back and forth between the parties, the stakeholders, and heard from virtually everybody you could hear from.

Well, when the proposal was offered publicly, the response on the Republican side was one of histrionics—Well, you can't do this. And you can't do that. Well, let's not try this. And let's not do that—even though an academic exercise had been undertaken that was worthwhile. So tax reform was killed in the crib before there was even an opportunity to have a conversation.

Now, my friend from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) said that everybody on this side is afraid to use the word "stimulus."

Stimulus, stimulus, stimulus, stimulus. I am going to use it, and I am going to use it in the motion to recommit.

Stimulus has worked in America's economic history, when America actually did big things. Mr. Lincoln found time during the midst of the Civil War to do the Transcontinental Railroad. Mr. Roosevelt did the Panama Canal. Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Reagan did the Big Dig in Boston. These are worthwhile undertakings that need to be done, and not to shy away from the principle of economic growth under the guise of a remedy that has dubious economic consequences.

Now, let me say this as well. And I intend, in the motion to recommit, to speak to it.

Remember the days when tax policy here was done between the two parties? Remember when there was a healthy give-and-take, where we actually talked about our differences in the quiet of the Ways and Means room, still the most desired committee to sit on in the Congress?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. NEAL. The point that I make on this is very simple. We started out with a bona fide effort to do tax reform. This is not the way to do tax reform. We need to go back to the drawing table and draft a proposal that the American people will come to see as competitive and will highlight the role that optimism has always played in American public life.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Health Subcommittee chairman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TIBERI and Chairman CAMP for bringing this very important jobs bill to the floor.

The truth is, America's economy is really hurting. This is the slowest recovery, most disappointing recovery in half a century. We are missing about 5 million jobs from our economy. We have a lot of small businesses struggling. The average family of four in America is missing over \$1,000 a month from their paycheck, their budget because of this disappointing recovery.

So what is missing? Well, it is not government spending. That is above where it was in 2008. It is not family spending. That is above what it was. What we are missing is business investment. When businesses along Main Street buy new buildings, new equipment, and new software to make themselves more competitive, that is when jobs occur. And that is what is missing out of the economy.

What this bill does is make it more affordable for our local businesses to immediately write off, deduct from

their taxes a portion of what they buy in equipment and software and technology. That makes it more affordable, it allows them to do more of it, and that creates jobs along Main Street. And that is what this bill is all about, creating not government jobs, not temporary jobs, not stimulus jobs. This is about creating jobs along Main Street by letting our local businesses invest.

It has always been a bipartisan bill. This is an area that Republicans and Democrats agree on. Unfortunately, it is an election year. We are going to hear all of the arguments against it. But the truth is, our local businesses are struggling. They need this tax relief. And our economy needs the jobs because we are not going to get back to a balanced budget until we have more people working and more jobs created and more revenue coming in the door.

I commend our leadership for bringing this very important business bill, jobs bill, to the floor. And I urge Republicans and Democrats to come together to support it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to read the Statement of Administration Policy:

The administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 4718, which would permanently extend "bonus depreciation" rules that allow corporations to speed up deductions for certain investments and, thereby, delay tax payments. This provision was enacted in 2009 to provide short-term stimulus to the economy, and it was never intended to be a permanent corporate giveaway. Moreover, H.R. 4718 includes no offsets and would add \$287 billion to the deficit over the next 10 years, wiping out more than one-third of the deficit reduction achieved by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2013.

The deficit increase in H.R. 4718 is more than 20 times the cost of the proposed extension of emergency unemployment benefits, which Republicans are insisting be offset, and more than triple the discretionary funding increases for defense and nondefense priorities enacted in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which were offset. House Republicans also are making clear their priorities by rushing to make business tax cuts permanent without offsets, even as the House Republican budget resolution calls for raising taxes on 26 million working families and students by letting important improvements to the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and education tax credits expire.

The administration wants to work with the Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen the economy and help middle class families, including pro-growth business tax reform. However, making costly business tax cuts permanent without offsets represents the wrong approach.

If the President were presented with H.R. 4718, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. TIBERI. I yield myself such time as I may consume for my closing.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is very clear. As the gentleman from Massachusetts—who is a friend of mine and who I agree with on a lot—said we should be here to talk about comprehensive tax reform and not temporary tax policy.

In my years here in this United States Congress and my years, more importantly, on the Ways and Means Committee, there hasn't been a chairman that has been more bipartisan, more inclusive, and made a stronger effort to comprehensively reform our Tax Code than Chairman DAVE CAMP. If he would have had a partner in the White House and a partner in the Senate to move the ball along as far as he did, quite frankly, in a very bipartisan way, we wouldn't be here today.

But here are the facts: for the past 5½ years, Barack Obama has been the President of the United States of America. Here is a fact: the first quarter of this year, our economy retracted 2.9 percent.

This bill is a jobs bill. Simple enough. And, in fact, during my time on the Ways and Means Committee—putting Chairman CAMP aside—without Chairman CAMP, with other chairmen, we haven't had any bipartisanship. We haven't had tax bills. We didn't have an effort to comprehensively, in a bipartisan way, have a Tax Code rewritten. It has only been Chairman CAMP.

So we can talk about theory and academics. But here we are today, with one choice in an economy that is not near where any of us want it to be after 5½ years of Barack Obama as President.

We have a piece of legislation that we know creates jobs that for 10 out of the last 12 years hasn't been paid for. For 10 out of the last 12 years, it hasn't been paid for. And there is no benefit to job creators for long-term certainty. None. Zero.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have already submitted for the RECORD a list of hundreds of associations that represent thousands and thousands of employers around the country who create jobs for hundreds of thousands of employees who say this is one of the best job-creating tools they have.

I know people who want a job. They would rather have a job than unemployment insurance. They want a job really badly.

Something my dad said to me a long time ago when he lost his manufacturing job of 25 years: "The most important thing is a job." And that is how simple this is, ladies and gentlemen. That is how simple this is.

In 5½ years, we have higher taxes, more regulations. This is about jobs. This is what job creators want. Let's give them what they want. Let's go to the Senate. Let's have a conference committee. Let's work it out the good old-fashioned way.

I know the gentleman from Massachusetts and I, if we got locked in a room, we could work it out the good old-fashioned way. Let's do it.

I urge my colleagues, let's not make this partisan. Let's make this bipartisan, as it should be, as it has been, and go work with the Senate to get this done and help Americans get a job.

I yield back the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. NEAL. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Neal moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4718 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 3, line 22, strike “or”.

Page 3, line 24, strike “and” and insert “or”.

Page 3, after line 24, insert the following:

“(VI) which is qualified restaurant property, and”.

Page 4, line 2, strike the period and insert “, and”.

Page 4, after line 2, insert the following:

“(iii) which is placed in service by the taxpayer before January 1, 2016.”.

Page 13, line 20, strike the quotation marks and final period.

Page 13, after line 20, insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

“(F) TERMINATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to any tree or vine planted or grafted after December 31, 2015.”.

(d) SPECIAL RULE FOR INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.—Section 168(k) of such Code, as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) SPECIAL RULE FOR INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer which is, or is a member of an expanded affiliated group which includes, an inverted domestic corporation, paragraphs (1), (4), and (5) shall not apply.

“(B) INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—For purposes of paragraph (6), the term ‘inverted domestic corporation’ means any foreign corporation—

“(i) which, pursuant to a plan or a series of related transactions, completes after May 8, 2014, the direct or indirect acquisition of—

“(I) substantially all of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation, or

“(II) substantially all of the assets of, or substantially all of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership, and

“(ii) more than 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of which, after such acquisition, is held—

“(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation, or

“(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former

partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership, or

“(iii) the management and control of the expanded affiliated group of which, after such acquisition, occurs (directly or indirectly) primarily within the United States, and such expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities.

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR CORPORATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRY OF ORGANIZATION.—A foreign corporation shall not be treated as an inverted domestic corporation for purposes of this paragraph if after the acquisition the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity has substantial business activities in the foreign country in which or under the law of which the entity is created or organized when compared to the total business activities of such expanded affiliated group. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘substantial business activities’ shall have the meaning given such term under section 7874 regulations in effect on May 8, 2014, except that the Secretary may issue regulations increasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute substantial business activities for purposes of this subparagraph.

“(D) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii)—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an expanded affiliated group is to be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States. The regulations prescribed under the preceding sentence shall apply to periods after May 8, 2014.

“(ii) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—Such regulations shall provide that the management and control of an expanded affiliated group shall be treated as occurring, directly or indirectly, primarily within the United States if substantially all of the executive officers and senior management of the expanded affiliated group who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the expanded affiliated group are based or primarily located within the United States. Individuals who in fact exercise such day-to-day responsibilities shall be treated as executive officers and senior management regardless of their title.

“(E) SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(iii), an expanded affiliated group has significant domestic business activities if at least 25 percent of—

“(i) the employees of the group are based in the United States,

“(ii) the employee compensation incurred by the group is incurred with respect to employees based in the United States,

“(iii) the assets of the group are located in the United States, or

“(iv) the income of the group is derived in the United States,

determined in the same manner as such determinations are made for purposes of determining substantial business activities under regulations referred to in subparagraph (C) as in effect on May 8, 2014, but applied by treating all references in such regulations to ‘foreign country’ and ‘relevant foreign country’ as references to ‘the United States’. The Secretary may issue regulations decreasing the threshold percent in any of the tests under such regulations for determining if business activities constitute significant do-

mestic business activities for purposes of this paragraph.

“(F) EXPANDED AFFILIATED GROUP.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘expanded affiliated group’ has the meaning given such term in section 7874(c).”.

Mr. NEAL (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

□ 1015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my comments to the other side.

Mr. TIBERI, who is indeed my friend and a terrific guy, said that there is no partner at the White House. When we undertook this very significant proposal on tax reform, it wasn’t the White House; it was the Speaker of our House—the Speaker of this House—who said, “Blah, blah, blah.”

Now, I want to tell you that I am not bilingual, Mr. Speaker, but when you tell me blah, blah, blah, I get it. It ain’t going anywhere. To blame the White House when the Speaker of the House poured cold water on it is outrageous.

Now, we heard of several companies that have been proceeding with inversions. For those of you paying attention to this, it simply means that a company moves offshore, they declare that they are no longer a corporate citizen of America, but instead, they will reincorporate to a foreign address for the express purpose of avoiding American corporate income taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal that we have here is pretty simple. As they line up, the dam is breaking. I hear in the next few weeks that up to 47 companies—as the Congressional Research Service has pointed out—are lining up to leave. They include manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and financial services sectors.

We should be doing fundamental tax reform as Mr. CAMP laid out the proposal, but the issue of inversions and depreciation before us today, while seemingly unconnected, are intimately connected.

Mr. Speaker, given the Republican opposition to Chairman CAMP’s proposal, we cannot move forward on a House bill that reforms our Tax Code in a current or meaningful way at the moment, but we can address a very fundamental issue right here this morning without changing the nature of this legislation.

We can, in fact, address the issue by linking inversion to the purpose of

bonus depreciation, and through that, we can suggest that any company that moves offshore cannot take advantage of corporate inversion and bonus depreciation simultaneously. That is what we are proposing today.

Now, I have a history with bonus depreciation. Remember Nancy Johnson, a Republican Member; and Phil English, a Republican Member? I supported with them the use of bonus depreciation—as Mr. ROSKAM wanted to hear me say, stimulus, stimulus, stimulus.

On a short-term basis, bonus depreciation makes some sense, but not to make it permanent at the cost of \$867 billion.

Friends, to do bonus depreciation separate from fundamental tax reform is economic nonsense. We need a comprehensive look at the Code and remind ourselves that bonus depreciation is but the following: a tool in the toolbox to make economic repairs.

Now, this proposal that our Republican friends have today with this cost attached to it is the least defensible of all of the extender proposals that they have offered.

Our own Congressional Research Service says that you do bonus depreciation for a short-term purpose to provide an economic stimulus during a recession. It is “a temporary investment subsidy that is expected to be more effective than a permanent one for short-term stimulus . . . Its temporary nature is critical to its effectiveness.”

Now, this is important to remember here today. Chairman CAMP repealed bonus depreciation, period. Now, we are bringing it back to be made permanent on a Friday morning, with no thoughtful or deliberative discussion other than the Speaker of the House saying, “Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.”

What I am suggesting here today is that we cannot afford to spend \$825 billion on this hit-or-miss chance that we are taking to do fundamental tax reform in this way.

Mr. Speaker, let me get right to the nub of what we are proposing. What this motion to recommit does is it keeps bonus depreciation as always intended, a temporary tool in our toolbox in an economic downturn.

This motion is a commonsense piece of legislation that extends bonus depreciation for 2 years—2 years—in a thoughtful and deliberative way, then we go back to fundamental tax reform, and then we take it up in a much more integrated way.

Now, lastly, if you voted yesterday for the DeLauro amendment, you need to be consistent today and vote for this motion to recommit which addresses the DeLauro amendment and puts behind us this conversation of ad hoc tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order and seek time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. Well, I am pleased to hear that my colleague on the other side actually agrees with me that we need bonus depreciation because this motion to recommit extends that policy for 2 years.

The reason why I oppose this motion to recommit is because, again, this is temporary tax policy. We are the only nation in the world that allows important tax provisions to expire. We are alone on that. Nobody else does that. That is why it is so important that we make this policy permanent.

Let me just say that the economy is contracting 2.9 percent in the last quarter. It is not growing. We are going the wrong direction. We have people whose real incomes are declining. People are out of work. More kids are living at home than ever before. We need to do something permanent to get this economy growing.

Look, families are struggling in America. Let's do something pro-growth, something permanent. Certainly, we agree on the policy. You just don't want to do it for as long as we do.

We would like to make this permanent. We have done it for 10 years, and for all practical purposes, with the uncertainty, we have agreed that the policy should be permanent. When you do it for that long, it should be.

Let me just say, look, temporary policy never works. We have more than 100 associations and businesses representing millions of workers that have come forward and said: Please make this policy permanent, we support what you are doing, and we need it, so that we can have the certainty that we need to make investments.

Look, the Tax Foundation has said that if we do this, if we make this permanent, we will grow the economy by 1 percent, that we will add \$182 billion to the economy, we will increase stock, we will increase wages by 1 percent, which is \$500 for an individual making \$50,000 a year.

Let's give America a raise. Let's vote for this bill. Let's vote against this motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, let me just also say a lot of Americans know that the country is going in the wrong direction, but what they are really concerned about is they don't see us doing anything to make it better.

We can restore the American Dream and not have it be some remnant of the past if we support permanent tax policy.

Reject the temporary nature of this. Vote “no” on the motion to recommit, and vote for final passage on the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 229, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 403]

YEAS—191

Bass	Green, Gene	Nolan
Beatty	Grijalva	O'Rourke
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Owens
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pallone
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Pascarell
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Pastor (AZ)
Blumenauer	Higgins	Payne
Bonamici	Himes	Pelosi
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Braley (IA)	Holt	Peters (CA)
Brown (FL)	Honda	Peters (MI)
Brownley (CA)	Horsford	Peterson
Bustos	Hoyer	Pingree (ME)
Butterfield	Huffman	Pocan
Capps	Israel	Polis
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Quigley
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Rahall
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Rangel
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Keating	Ruiz
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Cicilline	Kennedy	Rush
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Ryan (OH)
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Sánchez, Linda
Clay	Kind	T.
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Clyburn	Kuster	Sarbanes
Cohen	Langevin	Schakowsky
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Costa	Levin	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Lewis	Scott, David
Crowley	Lipinski	Serrano
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lowey	Sires
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Slaughter
DeGette	(NM)	Smith (WA)
Delaney	Lujan, Ben Ray	Speier
DeLauro	(NM)	Swallowell (CA)
DelBene	Lynch	Takano
Deutch	Maffei	Thompson (CA)
Dingell	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
Doggett	Carolyn	Tierney
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Titus
Duckworth	Matheson	Tonko
Edwards	Matsui	Tsongas
Ellison	McCollum	Van Hollen
Engel	McDermott	Vargas
Enyart	McGovern	Veasey
Eshoo	McIntyre	Vela
Esty	McNerney	Velázquez
Farr	Meeks	Visclosky
Fattah	Meng	Walz
Foster	Michaud	Wasserman
Frankel (FL)	Miller, George	Schultz
Fudge	Moore	Waters
Gabbard	Moran	Waxman
Gallego	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Garamendi	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Garcia	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Grayson	Neal	
Green, Al	Negrete McLeod	

NAYS—229

Amash	Barber	Barton
Amodel	Barletta	Benishke
Bachmann	Barr	Bentivolio
Bachus	Barrow (GA)	Bilirakis

Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall

Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts

Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—12

Aderholt
Carney
DesJarlais
Graves (MO)

Hanabusa
Kingston
McCarthy (NY)
Meadows

Nunnelee
Pompeo
Richmond
Schiff

□ 1049

Messrs. STEWART and MULVANEY changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Messrs. PETERS of California and FARR changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 258, noes 160, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 404]

AYES—258

Amash
Amodel
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Bartletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivoglio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Horsford
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre

McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton

Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland

NOES—160

Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Grayson

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Maloney,
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schradner
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt
Carney
DesJarlais
Doyle
Graves (MO)

Hanabusa
Kingston
Lynch
McCarthy (NY)
Meadows

□ 1057

Mr. NEAL changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote 403: on Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 4923—I would have voted

"nay"; rollcall vote 404: on Passage of H.R. 4923—I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today, the eleventh day of July 2014, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall Nos. 403 & 404 due to a personal matter.

Had I been present, I would have voted against rollcall No. 403 and in favor of the underlying legislation of rollcall No. 404, H.R. 4718, Making Bonus Depreciation Permanent, introduced by Representative PAT TIBERI of Ohio.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST UNPROVOKED ROCKET ATTACKS FROM THE HAMAS TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 657, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 657

Whereas Hamas is a United States-designated terrorist organization whose charter calls for the destruction of the State of Israel;

Whereas Hamas continues to reject the Quartet's core principles—recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce violence, and accept previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

Whereas Hamas has killed hundreds of Israelis and dozens of Americans in rocket attacks and suicide bombings;

Whereas since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas and other terrorist groups have fired thousands of rockets at Israel;

Whereas since June 2014, Hamas has fired nearly 300 rockets at Israel;

Whereas Hamas's weapons arsenal includes approximately 12,000 rockets that vary in range;

Whereas innocent Israeli civilians are indiscriminately targeted by Hamas rocket attacks; and

Whereas 5 million Israelis are currently living under the threat of rocket attacks from Gaza: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend its citizens and ensure the survival of the State of Israel;

(2) condemns the unprovoked rocket fire at Israel; and

(3) calls on Hamas to immediately cease all rocket and other attacks against Israel.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

After the 6th clause of the preamble, insert the following:

Whereas Iran has long provided material support to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, including assistance that has enabled these terrorist organizations to produce longer-range rockets capable of striking Tel Aviv and Jerusalem;

In the 8th clause of the preamble (as so redesignated), strike "and" at the end.

After the 8th clause of the preamble (as so redesignated), insert the following:

Whereas the United States and Israel have cooperated on missile defense projects, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and the Arrow Anti-Missile System, projects designed to thwart a diverse range of threats, including short-range missiles and rockets fired by non-state actors, such as Hamas;

Whereas the United States has provided \$235,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 for Iron Dome research, development, and production;

Whereas, during the most recent rocket attacks from Gaza, Iron Dome has successfully intercepted dozens of rockets that were launched against Israeli population centers;

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1100

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule for the week to come, and I am pleased to yield to Mr. MCCARTHY, the majority leader-elect. I appreciate his stance. We had the opportunity to have lunch. I am hopeful that we can have a very productive relationship, as I am sure this House and the country is.

I am pleased to yield to my friend, Mr. MCCARTHY, the majority leader-elect.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I look forward to a very strong working relationship with you.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business. On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. On Friday, no votes are expected.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a few suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 5016, the fiscal year 2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, sponsored by Chairman ANDER CRENSHAW. Members are advised that debate on the bill and amendments will begin Monday night after the 6:30 p.m. vote series. Members are further advised that it is possible that we will have an additional vote series Monday night on amendments to the Financial Services Appropriations bill.

For the remainder of the week, the House will consider a package of five tax bills from Ways and Means that will help foster charitable giving. These five bills that will be included are H.R. 2807, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act of 2014, authored by Representative JIM GERLACH; H.R. 4619, making the rule allowing certain tax-free distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes permanent, authored by Representative AARON SCHOCK; H.R. 4719, which will permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, authored by Representative TOM REED; H.R. 3134, the Charitable Giving Extension Act, authored by Representative MIKE KELLY; and H.R. 4691, modifying the tax rate for excise tax on income investment for private foundations, authored by Representative ERIK PAULSEN.

The House will also likely consider the highway extension bill to ensure that the vital transportation projects continue during the busy summer construction season.

Finally, Members are advised that the House may also consider an extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information.

We have now completed six appropriations bills. The gentleman has announced we will have a seventh—Financial Services—on the floor next week. Does the gentleman anticipate doing the balance of the five remaining appropriations bills before the September 30 end of the fiscal year?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman noted, as of last night, the House has now acted on six appropriations bills, which is halfway through, and, as I mentioned in the schedule announcement for next week, the House will begin consideration of the seventh bill with the Financial Services Appropriations Act starting on Monday evening. That is as much as I see for the next week, but as we move forward through the July calendar, I will keep you notified as we continue through.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I know he has this expectation also, but I hope that we would pass the appropriations bills individually in the

manner that we have considered the previous bills on this floor.

I note that the Labor-Health bill has not been marked up in subcommittee, and I would simply ask him, in light of the fact that has not moved through subcommittee yet, if that would be one of the bills that he would anticipate bringing to the floor before September 30.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I do not anticipate that bill coming up next week, but as we look towards the remainder of the July schedule, we will certainly notify the Members for the consideration of the House.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

That, of course, from our perspective—and I am sure his—is a very, very important piece of legislation.

The highway bill that is coming to the floor, we know that that is critically important. It passed out of committee I think on a voice vote, although, as the gentleman knows, there was substantial disagreement on the length, the term of that. We are disappointed that we haven't either done a short-term or a long-term bill, giving confidence to contractors and jurisdictions around the country. We find ourselves in a situation now where more than 100,000 transportation projects could be delayed.

We look forward to working to not only move this process forward in the short term, but we would like to urge, notwithstanding the fact it appears it is going to be a longer term—until May of next year—that we continue to focus on a long-term, confidence-building, economy-growing effort at a longer term reauthorization of the highway program.

The gentleman doesn't need to comment on that. I just wanted to make that comment to him, unless he wanted to say something on that.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I do want to thank the gentleman on the other side of the aisle. As you did note, it did pass out of Ways and Means on a voice vote unanimously. We are committed. We want to bring the bill to the floor and fill the hole, but we are committed to looking long term, as with many of the ideas that we have brought forth in the past, and we look forward to working with you on the highway bill.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

We passed, as the gentleman knows, the tax credit for investment in equipment, or the depreciation allowance. We passed that today. That was a \$287 billion cost.

I would call to the gentleman's attention, as I have with Mr. CANTOR, that we are still concerned on this side of the aisle—and I know the gentleman knows this—that the unemployment insurance bill that lapsed in December of 2013 has still not been funded. There

are some 3 million people who have fallen off that.

As part of your new responsibilities, you will be focused on scheduling legislation, and I would urge the majority leader to consider very seriously bringing that unemployment bill to the floor for a vote.

We believe that it does have the votes on this House floor. That is 3 million—and it is growing by thousands per month—who have run out of unemployment insurance, which is slowing our economy, but it is also, from their perspective, giving them no support to support themselves and to help support their families.

So I would urge the gentleman to look again at the unemployment insurance status originally proposed to be done retroactively. Even if we look prospectively, we would hope the majority leader would look at moving forward on the House floor.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, I thank him for his input. As I said earlier, in next week's schedule I do not anticipate that coming up, but as we look towards the rest of July, I will keep all Members posted.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate you not only keeping us posted, but focusing on that to see whether we might do that.

The gentleman has announced that TRIA is going to be under consideration. We believe this is a very important piece of legislation. However, it passed out of committee on a party-line vote, as the gentleman knows, and there are still concerns that need to be addressed. I would hope that we could work on those before it comes to the floor.

Does the gentleman know whether that will come under a rule and whether or not that rule will provide for an open amendatory process?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank you for yielding and for bringing up this issue.

As I mentioned the schedule announcement for next week, Members should be prepared for possible consideration of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. Once the timing is finalized, the Rules Committee will announce a hearing on the measure to determine the process by which the bill will be brought before the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

As the gentleman knows, we only have 12 days remaining of legislative days that we will be in session before the August break and only 22 days before the end of the scheduled session prior to the election. The scheduled date is October 2 for us to adjourn.

We believe this legislation is critical—again, for the economy and for confidence in the marketplace—to be passed. And so we would hope that to facilitate that we could pass it through

this body in a bipartisan way, which would make it easier for the Senate to facilitate passage and to get that bill to the President because we think it is very important.

So I look forward to working with the gentleman to see whether or not we might overcome the partisan vote that came out and replace that with a bipartisan vote and make some accommodations on both sides to accomplish that objective. I appreciate his being willing to work on that.

□ 1115

Next to last, the Export-Import Bank. I know there is work being done on the Export-Import Bank. I know the gentleman indicated that he thought that this was not ready, at least for passage, but we know that this expires at the end of the year. We are very concerned about the adverse impact it will have.

Will the gentleman give me any information on where he thinks the consideration of that bill may be at this point in time.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. As I noticed earlier in next week's schedule, I do not anticipate that coming up next week, but as we look toward the remainder of the July schedule, we will certainly notify the Members if that will be considered in the House.

Mr. HOYER. Again, I do understand that it is not coming up next week, but the reason I mention time is we have so few legislative days left, that we are going to need to plan to address some of these issues that, I think, are going to be very important to our economic growth.

I know the gentleman is very concerned about that. We are very concerned about it on our side, and his Members are very concerned about that. We believe that the Export-Import Bank is an economic growth and an economic confidence-building measure, and we would hope we could address that.

There are also, as the gentleman knows, 41 House Republicans who have signed a letter urging that that be passed and indicating their support of it. We believe every Democrat on this side will vote for that. That is almost 200 people, and with the 41, it clearly makes a majority of this House.

We think it could be passed on this floor, and we think it would have a very positive effect on the economy, so we would urge the gentleman to consider very carefully with his colleagues whether or not we could move forward on that.

Lastly, I would say to the gentleman that we are very concerned about the children who are coming to the border. We are concerned about the process of

making sure that this humanitarian crisis is dealt with in a constructive, positive way for the children, but also in a way that gives clear notice that America cannot have borders which are simply open, but must be able to authorize people to come into this country and not have them come in, in an unauthorized fashion.

In that respect, I don't know whether the gentleman had an opportunity to see The Wall Street Journal editorial today, but they made it very clear that one of the problems is that, because the system is broken and because we have not passed comprehensive immigration reform—and the gentleman, of course, based upon where he lives, obviously will probably be one of our more knowledgeable Members on this issue—that people cannot come across the border and then return in a fashion which will provide for work here by them and also for their not only coming here, but then leaving without an expectation they will ever be able to visit or work again—either family members or for the purposes of work.

We continue to believe that the passage of comprehensive immigration reform would be a solution and ameliorate the present crisis that we see at our borders, and we continue to hope that comprehensive immigration reform will also be an item on the agenda.

Although we have 22 days left between now and our October 2 projected adjournment, the expectation, I think, of all of ours is that we will come back in a postelection session—a so-called lame duck session. Either before that, in the next 22 days or in the session after the election, we believe it is critically important to address the immigration issue.

The gentleman and I have had some opportunity to discuss this over the last number of months, and I know he is very knowledgeable about this issue and sensitive to this issue, and I would hope that we could work together to see whether or not we could put a bipartisan bill on the floor sooner, rather than later.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the gentleman's bringing up the crisis at the border.

Many of the Members in this House, on both sides, have been down to the border personally to see the crisis, and I think that is very important for all elected officials to go see.

We have a task force working on this right now. I know the President has put forth a supplemental—and the Appropriations Committee is currently reviewing the President's request for a supplemental, but I do not anticipate that coming up next week. As we look toward the remainder of July, we will keep you posted—and others—and I look forward to working with the gentleman further on other issues.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that response, and I would hope that the supplemental—because it deals with a humanitarian crisis—would not be a partisan issue. We obviously need to deal with the immediate problem.

I was talking, of course, about the longer-term problem, but I appreciate the gentleman's observation with reference to the supplemental. I am a supporter of that supplemental.

Obviously, the Appropriations Committee needs to review it with respect to the proper levels of funding, but there is no doubt that we, right now, have inadequate resources to deal with the humanitarian crisis that confronts us immediately, and those funds are necessary.

I am pleased that the gentleman brought it up, and I look forward to working with him on it.

Unless the gentleman wants to make further comment, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, July 14, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

STEPHEN, KATIE, CASSIDY, BRYAN, EMILY, REBECCA, AND ZACH STAY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a family in Spring, Texas, has been executed.

The evil killer, disguised as a FedEx driver, forced his way into the home of the Stay family on Wednesday. He tied up one child, Cassidy, and waited and waited until all five children and their parents—Katie and Stephen—came home. Then he shot them one by one, killing six, and leaving Cassidy for dead. He fled the scene with more malice in his heartless soul, headed to kill the grandparents of the children.

Cassidy called 911 to alert the law, and quickly, the murderer was caught before he could kill again.

Murdered were Stephen, aged 39; Katie, aged 34; Bryan, aged 13; Emily, aged 9; Rebecca, aged 7; Zach, aged 4—and wounded was Cassidy, aged 15.

The killer had come from Utah to Texas to seek revenge against the Stay family. He targeted the Stays because his ex-wife was a family relative.

People in the quiet area of Spring, Texas, and Houston are saddened and shocked and are in mourning for their neighbors who had life viciously and violently stolen from them.

The killer is charged with capital murder in Texas, and if found guilty, hopefully, a Texas jury will help him meet his Maker very soon.

And that's just the way it is.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, just a few moments ago, this House passed legislation introduced by me and the gentleman from Oklahoma, TOM COLE—the Israel-Cole resolution—supporting Israel's right to defend itself, condemning Hamas for sending rockets over the border, supporting the Iron Dome program, and reminding the American people of the role that Iran has in supplying these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I am a big believer in what would we do when crisis occurs? What would we do if we had terrorists on our border, sending rockets into our communities?

If the Gaza Strip were in Dover, Delaware, this Capitol, where I am speaking, would be hit by rockets. Baltimore would be hit by rockets. Philadelphia, where tourists gathered during July Fourth to celebrate our independence, would be hit by rockets. New York would be hit by rockets. Long Island would be hit by rockets.

What would we do? Exactly what Israel is doing—we would protect our citizens. We would seek to spare civilian casualties. We would try and negotiate as best we could a peace, but do it through strength. Every nation in the world has the right and the obligation to protect its citizens; so does Israel.

AMERICA'S SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about America's southern border and of the infiltration happening by foreign noncitizens into our country.

It is clear to most Americans that the massive influx of new illegal immigrants is due to the proposed Senate amnesty bill and the President's unilateral decree that U.S. Customs will not deport these minors who cross illegally into America.

Today's immigration problems lay at the feet of the President's and the Senate's, who proposed yet another round of amnesty in America in response to continued illegal border crossings.

Honestly, what does this administration think will happen when it offers

another 12 million illegal immigrants amnesty and does nothing to secure the border? Does it think there will not be more to come?

Mr. Speaker, what the American people want to see is a strong fence and a truly secure border, where we as Americans determine who is let into this country. This is not rocket science.

The American people want a government that works—one that builds the border fence, one with a gate that we control.

THE GIRLS OF CHIBOK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it was 3 months ago that the terrorist group Boko Haram attacked and kidnapped 276 female students. They were children, some 12 and 13 years old. Since then, more have been kidnapped, and some have escaped.

This Congress has a positive role to play by supporting U.S. and U.N. efforts to bring these girls home and to bring peace to Nigeria and Africa by supporting investments, by bringing development to Africa, and by encouraging all involved to do all they can to bring these frightened children home.

The African leaders have a role to play. They should be leading this effort in helping to rescue these children.

I will never forget how the world came together for one brief moment in the wake of 9/11 to support America.

"We are all Americans," the world said as one. I would wish now that the world would say that, until we bring these young girls home, we are all African.

AUTONOMY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are approaching the end of the session, and I know Republicans—my good colleagues on the other side—recognize that they are on track to beat last year's session, where we had the distinction of being the Congress with the lowest productivity in recorded United States history.

There seems to be some Members who are looking around to make up for lost time as to what to do. There is always the District of Columbia.

If you want to fatten your agenda, why not introduce a bill having to do with the District of Columbia? That ought to be a free enough ride. After all, the District of Columbia has a Member of Congress who can't even

vote against your bill; so why not try that?

I find, as I look at the record of Members who do that, that there is a pattern there. These are often Members who have introduced very few bills that would benefit their own districts.

□ 1130

Next week, the financial services appropriation bill will be on the floor. It happens to contain the District of Columbia appropriation.

Now, of course, unless you are familiar with this bizarre situation, you will wonder, what in the world is the District of Columbia appropriation doing here in the first place? Well, it shouldn't be here because it doesn't have a dime of Federal money in it. It is an undemocratic anachronism that requires this House to somehow approve the District of Columbia budget although not a Member of this House except me is accountable to the voters of the District of Columbia.

How is that for democracy? Yet, nevertheless, it will be before this House. And until we get the same budget autonomy that every Member's district enjoys for its own local money, we will find that your time is encumbered by a District of Columbia appropriation bill.

The real difference between the District of Columbia, of course, and the other appropriations bills that you will have before you is that our budget is balanced. We have a surplus. The Federal budget is unbalanced and has a deficit.

There are a number of amendments. We had driven these amendments down to just one, what I will call the annual abortion amendment. It has become a kind of annual ritual.

Of course, there is lots of hypocrisy in the House, but it really shows up on the annual abortion bill. Seventeen States with Members who sit right in this body allow their own localities to spend their own local money on abortions for low-income women, recognizing that the Congress does not allow Federal money to be spent for abortions—that is even when a woman will be in distress. If she is low-income, she is out of luck unless the local jurisdiction, of course, allows for such funds to be spent. And, of course, that is regularly done, except for the District of Columbia where, again, unaccountable Members have stepped in to keep the District of Columbia from doing what 17 other States already do.

When the Democrats were in charge of this House, I was able to get all of the so-called attachments to the District appropriation eliminated even the abortion attachment. It has been the only one to return.

I want to thank the House that one of these attachments has not returned; that, of course, was the needle exchange attachment that had deadly effects. And I choose my words appropri-

ately, because that rider, which was attached to the D.C. appropriation for 10 years, literally spread the HIV virus throughout the District of Columbia and is singly responsible for the fact that the District of Columbia has the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the country.

Once I was able to get that attachment removed, we have seen injection needle-related HIV drop precipitously. That will give the House some sense of the great damage that was done by that attachment, and I am grateful—and I will say to this House how grateful I am—that that rider has not returned. I believe that one of the reasons it has not returned is that at least some Members are aware of its effects, and those effects have acted as something of a deterrent to adding that rider again.

This year, here comes the marijuana decriminalization rider. The District of Columbia was pretty late in looking at marijuana decriminalization, and I will get to the reason it looked at decriminalization in a moment. But there are 18 States that have gotten there long before D.C., the first in 1975.

I knew that there was going to be a problem because Rep. JOHN MICA, in his subcommittee of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, actually had a hearing on this matter. Now, he hasn't called a hearing on Colorado, for example, which has legalized marijuana, although he has looked at Colorado. He could have simply looked at the District of Columbia. He had a whole hearing on the District of Columbia. That is what the District of Columbia has to abide in this House.

Of course, I should not be surprised, and I was not, that there came a Member who decided that he would try to keep the District of Columbia from doing what 18 States have already done before it and block our marijuana decriminalization law.

I had hoped we were in good company because of a very recent vote on this floor. A healthy 49 Republican Members voted with many Democrats to block the government from prosecuting users and sellers of medical marijuana in States that permit its use. That happened within the last month or so. And I said, oh, my goodness, we are in increasingly good company. Republicans and Democrats alike see that, without condoning any form of marijuana, the tide has changed certainly on medical marijuana.

Well, I do not have any illusion that, because the House comes together even to consensus on any matter, that that means that it will apply that consensus to the District of Columbia.

I must say that it took me more than a decade to get another rider, a rider that blocked the District from implementing its medical marijuana law. Well, that law has now been implemented, and so now we have Members looking at D.C.'s marijuana decriminalization law.

At this point, 23 States have legalized medical marijuana. We are getting close to half the States.

As I indicated, 18 States have decriminalized marijuana. Now, that just means you are not going to give someone a record for smoking weed. It doesn't mean you think it is a good thing to do, but it does mean it is not worth a jail record. Not so much jail, because people don't usually go to jail; they just get a record that keeps them from getting a job.

Two States have legalized marijuana, and the House should take note of this fact: A 2014 Pew Research Center poll has now found that 54 percent of Americans support marijuana legalization. The District hasn't legalized, most States haven't legalized. The American people are ahead of where we are.

But the same double standard that I encountered on medical marijuana I am seeing on marijuana decriminalization.

By the way, marijuana decriminalization isn't new. The first was in 1975, and that State was Alaska. If you look at the map of States that have decriminalized in one form or fashion, you will not see any difference between so-called red and blue States. From California and New York to Mississippi and Nebraska—and of course the two States that have legalized marijuana, Colorado and Washington—we see that this approach to marijuana is spreading.

I think most young people don't see enough of a difference between marijuana and a substance that has done far greater harm, alcohol, to understand why there should be criminal penalties associated with marijuana, even if, like me, you don't think that it is a good thing to go around smoking anything, cigarettes, pot, you name it.

Now, nothing distinguishes the District's democratically enacted local laws, including this law, from the laws of those 18 States. We are all American citizens. But you will occasionally hear Members say something that only a tyrant would say. The Member will allude to the fact that the District of Columbia, before it had home rule, was subject in every respect to the Congress of the United States. In fact, all the laws were passed, essentially, by the Congress. What those Members will not tell you is that Congress repudiated that power 40 years ago when it gave the District of Columbia what we call home rule, self-government.

Essentially, the Home Rule Act says the Congress of the United States will no longer either pass or interfere with the local laws of the District of Columbia. We leave that to D.C. The Congress did indicate there were a few exceptions. The Height Act, which proscribes how high buildings can go in the Nation's Capitol, is an example. Another example is that the District can't pass a commuter tax, even though many

other jurisdictions have commuter taxes.

Except for such examples, which are very few, there is no brand of local law that the Home Rule Act does not cover. So you can cite the Constitution all you want to, but you must also cite the Home Rule Act of 1973, which, in fact, repudiated the power of the Congress to interfere with the local laws of the District of Columbia or with the District of Columbia itself.

And why wouldn't it? Who are the unaccountable Members, Democratic or Republican, of the House or Senate to have anything to say about either money they didn't raise or laws that respecting only with local concerns?

Among those you would expect to be most familiar with the Home Rule Act would be our neighbors, those who live in Maryland and Virginia. And if I may say so, we have Republican Members, Democratic Members in both those States, and, for the most part, they have respected the integrity of the District of Columbia through its own local laws.

But Representative ANDY HARRIS, I believe he is a second-term, has not yet read the Home Rule Act; and though he lives in the region, he has not reacted as a neighbor.

□ 1145

ANDY HARRIS is from the State of Maryland. The State of Maryland is one of those jurisdictions that has decriminalized marijuana. Now, Representative ANDY HARRIS was unable to convince his own State not to decriminalize marijuana, so he steps across the border into the District of Columbia to try to tell us what to do.

He happens to be from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. District of Columbia residents are so enraged that the major D.C. rights organization, DC Vote, has called for a boycott of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. You know what? The Eastern Shore of Maryland is, in a sense, a vacation spot. It depends on people from the region—the District, Maryland, and Virginia—to visit there, especially during this season. And the District of Columbia has many allies in this region who agree with us that the Congress shouldn't be in our business.

I don't know why Representative HARRIS would want to stick his nose into the business of the residents of the District of Columbia. I can't understand why he thought that would benefit the economy of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He is from Ocean City. They live off of the rest of this region, including the District of Columbia.

I looked at his productivity here to see, is he busy? Is he not busy enough? He has introduced only 10 bills. I have introduced 63. I am trying to take care of my residents. The 10 bills he has introduced is very low productivity. I have cosponsored three times as many

bills as he has cosponsored because I try to attend to the business of my own district.

I don't know if Representative ANDY HARRIS was fishing around for something to do, but he ought to fish at the Eastern Shore, and he ought to find something to do for his own residents because all he has done now is to outrage the people of the District of Columbia. And he has done worse. He has patronized us. He is saying, you know, I am a doctor. Well, you know, I am a lawyer. So what does that mean? Does that enable you to come into my district and doctor my people? "I don't think marijuana is good for young people." Well, I don't either. I also don't think that young people ought to get a record for having used marijuana.

I don't know what motivated the 17, 18 States that have legalized marijuana. But let me tell you why the council of the District of Columbia decriminalized marijuana. Two studies were done. Each showed that in the progressive District of Columbia, where half the population is black and half is white and/or Hispanic, that blacks were arrested at a rate of eight to nine times that of whites for marijuana possession.

Do you know what that means for young blacks—particularly a young black man or boy in this country today? It ruins their lives.

They often live across the Anacostia, which is a low-income part of the District of Columbia. Black men in our country—regardless of income or education—are surrounded by stereotypes. Let one walk in with a "drug possession" stereotype on his record, and I will tell you, you are looking at a black man who, if he starts out in life that way, will have his life ruined because he has a "drug conviction."

I don't know why they decriminalized in Alaska or Mississippi. But I know why they did it in the District of Columbia, although it is none of the business of this House. They did it for racial justice reasons, and we are not going to have it undone by somebody who has no sense of my district.

An arrest or a conviction of any kind for a "drug possession"—and that is what marijuana is—can lead a young man, particularly from poor neighborhoods in the District of Columbia, into the underground economy, even to selling drugs, where he was only possessing them before, because he can't find a job because he has got a "record." So the District passed a marijuana decriminalization law.

I must say that this city is well aware of the effects of drugs. This is a big city. It has had its time with drugs, just like every other big city in the United States. Nobody in this city fools around with the notion of drugs. Drugs have promoted violence in our city. They have ruined lives in our city. It is the last place in America

that would encourage drugs of any kind.

Also, we don't know what the effects of marijuana smoking may be. That is yet to be determined. I know this: millions of Americans are in their graves because we didn't know the effects of cigarette smoking. So the last thing I, or anyone in the District of Columbia is going to say is, go out and be free; smoke as much marijuana as you can find.

Marijuana smoking could prove to be as bad or worse than cigarette smoking. I only wish that we had known for the 100 years or so when people were ruining their lives smoking cigarettes. And the District of Columbia appears to have recognized that.

The bill requires the revenue collected from civil violations—that is, a civil violation of a fine—to be placed in a substance abuse prevention and treatment fund that is administered by the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health for substance abuse treatment and preventative programs. There are four D.C. prevention centers. They are funded by the Department of Behavioral Health. That serves all eight wards of the city.

This is what the city has already done, even though—it is interesting to note—all the polls show that penalties for marijuana use are not key to determining whether teenagers decide to use marijuana or not.

Nobody knows how to steer people away from marijuana. What they do know is that a record for having possessed marijuana can ruin your life. And if you are a person of color, it has an even greater effect.

It is important to note that all of the polls in the District of Columbia and in the country show that blacks and whites in the District of Columbia and in the United States of America use marijuana at the same rate. So why are blacks not only here but across the country given a record more often?

I would note also—and commend Councilmember Tommy Wells, who has introduced yet another bill called the Marijuana Use Public Information Campaign Act of 2014. That bill, which was recently introduced, would establish a public information campaign to educate the public on the impacts of marijuana use.

I bet most of the 18 other States haven't gone to this extent in order to deter people from using marijuana at the same time that they have decriminalized it. The District of Columbia has been very responsible.

Who is irresponsible is Representative ANDY HARRIS because the irresponsible thing to do is to mess with my district. You are not accountable to the voters of my district. You are seeking a free ride through an act of congressional bullying. And that is the way we take it.

And like anybody who is bullied, we don't know how to do anything but

fight back. We don't like to be patronized. We will not be bullied. And we will not have a Member tell the residents of the District of Columbia, who have no way to hold him accountable, what we may or may not do.

So I ask the Members of the House to be consistent, particularly my Republican friends with your own small Federal footprint approach as a core value, because of your own notion of local control, as opposed to Federal control, the hallmark of your values, I ask you simply to apply the same principles to me and to the District of Columbia that you are insisting upon for you and for your own constituents.

I will remind you that we are all Americans, that there are no second-class Americans, and that the Americans who live in the Nation's Capital insist upon being treated fully equally with all of you, all of us who are fortunate to be citizens of the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

CONGRESS HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT ON IRAQ NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 30 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I joined today with Representatives WALTER JONES and BARBARA LEE to introduce a privileged resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 105, to direct the President to remove U.S. troops from Iraq within 30 days, or no later than the end of this year, except for those troops needed to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel. We did this for a simple reason. Congress has the responsibility to authorize the introduction of American troops where hostilities are imminent.

In less than 3 weeks, in three separate deployments, the U.S. has sent at least 775 additional troops to Iraq. Now is the time for Congress to debate the merits of our military involvement in this latest Iraq conflict openly and transparently.

Do we approve of these deployments and any future escalation? If so, we should vote to authorize it. If we do not support it, then we should bring our troops back home. It is that simple, Mr. Speaker. Congress has the responsibility to act on Iraq now.

Mr. Speaker, we did not introduce this privileged resolution lightly. By doing so, we have started a process to hold a debate on our engagement in Iraq later this month. We are using the special procedures outlined under the War Powers Resolution.

While this is an imperfect tool, it requires the House to take up this bill after 15 calendar days. Like most of my colleagues, I would prefer for this

House to bring up a bill authorizing our engagement in Iraq. And nothing in this resolution inhibits such important legislation from being drafted and brought before this House for debate and a clean up-or-down vote. Frankly, I wish that were happening, but I have not heard that such authorization is even under discussion, let alone being prepared for debate.

So my colleagues and I are introducing this concurrent resolution because we strongly believe Congress has to step up to the plate and carry out its responsibilities when our servicemen and -women are, once again, being sent into harm's way.

□ 1200

The time for that debate is now, not when the first body bag comes home from Iraq, not when the first U.S. airstrikes or bombs fall on Iraq, not when we are embedded with Iraqi troops trying to take back an ISIS-held town, and—worst-case scenario—not when our troops are shooting their way out of an overtaken Baghdad.

Now, Mr. Speaker, is the time to debate our new engagement in Iraq, before the heat of the moment, when we can weigh the pros and cons of supporting the al-Maliki government—or whatever government is cobbled together should al-Maliki be forced to step down—now, before we are forced to take sides in a religious and sectarian war; now, before the next addition of more troops takes place.

Make no mistake—I firmly believe we will continue to send more troops and more military assets into this crisis.

Now is the time, Mr. Speaker, before we are forced to fire our first shots or drop our first bombs. Now, Mr. Speaker, is when the House should debate and vote on this very serious matter.

For those who say it is too early, too premature for this debate, I respectfully disagree. The longer we put off carrying out our constitutional responsibilities, the easier it becomes to just drift along. This is what Congress has done over and over and over and over, and it has to end, Mr. Speaker. Congress must speak, and Congress must act.

This resolution, should it pass the House, would direct the President to bring our troops home from Iraq within 30 days—or should that pose security questions, no later than by the end of this year, nearly 6 months from now.

It would not require those troops that have been deployed to safeguard the security of our diplomatic facilities and personnel from withdrawing. They could remain and carry out their crucial roles of protecting our civilian personnel on the ground in Iraq.

This is why we need to take up this resolution later this month, debate our military engagement in this latest war in Iraq, and have a clean vote on this

resolution, up or down, about whether we stay in Iraq or whether we bring our troops home.

We owe this much to our troops and their families, we owe this much to the American people, and we owe at least this much to our own democracy and democratic institutions that require Congress to be the final arbiter on whether our troops are sent into hostilities abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join Representative JONES, Representative LEE, and me as cosponsors of this resolution. I look forward to debating the merits of the Iraq war later this month and voting on whether our troops should stay or leave Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, and I appreciate your being down here with me. I think about the just a couple of years that you and I have served in this Congress, and I think back, and I hope "Schoolhouse Rock" was on TV when you were coming along.

The thing I did when the Internet came out—yes, I was old enough to remember when the Internet came out—was I looked up the "Schoolhouse Rock" video, and I looked up "I'm just a bill sitting here on Capitol Hill" because it tells the tale—and we learned that before we learned all of our times tables, we learned about how a bill becomes a law.

We learned about what this great experiment in self-governance is, and it is the United States of America. It makes me sad that it comes on less on Saturday mornings than it used to, and now, parents are down on watching as much TV on Saturday mornings.

I hope "Schoolhouse Rock" is still required viewing in every family in America because the whole process of how a bill becomes a law is critically important to who we are as a people—as a people.

I know it happens to you, Mr. Speaker, like it happens to me. I go back home, and I am the Congressman. I am the Congressman. I am holding the townhall meeting. I am standing up in front of the room. Maybe I am up on the stage, I have got a big microphone.

There are all these folks sitting out there in the audience, and it dawns on me that I am the servant, and all the bosses are sitting out there. That is what is so wonderful about what goes on here. You and I have the great privilege of representing a small slice of

America; and, in my case, it is the Seventh District of Georgia—but the bosses live at home.

Mr. Speaker, if we don't do this the way "Schoolhouse Rock" laid it out, if we don't go through that process each and every time for how a bill becomes a law, the loser is each one of those individuals who show up at my townhall meetings who are actually the bosses of this country.

The loser is the citizen in America who should be sitting on the board of directors, but who gets shut out of the decisionmaking process if we don't follow that simple cartoon that we all became fond of growing up.

Mr. Speaker, you know better than I do that there was a Supreme Court decision that came out last week. It was called the Noel Canning decision, and that Supreme Court—you know, we talk about it all the time, Mr. Speaker.

I wish I had a microphone that went out to the folks back in their offices who were watching this on TV. We could do a quick telephone poll of who folks think the liberal Justices are and who folks think the conservative Justices are and who folks think the middle is, but that Court is divided.

Oh, Mr. Speaker, you know there are some hardcore conservatives sitting on the Supreme Court today, and there are some hardcore liberals sitting on that very same bench.

Nine of those folks sitting up there on the bench—and I read the decisions when they come out, Mr. Speaker, and it is 5-4 this, 6-3 that. It is these starkly divided opinions about what the direction of America ought to be, and I get that. We are a sharply divided country. We see that in Presidential elections, and we see that in congressional elections.

This decision that came out last week, Mr. Speaker, this Noel Canning decision was decided 9-0 by the Supreme Court—9-0. It did not matter how hardcore conservative the Justice was, and it did not matter how hardcore liberal the Justice was. Every single Justice agreed.

What they agreed on—and it gives me no pleasure to talk about it—what they agreed on is that the President of the United States exceeded the authority granted to him by this United States Constitution and that the United States Congress did absolutely nothing to rein that in; and so the Supreme Court, 2 years later, had to make the decision that it was wrong.

Now, I get the balance of powers, Mr. Speaker. I get it. I get that the Congress is here as article I, and we make decisions; and then our bills have to be signed by the President there in article II.

I get it that, if we pass the wrong kind of legislation and it is unconstitutional, the courts, in article III, get to make that decision—but, dadgum it, we have that responsibility as the 435

Members who serve in this Chamber who are not the bosses of this country, but who are the servants of the true bosses of this country back home, we have the responsibility to maintain the authority on Capitol Hill that the Constitution provides.

Last week, the Court said, unanimously, 9-0, that the President can't just decide what the law is and what the law isn't, that the law exists independent of the President, and his job is to follow those laws.

Now, that is pretty clear here. You get into article II—in fact, we all take that oath when we get elected. We swear to uphold and defend the Constitution. The executive power shall be vested in the President of the United States, the legislative power vested here, and so the Supreme Court said, unanimously, that the President had overstepped his bound and that what he did was unconstitutional.

I have a quote that they used—and it is important to me, Mr. Speaker, as I suspect you hear the same thing from your constituents back home. Folks say: Why can't you get something done? Why can't you get something done in Washington? What are you guys arguing about? Why don't you get something done? Aren't there some things out there that you can do to make a difference in people's lives?

I am proud to say that you and I have collaborated on a number of those things, but folks feel the friction in this town, the friction of people who believe different things about what the future of this country ought to look like.

Here is what the Supreme Court said—and I love it in its simplicity, Mr. Speaker. The Supreme Court said last week that regardless—the Recess Appointments Clause was the clause that was being debated, this is the exceeding of his constitutional authority that the President embarked upon.

"Regardless, the Recess Appointments Clause is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction."

It "is not designed to overcome serious institutional friction. It simply provides a subsidiary method for appointing officials when the Senate is away during a recess."

Here, as in other contexts, friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure. The friction that you hear about back home, Mr. Speaker, the frustration that our constituents express about why folks can't get something done, why can't you agree, why is there a big argument going on, that friction, the Supreme Court says, is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure.

The concern then, Mr. Speaker, is in the name of avoiding that friction, some folks want to throw out parts of this Constitution, and my question—not just for Members in this body, Mr.

Speaker, but for every single constituent who votes in our national elections—what is more important? Is it more important to get something done? Is it the ends that are the most important, or is it the means?

The means that were provided to us were provided to us in 1787, that great summer in Philadelphia, where the best minds of our land came together and laid out a structure that has successfully protected the power of the people for over 200 years.

Is it the ends, or is it the means? I tell you—and I don't attribute any bad motives to the President, Mr. Speaker, I don't. I don't want to attribute bad motives to the President.

I will tell you that, in making the recess appointments that led to this unanimous decision that what the President did was unconstitutional, the President prioritized the ends.

He knew who he wanted in these job positions. He knew the Senate would never approve these people for these job positions, and so he said: Who cares what the Senate thinks? I am going to put them in anyway.

The Supreme Court said: No, you are not. No, you are not.

Now, the great shame for us, Mr. Speaker, is that it should have been the Congress that said that. It should have been the Congress that said that.

More specifically, it should have been the Senate right across this Chamber that said that, Mr. Speaker. It should have been the Senate that stood up for the power that is not their power, but is the power of the American people to engage in this great balance that is our form of government, this great balance that has inevitable friction.

We have got to decide for ourselves, Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber and across the country: Are we Republicans and Democrats? Or are we Americans? Are we Green Party folks and Independent folks? Or are we Americans? Is this about which party wins and which party loses? Or is this about America?

America is not a place on a map, Mr. Speaker. You know this better than most. America is not a place on the map. America is an idea. America is a set of values.

There is so much more that unites us in this country than divides us. My challenge to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, is that we rise to the occasion to protect and defend this document.

No matter how small, no matter how simple, and no matter how much it gets in the way of getting something done, this U.S. Constitution is designed to protect those freedoms, to protect those common goals, and to protect that which makes us who we are as Americans.

I am not trying to figure out who to blame, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to figure out how to solve it. When the Supreme Court—again, if you have watched the Supreme Court, these

folks, they can't agree on what time to meet, Mr. Speaker. They disagree about so, so much—5-4 decision after 5-4 decision.

This divided Court—it is almost a term, Mr. Speaker, it is not the "Court," it is the "divided Court," that is the way it always shows up in the newspaper, the "divided Court"—9-0 said this Congress and the American people have abdicated their responsibility to rein in this executive branch and ensure that the law was followed.

□ 1215

And here is the thing, Mr. Speaker, and you know what I am talking about: I signed up to be on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee, that is the committee that is responsible for going in and making sure the laws are followed and faithfully executed. And I joined that committee, Mr. Speaker, and you may think it foolish, but I joined that committee because I thought Mitt Romney was going to be the next President of the United States. And for too long, I had seen Republicans in Congress protect Republican Presidents and Democrats in Congress protect Democratic Presidents, and I haven't seen enough folks protecting the Constitution, protecting article I, protecting the power that the Constitution vests in each and every one of our constituents back home, and so I said I am going to sign up for this Oversight and Government Reform Committee because I am a hardcore Republican and I want to be the hardcore Republican who rides herd over the Romney administration, because you don't get a free pass because we are from the same party. You don't get a free pass because the Constitution doesn't give you a free pass. You don't get a free pass because my obligation is not to you as a fellow Republican, my obligation is to my constituents and to my country as an American.

I wanted to bring back that idea that we as a Congress, not we as Republicans and Democrats in Congress, but we as a Congress, not we as the House, but we as the House and the Senate, we as the Congress have a common goal and a common responsibility when it comes to the future of this country.

Now, sitting over there on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, folks just think I am a political hack. I try to give advice and counsel to the administration about what they are doing wrong. Folks say, he is just a Republican, that is why he doesn't like what is going on. Nonsense; 9-0, the entire United States Supreme Court said what is going on in the administration is wrong; not wrong as in a mistake, but wrong as in the Constitution prohibits it. Wrong as in it is not allowed by that most powerful law that governs this land, the United

States Constitution, and everybody in this town knew it. They knew it the day that the President took that action. And yet, too many in this town were silent.

We have got to do better, Mr. Speaker. We have got to do better. There is still more that unites us than divides us. Love of this Constitution that protects our freedoms is one of those things.

So where can we start, Mr. Speaker? Where can we start? I have one recommendation, and it is a small one. I have had the experience in my 3½ years in Congress, Mr. Speaker, and you may have had the same experience, that if you can begin to agree on the little things, then the bigger things get a little easier to agree upon. You sort out those things that you have agreement on first, you lock those in as part of the final deal, and then you go out and you tackle the bigger things. So you start small, and you build. That is true. It is true of exercise, it is true of almost anything. Start small and build.

I am thinking about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Mr. Speaker. You may think, Rob, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, for Pete's sake, that is just some little-bitty agency over there under the Federal Reserve. Well, it is not. It is a big agency. It is a growing agency. But the most important part is what I said finally in that sentence, it is under the Federal Reserve. This is what happened.

The year was 2010, and this body, this body, led by the Financial Services Committee chairman at that time, Barney Frank of Massachusetts, passed what has come to be known as the Dodd-Frank Act, named after Chairman Frank on this side and Chairman Dodd over on the Senate side, and it went after Wall Street. It went after Wall Street, and this was in the aftermath of bank failures. This was in the environment when folks were concerned about what the economic future of America would be, much like they still are today, and this purported to solve so many of these challenges through more regulation.

Now, we can argue about whether or not that was a good plan or was a bad plan. I think it was a bad plan. I think it is costing us economic growth, not helping us with economic growth, but that is not my point here today. My point here today is, as a body, as a U.S. House of Representatives, when we passed that Dodd-Frank bill, which went over to the Senate and was passed, and which went to the President's desk and was signed and is now the law of the land, we created an agency called the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and we specifically and exclusively decided that this agency would not be accountable to the Congress in any way, shape or form.

I want you to think about that, Mr. Speaker. Here we are, we have been charged individually and collectively with protecting the United States Constitution, which divvies up power in this country. And what is so unique about this country is that the power does not come from government and is given to the people; the power comes from the people and is lent to government for a short period of time. The power belongs to the people, and it is lent to the government for a short period of time.

Yet in our collective wisdom, and I certainly use that term loosely, we decided to create a brand new Federal agency, capable of spending hundreds of millions of dollars per year, capable of implementing hundreds of billions of dollars in regulations on America's small businesses, that we would create this agency out of the air. It had never before existed, and that we would create this brand new agency and we would place it somewhere beyond the oversight of this body. That we would bestow it with powers to crush businesses, to enable businesses, give it these powers and place it somewhere beyond the control of this institution.

It is unique, Mr. Speaker, as you know, in that its funding stream comes directly from the Federal Reserve. That would be the guys who print the money. It turns out when you can print the money and lend the money, you end up making a lot of money. So accountability over that money is almost nonexistent.

There is a renovation going on at the CFPB right now. This is an agency that has been around for 3 years, and it has a renovation going on. The most recent inspector general's report tells us they are spending \$215 million to renovate their building, almost a quarter of a billion dollars, just to renovate, just to renovate a building.

Now, when I try to evaluate building space, I try to do it on a square-foot basis. What is it costing per square foot to renovate, because you do have to renovate. That is a fair business decision. According to the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, this amounts to a \$590 per square foot renovation cost, \$590 per square foot. Well, if you are in the real estate business, your jaw has already dropped. But if you are not in the real estate business, let me give you that comparatively.

I don't know if you have ever been to Trump World Tower in New York, Mr. Speaker, but \$334 per square foot is its cost. The most expensive city in the country, \$334 per square foot, compared to \$590 with what the CFPB is doing.

I don't know if you have ever been out to Las Vegas, Mr. Speaker, but you have probably seen Ocean's Eleven a time or two, and the big Bellagio hotel and casino with all those big fountains out front. It is the backdrop of so many

movies Hollywood puts out these days, and it is really kind of the definition of decadence in that part of the world—\$330 per square foot versus \$590 at the CFPB. Now, why do I bring that up? Maybe \$590 is the right answer. Maybe it is. Maybe whatever is going on over at the CFPB is so important that it has to cost twice as much to build their offices as any of the most luxurious office spaces or hotel spaces in the country. Maybe that is true, but I can't tell because I'm not allowed, as a Representative here in this body, to do oversight over that institution. Why? Because its funding comes directly from the Federal Reserve, not from this Congress.

How does all of this come together, Mr. Speaker? Well, the answer is still in this little old book, still in these little pages. From the summer of 1787, there is a fabulous painting right outside these Chamber doors, Mr. Speaker, of that summer in 1787. George Washington is presiding, Ben Franklin is seated there. All of the Constitutional Convention delegates are there as they craft this document. And what they decided was, we were going to have to have an executive to execute the laws. You can't execute the laws by committee. It was going to be too complicated, you need an executive to execute the laws. But an all-powerful executive is what those constitutional delegates had been fleeing in England. That is what the revolution was all about, so they were suspicious of an all-powerful executive, so they created the Congress first, article I, and said the power of the purse, the power of the purse, spending of the money, will reside here. Because if you cut off the money to that executive who has run amok, he won't be able to run amok any longer. That was the theory. That was the plan.

And yet this body is creating institutions—and by “this body,” I mean before you and I arrived here, Mr. Speaker, not on our watch—but just 4 short years ago, this body began to create government agencies and institutions that were beyond the reach of our oversight, beyond our ability to defund and beyond our ability to control.

It may be the best agency on the planet, but it shouldn't be beyond the control of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I will end where I began. Are we Republicans and Democrats first, or are we Americans first? Are we northerners and southerners, are we Independents and Green Party? Are we MoveOn and Tea Party? Who are we first? And the answer for me has always been I am a citizen first. I am an American first. This great country that I have inherited—I didn't build it, I didn't sign my name to the Declaration of Independence pledging my life and my fortune to success, no. Can you imagine? Can you imagine what it took in a time of great uncertainty when

the die had not been cast for freedom to stand up and say, My name is ROB WOODALL and I pledge my life and my fortune that freedom will come to this land?

No, Mr. Speaker, that is what I have inherited. That is what you have inherited. That is what every single child born on these sacred shores inherits, what every immigrant who travels from far and takes that oath, what they inherit, and it is our responsibility to preserve it.

When we concern ourselves with the end and believe the end justifies the means, we will trample this Constitution at every occasion—at every occasion. And you need to look no further than the Supreme Court decision last week, Mr. Speaker, where unanimously these men and women entrusted with upholding this Constitution said friction between the branches is an inevitable consequence of our constitutional structure. I dare say an intentional consequence of our constitutional structure.

I know there is a lot of pressure on folks, Mr. Speaker, from their constituents back home to get something done, but implicit in that is to get something done the right way—to get something done the right way.

There are serious men and women on both sides of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker; there are serious men and women on both sides of this Capitol; there are serious men and women working in the administration who all love this country and want it to be better tomorrow than it was yesterday. We cannot allow our zeal for results to trample the document that has enabled the results that we have had so far.

And so I challenge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, whether you are the most conservative Republican or the most liberal Democrat, or anywhere in between, I challenge each and every one of us to decide that if we have a bad process, we are going to end up with a bad product. But that our Constitution, no matter how cumbersome, our Constitution, no matter how deliberate, our Constitution provides that framework where, whether we win or lose on a particular policy, our principles of freedom and opportunity will forever be preserved.

I want to get good policy out of this Chamber, too. I want to get policy out of this town. I want to make a difference in the lives of people back home, but not at the expense of the birthright that I have inherited, which is this great country and the experiment in self-government. I believe we are worthy of that birthright. I believe we can rise to that occasion, but it is not going to happen by accident, and it is not going to happen just inside the four walls of this building. It has got to happen in the hearts and the minds of every single family in this country, who are the true leaders of this Nation,

and I hope those will be their instructions to us each and every day.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

PLIGHT OF CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Madam Speaker, there is a lot of uncertainty and instability in the Middle East. Violence and chaos are persistent themes, and political uprisings, revolutions, insurgencies, and waning democracies have controlled the dialogue on the Middle East for the last couple of years. But, if you dig a little deeper, you will find another story just under the surface, a story that we don't hear quite enough about: the plight of Christians as a religious minority in the Middle East.

Just the other day, I had a meeting with a few of my constituents who are Coptic Christians, and we discussed many of the issues facing the Coptics in Egypt. Coptics are the native Christians of Egypt, who have been a part of the Egyptian community since the 5th century A.D. They are still one of the largest Christian minorities in the Middle East.

Coptics in Egypt face growing threats of persecution, violence, and restrictions on religious practice. They have been targeted for kidnappings. In 2013, St. Mark's Cathedral was attacked during a funeral ceremony for Coptics and a Muslim who were killed in prior violence.

After President Morsi was removed from office in July 2013, a wave of violence against Christians ensued. Hundreds of churches, homes, and businesses were attacked. Violence against Coptic Christians in Egypt is nothing new, and I fear that it will persist unless something is done to resolve the issue.

Madam Speaker, in Iraq, Chaldean Christians are facing a dire situation as well. I just read a report that two nuns are believed to have been kidnapped while they were visiting an orphanage for girls. They are believed to have been kidnapped by ISIS.

Chaldeans are fleeing Iraq at an alarming rate, as many of them have sought refuge in my home district in Michigan. They are concerned about what is happening in Iraq, as many of them still have family there. Churches and homes are being looted and destroyed, and this leaves no other option for much of the community than to flee. If the situation in Iraq doesn't

reverse, it is likely that the majority of Iraq's remaining Christian community will have to seek refuge elsewhere.

Madam Speaker, Assyrians are also continuing to face troubling times in the Middle East. Since the beginning of the war in Iraq in 2003, Assyrian Christian communities have been targets for attacks. Churches and monasteries have been targeted for bombings.

Assyrians have long been persecuted for their Christian beliefs, and they suffered greatly during the Assyrian genocide of the early 1900s when nearly 300,000 Assyrians were killed. Like many other Christian populations in the Middle East, they have fled and sought refuge elsewhere.

Madam Speaker, in Iran, the harsh persecution of Christians continues. According to a UN report, Iran has continually imprisoned Christians, citing "national security" as the justification.

Pastor Saeed Abedini is currently the most visible example of Christian persecution in Iran. Although there have been numerous calls for his release from Congress and from the President, he is still sitting in prison. He was sentenced to prison by a judge who has been known for religious freedom violations. His trial was decry by human rights groups as unfair and unflawed.

Ethnic Christians, such as Armenians, are often under surveillance or are forced to report their activities to the Iranian Government. Protestant Christians are also viewed unfavorably by the Iranian regime. Furthermore, converts from Islam face particularly harsh consequences, as they can be charged with blasphemy or even face charges from revolutionary courts for political crimes.

These countries are all listed by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as tier 1 countries of particular concern, meaning they are the worst perpetrators of religious freedom. However, the Secretary of State has not officially recognized either Egypt or Iraq as a country of particular concern, likely due to the United States' security interests in both of those countries, as a designation would carry the likelihood of sanctions.

Madam Speaker, many of my constituents and I are gravely concerned about the plight of Christians as religious minorities in these countries and the role the U.S. plays in aiding them.

Madam Speaker, "If you want a friend, be a friend." This notion applies directly to the situation at hand. Religious freedom and human rights concerns have long been at the back of the line in U.S. foreign policy decisions, and it may be time to rethink our approach. We have continually supported regimes that are unfriendly to their people, religious and ethnic groups, and even the United States.

Madam Speaker, if we are going to support foreign governments with

equipment and funding, we must more thoroughly consider the long-term impact of the freedoms of their people and the corresponding impact on relations with the United States.

Countries that continually abuse religious groups, such as Christians, are never going to see eye to eye with the United States because they lack the fundamental belief in the freedom of religion, which is the founding principle of this country.

If we want friends in the Middle East, we have to encourage respect for religious freedom and diversity, not just build strong governments and militaries. If we do this, strong relationships with these countries will be an inevitable outcome, and they will be more stable as a result.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

STATES' RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, the World English Dictionary defines "invasion." Among the definitions is: invading with Armed Forces; but it is: any encroachment or intrusion; the onset or advent of something harmful, as in a disease; pathologically, the spread of cancer from its point of origin into surrounding tissues.

Under Random House Dictionary, the definitions include: the entrance or advent of anything troublesome or harmful, as disease; entrance, as if to take possession or overrun—and it gives the example, the annual invasion of the resort by tourists—and also, infringement by intrusion.

It comes from Middle English from the 1400s. That is where we get our word "invasion" in the English language.

It is important because, in the Constitution, under article I, section 8, it says that Congress has the authority to call for the military during times of invasion. That is the Congress has that power. That is why it is in article I.

Then, as I mentioned yesterday, you have article I, section 10, which the third clause—there are three little clauses or sections there. They are not a numbered section, but the third sentence says:

No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

We know that the invasion into France by the Allied Forces consisted of about 150,000 troops, about 150,000 people, was the biggest invasion in history.

Since then, we come up to the year 2014, and The New York Times reported that just in recent months we have had 240,000 adults and 52,000 children—now it is being reported that it is closer to 60,000 children. Initially, as I understand, the article said since April, just 2 months, we have had nearly 300,000 people invade the United States through Texas. Then it is now being reported that there are 300,000 people making their way up from Central America to the United States.

Now, the administration and some of my friends on the other side of the aisle say, well, they are coming because of this massive violence that they have been facing. Well, there is more violence there than there is in much of the United States. Perhaps it is comparable to Chicago. So, if they are wanting to come to a country where there is less violence, maybe they don't want to come to a country that includes Chicago. Perhaps if Chicago maybe had more gun control laws, maybe it wouldn't be so violent. That is my first thought. Then I realize, wait a minute, Chicago has more gun control laws than about anywhere else in the country, yet massive murders.

So, obviously, if people are coming to America from Central America, they don't want to be sent to Chicago. They don't want to be sent to a place where there is more violence than where they have been living. But we are told that is why they are coming.

Well, actually, when I was on the border a couple of weeks ago, and I will be there this evening, the people that I saw interviewed, the people that were there that I talked to with the help of an interpreter, they said nothing about violence they were coming from. They had gotten word that this President, this administration, was going to allow them to stay and not send them back.

That is why those who had parents who had been illegally in the country—like one little girl, her mother had been here since she was 1 year old. But now that they have gotten word in Central America that if you come illegally into the United States, the Department of Homeland Security is not providing security to the United States. No, they are providing security involved in human trafficking, becoming complicit in the criminal and illegal activity going on.

They actually have given up their role there on the border of homeland security and now they are involved in destroying our security. They are transporting, along with Health and Human Services—forget the word “health.” Do you really want people in charge of your health that right now, as I speak here on the floor of the House of Representatives, involved in transporting people all over our country with disease like tuberculosis, H1N1, which can be fatal, who knows how many kinds of flu that people may

not have been inoculated for, scabies, lice, all kinds of disease that the Department, formerly called “Health and Human Services,” is now engaged in spreading bad health and disease around the country. Thank you so much Health and Human Services.

So we are in a time when the administration in charge is engaged in more lawlessness than any time in my lifetime. They are engaged in actually violating the hippocratic oath if the national leaders were doctors and took that oath.

□ 1245

It says, First do no harm. Yet harm is being done by this administration as they are spreading people around the country that are coming here in massive, invasive ways.

And our heart goes out to them. When I see these children down on the border in the middle of the night, what kind of parent sends their child, or even sends word back home, Hey, I've got a good job. I've been working here illegally for a number of years. And even though I haven't done anything for my child over the last several years, now that the U.S. is giving benefits like feeding, providing health care, giving lawyers to people that come in—especially children—bring them on up.

We may bring in lots of people.

There is story today from The Washington Times, “Obama Seeks Brisk Passage of Border Children Funding Bill.” Of course, he wants to do that, because it would subsidize lawyers for illegal immigrants.

People are fond of referring to the Constitution and saying, Well, we have got to make sure people have their constitutional rights. Well, guess what? The Constitution does not guarantee the same rights to everyone. It does not guarantee the same rights to immigrants who come in legally. For sure, it does not provide the same rights to those who come into our country in violation of our law from the beginning.

It does not provide all of the same freedoms and liberties to our members of the military. As a former member of the United States Army, 4 years on Active Duty, I find it extremely offensive that an administration will seek to coddle terrorists who have killed Americans in cold blood—and been thrilled that they did so—and have written that they were thrilled that they did so, and they hope they have a chance to kill many more Americans. They coddle them and give them more rights than we do our own United States military members who are willing to lay down their lives to save this country.

That's right. Under our Constitution, article 1, section 8 gives Congress the power to provide what rights the military will have and what discipline will be utilized. That is how it was con-

stitutional for Congress to pass the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

I can assure you that in the military you do not have the right to freedom of assembly when and where you want to. Otherwise, I would have indicated that to my commanding officer at 4 in the morning when he wanted me to be out there to go 20 miles at 5.

I would have indicated a lot of things if I were able to have freedom of speech in the Army, because there were times when my superior commissioned officer gave orders that I thought were absolutely stupid, but you don't have all those same constitutional rights everybody else does. It depends on who you are and where you fall under the Constitution.

When it comes to immigration and naturalization, that is a power reserved for the United States Congress. As my old constitutional law professor David Guinn says, there is only one court in the entire Constitution that is created. Every other court owes its entire existence, jurisdiction, and actually, ability to remain in existence to the United States Congress.

That is why it is actually amusing when I hear people who are fairly smart, some of them educated in the Ivy League—despite perhaps the education that they missed out on getting as good as they might have gotten from somewhere else, like Texas A&M—and they think under the Constitution everybody gets the same rights. They do not.

I have heard people even from the holy Ivy League schools who say that everybody has the right to be in a U.S. District Court. Well, that is interesting because there is no right to even have a United States District Court. If Congress decided to eliminate all District Courts and create some other kind of court system, we could do that. That is totally up to us. We get to set up whatever tribunals—the word that is in the Constitution—underneath the Supreme Court that we care to, or not set it up. It is up to Congress. That is the authority of Congress.

So the President thinks we need to provide lawyers for illegal immigrants, and that is so interesting. I am sure that it is the perspective he gets. I know from Ed Klein's book there were indications that his able adviser, Valerie Jarrett, according to the book, is quite concerned about who is going to be the last person to give our President advice, because he is so easily swayed. So they try to make sure that he is not last advised by someone that disagrees with Valerie Jarrett or Michelle Obama's position.

Well, unfortunately, he was just at a big fundraiser in Dallas held for him by lawyers. Lo and behold, he says he wants lawyers to be paid for out of this \$3.7 billion. Isn't that something? There are lawyers that are providing their services for free to illegal immigrants.

There is no constitutional requirement for someone coming into this country illegally to get a lawyer. It is not there. It is not even in the shadow of a penumbra. It is just not there.

Well, the President wants money for that. And when you break down what the President's wants money for, there is even money in his \$3.7 billion—not for the military so that we can provide for the common defense—for leadership training for those who have come into our country illegally.

Yes, that is right. We need to train them for leadership so they can be good community organizers. And maybe if they learn well at these leadership training courses and they really pick it up well, maybe they, too, can be a worker at a place like ACORN, a place where they can train people how to vote Democrat, a place where they can make sure that they take voter registration forms out to other people who came in illegally.

Madam Speaker, what is happening in this country is outrageous beyond measure.

There are those who say, Well, sure, it is a certainty that these people—we are told about 78 or 80 percent of the people coming are adults and 20 percent or less are actually children—are coming to avoid violence, yet there has been no big spike in violence. So why all of a sudden this huge influx?

And though the administration officials say with a straight face, Well, we are just totally surprised, then we see from January they were requesting transportation in the near months for tens of thousands of children that would be coming in.

So forget what is said orally. Look what they have done. They have induced, lured, encouraged people to flood into our country in an invasion, and then they have prepared for the invasion, and now they say if you don't give us \$3.7 billion, we are going to let it keep happening.

They don't use those words, but they might as well, when there is a far simpler solution.

If you want to really get down to the bottom of what is going on, Madam Speaker, you can look at a map of Central America. These countries where most people are coming from, over a thousand miles up through Mexico, risking life and limb to travel that far—so-called unaccompanied children that couldn't possibly come that far without help—right on their borders you have Costa Rica, you have Panama, you have Nicaragua.

You don't have to go 500 miles to reach one of these countries. There are some places of violence in those countries, but there are also some places of peace in those countries.

So if this were really all about escaping violence, and you really cared about a child, the last thing you would do is send them over a thousand miles

and put them in the hands of drug cartels that may sexually abuse them, sell them into sex trafficking, or use them as drug carriers. They could just send those kids to a neighboring country where they speak the same language and where they could be cared for.

This is not about people running to America to get away from violence.

Also, we shouldn't be granting asylum to people that are lawfully in Mexico. We saw the article this week where Mexico has worked out an arrangement with Guatemala where they will have legal passage through Mexico in order to come into the United States illegally. That would mean that Mexico and Guatemala are conspiring to violate United States law.

Well, if they were in the United States, that would allow pursuit of those countries through RICO, but since they are countries, it is a different situation. But that is a criminal enterprise when you conspire with another to help violate United States law.

An article here from The Washington Free Beacon says, as of July 10, "Unaccompanied Alien Children Program Cost \$263 Million."

For the 57,000 children that are here, you could take the \$3.7 billion and give them each \$67,000, and we would be a lot better off. Because that \$3.7 billion, if we do what the President wants, doesn't actually stop the invasion that is going on. We are going to have to be spending that over and over and over again.

So I am not advocating we give everybody that comes in \$67,000. I am just pointing out it would be cheaper to do that than what the President is proposing.

A story from Breitbart says, "Health and Human Services Secretary: Beds for Illegals Can Cost Feds Up to 1K." Well, I am staying at a cheap motel in McAllen tonight, and I know it doesn't cost me a thousand dollars for the bed I am staying in.

There is a time for Congress to say, Enough is enough, Mr. President.

Initially, we didn't want to believe that anybody would intentionally lure people into the United States. We hoped that it was a reckless or a negligent act and not intentional. But look at the evidence. It hasn't been stopped. Even with \$3.7 billion that is requested, there is no way, for what that is being called for, that it is going to stop the invasion that is occurring.

□ 1300

That is why I am hoping that my Governor will utilize article I, section 10, which allows a State that is being invaded—in our case, more than twice as many, just in recent months—more than twice as many than invaded France on D-day, with a doubling of that coming en route, on their way here now.

Under article I, section 10, the State of Texas would appear to have the right to use whatever means, whether it is troops, even using ships of war, even exacting a tax on interstate commerce that it wouldn't normally be allowed to have or utilize—they would be entitled, in order to pay to stop the invasion.

Texas could, under article I, section 10, engage in agreements with, say, Arizona, New Mexico—I don't know that California would agree as they are too busy sending jobs to Texas right now. The States could enter a compact to work together to stop the invasion.

Actually, if Texas just simply did what Woodrow Wilson did after Pancho Villa's thugs killed a bunch of American families—he crossed our border to kill them. One of my least favorite Presidents in our history, Woodrow Wilson, sent this new thing called the National Guard down.

You can read all kinds of different versions of how many National Guard troops he sent to the border. Whether it was 19,000 or 159,000—whatever it was—he sent thousands of National Guard troops to our border, and it was secured, and nobody came in that President Wilson did not want to come in.

He also sent General Pershing into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa. He caught some of the lieutenants. He never caught Pancho Villa. I am not advocating an invasion into Mexico. I am advocating strongly that we stop the invasion into the United States.

Do you want to talk about compassion for children? My children have now finished college, but I go to schools all over Texas. I look in those precious little faces, just as I have looked at the precious little faces of people coming in illegally, but those whose parents are paying taxes, who are law-abiding, know their schools are having trouble, in many places, staying afloat.

Many school districts are in desperate trouble financially, and now, we are going to add hundreds of children in some places whose parents are not paying taxes and who are not paying property taxes to support the schools in many cases.

You are going to overwhelm those schools because you refuse to do the job the Constitution requires and that an oath was taken to faithfully execute.

We owe this country an obligation to protect it and to protect those little children whose educations will be impaired because you have to slow them down to bring other students along who don't speak the language.

Right now, in Texas, I am told that, basically, you need to speak Spanish. You really do. Why is that? Because the President is allowing so many people in the country illegally, without stopping the invasion—and we are being forced to educate those folks.

When you talk to people, as I have, down around the border—border patrolmen, constables, and others who find dead bodies—and particularly landowners find dead bodies—one border patrolman tells me, when he finds the dead body of a child, he goes home and weeps.

What are we doing, Mr. President? We are luring people here, and children are dying because they think, gee, they are not enforcing the law. This President is not enforcing the law. He is not protecting the country. The security is down, so we can go rushing in.

It is not to avoid violence. They might go to a less violent place around them. It is to come and get the benefits. The trouble is, now that we are a welfare country, more and more people will overwhelm the system, and it does move us toward being a Third World country.

Now, I have taken a lot of abuse for saying that this action also includes an effort to turn Texas blue. People have said: How outrageous is that, that you might think that a President or an administration might actually take action or refuse to take action just for political gain?

Let's see. Here is an article from RedState. A friend there on November 12, 2013, points out:

Headed by a former field director of Obama for America, Battleground Texas' whole aim is to turn Texas from a so-called "red State" to another California—that is, almost singularly controlled by liberal Democrats.

According to O'Keefe's video, Enroll America, a "501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to maximize the number of uninsured Americans who enroll in health coverage made available by the Affordable Care Act," is sharing data with Battleground Texas.

So they are actually using government money to turn Texas into a State that votes more for Democratic candidates.

Another article from a Democratic group says:

The Lone Star State is changing. From top to bottom of the ballot, we can change the face of Texas politics together.

It goes on to point out how Texans are carrying this movement and that its success could change the face of Presidential politics in this country as we know it. With 38 electoral votes at stake, a blue Texas would be a surefire road to the White House.

For the first time that I am aware of, we had a President who didn't decide to stop his campaign apparatus after he got elected for a second time and who has expressed the intent of turning Texas into a Democrat voting State.

Madam Speaker, the motives have been widely expressed. It is time to stop the invasion, and we have the power to do it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MEADOWS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of his sister's death.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 255. An act to amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes for clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 272. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic"

H.R. 291. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

H.R. 330. An act to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

H.R. 356. An act to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes".

H.R. 507. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 803. An act to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

H.R. 876. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1158. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

H.R. 1216. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

H.R. 2337. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

H.R. 3110. An act to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 14, 2014, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6347. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0277; FRL-9911-05] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6348. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for Georgia; State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0223; FRL-9912-82-Region 4] received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6349. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oregon: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R10-OAR-2014-0018; FRL-9912-55-Region 10] received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6350. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Export Provisions of the Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Rule [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2011-1014; FRL-9911-84-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AG68) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6351. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware: Amendments to Delaware's Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0245; FRL-9912-22-Region 3] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6352. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana: Particulate Matter Limitations for Coating Operations [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0366; FRL-9912-09-Region 5] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6353. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Review of New Sources and Modifications in Indian Country Amendments to the Registration and Permitting Deadlines for True Minor Sources [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0151; FRL-9911-46-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS24) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6354. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyrooxalulfone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0673; FRL-9911-08] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6355. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Extension of Compliance and Attest Engagement Reporting Deadlines for 2013 Renewable Fuel Standards [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0479; FRL-9912-00-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS25) received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6356. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism; A National Broadband Plan For Our Future [CC Docket No.: 02-6] [GN Docket No.: 09-51] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6357. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reliability Assurance Program [NRC-2013-0123] received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6358. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Addition of Certain Persons to the Unverified List (UVL) and Making a Correction [Docket No.: 140530464-4464-01] (RIN: 0694-AG20) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6359. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Update of Short Supply Export Controls: Unprocessed Western Red Cedar, Crude Oil, and Petroleum Products [Docket No.: 140121058-4058-01] (RIN: 0694-AG06) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6360. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-032, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6361. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-026, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6362. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-030, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6363. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-058, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6364. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-049, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6365. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-033, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6366. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-015, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6367. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-025, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6368. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 14-057, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6369. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: United States Munitions List Category XI (Military Electronics), and Other Changes (RIN: 1400-AD25) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6370. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting the Senate's Resolution of Advice and Consent to the Treaty with Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10) activities report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6371. A letter from the Associate Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Burmese Sanctions Regulations received June 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6372. A letter from the Acting Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's semi-annual report from the Office of the Inspector General during the 6-month period ending March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6373. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; 2014-2016 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specifications [Docket No.: 140106010-4358-02] (RIN: 0648-XD069) received June 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6374. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No.: 140417346-4346-01] (RIN: 0648-XD252) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6375. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Fisheries; California Drift Gillnet Fishery; Sperm Whale Interaction Restrictions [Docket No.: 130802674-4422-02] (RIN: 0648-BD57) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6376. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs,

NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2013-2014 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correction [Docket No.: 140418348-4406-01] (RIN: 0648-BE14) received June 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6377. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Administrative Wage Garnishment [FRL-9910-14-OCFO] received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6378. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a semi-annual report concerning emigration laws and policies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4572. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-518). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5074. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the transparency and oversight of land conveyances involving the sale, exchange, or other disposal of National Forest System lands or public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management or the acquisition of non-Federal lands for inclusion in the National Forest System or administration as public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5075. A bill to provide protections and certainty for private landowners related to resurveying certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 5076. A bill to amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to increase knowledge concerning, and improve services for, runaway and homeless youth who are victims of trafficking; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 5077. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide guidance and clarification regarding issuing new

and renewal permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND (for himself, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ENYART, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 5078. A bill to preserve existing rights and responsibilities with respect to waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COOK, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. McKEON, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 5079. A bill to amend the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to provide for the repatriation of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 5080. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the period of time for which a conditional permit to land temporarily may be granted to an alien crewman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 5081. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HARPER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. McALLISTER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5082. A bill to provide tax relief for major disaster areas declared in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. ELLMERS (for herself, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5083. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve audit effectiveness and efficiency in paying for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in ad-

dition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. MENG, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 5084. A bill to ensure equal access for HUBZone designations to all tax-paying small business owners; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 5085. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Families of Fallen Heroes Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 5086. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 5087. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 5088. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish procedures for class actions at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5089. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5090. A bill to prohibit providing Federal funds for the National Endowment for the Arts; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. AMASH, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. LABRADOR):

H.R. 5091. A bill to consolidate within the Department of Defense all executive authority regarding the use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5092. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to expedite civil actions, claims, and appeals under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Ms. LEE of California):

H. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove United States Armed Forces, other than Armed Forces required to protect United States diplomatic facilities and personnel, from Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GIBSON):

H. Res. 666. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Community Development Block Grant program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 667. A resolution expressing support for dancing as a form of valuable exercise and artistic expression, and for the designation of July 26, 2014, as National Dance Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

235. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Resolution No. 69 memorializing the Congress to review and support H.R. 3930; to the Committee on Armed Services.

236. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 8 urging the President and the Congress to support the Republic of China's (Taiwan) participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

237. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 79 urging the federal government to adopt federal policy to prohibit the introduction of invasive species, and to manage and prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of invasive species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

238. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution No. 736 calling for a convention for proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

239. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution No. 371 calling for a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

240. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Florida, relative to Senate Memorial 118 urging the Congress to enact H.R. 25; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

241. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island, relative to House Resolution No. 7706 requesting that the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation pursue certification as a Federal Urban Promise Zone and Manufacturing Hub; jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Agriculture.

242. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island,

relative to House Resolution No. 7785 supporting the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's Phase II Grant proposal to the United States Economic Development Administration; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: to make rules for the government and regulation of the land.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: to make rules for the government and regulation of the land.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 5076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 5077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. SOUTHERLAND:

H.R. 5078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 5079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, specifically Clauses 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) of such section.

By Mr. FARENTHOLD:

H.R. 5080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 5081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.

Article I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 5082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. ELLMERS:

H.R. 5083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 5084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 5085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 7 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 5086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 5087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 5088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to establish Post Offices and post roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 5090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—"No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 5091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the Power "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 517: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 543: Mr. GALLEG0.

H.R. 594: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 842: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 956: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 961: Mr. KILMER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 962: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BARTON, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1146: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1505: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1518: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1620: Mr. KEATING, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1627: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1697: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 1725: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1767: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1795: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1812: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 1844: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1893: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1907: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2020: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2264: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 2415: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 2453: Mr. COOK, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 2504: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2540: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2607: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2654: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2835: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 2902: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BARBER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ESTY, Ms. HAHN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MENG, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA.

H.R. 2975: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2976: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 3229: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3333: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3382: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3383: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3398: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3400: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 3463: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 3486: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 3689: Mr. DAINES.

H.R. 3749: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 3839: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3997: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 4026: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4041: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4056: Mr. STUTZMAN.
H.R. 4119: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 4234: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 4236: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4241: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4255: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4319: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 4325: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4351: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 4385: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 4407: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 4430: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4440: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 4445: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4449: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4450: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4459: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4489: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4510: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 4622: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4632: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4651: Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4709: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 4726: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4736: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 4781: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 4826: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4833: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4854: Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4867: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 4885: Mr. BERA of California and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4886: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4888: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. COOPER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. MENG, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HANNA, Mr. TURNER,

Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DINGELL.
H.R. 4897: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4904: Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. MENG, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4907: Ms. CHU and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4929: Mr. HONDA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENYART, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4931: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 4964: Ms. Frankel of Florida and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 4977: Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 4978: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4981: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4986: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 5007: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 5024: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5038: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 5053: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BARR, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 5056: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ESTY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HULTGREN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.J. Res. 113: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. JOLLY, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. KILMER.
H. Res. 231: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 412: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H. Res. 456: Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 612: Mr. PERRY.
H. Res. 622: Mr. PERRY.
H. Res. 642: Mr. HIMES, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. NADLER.
H. Res. 644: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Res. 650: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 657: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. REED, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PALONE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. FORBES.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 10, July 11, 2014, by Mr. SCOTT PETERS on the bill (H.R. 3992), was signed by the following Members: Scott H. Peters, Lloyd Doggett, Peter A. DeFazio, Ron Kind, Michael E. Capuano, Matt Cartwright, Sander M. Levin, Xavier Becerra, Alcee L. Hastings, Mike Quigley, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Robin L. Kelly, Marcia L. Fudge, Daniel T. Kildee, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Bill Pascrell Jr., Hakeem S. Jeffries, Daniel B. Maffei, Ed Perlmutter, Donna F. Edwards, Danny K. Davis, Ann M. Kuster, Doris O. Matsui, Juan Vargas, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Katherine M. Clark, John F. Tierney, Frank Pallone Jr., Michael M. Honda, Janice Hahn, William L. Owens, Shella Jackson Lee, Ami Bera, Lois Capps, Joe Courtney, Niki Tsongas, Rubén Hinojosa, Mark Takano, Ann Kirkpatrick, Eric Swalwell, Grace F. Napolitano, James P. McGovern, Chellie Pingree, Brian Higgins, Betty McCollum, Joyce Beatty, Frederica S. Wilson, André Carson, Jerry McNerney, Michelle Lujan Grisham, David N. Cicilline, James R. Langevin, Al Green, Mark Pocan, Julia Brownley, Tammy Duckworth, Jackie Speier, Alan S. Lowenthal, Ben Ray Lujan, Joseph P. Kennedy III, Joaquin Castro, Tony Cardenas, Pete P. Gallego, Raul Ruiz, Jared Huffman, Ron Barber, John Garamendi, Elizabeth H. Esty, Gerald E. Connolly, Steven A. Horsford, Diana DeGette, Kyrsten Sinema, John K. Delaney, Rush Holt, Marcy Kaptur, Derek Kilmer, Paul Tonko, Michael H. Michaud, Janice D. Schakowsky, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, George Miller, Karen Bass, Yvette D. Clarke, Sam Farr, Henry Cuellar, and Steve Israel.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE
OF THE HONORABLE IRA BRUCE
RUSKIN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and work of an extraordinary man, the Honorable Ira Bruce Ruskin. Ira was born in New York City on November 12, 1943, and passed away after a long struggle with brain cancer on July 3, 2014.

Ira Ruskin was drawn to progressive issues at the University of California, Berkeley, where he became involved in the Free Speech Movement. This began his lifelong advocacy for civil rights, women's rights, and the environment. After graduating from Berkeley, he earned a degree in communications from Stanford University. He was a marketing and public relations consultant for two decades until he began his political career in 1995, serving on the Redwood City Council and as the Mayor from 1991 to 2001. In 2004, he was elected to the State Assembly, a position he held with dignity and distinction until 2010, when his illness prevented him from entering the race for the State Senate.

Ira Ruskin gave generously of his time and considerable talents to others. He helped organize and served as Chair of the Committee for Regional Water Reliability, and was Chair of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. He also served our community as a Director of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and as an Advisor to the Redwood City Education Foundation, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the San Mateo County Joint Powers Authority, and the San Mateo County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our condolences to Ira's beloved wife, Cheryl, to his entire family and to his many friends. It is fitting for us to honor the life of Ira Ruskin who was kind and compassionate and who will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. He was a patriot who served his community and his country with a deep sense of dedication and integrity and his values and his life of service to others have bettered us and made our union stronger. How blessed and privileged I am to have known Ira, served our mutual constituents together, and called him my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE
CHRISTOPHER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catherine Christopher, a resident of Middleborough, Massachusetts, who today celebrates her 100th birthday.

Catherine was born on July 11, 1914 to Mary and Michael Vergos in Lowell, Massachusetts. The second oldest of her six siblings, Catherine, or Kay as her family and friends know her, left her junior high school to work at Giant Store to help support her family. Kay later married Harry Christopher at the Holy Trinity Church in Lowell on October 22, 1939, and they went on to raise three children together: Sandra, William, and Chris. In the early 1950s, the Christopher family opened a grocery store on Locust Street in the early 1950s, which they operated for thirty years.

Kay has been an active member of the local Greek Orthodox Church and she, along with her husband, belonged to a number of clubs and organizations within their community for many years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Catherine Christopher on this joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing her continued health and happiness.

BABY BOY BORN AFTER BEING
SPARED FROM ABORTION FOL-
LOWING MIRACULOUS INTERVEN-
TION

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

[From the Christian News Network, Feb. 6, 2014]

(By Heather Clark)

WEST CHESTER, PA.—A baby boy was recently born in Pennsylvania after his life was spared from abortion through a miraculous series of events.

Baby Roman was 18 weeks gestation when his parents went to Planned Parenthood in West Chester last July for an abortion.

"I went to Planned Parenthood because I was stuck in my own world doing everything that I wanted to do," Roman's mother, Cartier, who had a previous abortion in 2012, told Christian News Network. "I was going to go get another abortion."

Cartier, 21, had three other children and a stepchild, and was living in government housing, where she was limited to an occu-

pancy of six people. If she had the baby, she and her husband feared that they might have to find housing elsewhere, but had nowhere else to go.

At Planned Parenthood, Cartier found out that she was too far along in her pregnancy to have an abortion at the facility. She was directed to go to Cherry Hill, New Jersey that day to end the baby's life.

"[Planned Parenthood] gave me this paper and said, 'Here's other places that will do it,'" she explained. "And when I left, my husband and I got in the car [and were going to drive to New Jersey for the abortion]."

That day, a number of Christian sidewalk counselors stood outside of the facility offering help to abortion-minded mothers. Mary Ellen Caris, who has been active in pro-life ministry since 1989, was one of the counselors that eventually had contact with the couple.

"They came out an hour or so after they initially went in," she stated, "They didn't look at us, and they didn't want to take any information."

DIVINE INTERVENTION

But as Cartier's husband started the car and was ready to exit the parking lot, suddenly the transmission blew—right in front of the sidewalk counselors.

"[T]he car died," Caris explained. "[The husband] tried starting it up and it just barely made it to the stop sign and died again."

Cartier's husband started the car one more time and was able to turn the corner, but the car again stalled—this time for good.

"They had just spent \$500 on the car the week before to fix it," Caris outlined, "So probably he's thinking, 'Man, I just spent \$500. Why isn't this car working?'"

Suddenly, everyone began to ask themselves whether the situation was a matter of divine intervention.

"The whole time that my husband and I were in the car, we kept saying, 'What if it's God? What if He's trying to tell us something?'" Cartier recalled.

Caris and some of the other counselors then approached the vehicle to offer help, and minutes later, worked out arrangements to take Cartier home—but with the stipulation that she first go to the local pregnancy care center.

"I said to [my husband], 'I'm just going to do whatever this lady wants me to do so that we can get home,'" Cartier explained, "and then, forget them."

But Caris said that she and the others asked God to intervene in the situation as she drove Cartier and her husband to Chester County Women's Services in Coatesville and then waited patiently for the decision.

"We were praying while they were inside," she remembered.

"I CAN'T DO IT"

As Cartier sat in the offices of the pregnancy care center and listened to the words of Medical Director Lisa Thomas, she said that she suddenly "broke down." She texted her mother to tell her about the situation, who replied by congratulating her on the pregnancy—something that stood out to Cartier as she said that her mother had never spoken to her like that before.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Minutes later, Cartier had an ultrasound, and she knew right away that she couldn't go through with the abortion.

"I'm like, 'Oh my goodness, I can't do it,'" she said. "And me and my husband were immediately like, 'Alright, we're keeping him.'"

But, Cartier and her husband still did not know how they were going to provide for their son.

"I couldn't go to work; my husband was unemployed," she explained. "So now, we don't have a car, no way to get around—nothing."

Cartier and her husband decided to pray and trust God. And that's when they began to see amazing things happen before their eyes.

"Lisa called us and said that somebody wanted to give us a van, and that we could ride around for free," Cartier recalled. "And we're like, 'Are you serious?'"

"They called me again and said, 'Somebody wants to give you a baby blessing,'" she continued, noting that she had begun attending Thomas' church at that time. "[They said,] 'We don't want you to buy anything at all. . . . All you have to do is be here, and people are going to buy you everything you need for the baby.'"

Each time that Cartier and her husband had a need, it was always provided for just in time.

"It was like a rush. We went through all of this—we're struggling; we didn't have anything," she said. "[But then] people came into our lives and helped us. Every time we didn't have food in our house, somebody's bringing over groceries. Every time we'd think, 'How are we going to get here?' because we didn't have any gas in the car, someone would say, 'Oh, the church gave you a gas card, so you can put gas in your car.'"

ROMAN IS BORN, AND HIS PARENTS ARE BORN AGAIN

Baby Roman was born on December 4th, and Cartier, who along with her husband have since been born again, continues to testify to the goodness of God. She shared that every detail was taken care of surrounding Roman down to even the size of the clothing that she was provided during the baby shower.

"He's two months old and he's wearing three to six-month clothes," she explained. "If they had bought everything zero to three months, I would have no clothes right now. So, it's like an act of God that even happened."

And Cartier's housing situation worked out as well as she was able to have Roman share a room with one of his siblings without issue.

She gave a word of encouragement for other mothers who might also be considering an abortion.

"Instead of being so quick about everything, sometimes you have to be so tied up in something for God to step into your life. Sometimes you've got to struggle in order to see a victory," she said. "Don't get discouraged, because maybe God is trying to show you, 'You can't do it all without Me.'"

Caris also urged Christians to get out on the streets and love and help women like Cartier who may just need some hope and support.

"We don't see behind the veil. We don't know what God is doing," she said. "While praying in our prayer closets and praying about abortion in our homes and churches is really important, being a physical presence at the gates of Hell is just undeniably one of the most most powerful things you can do."

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY KUETER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jeffrey Kueter for being named the next President of the University of Iowa Alumni Association. Mr. Kueter will succeed current President Vince Nelson at the end of this month.

As any loyal Hawkeye knows, the UI Alumni Association is the trusted resource for more than 45,000 graduates who continue to stay involved in the university's community. The association has maintained an excellent reputation of keeping alumni engaged and united no matter how many miles may separate them from Iowa City.

Since graduating from the University of Iowa in 1993, Mr. Kueter has maintained an unparalleled allegiance to his alma mater through the devotion of his time, resources, and efforts as an ambassador to the political science department. While in his current role as President of the George C. Marshall Institute in Arlington, Virginia, Jeffrey also has presided over the Capital Area Iowa Club of Washington, D.C. and served on the UI Alumni Association's Board of Directors for seven years. In 2011, Mr. Kueter was bestowed with the association's esteemed Distinguished Young Alumni Award for epitomizing what it means to pursue a rewarding, lifelong relationship with the university.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better selection than Mr. Kueter to promote the University of Iowa Alumni Association's mission of strengthening the university through alumni engagement. Jeffrey's continued commitment to his university and home state throughout his professional endeavors embody the values espoused in the lecture halls of Iowa City and all across our great state. As the next association president, there is no doubt that Jeffrey will continue to focus his efforts to further the University of Iowa and its world-class alumni. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Kueter on his new position and I wish him the best of luck as he expands his integral role in leading Hawkeye Nation.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S HARRY WHITE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great gratitude and respect that I rise to recognize Mr. Harry White upon the occasion of his retirement after a remarkable career of dedicated military and public service to our great Nation.

Born on October 22, 1942 in Robertsedale, Alabama, Harry enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1963. He excelled in his 21-year Air Force career, developing training and edu-

cational curricula for all USAF Veterinary Services. He later served as Superintendent of Training for the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine and as Senior Enlisted Advisor for Veterinary Services at Royal Air Force Base, Lakenheath, England in 1979. Harry retired from the Air Force in 1984 at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

After a full career of service in the Air Force, Harry joined the Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce. Serving as Executive Vice President, he executed an industrial development program for the tri-city area in Alabama, developing and executing numerous programs to help support the local community. After five years with the Baldwin County Chamber of Commerce, Harry became the Director of Media Relations for Naval Air Station Pensacola.

Throughout the 25 years since, which he refers to as some of the best times in his life, Harry executed public affairs for the installation and proved to be a vital liaison between the military and civilian community. Harry prepared thousands of news releases to help translate issues of importance to the local communities; coordinated media relations for dignitaries, filmmakers, and writers; and served as an anchor for the community during emergencies, relaying critical information to the public during the aftermaths of Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and the September 11, 2001 attack on our homeland.

I have enjoyed having the opportunity to work with Harry in his capacity as Public Affairs Officer and come to know him very well. Without question, Harry, always with his family and country at heart, has played an integral role in the continued development of Naval Air Station Pensacola. Looking back on his nearly five decades of service, Harry's unwavering devotion to duty, his timeless energy, and his extensive expertise will surely be missed. I am honored to call Harry my friend and I would like to thank his wife Wilma Jean, children, and grandchildren for supporting him throughout his exemplary service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of Northwest Florida, I would like to thank Harry White for a five-decade job well done.

HONORING THE CITY OF FILLMORE

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the City of Fillmore as it celebrates 100 years of incorporation. Fillmore, whose motto reads: "The Last, Best Small Town in Southern California," is truly a gem of Ventura County. This tight-knit community cherishes its history and tradition, which are rooted in long-standing community values and are preserved and showcased through its many historical landmarks.

Fillmore's history extends beyond the early days of rural Southern California with its significant role in the development of the momentous railroad industry. A stroll through the Fillmore Historical Museum retells the stories of

the Southern Pacific Railroad's 19th century depots.

The residents of Fillmore live alongside grand stretches of lemon, orange, and avocado groves, and at the foot of the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and the Los Padres National Forest, home to the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. It is an honor to be part of and serve a community with such reverence for the environment and with great devotion to local agriculture in its economy. There is much to gain from preserving California's farming tradition and much to learn from the historic pastimes of this Southern Californian municipality.

As we commemorate the city's 100th anniversary, I would like to commend the City of Fillmore and its residents, past and present, on their success of reaching this milestone. I offer my sincerest congratulations during this centennial celebration and look forward to many more years of growth and prosperity.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JACK LOANE**

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of America's Greatest Generation, Mr. Jack Loane. Jack was a World War II Navy veteran. He passed away this June, and is survived by his children and grandchildren.

Jack was present at the naval base in Pearl Harbor during the attack and later joined the Navy on the western front. Jack's bravery knew no bounds as he was involved in the Naval Armada taking troops to Normandy, France for the D-Day Invasion. He holds the distinction of being one of the few veterans to take part in both the attack on Pearl Harbor and the counter-offensive of D-Day.

Jack will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was active in the community, and tremendously proud of his service to our country. He was a frequent speaker and attendee at veteran's events, and was even honored this year at a Blackhawk's game for his service and sacrifice in defense of our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues of the House, please join me in honoring Mr. Jack Loane, a true American patriot. I know I join his friends, family, and brothers in arms in celebrating his life and service and honoring his legacy as a veteran and an outstanding American.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,586,759,896,863.97. We've added \$6,959,882,847,950.89 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 394, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 397. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**IN HONOR OF MRS. ALICE JANE
BALLEW**

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Alice Jane Ballew of Richmond, Kentucky for her commitment and service to the citizens of the City of Richmond and Madison County, Kentucky.

On the occasion of her 90th birthday, I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Alice Jane Ballew for her many contributions to Richmond and Madison County, Kentucky, and in particular to the Pattie A. Clay Infirmary Association and to Baptist Health Richmond. Mrs. Ballew has provided more than a half century of volunteer service to the Infirmary Association and the hospital, and has served on the boards of trustees of both the hospital and its foundation.

Mrs. Ballew was recently awarded the Kentucky Hospital Association's Health Care Governance Leadership Award for her positive and sustainable impact on the quality of health care in Richmond and Madison County. She has also received the Community Service Award from Richmond's Chamber of Commerce, the Outstanding Service Award from Jewish Hospital in Louisville, the Outstanding Community Philanthropy Award and the Kentucky Hospital Association's Award of Excellence.

I am grateful to represent such an outstanding, civic minded constituent.

**HONORING U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE
JAMES TURK**

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of U.S. District Judge James Turk, a devoted public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who passed away on July 6, 2014.

Judge Turk grew up on a farm in Roanoke County, and graduated from William Byrd High School. He served in the U.S. Army, and went on to graduate from Roanoke College. He won a scholarship to Washington & Lee University School of Law, and went on to practice law in Radford for many years with the firm of Dalton, Poff, & Turk.

He served in the Virginia State Senate from 1959 until 1972, and was the Senate Minority Leader from 1965 until 1972. In October of 1972, Judge Turk was appointed by President Nixon to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia. In 2002, 30 years later, Judge Turk claimed senior status but, though a successor was appointed at that time, he continued hearing cases.

I and others who have practiced before Judge Turk found him to be honorable, helpful, friendly, and very sharp. John Fishwick, a prominent Roanoke attorney who clerked for Judge Turk in the 1980s and has appeared before him in court, said, "He had one of the sharpest legal minds I've ever known, and he also cared greatly about the people who came before him. Those people mattered so much to him." Circuit Court Judge Clifford Weckstein wrote this week, "He loved coming to work. He loved his job. And his job, as he saw it, was to do justice, every day and in every way." And Tom Bondurant, a former assistant U.S. attorney now in private practice, said, "He had a fine sense of right and wrong, and he always tried to do what was right."

Judge Turk was involved in additional public service work and charitable work, including serving as President of the Roanoke College Alumni Association, membership in the Roanoke College Society of 1842, and on the Boards of Directors for the Radford University Foundation and the C.E. Richardson Foundation. He also was a trustee for the Radford Community Hospital. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Roanoke College in 1996 for his service and devotion to his alma mater.

He is survived by his brother, S. Maynard Turk and wife Pat; his beloved wife, Barbara Duncan Turk; his children, Ramona Turk, Jimmy Turk and wife Allison, Bobby Turk and wife Laura, Mary Turk Prince and husband Scott, Michael Turk and wife Barbara; and grandchildren.

Judge Turk was dedicated to his family, and was dedicated to his work. He was very well respected, a devoted public servant, and a noble defender of the rule of law. He had a tremendous impact on our community and upon countless individuals all across the region. Though Judge Turk will be greatly missed, his legacy and influence will long be remembered.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Turk's family and other loved ones at this time. May God give them comfort.

CELEBRATING ST. CHARLES EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S "MISSION IN THE MOUNTAINS"

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Charles Episcopal Church's "Mission in the Mountains" and to celebrate the service of seven high school participants in this effort. In June, the St. Charles Episcopal team traveled to poverty stricken areas of the Appalachian Mountains where they invested their time and energy rebuilding and repairing homes. This was the 13th year in a row members of the St. Charles community participated in a mission trip to Kentucky.

Liz Ryan, director of youth & children's development at the church, led the mission trip for the 13th time. She described the mission as life changing, saying "One of the things that we profess to in our religion is that we respect the dignity of every human being, when you go to someplace where the need is so evident, it changes your perspective on the world." Ryan believes that no two trips have ever been the same and that the students take home a new perspective on how to positively impact the world.

The students, Shannon Foran, Mandalee Manning, Rachel Peyton, Johanna Matthiesen, Ian Rhead, Avery Manning, and Grace Ditch, were trained in using power tools and equipment and a variety of tasks needed to com-

plete the building and repair projects comprising the mission. They used these skills to repaint walls, ceilings, homes, and build wheelchair ramps and fix leaky roofs.

Mr. Speaker, these hardworking young people could have been spending time at home, with friends, playing video games, or any of the other ways so many choose to spend their days. Instead, they showed leadership, compassion, and commitment to help build a better world. They chose to roll up their sleeves and get to work. They improved the lives of those less fortunate, and they set a terrific example for the rest of us.

Mr. Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating these "Mission in the Mountain" participants and their efforts and encouraging them to continue to lead by example.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EUGENE H. DIBBLE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 11, 2014

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, about ten years ago I had the pleasure of going to the floor of the House of Representatives to congratulate and wish my good friend Mr. Eugene Dibble a happy 75th birthday.

Today, I am pleased to be here at Howard University Law School with you, his family, friends and associates to say farewell as he transitions on to another world of which we know so little.

But what we do know is that Mr. Eugene Dibble is a member of one of America's most distinguished families. Big Gene or Gentle

man Gene as he was fondly called by some of those who knew him, was indeed a man about the town. Pedigreed, intelligent, astute, wise civically socially and politically involved, and some would even say charmingly so.

Gene Dibble was a pioneer, one of the first African American stock brokers in Chicago. He told me that he owned five businesses at one time and had five children who worked in these businesses. Yes, he was advisor to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Muhammad Ali and to countless others. One evening after dinner at one of his favorite eating places, "the Jockey Club", he said to me that the most important aspects of his life were his family and heritage. He talked about you all whenever he was talking and that was practically all of the time. Gene was keenly aware of his world and always seeking, probing and analyzing and trying to figure out, always wanting to be in charge of his thoughts and actions.

It seems to me that the poet William Ernest Henley had Gene on his mind when he penned these words: "Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever Gods may be, for my unconquerable soul. In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not winced nor cried aloud, Under the bludgeoning of chance, my head is bloody, but unbowed. Beyond this place of wrath and tears looms the horrors of the shade, and yet the menace of the years, finds and shall find me unafraid. It matters not how straight the gate, how charged with punishment the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

And may the soul of Eugene H. Dibble rest in peace.

SENATE—Monday, July 14, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, in a turbulent world filled with wars and rumors of war, be merciful and bless us.

May Your ways be known to our Senators, and may they seek Your guidance. Carry them in Your strong arms, enabling them to accomplish with Your might what they cannot do with their strength alone.

O God, summon Your might and display Your power in these challenging days of Earth's history. Use us to speak of Your majesty, power, and strength to those held captive by fear.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, the

Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, there will be a period of morning business until 6 p.m. this evening, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. The reason for that is last week we were able to get a few things done. We were able to do some things around here the way we used to do them.

I know my Republican colleagues lament how things used to be. Well, I was there. I know how things used to be. One of the things we used to do is we would work out pieces of legislation, as we did on terrorism insurance. We have a number of people who worked hard on that: Chairman JOHNSON, Senator SCHUMER—he worked with Ranking Member CRAPO—and they came up with a way forward on an important piece of legislation. There will be some amendments. We will finish that legislation this week—very important, important to our country, important to our economy, important to the construction industry. So I was very happy to see that done. So there are no votes tonight, and that is the reason for that.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session, as I mentioned. The next rollcall votes will be tomorrow at noon. Those will be two cloture votes on nominees to be members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SUING THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President, the Republicans have made a decision on a lawsuit against President Obama. It is difficult to understand how they have become so desperate that now they are talking about: Our issue of the day is not the minimum wage. Our issue of the day is not that women and men get the same amount of money for doing the same work. The issue of the day is not the crippling debt that is staggering this country; that is, student loan debt. Extended unemployment benefits—that is nothing they are focused on. I could go through a long list of what is important to the middle class that they simply are ignoring. So what are they doing to solve the problems of this country? Suing the President.

Mr. President, listen to what they are suing him about. They have been

broadcasting for weeks their intention to sue the President, but they just did not know why. That is what they said, not I. Now, after misstep after misstep after misstep, they know why they are suing the President; they want to litigate ObamaCare.

The Acting President pro tempore has done a remarkably good job of calling out Republican Senators when they come to the floor and make these ridiculously false statements, and I appreciate that. I think everybody in the country, if they do not, should appreciate what the junior Senator from Connecticut has done.

House Republicans have identified President Obama's delayed enforcement of employer obligations in the Affordable Care Act as the centerpiece of that frivolous lawsuit. This provision, which affects companies with 50 or more full-time employees, ensures that employers pay their fair share if their employees receive health subsidies. But listen to this: The irony, of course, is that this specific provision, which is in the bill that became law, came about as a result of the Republicans wanting to put it in the bill. Senator GRASSLEY, Senator ENZI, and former Senator Snowe—this was something they worked on with Senator Baucus and other Members to come up with this bill. They placed it in the bill. It became law.

Even more absurd is the fact that Republicans in Congress have long targeted this specific provision of comprehensive health reform. In fact, just after President Obama announced the delay of the employer provision, House Republicans voted on legislation to do the exact same thing—delay the so-called mandate. So they are suing the President of the United States because he did what they wanted him to do—delay the mandate.

Every word I have spoken I wrote down in my own handwriting. That is what they wanted to do. They wanted him to do this. He did it and they sued him for doing what they wanted him to do. They could have applauded him.

House Republicans are trying something worthy of daytime television's "The People's Court" on one of those channels you do not watch very much. There are a lot of court channels, but this would be one where you would really have to be desperate to watch. They would not put it on a channel that made any common sense.

So, to sum it up, Republicans create an employer obligation provision in the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act becomes law. Republicans vilify the employer provision they

themselves authored. Republicans demand that the employer provision in ObamaCare be delayed. President Obama agrees to delay the employer provision, and House Republicans sue President Obama for delaying the employer provision. Is this weird? Is this weird? I can answer my own question. Yes, it is weird.

This is the behavior we have come to expect from the Republican Party that is determined to do one thing: undermine this President. No matter the issue, even when they ask him to do it, they oppose him on it. They sue him this time.

We have seen this so often in the Senate. It is not just in the House. Last week the Republicans filibustered a bill on which there were 26 Republican cosponsors. That is a new one. More than half of the Republican Senators put their names on a bill and then turned around and voted against it.

With this provision in the health care law, House Republicans are ignoring the fact that they gave President George W. Bush a pass for doing the exact same thing—delaying a specific provision of a congressionally passed health care law. Then President Bush, through Executive order, waived Medicare Part D penalties for seniors enrolled after the deadline. He did this by Executive order. Republican leadership in the House did not consider suing President Bush for his administration's delay of health care law. So they chose now to do this. Why? Because it is President Obama.

While Republicans accuse President Obama of Executive overreach, they neglect the fact that he has issued far fewer Executive orders than any two-term President in the last 50 years. President George W. Bush issued 291 Executive orders. President Clinton issued 364 Executive orders. President Reagan is the record holder; he issued 381 Executive orders. President Obama is not close to their records. He is 109 behind President Bush. He is 182 behind President Clinton. He is 199 behind President Reagan. What is the President's tally to date? As I have indicated, he is behind them all—an 8-year President. He has issued only 182.

Republicans' disdain for President Obama and health care reform has prevented them from accepting the obvious: ObamaCare is proving more and more successful every day. It seems as if every week—sometimes every other day—there is some new study or survey showing how good ObamaCare is, how it is helping American families.

Mr. President, the Commonwealth Fund:

The uninsured rate for people ages 19 to 64 declined from 20 percent in the July-to-September 2013 period to 15 percent in the April-to-June 2014 period. An estimated 9.5 million fewer adults were uninsured.

That is big-time stuff.

Young men and women drove a large part of the decline: the uninsured rate for 19-to-

34-year-olds declined from 28 percent to 18 percent—

Remember when everybody said young people will run from this. They are not running from this. They are running to it—

with an estimated 5.7 million fewer young adults uninsured.

That is so important. Because of the high cost of health care previously, young people—many of them—would not do it. Mr. President, 5.7 million more would not sign up for any kind of health insurance. And what happens? Young people do not realize they get very sick also. They get into accidents also. Bad things happen to young people, as they do to middle-aged and older people. And younger people are signing up for ObamaCare.

By June, 60 percent of adults with new coverage through the marketplaces or Medicaid reported they had visited a doctor or hospital or filled a prescription; of these, 62 percent said they could not have accessed or afforded this care previously.

That is stunning. It is no wonder—it is no wonder—we have fewer and fewer Republicans coming down here giving these speeches about how bad ObamaCare is.

A Gallup survey: "In U.S., Uninsured Rate Sinks to 13.4% in Second Quarter." This deals with millions of people.

The uninsured rate in the U.S. fell 2.2 percentage points. . . .

When you have 300 million people, 2.2 percent is a lot of people.

The previous low point was 14.4% in the third quarter of 2008.

So it is well below that.

The RAND Corporation: "Changes in Health Insurance Enrollment Since 2013."

. . . . overall, we estimate that 9.3 million more people had health care coverage in March 2014, lowering the uninsured rate from 20.5 percent to 15.8 percent.

Stunningly important numbers.

So the evidence—not the shrill statements made by my colleagues over here bemoaning the fact of how terrible things are—all the evidence indicates that the Affordable Care Act is helping millions of Americans. You can say anything you want, but facts are nasty things. They are nasty to the point that they are factual. Do not believe all these crazy statements when there is no basis for it. It is helping—this ObamaCare—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. It is helping residents of blue States, red States, and purple States.

How about the State of Kentucky, the home State of our Republican leader? Well over 400,000 Kentuckians have signed up for coverage through the Affordable Care Act. That is not a State with the population of Illinois or New York or California or Texas; it is a sparsely populated State.

Four hundred thousand Kentuckians have signed up for coverage. Even Re-

publicans love it. The Commonwealth Fund that I referred to found that 74 percent of newly insured Republicans are happy with their ObamaCare health coverage, but instead of embracing the good that ObamaCare has done and working with Democrats to address any necessary fixes, Republicans would rather file a foolish and meritless lawsuit.

Is there anyone who believes this lawsuit has some basis? It is a sham—an effort to appease the tea party radicals in the House of Representatives. One Yale law professor was questioned on why the lawsuit is receiving so much media attention. Here is what he said: "I see this every day now, being covered as if it's, as if it's somehow not a joke." It is a joke.

Another law professor from Harvard said: "The lawsuit will almost certainly fail, and it should fail, for lack of any Congressional standing." Imagine how many lawsuits there would be if House Republicans could sue the President every time they disagreed with him about something—or some future President—but there is no reasoning with the radical Republicans in the House or the tea party-driven Members of the Senate.

House Republicans would rather waste taxpayer dollars than accept the fact that their constituents, their very own neighbors, are benefiting from health care reform.

This is a phony trial that will come up. It is a show trial. It is what Republicans want.

I guess that is what they want, but if that is truly what they want, they should go talk to Judge Judy. I think she would throw this case out in half a second. The Congress is no place for inane, politically motivated litigation. I think Judge Judy would agree.

It is expensive and wasteful. It is wasting taxpayers' hard-earned money on something that is without any merit. Enough is enough. The fight over ObamaCare should be long since ended. The law is here to stay and, more importantly, newly insured Americans, all who have signed up, not only those who are newly insured but those who have signed up who had insurance before, want the law to stay just where it is.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 6 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BAY NOMINATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the nomination of Norman Bay. President Obama has nominated Mr. Bay to be a commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. The President has announced that if Mr. Bay is confirmed, his plan is to elevate Mr. Bay to the position of chairman of FERC. Over the past few months there has been much discussion about whether the President should have nominated Mr. Bay to be chairman, and I think there is very good reason to ask whether the President really should have nominated Mr. Bay at all.

In my view Mr. Bay is not qualified to be a commissioner, let alone to be chairman of FERC. Mr. Bay has only 5 years of working experience in the energy sector—a total of 5 years. This is less time than the Keystone XL Pipeline has been pending with the Obama administration.

During the nomination hearing, I specifically asked Mr. Bay about his lack of experience. In response, he cited his summer internship at a Department of Energy research facility during college—a summer internship during college. With all due respect, this man does not have the background, the qualifications, and certainly not the experience to take on this important role.

The President has nominated Mr. Bay to replace FERC's current chairman Cheryl LaFleur. In contrast to Mr. Bay, whom the President has nominated to replace Ms. LaFleur, Ms. LaFleur has over 25 years of experience in the energy sector. That includes 4 years as a commissioner of FERC and 7 months as the chairman of FERC. I don't often agree with Ms. LaFleur's policies, but you cannot deny that she is qualified to serve.

Mr. Bay's lack of experience is not the only reason I oppose his nomination. There are a number of outstanding factual disputes about Mr. Bay's tenure as the FERC's enforcement director. For example, there are serious allegations that the enforcement staff, during the time Mr. Bay has been in charge, has violated basic principles of due process. These allegations include the withholding of exculpatory evidence from subjects of FERC investigations.

In May the Energy Law Journal published an article by William Scherman, who was a former general counsel of FERC and by two other attorneys fa-

miliar with this situation, and they write: "There is a wide-spread view that the FERC enforcement process has become lop-sided and unfair."

They said that:

One need only to observe the fact that Enforcement Staff denies, in case after case, the existence of exculpatory or exonerating materials . . . only to . . . produce a subset of those materials too late in the process to be of use . . . in raising defenses.

The authors explain that "one of the fundamental principles of due process is that the government is not permitted to hide information from the accused that may aid in his or her defense." They say that "[FERC] Enforcement Staff routinely fails to produce exculpatory documents"—routinely fails to produce exculpatory documents.

During Mr. Bay's nominating hearing, I asked him about these allegations. At first he denied the allegations were true, but then he stated he was "not aware of any instance in which Enforcement Staff has failed to produce exculpatory materials."

So I asked him to clarify his remarks. I asked him whether the allegations were true or not. He pled ignorance.

With all due respect, this answer is inexcusable. This is his staff doing his work under his direction. He should know whether they withheld the evidence from defendants.

There are not only questions about his commitment to due process, but there are also questions about the President's nominee on whether he or anyone else at FERC suggested that an enforcement action be settled in return for approval of a merger. So there are questions about whether an enforcement action should be settled in return for approving a merger.

The ranking member of the energy committee asked all about this during the nomination hearing. The ranking member of the committee asked Mr. Bay about the connection between FERC's enforcement settlement with Constellation Energy and FERC's approval of Constellation's merger with Exelon.

The ranking member noted that FERC settled with Constellation the day before—1 day before it approved a merger between Constellation and Exelon. In fact, the enforcement settlement, which Mr. Bay himself signed, specifically mentions the merger between these two. The ranking member of the Energy Committee asked Mr. Bay whether he is concerned about the appearance of a quid pro quo between the settlement agreement one day and the merger approval the next. Mr. Bay admitted he would be concerned.

The ranking member then asked if he or others suggested to FERC that Constellation should settle the enforcement action in order to get its merger approved. In response he said that "[t]o

the best of [his] recollection" he didn't make such a suggestion and that he did not know what others at FERC—including his own staff—may have suggested.

With all due respect to Mr. Bay, his answer is, at best, hard to believe.

At the time FERC's enforcement settlement with Constellation was the largest enforcement settlement completed in the history of the agency. So they make this settlement, it is the largest enforcement settlement in the agency's history, and the next day they allow a merger which has created one of the Nation's largest utilities. Are we really to believe that Mr. Bay doesn't remember what he or others at FERC said to Constellation? Can we really believe that?

I believe the energy committee or some other independent entity should get answers to these and other questions surrounding Mr. Bay's record before we decide—this Senate—to confirm and promote him.

I know that some Senate Democrats are nervous about voting for Mr. Bay—and I believe rightfully so. These Senate Democrats have said they will vote for Mr. Bay only because they believe a so-called deal was cut with President Obama. Specifically, they say the President will allow Ms. LaFleur to continue serving as chairman for 9 months after her confirmation.

The President hasn't put it in writing, hasn't really told all of the Members that. And even if the President had, this is no way for the Senate to be able to enforce it. The truth is this is a gimmick, and it is a gimmick invented specifically by Senate Democrats so they can once again avoid standing up to President Obama and the Senate majority leader.

Let's be clear about what President Obama is asking the Senate to do. The President is asking the Senate to demote Cheryl LaFleur from being chairman—she is a highly qualified woman, a Democrat with over 25 years of experience in energy and 4 years of experience as a commissioner of FERC—in order to promote an unqualified man.

Why should the Senate do this?

The Senate majority leader put it this way in the Wall Street Journal. He said: I don't want her. "I don't want her as chair." He said: "She has done some stuff to do away with some of [Chairman] Wellinghoff's stuff." This is the majority leader of the Senate: "I don't want her as chair."

In short the President and the Senate majority leader want a rubber stamp. By all indications, they will get that with Mr. Bay.

On May 20, during his confirmation hearing, Mr. Bay admitted that he wasn't even following EPA regulations and their impact on electric reliability in this country. Two weeks later on June 4, in response to written questions, he stated the EPA's regulations

are “manageable.” Well, either he is an exceptionally quick study or he doesn’t take electric reliability seriously.

FERC is an independent agency. It needs a highly qualified leader, a leader whose record is beyond reproach, a leader who will resist political interference from the White House and the majority leader, and Mr. Bay is not that individual.

For these reasons, I am voting against Mr. Bay and urge all Members to do the same.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING CHIEF STEPHEN SAVAGE

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Stephen Savage, the chief of the Plaistow Police Department, who passed away on Friday after a 3-year battle with cancer. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Chief Savage, a beloved member of the Plaistow community, who dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens.

For Steve, family came first. He was a devoted father, husband, and brother. We hold his wife Kristin and their sons Billy and Michael in our hearts, and we will keep them in our prayers. We share in their grief and we will be there to support and comfort them during the difficult weeks ahead.

From a young age Steve was called to serve, and he answered that call. After graduating from Stevens High School in Claremont, NH, in 1965, he enlisted in the Air Force and served our country in Vietnam. He obtained the rank of sergeant and earned several commendations for his military service. Steve was a very patriotic person.

After returning from Vietnam, Steve went on to earn a degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University. He joined the Newport, NH, police department in 1969. That was the beginning of an exceptional career in law enforcement which would span more than 40 years—including positions with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Baltimore, MD, Police Department.

After coming home to his beloved State of New Hampshire in 1977, Steve was named chief of police in Haverhill, NH. He served as police chief in Haverhill until 1986, when he was appointed police chief in Plaistow, NH. Steve served as police chief in Plaistow for 28 years. He was the longest serving police chief in Plaistow’s history.

In Plaistow Steve was a friend to all and was a constant presence at the

local ballfield where he coached baseball and volunteered his time with Friends of Plaistow Recreation.

In addition to all of his responsibilities as police chief, Steve was a highly respected leader in our State’s law enforcement community. He served as past president of the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police Association, where I had the privilege of working with him when I was attorney general. He served as president of the Rockingham County Chiefs of Police Association and as a member of many law enforcement organizations.

Steve was a great leader, and he was so well respected by all members of law enforcement throughout New Hampshire. His talent, dedication, and expertise helped set a gold standard of excellence for New Hampshire law enforcement. In a fitting tribute just a few weeks ago, the Plaistow Police Department named its tactical training center in Steve’s honor, ensuring that his legacy will not be forgotten by the people of Plaistow or the people of New Hampshire.

He touched so many lives during his distinguished career, and one of them was mine. I had the privilege of getting to know Steve, Kristin, and his family when I served as attorney general for the State of New Hampshire.

Steve was such a kind, compassionate person and devoted to serving others. He was a man with a big heart. He had a vibrant personality that would light up a room and a great sense of humor that never faded despite his diagnosis. I was so proud to call Steve Savage my friend. I feel fortunate to have known him, and I will treasure our friendship always.

There is so much I admired about Steve Savage. He worked tirelessly to keep his community safe. When he was diagnosed with cancer 3 years ago, he didn’t let up. He just kept going, spending every moment he could with his family while also continuing to lead the police department and taking part in the community activities he enjoyed. In fact, in May he served as grand marshal for the Plaistow’s Memorial Day parade.

Steve and his family—and particularly his wife Kristin—faced his illness with such inspiring courage. As we know, cancer hits so many people. They found a way to turn what was a tragedy in their family into a good cause to help others. The Savage family and the Pollard School worked together to organize the Run of the Savages, a 5K run to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Center and the Jimmy Fund.

Even in sickness Steve wanted to help others fighting the disease, a profound reflection of his generous and caring spirit. I know the Run of the Savages will continue, and I will certainly run in it again. It is a reflection of how much the Savage family has

given back to the community and what an inspiration Steve’s life can be for others facing the horrible disease of cancer.

Steve was determined to live life to the fullest, and he did so right up to the very end. Our State lost a truly great public servant with the passing of Steve Savage, New Hampshire’s law enforcement community lost a brother, and so many of us lost a great friend.

The Savage family has lost a loving dad and our hearts ache for Kristin, Billy, and Michael. We will continue to keep them in our prayers and stand with them during this difficult time. They are an amazing family.

Steve went beyond the call of duty in everything he did as a father, as a police chief, and as a friend. And because of Steve, New Hampshire is a better place. I feel honored to have known him. His legacy will live on through all of those lives he touched. We will forever honor his memory, and we will continue to be there to support Kristin, Billy, and Michael. We are just thankful that someone such as Steve Savage came to serve our State and has been a friend to so many of us.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the time in the quorum call be charged equally to both sides of the aisle.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. NELSON. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to display in the course of my speech some small bottles of liquid that will demonstrate what I am talking about today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I wish to show us these innocent-looking small bottles with an eye dropper of three types of liquid. This is liquid nicotine. The eye droppers are used to put that into the cartridges for electronic cigarettes, otherwise known as e-cigarettes. There are some versions that look the size of a cigarette that already have the liquid nicotine contained in them, but there are many flavors that are otherwise contained in these kinds of dispensers.

When our commerce committee had a hearing on e-cigarettes, I asked the question: Are these childproof? The answer was: No.

I asked the question: If these are not childproof, is the concentration of nicotine in these sufficient that it could harm a child? The answer was: Yes.

As a matter of fact, there are varying degrees of concentration of liquid nicotine in these bottles, but some of them are as concentrated as 540 milligrams of liquid nicotine. If a small child got into these bottles, which are not childproof, and ingested this, that child would either be deathly ill or dead. If that child gets into it and it spills on that child, it will be absorbed through the skin and likewise, according to the concentration of the nicotine, the child will be very ill.

Obviously, when we had the commerce committee hearing on e-cigarettes, I asked the question—once they said these are not childproof—of the e-cigarette industry, which was represented at the witness panel: Do you have any objection? They said: No.

So last Thursday a group of Senators filed a bill that will require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to start and adopt a rule that will cause these to be sold in childproof containers. This is a no-brainer. This is common sense.

Why hasn't it been addressed before? It defies common sense because of the danger to children. Already, in this year 2014, between January and the end of May, there were almost 2,000 calls for liquid nicotine poisoning to the poison centers around the country—just in that 5-month period. We already have a recorded incident 1 year ago or so of one child having been killed. This ought to be not only a no-brainer, it ought to fly through this Congress and get the CPSC to get on with regulating it administratively.

What is another reason? Well, look what this one is called, with a picture, Banana; this one is Naked Peach; this one is Juice E Juice. Appealing to kids? How about Banana Split or Cotton Candy or Kool-Laid Grape or Skittles or Sweet Tart or Gummi Bear or Fruity Loops or Rocket Pop or Hawaiian Punch? That is what is going on.

There happens to be a part of government that is supposed to try to protect the public from danger. This is obviously something that ought to be done.

There is a larger question, and that is the question of e-cigarettes. That is not the subject of this legislation. With all due haste, the CPSC—and, oh, by the way, why the CPSC instead of the Food and Drug Administration? Because the Consumer Product Safety Commission is vested with the authority to create container packaging and safety packaging. So if Tylenol is childproof in its packaging, if Drano is, if any other obvious item that you

want to childproof is, then we best have this done and done fast. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is the way to do it.

I hope by the attention this received in the hearing 2 or 3 weeks ago, plus the fact of a group of Senators now coming together and filing this legislation, the CPSC isn't going to wait around until we pass it, but it will get on with the problem.

There is a larger question. This is on an additional but related issue, and that is the advisability of e-cigarettes and the way they are being marketed.

As a matter of fact, on e-cigarettes there is some packaging where it looks like a white cigarette. Guess what is happening. It is now like we have seen this movie before. This is a rerun of what went on 20 years ago when, finally, because of tobacco products, the advertising on television and radio was banned by law because it was geared at getting young people hooked on tobacco. There were very attractive young models who were shown smoking cigarettes, wonderfully beautiful backgrounds on the television and the beautiful music on radio, and, indeed, there were advertisements with cartoons aimed at what? It came out in all of the tobacco wars that these were aimed at young people, getting them hooked on tobacco so they would be lifelong tobacco smokers and it would be tough to kick the habit. So a couple of decades ago we went through that fight and we banned the television and radio advertising of tobacco.

Well, guess what is happening now—beautiful and handsome models with the e-cigarette, cartoons aimed at young people with e-cigarettes. So another question this Senate should consider is banning the advertising that is obviously directed at young people to try to get them hooked on this nicotine product so that it is so hard for them to get off of the nicotine addiction over the course of time.

I can tell you that the commerce committee is going to stay on this, and the first thing we can do is give a little sweet talk to the CPSC to get moving on the regulatory process of a rule to require the childproof packaging of this liquid nicotine. The next thing down the road is to stop the advertising that is being aimed directly at young people on the whole issue of electronic cigarettes.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLORIDA'S EVERGLADES

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I am just busting out with ideas I wish to discuss with the Senate. Since we don't have any other Senators standing in line, I will share where I have been today and what is of urgency for the environmental community and particularly the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Government.

We have been spending hundreds of billions of dollars to restore the Florida Everglades. This is a natural resource that is unique in all of the world, and its environmental effects are felt far beyond Florida and the United States—indeed, on the entire planet. It is a source of water that starts southwest of Orlando in a little creek called Shingle Creek and flows south through the Kissimmee chain of lakes, into the Kissimmee River, into Lake Okeechobee, the big lake in southern Florida. From there the water then flows further to the south in what is termed the River of Grass—the Florida Everglades. From there it moves very slowly through all of that grass, and it eventually ends up on the southern tip of the peninsula in Florida Bay by the Florida Keys or to the southwest of Florida, coming out through what is an area known as the Shark River Slough into the Gulf of Mexico. It is a unique natural resource.

I once had Senator BARBARA BOXER, the chairman of the environment committee, down there.

We travel in the Everglades in an airboat since there is little depth to the water. Of course, it is all watered grass. You skim across the top of the water in an airboat propelled by a big airplane propeller.

As we took Senator BOXER across this River of Grass, in the midst of what looked like a meadow in front of the airboat, suddenly she saw a doe and her fawn going through the meadow. Only this time they were obviously not in a meadow; they were in water, and they were splashing in the water as they leapt away from the airboat.

It is a unique environmental, ecological treasure with so many endangered species there, and it is a discussion for another day, how invasive species are upsetting the ecological balance, such as the imported Burmese python, which can get up to 20 feet long. Indeed, one that was 18 feet 8 inches was caught 6 months ago. Of course, they are at the top of the food chain. They attack alligators. The fur-bearing animals in the Everglades have diminished in population because they are being consumed by these beasts that have a ravenous appetite. But that is a subject for another day.

Hundreds of billions of dollars has been spent to restore it, restoring it to correct a mistake of mankind over the course of the last century when, after the huge hurricane in the 1920s that

drowned 2,000 people in the Lake Okeechobee area, the whole idea was flood control: When it floods, get the water off the land. Send it to tidewater—the Atlantic in the east, the Gulf of Mexico in the west. But that messed around with Mother Nature, and as a result the whole of the Everglades started to dry up.

Fortunately, a lot of forward-thinking people—and I am merely a steward who has come along at the right time, at the right place—have continued this effort—the Corps of Engineers, the EPA, so many of the agencies of government, Cabinet Secretaries, such as Ken Salazar at the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture Secretary. It goes on and on. The effort as a 50/50 partnership in funding this restoration has been partnered by the State of Florida and the U.S. Government, and it continues.

Alas, there is now oil drilling in the Everglades. The subject of today's meeting in Fort Myers, FL, was to gather a very courageous county commission from Collier County, their chairman, and representatives of the community, to come in to educate me on the aspects of drilling and the recent brouhaha between the State environmental agency and the Texas wildcatter, the Dan A. Hughes Company; they started fracking without the proper permits and without revealing the mechanism and the material they were using to frack.

Of course, most people have heard of fracking, but we hear of it in terms of North Dakota or Oklahoma or Texas or Pennsylvania. But Florida is not built on that kind of substrate where they are going in and breaking up that rock in the fracking to release oil and natural gas, which has now made us such a tremendous producer of both of those in the United States. No, Florida is on a different type of substrate. It is built on a honeycomb of limestone that supports the surface by it being filled with freshwater. It is not those solid rocks where the fracking for oil and gas is being done and with the high jets with chemicals breaking up that rock to release the natural gas. No, this is porous limestone formed millions of years ago by the shelled critters that ultimately fossilized. It is this honeycomb being supported by freshwater that is the substructure of the State of Florida. So we don't have any idea what this fracking is going to do not only to the quality of the water but also to the very support structure for the State.

Now, lo and behold, there are attempts for permits to drill in the 250,000-acre Big Cypress Federal preserve, which is part of the Everglades but is adjacent to the Everglades National Park. Therefore, it is time for the EPA of the Federal Government to get involved. It is time to question their authority in law as to what, after this kind of drilling is done to inject

all of that stuff that is left over back down into this substrate of freshwater—what is that going to do under the Clean Water Act? What is it that could contaminate the source of drinking water? What is it going to do to the structure that upholds the surface of the State of Florida? And very importantly, since it is colocated right next to Everglades National Park and since it is a part of the area generally known as the Everglades, what is it going to do to the flora and fauna—in other words, all of that delicate ecosystem balance of the critters and the plants? What is it going to do to the very area that we are spending hundreds of billions of State taxpayer and Federal taxpayer money to restore? These are very legitimate questions.

Years ago the Collier family was very generous. They gave, fee simple to the U.S. Government, what is today the Big Cypress preserve. They retained the mineral rights. It was clearly their right to do so, and it was very generous of them to donate the property.

We have a national park ranger manager who manages that preserve. Now we have to look at what are the serious consequences of trying to convert those mineral rights that were reserved into drilling. The most immediate is that instead of seismic testing, another kind of vibration testing is expected to be done with thousands of tests in the Big Cypress Preserve. It is called thumping.

A vehicle comes in and apparently drops things onto the surface to create something—instead of seismic testing where an explosion is let off, to send down vibrations—and these triangulations, since they are doing thousands of these, would determine if there is oil there. Thus, another question that arises is, What is the environmental effect?

We definitely have a reason for the EPA, as an independent agency, for the Department of the Interior, which has jurisdiction over things such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Park Service, to get involved in this process and make some determinations, and if the answer is that there is not sufficient authority in law, to address it so that we can address it here as a matter of legislating law.

I wanted to make the Senate aware of this particular potential threat to the Florida Everglades.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. I wish to ask my colleagues as well as myself to think about how many times we have made pessimistic-sounding statements about America's future. I want to remind my colleagues and myself about what I see as excessive pessimism about our great country, because as public figures often what we say maybe has consequences—sometimes positive, sometimes negative. Our attitudes matter and the policies shaped by those attitudes can have an enormous impact for better or for worse on the lives of Americans.

President Ronald Reagan often expressed that America's best days were yet to come. Twenty-five years later I still believe in Reagan's optimism for America. In fact, President Reagan even ended his final letter to the American people: "I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead." His agenda reflected that optimism and his policies worked towards a freer, more prosperous America.

But it seems such optimism about America's future might be out of fashion these days. Instead of searching for a silver lining, many pundits and politicians see nothing but clouds. For instance, after decades of hearing about how we are about to run out of fossil fuel, making energy in the future much more expensive and scarce, improved technologies have unleashed enormous reserves of natural gas. This increase in supply has driven down costs and caused electrical generation to switch from coal to natural gas. That in turn has led to substantial reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. That seems to be a silver lining.

Now there are clouds on the horizon. However, rather than to celebrate the fact that the free market is achieving one of their long-held goals, many environmentalists want to ban the technology that led to the shale gas revolution based on unscientific claims of potential groundwater contamination. It seems that it would be a terrible shame to let all of that planning for scarcity of energy to go to waste. So I guess we better not take advantage of this Nation's resources.

On another matter, we hear a lot of hand-wringing about the decline in manufacturing jobs, but this is partly due to advances in manufacturing process which seems to require fewer more-skilled and therefore higher-paying jobs. The growth in American advanced manufacturing will require job training to fill those higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs, and of course we have community colleges throughout our country that are rising to that challenge. This is an opportunity to do insource jobs that might otherwise be done overseas. That is good news for American economic competitiveness and from the standpoint of wanting higher paying jobs for Americans. That seems to me to be a silver lining.

Now the clouds: The decliners are so heavily invested in the story of the decline of American manufacturing that it is easier to bemoan the lack of economically inefficient low-skilled jobs which are the hallmark not of Americans but of underdeveloped countries.

On another matter, the bursting of the economic bubble has forced Americans to spend less and as a result to save more. "Spend less, save more" seems to me to be good news. Now clouds are forming because we have economic pundits saying that "spend less, save more" shows a lack of consumer confidence. You could look at it as a reality check in the face of unsustainable credit card debt financing spending or is it our national goal to get people to go back to saving less in the future and spending more today? Live for today and forget about tomorrow. You would think so, based upon what you hear in the news shows.

American entrepreneurs still produce a disproportionate share of the world's major innovations. Still, we are cautioned by people who always see clouds hanging over America, that America is not graduating enough people with science and technology degrees and the best and brightest in developing countries may soon decide to stay at home to build their companies instead of coming to America.

Doomsayers have existed throughout our history. It seems to be a sign of sophistication and intellectual refinement to predict the inevitable decline of your own society.

Using 20/20 hindsight, the eventual decline of all of history's great civilizations somehow seems to be inevitable. So isn't it logical then to think our great Nation will decline as well? Perhaps the so-called great recession is a sign that America's best days are in fact already behind us. Many people in the media and government seem so caught up in this narrative they cannot see any other possibility but our decline. This fever is starting to spread to the general public as polls show a record number of Americans who think the next generation will be less well off than this generation. As a result there is a tremendous amount of energy being devoted to figuring out how to manage America's decline. This is kind of a historical determinism and pessimism that is very alien to the American character.

The rise of America as the most prosperous Nation on Earth was hardly inevitable 200 years ago. We owe our current level of prosperity to the entrepreneurial spirit and hard work of our forefathers and, yes, to their unbounded optimism in the future of this great country. An excessive focus, then, on managing decline risks becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy.

For instance, there is a lot of concern about the decline of the middle class, but instead of talking about how to

unharness the entrepreneurial spirit that made America an economic super power and grew the great American middle class that we know, all the ideas from our friends across the aisle seem to focus on expanding dependency on government and more government programs. While a succession of new EPA regulations rain down on businesses causing them to pull back from expanding and hiring more people, the Democrats' solution is to keep people on unemployment benefits for a long, long time. Expensive health care reform mandates threaten to force small businesses to reduce the hours of employment and maybe not even hire more than 49 people, because when you get to 50 people there are other requirements in health care reform that kick in.

So what is the answer? Many people in this body would mandate that small business pay a much higher minimum wage. Minimum wage jobs ought to be seen as a stepping stone for low-skilled workers to begin climbing the economic ladder. However, when the economic engine stalls, the ladder of opportunity becomes harder to climb. It happens that more and more people get stuck trying to make ends meet with low wage jobs and no opportunity to get ahead. And it seems that people are concerned about tackling this problem by putting more people on food stamps.

So you get back to the American dream. The American dream is about an opportunity to work hard and earn your own success in life. Proposals to expand the welfare state to the middle class assume the American dream is somehow dead and the best we can hope for is anemic economic growth with high levels of government dependency. That is a defeatist attitude that reflects a distinct lack of faith in our great country. This is the old European model, which the experience of Greece showed to be unsustainable.

In fact, the poster child for an expensive European welfare state, Sweden, has in fact taken a new route to cut taxes and reform entitlement programs—a lesson that we ought to be looking at in America. But who would ever think that we would look to Sweden as an example to teach us how to lower taxes and reform entitlement programs? If we keep planning for decline, we will get it. But if we recover our faith in America's potential and redirect our energy towards removing barriers to economic growth and opportunity, America's best days are still ahead of us.

That leads me to repeat what Ronald Reagan said 25 years ago in that letter to the American people: "America's best days are still ahead of her."

SMARTER SENTENCING ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to speak to my colleagues on an-

other issue as well, and that is something that came out of our Judiciary Committee a long time ago and is still on the calendar but probably will be brought to the Senate floor. A few weeks ago some were calling for the majority leader to bring up the so-called Smarter Sentencing Act to the Senate floor for a vote. So I come to the floor today to express my strong opposition to this bill and argue against taking the Senate's time to consider it.

In the past I pointed out that this bill would put at risk our hard-won national drop in crime. It would also reduce penalties for importing and distributing heroin, a drug that is currently devastating our communities with an epidemic of addiction and a rising number of deaths from overdoses. In part, for these reasons many law enforcement professionals have come out against this legislation. The National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Federal law enforcement officers associations, and a long list of former high-level officials—in Republican and Democratic administrations alike—are all opposed to it. Indeed page A12 of this morning's New York Times contains an article entitled: "Second Thoughts on Lighter Sentences for Drug Smugglers." According to the New York Times, the sentencing changes that the administration has already pushed for are "raising questions of whether the pendulum has swung too far." "Some prosecutors say that couriers have little to no incentive to cooperate anymore."

Border patrol officials grumble that they are working to catch smugglers, only to have them face little punishment. And judges who once denounced the harsh sentencing guidelines are now having second thoughts.

Today I point out another perhaps less understood effect of the bill which puts our national security at increased risk.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, terrorists are increasingly funneling illegal drugs into America, raising large sums of money to fund their activities while simultaneously harming our communities. Undoubtedly, the Obama administration's unwillingness to control our border—which we have seen recently—contributes to the problem.

Derek Maltz, Director of the Special Operations Division at the Drug Enforcement Administration, called this a two-for-one deal for terrorists: "Poison gets distributed in the West, and they make millions in the process."

According to a DEA spokesperson, "Most people talk about the drug issue as a health issue, a parenting issue, an addiction issue. But the truth is, it's really a national security issue."

In 2006, Congress took specific action to address this issue. When it reauthorized the PATRIOT Act, Congress also

made it a separate crime to manufacture or distribute illegal drugs to benefit terrorists or terrorist organizations. The law is codified at title 21, section 960(a) of the U.S. Code. It is often called the narcoterrorism law.

Just as important, Congress created mandatory minimum sentences applicable to narcoterrorism. Those sentences are set at “not less than twice the minimum punishment” applicable to the underlying drug trafficking offenses which are codified in title 21, section 841. However, the Smarter Sentencing Act would drastically cut the mandatory minimum sentences that apply to these underlying drug trafficking offenses. What this means is that by slashing in half the mandatory minimum sentences for the local drug dealer down the block, the Smarter Sentencing Act also slashes in half the mandatory minimum sentences for members of the Taliban, Al Qaeda or Hezbollah who deal drugs to fund their acts of terrorism.

For example, terrorists who currently face a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison for narcoterrorism would instead face only 10 years if the Smarter Sentencing Act were to become law. By cutting the mandatory minimum sentences for trafficking drugs to fund terrorism, the Smarter Sentencing Act weakens a very important tool that can be used to gain the cooperation of narcoterrorists facing prosecution. This cooperation leads to more arrests, more drug seizures, more terrorists off the streets, and more intelligence that could help prevent further attacks.

Indeed, law enforcement authorities have been supportive of the mandatory minimum sentences that apply to the narcoterrorism statute for this very reason. For example, the Assistant Administrator for Intelligence at the Drug Enforcement Administration testified before Congress that “the robust sentencing provisions in these statutes provide incentives for defendants to cooperate with investigators, promoting success in investigations.”

The last thing we should do is weaken the leverage law enforcement currently has to win a terrorist defendant’s cooperation, but that is what the Smarter Sentencing Act would in fact do.

Indeed, in opposing the bill, Federal prosecutors wrote that “mandatory minimums . . . help gain the cooperation of defendants in lower level roles in criminal organizations to pursue higher-level targets.”

The same principle is true—and even more important—when our national security is at stake. These threats to our safety and security are not theoretical, they are very real, and the narcoterrorism law is not just a statute on the books, it is a tool that is actively used by prosecutors to protect our Nation.

For example, in 2008, Khan Mohammed, a member of the Taliban, was

convicted under the narcoterrorism law of distributing heroin and opium to finance attacks against American troops in Afghanistan.

Chillingly, Mohammed was just as concerned with killing American civilians with drugs as he was with financing rocket attacks against our troops. The opium he agreed to sell was to be processed into heroin and imported into the United States. As a result, Mohammed was caught on tape exclaiming “Good, may God turn all the infidels into dead corpses.”

He later expounded on his deadly intentions:

May God eliminate them right now, and we will eliminate them too. Whether it is by opium or by shooting, this is our common goal.

Similarly, the narcoterrorism law was used to prosecute Afghan heroin kingpin Haji Bagcho in 2012. He was also trafficking heroin to America and funneled the proceeds to the Taliban. The evidence at trial showed that in 2006 his drug trafficking organization produced almost 20 percent of the world’s opium and, similar to Mohammed, he targeted Americans. He reportedly encouraged Afghan farmers to “grow opium so we can make heroin to kill the infidels.”

Perhaps it is little wonder, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, heroin overdoses resulting in death in the United States increased 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

It should go without saying that these are not individuals whose mandatory minimum sentences should be cut in half. But the authors of the Smarter Sentencing Act apparently think otherwise because that is what the bill says or maybe they don’t understand what they are doing. Either way, the American people should be extremely concerned about this bill that unbelievably was reported out of the Judiciary Committee.

Some may assume that the Department of Justice has other tools to go after defendants such as these, but the only other charges that Mohammed and Bagcho faced were for unlawfully importing these illegal drugs into the United States. Unbelievably, the Smarter Sentencing Act cuts the mandatory minimum sentences for that crime in half as well.

In addition to these two cases, the Department of Justice has brought prosecutions against other narcoterrorists. Many of these individuals were linked to Hezbollah, one of the most notorious terrorist organizations in the world. In at least one instance associates of Al Qaeda were also brought to justice for their role in drug trafficking schemes.

In many of these cases, the narcoterrorism law and the ban on importing illegal drugs played a vital role in their prosecution. We should not be weakening these laws at this critical time

by cutting the penalties associated with those acts of crime. Of course, if possible, I would rather these terrorists be treated as enemy combatants and not be subject to the civilian criminal justice system at all, but on those occasions when they are prosecuted in our criminal justice system, I want authorities to have the strongest tools available to address the threat these criminals pose.

According to the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, who has brought many of these cases, “there is a growing nexus between drug trafficking and terrorism, a nexus that increasingly poses a clear and present danger to our national security. Combating this lethal threat requires a bold and proactive approach.” Cutting the mandatory minimum sentences for narcoterrorists is moving in precisely the opposite direction of what the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York said and I just quoted.

Trafficking in illegal drugs has long been understood to be a way that these terrorist organizations raise funds, but it is now equally clear that this activity is also a way for them to target our fellow citizens directly. In effect, drug trafficking is a method of waging war against the United States. It is a way to terrorize our communities with poison without firing a shot. It is a way to threaten the lives of Americans just as surely as using a bomb, a gun or a hijacked plane.

Terrorists are wielding another tool in their efforts to destroy and defeat our country. This is not the moment to weaken one of the tools we have to actually stop them. This is no time to let down our defenses. It is no time for the Senate to take up the misnamed Smarter Sentencing Act.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RONNIE L. WHITE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 850.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronnie L. White, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Ronnie L. White, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Claire McCaskill, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Christopher Murphy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Is the motion to proceed to S. 2578 now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

Harry Reid, Patty Murray, Mark Udall, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Carl Levin, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Michael F. Bennet, Jon Tester, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Maria Cantwell, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last month we saw five male Justices give their blessing to CEOs and corporations across America to go ahead and deny legally required health care coverage for their employees. When that news broke, I was outraged, and I know I was one of millions of people across the country who were shocked and angry.

These women are looking to us. They are demanding a change. Today, as women across America took to social media for a Digital Day of Action, their message was delivered loudly and clearly when they echoed: "My personal health care choices are not my boss's business—period."

It wasn't just women who were speaking out on social media today. In fact, we heard from several men who understood that if bosses can deny birth control, they can deny vaccines or HIV treatments or any other basic health care service for their employees or their dependents.

I heard from Konrad in my home State of Washington on Twitter today who said he doesn't want his boss knowing what medications he is on, such as diabetes or heart medications. Konrad said, "It is simply not my boss's business."

I also heard from my constituents when I was home this weekend. Friday I spoke directly with business owners and others who are hearing the same thing. Women are tired of being targeted and are looking to Congress to right this wrong by the Supreme Court.

One such woman is a woman named Morgan Beach. Morgan joined me Friday at Oddfellows Cafe, which is a small Seattle business whose owners stood up and spoke out about their disgust as employers about this ruling. Morgan is one of the 58 percent of women who use contraception for reasons other than to prevent pregnancy. As she spoke about how the Supreme Court decision would impact women such as her, Morgan said: "The terrifying power this ruling gives to a small minority to make sweeping personal decisions . . . is frightening. The simple fact is, birth control is not my boss's business!"

Morgan is right. It is not her boss's business.

We are going to be talking about this urgent issue at more length tomorrow morning, but I wanted to come to the floor this evening and share what I heard from back home this weekend and throughout today. We have legislation that is now slated for a vote later this week, and we are going to be talking about this today and tomorrow. I hope all of our colleagues are listening, because it is time for Congress to get to work. Women and men are watching.

I am delighted to be joined today by my colleague from Colorado, Senator

UDALL, who is my partner in presenting this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a proposal Senator PATTY MURRAY and I have introduced to restore a woman's power to make personal health care decisions based on what is best for her and her family, not according to her employer's personal beliefs. The Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act—or the Not Your Boss's Business Act—aims to counteract the far-reaching consequences of the U.S. Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision. That misguided Court decision allows closely held corporations to now deny their employees coverage for contraceptives through their employees' health insurance plans.

As Senator MURRAY did in her home State of Washington, I also traveled around my home State of Colorado. Several days ago I stood shoulder to shoulder with women's health experts, including an OB-GYN in Denver, who told me that physicians might now have to consider how an employer's religious beliefs might fit into their diagnosis before they make a medical recommendation, which ought to be based solely on their patients' well-being. This is unacceptable. Women should never have to ask their boss for a permission slip to access common forms of birth control or other critical health services.

Today, as Senator MURRAY alluded, champions in women's health are taking a stand on social media to illustrate why the Senate should come together this week to pass the Not Your Boss's Business Act. This outpouring of support from all over the country shows how important it is that we keep private health care decisions in employees' hands and out of corporate boardrooms.

As part of today's Digital Day of Action across the country, my staff and I put together a BuzzFeed post to dispel some misconceptions about the Hobby Lobby decision and highlight why we need to pass the Not Your Boss's Business Act. Go to BuzzFeed.com/markudall and share my post to help push back against some of the myths.

Despite what some people say, this decision is a bad deal, and it will undermine women's access to contraception across the country. But more and more Americans are joining us to speak out because of how backward this Hobby Lobby decision is. I am proud to have groups from across the Centennial State, such as the Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, and Colorado's Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, come out in support of our bill.

I believe the Supreme Court was wrong in its misguided Hobby Lobby decision, which is already adversely affecting American women and families. But we have a chance to fix this, and I stand here today to call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me, join Senator MURRAY and America's workers who agree that women's health is not your boss's business.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HIRONO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE LEAHY LAW

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 18 years ago I wrote a law that has been repeated annually ever since and is now codified as section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act. It has become widely known as the "Leahy Law" and it has two primary purposes.

The first is to prevent U.S. taxpayer funded training, equipment, or other assistance from going to units of foreign security forces that have committed heinous crimes. We saw many instances when U.S. aid ended up in the hands of foreign military or police forces that had engaged in rape, murder, torture, or other gross violations of human rights, and the U.S. was tainted by association with those crimes.

The second is to encourage foreign governments to bring to justice the individual members of units responsible for such atrocities. In many countries that receive U.S. aid there is a long history of impunity for crimes committed by government security forces. Rather than protect their citizens, they abuse them, and then they beat up or kill witnesses and threaten prosecutors and judges. They act outside the law and literally get away with murder. They are the antithesis of professional, accountable military or police forces.

A similar, although not identical, provision that is also known as the Leahy Law is contained in the annual Defense Appropriations Act.

Both Leahy Laws serve important national interests and they have be-

come increasingly institutionalized within the U.S. government. The State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor has developed a database for vetting foreign units and individuals that is continually updated, and they and the Defense Department increasingly coordinate to apply the laws consistently. The Department of State and foreign operations appropriations bill for 2015, reported to the Senate on June 19, includes \$5 million to pay salaries and other costs of the vetting process, an increase of \$2.25 million above fiscal year 2014.

While the Leahy Laws have been modified over the years and their implementation is a continuing work in progress, I appreciate the support they have received from the highest levels of the State and Defense Departments, and the willingness of officials in those agencies to work with Congress and representatives of human rights organizations and foreign governments to address issues of interpretation and implementation as they arise.

As with many laws, the Leahy Laws have their detractors. However, with rare exceptions questions about, or criticism of, the laws have been due to misinformation or misunderstandings that have been easy to clarify or resolve.

While I know of no one who has expressed opposition to the Leahy Laws, some have raised concerns with their implementation, suggesting that they pose unacceptable obstacles to the ability of the U.S. military to engage with foreign counterparts. Not only do the facts indicate otherwise, the laws are working. In more than 90 percent of cases the foreign units or individuals vetted have been deemed eligible to receive U.S. assistance under the Leahy Laws. In the rare instances when a unit or individual was denied assistance, it was due to credible information that the individual or unit had committed a heinous crime and the foreign government had done nothing about it.

At a July 10 hearing in the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, Stephen Rickard, a former Senate staff member, State Department official, director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, director of Amnesty International's Washington Office, and now executive director of the Open Society Policy Center, provided testimony on the Leahy Laws. His testimony does an excellent job of describing the purposes and impact of the Leahy Laws, and addressing key questions that have been asked about their implementation. I ask unanimous consent that his statement be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OPEN SOCIETY POLICY CENTER

Presented to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations

HUMAN RIGHTS VETTING: NIGERIA AND BEYOND

July 10, 2014

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Bass for holding this important hearing and for their leadership on human rights.

I have worked on the Leahy Laws in one form or another for nearly 17 years and have discussed them with countless State Department and Defense Department officials, as well as with human rights experts working all over the world. I also spent a period of time as a Franklin Fellow in the Department of State during which time I was able to learn in detail about the process for implementing the Leahy Laws. I have been engaged on detailed questions about the application of the Leahy Laws in Colombia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Nigeria, Kenya and dozens of other countries, and I believe that these laws are among the most important human rights statutes on the books. The law has been poorly funded—less than two-hundredths of one percent of the cost of U.S. military assistance is spent on Leahy Law vetting. And it has often been misunderstood and misrepresented.

But with President Obama proposing a new \$5 billion fund for military assistance to combat terrorism it is essential to help the public understand this vital law and to help insure that it is vigorously implemented.

A Common Sense Formula for Security Cooperation Consistent With U.S. Values

The Leahy Laws are common sense laws that prohibit the United States Government from arming or providing military training to security force and police units abroad who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross human rights violations. These laws (there is one for State Department assistance and one for Department of Defense assistance) do not prohibit the United States from providing assistance in violent, conflict-wracked countries like Nigeria and Colombia. On the contrary, because they involve a unit by unit examination, the Leahy Laws provide a formula for the United States to assist foreign military forces even in countries where some government forces are committing gross atrocities. They are a formula for success in such countries, not a prohibition on engagement.

Four Numbers

There are four important numbers to keep in mind about the impact of the Leahy Laws. (All these statistics have been provided by the State Department and cover 2011-2013.) The first number is 530,000. That's the approximate number of foreign military and police units which the United States government considered arming or training over the last three years and subjected to Leahy vetting.

The second number is 90 percent. That is the minimum percentage of prompt approvals given under the Leahy Law—generally within 10 days of a request. There is even a "fast track" approval process for countries with generally good human rights records. Some vetting requests require more information, investigation or discussion. But at least 90% are approved more or less immediately.

The third number is 1 percent. In every one of the last three years less than 1 percent of

all units vetted under the Leahy Law were ultimately declared to be ineligible for assistance under the law. Of course it is true that the number will be higher in some specific countries, but taken as a whole the Leahy Law actually blocks aid in a miniscule percentage of cases.

The final number is 2,516. The Leahy Law blocks aid in a tiny percentage of cases, but that doesn't mean that it is unimportant. Because the U.S. now provides training to so many people, even 1 percent is a lot. And 2,516 is the number of vetted units that the U.S. Government found to be credibly linked to gross atrocities over the last three years when it took the time to examine their records because of the Leahy Law.

Those 2,516 units were not being asked to satisfy a high standard. In no way does the Leahy Law require pristine forces. In fact, the State Department defines "gross human rights violations" to include a very short list of only the most heinous offenses: murder, torture, rape, disappearances and other gross violations of life and liberty. That's it. So even though less than 1 percent of proposed units failed the standard, it is still pretty shocking that over the last three years the United States Government probably would have armed and trained 2,516 units (or individuals in those units) containing murders, rapists and torturers without the Leahy Law.

The Leahy Laws don't actually prohibit the U.S. from working with even these units—the ones that have committed murder and torture. It only says that the U.S. cannot arm or train them until the foreign government takes steps to clean up the unit.

Three Questions

So whenever anyone says that it is a problem for the United States that it cannot train or arm a particular foreign battalion or police unit, one should ask three questions:

(1) What did the unit do? If we can't work with them, it must mean that the United States has determined that this unit is one of the worst of the worst. It is in the 1 percent of units where the U.S. government found credible information linking it to murder, rape, torture or another gross atrocity. So, when someone argues that we should arm a Leahy-prohibited unit, one should ask, "What did the unit do to get on the list?"

(2) Why won't the government clean up the unit? Maybe the foreign government wants to make a point to the U.S.—it doesn't accept the U.S. commitment to human rights; it won't let the U.S. "tell it what to do." Maybe the government has no control over its own military and cannot do anything to clean up the unit even if it wanted to do so. But one should insist on knowing: "Why won't the government clean up the unit?"

(3) Finally, if the unit committed murder, rape or torture and the foreign government won't or can't clean it up, why should U.S. taxpayers give that specific unit guns anyway? Under what possible circumstances would it make sense for the United States to arm known killers who are either completely out of their government's control, or who work for a government that refuses to take any action against them?

Responses to Three Criticisms

Tempus Fugit: There are a number of arguments raised against the Leahy Law which might make some sense if the law covered lesser offenses. For instance, there is an argument that it makes no sense to keep a unit on the Leahy Law "pariah" list long after the atrocity occurred, especially if everyone who was in the unit has now moved

on. But there are no other contexts in which we would accept a 4 year, or 8 year or even 15 year statute of limitations on murder, torture or rape. So why accept one here? And the law is intended to create an incentive for foreign governments to improve their human rights records and to hold people accountable. Letting a unit off the hook because the government rotated people out of the unit (and into other ones) or because the foreign government simply waited us out for a few years sends exactly the wrong message. Moreover, units have reputations and traditions that are regularly passed on to new members of the unit over many years and even decades. That is often true for units with gallant histories. But it is also true of death squads and praetorian guards.

Just as importantly, one needs to ask what it says about a foreign military "partner" if documented cases of murder, rape and torture go without redress after decades. The government always has the option of working with the United States to create new, carefully vetted units—something that has been done in a number of countries with gross human rights problems. If the government will not do that, it is probably trying to make a point. Is it appropriate to reward such behavior with assistance?

Pariah Forever: Critics of the law also sometimes argue that it is impossible for a tainted unit to be rehabilitated. This is, of course, completely false—unless the government in question refuses or is unable to take any meaningful action to address the problem. So what these critics are really saying is: It is almost never the case that America's military partners in these countries have the political will or commitment to human rights to take the kind of disciplinary action against killers and rapists that is absolutely routine in the U.S. military. And that is a very odd sort of argument for waiving or weakening the Leahy Law so that we can give more guns to these government's forces.

In fact, there are cases in which specific units have been rehabilitated. But it takes a willing partner. This is one area where critics of the law and its supporters should make common cause to support earmarked funding for remediation of tainted units. One percent of U.S. military assistance—just one penny out of every dollar—should be set aside for vetting and remediation. It should be used to help foreign militaries set up JAG officer corps, criminal investigation services and other elements of a professional disciplinary system. This should simply be considered a cost of doing business in some of the most violent places on earth. There is a precedent for applying a fixed surcharge as a "cost of doing business." Every time the United States Government sells weapons abroad it applies a surcharge—currently 3.5%—to administer the sale. The U.S. should apply a 1% surcharge to ensure that it knows what is being done with the other 99% and so that it can help move its partner forces in a positive direction on human rights.

Just a Few Bad Apples: Critics sometimes argue that it is wrong to hold whole units accountable for the acts of just a few, or perhaps even just one, member of the unit. They argue that we should vet specific individuals rather than units and only withhold information from those individuals who are linked to atrocities.

Here it is important to understand that the Leahy Law was a compromise. There was and is an important human rights law—Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act—which does not permit the United States to engage in a unit by unit assessment of for-

eign partner forces: "No security assistance may be provided to any country the government of which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." There is a very strong argument to be made under Section 502B that the United States should be providing no assistance whatsoever to Nigerian forces, and many others around the world.

But historically the United States has been extremely reluctant to invoke Section 502B even in the most extreme cases. So the Leahy Law was proposed as an intermediate step: If the U.S. will not completely cut off governments engaging in a consistent pattern of gross human rights violations, then at least it should not arm the specific military units it believes are the ones actually committing the gross violations. However, Senator Leahy also believed that it would be absurd and unreasonable to ask that human rights victims be able to identify the specific murder, torturer or rapist by name before the U.S. took any action. So, his law states that if credible information can be presented that links an identifiable unit to a specific atrocity the United States would be required to cut off that unit—at least until the foreign government identifies the specific individuals within it who are responsible and deals with them.

One Final Thought

The Bible tells us in the Book of Acts that before his conversion on the road to Damascus the Apostle Paul was a persecutor of the Christian Church. In fact, according to Acts (Chapter 7, Verse 59) he was present at the killing of St. Stephen and held the cloaks of those who stoned him. He cast no stones himself; but he was complicit. He gave aid to the killers. When we go to places like Nigeria, shouldn't we at least ask, "Whose cloaks are we holding?" That's all the Leahy Law says.

The Leahy Law cannot guarantee that the U.S. will never arm bad people. It's not a panacea. It's just the least we can do.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 DANIEL SANDBOTHE

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor CW5 Daniel Sandbothe of the 1107th Missouri National Guard in Springfield, MO. As a soldier, he has dedicated 40 years to serving in the Missouri National Guard. Over those years, through his commitment and service, he has risen to a unique rank signifying his expertise in flying and maintaining the rotary aircraft of the U.S. Armed Forces.

CW5 Daniel Sandbothe's career started in 1972 in the 1038th Maintenance Company. Throughout the next four decades, he mastered the ability to fly a variety of airframes commonly used by the U.S. Army, logging more than 5,000 military flight hours. He has earned the respected designations of instructor pilot, maintenance test flight evaluator, and rotary wing instrument flight examiner as he progressed.

His profession has sent him to four overseas duty stations in Central America and Japan. He also participated in three combat tours, including

Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Operation Iraqi Freedom with 1107th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot in 2005, and Operation Enduring Freedom with 1107th Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group in 2010. In addition, Daniel Sandbothe was selected to lead a team to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces in improving their aviation maintenance program.

CW5 Daniel Sandbothe has also been appointed to the Missouri Army National Guard Senior Warrant Officer Advisory Council. His job will be to help pick the future non-commissioned leaders of the Missouri National Guard's air elements. This distinction represents his commitment to his profession as a United States serviceman.

His legacy will be felt by future generations of the National Guard in Missouri, including those he has trained, led, and mentored over the last four decades. For his years of committed services, CW5 Daniel Sandbothe has earned his retirement. I wish him well in his next opportunity and thank him for his years of service to Missouri and the Nation.●

DIABETES STUDY

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to draw attention to a study by the University of Florida on diabetes. Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects the body's blood glucose levels. Diabetic Americans have too much glucose in their blood, which can lead to serious health problems. In addition to the large number of Americans who suffer from diabetes, the disease is one of the costliest chronic diseases and, currently, about 1-in-3 Medicare dollars is spent on people with diabetes.

This study, led by Dr. Todd Manini of the University of Florida's Institute on Aging, suggests a correlation between the amount of time people spend sitting and their risk of developing diabetes later in life. The findings from this study are alarming, particularly given the statistics about diabetes in our Nation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2012, 29.1 million Americans—9.3 percent of the population—had diabetes. Diabetes was the country's seventh leading cause of death and Americans with diabetes spend an average of 2.3 times more on medical expenses. The disease is also highly pervasive amongst our older Americans—11.8 million seniors age 65 or older, 25.9 percent of all Americans over 65, have diabetes and 51 percent of seniors are pre-diabetic.

As Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am well aware of the challenges diabetes poses to seniors. Last July, the Aging Committee held a hearing to discuss the growing impact of diabetes with advancing age. Diabetes impacts millions of Americans across all ages and even though seniors are particularly vulnerable to

problems created by the disease, diabetes needs to be fought across the age spectrum.

Researchers tracked the weights and sitting times of nearly 90,000 women between the ages of 50 and 79 who were not initially taking diabetes medications. Women who sat more than sixteen hours during their waking day had the highest risk of developing diabetes, and even if they introduced an exercise regimen, this high risk remained. Obese women have a 23 percent risk of developing diabetes and were more likely to develop diabetes than overweight and normal-weight women even if they were both sedentary for the same amount of time. The study found that the diabetes risk can be reduced by standing or walking for 5 minutes for every hour spent sitting.

This new University of Florida study enhances our understanding of the disease and emphasizes the importance of healthy behavior and habits throughout our lives. Though much progress has been made in diabetes research, we still have a long way to go in combating this disease that affects millions of Americans. We must continue funding groundbreaking research like that at the University of Florida and promoting the kinds of lifestyle changes that will reduce the risks of diseases like diabetes in old age.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4718. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation.

H.R. 4923. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4923. An act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4718. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation.

S. 2599. A bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2354. A bill to improve cybersecurity recruitment and retention (Rept. No. 113-207).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 161, a bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-208).

Report to accompany S. 1074, a bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe (Rept. No. 113-209).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2596. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish Federal criminal penalties for interstate child endangerment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2597. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of Promise Zones; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2598. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COATS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2599. A bill to stop exploitation through trafficking; read the first time.

By Mr. JOHANNES (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2600. A bill to require notification of a Governor of a State if an unaccompanied

alien child is transferred to the State and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 501. A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Wright Museum of WWII History in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Con. Res. 40. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 109

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 119, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign non-governmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 719, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts con-

cerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1124

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to establish requirements with respect to bisphenol A.

S. 1236

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1236, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1463

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes.

S. 1739

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1739, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to reaffirm the importance of community banking and community banking regulatory experience on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, to ensure that the Federal Reserve Board of Governors has a member who has previous experience in community banking or community banking supervision, and for other purposes.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2366, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 2516

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2516, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971

to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 2527

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2527, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 2529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2529, a bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

S. 2578

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

S. RES. 498

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 498, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2598. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I reintroduce the Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, CEJA. The United States has huge numbers of Government employees and contractors working overseas, but the legal framework governing them is unclear and outdated. To promote accountability, Congress must make sure that our criminal laws reach serious misconduct by U.S. government employees and contractors wherever they act. The Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act accomplishes this important and common sense goal by allowing United States contractors and employees working overseas who commit specific crimes to be tried and sentenced under U.S. law.

Tragic events in Iraq and Afghanistan highlight the need to strengthen the laws providing for jurisdiction over American government employees and contractors working abroad. In September 2007, Blackwater security contractors working for the State Department shot more than 20 unarmed civilians on the streets of Baghdad, killing at least 14 of them, and causing a rift in our relations with the Iraqi government. Efforts to prosecute those responsible for these shootings have been fraught with difficulties. The Blackwater trial is only just now under way, seven years after this tragedy, and the defendants continue to argue in court that the U.S. government does not have jurisdiction to prosecute them.

I worked with Senator SESSIONS and others in 2000 to pass the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, MEJA, and then, again, to amend it in 2004, so that U.S. criminal laws would extend to all members of the U.S. military, to those who accompany them, and to contractors who work with the military. That law provides criminal jurisdiction over Defense Department employees and contractors, but it does not explicitly cover people working for other Federal agencies, like the Blackwater security contractors. Had jurisdiction in the tragic Blackwater incident been clear, it could have prevented some of the problems that have plagued the case.

Other incidents have made all too clear that the Blackwater case was not an isolated incident. Private security contractors have been involved in violent incidents and serious misconduct in Iraq and Afghanistan, including other shooting incidents in which civilians have been seriously injured or

killed. MEJA does not cover many of the thousands of U.S. contractors and employees who are working abroad. The legislation I introduce today fills this gap.

Ensuring criminal accountability will also improve our national security and protect Americans overseas. Importantly, in those instances where the local justice system may be less than fair, this explicit jurisdiction will also protect Americans by providing the option of prosecuting them in the United States, rather than leaving them subject to potentially hostile and unpredictable local courts. Our allies, including those countries most essential to our counterterrorism and national security efforts, work best with us when we hold our own accountable.

In 2011, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony from the Justice Department and from experts in the area of contractor accountability about the many diplomatic and national security benefits of expanding criminal jurisdiction over American employees and contractors overseas. That hearing also explored how best to ensure that our Nation's intelligence activities would not be impaired by CEJA. The legislation I propose today has been carefully crafted to ensure that the intelligence community can continue its authorized activities unimpeded.

This bill would also provide greater protection to American victims of crime, as it would lead to more accountability for crimes committed by U.S. Government contractors and employees against Americans working abroad. The Committee has previously heard testimony from Jamie Leigh Jones, a young woman from Texas who took a job with Halliburton in Iraq in 2005 when she was 20 years old. In her first week on the job, she was drugged and gang-raped by coworkers. When she reported this assault, her employers moved her to a locked trailer, where she was kept by armed guards and freed only when the State Department intervened.

Ms. Jones testified about the arbitration clause in her contract that prevented her from suing Halliburton for this outrageous conduct. But criminal jurisdiction over these kinds of atrocious crimes abroad remains complicated and depends on the specific location of the crime, which makes prosecutions inconsistent and sometimes impossible. We must fix the law to help avoid arbitrary injustice and ensure that victims will not see their attackers escape accountability.

This legislation also provides another important benefit: It will lay the groundwork to expand U.S. preclearance operations in Canada—thereby enhancing national security and facilitating commerce and tourism with our largest trading partner. The United States currently stations U.S.

Customs and Border Protection, CBP, Officers in select locations in Canada to inspect passengers and cargo bound for the United States before they leave Canada. These operations relieve congestion at U.S. airports, improve commerce, save money, and provide national security benefits. The United States and Canada are in ongoing conversations about an expansion of land, rail, marine and air preclearance operations that would greatly benefit the U.S. economy. But one barrier in these discussions is that the United States lacks legal authority to prosecute U.S. officials engaged in preclearance operations if they commit crimes while stationed in Canada. CEJA would ensure that the U.S. has legal authority to hold our own officials accountable if they engage in wrongdoing, and thereby help pave the way to finalizing the expanded Canada preclearance agreement.

In the past, legislation in this area has been bipartisan. I hope Senators of both parties will work together to pass this important reform.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2598

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act of 2014” or the “CEJA”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL CONTRACTORS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER FEDERAL CONTRACTORS AND EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by transferring the text of section 3272 to the end of section 3271, redesignating such text as subsection (c) of section 3271, and, in such text, as so redesignated, by striking “this chapter” and inserting “this section”;

(B) by striking the heading of section 3272; and

(C) by adding after section 3271, as amended by this paragraph, the following new sections:

“§ 3272. Offenses committed by Federal contractors and employees outside the United States

“(a)(1) Whoever, while employed by any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense or accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense, knowingly engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) outside the United States that would constitute an offense enumerated in paragraph (3) had the conduct been engaged in within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be punished as provided for that offense.

“(2) A prosecution may not be commenced against a person under this subsection if a foreign government, in accordance with jurisdiction recognized by the United States,

has prosecuted or is prosecuting such person for the conduct constituting the offense, except upon the approval of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General (or a person acting in either such capacity), which function of approval may not be delegated.

“(3) The offenses covered by paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) Any offense under chapter 5 (arson) of this title.

“(B) Any offense under section 111 (assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees), 113 (assault within maritime and territorial jurisdiction), or 114 (maiming within maritime and territorial jurisdiction) of this title, but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of one year or more.

“(C) Any offense under section 201 (bribery of public officials and witnesses) of this title.

“(D) Any offense under section 499 (military, naval, or official passes) of this title.

“(E) Any offense under section 701 (official badges, identifications cards, and other insignia), 702 (uniform of armed forces and Public Health Service), 703 (uniform of friendly nation), or 704 (military medals or decorations) of this title.

“(F) Any offense under chapter 41 (extortion and threats) of this title, but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of three years or more.

“(G) Any offense under chapter 42 (extortionate credit transactions) of this title.

“(H) Any offense under section 924(c) (use of firearm in violent or drug trafficking crime) or 924(o) (conspiracy to violate section 924(c)) of this title.

“(I) Any offense under chapter 50A (genocide) of this title.

“(J) Any offense under section 1111 (murder), 1112 (manslaughter), 1113 (attempt to commit murder or manslaughter), 1114 (protection of officers and employees of the United States), 1116 (murder or manslaughter of foreign officials, official guests, or internationally protected persons), 1117 (conspiracy to commit murder), or 1119 (foreign murder of United States nationals) of this title.

“(K) Any offense under chapter 55 (kidnapping) of this title.

“(L) Any offense under section 1503 (influencing or injuring officer or juror generally), 1505 (obstruction of proceedings before departments, agencies, and committees), 1510 (obstruction of criminal investigations), 1512 (tampering with a witness, victim, or informant), or 1513 (retaliating against a witness, victim, or an informant) of this title.

“(M) Any offense under section 1951 (interference with commerce by threats or violence), 1952 (interstate and foreign travel or transportation in aid of racketeering enterprises), 1956 (laundering of monetary instruments), 1957 (engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity), 1958 (use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder for hire), or 1959 (violent crimes in aid of racketeering activity) of this title.

“(N) Any offense under section 2111 (robbery or burglary within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction) of this title.

“(O) Any offense under chapter 109A (sexual abuse) of this title.

“(P) Any offense under chapter 113B (terrorism) of this title.

“(Q) Any offense under chapter 113C (torture) of this title.

“(R) Any offense under chapter 115 (treason, sedition, and subversive activities) of this title.

“(S) Any offense under section 2442 (child soldiers) of this title.

“(T) Any offense under section 401 (manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance) or 408 (continuing criminal enterprise) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841, 848), or under section 1002 (importation of controlled substances), 1003 (exportation of controlled substances), or 1010 (import or export of a controlled substance) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 952, 953, 960), but only if the offense is subject to a maximum sentence of imprisonment of 20 years or more.

“(b) In addition to the jurisdiction under subsection (a), whoever, while employed by any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense and stationed or deployed in a country outside of the United States pursuant to a treaty or executive agreement in furtherance of a border security initiative with that country, engages in conduct (or conspires or attempts to engage in conduct) outside the United States that would constitute an offense for which a person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States had the conduct been engaged in within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be punished as provided for that offense.

“(c) In this section:

“(1) The term ‘employed by any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense’ means—

“(A) an individual is—

“(i) employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier), a grantee (including a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a grantee (or a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier) of any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense;

“(ii) present or residing outside the United States in connection with such employment; and

“(iii) not a national of or ordinarily resident in the host nation; and

“(B) in the case of an individual who is such a contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee, such employment supports a program, project, or activity for a department or agency of the United States.

“(2) The term ‘accompanying any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense’ means an individual is—

“(A) a dependant, family member, or member of household of—

“(i) a civilian employee of any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense; or

“(ii) a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier), a grantee (including a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a grantee (or a contractor of a grantee or a subgrantee or subcontractor at any tier) of any department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense, which contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee is supporting a program, project, or activity for a department or agency of the United States other than the Department of Defense;

“(B) residing with such civilian employee, contractor, contractor employee, grantee, or grantee employee outside the United States; and

“(C) not a national of or ordinarily resident in the host nation.”

“(3) The term ‘grant agreement’ means a legal instrument described in section 6304 or 6305 of title 31, other than an agreement between the United States and a State, local, or foreign government or an international organization.”

“(4) The term ‘grantee’ means a party, other than the United States, to a grant agreement.”

“(5) The term ‘host nation’ means the country outside of the United States where the employee or contractor resides, the country where the employee or contractor commits the alleged offense at issue, or both.”

“§ 3273. Regulations

“The Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall prescribe regulations governing the investigation, apprehension, detention, delivery, and removal of persons described in sections 3271 and 3272 of this title.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 3267(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(A) employed as a civilian employee, a contractor (including a subcontractor at any tier), or an employee of a contractor (or a subcontractor at any tier) of the Department of Defense (including a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the Department);”

(b) VENUE.—Chapter 211 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 245. Optional venue for offenses involving Federal employees and contractors overseas

“In addition to any venue otherwise provided in this chapter, the trial of any offense involving a violation of section 3261, 3271, or 3272 of this title may be brought—

“(1) in the district in which is headquartered the department or agency of the United States that employs the offender, or any 1 of 2 or more joint offenders; or

“(2) in the district in which is headquartered the department or agency of the United States that the offender is accompanying, or that any 1 of 2 or more joint offenders is accompanying.”

(c) SUSPENSION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Chapter 213 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3287 the following new section:

“§ 3287A. Suspension of limitations for offenses involving Federal employees and contractors overseas

“The statute of limitations for an offense under section 3272 of this title shall be suspended for the period during which the individual is outside the United States or is a fugitive from justice within the meaning of section 3290 of this title.”

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER 212A—EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER OFFENSES OF CONTRACTORS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT”

(2) TABLES OF SECTIONS.—(A) The table of sections for chapter 211 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“3245. Optional venue for offenses involving Federal employees and contractors overseas.”

(B) The table of sections for chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 3272 and inserting the following new items:

“3272. Offenses committed by Federal contractors and employees outside the United States.

“3273. Regulations.”

(C) The table of sections for chapter 213 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3287 the following new item:

“3287A. Suspension of limitations for offenses involving Federal employees and contractors overseas.”

(3) TABLE OF CHAPTERS.—The item relating to chapter 212A in the table of chapters for part II of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“212A. Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Over Offenses of Contractors and Civilian Employees of the Federal Government 3271”.

SEC. 3. INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCES FOR CONTRACTOR AND EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCES FOR CONTRACTOR AND EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government responsible for employing contractors or persons overseas, shall assign adequate personnel and resources, including through the creation of task forces, to investigate allegations of criminal offenses under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), and may authorize the overseas deployment of law enforcement agents and other employees of the Federal Government for that purpose.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(1) INVESTIGATION.—The Attorney General shall have principal authority for the enforcement of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and shall have the authority to initiate, conduct, and supervise investigations of any alleged offense under this Act or an amendment made by this Act.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—With respect to violations of sections 3271 and 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), the Attorney General may authorize any person serving in a law enforcement position in any other department or agency of the Federal Government, including a member of the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State or a military police officer of the Armed Forces, to exercise investigative and law enforcement authority, including those powers that may be exercised under section 3052 of title 18, United States Code, subject to such guidelines or policies as the Attorney General considers appropriate for the exercise of such powers.

(3) PROSECUTION.—The Attorney General may establish such procedures the Attorney General considers appropriate to ensure that Federal law enforcement agencies refer offenses under section 3271 or 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), to the Attorney General for prosecution in a uniform and timely manner.

(4) ASSISTANCE ON REQUEST OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any statute, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the Attorney General may request assistance from the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of

State, or the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government to enforce section 3271 or 3272 of title 18, United States Code (as so amended). The assistance requested may include the following:

(A) The assignment of additional employees and resources to task forces established by the Attorney General under subsection (a).

(B) An investigation into alleged misconduct or arrest of an individual suspected of alleged misconduct by agents of the Diplomatic Security Service of the Department of State present in the nation in which the alleged misconduct occurs.

(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Attorney General shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, submit to Congress a report containing the following:

(A) The number of prosecutions under chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), including the nature of the offenses and any dispositions reached, during the previous year.

(B) The actions taken to implement subsection (a), including the organization and training of employees and the use of task forces, during the previous year.

(C) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the President considers appropriate to enforce chapter 212A of title 18, United States Code (as amended by section 2(a) of this Act), and the provisions of this section.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “agency” and “department” have the meanings given such terms in section 6 of title 18, United States Code.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any authority of the Attorney General or any Federal law enforcement agency to investigate violations of Federal law or deploy employees overseas.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Attorney General and the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government to which this Act or an amendment made by this Act applies shall have 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act to ensure compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to limit or affect the application of extraterritorial jurisdiction related to any other Federal law; or

(2) to limit or affect any authority or responsibility of a Chief of Mission as provided in section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927).

(b) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of the United States Government.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

If any amounts are appropriated to carry out this Act or an amendment made by this Act, the amounts shall be from amounts which would have otherwise been made available or appropriated to the Department of Justice.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 501—COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRIGHT MUSEUM OF WWII HISTORY IN WOLFEBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 501

Whereas on July 16, 1994, the Wright Museum of WWII History opened as an educational institution in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, founded by David Wright;

Whereas for the past 20 years the Wright Museum has fulfilled its mission to preserve and share the stories of the people of the United States during World War II, and is the only United States museum that exclusively focuses on the contributions and enduring legacy of World War II-era Americans;

Whereas the Wright Museum accomplishes its mission through the careful preservation and thoughtful display of its extensive permanent collection of World War II-era items and memorabilia from the years between 1939 and 1945;

Whereas the Wright Museum is unique among traditional World War II museums in that the over 14,000 items in its permanent collection are representative of both the battle field and the United States home front;

Whereas the Wright Museum has established a national reputation as a repository for historically significant World War II-era items and memorabilia;

Whereas the Wright Museum uses its permanent collection to introduce visitors to a seminal period in United States history and place that period into historical context;

Whereas for 2 decades the Wright Museum has educated, entertained, and inspired over 200,000 visitors from across the United States and around the world; and

Whereas the Wright Museum remains dedicated to David Wright's vision of providing a vivid perspective on the profound and enduring impact of the World War II experience on United States society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Wright Museum of WWII History staff, volunteers, and board of directors for their efforts to encourage the study of a significant period in United States history;

(2) applauds the Wright Museum of WWII History's mission to raise awareness of the contributions and lasting legacy of World War II-era Americans; and

(3) recognizes the significance of July 16, 2014 as the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Wright Museum of WWII History.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS IN HONOR OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PERISHED AS A RESULT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. CASEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY IN HONOR OF FALLEN HEROES OF 9/11.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on September 10, 2014, for a ceremony to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, "Abuse of Structured Financial Products: Misusing Barrier Options to Avoid Taxes and Leverage Limits." The subcommittee hearing will examine a set of transactions that utilize financial engineering and structured financial products to attempt to avoid paying U.S. taxes on short-term capital gains. Witnesses will include representatives of major financial institutions, as well as tax experts from a nonprofit institution and the U.S. Government Accountability Office. A witness list will be available Friday, July 18, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 14, 2014, at 3 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing to consider the nomination of Hon. James C. Miller III, Stephen Crawford, David M. Bennett, and Victoria Reggie Kennedy to be Governors, U.S. Postal Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kinnon McDonald, an intern in Senator LEAHY's office, be granted floor privileges for Tuesday, July 15, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2599 AND H.R. 4718

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2599) to stop exploitation through trafficking.

A bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as provided for under the previous order; further, that following the cloture vote on the LaFleur nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, if cloture is invoked on either of the nominations, the time until 3 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and at 3 p.m. the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nominations, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, at 12 noon tomorrow there will be two cloture votes on the Bay and the LaFleur nominations to be members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and, if cloture is invoked, votes on confirmation of the nominations at 3 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW 10 A.M.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ALISSA M. STARZAK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, VICE BRAD CARSON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CRAIG B. ALLEN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

JANE D. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO.

RICHARD M. MILLS, JR., OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA.

JOHN FRANCIS TEFFT, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

SHARON BLOCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2019, VICE NANCY JEAN SCHIFFER, TERM EXPIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOSEPH L. NIMMICH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE RICHARD SERINO, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ANNE E. RUNG, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT POLICY, VICE JOSEPH G. JORDAN, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. LORI J. ROBINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. HERBERT J. CARLISLE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. FREDERICK B. HODGES

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

MARK D. LEVIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

CRAIG H. RHYNE

To be major

DAVID E. VIZURRAGA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

STEVEN E. KOEHL
MICHAEL J. MCFALL
CHRISTOPHER YOUNG

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

RUBEN J. VAZQUEZ

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOSEPH S. GONDUSKY
JARED H. HEIMBIGNER
HASAN A. HOBBS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

RICHARD A. PORTILLO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

HENRY S. THRIFT III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

LEAH M. TUNNELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

TRAVELAN M. WALKER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, July 14, 2014

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 14, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMALFA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, being poor in America is hard work. Despite what some of my colleagues and many right-wing pundits might think, it simply isn't easy to be poor in America.

Mr. Speaker, week after week, I come to this floor to talk about how we can end hunger now. It is a simple concept. We can end hunger if we muster the political will to do so. We have the food and we know how to do it. We just need the commitment to make it happen. Unfortunately, Congress has very consciously decided to make hunger worse.

In November, this Congress let a massive, across-the-board cut to SNAP take effect. The result was a benefit cut of \$30 per month for a family of three. Imagine living on a fixed income, relying on food stamps to put food on the table, and then seeing your monthly allotment cut, without the cost of food going down. It is hard to make those numbers work.

On top of that across-the-board cut, this Congress passed a farm bill that

cut an additional \$8.5 billion from SNAP. Thankfully, a number of Governors have stepped up, covered those costs, and ensured that this cut would not impact poor people in their States. But not every State did the responsible thing, and poor people in those States will see an additional cut of \$90 per month.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this is an assault on poor people.

Part of the problem is that very few Members of Congress have even the faintest clue what it is like to be poor in America. How many Members of Congress have actually visited food banks, talked to SNAP recipients, or stayed overnight in a family shelter? How many of my colleagues have even looked at a WIC, LIHEAP, or Medicaid application, let alone tried to fill one out or gone through the approval process? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is very few.

Too many of my colleagues either turn a blind eye to the poor or go out of their way to dismiss their struggles. Many of these Members who don't take time to learn about the struggles of the poor are actually dispensing misleading information and are advocating for cuts to programs they mistakenly refer to as bloated and fraught with fraud, waste, and abuse.

Take SNAP, for example. Yes, it is a large program. We spend a lot of money ensuring that poor people have access to food. But until we do something about wages—and the first thing we should do is to raise the minimum wage, Mr. Speaker, so that people can actually afford to live their lives—we will be forced to either let people go hungry or help them buy their food. SNAP is that lifeline that helps put food on kitchen tables.

By the way, a majority of people who rely on SNAP actually work for a living.

Opponents of SNAP continue to describe it as fraught with fraud, waste, and abuse. This is absolutely false, period. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities recently released a report explaining that the rates of both over- and underpayments have fallen considerably in recent years. In fact, the center found that less than 1 percent of food stamps go to ineligible people.

It is time we hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet. I was pleased that my friend, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, invited Tianna Gaines-Turner to testify before the Budget Committee last

week, at the request of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California.

Chairman PAUL RYAN has held five hearings on the 50th anniversary of the war on poverty, and this is the first time a poor person actually testified before the committee. It is amazing that it took so long to hear from a person who is actually trying to dig herself and her family out of poverty. That is the good news. If you want to hear the bad news, you should watch some of the questioning she endured at the hands of some of my Republican colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, we need to hear more from people like Ms. Gaines-Turner, and we need to work even harder to end hunger in America.

I will close by saying to my colleagues that the poor in America are more than statistics; they are real people. It is long past time this Congress made their plight a priority.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the Members of this people's House deliberate these days, give them the wisdom and magnanimity to lay aside what might divide us as a people to forge a secure future for our country.

We pray for all people who have special needs. May Your presence be known to those who are sick that they might feel the power of Your healing Spirit.

Be with those who suffer persecution in so many places of our world, and bless our troops who are engaged in the easing of those sufferings. Give to all who are afraid or anxious or whose minds are clouded by uncertain futures the peace and confidence that come

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

from trust in Your goodness and mercy.

Inspire the men and women who serve in this House to be their best selves that they may, in turn, be an inspiration to the Nation and to the world.

May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

LOSS OF JOBS IS A FAILURE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, an alarming admission has shown itself in the June unemployment report. For the 49th time in 50 months, there are more people dropping out of the job search than those who have found a new job. More people are giving up than succeeding. This reveals the real unemployment rate as 11.2 percent, not the claimed 6.1 percent.

Hardworking Americans are suffering by losing jobs at the hand of a failed jobs policy—at the hand of President Obama and his pen. A sad revelation of the President's failure is that now 14 million more Americans have depended on food stamps under his failed policies since he was elected. The definition of "success" is having a job and not being forced to depend on food stamps.

House Republicans will continue working to create jobs by passing legislation that puts Americans back to work in good-paying opportunities. Over 40 jobs bills have passed the House, but are now stuck in the Senate.

When more Americans give up jobs than succeed, it is a problem. When it happens that many times in a row, it is a tragic failure.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the recently revised downward first quarter GDP numbers show the economy contracted by 2.9 percent in the opening months of 2014.

We have a social safety net that is already forecasted to run perpetual deficits for decades to come, and diminished economic growth will hurt our already underfunded entitlement plans.

For as long as I have been in Congress, Republicans have been working to enact structural reforms to put our budget back in balance. The recent GDP report makes those reforms even more urgent.

These long-term reforms need to be considered. In the short run, let's hope that the recent economic contraction will spur the President and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID to act on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills awaiting action in the Senate.

These bills will help put Americans back to work and expand our economy. Will the President act?

INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak about the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

Interstate commerce has blossomed with the wires and connectivity that the Internet has provided us for these last couple of decades, and since 1998, the Internet Tax Freedom Act has prohibited your Internet access bill from lighting up like a Christmas tree as it has on your telephone bill. It has aided those who want to access the Internet by allowing those costs to stay down, without burdensome taxes being added on.

If ever there were an invention that is truly interstate commerce, it is the Internet. We could be standing side by side and could send each other a tweet or a post on Facebook or even an email, and it could go through a whole host of States on its way, in order to get to the person who is standing right next to you.

Only two people have ever voted against the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which was originally enacted in 1998, and every 4 years, we have had to renew that. Now, Chairman BOB GOODLATTE is bringing this up again, so as to make this permanent, to add certainty and to keep costs low.

I urge the passage of the Internet Tax Freedom Act as we address it later this week.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 14, 2014 at 11:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1104.
That the Senate passed S. 653.
That the Senate passed S. 2056.
That the Senate passed S. 2057.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1376.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1813.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1502

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO) at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5031) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5031

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “STEM Education Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF STEM EDUCATION.

For purposes of carrying out STEM education activities at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the term “STEM education” means education in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including other academic subjects that build on these disciplines such as computer science.

SEC. 3. INFORMAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) **GRANTS.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation, through the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, shall continue to award competitive, merit-reviewed grants to support—

(1) research and development of innovative out-of-school STEM learning and emerging STEM learning environments in order to improve STEM learning outcomes and engagement in STEM; and

(2) research that advances the field of informal STEM education.

(b) **USES OF FUNDS.**—Activities supported by grants under this section may encompass a single STEM discipline, multiple STEM disciplines, or integrative STEM initiatives and shall include—

(1) research and development that improves our understanding of learning and engagement in informal environments, including the role of informal environments in broadening participation in STEM; and

(2) design and testing of innovative STEM learning models, programs, and other resources for informal learning environments to improve STEM learning outcomes and increase engagement for K-12 students, K-12 teachers, and the general public, including design and testing of the scalability of models, programs, and other resources.

SEC. 4. NOYCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 10A of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(B), by inserting “or bachelor’s” after “master’s”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2)(B);

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “for teachers with master’s degrees in their field” after “Teaching Fellowships”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) in the case of National Science Foundation Master Teaching Fellowships for teachers with bachelor’s degrees in their field and working toward a master’s degree—

“(A) offering academic courses leading to a master’s degree and leadership training to prepare individuals to become master teachers in elementary and secondary schools; and

“(B) offering programs both during and after matriculation in the program for which the fellowship is received to enable fellows to become highly effective mathematics and science teachers, including mentoring, training, induction, and professional development activities, to fulfill the service requirements of this section, including the requirements of subsection (e), and to exchange ideas with others in their fields.”;

(3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection (g)” and inserting “subsection (h)”;

(4) by redesignating subsections (g) through (i) as subsections (h) through (j), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) **SUPPORT FOR MASTER TEACHING FELLOWS WHILE ENROLLED IN A MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM.**—A National Science Foundation Master Teacher Fellow may receive a maximum of 1 year of fellowship support while enrolled in a master’s degree program as described in subsection (c)(4)(A), except that if such fellow is enrolled in a part-time program, such amount shall be prorated according to the length of the program.”.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—Section 10(i)(5) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1862n-1(i)(5)) is amended by inserting “computer science,” after “means a science.”.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5031, the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The STEM Education Act of 2014 is bipartisan legislation that ensures computer science is included in the definition of STEM education for programs and activities at our Federal science agencies.

The bill also supports and strengthens ongoing STEM education efforts at the National Science Foundation. I thank Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Representatives ELIZABETH ESTY, LARRY BUCSHON, CHRIS COLLINS, RANDY HULTGREN, ROBIN KELLY, JOE KENNEDY, DAN LIPINSKI, and FREDERICA WILSON for their initiative on this bill.

Earlier this year, the Science Committee held a hearing on STEM education. The discussion that took place at that hearing helped to illustrate the importance of STEM education and why we should include computer science as a component of STEM education. Frankly, it is hard to believe it hasn’t been done before.

Today, a variety of jobs from banking to business to medicine require familiarity with computer science. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, computing and mathematics will be one of the top 10 major occupational groups from 2010 to 2020; and by 2020, there will be over 4 million U.S. jobs in

computing and information technology.

Unfortunately, America lags behind many other nations when it comes to STEM education. American students rank 21st in science and 26th in math. That must change for the better.

We need to ensure that young adults have the scientific and mathematical skills to strive and thrive in a technology-based economy, but we have to capture and hold the desire of our Nation’s youth to study science and engineering, so they will want to pursue these careers.

H.R. 5031 also includes language to support informal STEM education programs and activities at the National Science Foundation. These activities reach students outside of the classroom and strengthen a student’s engagement in STEM subject areas.

The STEM Education Act ensures that teachers working towards a master’s degree in STEM subjects can participate in the Robert Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship program. This program provides more opportunities for teachers who want to strengthen their teaching skills and now will encourage more teachers to pursue advanced degrees.

A healthy and viable STEM workforce, literate in all STEM subjects, including computer science, is critical to American industries. A well-educated and trained STEM workforce ensures our future economic prosperity. More graduates with STEM degrees means more advanced technologies and a more robust economy.

We must work to ensure that students continue to go into these fields, so that their innovative ideas can lead to a more innovative and prosperous America. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking my friend, Chairman SMITH, for his leadership on the Science Committee in promoting STEM education. I am grateful that we are able to advance these important provisions today in a bipartisan fashion, thanks in large part to his willingness to work across the aisle.

I would also like to thank Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and Representative LIPINSKI for their leadership on the committee and their thoughtful guidance on these issues.

The STEM Education Act of 2014 provides critical support to the teachers and advocates of STEM education who are preparing our students with the skills they need to succeed in our increasingly competitive global society.

As Chairman SMITH said, the bill includes three provisions to support and promote STEM education in this country. It supports teachers who are passionate about STEM education, codifies the importance of informal hands-

on STEM education, and expands the definition of STEM education to explicitly include computer science.

As a mother of three, I know firsthand the importance of having teachers who are engaged and passionate about being in the classroom, particularly science and math teachers.

From my own experience—my son just graduated from college with a degree in astrophysics—and from our time studying these issues on the committee, we know that when children are excited about science projects and math problems at a young age, they carry that passion with them throughout their lives. That is why we must encourage talented people to go into teaching, and this bill does just that.

It expands the Robert Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship at the National Science Foundation, so that more people who are enthusiastic about the sciences can teach our children.

I am grateful to see portions of my bill, the STEM Jobs Act, included in the legislation before us today. Currently, the Robert Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship provides mentoring, training, and financial support to people who have a master's degree in a STEM discipline and who want to enter the teaching profession.

The program is designed to ensure that these passionate individuals have the tools they need to become highly effective math and science teachers.

In Connecticut, the University of Bridgeport's Master Teaching Fellowship program is dedicated to placing physics teachers in our high-needs schools. At UConn's Teachers for Tomorrow program, we prepare teachers to effectively teach math to elementary, middle, and high school students.

The bill before us today expands the master teaching fellowships, so those working towards a master's degree are also eligible to apply. This expansion will allow more gifted individuals to be in our classrooms, preparing our children to become the next generation of engineers, scientists, and even astronauts.

However, no matter how great your math teacher is, studies show that all students thrive in a hands-on learning environment.

We are fortunate in Connecticut to have a terrific partner in informal STEM education at the Connecticut Science Center, which opened in 2009, to support STEM education in our schools.

When students visit the center, they can navigate through outer space, use lasers to learn about sight and sound, experiment with forces and motion, and explore our very own Connecticut River.

These interactive learning environments also provide structured support for teachers and for students. For example, the Connecticut Science Center trains more than 800 teachers annually.

In teaching skills and content to support our school curriculum, these teachers then return to the classroom across the State of Connecticut and provide our students with the high-quality education that they need to succeed.

Programs like these are hosted by museums and science centers around the country. This bill directs the National Science Foundation to continue to award competitive grants to support these out-of-school, hands-on STEM learning experiences.

Finally, as Chairman SMITH noted, this bill takes an important—in fact, a critical step forward in expanding the definition of STEM to include computer science. Computer science is a critical component of STEM education. As he noted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects there will be more than 4 million computing and information technology jobs by the year 2020.

Students who study computer science can be leaders in diverse fields such as energy, manufacturing, defense, and health care. Unfortunately, computer science has all too often been overlooked at our elementary, middle, and high school levels. Even more concerning, only 25 percent of computer scientists are women, although women make up 57 percent of the workforce.

Manufacturing is the backbone of our economy in Connecticut, and I know, from conversations with our manufacturers, that they are desperate for high school and college graduates who have the computer skills necessary for our manufacturing jobs—high tech manufacturing jobs.

Our need for graduates with these skills will only continue to grow, and that is why it is so critical that we focus on building these skills in our elementary, middle, and high school students today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that we have put together a bipartisan bill to support an advanced STEM education. Preparing our students with the skills they need to thrive in a global economy transcends partisan politics.

Again, I want to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member JOHNSON, Representative BUCSHON, Representative LIPINSKI, and all of the committee staff for their hard work on the STEM Education Act. This bill is an important step in securing our children's future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for her interest in this subject of STEM education and for her contributions to this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS), who is a member of the Science Committee and also a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for

the opportunity to speak in support of the STEM Education Act, legislation that I have cosponsored to help create a new generation of innovators.

As a graduate in mechanical engineering, I quickly learned years ago of the important role a STEM background plays in U.S. manufacturing. Later, as I started my own business ventures, I have continued to learn how hard it can be to find new graduates with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, or math.

These are jobs that drive our economy, and we need to act now to encourage students to realize the benefits in choosing one of these fields.

□ 1515

Among these STEM fields is computer science, which is the primary driver for job growth among the four STEM fields of study. By 2020, there will be an estimated 4.2 million computing and information technology jobs; yet, at the current rate of students graduating from American universities and colleges, these jobs will be vastly underfilled.

We cannot let that happen. That is why we need this no-cost legislation to direct Federal agencies to include computer science as one of the definitions of STEM. This will allow the Federal Government to expand on this focus and help address the future gap in computer science.

Further, this bill will help teachers find ways to spur student interest in STEM. With more than 40 years separating us from the last Moon landing, we need to find a spark that spurs interest in STEM among young students. Whether it is a robotics competition or a simple after-school science experiment, these are the ways we will help create the next generation of great American innovators and inventors.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 5031.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5031 and the three other Science, Space, and Technology bills being considered today.

Earlier this year, all of my Democratic committee colleagues joined me in introducing H.R. 4159, the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2014. Three of the bills considered today are similar or identical to the provisions we included in our Competes bill, and the fourth bill similarly reflects a longstanding bipartisan effort. I will speak briefly about each of the four bills.

First, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and my Democratic colleagues, Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. ESTY, for introducing H.R. 5031, the STEM Education

Act of 2014. While we still have much work to do to improve access to high-quality STEM education for all young Americans, this bill is a good step in the right direction.

American students and American companies are at a significant disadvantage when it comes to having a well-prepared information technology workforce. While there is no silver bullet, it is important that we include computer science in the definition of STEM.

This bill also authorizes informal STEM education grants at the National Science Foundation. Learning happens in all settings at all times of the day, not just in the classroom.

While we know that informal STEM education holds great promise to increased engagement and learning in STEM by diverse populations, R&D and NSF helps ensure that we are developing and implementing the most effective programs.

Finally, H.R. 5031 amends NSF's Noyce Master Teacher Fellowship program to expand eligibility to current math and science teachers who already have a bachelor's degree in a STEM field.

This update ensures that we are tapping into our entire pool of talented STEM teachers who might serve as master teachers in their schools and districts. I urge my colleagues to support this good bill.

Next, I want to thank my fellow Texan, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, who introduced H.R. 1786, legislation that would reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, or NWIRP. The last several years have been devastating years for natural disasters across the country. Tornadoes have resulted in significant loss of life and property across the Midwest.

Superstorm Sandy caused widespread destruction and death along the eastern seaboard, and it was not so long ago that Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast. We cannot stop these windstorms, but we must make sure our communities have the tools they need to prepare for and respond to and recover from these disasters.

H.R. 1786 reauthorizes NWIRP, an important program that helps our Federal agencies and communities across the Nation develop and implement new model building codes and many other measures to minimize the loss of life and property during windstorms and to rebuild effectively and safely after such storms.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

I also want to thank Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. PETERS for introducing H.R. 5056, the Research and Development Efficiency Act. I think we can all agree that when federally funded researchers are spending more than 40 percent of their time on administrative burdens rather than doing science, we are not

getting the most we can out of our investments in R&D.

While we must continue to prioritize both safety and accountability in federally funded research, we should not be creating piles of unnecessary paperwork for the scientists in the lab. Much of the burden is caused by a lack of consistency and uniformity in policies and requirements across our Federal science agencies.

I applaud my colleagues for ensuring that the science agencies, along with OSTP and OMB, continue to look for ways to harmonize and streamline Federal requirements affecting the conduct of R&D in our Nation's great research institutions. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Finally, I want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for introducing H.R. 5029, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014. The 2012 National Academies report, *Rising to the Challenge: U.S. Innovation Policy for the Global Economy*, notes that "the globalization of research and innovation presents valuable opportunities for U.S. firms and federally funded research institutes to capitalize on offshore R&D initiatives and growing pools of science and technology talent."

International collaborations have led to some of the latest discoveries and developments in science and technology, many of which have relevance to our everyday lives. Topics such as cybersecurity, nanotechnology, energy technology, and water resources are all ripe for greater international engagement and cooperation. In many cases, we simply cannot afford to do it all alone. In some cases, in this interconnected world, going at it alone could lead to significant unintended roadblocks in the future.

The better coordinated we are as a nation, the better positioned we are to lead on these issues globally. H.R. 5029 helps us achieve these goals. This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time on this side, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5031, the STEM Education Act.

Like Mr. COLLINS who spoke earlier, I am also a mechanical engineer. I understand, as all of us do, the importance of improving STEM education. It is one of the most important tasks our Nation faces if our children are going to be able to compete in the global economy of today and tomorrow.

The language in this bill, which affirms support for informal STEM education at the National Science Founda-

tion, is language that I offered to the NSF authorization bill in markup. I would like to thank Chairman SMITH for including it in his bill.

About 65 million visits to museum and science centers occur each year, including 13 million visits from schoolchildren. However, museums and science centers are much more than just an inspiring field trip destination. Their educational programming and inspirational exhibits linked to classroom curriculum make museums and science centers natural partners with schools in STEM education.

Programs supporting informal education at museums and science centers are responsible for some of the most innovative forms of teaching around. Passage of this bill would be a clear signal that Congress supports informal STEM education activities funded by the National Science Foundation and would ensure that they continue.

I would also like to thank my friend from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for her work on this bill to make substantive improvements to the Noyce scholarship program at NSF, and to Chairman SMITH for providing language which includes computer science in the definition of STEM education.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no further individuals who have requested time, so I am ready to yield back if the minority is ready to yield back.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to advancing STEM education and including computer science within the definition of STEM.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 5031, the "STEM Education Act of 2014." STEM workers drive our nation's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, new companies and new industries.

I am committed to making sure that our nation can keep pace with global innovation today and into the future. During the 113th Congress:

I originally sponsored the Cybersecurity Education Enhancement Act, which directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a program to award grants to institutions of higher education for: cybersecurity professional development programs, associate degree programs in cybersecurity, and the purchase of equipment to provide training in cybersecurity for either professional development or degree programs.

I offered an amendment that was adopted by the Full Homeland Security Committee that would establish a fellowship program to attract STEM undergraduate and doctoral students to work at the Department of Homeland Security

in exchange for tuition reimbursement assistance.

I cosponsored the Veterans' STEM Education Program, the STEM Gateways Act, the National STEM Education Act, the Tax Incentive for Teacher Act, and the Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2014 all of which work towards bolstering the growth of STEM.

I also hosted the first Annual Congressional STEM Competition for my District, which challenged High School Students to design and/or create projects using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics skills.

Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States and the 5th most populated metropolitan area in the nation.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and recently Manufacturers' News ranked the city first among other U.S. manufacturing cities.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

The Houston Texas region lost 153,100 jobs during the Great Recession and gained 309,100 jobs during the recovery.

Only 3 other top metropolitan areas have done as well as Houston: Dallas at 158.9% recovery of jobs; Washington, DC, at 144.2% of post recession job recovery and Boston had a 123.4% post recession jobs recovery.

The middle class of this decade is being determined by workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy," reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

Half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

There will be STEM winners and losers, but not because the skills needed are too difficult to obtain, but because people are not aware of the jobs that are going unfilled today nor do they know what education or training will create job security for the next 2 to 3 decades.

A third of Houston jobs are in STEM-based fields.

Houston has the second largest concentrations of engineers (22.4 for every 1,000 workers according to the Greater Houston Partnership.)

Houston has 59,070 engineers the second largest populations in the nation.

STEM Jobs can be found in every sector of the economy. For example:

Science.

Houston has more than 400 software development companies and a ready customer base in the areas of energy, space science, biotechnology, and leading technology research and development entities.

Houston has the Johnson Space Center, a \$1.5 billion complex housing one of NASA's largest Research and Development facilities that provides some of the nation's best high-tech professionals in science and engineering.

Mr. Speaker, in the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs has been three times greater than non-STEM jobs.

In the next decade, almost all of the 30 fastest-growing jobs will require some STEM skills, yet 61 percent of middle school students would rather take out the garbage than do their math homework.

STEM jobs are expected to keep up an accelerated pace in the coming years leading to 1.8 million STEM-related job openings in 2018.

60 percent of U.S. employers are having difficulties finding qualified workers to fill vacancies at their companies.

In the current overall employment market, unemployed people outnumber job postings 3.6 to one. In the STEM occupation 4, job postings outnumbered unemployed people by 1.9 to one.

At all levels of educational attainment, STEM job holders earn 11 percent higher wages compared with their same-degree counterparts in other job.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 5031.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5031.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1786) to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1786

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) *DIRECTOR.*—Section 203(1) of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702(1)) is amended by striking "Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy" and inserting "Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology".

(b) *LIFELINES.*—Section 203 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15702) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) *LIFELINES.*—The term 'lifelines' means public works and utilities, including transportation facilities and infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines, electrical power and communication facilities and infrastructure, and water supply and sewage treatment facilities."

SEC. 3. NATIONAL WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 204 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15703) is amended—

(1) *by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:*

"(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, the purpose of which is to achieve major measurable reductions in the losses of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated Federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce those impacts.

"(b) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM AGENCIES.*—

"(1) *LEAD AGENCY.*—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the Program. In carrying out this paragraph, the Director shall—

"(A) ensure that the Program includes the necessary components to promote the implementation of windstorm risk reduction measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards and model building code organizations, architects and engineers, and others with a role in planning and constructing buildings and lifelines;

"(B) support the development of performance-based engineering tools, and work with appropriate groups to promote the commercial application of such tools, including through wind-related model building codes, voluntary standards, and construction best practices;

"(C) request the assistance of Federal agencies other than the Program agencies, as necessary to assist in carrying out this Act;

"(D) coordinate all Federal post-windstorm investigations; and

"(E) when warranted by research or investigative findings, issue recommendations to assist in informing the development of model codes, and provide information to Congress on the use of such recommendations.

"(2) *NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.*—In addition to the lead agency responsibilities described under paragraph (1), the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall be responsible for carrying out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

"(3) *NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.*—The National Science Foundation shall support research in—

"(A) engineering and the atmospheric sciences to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines; and

"(B) economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

"(4) *NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.*—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

"(5) *FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.*—The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

"(A) support—

"(i) the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques;

"(ii) windstorm-related data collection and analysis;

"(iii) public outreach and information dissemination; and

“(iv) promotion of the adoption of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures, including for households, businesses, and communities, consistent with the Agency’s all-hazards approach; and

“(B) work closely with national standards and model building code organizations, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to promote the implementation of research results and promote better building practices within the building design and construction industry, including architects, engineers, contractors, builders, and inspectors.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and by striking subsections (e) and (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c), as so redesignated, the following new subsections:

“(d) **BUDGET ACTIVITIES.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall each include in their agency’s annual budget request to Congress a description of their agency’s projected activities under the Program for the fiscal year covered by the budget request, along with an assessment of what they plan to spend on those activities for that fiscal year.

“(e) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, chaired by the Director.

“(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—In addition to the chair, the Committee shall be composed of—

“(A) the heads of—

“(i) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(ii) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

“(iii) the National Science Foundation;

“(iv) the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

“(v) the Office of Management and Budget; and

“(B) the head of any other Federal agency the chair considers appropriate.

“(3) **MEETINGS.**—The Committee shall meet not less than 2 times a year at the call of the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

“(4) **GENERAL PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**—The Committee shall oversee the planning and coordination of the Program.

“(5) **STRATEGIC PLAN.**—The Committee shall develop and submit to Congress, not later than one year after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, a Strategic Plan for the Program that includes—

“(A) prioritized goals for the Program that will mitigate against the loss of life and property from future windstorms;

“(B) short-term, mid-term, and long-term research objectives to achieve those goals;

“(C) a description of the role of each Program agency in achieving the prioritized goals;

“(D) the methods by which progress towards the goals will be assessed; and

“(E) an explanation of how the Program will foster the transfer of research results into outcomes, such as improved model building codes.

“(6) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, the Committee shall submit to the Congress a report on the progress of the Program that includes—

“(A) a description of the activities funded under the Program, a description of how these

activities align with the prioritized goals and research objectives established in the Strategic Plan, and the budgets, per agency, for these activities;

“(B) the outcomes achieved by the Program for each of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan;

“(C) a description of any recommendations made to change existing building codes that were the result of Program activities; and

“(D) a description of the extent to which the Program has incorporated recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction.

“(7) **COORDINATED BUDGET.**—The Committee shall develop a coordinated budget for the Program, which shall be submitted to the Congress at the time of the President’s budget submission for each fiscal year.”.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

Section 205 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15704) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 205. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction, which shall be composed of at least 7 members, none of whom may be employees of the Federal Government, including representatives of research and academic institutions, industry standards development organizations, emergency management agencies, State and local government, and business communities who are qualified to provide advice on windstorm impact reduction and represent all related scientific, architectural, and engineering disciplines. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee shall be considered by Federal agencies in implementing the Program.

“(b) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction shall offer assessments on—

“(1) trends and developments in the natural, engineering, and social sciences and practices of windstorm impact mitigation;

“(2) the priorities of the Program’s Strategic Plan;

“(3) the coordination of the Program; and

“(4) any revisions to the Program which may be necessary.

“(c) **COMPENSATION.**—The members of the Advisory Committee established under this section shall serve without compensation.

“(d) **REPORTS.**—At least every 2 years, the Advisory Committee shall report to the Director on the assessments carried out under subsection (b) and its recommendations for ways to improve the Program.

“(e) **CHARTER.**—Notwithstanding section 14(b)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App), the Advisory Committee shall not be required to file a charter subsequent to its initial charter, filed under section 9(c) of such Act, before the termination date specified in subsection (f) of this section.

“(f) **TERMINATION.**—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2016.

“(g) **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**—An Advisory Committee member shall recuse himself from any Advisory Committee activity in which he has an actual pecuniary interest.”.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207 of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 15706) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$5,332,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(b) **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$9,682,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(c) **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$4,120,000 for fiscal year 2015.

“(d) **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for carrying out this title—

“(1) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2014; and

“(2) \$2,266,000 for fiscal year 2015.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1786, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014, introduced by my Texas colleague, Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER, reauthorizes the activities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program through 2015.

This important program supports Federal research and development efforts to help mitigate the loss of life and property due to wind-related hazards.

Millions of Americans live in areas vulnerable to hurricanes, tornadoes, and other windstorms.

According to the latest data in the National Science and Technology Council’s biennial report to Congress, in 2011, windstorms in the U.S. caused an estimated \$11 billion in total direct property losses, injured nearly 7,000 people, and took nearly 700 lives.

In Texas, we are all too familiar with the harm that excessive wind can cause. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Storm Prediction Center, 179 tornadoes and 1,586 windstorms were reported in Texas in just the last 2 years. The effects of these disasters can be felt for years.

Initially established in 2004, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program supports activities to improve our understanding of windstorms and

their impacts and helps to develop and encourage the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures.

H.R. 1786 establishes the National Institute of Standards and Technology as the lead agency for the program, improves coordination and planning of agency activities in a fiscally responsible way, and improves transparency for how much money is being spent on windstorm research.

I want to thank Representative NEUGEBAUER for his continued efforts to support this program. He and Representative FREDERICA WILSON worked together to ensure that H.R. 1786 was reported out of the Science Committee with bipartisan support.

I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013, as ordered reported by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on February 28, 2014. Thank you for working with us to incorporate mutually agreeable changes to provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 1786, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo further action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to name members of the Committee to any conference committee named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would request that you insert our exchange of letters on this matter into the committee report on H.R. 1786 and the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER, Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2013, and for working with us to incorporate mutually agreeable changes to provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I agree that forgoing further action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter

the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the report filed on H.R. 1786 as well as in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Transportation Committee as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1786, legislation that would reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, or NWIRP.

As an Illinoisan, I know firsthand that windstorms are a threat to American lives and the economy. Last November, Illinois was struck by 24 tornadoes on one day, resulting in seven fatalities, hundreds of injuries, and significant economic damage.

While we cannot stop a hurricane or tornado from happening, there is much we can do to save both lives and property when windstorms and other natural disasters happen. In addition to responding quickly and with sufficient resources in the aftermath of a natural disaster, we must also invest in preparedness and resilience. Studies of FEMA's predisaster mitigation program have shown that for every dollar we invest in mitigation activities, we save \$3 to \$4 in recovery costs.

□ 1530

NWIRP is primarily a mitigation program. It has the potential to lessen the loss of life and economic damage by supporting research and development on windstorms and their impacts and helping to ensure that this research is translated into improved building codes and emergency plans. But NWIRP needs investments to reach that potential.

I was pleased that when this bill was considered in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we worked in a bipartisan manner to make several improvements to this bill. I want to thank my colleagues, Chairman SMITH and Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for working across the aisle in a smooth and productive process.

We worked together to increase the authorization for FEMA, the NWIRP agency tasked with translating the research conducted at other agencies into effective mitigation tools and techniques and helping communities across the Nation implement mitigation measures through outreach and partnership.

In addition, we worked together to add language to the bill addressing human factors in reducing windstorm

impacts. This is not just a building engineering problem; it is also a social science and human response problem. People in the path of a windstorm have to make smart decisions, no matter what structure they are in. In order to design effective strategies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster, we must take into account research in how people make decisions and respond to warnings during natural disasters.

We must also understand how different groups of people may respond differently so that we can tailor outreach and warnings appropriately. I was pleased we were able to strengthen the legislation by adding this important language on human factors.

Often, in a compromise like this one, you do not get everything you would like. I would have liked to see increases in the authorization levels across the board. This bill includes a lower total authorization level than what was authorized for this program in fiscal year 2008. Nevertheless, I understand the need to reauthorize this important program.

Finally, I want to thank my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I also serve on, for working with us on this bill since we share jurisdiction over this program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), who is a member of the Science Committee and also a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman SMITH's support of this legislation, as well as Ms. JOHNSON, the ranking member.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1786, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. This is a very important piece of legislation because what we know is that tornadoes and tornadic-type winds have caused a huge amount of destruction and loss of life in our country.

Last year alone, there were over 1,300 recorded tornadoes in our country, causing over 70 deaths and over 1,500 injuries. These storms not only cost lives, but they also damaged property. The average is about \$4 million a year, except in 2011, when we saw a bad year for tornadoes. The damage was over \$28 billion. That is not just a natural disaster; it is national disaster as well.

Back in 1970, I had an opportunity firsthand to find out exactly how devastating these tornadoes can be. In my hometown of Lubbock, Texas, a tornado ripped through our community and killed 26 of our citizens. Fortunately, I was not injured. It was in an area that I lived at that time, and I had the opportunity to see firsthand

the tremendous amount of devastation that can happen from these storms.

Very quickly, after that storm in 1970, Dr. Ernst Kiesling, with Texas Tech University, began to study these tornadic winds and to look at ways to build structures more effectively, to build shelters, and to really study the impacts that these storms have on building materials and what materials hold up the best.

We have been talking about statistics, but it is really about the lives of people that are impacted by these storms. When someone loses their home, they not only rebuild their home, but, in many cases, they are going to have to rebuild their lives, which is one of the primary reasons that I introduced this important piece of legislation.

What does it do? Basically, it begins to, as I mentioned earlier what was going on at Texas Tech, not only study the building materials and different types of wind activity and the material in the structure and construction techniques that are used to apply those materials, but also to begin to have a better ability to predict how these storms form and, in the future, be able to give more warning, but just doing the research overall of how we can do better at predicting and also helping the American people do mitigation against these kinds of storms and understand the mechanics of them.

Basically, what this NWIRP does is take four agencies and pool them together in how they spend money for this important research. It takes NOAA, the National Science Foundation, FEMA, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or NIST, and basically makes sure that they are coordinating and sharing that information.

What is so important about using Federal tax dollars to do that research is to make sure that we are transforming that out into the general public. And so as we learn about these techniques and we begin to make suggestions of how building codes, building standards, and building techniques can be improved in the future, we thereby save lives and property down the road. That is an important part of this.

What we learned is that for every dollar that we spend in mitigation, we save \$4 in response down the road. And so not only is this a piece of legislation that will help save lives and property, but a really novel idea of saving the American taxpayers money at the same time.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that is bipartisan. It passed out of the committee in a bipartisan way. It will save lives; it will save money; and it will save property. I encourage my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 1786, the "National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2014."

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Houston is vulnerable to hurricanes that traverse the Gulf of Mexico and we have experienced powerful storms during the past decade.

Hurricane Ike heavily impacted Houston and nearby city of Galveston in 2008, causing \$27.8 billion in damage, and killing 20.

Tropical storms in Texas are also known for being heavy rain producers as well as wind surge threats. For example, tropical storm Allison in 2001 dumped as much as 35 to 40 inches of rain, killing 41 people and causing \$9 billion in damage.

We are currently in the 2014 hurricane season and forecasters are expecting one to two major hurricanes.

This bill amends the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 to revise provisions governing the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) as well as designates the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as the entity with primary responsibility for Program planning and coordination.

Congress, under the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004, designated four agencies to compromise the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and National Science Foundation (NSF)

The federal agencies which compromised the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction will have the following respective responsibilities.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will have the primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the program, carry out research and development to improve model building codes, voluntary standards, and best practices for the design, construction, and retrofit of buildings, structures, and lifelines.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will support research in engineering and atmospheric sciences and economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will support atmospheric sciences research to improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will support the development of risk assessment tools and effective mitigation techniques, conduct public outreach and information dissemination, and promote the adoption

of windstorm preparedness and mitigation measures.

The bill will also require the Committee to submit a progress report to Congress and to develop a coordinated budget for the Program which must be submitted at the time of the President's annual budget submission.

Finally, the bill allows the Director of NIST to establish an Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction which shall be composed of at least 7 members. This advisory committee will offer assessments and practices of wind storm impact mitigation.

This coordinated effort will greatly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of federal efforts to save lives in Houston and around the country as well as mitigate property loss.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious, and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1786, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFICIENCY ACT

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5056) to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Research and Development Efficiency Act".

SEC. 2. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) high and increasing administrative burdens and costs in Federal research administration, particularly in the higher education sector where most federally sponsored research is performed, are eroding funds available to carry out basic scientific research;

(2) progress has been made over the last decade in streamlining the pre-award grant application process through Grants.gov, the Federal Government's website portal;

(3) post-award administrative costs have grown as Federal research agencies have continued to impose agency-unique compliance and reporting requirements on researchers and research institutions;

(4) facilities and administration costs at research universities can exceed 50 percent of the total value of Federal research grants, and it is estimated that nearly 30 percent of the funds invested annually in federally funded research is consumed by paperwork and other administrative processes required by Federal agencies; and

(5) it is a matter of critical importance to American competitiveness that administrative costs of federally funded research be

streamlined so that a higher proportion of taxpayer dollars flow into direct research activities.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a working group under the authority of the National Science and Technology Council, to include the Office of Management and Budget. The working group shall be responsible for reviewing Federal regulations affecting research and research universities and making recommendations on how to—

(1) harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative Federal regulations and reporting requirements; and

(2) minimize the regulatory burden on United States institutions of higher education performing federally funded research while maintaining accountability for Federal tax dollars.

(c) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out the responsibilities under subsection (b), the working group shall take into account input and recommendations from non-Federal stakeholders, including federally funded and nonfederally funded researchers, institutions of higher education, scientific disciplinary societies and associations, nonprofit research institutions, industry, including small businesses, federally funded research and development centers, and others with a stake in ensuring effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability in the performance of scientific research.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Director shall report to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on what steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group established under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5056, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, LARRY BUCSHON, in support of this legislation, which reduces the regulatory burden faced by researchers and research universities.

In its recently released report, the Federal Demonstration Partnership found that researchers devote 42 percent of their time to administrative tasks. Answering Federal regulatory and reporting requirements takes away from time spent on the conduct of science.

H.R. 5056 requires the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a working group under the National Science and Technology Council to review Federal regulations that affect research and research universities. The working group is tasked with making recommendations on how to harmonize, streamline, and eliminate duplicative Federal regulations and reporting requirements, and making recommendations on how to minimize the regulatory burden on research institutions.

H.R. 5056 is an important step to ensure Federal research dollars are being spent on research and not on regulatory requirements. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5056, the Research and Development Efficiency Act.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. PETERS, for introducing this important bill. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, I have also been working on a topic of research regulations for some time, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill.

Recent reports have found that federally funded researchers face significant administrative burdens, spending about 40 percent of their time on paperwork instead of what they do best, which is conducting research. This could mean a delay in research progress and lengthening the time for the next scientific breakthrough. It is certainly not the best use of some of our Nation's greatest science and engineering talent or of taxpayers' investment in that talent.

I want to stress that administrative requirements are very important and many are in place for a reason. We must have a system that ensures that human participants are being protected and our resources are being used wisely. We have heard from those most affected by these requirements, and they fully agree.

That being said, we also agree that we need to find the right balance that meets our safety and accountability goals, but still allows researchers to advance science for the good of the Nation. Right now, we are not striking the appropriate balance.

H.R. 5056 was originally introduced by Chairman BUCSHON as part of the FIRST Act. The America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2014, which Ranking Member JOHNSON introduced and I cosponsored, had very similar language with the same goal.

This bill requires the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a working group of Federal research agencies to figure out how to better standardize and streamline the administrative requirements on their grantees. Mr. PETERS helped strength-

en the provision during the subcommittee consideration of the FIRST Act with an amendment that ensured that those stakeholders who are affected by all of the requirements have a means to provide input and recommendations to the agency working group. The result is the bipartisan bill that we are considering today.

Through a recent OMB process to overhaul their guidance on requirements for Federal grants and contracts, some progress has been made to streamline and harmonize administrative tasks. Some agencies are taking additional steps on their own, for example, considering requiring certain administrative information from researchers only if the proposal has been through scientific merit review and is likely to be awarded. These are important efforts, but significant work remains.

Every week in the Science Committee we hear expert testimony on challenges with no easy solution. The challenge of having a patchwork of uncoordinated and sometimes duplicative administrative burdens on federally funded researchers should be a solvable problem. H.R. 5056 is a very important step in the right direction.

Once again, I want to thank Chairman BUCSHON and Mr. PETERS for their leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support their legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana, Dr. BUCSHON, who is also the chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the Science Committee and the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you, Chairman SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to work on this bipartisan effort to reduce the administrative burden placed on federally funded researchers.

Last year, in my new role as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, I participated in a university tour across the State of Indiana. This tour focused on federally funded research in the State of Indiana, and included Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and Indiana State University, both located in Terre Haute, Indiana, and the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana, both in Evansville, Indiana, and the issues of concern these higher education institutions have surrounding federally funded research.

Along with the input I received during last year's tour, we have also received feedback and input at various hearings the committee has held pertaining to this regulatory burden.

□ 1545

This legislation would establish a working group to review Federal regulations that affect these universities

and others. The working group would be required to obtain input from stakeholders, including federally and non-federally funded researchers, higher education institutions, small businesses, and scientific disciplinary societies. The bill also requires a report on what steps are taken to carry out the recommendations of the working group.

I would like to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member JOHNSON, my colleague Mr. PETERS from California, and my colleague Mr. LIPINSKI from Illinois for their work on the bill. I am hopeful this bipartisan legislation can see movement in the Senate and that, from there, we can help to alleviate some of the burden placed on our research universities so they can get back to the main goal of conducting basic science research.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman BUCSHON and Chairman SMITH for their work not just on this bill but on the series of bills that we are considering today.

The Research and Technology Subcommittee, which Chairman BUCSHON is chairman of and I am ranking member of, has been very active in this Congress. We had been working on the first act, and I am very happy that, although there were some disagreements on that bill, which did pass through committee, that, today, we are considering pieces of that bill and other legislation that we have worked on, in a bipartisan manner, on that subcommittee and on this committee. I am very happy we have been able to do that.

There is a lot that we need to accomplish and that we are moving forward on accomplishing now on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Chairman BUCSHON for all of their work, and, hopefully, that will continue as we move forward in this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, the ranking member of the subcommittee, for his very generous comments. They are much appreciated. We have lots to thank him for as well on this bill and on many other bills on which he has shown a leadership role and on which he has contributed much to many bills under consideration today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5056.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5029) to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5029

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a body under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

(b) NSTC BODY LEADERSHIP.—The body established under subsection (a) shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The body established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies and work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(2) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

(3) identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;

(4) in carrying out paragraph (3), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including universities, scientific and professional societies, industry, and relevant organizations and institutions; and

(5) identify broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

shall transmit a report, to be updated annually, to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate. The report shall also be made available to the public on the reporting agency’s website. The report shall contain a description of—

(1) the priorities and policies established under subsection (c)(2);

(2) the ongoing and new partnerships established since the last update to the report;

(3) the means by which stakeholder input was received, as well as summary views of stakeholder input; and

(4) the issues influencing the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5029, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Science and technology research addresses the major challenges facing our Nation. These include energy production, public health, national security, and economic development.

H.R. 5029, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014, will improve our collaboration efforts with international partners on scientific issues.

I thank the ranking member, Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois, for his initiative on this issue and, as I mentioned a while ago, for his initiative on so many bills that are being considered today.

Better collaboration with our international partners will strengthen the U.S. scientific activities and will additionally promote the free exchange of ideas in other nations.

While many Federal agencies are engaged with international partners on science and technology projects, there is a need to coordinate these projects across the Federal Government and to identify opportunities for additional collaborations. Interagency coordination ensures that tax dollars are used efficiently and that U.S. priorities are consistently addressed when working with our international partners on science and technology issues.

The International Science and Technology Cooperation Act directs the National Science and Technology Council to identify and coordinate the U.S.

interagency strategy for international science and technology cooperation. Further, this council will make recommendations for how to improve U.S. engagement in science and technology cooperation with our global partners. This will help ensure that the U.S. maintains its leadership in science and technology research and discovery.

The bill strengthens U.S. science and technology activities, improves economic and national security, and supports U.S. foreign policy goals. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5029.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The U.S. has a great tradition of using science diplomacy to strengthen our ties with allies and to open the door to building better relationships across the globe. That is why I introduced H.R. 5029, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014.

Scientific issues know no boundaries and deal with problems and opportunities of the highest importance to the entire world. Improvements in such areas as energy security, infectious diseases, space exploration, telecommunications and the Internet, and many more are due, in part, to international cooperation—to the benefit of all nations involved. By collaborating with international partners on science, we strengthen the U.S. scientific enterprise, which helps us get the best return on our research investment.

This bipartisan bill would improve international science cooperation by requiring the National Science and Technology Council at the White House to maintain a body that would identify and coordinate U.S. interagency strategy for international science and technology cooperation. Many Federal agencies already work with international counterparts on science and technological issues, but until recently, there was no coordinating body to identify new partnerships and to fully leverage existing collaborations. While the administration is taking steps to formulate a strategy for international science cooperation, this bill will ensure that the process moves forward with the appropriate congressional oversight, which is something I think we can all agree on.

The U.S. scientific enterprise is admired across the world. In addition to helping our own researchers solve problems of national and global importance more efficiently, international cooperation helps to demonstrate the value of the free flow of ideas, which is the foundation of American democracy.

There is one other thing I wanted to raise. If anyone has any questions about the importance of collaboration when it comes to scientific endeavors, I certainly recommend the documentary "Particle Fever," which is about the

work at CERN, in Switzerland, on the Large Hadron Collider. As a physicist searches for the Higgs boson—it sounds like it would be an incredibly boring documentary to watch, but it is just fascinating to see and to see the international cooperation that goes on as they do this search. It is a great example of what international collaboration can do in the scientific enterprise.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for working with me to improve the bill we have before us and to bring it to the floor. When this bill was considered in the 111th Congress, it passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support. I am hopeful that we will pass it again today and see action in the Senate as well. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee and former member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to rise and speak in support of H.R. 5029, the "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014."

I would like to thank the Chairman SMITH and Ranking EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of the Science, Space, and Technology House Committee for their work in advancing scientific cooperation around the globe that will benefit our domestic efforts to remain competitive and strong in a wide range of scientific fields.

The United States federal science agencies are already effective in collaborating with international agencies and organizations on Science and Technology (S&T), but this bill would ensure that there is a group that coordinates and looks for new opportunities to get involved with our international partners.

International cooperation in Science and Technology will help us answer scientific questions, and conduct elaborate research and development more quickly and efficiently.

According to the International Science and Technology Strategy for the United States Department of Defense, the non-U.S. component of global research and development is more than 60 percent of the total global investment and is expected to continue to outpace the U.S. contribution.

International collaboration would help us address global challenges on a broader scale and would give mutual enhancement of resources for both the United States and its partners.

A few enhancements would allow access to unique research laboratories and facilities, risk reduction through multiple technical approaches to solve difficult technical problems, improve the warfighting capabilities of all involved, and potentially enhance interoperability during coalition operations.

Our partnerships with Service-sponsored international offices in the U.K., Japan, Singapore, and Australia, along with our partners in South America, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in the Technical Cooperative Program, and the NATO Research and Technology Organization, give us a broad

range of resources to work with across the world.

We must continue to enhance and strengthen our foreign relationships in S&T to broker new research, identify mutually advantageous opportunities, and exchange information with potential partners regarding research interests.

The International Space Station, which was built 16 years ago, and continues to operate under the collaboration of several countries around the world, is one of many portrayals that show how international relationships can produce profound research and discoveries.

The European Council for Nuclear Research which conducts in-depth studies on Earth's fundamental matter and particles is another prime example of how foreign collaboration is beneficial and effective in producing elaborate research.

The Center for Disease Control's World Health Organization is also one of the best illustrations of foreign collaboration used to advance the efforts in finding cures for diseases and conducting vital research and studies for global health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in my support for H.R. 5029, and understand the importance of our international relationships involving Science and Technology, so that when successful, may lead to cooperative research, development and technology programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5029.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS, PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE, AND COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4185) to revise certain authorities of the District of Columbia courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4185

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITIES OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT DEBTS AND ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS FROM EMPLOYEES.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of subchapter II the following new section:

“§ 11-1733. Collection, compromise, and waiver of employee debts and erroneous payments

“(a) COLLECTION OF DEBTS AND ERRONEOUS PAYMENTS MADE TO EMPLOYEES.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT.—If the Executive Officer determines that an employee or former employee of the District of Columbia Courts is indebted to the District of Columbia Courts because of an erroneous payment made to or on behalf of the employee, or any other debt, the Executive Officer may collect the amount of the indebtedness in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) TIMING OF COLLECTION.—Any debt authorized to be collected under this subsection may be collected in monthly installments or at officially established regular pay period intervals, by deduction in reasonable amounts from the current pay of the employee.

“(3) SOURCE OF DEDUCTIONS.—Deductions described in paragraph (2) may be made from any wages, salary, compensation, remuneration for services, or other authorized pay, including but not limited to incentive pay, back pay, and lump sum leave payments, but not including retirement pay.

“(4) LIMIT ON AMOUNT.—The amount deducted with respect to an employee for any period may not exceed 20 percent of the employee's disposable pay, except that a greater percentage may be deducted upon consent of the employee involved.

“(5) COLLECTIONS AFTER EMPLOYMENT.—If an employee's employment ends before collection of the amount of the employee's indebtedness is completed, deductions may be made from later non-periodic government payments of any nature due the former employee, except retirement pay, and such deductions may be made without regard to the limit under paragraph (4).

“(b) NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), prior to initiating any proceedings under subsection (a) to collect any indebtedness of an individual, the Executive Officer shall provide the individual with—

“(A) a minimum of 30 days written notice, informing such individual of the nature and amount of the indebtedness determined by the District of Columbia Courts to be due, the intention of the Courts to initiate proceedings to collect the debt through deductions from pay, and an explanation of the rights of the individual under this section;

“(B) an opportunity to inspect and copy Court records relating to the debt;

“(C) an opportunity to enter into a written agreement with the Courts, under terms agreeable to the Executive Officer, to establish a schedule for the repayment of the debt; and

“(D) an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with paragraph (2) on the determination of the Courts concerning the existence or the amount of the debt, and in the case of an individual whose repayment schedule is established other than by a written agreement pursuant to subparagraph (C), concerning the terms of the repayment schedule.

“(2) PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS.—

“(A) AVAILABILITY OF HEARING UPON REQUEST.—A hearing under this paragraph shall

be provided if the individual, on or before the fifteenth day following receipt of the notice described in paragraph (1)(A), and in accordance with such procedures as the Executive Officer may prescribe, files a petition requesting such a hearing.

“(B) BASIS FOR HEARING.—Unless the hearing officer determines that the existence or the amount of the debt turns on an issue of credibility or veracity or cannot be resolved by a review of the documentary evidence, the hearing shall be on the written submissions.

“(C) STAY OF COLLECTION PROCEEDINGS.—The timely filing of a petition for hearing shall stay the commencement of collection proceedings.

“(D) INDEPENDENT OFFICER.—A hearing under this paragraph shall be conducted by an independent hearing officer appointed in accordance with regulations promulgated under subsection (e).

“(E) DEADLINE FOR DECISION.—The hearing officer shall issue a final decision regarding the questions covered by the hearing at the earliest practicable date, but not later than 60 days after the hearing.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to routine intra-Courts adjustments of pay that are attributable to clerical or administrative errors or delays in processing pay documents that have occurred within the 4 pay periods preceding the adjustment and to any adjustment that amounts to \$50 or less, if at the time of such adjustment, or as soon thereafter as practical, the individual is provided written notice of the nature and the amount of the adjustment and a point of contact for contesting such adjustment.

“(c) COMPROMISE.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO COMPROMISE CLAIMS.—The Executive Officer may—

“(A) compromise a claim to collect an indebtedness under this section if the amount involved is not more than \$100,000; and

“(B) suspend or end collection action on such a claim if it appears that no person liable on the claim has the present or prospective ability to pay a significant amount of the claim or if the cost of collecting the claim is likely to be more than the amount recovered.

“(2) EFFECT OF COMPROMISE.—A compromise under this subsection is final and conclusive unless gotten by fraud, misrepresentation, presenting a false claim, or mutual mistake of fact.

“(3) NO LIABILITY OF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPROMISE.—An accountable official is not liable for an amount paid or for the value of property lost or damaged if the amount or value is not recovered because of a compromise under this subsection.

“(d) WAIVER OF CLAIM.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE CLAIMS.—Upon application from a person liable on a claim to collect an indebtedness under this section, the Executive Officer may, with written justification, waive the claim if collection would be—

“(A) against equity;

“(B) against good conscience; and

“(C) not in the best interests of the Courts.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The Executive Officer may not exercise the authority under this subsection to waive a claim if—

“(A) in the Executive Officer's opinion, there exists, in connection with the claim, an indication of fraud, misrepresentation, fault, or lack of good faith on the part of the employee, former employee, or any other person having an interest in obtaining a waiver of the claim; or

“(B) the application for waiver is received in the Executive Officer's office after the ex-

piration of 3 years immediately following the date on which the erroneous payment was discovered or 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, whichever is later, except if the claim involves money owed for Federal health benefits, Federal life insurance, or Federal retirement benefits.

“(3) DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR WAIVER.—A decision by the Executive Officer to deny an application for a waiver under this subsection shall be the final administrative decision of the District government.

“(4) REFUND OF AMOUNTS ALREADY COLLECTED AGAINST CLAIM SUBSEQUENTLY WAIVED.—If the Courts have been reimbursed for a claim under this section in whole or in part, and a waiver of the claim is then granted, the employee or former employee shall be entitled to a refund of the amount of the reimbursement upon application for that refund, so long as the application is received not later than 2 years after the effective date of the waiver.

“(5) EFFECT ON ACCOUNTS OF COURTS.—In the audit and settlement of accounts of any accountable official, full credit shall be given for any amounts with respect to which collection by the Courts is waived under this subsection.

“(6) VALIDITY OF PAYMENTS.—An erroneous payment or debt, the collection of which is waived under this subsection, is a valid payment for all purposes.

“(7) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to affect in any way the authority under any other statute to litigate, settle, compromise, or waive any claim of the District of Columbia.

“(e) REGULATIONS.—The Executive Officer's authority under this section shall be subject to regulations promulgated by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration.”

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter II the following new item:

“11-1733. Collection, compromise, and waiver of employee debts and erroneous payments.”

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to erroneous payments made and debts incurred before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS FOR PERSONNEL.**—Section 11-1742(b), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Under the authority of the previous sentence, the Executive Officer may purchase uniforms to be worn by nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia Courts whose responsibilities warrant the wearing of uniforms, so long as the cost of furnishing a uniform to an employee during a year does not exceed the amount applicable for the year under section 5901(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code (relating to the uniform allowance for employees of the Government of the United States).”

SEC. 3. AUTHORITIES OF COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SENTENCED OFFENDERS.**—Section 11233(b)(2)(F) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (sec. 24-133(b)(2)(F), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “sanctions” and inserting “sanction and incentive”.

(b) **PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.**—Section 11233(b)(3)(A) of such Act

(sec. 24-133(b)(3)(A), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS.—The Director may accept, solicit, and use on behalf of the Agency any monetary or nonmonetary gift, donation, bequest, or use of facilities, property, or services for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Agency.”.

(C) PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AND USE REIMBURSEMENTS FROM DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.—Section 11233(b)(4) of such Act (sec. 24-133(b)(4)) is amended by striking “During fiscal years 2006 through 2008, the Director” and inserting “The Director”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITIES OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE.

(a) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF SERVICES OF VOLUNTEERS.—Section 307(b) of such Act (sec. 2-1607(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “the Service may accept public grants and private contributions made to assist it” and inserting “the Service may accept and use public grants, private contributions, and voluntary and uncompensated (gratuitous) services to assist it”.

(b) TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS EMPLOYEES OF SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(d) of such Act (sec. 2-1603(d), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking “employees of the District of Columbia” and inserting “employees of the Service”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the District of Columbia Courts and Justice Technical Corrections Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-274).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This legislation, introduced by Ms. NORTON, would provide increased flexibility to the District of Columbia courts and related entities.

Among other provisions, H.R. 4185 would allow the D.C. courts to collect outstanding employee debts or overpayments, and authorizes its executive officer to purchase and provide uniforms for employees whose responsibilities warrant wearing uniforms.

The bill authorizes the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency to develop and operate incentive programs for sentenced offenders, such as vocational and educational training, and it allows the Public Defender Service to accept volunteer service.

I want to thank Ms. NORTON for all of her work on this bill, and I urge all Members to support this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014, or H.R. 4185.

First, I want to thank my good friends—the chairman of the full committee, Mr. ISSA, and our ranking member, Mr. CUMMINGS—for their work together with me on this bill, especially Chairman ISSA for seeing to it that this bill got to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes, really, quite minor changes, but they are important to the District of Columbia and to the Federal agencies involved. They happen to be Federal agencies that uniquely serve the District of Columbia.

□ 1600

I will not bore the House with all of the elements of this bill because they will seem quite minor to the House, though, as I indicate, they are of some considerable importance to the agencies that are involved.

For example—and I will use examples only—for the courts, it allows the courts to collect debts owed to the courts by employees, such as debts for loss or damage to property and improper credit card payments. This is the kind of authority the court would now have.

Where there were erroneous payments to employees, those employees would get a hearing before any such collection was charged to them.

The courts would have the authority to purchase uniforms, as an example. As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, in our courts, it would be important that everyone who has the authority to enter the courts have the same kind of uniform, given the kinds of secure hearings that take place here in the District of Columbia, even more so than in most other courts—Federal courts of the United States.

As an example, for the Public Defender Service, the board of trustees should be treated as Federal employees or Public Defender Service employees. They were formerly treated as District of Columbia employees because this used to be a District of Columbia agency.

As an example, from the Court Services administration, which serves our offenders who are under court supervision, there is an important section, as an example, to allow CSOSA—as we call it—to use incentives-based programming and not alone sanctions because all of the documentation shows that incentives, along with sanctions—not sanctions alone—are best to get compliance with supervision.

There are a number of others. I thank the committee for bringing this

bill, important to the District of Columbia, to the floor before the end of the August recess.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Act of 2014 (H.R. 4185).

I would like to thank Chairman ISSA and Ranking Members CUMMINGS for their work together to assist me with this bill, and Chairman ISSA for seeing to it that the bill would be on the floor today. This bill makes minor changes, but they are important, to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (Courts), the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA), placing these entities in the same position as their federal counterparts for more effective management and operation.

This bill would allow the Courts to collect debts owed to the Courts by its employees, such as debts from loss or damage to property, improper credit card payments, erroneous payments to employees and the like. The Courts would have to provide employees with at least 30 days's written notice regarding the debt collection, and employees would have the right to a hearing conducted by an independent officer. The bill would also give the Courts the authority to purchase uniforms to ensure the safety of its building engineers, maintenance workers and main personnel. These service employees must regularly access buildings run by the Courts at all hours. The increase in the number of security incidents in courthouses throughout the country as well as the location of the Courts here in the nation's capital require visual security and uniformity of staff to help ensure that unauthorized persons do not enter secure areas.

The bill also would allow PDS to accept and use public grants and both voluntary and uncompensated services, such as unpaid law clerks and interns, as well as private contributions made to advance PDS's work. It would allow the members of the PDS board of trustees to be treated as PDS employees instead of District of Columbia employees for purposes of liability. Under current law, due to an apparent drafting error, the members of the board are treated as District of Columbia employees for purposes of any action brought against board members. PDS employees are not District of Columbia employees. PDS has the authority to indemnify its board. This bill would rectify this oversight.

Finally, this bill would allow CSOSA to develop and implement incentive-based programming to accompany its current sanction policies. Combining both sanctions and incentives has proven to be more effective than only compliance with supervision. The bill also would authorize CSOSA to solicit, receive and use gifts for the purpose of advancing its work, and would require the CSOSA to keep detailed records on its use of this gift authority. It would also permit the Director to enter into cost-reimbursement agreements with the D.C. government for space or services provided. The D.C. government is a frequent partner of CSOSA's due to its location in D.C. and

CSOSA's mandate to assist in the reintegration of D.C. Code offenders into society. Giving CSOSA the authority to enter into reimbursable agreements with the District is necessary to assist CSOSA in its daily work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4185.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 451) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 451

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RICHARD K. SALICK POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 451, introduced by my colleague, Representative BILL POSEY of Florida, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the Richard K. Salick Post Office.

Richard Salick was a devoted and charitable member of his community in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Salick was an internationally-renowned surfer who competed on both the U.S. and world surfing teams in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tragically, Salick was diagnosed with kidney disease in 1973, but he persevered and was able to touch the lives of everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. He became a tireless advocate with the National Kidney Foundation, to assist their efforts to support patients and to raise money for their care.

Salick founded the National Kidney Foundation Surf Festival in 1986, which donates its proceeds to the National Kidney Foundation.

Mr. Salick passed away at the age of 62 in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 451, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the Richard K. Salick Post Office.

Richard Salick was born in Wisconsin in 1949 and competed for national and world surfing teams in the 1960s and 1970s.

At the age of 23, Richard was diagnosed with kidney failure. After undergoing his first kidney transplant, Richard was told that his surfing career was over.

Less than a year after surgery, however, Richard developed an innovative paddling technique that allowed him to return to his passion of professional surfing. In 2000, Richard was inducted into the Surfing Hall of Fame as an East Coast Legend.

Richard began dedicating his life to helping others suffering from kidney disease. In 1976, just 2 years after his initial kidney transplant, Richard and his brother helped organize a surfing competition in Cocoa Beach, Florida, to benefit local dialysis centers.

That event has now become the largest charitable surfing festival in the world, raising millions of dollars to support educational, patient services, and organ donation programs.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize Richard Salick's extraordinary strength in the face of chronic illness, his perseverance to excel at the highest level in his sport, and his tireless dedication to improving the lives of others fighting kidney disease.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Florida (Mr. POSEY).

Mr. POSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for coming in contact with a lot of people during my lifetime, and Richard Salick is certainly one of them. In fact, I think so much of Rich and his selfless giving to others, I introduced this legislation, H.R. 451, to designate the U.S. Post Office on North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach as the Richard K. Salick Post Office.

Rich Salick, who passed away on July 2 of 2012, was a local hero and a true champion to many people. Rich was a champion surfer through much of the late 1960s and 1970s, but he was also a lifelong sufferer of kidney disease and a longtime advocate of supporting kidney transplantation and kidney disease patients.

What made Rich a champion was not the number of trophies that he won—which was considerable—but the battles he willingly and personally waged on behalf of others in need.

At age 23, at the high point of his professional surfing career, Rich fell ill and was told by doctors that he would die if he did not get a kidney transplant. Aided by his twin brother, Phil Salick—who was his first kidney donor—Rich recovered, but was told all physical sports were out of the question in his future.

After a year of recovery, Rich developed a unique padding system to protect his transplanted kidney and went on to win surfing contests and even proudly displayed one of the trophies in the Shands teaching hospital in Gainesville, Florida. Rich would routinely call kidney patients to offer them a message of hope and to aid their recoveries.

His work did not stop there. Rich and Phil began hosting small surfing events to benefit those on dialysis. Every year, these events grew larger and larger and culminated in hugely successful annual surf festivities.

These events have raised millions of dollars for the National Kidney Foundation and are some of the largest charitable surfing events in the world.

When I was serving in the State legislature, it was not uncommon to meet Rich Salick walking the halls of the capitol advocating for kidney patients, trying to find some commonsense fixes to some of these flawed laws to help make lives better for other people.

The National Kidney Foundation tells us that 90,000 Americans with kidney disease die each year, and approximately 100,000 Americans are waiting for a direly needed kidney transplant.

Every year, I join hundreds of others in our community to participate in the annual Cocoa Beach Kidney Walk, known as Footprints in the Sand, to support those who suffer from kidney disease and to honor Rich's commitment.

Despite suffering from kidney disease for most of his adult life, Rich proved

that others with the same condition can truly accomplish anything they set their minds to.

He was the first professional athlete ever to receive a transplant and return to his sport at a professional level. In 2000, he was inducted into the Surfing Hall of Fame, and in April of 2008, he was also inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame, a man of many talents.

He received the prestigious Nancy Katin Award in 1977 for his worldwide humanitarian work.

I would like to thank Chairman ISSA, Ranking Member CUMMINGS, and the members and staff of the committee for moving this bill to the floor to honor a great American and a true champion.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 451.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER SCOTT POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 606) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 606

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER SCOTT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to

include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 606, introduced by Representative TOM REED of New York, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office.

Army Specialist Christopher Scott was from Dundee, New York, and was proud to serve his country as a military police officer in Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan, Scott made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

On September 3, 2011, he was killed in Kandahar province during an insurgent attack. Scott is survived by his parents, brothers, grandparents, and his fiancée.

At the time of his death, Scott had been scheduled to return home in 12 days to be married to his fiancée, Tory L. Oden. Specialist Christopher Scott was just 21 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 606, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office.

Christopher Scott was raised in Dundee, New York, and graduated from Dundee Central School in 2009. Christopher excelled in both the classroom and athletics as a member of the football, track, and cheerleading teams.

□ 1615

Christopher enlisted in the United States Army in July 2009, where he served as a military policeman. Specialist Scott was assigned to the 561st Military Police Company, 716th MP Battalion. Specialist Scott was attached to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division upon his deployment to Afghanistan in 2011.

Just 2 months into his first tour overseas and 12 days before returning home to get married, Specialist Scott was tragically killed while conducting a dismounted patrol with Afghan uniformed police partners in Kandahar City. Specialist Scott was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, National Service Ribbon, and Combat Action Badge for his honorable service.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to recognize the valor of Specialist Christopher Scott and the extraordinary sacrifices made by him and his family. I urge all Members of the Con-

gress to vote in favor of this legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the State of New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding, as well as my colleague from Maryland for his support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 606, to rename the post office at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, after Specialist Christopher Scott.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Scott gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country on September 3, 2011, at the young age of 21 years old, and I am honored to recognize him here today.

A 2009 graduate of Dundee Central Schools, Christopher was an engaged student who was active on both his school's football and track teams. In addition, he was the only male cheerleader on the varsity squad. Outside of school, Chris was skilled in martial arts and was an avid member of the Spencer Van Etten Coon Hunting Club.

It was Specialist Scott's dream to serve his country as a military policeman, and he enlisted shortly after graduating from Dundee. He was assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and he was ultimately deployed in July of 2011. His fellow soldiers commended him on his leadership and constant professionalism.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, he was killed September 3, 2011, while on patrol in Afghanistan, just 2 weeks before he was to return home to be married. The news devastated his tight-knit community of 1,500 people.

His service and heroism earned him numerous awards and decorations, which include the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

Specialist Scott personified patriotism, giving the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The least we can do is to pay tribute to his bravery and dedication by naming the Tyrone Post Office in his honor to help preserve his legacy as one of New York's true heroes for generations to come.

I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 606 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 606.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELIZABETH L. KINNUNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2223) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2223

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIZABETH L. KINNUNEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2223, introduced by my colleague Representative DAN BENISHEK of Michigan, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office.

Elizabeth Kinnunen emigrated from Finland to the United States in 1903. She operated a boarding house in Marquette, Michigan, with her husband and had 11 children.

During her life, Mrs. Kinnunen endured a devastating and unfathomable loss: two of her sons died while in service to our country. Her son Eiso was killed at the Battle of the Bulge in 1945, and her son Raymond was killed in Korea in 1952.

Mrs. Kinnunen passed away in 1974. Mrs. Kinnunen's sacrifice and the sac-

rifice of thousands of others just like her and their continued perseverance illustrate the courage and indomitability of the American spirit.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 2223, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building.

Elizabeth Kinnunen came to the United States from Finland in 1903 with hopes of a better life. After marrying Oscar Kinnunen in 1909, Elizabeth worked alongside her husband to run a boarding home for timber and mining workers in Marquette, Michigan. Eventually, Elizabeth, Oscar, and their 11 children moved to Munising, Michigan, where they continued to work tirelessly so that each of their children could achieve the American Dream.

Mrs. Kinnunen made many sacrifices on behalf of her children, and two of her beloved sons made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our great country. Eiso Kinnunen was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945; and shortly thereafter, in 1952, Ms. Kinnunen became a two Gold Star Mother, when Raymond Kinnunen lost his life in the Korean war.

It is difficult to fathom, Mr. Speaker, the devastating losses Ms. Kinnunen endured, but we can honor her hard work, her dedication, and her sacrifices by naming this post office in her honor.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Maryland and Arizona for bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2223, a bill to name the post office building in Munising, Michigan, after the late Mrs. Elizabeth Kinnunen.

Born in 1893, the former Elizabeth Lempi Paasto immigrated to our country from Finland in 1903. She came, like many in northern Michigan and throughout our great land, for freedom and opportunity and for a chance at the American Dream. She married Oscar Kinnunen in 1909. Together, they had 11 children.

To provide for their family, Mr. and Mrs. Kinnunen operated a boarding house in Marquette, Michigan. They provided lodging to timber and mining workers in Marquette County. Eventually, they moved to Munising, Michigan, where Oscar worked for the paper company and Elizabeth worked as a local cook. Mrs. Kinnunen continued to

work to support her family after Oscar died in 1952 and was a faithful member of the Messiah Lutheran Church in Munising.

Mrs. Kinnunen's life was, unfortunately, marked by tragedy in two great wars that defined this country. Two of her sons, Eiso and Raymond, were killed overseas defending the American people and our freedom. Eiso was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge in 1945, and Raymond lost his life in Korea in 1952. We will never know the devastating grief their family must have suffered after such an enormous loss. We will also never be able to fathom the somber dignity Mrs. Kinnunen must have felt, in the words of President Lincoln, "to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

Mrs. Kinnunen died on April 5, 1974, at the age of 81. While Mrs. Kinnunen is not a household name, her hard work to provide for her family and the terrible sacrifices she and her family endured, much like many throughout our country, form an important part of our history. Naming this post office in her honor is a thoughtful and lasting way for the community of Munising to celebrate her life and accomplishments.

The City of Munising, the Alger County Board of Commissioners, and the American Legion Post 131 in Munising have worked for years to honor Mrs. Kinnunen by renaming this post office in her name. It is my honor to represent the citizens of northern Michigan today who have worked so hard to recognize the sacrifices Mrs. Kinnunen made for love of family and country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2223, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2223.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OFFICER JAMES BONNEAU MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3534) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the "Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3534

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. OFFICER JAMES BONNEAU MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the “Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3534, introduced by my colleague, Representative TIM WALBERG of Michigan, will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office.

Police Officer James Bonneau served in the Jackson Police Department in Michigan. While he was responding to a domestic disturbance call, he was shot and killed on March 9, 2010. A veteran with 2 years on the police force, he was loved and respected by his community. Officer Bonneau was 26 years old when he died doing his duty for his community and his country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3534, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office.

James Bonneau was a native of Canton, Michigan. He graduated with a degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University in 2006. James graduated at the top of his class from Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy and subsequently joined the Jackson Police Department.

On March 9, 2010, Officer Bonneau was following up on a domestic disturbance call when he was tragically shot and killed.

Bonneau is survived by his parents, Marc and Amy Bonneau, as well as his fiancée, Rachael Maloney.

Passing this bill will help recognize Officer Bonneau's police service as well as his dedication and commitment to his family, the police department, and his community. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Arizona and Maryland for their support in bringing this forward.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today in support of H.R. 3534, legislation I introduced to designate the postal facility located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office.

Just after midnight on March 9, 2010, Officer James Bonneau was killed in the line of duty as he and a fellow public safety officer responded to a domestic disturbance complaint. Although he later succumbed to his wounds, Officer Bonneau was able to call for help and relay information about the scene that saved the life of his fellow public safety officer who had also been shot, who I have met and talked to and who appreciates his colleague so much for saving his life.

In recognition of his exceptional acts of bravery, Officer Bonneau was awarded the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery in 2011.

□ 1630

Four years after his passing, he remains in the hearts and minds of the Jackson community.

The Officer James Bonneau Memorial Scholarship fund was named in his honor and helps local students who are pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

A graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a degree in criminal justice, Bonneau went on to graduate from Lansing Community College's Mid-Michigan Police Academy at the top of his class academically before joining the Jackson police force.

Being an officer was a job he always wanted to do since he was a kid, according to Officer Bonneau's parents. To those who knew him best, he was described as loyal, genuine, and goodhearted.

In passing this legislation today, we take a small step forward in memorializing his sacrifice and ensuring that future generations remember the heroism of Officer Bonneau. To his mother and father, Amy and Marc Bonneau, and the rest of his family, we offer our sincere gratitude and condolences.

And to his fellow officers at the Jackson Police Department, we thank you, as well, for continuing to put your lives on the line each day as you protect our communities.

As Officer Bonneau's father put it:

It is hard to say, but at least he died loving what he did. That was his dream. That was what he lived for.

Officer James David Bonneau gave his life in service to the Jackson community. We acknowledge his ultimate sacrifice, and we will never forget what he lived for—duty over self.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3534, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3534.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4355) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the “Harold George Bennett Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4355

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HAROLD GEORGE BENNETT POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, shall be known and designated as the “Harold George Bennett Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Harold George Bennett Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4355, introduced by Representative TIM GRIFFIN of Arkansas, would designate the facility of the

United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Harold George Bennett was born in Thornburg, Arkansas, in 1940 and joined the Army in 1957 at the beginning of the Vietnam war. He continued his service when he volunteered to serve in South Vietnam as a Special Forces adviser. In late 1964, he was captured after a fierce firefight. After his capture, Bennett was a prisoner of war for 179 days. He was executed by the Viet Cong on June 25, 1965, after injuring an enemy soldier after his third escape attempt. Bennett was 24 years old when he died, and he was the first American POW murdered in Vietnam. His remains have never been returned to the United States, but his bravery and perseverance will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 4355, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the Harold George Bennett Post Office.

Harold Bennett was born on October 16, 1940, in Perryville, Arkansas. Bennett and his brothers served in the United States Army. Sergeant George Bennett was trained as an airborne infantryman and served with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions.

While serving as an infantry adviser to South Vietnam's Army on December 29, 1964, he was airlifted to a village that had been overrun by the Viet Cong. Upon landing, Sergeant Bennett's unit was confronted by enemy forces, and Sergeant Bennett and his radio operator were captured. Sergeant Bennett was the first American prisoner of war to be executed by the Viet Cong.

As a prisoner of war, Sergeant Bennett displayed remarkable courage, resistance, and devotion to his country. He was reportedly executed for injuring one of his captors during one of his three escape attempts. Sergeant Bennett was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, we would urge all Members of the Congress to vote in favor of this legislation, and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4355, to designate the U.S. Post Office located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office."

Staff Sergeant Harold George Bennett is one of Arkansas' finest sons, and he dedicated his life to serving our

country. Sergeant Bennett was born on October 16, 1940, in Thornburg, Arkansas, a small town near the outskirts of the Ouachita National Forest. A graduate of Perryville High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1957.

Sergeant Bennett served as an airborne infantryman with the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, where he earned his Master Parachute Wings and Expert Infantry Badge. He completed Special Forces training in 1963, and in 1964, volunteered to serve in South Vietnam as a Special Forces adviser with the Military Assistance Command.

On December 29, 1964, his unit was airlifted to a small village after it had been overrun by a division of Viet Cong. Immediately upon landing, Sergeant Bennett's unit was confronted by a well dug-in regiment of enemy forces, and despite fighting furiously and courageously throughout the afternoon, his unit was overrun. Concerned for the safety of his fellow servicemen, he twice directed American helicopter pilots attempting to rescue him to stand down, and was captured by the Viet Cong.

Sergeant Bennett spent 179 days as a POW and attempted to escape three times. During his last attempt, he injured an enemy soldier, and his captors executed him on June 25, 1965. As a prisoner of war, the only thing more remarkable than the courageous resistance he displayed throughout his captivity was his steadfast devotion to duty, honor, and country. His faith in God and the trust of his fellow prisoners was unshakeable. Only 24 years old, Sergeant Bennett was the first American POW killed in Vietnam, and, like many other U.S. servicemen who lost their lives there, his remains have never been returned home.

Nearly four decades later, in 2004, Sergeant Bennett was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning. In 2006, his family was presented with his Combat Infantryman's Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Prisoner of War Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart. And in 2010, Sergeant Bennett's family was presented with his Silver Star.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Bennett was a selfless young man who answered his Nation's call to service and placed duty and honor above all else. Although he may no longer be with us, the example and selflessness of this brave young Arkansan will forever live on in our hearts. While a grateful nation could never adequately express its indebtedness to men like Staff Sergeant Harold George Bennett, it should take every opportunity to honor them and their families for the sacrifice they have paid on our behalf.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4355, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4355.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FOUNTAIN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2802) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2802

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FOUNTAIN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2802, introduced by Representative TODD ROKITA of Indiana, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office.

America as a nation is indebted to those who have risked their lives to preserve the freedoms that each of us holds so dearly. This post office dedication in the county seat of Covington will remind the citizens of Fountain Valley of sacrifices made by its men

and women in service of their country. Additionally, naming the post office after the Fountain County veterans honors the families and loved ones who made the unimaginable sacrifice of parting with, and for those still worrying about, cherished loved ones serving overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 2802, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office.

The legislation before us honors the brave men and women from Fountain County, Indiana, who have served in our Armed Forces. These servicemembers have put this country before themselves by dedicating their lives to defending the freedoms we as Americans hold so dear. Their sacrifices should never be taken for granted, nor should they ever be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield as many minutes as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA), a distinguished colleague.

Mr. ROKITA. Well, I thank, first of all, the gentleman from Arizona for yielding his time and for his leadership here in the House of Representatives, especially this evening with the good work that he is managing here on the floor. I know, being his friend, that it is a labor of love for him as it is for almost all of us, and so I just want to, here, on the record, thank him for his continued service in the House.

I also want to thank the ranking member for his willingness in addressing and considering this legislation. It is important to the people of Indiana, and I am grateful for his leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation that I was honored to introduce and support in memory of the fallen soldiers of Fountain County, Indiana.

Lance Corporal Josh Witsman was a marine from Covington, Indiana, and was so very proud to have been born in the United States, and especially Indiana, which he often referred to as "God's country."

Lance Corporal Witsman firmly believed in the freedoms enshrined in our founding documents that have helped define our American exceptionalism. He felt humbled by, honored to, and responsible for fighting to uphold those very freedoms and standards which we talk about so often here on the House floor, and that Americans talk about throughout the country. He was not

only humbled to serve his country, but he was humbled to serve next to his fellow military brothers, whom he would often boast to about how great Indiana was.

And, Mr. Speaker, he loved his family. He would often call his mother at home and sing the song, "Paint Me a Birmingham," only to swap in his hometown of Covington for Birmingham. He couldn't wait to return home to Indiana to be with all of them.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, that day never came. You see, Lance Corporal Josh Witsman died in the line of duty during his second tour of duty in Afghanistan while serving with Weapons Company 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, on May 30, 2012. He was just 23.

□ 1645

Josh's service and sacrifice were the inspiration for this bill, and it started with an idea from one of Josh's close friends. That friend, Noah Townsend, was in the supermarket one day, and he overheard a young Hoosier ask her parents who Josh Witsman was.

The child's parents explained that Josh was a soldier who had given his life for her freedom. Noah knew he had to find a way to make sure Josh's memory and his sacrifice would be remembered in his hometown of Covington.

Noah racked his brain for a few days trying to think what would be a fitting memorial for Josh and his service. Later that week, Noah would be driving down Liberty Street, and as he drove past the post office, it hit him—Congress renames post offices for individuals who have made some contribution to their city, State, or country, undoubtedly all deserved.

Certainly, Josh's sacrifice and that of his family is worthy of recognition in any number of ways, including naming a post office in the city he called home, but recognition of his own work wasn't Josh's way.

Before Noah Townsend came to me with this idea, he talked with Josh's parents. Josh's mother, Kayla Witsman, was thankful for the gesture, but she could hear her son saying: Mom, it is not just about me.

This young man, who gave his life for his country, and his mother's interpretation of what his wishes would have been is correct. There are so many heroes that have given their lives for this country worthy of a similar recognition.

In Fountain County, there have been nearly 50 families who have lost someone in service to their country. Let me assure you, Fountain County is not a large population center in Indiana. As wonderful and as welcoming as it is, full of great Hoosiers, it is a farming community. It is not big, except in geography, and 50 families from that community had some die serving their country.

That is why this legislation does not mention Josh Witsman's name. I am proposing that we rename this post office on behalf of not only the Witsman family, but all of the nearly 50 families in Fountain County who have lost loved ones in service to our Nation.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that this will serve as an everlasting tribute to the sacrifices of these soldiers and their families.

In closing, I would also like to thank the entire Indiana House delegation for their support of this legislation as well. On behalf of Josh Witsman's family and all those who have sacrificed, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote for this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2802.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BARRY M. GOLDWATER POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3027) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3027

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BARRY M. GOLDWATER POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today as the House considers a piece of legislation I introduced, H.R. 3027, which would rename the postal facility at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the Barry M. Goldwater Post Office.

As we know, Barry Goldwater was a businessman turned statesman who served five terms in the United States Senate and was the Republican nominee for the Presidency in 1964.

He served Arizona and our Nation with honor and integrity for decades. Leading up to the 1964 Presidential election, he earned the moniker "Mr. Conservative" for being so influential in the revival of political conservatism. After the 1964 election, he returned to the Senate.

Because of his experience as a senior officer in the Army Air Force Reserve, he took particular interest in national security issues, serving as the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1981 to 1985 and then serving as chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee from 1985 to 1987.

He was instrumental in crafting the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, which was the mechanism which brought about one of the most important Defense Department restructurings in U.S. history.

To honor Barry Goldwater's service to this Nation, I have sponsored this legislation which the House is considering today. The entire Arizona delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, are cosponsors of the bill, and for that, I thank each one of them.

It would be a fitting tribute to an honorable Arizonan, one who served this Nation in so many ways. I thank each of my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3027, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the Barry M. Goldwater Post Office.

I think we are all aware of the remarkable service from the five-term Senator from Arizona, Barry Morris Goldwater. Senator Goldwater was born in Phoenix, Arizona, on January 2, 1909. In 1930, Senator Goldwater took over his family's business, and in 1934, he married Margaret "Peggy" Johnson, with whom he had four children.

During World War II, Senator Goldwater served as a pilot and flew over the Himalayas to deliver supplies to the Republic of China in their fight against the Empire of Japan.

Senator Goldwater was a man of courage. He was a dedicated public

servant who spoke his mind, stood firm on his beliefs, and worked tirelessly for his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor Senator Goldwater and remember his legislative accomplishments, his skill in forging compromises, and his commitment to saying what he believed, so I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a fitting tribute for the citizens of Arizona and particularly those in Yavapai County—and specifically Prescott, Arizona—who want to pay tribute to one of our great Senators in Arizona history, Barry Goldwater.

He had a love affair with Arizona, from the Grand Canyon to its people, its indigenous people from the different tribes, to his way of communicating the art of conservatism to people across the country.

It is a paying tribute that we look to Barry Goldwater to honor us with his name on the post office in Prescott, Arizona.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3027.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPTAIN HERBERT JOHNSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3085) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3085

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN HERBERT JOHNSON MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ar-

izona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3085, proposed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building.

Fire Captain Herbert Johnson was an outstanding member of Chicago's fire department, proudly serving the city and its people for 32 years as a firefighter. Tragically, Johnson passed away on November 2, 2012, while battling flames in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.

A decorated firefighter, Johnson earned the Illinois Medal of Honor in 2007 for the rescue of several children from a burning apartment. Captain Johnson was only 54.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3085, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building.

I want to thank Representative DAN LIPINSKI for introducing this measure to honor a hero from the city of Chicago. Captain Johnson was a 32-year veteran firefighter who was remembered by friends and family as an all-around great guy and great fireman.

Johnson comes from a family of public servants. Three of his brothers serve as Chicago police officers. His sister is a retired policewoman, and another brother is a Chicago firefighter.

Captain Johnson died after sustaining heavy injuries while responding to a fire in the Gage Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Captain Johnson, who had just been promoted 3 months before his death, is survived by his wife, Susan, a daughter, and two sons.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), the distinguished sponsor of the bill.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3085, a bill I introduced to rename Chicago's Mount Greenwood Post Office at 3349 West 111th Street in honor of Chicago Fire Captain Herbert "Herbie" Johnson.

Captain Johnson died 2 years ago at the age of 54, while fighting a house fire on Chicago's South Side. Captain Johnson heroically served in the Chicago Fire Department for over 32 years. He learned public service from his family.

Three of his brothers are Chicago police officers. A sister is a retired Chicago police officer. Another brother is a Chicago firefighter. So his family knows the danger of being a first responder.

Captain Johnson served in almost every Chicago neighborhood as a firefighter, but his heart belonged to the southwest side, especially to the close-knit community of Mount Greenwood.

Over the years, Captain Johnson taught over 1,000 recruits as an instructor at the Robert J. Quinn Fire Academy. He is fondly remembered by those he taught.

After the horrible terrorist attacks of 9/11, Herbert Johnson went to New York City to volunteer with the rescue efforts. In 2007, he was awarded the State's highest honor for firefighters, the Illinois Medal of Honor, for rescuing several children from a burning apartment building.

Captain Johnson's life came to a tragic end on November 2, 2012, while battling flames in the attic of a two-story home on Chicago's South Side.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Susan; two sons, Thomas and Michael; and daughter, Laurie. He also left behind so many others in Mount Greenwood and the surrounding area who knew him well not only as a courageous and dedicated public servant, but also as an outgoing and caring neighbor and friend. The outpouring of grief after his death demonstrated the impact he had on so many people.

Naming a postal facility honoring Fire Captain Johnson is just a small tribute to our community's appreciation not only for him, but all first responders who bravely put their lives on the line every day for people they do not know.

This post office naming will ensure that Captain Herbie Johnson, his family, and the sacrifices of all first responders will always be remembered and appreciated. It will hopefully inspire more to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of my colleagues from Illinois for cosponsoring this bill, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3085 in honoring Captain Herbert "Herbie" Johnson.

□ 1700

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3085, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3085.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAFF SERGEANT MANUEL V. MENDOZA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4416) to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STAFF SERGEANT MANUEL V. MENDOZA POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4416, introduced by Representative ANN KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, would redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building.

Staff Sergeant Mendoza was born in Arizona in 1922. Mendoza entered the United States Army in November of 1942, at the outset of the U.S.'s entry into World War II. Mendoza was a highly decorated soldier. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action on Mount Battaglia in Italy on October 4, 1944, where it is said he broke up a German counterattack on his own. Mendoza also served with distinction in the Korean war. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Mendoza earned a number of other medals and the Bronze Star. Staff Sergeant Mendoza passed away in 2001.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Arizona, Representative ANN KIRKPATRICK, for introducing H.R. 4416, a bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building.

Manuel Verdugo Mendoza was born in 1922 in Miami, Arizona. Manuel was known as a man who worked hard to provide for his family.

He married his wife, Alice Gaona, in August 1942, and was drafted into the Army in November of that same year.

Just this year, Manuel was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on October 4, 1944, in Italy. On that day, Staff Sergeant Mendoza is credited with breaking up a German counterattack of 200 troops.

After World War II, Staff Sergeant Mendoza went on to serve with distinction in the Korean war before being honorably discharged in 1954.

Staff Sergeant Mendoza passed away at the age of 79 in 2001. He was survived by his wife, two daughters, and a son. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he also received the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, and a host of other honors and distinctions.

We should pass this bill today to recognize Staff Sergeant Mendoza's service to our Nation and bravery in combat.

With that, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK), my distinguished colleague, the sponsor of the legislation.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the late Staff Sergeant Manuel Mendoza, an American hero, who was born in my Arizona district, and to urge support for my bill to rename the United States Post Office in Miami, Arizona, in his honor.

Staff Sergeant Mendoza was born in 1922 in the eastern Arizona mining town of Miami. At the age of 20, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he was nicknamed “the Arizona Kid” for his heroism in battle.

Staff Sergeant Mendoza posthumously received the Medal of Honor for singlehandedly repelling a 1944 German assault on Italy’s Mount Battaglia during World War II. That afternoon, the Germans launched a fierce counter-attack against Allied forces, but due to Staff Sergeant Mendoza’s determination, bravery, and selflessness, he was able to kill 30 enemy troops and successfully defend the Allied position.

Later in his service, he went on to fight in Korea. After retiring from the Armed Forces, Mr. Mendoza returned to Mesa, Arizona, where he died in 2001. He is survived by his wife and three children.

It is my honor to introduce H.R. 4416, which redesignates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building.

Staff Sergeant Mendoza’s service was in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, as he demonstrated outstanding heroism above and beyond the call of duty.

To name a U.S. post office in my district after such a man is not only a credit to him, but to the State of Arizona and our Armed Forces.

On behalf of Arizona’s entire delegation, I thank you, Mr. GOSAR, for your support on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4416 when it comes to a vote later today.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for acknowledging all the members of the Arizona delegation for looking forward to the post office in Miami to be looked at in fond remembrance of “the Arizona Kid.” It is fitting that today is an Arizona day for post offices here on the House floor.

With that, I ask all Members of Congress to pass H.R. 4416, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4416.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VINCENT R. SOMBROTTO POST OFFICE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2291) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2291

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VINCENT R. SOMBROTTO POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2291, introduced by Representative CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office.

Vincent Sombrotto was born in Manhattan in 1923. Mr. Sombrotto was a longtime advocate for postal workers. He joined the National Association of Letter Carriers in 1947 and served as its 16th president from 1978 to 2002. He passed away in 2013 at the age of 89.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York, for introducing H.R. 2291, and I join her in supporting this bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office.

Mr. Vincent Raymond Sombrotto was born in New York on June 15, 1923. He joined what was then known as the Post Office Department in 1947 as a part-time letter carrier after serving

with distinction in the Navy during World War II.

In 1971, Sombrotto was elected president of the New York City branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers. In 1978, he was elected as NALC’s national president, a position he held until 2002.

He was an active supporter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, helping to raise millions of dollars to fight neuromuscular diseases.

Sombrotto passed away in 2013 at the age of 89. He was survived by his wife, seven children, and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the distinguished sponsor of the legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on the Oversight Committee. I thank him and Chairman ISSA for moving this legislation through the committee. It would rename a United States Postal Service facility located in my district at 450 Lexington Avenue after Vincent R. Sombrotto, who is one of the most significant labor leaders of his generation.

Like many of his Postal Service colleagues, Vincent Sombrotto traded his military uniform for a letter carrier’s uniform, and he wore both with great distinction.

As a letter carrier at New York City’s Grand Central Station in the district I represent, Mr. Sombrotto led the 1970 wildcat postal strike that led Congress to reorganize the modern United States Postal Service.

Later elected as president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, their 16th president, serving from 1978 to 2002, Mr. Sombrotto worked to increase letter carrier wages, moving them from poverty level into middle class levels.

In 1992, he began the National Association of Letter Carrier’s food drive, which has developed into the country’s biggest 1-day food drive in the entire country. Since it started, the drive has provided more than 1.2 billion pounds of food for food banks in communities throughout the United States.

As a firm believer in civic responsibility, Mr. Sombrotto worked with the United States Postal Service and emergency services organizations to establish Carrier Alert. Carrier Alert is a nationwide program allowing postal carriers to perform humanitarian deeds on their routes, including saving lives, finding missing children and pets, and looking after the elderly.

I urge my colleagues to honor Mr. Sombrotto, who worked to improve the

lives of letter carriers, their families, and their communities by supporting H.R. 2291.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. With that, I urge all Members to vote in favor of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2291.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ALL CIRCUIT REVIEW EXTENSION ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4197) to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4197

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “All Circuit Review Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD DECISIONS RELATING TO WHISTLEBLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7703(b)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “2-year” and inserting “5-year”.

(b) DIRECTOR REVIEW.—Section 7703(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking “2-year” and inserting “5-year”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

□ 1715

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In November 2012, the President signed into law the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. This legislation was needed to update existing law to better help protect whistleblowers from retaliation for helping expose waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government.

Unfortunately, some managers were using loopholes in existing law to punish well-intentioned employees for bringing bad behavior to the light of day. These actions likely dissuaded some whistleblowers from coming forward to end wasteful or corrupt activities.

In addition, during the Oversight Committee's work on this legislation, it became apparent that many whistleblowers also may not have been getting a fair shake in Federal circuit court. Therefore, the legislation created a 2-year pilot allowing for all circuit review of whistleblower appeals, enabling whistleblower cases to be appealed outside the Federal circuit.

In the 18 months since the law's enactment, very few appeals have been heard outside of the Federal circuit, giving Congress an insufficient sample size to judge whether the various courts are appropriate venues for whistleblower appeals.

H.R. 4197 simply extends the 2-year all circuit review pilot for an additional 3 years. Extending the pilot will provide additional evidence for Congress to consider as we seek to determine the fairest and most efficient way for whistleblower cases to be handled under the Federal court system.

We must do everything in our power to help defend those who seek to do the right thing by protecting Americans and their hard-earned tax dollars.

I want to thank Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for their work on this legislation, and I support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bipartisan bill to protect important due process rights for whistleblowers. I want to thank the original cosponsors of this bill, Oversight Committee Chairman DARRELL ISSA, Federal Workforce Subcommittee Chairman BLAKE FARENTHOLD, Ranking Member GERRY CONNOLLY, and longtime whistleblower advocate and fellow Member from the State of Maryland, Representative CHRIS VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 4197 extends a provision in the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act that was signed into law on November 27, 2012. Under that law, whistleblowers were allowed to file appeals in any circuit court of appeals with jurisdiction during the 2 years following enactment. The 2-year period will expire on November 27 of this year.

This bill would extend the all circuit review provision for an additional 3

years. Without this provision, whistleblowers could only appeal a decision by the Merit Systems Protection Board to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal circuit.

The Federal circuit has become increasingly restrictive of whistleblower rights in its decisions over the years. Allowing other circuits to consider appeals in whistleblower cases provides a peer review process and check on the Federal circuit.

The Oversight Committee approved this bill on a bipartisan vote in March. Following the committee's action, the Make It Safe Coalition, a group of more than 50 organizations supporting whistleblower rights, issued a statement. Here is some of what they said:

The House Government Reform Committee deserves credit for bipartisan leadership on its experiment in structural due process reforms. All circuit review is a sorely needed provision to ensure that the WPEA is in force as Congress intended.

Two years has not been enough time to evaluate whether the all circuit review provision works as intended, as only a few cases have made their way to other circuits so far.

I note this bill also would allow the Office of Personnel Management to file for reviews of MSPB decisions in circuits other than the Federal circuit for an additional 3 years.

Protecting the rights of whistleblowers fosters an environment where employees feel safe coming forward with information, including employees like the brave doctors, nurses, and administrative staff who have come forward to expose mismanagement in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Federal whistleblowers are critical to exposing waste, fraud, and abuse in the government, and we need to do all that we can to support them.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from the State of California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and Ranking Member CUMMINGS.

Mr. Speaker, the most important function that the Oversight Committee does is, in fact, to expose waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal bureaucracy. To that end, FOIA and whistleblowers are the two most important tools we have. Ultimately, whistleblowers coming forward to let us know something and the Freedom of Information Act, in addition to congressional powers, are the only way that we can wrench the truth out of a bureaucracy that often tends to be closed and, in fact, protecting of mistakes and outright failures, including fraud.

The ranking member, rightfully so and very kindly, mentioned a bipartisan effort that is underway here in

the Congress to deal with the crisis in our veterans' hospitals. Only last week, whistleblowers testified under oath of the retaliation that they had seen when they came forward to explain the problems they had. Doctors, health care professionals, and administrators found that even in a caring organization like the Veterans Administration, as their hospital systems should be, if you simply talk about secret lists or failure to provide care, you might very well experience retaliation. And they did.

So I think this is a particularly appropriate time for our committee, under the leadership of our ranking member and this bill, H.R. 4197, to bring this bill to the floor to let people know that we intend on opening up further the protections for whistleblowers, because they are and have been critical to the American people's right to know, both through their Congress and through the public.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation, and I want to thank Mr. CUMMINGS for his work on it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Chairman ISSA for all of his support. We couldn't have done it without him and his hard work on this issue.

There is something that we are clearly bipartisan on, and that is making sure that whistleblowers are protected. It is so very, very important. It plays such a vital role. There is certain information that we would never get under any circumstances if it were not for them. If they are not protected or they feel threatened by exposing problems in government they will be harmed, that is not healthy for our government. It is not healthy for our country and certainly makes it almost impossible for us to reach the highest level of effectiveness and efficiency in our committee.

I want to thank him and all the members of our committee.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 4197, a great attempt to make sure there is fair and equitable access to the fair facts so that justice can be served.

I urge all Members to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4197.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMART SAVINGS ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4193) to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4193

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Smart Savings Act".

SEC. 2. THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN DEFAULT INVESTMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8438(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(2)(A) Consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B), if an election has not been made with respect to any sums available for investment in the Thrift Savings Fund, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in an age-appropriate target date asset allocation investment fund, as determined by the Executive Director. Such investment fund shall consist of any of the funds described in subsection (b).

"(B) If an election has not been made by an eligible member under section 8440e with respect to any sums available for investment in such member's Thrift Savings Fund account, the Executive Director shall invest such sums in the Government Securities Investment Fund."

(b) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK.—Section 8439(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" before "Each employee"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) Prior to enrollment in the Thrift Savings Fund, or as soon as practicable thereafter, an individual who is automatically enrolled pursuant to section 8432(b)(2) shall receive the risk acknowledgment information described under paragraph (1)."

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8472(g)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking "required by section 8438 of this title to be invested in securities of the Government" and inserting "under section 8438(c)(2)(B)".

(d) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Executive Director (as that term is defined under section 8401(13) of title 5, United States Code) shall develop and issue guidance implementing the requirements of this Act.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall—

(1) take effect on the date that the Executive Director issues guidance under subsection (d); and

(2) apply to individuals enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan on or after such date.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF FIDUCIARY PROTECTIONS.

Section 8477(e)(1)(C)(ii) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subclause (II)—

(A) by inserting "or beneficiary" after "participant";

(B) by inserting "or option" after "fund"; and

(2) in subclause (III)—

(A) by inserting "or beneficiary" after "participant"; and

(B) by inserting "or beneficiaries" after "participants".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Smart Savings Act, H.R. 4193, would change the default investment fund for Thrift Savings Plan, or TSP, participants from the G Fund to an age-appropriate asset allocation fund consistent with a recommendation from the TSP governing board. The change would help ensure TSP participants are better prepared for retirement by investing their contributions in a fund designed to yield higher returns over the course of their career.

Currently, new TSP participants are defaulted into the Government Securities Investment Fund, or the G Fund, and remain invested there until they can make an election reallocating their account balance into one or more of the other funding options.

The G Fund comes with some risk. The TSP warns G Fund investors that their account may not grow enough to offset the reduction in purchasing power that results from inflation.

The TSP's asset allocation funds are a mix of the TSP's offerings designed to help yield higher returns while decreasing risk as individual participants near retirement. While the funds expose participants to market risk, they address such risk in their design.

In making its legislative recommendation to Congress, the TSP found that, had the asset allocation funds been the default investment option since the beginning of the automatic enrollment in 2010, participants would have achieved greater returns.

Participants who do not want to assume the market risk associated with the L Fund will, of course, maintain their ability to determine their own allocation. That can include, for instance, transferring their entire balance to the G Fund if that is their desire.

I appreciate the bipartisan support of Representatives CUMMINGS, WOODALL, LYNCH, FARENTHOLD, CONNOLLY, and Delegate NORTON, and urge support for this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this bill, I want to thank Chairman

ISSA and Congressmen FARENTHOLD and LYNCH for working with me on this bipartisan legislation.

The Smart Savings Act would amend current law to change the Thrift Savings Plan default investment option from the Government Securities Investment Fund, or the G Fund, to the Lifecycle Fund, or L Fund. This is a commonsense change that would help our Federal civilian employees save more effectively for their retirement.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which manages the TSP, has indicated that many TSP participants are not actively managing their accounts and therefore not taking full advantage of their investment options.

Thrift Board data shows that 33 percent of participants who were automatically enrolled in TSP accounts when they were hired have not changed their investment allocations and remain totally invested in the G Fund. Many of these participants are young employees who would benefit most from long-term investments in a diversified portfolio such as the L Fund.

Although there is little to no risk in investing in the G Fund, over the long term, the return on investment is only about half of the L Fund. It does not make sense to have our Federal employees miss out on the potentially higher returns that the L Fund may provide over the long term.

There is precedent for this in the private sector. Surveys show that nearly 80 percent of private employers use lifecycle funds as the default investment option for the 401(k) plans offered to their employees.

In implementing this legislation, it would be important for the Thrift Board to thoroughly explain to TSP participants that the L Fund is subject to market fluctuations. I understand that there may be some workers who may be concerned about the market risks of the L Fund. This bill would preserve the ability of all employees to change their allocations and transfer their contributions to the G Fund if they so desired.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

I want to again thank Chairman ISSA and all the members of our committee for making this happen, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, Chairman ISSA, my distinguished colleague and the chairman of the full Committee of Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. ISSA. Thank you, Chairman.

Again, thank you, Ranking Member CUMMINGS.

Mr. Speaker, we are the board of directors for the Government of the

United States. Our committee oversees the equivalent of an IRA or a 401(k) in the private sector, known as the TSP. It sounds like a lot of initials, perhaps, to people who are hearing this, or it is even, in some cases, confusing to the Federal workforce, but it is really quite simple.

We have through oversight discovered with the Thrift Investment Board that, in fact, we have done a disservice to the Federal workers by putting them into an absolutely, positively safe investment that does not keep up with inflation. Effectively, the dollars they contribute, and matching dollars from the government as an employer, are shrinking every year in constant dollars. Their investments are, in fact, smaller if they stay in that fund.

Now, near the end of people's careers—in those last couple of years—they may want to lock in with absolute certainty the size of their retirement funds to use in some way after they leave government, but in the first days, it is clear that, in the long run, the only way for an investment to grow greater than inflation is to make the kinds of investments that are possible in the other offerings under TSP, which, again, is the equivalent of a 401(k) in the private sector.

This recognition was well thought out by the Board, was well researched, and brought to our committee. It is one of those simple things that should have been done sooner, so I appreciate that the committee marked it up quickly and that we are bringing it to the floor only a short time later. I hope the Senate will hold it at the desk and will quickly allow the President to make it law because, once it is law, Federal workers will, for the first time, have a default that keeps up with or exceeds inflation.

The decision to make it quick is not because we are in a hurry. It is because, every day, Federal workers, by default and through no fault of their own, unwittingly, are finding themselves in inappropriate savings plans in their 401(k)s, known in government as the TSP. I know it is always one of those things where people say: Why are you in a hurry? In this case, we are in a hurry because we realize we should have gotten it right sooner, and we certainly are glad that we've got it done now. On behalf of the committee that oversees the Federal workforce, we hope that they will appreciate that they have, if you will, a bit of an apology that we didn't act on this even quicker.

It is important to make sure that the Federal workforce has a good pay and benefits package, and in this case, they have a good retirement package through TSP that was underperforming for many of our Federal workforce. I believe, today, the default will make it perform better while taking away none of their inherent choices, including if they want to remain in the G Fund.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), a distinguished member of our committee who has worked very hard on these issues and who has been a strong advocate for our Federal employees.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding and for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4193, the Smart Savings Act.

This legislation, as has been previously described, would change the default investment option for the Thrift Savings Plan participants from the G Fund to the Lifecycle Fund, or L Fund. The L Fund uses age-appropriate investment allocations, which result in the higher returns that have been discussed here earlier.

First, I would like to thank my fellow cosponsors—the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), Ranking Member CUMMINGS from Maryland, Congressman FARENTHOLD from Texas, Congressman CONNOLLY from Virginia, and Congressman WOODALL from Georgia—for working together on this bipartisan bill.

The Thrift Savings Plan is an important component of Federal workers' retirement assets. Given the negative impact of pay freezes, furloughs, and other challenges to the pay and benefits of our Federal workforce over the last few years, I feel it is appropriate for Congress to provide investment options that will help Federal employees maximize their retirement contributions and savings. Changing the default investment option to the L Fund makes a lot of sense because the L Funds have substantially outperformed the G Fund over the last several years. However, the bill would also allow employees who are risk averse the ability to opt out and change their investment options.

The House passed a substantially similar bill in the 110th Congress, but it was never enacted. This time around, I am hoping that this commonsense proposal will become law as a substantially similar bill in the Senate was recently approved in committee. H.R. 4193 is supported by many stakeholders, including the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, the Employees Thrift Advisory Council, and various employee organizations.

This legislation provides the dedicated men and women of our Federal workforce a reasonable option that, I believe, would help them more effectively provide for their own retirements. I urge my colleagues to join all of the cosponsors in supporting H.R. 4193.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge all of our Members to vote

in favor of this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4193, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4195

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Register Modernization Act”.

SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.

(a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1502—

(A) in the heading, by striking “printing” and inserting “publishing”; and

(B) by striking “printing and distribution” and inserting “publishing”;

(2) in section 1507 is amended—

(A) by striking “the duplicate originals or certified copies of the document have” and inserting “the document has”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “printed” and inserting “published”; and

(3) in section 1509, in subsections (a) and (b) of, by striking “printing, reprinting, wrapping, binding, and distributing” and inserting “publishing”, each place it appears.

(b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “; and” at the end of the definition for “person” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by inserting after the definition for “person” the following:

“‘publish’ means to circulate for sale or distribution to the public; and”.

(c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMENDMENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing

“The original document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times established by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States shall cause to

be noted on the original of each document the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall be immediately available for public inspection in the Office. The original shall be retained by the National Archives and Records Administration and shall be available for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Committee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under chapter 33 of this title; however, originals of proclamations of the President and Executive orders shall be permanently retained by the Administration as part of the National Archives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to the Government Printing Office, as provided by this chapter, each document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title. Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency.”.

(d) FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price

“Documents required or authorized to be published by section 1505 of this title shall be published immediately by the Government Printing Office in a serial publication designated the ‘Federal Register’. The Public Printer shall make available the facilities of the Government Printing Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at the times required by this chapter and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall constitute all documents, required or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There shall be published with each document a copy of the notation, required to be made by section 1503 of this title, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Federal Register may be fixed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register established by section 1506 of this title without reference to the restrictions placed upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications by sections 1705 and 1708 of this title.”.

(e) DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “COMMENTS” and inserting “NEWS COMMENTARY”; and

(B) by striking “comments” and inserting “news commentary”; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “telecommunications, the Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

(B) by striking “and two duplicate originals or two certified copies” and inserting “document”.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1506. Administrative Committee of the Federal Register; establishment and composition; powers and duties

“The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Archivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attorney General, and the Public Printer or Acting Public Printer. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the President, regulations for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among other things—

“(1) the documents which shall be authorized under section 1505(b) of this title to be published in the Federal Register;

“(2) the manner and form in which the Federal Register shall be published;

“(3) the manner of distribution to Members of Congress, officers and employees of the United States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the number which shall be available for distribution to the public;

“(4) the prices to be charged for individual copies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register and any reprints and bound volumes of it;

“(5) the manner and form by which the Federal Register may receive information and comments from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

“(6) special editions of the Federal Register.”.

(g) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENT.—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations

“(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGENCY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, with the approval of the President, may require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the preparation and publication in a special edition of the Federal Register a complete codification of the documents of each agency of the Government having general applicability and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by the Administrative Committee.

“(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codification prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regulate the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

“(c) SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND REPUBLICATION.—The Administrative Committee shall regulate the supplementation and the collation and republication of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Federal Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of codification shall be supplemented and republished at least once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Register may create updates of each unit of codification from time to time and make the same available electronically or may provide public access using an electronic edition that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

“(d) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Office of the Federal Register shall prepare and publish the

codifications, supplements, collations, and user aids authorized by this section.

“(e) **PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.**—The codified documents of the several agencies published in the Code of Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by documents subsequently filed with the Office and published in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date of publication.

“(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Administrative Committee, with approval of the President, shall issue regulations for carrying out this section.

“(g) **EXCEPTION.**—This section does not require codification of the text of Presidential documents published and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(h) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the items related to sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.

“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price.”.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Federal Register Modernization Act is an important bill that will allow our government to better adapt to 21st century technology while both serving the public better and saving money. Much of the Federal recordkeeping and document publishing includes outdated requirements for printed version of documents. This is especially true for the Federal Register.

Today, there are only 124 paid subscribers to the print version of the Federal Register. Despite this fact, the Federal Government is legally required to continue to produce a print version of the Register. Moreover, statutes biased towards paper-based communication also require Federal agencies to submit multiple physical copies of the same document for publication. The result is a nonsensical situation in which agencies must hand-deliver CDs to the Office of the Federal Register with identical versions of the same documents saved on it.

This commonsense legislation will fix both of these issues. First, it will allow the Register to be published rather than printed, allowing for an eventual switch to a digital-only version, patterned off of the Federal Register’s already award-winning Web site. Second, it will streamline the document submission process to eliminate the requirement for multiple copies and give the Register more freedom in how documents may be submitted.

Importantly, this bipartisan proposal has the support of the administration, and I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA for introducing this bill. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of the Federal Register Modernization Act.

This is a good government bill that will reduce waste and save taxpayers money. This bill is based on a legislative proposal from the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Archivist of the United States sent a letter to Congress last November that read:

This legislation would modernize the Federal Register to take advantage of modern technology to increase efficiency.

The bill would give the Office of the Federal Register the flexibility to publish the Federal Register electronically. It also would allow agencies to stop sending unnecessary paper copies of documents when they send materials to be published in the Federal Register. The National Archives estimates that this one step could save almost \$900,000 over 5 years.

This is exactly the kind of legislation Congress should be passing. It is bipartisan, noncontroversial, and will make a modest update that will make the government more efficient and effective with regard to information being accessible. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California, Chairman ISSA, my distinguished colleague and the chairman of the committee.

Mr. ISSA. I would inquire if the ranking member is yielding back so that I can close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Yes.

Mr. ISSA. Thank you. Then I will close.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Register Modernization Act does exactly what the title suggests—it modernizes the Federal Register Act.

When you look at a well-intended bill that hasn’t been addressed since the 1930s, it comes to mind how easy it is to ask something to go on and to have

a Federal bureaucracy actually do a good job. The National Archives and many of the institutions here in Washington do work, but from time to time, you ask the question: At what cost?

The Modernization Act seeks to do two things: one, simply lower the cost for printing, which is no longer necessary in a digital age, and, in fact, to open the door for what I believe is the modernization that goes beyond that.

Since 1994, when the Office of the Federal Register first published its electronic edition of the Federal Register, we have, in fact, had an opening for our government to go digital beyond just any minor amount. Today, many people ask the question—and I am going to ask the question here today—if the IRS has 50 years’ worth of your tax returns, why wouldn’t we capture the workings of government digitally, hold them and, at the appropriate time, make them available for our children and our grandchildren for whatever purpose they may have in studying the history of what we do here today?

This small modernization is about cost savings, but it is also a recognition that, in this day and age, we can capture everything digitally, that we can store vast amounts of it and that we can make it searchable and valuable to the next generation. For that reason, this is a small recognition that it is time to get off paper, to save money and to have the Federal Register accessible online to offices, homes, and public libraries, and not simply to print paper because, in the 1930s, that is what we said to do. I believe, when we look at the last decade, in which the annual page count exceeded 75,000 pages, we recognize that those pages were made possible by the same computers—the same automation—that allow us to no longer print paper.

I ask the Conference and the Congress to vote for H.R. 4195 in order to remove these outdated statutory requirements. I urge its passage.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise to speak about H.R. 4195, the “Federal Register Modernization Act,” which modernizes the Federal Register.

I want to thank Chairman DARRELL ISSA and Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS for their leadership and efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

This bill will bring much needed transparency without compromising national security to the decisions, orders, and actions of federal agencies.

There are challenges to providing government information solely in digital format since there are constituents that lack access to technology or the skills necessary to locate information online.

Electronic documents can easily be changed and modified from original postings which challenges federal transparency.

Digital records can also challenge transparency by the capacity of systems to manage demand for accessing information online.

It would be good for transparency if we allow public and private achieving of federal registration content because constituents would have access to material in multiple ways.

This bill requires the Federal Register to be published (e.g., by electronic means), rather than printed, and that documents in the Federal Register be made available for sale or distribution to the public in published form.

This bill also revises the requirements for the filling of documents with the Office of the Federal Register for inclusion in the Federal Register and for the publication of the Code of Federal Regulations to reflect the publication requirement.

The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) does a great job by informing citizens of their rights and obligations, documenting the actions of Federal Agencies, and providing a forum for public participation in the democratic process.

The Federal Register informs citizens by publishing the following entries:

Presidential Documents, including Executive orders and proclamations;

Rules and Regulations, including policy statements and interpretations of rules;

Proposed Rules, including petitions for rule-making and other advance proposals; and

Notices, including scheduled hearings and meetings open to the public, grant applications, administrative orders, and other announcements of government actions.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make it easier for citizens and communities to understand the regulatory process and to participate in Government decision-making.

We can ensure that transparency our constituents demand by making material more searchable and easier to access.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 4195.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4195.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1745

REDESIGNATING MAMMOTH PEAK AS MOUNT JESSIE BENTON FREMONT

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1192) to redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Fremont".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1192

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that Jessie Benton Frémont—

(1) was the daughter of United States Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, a leading proponent of the concept of Manifest Destiny that advocated for the Nation to expand its borders westward;

(2) became fluent in French and Spanish, was a gifted writer, and was at ease in any political discussion;

(3) married John C. Frémont, who was assigned to explore the West;

(4) transformed John C. Frémont's descriptions from his treks into prose that was used by pioneers to guide their route West;

(5) traveled to California in 1849 to join her husband at their Mariposa ranch, where gold had been discovered;

(6) became involved in John C. Frémont's 1856 campaign for Presidency, which proposed the abolition of slavery, a notion that Jessie Benton Frémont also supported;

(7) moved to Bear Valley, California, with her husband John C. Frémont in 1858 and thereafter realized the need to preserve the land that would become Yosemite National Park for future generations;

(8) entertained men such as Horace Greeley, Thomas Starr King, and United States Senator Edward Baker of Oregon, and urged them to begin a process that ultimately led to the establishment of Yosemite National Park;

(9) influenced President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Act entitled "An Act authorizing a Grant to the State of California of the 'Yosemite Valley' and of the Land embracing the 'Mariposa Big Tree Grove'", approved June 30, 1864 (commonly known as the Yosemite Grant), the first instance of land being set aside specifically for its preservation and public use by a national government; and

(10) set the foundation for the creation of national parks and California State parks through her advocacy for and influence on the Yosemite Grant.

SEC. 2. REDESIGNATION OF MAMMOTH PEAK AS MOUNT JESSIE BENTON FREMONT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The peak known as "Mammoth Peak" in Yosemite National Park (located at NPS coordinates 37.855° N, -119.264° W) shall be redesignated as "Mount Jessie Benton Frémont" and may be known informally as "Mt. Jessie" in honor of the contributions of Jessie Benton Frémont to the approval of the Yosemite Grant.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the peak described in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to "Mount Jessie Benton Frémont".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to re-

vises and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1192 would redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as Mount Jessie Benton Fremont.

The bill is brought to us by a group of local park enthusiasts and historians, with the support of the El Dorado County Historical Society. Its purpose is to recognize this pioneer who played a significant role in establishing Yosemite National Park.

Jessie Benton Fremont was the daughter of U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton, a prominent Democrat who was a leading proponent of the Nation's westward expansion. In 1841, she married John C. Fremont, a prominent Republican, an American military officer, explorer, and—later—a Presidential candidate.

She traveled to California in 1849 and, soon thereafter, became one of the most influential advocates for establishing Yosemite National Park.

When we think of Yosemite, we think of John Muir. Ironically, John Muir's first visit to the park didn't occur until 4 years after the park was established. It only came to his attention, as it came to the attention of so many, because Jessie Benton Fremont saw the beauty of the valley, she appreciated its importance, and she began a passionate crusade to preserve it for the American people to enjoy.

Jessie Benton Fremont was herself a gifted writer, and she used her skill to transform her husband's travel and exploration into popular narratives that were used by pioneers to guide their route west.

After she came to California in 1849, Yosemite became her passion. She published many accounts of the valley and hosted scores of dignitaries to see its wonders.

It was her deep love of Yosemite, coupled with her ceaseless agitation, her boundless energy, and her political connections in both parties that set in motion and drove the events that led to Congress passing, and President Abraham Lincoln signing, the Yosemite Grant Act 150 years ago.

Remember, she did all of this in an age when women were expected to be seen and not heard. She set an example of leadership that gave inspiration and guidance to the next generation that ultimately produced the movement toward women's suffrage.

The Yosemite Grant Act was revolutionary in its day. It was the first time in the Nation's history that land had been set aside, in the words of the Act,

"on the express condition that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation . . . for all time."

Now, this act led ultimately to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916 and to the preservation of so many other landscapes for the American people to enjoy for their use and resort and recreation.

The Norman and Plantagenet kings of old set aside vast tracts of land as their exclusive preserve, in which only a select few, with their blessing, could enjoy. The Yosemite grant was the very opposite of that. It set aside the most beautiful land in the Nation entirely for the people.

The current name of the peak, Mammoth Peak, has absolutely no historical significance. The name was originally conferred on that peak because it was big. That is it.

Furthermore, this naming will eliminate a constant source of confusion with Mammoth Mountain, a place that we have all heard of. That is the major ski resort just a few hours outside of Yosemite National Park. The Mammoth Peak we are referring to is inside Yosemite, and if you find that confusing, well, so too do many tourists.

The fine point of the matter comes down to this: other persons who had lesser or comparable roles in establishing Yosemite are all commemorated by attaching their names to prominent features of the park—Horace Greeley, Carlton Watkins, Thomas Starr King, and U.S. Senators John Conness and Edward Baker.

The name of the dynamic force that moved all of those people, Jessie Benton Fremont, is nowhere to be found on the names of features within the park. This is a century-and-a-half oversight that we can correct today by passing H.R. 1192.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1192 would designate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as Mount Jessie Benton Fremont to honor Jessie Fremont's role in the early preservation of the Yosemite Valley.

Jessie Fremont was enchanted by the beauty of Yosemite Valley and lobbied for its protection. Her efforts led to the passage of the Yosemite Grant Act and, ultimately, the creation of the Yosemite National Park.

Not only did she work to permanently protect the Yosemite Valley, many Americans of her time became familiar with the vast unexplored West from her recounting of her husband's early explorations of the American West with scout Kit Carson.

I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, for recognizing the contributions of American conservationists such as Jessie Fremont. She

not only is an important figure in the conservation movement in this country, she is an important figure in women's history as well.

Her accomplishments came at a time when women faced severe discrimination, making her achievements even more remarkable, and so I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his kind words and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1192.

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5021, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-521) on the resolution (H. Res. 669) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5021) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4195, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5029, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 405]

YEAS—386

Aderholt	Cole	Gabbard
Amash	Collins (GA)	Garamendi
Amodei	Collins (NY)	Garcia
Bachmann	Conaway	Gardner
Barber	Connolly	Garrett
Barletta	Conyers	Gerlach
Barr	Cook	Gibbs
Barrow (GA)	Cooper	Gibson
Barton	Costa	Gohmert
Bass	Cotton	Goodlatte
Beatty	Courtney	Gosar
Becerra	Cramer	Gowdy
Benishek	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Bentivolio	Crenshaw	Grayson
Bera (CA)	Crowley	Green, Al
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Green, Gene
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Griffin (AR)
Bishop (NY)	Daines	Griffith (VA)
Bishop (UT)	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Black	Davis, Rodney	Grimm
Blackburn	DeFazio	Guthrie
Blumenauer	DeGette	Hahn
Bonamici	Delaney	Hall
Boustany	DeLauro	Hanna
Brady (PA)	DelBene	Harper
Brady (TX)	Denham	Harris
Braley (IA)	Dent	Hartzler
Bridenstine	DeSantis	Hastings (FL)
Brooks (AL)	Deutch	Heck (NV)
Brooks (IN)	Diaz-Balart	Heck (WA)
Brown (GA)	Dingell	Hensarling
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Herrera Beutler
Brownley (CA)	Doyle	Higgins
Bucshon	Duckworth	Himes
Burgess	Duffy	Hinojosa
Bustos	Duncan (SC)	Holding
Butterfield	Duncan (TN)	Holt
Calvert	Edwards	Honda
Camp	Ellison	Horsford
Cantor	Ellmers	Hoyer
Capito	Engel	Hudson
Capps	Eshoo	Huffman
Capuano	Esty	Huizenga (MI)
Cárdenas	Farenthold	Hultgren
Carson (IN)	Farr	Hunter
Carter	Fattah	Hurt
Cartwright	Fincher	Israel
Castor (FL)	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Castro (TX)	Fleischmann	Jackson Lee
Chabot	Fleming	Jeffries
Chaffetz	Flores	Jenkins
Chu	Forbes	Johnson (GA)
Cicilline	Fortenberry	Johnson (OH)
Clawson (FL)	Foster	Johnson, E. B.
Clay	Fox	Johnson, Sam
Cleaver	Frankel (FL)	Jolly
Clyburn	Franks (AZ)	Jones
Coble	Frelinghuysen	Jordan
Coffman	Fudge	Joyce

Kelly (IL) Moran
Kennedy Mullin
Kildee Mulvaney
Kilmer Murphy (FL)
Kind Murphy (PA)
King (IA) Nadler
King (NY) Napolitano
Kinzinger (IL) Neal
Kirkpatrick Negrete McLeod
Kline Neugebauer
Kuster Noem
Labrador Nolan
LaMalfa Nugent
Lamborn Nunes
Lance O'Rourke
Langevin Olson
Lankford Owens
Larsen (WA) Pallone
Larson (CT) Pascarell
Latham Paulsen
Latta Payne
Lee (CA) Pearce
Levin Pelosi
Lewis Perlmutter
Lipinski Perry
LoBiondo Peters (CA)
Loeb sack Peterson
Lofgren Petri
Long Pingree (ME)
Lowenthal Pittenger
Lowey Pitts
Lucas Pocan
Luetkemeyer Poe (TX)
Lujan Grisham Poliss
(NM) Posey
Luján, Ben Ray Price (GA)
(NM) Price (NC)
Lummis Quigley
Lynch Rahall
Maffei Rangel
Maloney, Reed
Carolyn Reichert
Maloney, Sean Ribble
Marchant Rice (SC)
Massie Richmond
Matheson Rigell
Matsui Roby
McCarthy (CA) Roe (TN)
McCarthy (NY) Rogers (AL)
McCaul Rogers (KY)
McClintock Rogers (MI)
McCollum Rokita
McDermott Rooney
McGovern Ros-Lehtinen
McHenry Roskam
McIntyre Ross
McKeon Rothfus
McKinley Roybal-Allard
McMorris Royce
Rodgers Ruiz
McNerney Runyan
Meadows Ruppertsberger
Meehan Ryan (WI)
Meeks Salmon
Meng Sánchez, Linda
Messer T.
Mica Sanchez, Loretta
Michaud Sarbanes
Miller (FL) Scalise
Miller (MI) Schakowsky
Miller, George Schiff
Moore Schneider

NOT VOTING—46

Bachus Graves (MO) Pompeo
Buchanan Gutiérrez
Byrne Hanabusa
Campbell Hastings (WA)
Carney Huelskamp
Cassidy Kaptur
Clark (MA) Keating
Clarke (NY) Kelly (PA)
Cohen Kingston
Culberson Marino
Davis, Danny McAllister
DesJarlais Miller, Gary
Enyart Nunnelee
Galleo Palazzo
Gingrey (GA) Palazzio
Granger Peters (MI)

Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 405, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5029) to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 41, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 406]

YEAS—346

Aderholt Chaffetz Ellison
Amodei Chu Ellmers
Bachmann Cicilline Engel
Barber Clark (MA) Eshoo
Barletta Clawson (FL) Esty
Barr Clay Farenthold
Barrow (GA) Cleaver Farr
Barton Clyburn Fattah
Bass Coble Fincher
Beatty Coffman Fitzpatrick
Becerra Cole Fleischmann
Bentivolio Collins (NY) Fleming
Bera (CA) Conaway Flores
Bilirakis Connolly Forbes
Conyers Fortenberry
Cook Foster
Cooper Fox
Costa Frankel (FL)
Cotton Franks (AZ)
Courtney Frelinghuysen
Cramer Fudge
Crawford Gabbard
Crenshaw Garamendi
Crowley Garcia
Cuellar Gardner
Cummings Garrett
Daines Gerlach
Davis (CA) Gibbs
Davis, Rodney DeFazio
DeFazio DeGette
Delaney Green, Al
DeLauro Green, Gene
DelBene Griffin (AR)
Denham Griffith (VA)
Dent Grijalva
Dent Grimm
Deutch Guthrie
Diaz-Balart Hahn
Dingell Hahn
Doggett Hall
Doyle Hanna
Duckworth Harper
Duncan (TN) Harris
Edwards Hartzler

Hastings (FL) McCarthy (NY) Ryan (WI)
Heck (NV) McCaul Sánchez, Linda
Heck (WA) McCollum T.
Hensarling McDermott Sanchez, Loretta
Herrera Beutler McGovern Sarbanes
Higgins McHenry Scalise
Himes McIntyre Schakowsky
Hinojosa McKeon Schiff
Holding McKinley Schneider
Holt McMorris Schock
Honda Rodgers Schrader
Horsford McNerney Schwartz
Hoyer Meadows Schweikert
Huffman Meehan Scott (VA)
Hultgren Meeks Scott, David
Hunter Meng Serrano
Hurt Messer Sessions
Israel Mica Sewell (AL)
Issa Michaud Sherman
Jackson Lee Miller (FL) Shimkus
Jeffries Miller, George Simpson
Jenkins Moore Sinema
Johnson (GA) Moran Sires
Johnson (OH) Mullin
Johnson, E. B. Murphy (FL)
Johnson, Sam Nadler
Jolly Napolitano
Joyce Neal
Kelly (IL) Negrete McLeod
Kelly (PA) Neugebauer
Kennedy Noem
Kildee Nolan
Kilmer Nugent
Kind Nunes
King (IA) O'Rourke
King (NY) Owens
Kinzinger (IL) Pallone
Kirkpatrick Pascarell
Kline Paulsen
Kuster Payne
Lamborn Pelosi
Lance Perlmutter
Langevin Peters (CA)
Lankford Peterson
Larsen (WA) Petri
Larson (CT) Pingree (ME)
Latham Pittenger
Latta Pitts
Lee (CA) Pocan
Levin Polis
Lewis Posey
Lipinski Price (GA)
LoBiondo Price (NC)
Loeb sack Quigley
Lofgren Rahall
Long Rangel
Lowenthal Reed
Lowey Reichert
Lucas Richmond
Luetkemeyer Rigell
Lujan Grisham Roby
(NM) Royce
Lummis Ruiz
Lynch Runyan
Maffei Ruppertsberger
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA) Rogers (AL)
McCarthy (NY) Rogers (KY)
McCaul Rogers (MI)
McClintock Rokita
McCollum Rooney
McDermott Ros-Lehtinen
McGovern Roskam
McHenry Ross
McIntyre Rothfus
McKeon Roybal-Allard
McKinley Royce
McMorris Ruiz
Rodgers Runyan
McNerney Ruppertsberger
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore

NAYS—41

Amash
Benishek
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Chabot
Collins (GA)
DeSantis
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Jones
Jordan
Labrador
LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock
Miller (MI)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Pearce
Perry
Poe (TX)

NOT VOTING—45

Bachus
Buchanan
Byrne
Campbell
Carney
Cassidy
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Culberson

□ 1901

Mr. BURGESS changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

Davis, Danny	Keating	Rohrabacher
DesJarlais	Kingston	Rush
Enyart	Marino	Ryan (OH)
Galleo	McAllister	Sanford
Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Scott, Austin
Granger	Nunnelee	Shea-Porter
Graves (MO)	Olson	Smith (TX)
Gutiérrez	Palazzo	Stutzman
Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (CA)
Hastings (WA)	Peters (MI)	Tsongas
Huelskamp	Pompeo	Veasey
Kaptur	Renacci	Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5016, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 661 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5016.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1911

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of New York in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to the House the fiscal year

2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

This subcommittee has jurisdiction over a great number of programs and activities, including the Federal Judiciary; the Treasury, which includes the IRS; the Federal Trade Commission; the Federal Communications Commission; the Small Business Administration; and several other activities.

All the agencies under this subcommittee's jurisdiction play an important role in the functioning of the Federal Government, and I think it is appropriate that all the Members of the House have a chance to offer germane amendments that impact the funding that is provided in this bill.

The bill that we are considering today provides \$21.3 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$566 million, or 2.6 percent less than last year, and \$2.3 billion, or 9.6 percent less than the request.

The subcommittee's allocation has been reduced, but it is one that is necessary to live within the confines of the budget agreement that was put together under the Ryan-Murray agreement. The allocation is sufficient to fund priority programs while reducing some of the programs that are not essential to the operation of the Federal Government or have a history of wasting taxpayer resources.

One of the main provisions of this bill is funding for law enforcement. The bill provides increased funding over fiscal year 2014 for several law enforcement activities.

□ 1915

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program receives a \$6.5 million increase. The Drug-Free Communities program receives a \$3 million increase, and the Treasury's terrorism and financial intelligence activities—they are the ones who develop and enforce sanctions—receive an \$18 million increase. In addition, we have ample funding for the operations of the Federal judiciary and the D.C. Courts. We also have money for the supervision of offenders and defendants who are living in our communities.

Another priority for the bill is supporting small businesses and assisting in private sector job creation. This bill provides \$195 million for the Small Business Administration's business loan programs, and that supports \$18.5 billion of lending under a program called 7(a), and it supports \$7.5 billion under 504 lending. This bill also provides increases over the current year for the Small Business Development Centers. It provides increases for the Women's Business Centers and for the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund program. In addition, this bill asks several of the regulatory agencies to report to this committee and to tell us how they are doing as they attempt to eliminate

some of the burdensome, duplicative, and just plain unnecessary regulations.

In order to live within our allocation, we had to reduce funding in some areas. We actually eliminate funding for nine different programs, including the Christopher Columbus Foundation and the Election Assistance Commission. Those are activities that we feel are no longer necessary or are certainly not vital to the operation of the Federal Government. We further reduce funding for more than a dozen agencies and programs that, in our opinion, can operate on a little bit less, like the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission.

For the GSA, we reduce their funding for the Federal buildings fund by \$240 million. We continue to require them to regularly report to us on their spending and on the state of their building portfolio. The bill provides the GSA with enough funds to operate their current building inventory, and it provides new funding for three land port of entry construction projects. We also continue to push the GSA to reduce their surplus and vacant space. We designate some funding to help them consolidate their projects and dispose of some of the projects, but we make sure that they do that only if there are going to be savings in the long run.

In an effort to increase transparency and accountability, we make the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the CFPB, subject to the annual appropriations process of this Congress. When Dodd-Frank set that agency up, they purposefully left it without any oversight from this Congress. We think that is not the best way to go. We think that that is an agency that ought to report to us what they are doing, how they are doing it, and how much money they are spending, and this bill will correct that flaw.

The bill freezes funding for the White House and the Office of Management and Budget. It includes a requirement that OMB submit the President's budget request on time, which is something they have not been able to do in the last couple of years, or they will face a withholding of approximately 7 months of their budget until the President's request is sent. In addition, the bill contains a prohibition on funding for the White House to prepare signing statements and executive orders which are contradictory to existing law.

I would like to touch on the IRS. This committee still remains outraged at some of the activities that we have seen from the IRS in recent times. First, we learned that they were singling out individuals and groups of individuals for additional scrutiny based on their political philosophies. Then we learned that they had wasted millions of dollars in having lavish conferences around the country and in making silly

videos. Then we learned that the new Commissioner paid \$63 million in bonuses and awards after the prior Commissioner had said we are not going to pay those. Then we find out that some of the people who were receiving those bonuses and awards were, in fact, delinquent in paying their own taxes. So, last year, we had some reforms on spending, and we had reforms on the targeting, but work remains to be done.

This bill provides the IRS with \$10.95 billion. That is \$341 million below the level last year, and it is \$1.5 billion below their request. Now, people say that is a pretty drastic cut, but that actually leaves the IRS funded at the same level at which they were prior to 2008. We have to remember that the IRS has betrayed the trust of the American people in a lot of different ways, and it is going to take some time for the IRS to restore that trust, because it seems like, just about every week, we read about a new revelation of some sort of IRS bureaucratic incompetence or, maybe, of a willful disregard for existing law—or sometimes even both.

We want to make sure that they begin to clean up their act, and this bill provides that they can no longer subject people to additional scrutiny. They can't waste money on lavish conferences anymore, and they can't pay bonuses and awards to people unless they at least consider the conduct of that individual and whether or not that individual is current on his taxes. We

require a certain amount of reporting from the IRS, and we require them to tell us how much official time is being used on union activities.

We also have language in there of this new, revised regulation that they have put forward regarding the definition of what is an organization under 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, which was a rule that was promulgated based on the investigation that was taking place about the abuse of singling out individuals. In our opinion, the Treasury should wait until that investigation is conducted before any kind of new rule has been proposed. The rule was withdrawn after there were 150,000 comments, and a lot of those comments came from all sides of the political spectrum. We think there is plenty for the IRS to do in terms of time, in terms of energy, in terms of money before they spend that in trying to write a new rule. We also found out just recently that, while the IRS asks us to keep our records for 7 years, they couldn't keep their records for more than 7 months, so there is a provision in here that says they can't destroy any of their records if it is outside existing law.

Finally, I want to say something about the Affordable Care Act. This committee believes that the IRS should not have a role in implementing the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act. The IRS, as I said, has betrayed the trust of the American people. There is not much trust in the IRS today. People don't trust the IRS

with their taxes, and they are certainly not going to trust the IRS with their health care. At a time when the IRS hasn't demonstrated much ability to either self-correct or self-police, the bill says that they can't spend any money to implement the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act and that they also can't transfer any money to fund it from the Department of Health and Human Services.

That is it in a nutshell, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a good bill. It takes the money that we have and makes some tough choices, sets the right priorities, and spends money in a wise and efficient way.

I want to thank all of the members of the subcommittee for the work that they have put in. I want to thank our staffs—both the majority and minority staffs—for the work that they have put in.

I want to say a special word of thanks to the ranking member, Mr. SERRANO, the gentleman from New York. His input has made this a better bill. Even though he thinks there should be more money and he doesn't agree with everything that is in the bill, he has been a great partner to work with in the spirit of cooperation and particularly in an effort to make sure that we return to regular order, where the appropriations bills are brought before this House, so I want to thank him for that.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY					
Departmental Offices					
Salaries and Expenses.....	312,400	308,734	175,000	-137,400	-133,734
Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence....	---	---	120,000	+120,000	+120,000
Subtotal.....	312,400	308,734	295,000	-17,400	-13,734
Department-wide Systems and Capital Investments					
Programs.....	2,725	2,725	---	-2,725	-2,725
Office of Inspector General.....	34,800	35,351	35,351	+551	---
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration....	156,375	157,419	158,000	+1,625	+581
Special Inspector General for TARP.....	34,923	34,234	34,234	-689	---
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.....	112,000	108,661	108,661	-3,339	---
Subtotal, Departmental Offices.....	653,223	647,124	631,246	-21,977	-15,878
Treasury Forfeiture Fund (rescission).....	-736,000	-950,000	-750,000	-14,000	+200,000
Total, Departmental Offices.....	-82,777	-302,876	-118,754	-35,977	+184,122
Bureau of the Fiscal Service.....	360,165	348,184	348,184	-11,981	---
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.....	99,000	96,000	96,000	-3,000	---
Community Development Financial Institutions Fund					
Program Account.....	226,000	224,900	230,000	+4,000	+5,100
Payment of Government Losses in Shipment.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Total, Department of the Treasury, non-IRS.....	604,388	368,208	557,430	-46,958	+189,222
Internal Revenue Service					
Taxpayer Services.....	2,122,554	2,317,633	2,130,000	+7,446	-187,633
Enforcement.....	5,022,178	5,133,988	4,950,000	-72,178	-183,988
Program integrity initiatives.....	---	237,838	---	---	-237,838
Subtotal.....	5,022,178	5,371,826	4,950,000	-72,178	-421,826
Operations Support.....	3,740,942	4,215,169	3,620,000	-120,942	-595,169
Program integrity initiatives.....	---	241,689	---	---	-241,689
Subtotal.....	3,740,942	4,456,858	3,620,000	-120,942	-836,858
Business Systems Modernization.....	312,938	330,210	250,000	-62,938	-80,210
General Provision.....	92,000	---	---	-92,000	---
Total, Internal Revenue Service.....	11,290,612	12,476,527	10,950,000	-340,612	-1,526,527
=====					
Total, title I, Department of the Treasury.....	11,895,000	12,844,735	11,507,430	-387,570	-1,337,305
Appropriations.....	(12,631,000)	(13,315,208)	(12,257,430)	(-373,570)	(-1,057,778)
Rescissions.....	(-736,000)	(-950,000)	(-750,000)	(-14,000)	(+200,000)
(Mandatory).....	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---	---
(Discretionary).....	(11,893,000)	(12,842,735)	(11,505,430)	(-387,570)	(-1,337,305)
=====					

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE II - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT					
The White House					
Salaries and Expenses.....	55,000	55,110	55,000	---	-110
Compensation of the President.....	---	450	---	---	-450
Sec. 624.....	(450)	---	(450)	---	(+450)
Executive Residence at the White House:					
Operating Expenses.....	12,700	12,700	12,700	---	---
White House Repair and Restoration.....	750	750	500	-250	-250
Subtotal.....	13,450	13,450	13,200	-250	-250
Council of Economic Advisers.....	4,184	4,192	3,765	-419	-427
National Security Council and Homeland Security Council.....	12,600	12,621	12,600	---	-21
Office of Administration.....	112,726	111,441	111,000	-1,726	-441
Total, The White House.....	197,960	197,264	195,565	-2,395	-1,699
Office of Management and Budget.....	89,300	93,450	89,300	---	-4,150
Office of National Drug Control Policy					
Salaries and Expenses.....	22,750	22,647	22,000	-750	-647
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program.....	238,522	193,400	245,000	+6,478	+51,600
Other Federal Drug Control Programs.....	105,394	95,376	108,250	+2,856	+12,874
Total, Office of National Drug Control Policy...	366,666	311,423	375,250	+8,584	+63,827
Unanticipated Needs.....	800	1,000	---	-800	-1,000
Data-driven Innovation.....	2,000	---	---	-2,000	---
Information Technology Oversight and Reform.....	8,000	20,000	9,000	+1,000	-11,000
Special Assistance to the President and Official Residence of the Vice President:					
Salaries and Expenses.....	4,319	4,221	4,200	-119	-21
Operating Expenses.....	305	299	290	-15	-9
Subtotal.....	4,624	4,520	4,490	-134	-30
=====					
Total, title II, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President.....	669,350	627,657	673,605	+4,255	+45,948
(Mandatory).....	---	(450)	---	---	(-450)
(Discretionary).....	(669,350)	(627,207)	(673,605)	(+4,255)	(+46,398)
=====					

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE III - THE JUDICIARY					
Supreme Court of the United States					
Salaries and Expenses:					
Salaries of Justices.....	2,442	2,527	2,527	+85	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	72,625	74,967	74,937	+2,312	-30
Subtotal.....	75,067	77,494	77,464	+2,397	-30
Care of the Building and Grounds.....	11,158	11,640	11,640	+482	---
Total, Supreme Court of the United States.....	86,225	89,134	89,104	+2,879	-30
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit					
Salaries and Expenses:					
Salaries of judges.....	2,798	2,893	2,893	+95	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	29,600	30,212	30,192	+592	-20
Total, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.....	32,398	33,105	33,085	+687	-20
United States Court of International Trade					
Salaries and Expenses:					
Salaries of judges.....	1,916	1,981	1,981	+65	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	19,200	17,807	17,807	-1,393	---
Total, U.S. Court of International Trade.....	21,116	19,788	19,788	-1,328	---
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services					
Salaries and Expenses:					
Salaries of judges and bankruptcy judges.....	388,664	412,000	412,000	+23,336	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	4,658,830	4,827,588	4,784,659	+125,829	-42,929
Subtotal.....	5,047,494	5,239,588	5,196,659	+149,165	-42,929
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.....	5,327	5,423	5,423	+96	---
Defender Services.....	1,044,394	1,053,158	1,044,394	---	-8,764
Fees of Jurors and Commissioners.....	53,891	55,827	55,827	+1,936	---
Court Security.....	497,500	530,763	525,763	+28,263	-5,000
Total, Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services.....	6,648,606	6,884,759	6,828,066	+179,460	-56,693
Administrative Office of the United States Courts					
Salaries and Expenses.....	81,200	84,399	82,824	+1,624	-1,575
Federal Judicial Center					
Salaries and Expenses.....	26,200	26,959	26,724	+524	-235
Judicial Retirement Funds					
Payment to Judiciary Trust Funds.....	---	143,600	---	---	-143,600
(Sec. 624).....	(126,931)	---	(143,600)	(+16,669)	(+143,600)
United States Sentencing Commission					
Salaries and Expenses.....	16,200	16,894	16,556	+356	-338
=====					
Total, title III, the Judiciary.....	6,911,945	7,298,638	7,096,147	+184,202	-202,491
(Mandatory).....	(395,820)	(563,001)	(419,401)	(+23,581)	(-143,600)
(Discretionary).....	(6,516,125)	(6,735,637)	(6,676,746)	(+160,621)	(-58,891)
=====					

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA					
Federal Payment for Resident Tuition Support.....	30,000	40,000	20,000	-10,000	-20,000
Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia.....	23,800	14,900	10,000	-13,800	-4,900
Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Courts....	232,812	255,819	234,400	+1,588	-21,419
Federal Payment for Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts.....	49,890	49,890	49,890	---	---
Federal Payment to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia....	226,484	232,568	228,500	+2,016	-4,068
Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.....	40,607	41,231	41,000	+393	-231
Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.....	14,000	16,000	---	-14,000	-16,000
Federal Payment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.....	1,800	1,900	1,900	+100	---
Federal Payment for Judicial Commissions.....	500	565	550	+50	-15
Federal Payment for School Improvement.....	48,000	43,000	45,000	-3,000	+2,000
Federal Payment for the D.C. National Guard.....	375	435	375	---	-60
Federal Payment for Testing and Treatment of HIV/AIDS.....	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
Federal Payment for D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities Grants.....	---	1,000	---	---	-1,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Title IV, District of Columbia.....	673,268	702,308	636,615	-36,653	-65,693
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TITLE V - OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Administrative Conference of the United States.....	3,000	3,200	3,000	---	-200
Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.....	150	---	---	-150	---
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	118,000	123,000	118,000	---	-5,000
Election Assistance Commission					
Salaries and Expenses.....	10,000	10,000	---	-10,000	-10,000
Federal Communications Commission					
Salaries and Expenses.....	339,844	375,380	322,748	-17,096	-52,632
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-339,844	-375,380	-322,748	+17,096	+52,632
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Direct appropriation.....	---	---	---	---	---
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Office of Inspector General (by transfer).....					
	(34,568)	(34,568)	(34,568)	---	---
Federal Election Commission.....	65,791	67,500	67,500	+1,709	---
Federal Labor Relations Authority.....	25,500	25,548	25,500	---	-48
Federal Trade Commission					
Salaries and Expenses.....	298,000	293,000	293,000	-5,000	---
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-103,300	-100,000	-100,000	+3,300	---
Offsetting fee collections, telephone database.....	-15,000	-14,000	-14,000	+1,000	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Direct appropriation.....	179,700	179,000	179,000	-700	---
General Services Administration					
Federal Buildings Fund					
Limitations on Availability of Revenue:					
Construction and acquisition of facilities.....	506,178	745,449	420,460	-85,718	-324,989
Repairs and alterations.....	1,076,823	1,256,738	965,817	-111,006	-290,921
New construction and repair.....	69,500	---	---	-69,500	---
Installment acquisition payments.....	109,000	---	---	-109,000	---
Rental of space.....	5,387,109	5,671,348	5,500,000	+112,891	-171,348

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Building operations.....	2,221,432	2,244,132	2,244,132	+22,700	---
Subtotal, Limitations on availability of revenue.....	9,370,042	9,917,667	9,130,409	-239,633	-787,258
Rental income to fund.....	-9,950,560	-9,917,667	-9,917,667	+32,893	---
Total, Federal Buildings Fund.....	-580,518	---	-787,258	-206,740	-787,258
Government-wide Policy.....	58,000	59,206	58,000	---	-1,206
Operating Expenses.....	63,466	61,049	61,049	-2,417	---
Office of Inspector General.....	65,000	66,978	65,000	---	-1,978
Electronic Government Fund.....	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents....	3,550	3,344	1,672	-1,878	-1,672
Federal Citizen Services Fund.....	34,804	53,294	53,294	+18,490	---
Total, General Services Administration.....	-339,698	243,871	-548,243	-208,545	-792,114
Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation.....	750	---	---	-750	---
Merit Systems Protection Board					
Salaries and Expenses.....	42,740	40,300	40,655	-2,085	+355
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	2,345	2,345	2,345	---	---
Total, Merit Systems Protection Board.....	45,085	42,645	43,000	-2,085	+355
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation					
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund.....	2,100	1,995	---	-2,100	-1,995
Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund.....	3,400	3,420	---	-3,400	-3,420
Total, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.....	5,500	5,415	---	-5,500	-5,415
National Archives and Records Administration					
Operating Expenses.....	370,000	360,000	360,000	-10,000	---
Reduction of debt.....	-18,000	-20,000	-20,000	-2,000	---
Subtotal.....	352,000	340,000	340,000	-12,000	---
Office of the Inspector General.....	4,130	4,130	4,130	---	---
Repairs and Restoration.....	8,000	7,600	7,600	-400	---
National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grants Program.....	4,500	5,000	5,000	+500	---
Total, National Archives and Records Administration.....	368,630	356,730	356,730	-11,900	---
National Credit Union Administration					
Community Development Revolving Loan Fund.....	1,200	1,071	2,000	+800	+929
Office of Government Ethics.....	15,325	15,420	15,420	+95	---
Office of Personnel Management					
Salaries and Expenses.....	95,757	96,039	95,910	+153	-129
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	118,578	118,425	118,425	-153	---
Office of Inspector General.....	4,684	4,384	4,384	-300	---
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	21,340	21,340	21,340	---	---
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits.....	---	11,806,000	---	---	-11,806,000
(Sec. 624).....	(11,404,000)	---	(11,806,000)	(+402,000)	(+11,806,000)
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance..	---	55,000	---	---	-55,000
(Sec. 624).....	(53,000)	---	(55,000)	(+2,000)	(+55,000)
Payment to Civil Svc Retirement and Disability Fund...	---	8,975,000	---	---	-8,975,000
(Sec. 624).....	(9,178,000)	---	(8,975,000)	(-203,000)	(+8,975,000)
Total, Office of Personnel Management.....	240,359	21,076,188	240,059	-300	-20,836,129
Mandatory	---	(20,836,000)	---	---	(-20,836,000)
Discretionary.....	(240,359)	(240,188)	(240,059)	(-300)	(-129)

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2015 (H.R. 5016)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Special Counsel.....	20,639	21,452	21,452	+813	---
Prior year balances.....	125	---	---	-125	---
Postal Regulatory Commission.....	14,152	15,283	14,152	---	-1,131
Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.....	3,100	8,008	4,500	+1,400	-3,508
Recovery and Accountability Transparency Board.....	20,000	20,000	15,000	-5,000	-5,000
Securities and Exchange Commission.....	1,350,000	1,700,000	1,400,000	+50,000	-300,000
SEC fees.....	-1,350,000	-1,700,000	-1,400,000	-50,000	+300,000
SEC Reserve Fund (rescission).....	-25,000	---	---	+25,000	---
SEC Reserve Fund (limitation).....	---	---	-70,000	-70,000	-70,000
Selective Service System.....	22,900	22,900	21,500	-1,400	-1,400
Small Business Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	250,000	256,882	253,882	+3,882	-3,000
Entrepreneurial Development Programs.....	196,165	197,825	197,825	+1,660	---
Office of Inspector General.....	19,000	19,400	19,400	+400	---
Office of Advocacy.....	8,750	8,455	8,750	---	+295
Business Loans Program Account:					
Direct loans subsidy.....	4,600	2,500	2,500	-2,100	---
Guaranteed loans subsidy.....	107,000	45,000	45,000	-62,000	---
Administrative expenses.....	151,560	147,726	147,726	-3,834	---
Total, Business loans program account.....	263,160	195,226	195,226	-67,934	---
Disaster Loans Program Account:					
Administrative expenses.....	191,900	32,222	186,858	-5,042	+154,636
Disaster relief category.....	---	154,636	---	---	-154,636
Total, Small Business Administration.....	928,975	864,646	861,941	-67,034	-2,705
United States Postal Service					
Payment to the Postal Service Fund.....	---	---	58,342	+58,342	+58,342
Advance appropriations.....	70,751	70,371	---	-70,751	-70,371
Office of Inspector General.....	241,468	243,883	243,000	+1,532	-883
Total, United States Postal Service.....	312,219	314,254	301,342	-10,877	-12,912
United States Tax Court.....	53,453	52,300	50,000	-3,453	-2,300
=====					
Total, title V, Independent Agencies.....	2,089,855	23,468,431	1,721,853	-368,002	-21,746,578
Appropriations.....	(2,044,104)	(23,243,424)	(1,721,853)	(-322,251)	(-21,521,571)
Rescissions.....	(-25,000)	---	---	(+25,000)	---
Disaster relief category.....	---	(154,636)	---	---	(-154,636)
Advances.....	(70,751)	(70,371)	---	(-70,751)	(-70,371)
(by transfer).....	(34,568)	(34,568)	(34,568)	---	---
(Mandatory).....	---	(20,836,000)	---	---	(-20,836,000)
(Discretionary).....	(2,089,855)	(2,632,431)	(1,721,853)	(-368,002)	(-910,578)
=====					
TITLE VI - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Mandatory appropriations (Sec. 624).....	20,762,381	---	20,980,050	+217,669	+20,980,050
Mandatory appropriations.....	---	(20,980,050)	---	---	(-20,980,050)
Grand total.....	43,001,799	44,941,769	42,615,700	-386,099	-2,326,069
Appropriations.....	(43,692,048)	(45,666,762)	(43,365,700)	(-326,348)	(-2,301,062)
Rescissions.....	(-761,000)	(-950,000)	(-750,000)	(+11,000)	(+200,000)
Disaster relief category.....	---	(154,636)	---	---	(-154,636)
Advances.....	(70,751)	(70,371)	---	(-70,751)	(-70,371)
(by transfer).....	(34,568)	(34,568)	(34,568)	---	---
Discretionary total.....	21,851,000	23,541,698	21,285,000	-566,000	-2,256,698

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am saddened to have to rise in opposition to this legislation today. As a long-time appropriator, I remember the days when we were always able to come together to determine the funding levels for our government in a bipartisan manner and with little partisan warfare. Unfortunately, this bill is not a product of those times.

I do not say this to blame Chairman CRENSHAW or Chairman ROGERS, as they have always listened to the concerns that our side has had and have tried to accommodate us when they could. Mr. CRENSHAW is a great working partner, and he knows that that famous line is really true in this case: it is not personal; it is about this issue. There are many things we have been able to agree on as a result, but they have also been forced to listen to a portion of their caucus that is not interested in the business of governing, and as a result, the good portions of this bill are overwhelmed by the problems that this legislation has.

Let me discuss just a few of the more serious shortfalls of this bill, starting with a seriously inadequate allocation. This subcommittee received an unacceptably low 302(b) allocation that is \$566 million below last year's bill. Percentage wise, this is a cut of 2.6 percent, a level that no other subcommittee has been forced to take. The result is that there are several agencies in this bill that are not funded properly.

Primary among these is the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS is funded at \$10.95 billion, a cut of \$341 million below last year. This means the agency would operate at a level that is below sequestration—funding levels that were already grossly inadequate. I assume this is being done both as some sort of collective punishment of the Exempt Organizations unit for the problems associated with their scrutiny of liberal and conservative 501(c)(4) organizations, and as one final attempt to hinder the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. We already heard from the chairman that they don't think this committee should be involved with the Affordable Care Act. We keep forgetting that it was passed by both Houses, signed by the President and upheld by the Supreme Court. These actions are irresponsible, and they do more to hurt the American people than does the IRS. Rather than investing in further training to prevent the problems that happened previously or ensuring that we have the resources to go after tax cheats, the majority has chosen to play politics with the agency that brings in the vast majority of our Nation's revenue. Unfortunately, these funding levels will prevent the agency from collecting money from tax cheats, expand the tax gap, and increase our deficit. Talk about fiscal irresponsibility.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also severely underfunded at a level of \$1.4 billion. This is \$300 million below the request and is simply insufficient to allow the agency to properly oversee Wall Street and protect investors, including many retirees who have 401(k) and pension plans that are invested in the marketplace. Both parties have created additional responsibilities for the SEC in recent years, but funding has not kept pace. If we keep asking the agency to do more with less, then we cannot be surprised if we experience another financial crisis.

There are numerous other cuts to the bill that are harmful as well, including the elimination of the Election Assistance Commission, cuts to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the General Services Administration, all of which have negative impacts on the operations of our Federal Government and private sector job growth. However, I believe that the biggest impediment to reaching compromise on this bill is the large number of partisan riders that have been added. Let me name just a few of the more excessive, all of which are major concerns to our side of the aisle.

There are riders preventing the IRS from implementing the Affordable Care Act and from reforming the 501(c)(4) regulations, which have caused so much confusion and abuse. There is a rider limiting Americans' ability to travel to Cuba on people-to-people visas.

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There is a rider preventing the SEC from requiring publicly-traded companies to disclose their campaign donations to their shareholders, even though there is no indication that the agency has plans to do so.

There is a rider that prevents the provision of abortion services in multistate health plans under the Affordable Care Act.

There are riders preventing the District of Columbia from using its own funds to provide legal abortion services to low-income women and to determine its own local criminal justice laws with regard to marijuana.

This is, by no means, an exhaustive list. The number of riders on this bill seems endless. I have no doubt that we will be asked to add even more to this list during debate on this bill.

Before we do that, I would point out that we have spent a lot of time this year discussing how to ensure a return to regular order in the appropriations process. I would suggest that it is extremely difficult to do so when the majority attempts to pack legislation with a laundry list of partisan priorities.

This is irresponsible governing, at best, and they make a mockery of one

of this institution's most important functions, to fund the Federal Government.

When we choose politics over the needs of the American people, we should not be surprised when those same people become cynical about their elected representatives. The appropriations process is not and should not be the place to add every partisan priority that the other side cannot pass through the regular legislative process.

I feel confident that the American people would rather just have us get on with our jobs, instead of rehashing the same arguments over the Affordable Care Act, Dodd-Frank, and many other issues.

Our side will attempt to remedy some of these defects through the amendment process; although with the inadequate allocation, it will be difficult to do so. Unfortunately, as it is currently written, this is not a bill that I can support.

Before I finish, let me take a moment to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this bill. They have all devoted many hours to creating this bill and report, and I know I speak for all the Members on our side when I say that we are grateful for the hard work that they have put into this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to support this bill. This is a good bill. It provides \$21.3 billion to fund many, many important programs and services that help our government function and our economy grow.

For example, the bill includes \$862 million for the Small Business Administration, to assist our small businesses—and we all know those small businesses are the backbone of our economy—to help them prosper.

It also includes \$6.7 billion for our Federal courts, to ensure the faithful execution of our laws and the timely processing of Federal cases.

The bill also demonstrates a commitment to keeping poor-performing or misbehaving agencies and programs in check. It cuts funding for the IRS, as the chairman has said, by \$341 million from last year, nearly 12 percent below the President's request.

This funding level will allow the agency to perform its core duties, but will require IRS management to streamline and make the very best use of its allocated dollars.

We have also included language that will help ensure that each and every dollar spent by the IRS is spent legally, responsibly, and appropriately. For instance, the bill prohibits funding

for the production of inappropriate videos and conferences that many of us have seen on television and for employee bonuses or awards, unless their performance is considered.

The bill also prohibits funding for the IRS to implement the ObamaCare individual health care mandate on the American people. In light of the chaotic and dysfunctional rollout of the Affordable Care Act, I don't see how, in good conscience, we can possibly allow the IRS to fine American citizens when many are just trying to comply with this flawed law.

Due to the past inappropriate actions by the IRS, we have also prohibited funding for certain activities to prevent a repeat of these abuses, including targeting individuals based on their political beliefs, determining the tax-exempt status of organizations under 501(c)(4), and several other provisions that will help preserve the First Amendment rights of all Americans.

The bill is designed to make sure the government works for the people, not against the people or our laws. Bill-wide, the bill includes stringent oversight, accountability, and transparency measures to make sure each and every agency toes the line.

This includes prohibitions on funding for the Executive Office of the President to prepare signing statements and executive orders that contradict existing law and a provision that will bring the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Office of Financial Research under the annual appropriations process, so we can have oversight for the American people, ensuring that these agencies will remain accountable to the taxpayer.

These actions fulfill our congressional duty to the American people, to act as faithful shepherds of Federal tax dollars, to force these agencies to respect our laws and our budgets, and to encourage a more streamlined, efficient Federal Government.

Now, I want to take a minute to thank Chairman CRENSHAW and Ranking Member SERRANO for their dedicated work on this bill. This is a tough bill to write.

In fact, this is the first time, Mr. Chairman, that the Financial Services bill has been brought to the floor, I think, since 2007, roughly; and so these gentlemen and the staff and members of their subcommittee—and gentleladies—have worked hard. They have worked together.

I know Mr. SERRANO is not perfectly happy with every provision in the bill. None of us are perfectly happy with it either.

However, we need to thank them for their hard work. We appreciate it very much—and the staff, of course, who labored mightily to bring this bill out.

This legislation, I think, reflects commonsense decisions to prioritize programs and services that are effec-

tive, efficient, and responsible with taxpayer dollars. I urge all the Members to support it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the full committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the bill, which fails to prioritize the middle class, create jobs, and provide opportunity for every citizen to succeed, yet it contains a misguided political agenda, unworkable funding levels, and unnecessary riders that inhibit agencies' ability to crack down on special interest abuses.

For our economy to succeed, investors must have faith that regulators do their jobs, especially when we are still recovering from the economic harm caused by risky industry practice, yet this bill could put mom-and-pop investors and our entire economy at risk with inadequate funding authority for the SEC at \$300 million below the request.

This is outrageous when you consider that the SEC's funding does not take a dime of U.S. taxpayer dollars or impact the deficit in any way because it is entirely fee-funded.

In the last fiscal year, due to budget constraints, the SEC examined only about 9 percent of registered investment advisers. The number of investment advisers has increased by 40 percent over the past decade, and assets under management have more than doubled, yet the SEC's funding has not kept up with the need.

It is clear this bill should do more to protect investors and ensure that industry does not resume practices that endanger Americans' hard-earned money.

This bill would cut the IRS budget by more than \$340 million, to below fiscal year 2008 levels. These cuts would force the IRS to operate with 9,500 fewer staff.

The rate of response for taxpayers who call the IRS for assistance, which is currently a dismal 61 percent, would fall to less than 50 percent. Small business owners, taxpayers would waste their time on hold, instead of using that time to focus on strengthening their businesses and the economic security of their families or creating jobs. Disturbingly, these cuts would result in \$2 billion in uncollected revenue compared to the request level.

While actions at the IRS warrant further oversight and reform, these cuts are excessive. The IRS should receive the resources it needs to train its workforce to uphold the highest standards, not cut it for the sake of making a political point.

These IRS cuts will only make it easier for tax cheats to go undetected and more difficult for law-abiding taxpayers to get assistance.

Other troublesome measures attempt to dictate local government decisions

for Washington, D.C., and prohibit implementation of health reforms that have given millions of Americans affordable health coverage for the first time. It is also full of riders that unnecessarily involve women's health, needle exchanges, even a denial of funds for D.C. voting rights.

If Congress imposed these demands on any other area of the country, and particularly areas represented by some of my Republican friends, I expect many would yell from the rooftops that the Federal Government was imposing on your way of life and in your local decisions. These efforts are unfair to the citizens of Washington, D.C.

What frustrates me most is that my Republican friends know that government agencies cannot function at the levels they would impose, but would rather vote to slash funding even lower because it suits their political purposes. Our constituents deserve better than this cynical political exercise.

Vote "no" on this shameful bill that prioritizes special interests over the middle class.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), a valued member of the subcommittee.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Chairman, thanks to my chairman of this very important subcommittee for giving me the opportunity to speak on behalf and even a friendly gesture to my friend from New York down there, who reminds me, from time to time, about the Yankee dominance in baseball. It is great to have his association on this committee.

Mr. Chairman, our subcommittee is aware of our Nation's fiscal situation, and we closely evaluated the budget requests for the diverse group of agencies funded in this bill. We held numerous hearings. We listened to the agencies about their priorities and needs. We challenged them with tough questions that reflect the realities of the choices we, as appropriators, have to make on a daily basis.

Using this information, Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee produced a bill that provides a little over \$21 billion in total funding and sees to it that every agency funded under the bill can carry out its core functions.

Take, for example, our Federal courts which, because of this bill, will have the resources they need to ensure that our courtrooms are safe and justice is served; or the Small Business Administration, which will be able to make entrepreneurs' dreams become a reality, leading to new business, more jobs, thriving communities, and a 21st century economy with the funds that the agency receives through this legislation.

□ 1945

Mr. Chairman, as Members of Congress, and especially as appropriators,

we have an obligation to carefully steward each and every taxpayer dollar, and in this bill, transparency and accountability rule the day.

In this bill, the CFPB, an agency that has operated in the shadows with unfettered power and no accountability, is brought under the appropriations process. Agencies, Mr. Chairman, that have violated the public's trust and misused taxpayer dollars, such as the GSA and the IRS, they are held accountable. As an example, the IRS budget is returned to below fiscal 2008 levels, ensuring the agency does not have extra funding to target Americans based on their political beliefs without hampering the IRS' ability to enforce our Nation's tax laws.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I commend the gentleman from Florida, Chairman CRENSHAW, and the subcommittee staff for producing a bill that is worthy of this Chamber's support. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman mentioned baseball. I would like to remind folks that we are so committed and dedicated to our job that we are not watching the Home Run Derby right now.

With the way we treat Washington, D.C., you would think we were members of the city council. But I am going to shock everyone by actually yielding 2 minutes of time to the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C. (Ms. NORTON), who was elected by the folks from D.C.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my friend for yielding and for his work, and I thank my friends from Florida and from New York for their work on the D.C. portion and regret that two riders mar that portion of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, Congress disallows Federal money for abortions, but 17 States assert their local prerogative to do so in our Federal Republic, which treasures local autonomy above all.

Congress maintains that marijuana must be criminally penalized, but 18 States have taken State leadership to decriminalize marijuana. The administration's Statement of Administration Policy respects D.C.'s equal right to do what 18 States have already done, and so should this House.

The abortion ban deprives D.C.'s low-income women of the reproductive rights exercised by other American women. And the marijuana decriminalization law deprives African Americans in the District of equal rights under the law.

Yet Blacks and Whites use marijuana at the same rate, but 90 percent of those arrested for possession in D.C. are Black. A Black kid in America with a "drug conviction" has his life ruined.

Abusing pot is a bad idea, but penalizing it is worse.

D.C. puts fines collected from civil violations of its new law in a substance abuse prevention and treatment fund.

A D.C. bill authorizes public education on marijuana use and abuse. That beats what most decriminalization jurisdictions have done.

The gentleman from Maryland, ANDY HARRIS, the sponsor of this bill, has suspended his own professed State devolution principles. This House should not follow him.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) for a colloquy.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank Chairman CRENSHAW and, indeed, Ranking Member SERRANO for their leadership and the hard work that they have dedicated to the subcommittee.

I would further like to thank the committee for including in the markup a language request I made during the programmatic request period. The policy I mentioned would preclude the agencies funded by this bill from hiring or contracting with outside organizations for the purpose of teaching the employees of those agencies how to support or defeat legislation being considered here in Congress.

I first learned of this practice when reviewing Senator TOM COBURN's annual Wastebook and found that NASA and other agencies had multimillion-dollar contracts out so that their employees could learn more about Congress and the legislative process.

Though I appreciate anyone's interest in Congress and the processes involved with conducting legislative business, I do not find this a prudent use of taxpayer money. So today I humbly request that, in any conference committee proceedings between the House and Senate, the chairman push to include such language in the government-wide provisions title of any final bill that would be voted upon by both Chambers rather than limiting this policy to those agencies funded directly by this bill.

It is important to me and to my constituents that Congress does not appropriate any money to Federal agencies so that those Federal agencies can use the money to pay outside organizations to teach agency personnel to support or defeat legislation before Congress or so that they may learn about the legislative process.

There are endless no-cost resources available on legislative process, committee memberships, budget outlays, and the like. My office has taken meetings with representatives from many agencies, and during those meetings, those agency representatives are free to ask about the legislative process. It should not take multimillion-dollar contracts and symposiums to achieve these ends.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work and their consideration of this request.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Well, I thank the gentleman for engaging in this colloquy. I also thank him for his leadership on this particular issue and for making great strides regarding the rooting out of government waste, fraud, and abuse. The committee did include the language in question, and we were happy to do so.

As the gentleman stated, this type of practice surely fits within the same realm of government propaganda which is barred by law. When the conference committee is selected and meets to discuss all spending programs and priorities, I will work to see the gentleman's request is considered appropriately and amongst all conferees.

So again, I thank the gentleman for his efforts. I look forward to working with him on this item and others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 16 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Florida has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Ranking SERRANO for providing me the opportunity to enter into a colloquy on the topic of cybersecurity, specifically, SEC disclosure guidance relating to cybersecurity risks and cyber incidents. This is an issue that is of critical importance not only to our national security, but also to our economic security, affecting every American consumer and investor.

It is no secret to anyone here that the challenges we face in the cyber realm are immense. Certainly, the news is rife with attacks, be it the massive Target breach of personal information by cyber criminals, Iran's reported denial-of-service attacks on U.S. banks, or the recently disclosed ongoing attacks on the hedge fund industry. The Center for Strategic and International Studies recently estimated that almost 1 percent of global income, or \$445 billion, is lost each year to cyber crime and economic espionage. That is a stunning tally, yet such costs are rarely, if ever, reflected in financial statements.

Protecting intellectual property, trade secrets, and custom information must be a priority for government, corporations, and consumers. I know this is a concern of yours, and I hope it is of equal concern to the committee.

Institutional investors, consumers, private investors, and public pension funds need sufficient information to make informed decisions concerning a firm's cyber controls, just as Members of Congress and our staffs must have access to the best information possible to conduct proper oversight and make the best public policy decisions.

The committee rightfully points out that “corporate disclosures are at the core of investor protection”; however, there are real questions about the disclosures that companies are making to their boards and shareholders regarding their vulnerabilities in cyberspace. While the SEC made some limited efforts in 2011 with cybersecurity, there is no finish line. So it is incumbent on all of us to continue evolving as the threat evolves.

In my current positions on the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I devote a significant amount of time to tackling this continuing problem. I remain extraordinarily concerned about the systematic and wholesale theft of corporate property for economic advantage.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SERRANO. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I firmly believe that we need to do more as a country to secure our Nation against the threat of cyber penetrations and attacks, and we must do more so that investors can have the very best information available when making their investment decisions.

I yield to the gentleman from New York for any comments he would have.

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman for bringing this issue to our attention.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. SERRANO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Cybersecurity is of critical importance to our national security and our economic security. I look forward to working with you as we move to conference to ensure that the SEC can effectively address cybersecurity issues.

I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island to close.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank you, Ranking SERRANO, for your continued interest in this issue. I look forward to working with you as we move to conference to ensure that the SEC has the tools necessary to update their cybersecurity disclosure guidance and that the SEC includes an update on cybersecurity disclosure guidance in the report to the committee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for a colloquy.

Mr. COHEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise on the provision in this bill that would deny the D.C. Council the right to have a different policy on marijuana than they have had in the past.

I can understand politically the other side not wanting the people of D.C. to have Senators and Reps because the likelihood is they would be Democrats,

but not to let them have self-rule smacks of colonialism, colonialism that is of another era, colonialism that is of the days of Jim Crow.

To not allow D.C. to have the right to pass their own laws and to have the same opportunity to have laboratories of democracy, as Louis Brandeis talked about, is wrong. What it will do is it will not stop teens from doing marijuana, but it will put more teens in jail with a scarlet letter and an expense and maybe prevent them from having the opportunity to get a scholarship, housing, and a job.

It is against the wrong side of history for them to stop D.C.’s Council from having the authority and for putting African Americans, who are disproportionately affected, in jail and ruining their lives. I object to what has been included and wish that they would reconsider.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to take a second in closing to say that Mr. COHEN’s comments were very well taken. I think the mistake we make here is that we continue to add riders to this bill, and a lot of riders in the past had to do with Washington, D.C.

Now, as I have said on many occasions, for me, this is more than a legislative issue. It is a personal issue. I was born in Puerto Rico, raised in New York, and at times I haven’t been pleased with the relationship and the way Puerto Rico has been treated by this Federal Government.

So I would just hope that, as we go along, people will continue, continue, continue to realize that the District of Columbia has its own folks, its own elected officials at the local level, and they should be able to conduct their own business.

Lastly, we do this because this country that we love so well and this country that I love so well and that we serve on a daily basis should not treat any segment of its citizens in a different way than it treats other people. I realize that we have a constitutional responsibility, but we don’t have to misuse that responsibility.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Chairman CRENSHAW and this bill.

This bill is a first step toward holding the IRS accountable for its targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants for their political beliefs.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee is conducting a thorough investigation of the IRS targeting.

This investigation is ongoing. But from what we know so far, it is clear that the IRS is in serious need of reform.

We have found an agency that worked in fall 2010 to target conservative tax-exempt groups in wake of the President’s campaign

against the Supreme Court case, *Citizens United*.

We have found an agency that called these conservative groups “very dangerous” and put them through an unprecedented “multi-tier” review.

We have found an agency that coordinated with the Justice Department in October 2010 about the prosecution of tax-exempt groups for their political speech activities.

We have found an agency that sent a 1.1 million-page registry, including confidential taxpayer information, to the FBI.

We have found an agency that has been politicized by its excessive role in a highly partisan law, *ObamaCare*.

We have found an agency that mysteriously lost two years of e-mail records and an agency that cautions its employees about what they say in e-mail for fear of congressional oversight.

In short, we have found an agency that has become an arm of the Obama administration rather than an independent administrator of federal tax law.

This bill takes the first steps toward making the IRS work for the American people.

This bill will ensure that the IRS will never again target tax-exempt applicants for their political beliefs.

This bill will prevent the IRS from finalizing a proposed rule that would make permanent in federal regulations its targeting of conservatives.

This bill will also cut back on the misuse of taxpayer dollars for inappropriate conferences and employee bonuses.

Most importantly, Mr. Chair, this bill will begin the long road toward restoring public trust and accountability in the Obama IRS.

I applaud Chairman CRENSHAW for his leadership and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chair, I speak today regarding section 131 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015.

This section is a very important provision that requires the Treasury to report to Congress each month on the number of individuals who have failed to pay their *ObamaCare* insurance premiums.

Earlier this year the House passed my bill, H.R. 3362, the Exchange Information Disclosure Act—which also sought basic information on the exchanges.

This should be easy.

What we’re talking about today is basic transparency and accountability.

We are asking for information that any entity overseeing a health insurance operation should have at the tip of their fingers at all times.

If my friends on the other side of the aisle are so confident about health care reform, this will prove it’s working as intended.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the language in this bill, or rather the lack of language, regarding the elimination of funding for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

There is nothing more crucial to democracy than guaranteeing the integrity, fairness, and accuracy of elections. Voting should not be an act of blind faith—it should be an act of

record, and the EAC helps maintain the integrity of the American electoral process. Too many people across the country lack confidence in the legitimacy of election results, and dismantling the EAC will further erode faith in our democracy.

The EAC helps maintain the integrity of the American electoral process. Too many people across the country have lost confidence in the legitimacy of the election results. In fact, a recent poll from Rasmussen Reports found that 68 percent of likely voters believe that elections are rigged (or favor) incumbents. Dismantling the EAC would further erode that necessary faith in the process.

How quickly have we forgotten the Florida recount with its hanging chads, pregnant chads, and hand counts of ballots to determine voter intent? The 2000 election exposed critical flaws and inconsistencies in how elections were conducted, and in its wake the Congress under the leadership of Whip STENY HOYER approved the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to assist state and local jurisdictions.

Yet the legislation we are considering today willfully ignores this history. The bill defunds the EAC and assumes that Congress will pass legislation to transfer some of its vital functions of the EAC to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), an agency that does not have the capability or the expertise to do the job. The work of the EAC does not fit into the mission of the FEC.

Additionally, funding for the EAC has always included a set aside for the National Institute of Standards and Technology to continue its work on testing guidelines for voting system hardware and software. Work that will most likely stop as the House has already appropriated NIST funds for Fiscal Year 2015.

I would have liked to offer an amendment to this legislation to reinstate the EAC's Fiscal Year 2014 levels, but unfortunately, the overall budget limitations in this bill make that nearly impossible.

The lack of appropriations takes us in exactly the wrong direction. While millions of Americans are casting their ballots on un-auditable voting machines, eliminating the EAC would increase the risk that our electoral process will be compromised by voting system irregularities. Can we afford to take that risk? Certainly not. Do we want problems to go undetected? I would hope not. Less oversight, lesser standards, less transparency in reporting, less testing, fewer audits weakens our democracy. Abolishing the EAC is the wrong way to go.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in relation to language in H.R. 5016 addressing Puerto Rico's financial management.

I applaud the effort to work in tandem with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico—an island composed of U.S. citizens—to provide lasting improvements to their financial structure and day-to-day management.

I am concerned, however, that the taxpayer funds provided to assist Puerto Rico could potentially be spent in vain. I believe that stronger language holding the government of Puerto Rico to basic economic and democratic standards is essential to providing productive assistance.

Two ongoing issues backed by the government of Puerto Rico give me pause.

One was recently outlined by Mary O'Grady in the Wall Street Journal.

In reference to the current financial woes and the enactment of a new bankruptcy law in Puerto Rico—O'Grady said, and I quote, “so far Puerto Rico's political class seems more inclined to stick it to creditors and keep on keeping on,” instead of getting their books straight.

The bankruptcy bill—shepherded and signed into law by Puerto Rican Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla—allows the restructuring of more than 19 billion dollars of debt by the government-owned electricity, water, and highway monopolies.

The constitutionality of this law has also been widely called into question.

This is not the approach you want from a government facing a potential default, especially one whose debt is ‘widely held by mutual funds and individuals’.

It is important that any technical assistance provided by the U.S. Government is predicated on a strong foundation for the rule of law. Investors nationwide will suffer if Puerto Rico's political class does not stalwartly uphold the rule of law.

This is a serious and timely matter. At the end of June—Moody's Analytics reported that Puerto Rico's probability of default within the year is higher than that of Argentina, Venezuela, and Ukraine.

These concerns regarding the political class have already played out through the government's lack of respect for its contractual obligations.

For example, after seven years of agreements between the government of Puerto Rico and a private institution—the Doral Financial Corporation—the government is now refusing to uphold its end of the contractual obligations. Puerto Rico's Government has announced a unilateral decision to annul the contract that required the Government to pay over \$200 million in tax refunds to Doral.

This example demonstrates a true lack of regard for the rule of law.

As the U.S. Congress considers providing technical assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico due to the deteriorating economic and fiscal situation—certain assurances must be established to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are spent on achievable, reliable, and long-lasting objectives.

In conclusion, I believe that assurances should be made by the government of Puerto Rico to uphold all contractual obligations and respect for creditor rights in order to receive U.S. Treasury technical assistance.

Moreover, if such assurances are made, I express my support for the collaboration between the U.S. Treasury and Puerto Rico to improve Puerto Rico's financial management.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, this Financial Services Bill seeks to overturn the intent of Dodd-Frank by bringing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under the turmoil of the annual appropriations process.

Bankers have people to look out for their interests, brokers have people to look out for their interests, investors and hedge fund managers have the same. Until the CFPB was created, the same could not be said for the average consumer. The current funding stream for the CFPB, from the Federal Reserve System,

to the annual appropriations process, puts politics, not the consumer first.

If we have learned only one lesson from the financial crisis of 2008, it should be this: when we protect consumers, we protect the health of the entire financial system.

It is clear that the consumer credit and housing bubbles of the last decade were the result of unfair and deceptive practices and credit card companies and lenders that steered families into mortgages and financial products that they did not understand and that they could not afford.

In 2010 after an open process that included a now rare House-Senate conference, the Congress passed historic reforms to the nation's financial system. Among these reforms was the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Indeed, a strong argument could be made that the creation of the CFPB is the most important and most beneficial provision of the Dodd-Frank financial reforms.

Members of the House and Senate, after much deliberation, concluded that in order for the CFPB to effectively protect American consumers, it must be independent.

The Dodd-Frank legislation, which is the law of the land, is clear on this point. This new financial watchdog would be independent, insulated from the partisan fights of Capitol Hill, by deriving its operating budget from non-appropriated funds from the Federal Reserve.

House Republicans are once again attempting to politicize the funding process for the CFPB, handcuffing the CFPB in order to preserve the status quo that benefits big banks at the expense of American consumers.

This legislation would change the nature of the CFPB and make its funding different from other bank regulators which remain independent of the appropriations process.

In an appropriations bill that is already \$566 million below last year's funding level, where will Congress find the \$500 million, or \$400 million, or \$300 million in Fiscal year 2016 and beyond? I fear that the answer is that we will not fund it at all. That is not acceptable. That would hurt the American consumer, and would inject more risk into the economy.

Instead we should continue to ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau will have the independence and resources it needs as it continues its critical work of protecting consumers and by extension the entire U.S. financial system.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, four of the seven appropriations bills considered by the House this year have passed with bipartisan support. Those votes harken back to the spirit of cooperation that brought an end to last year's reckless government shutdown and the subsequent Bipartisan Budget Agreement that restored some of the harmful cuts from sequestration. Unfortunately, this week's consideration of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for next year diverges sharply from that practice. I have multiple objections with the agenda House Republicans are advancing with this bill, and I want to highlight a few of them.

For starters, this bill continues the majority's assault on the mission and personnel of the Internal Revenue Service. The bill, as introduced, cuts \$340 million from the IRS and comes on heels of \$850 million in cuts over

the past four years. Making matters worse, an amendment was adopted during debate Monday night that would cut another \$788 million or 10% from IRS enforcement activities. I remind my colleagues that the IRS plays a critical role in helping taxpayers to understand and comply with our nation's complex tax code and ensuring that those tax laws are enforced fairly.

Unfortunately both of those activities have suffered in the last few years because of these punitive cuts. Basic assistance for taxpayers has dropped off sharply because of a reduction in workforce of 8,000 positions, and training for those that remain has been cut 87% in the last four years. As a result, caller wait times have almost doubled and the number of unanswered calls has increased by half. It's no wonder public frustration has increased. Tax enforcement has also suffered. The amount of staff devoted to enforcing our tax laws has been cut by 15% since 2010. As a result, revenue collected by enforcement actions has fallen off by \$4 billion during that time.

Yet, some of my colleagues have shown no shame in criticizing the IRS for not maintaining its email files when it is their actions that have left the agency stretched so thin. Rather than adequately fund the IRS—which generates nearly \$6 in revenue for every \$1 invested—House Republicans have starved the agency, crippling its ability to meet demands and leaving \$300 billion to \$400 billion per year in uncollected taxes. That's more than half of the projected deficit of \$583 billion for this fiscal year.

In addition to that contradiction, Mr. Chair, I would note that the conservative crowd that says, "the level of government closest to the people governs best," is poised to overturn a decision by the local government right here in the District of Columbia. Twenty-three states—nearly 1/3rd of which have Republican governors—and the District have decriminalized the limited use of marijuana. In fact, the home state of this provision's sponsor is one of those states, but the reach of Congressional Republicans under this bill does not allow them to interfere with the decision of his home state or that of other states. They can, however, restrict the use of funds provided to DC, and so we're doing so simply because we can. There is no merit or consistency in this action, which is nothing more than a raw power grab by House Republicans, who continue to block attempt by the citizens of the District of Columbia to exercise local control.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I take exception to the fact that this bill does not sufficiently support the Administration's Information Technology Oversight and Reform initiative, known as ITOR. That program is funded \$11 million below the request of \$20 million—a relatively modest amount in light of the considerable savings of \$2.4 billion this office has already achieved in the last four years. Under the direction of the U.S. Chief Information Officer, ITOR is leading the Federal Government's efforts to improve the effectiveness of digital services to provide citizens and businesses with world class user experiences; reduce waste in Federal IT acquisitions; and identify savings that can be re-programmed to better serve taxpayers and optimize the use of scarce agency resources.

In addition to these important activities, ITOR also supports recruiting and training the next generation of talented Federal IT personnel, and it supports the Office of Management and Budget's coordination of Federal cybersecurity programs. As the recent cyber breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management highlights, we must be vigilant in continuously monitoring Federal IT systems to safeguard sensitive information national security information.

As the Committee notes, ITOR has notched commendable achievements in enabling agencies to more efficiently utilize cloud computing and begin optimizing and consolidating Federal data centers. Of course, much work remains to be done. I appreciate and share the Committee's concern over recent Federal IT failures. In recent decades, taxpayers have been forced to foot the bill for massive IT program failures that ring up staggeringly high costs but exhibit astonishingly poor performance. The deplorable rollout of the HealthCare.gov site last year is a symptom of a broader disease that ITOR is helping to address—the broken Federal IT acquisition process. The annual price tag of this wasteful spending on IT programs is estimated to be approximately \$20 billion. That status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable.

That is why I joined the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to develop a comprehensive, bipartisan, Federal IT acquisition reform legislative proposal—commonly referred to as the Issa-Connolly bill, or "FITARA." Our bipartisan bill represents the most dramatic overhaul of Federal IT procurement policy since the seminal Clinger-Cohen Act was enacted nearly two decades ago, and it would directly support and complement the mission and aims of ITOR. It enhances CIO authorities, empowers CIOs to recruit and retain talented IT staff, and accelerates data center optimization and strengthens the accountability and transparency of Federal IT programs. The Issa-Connolly bill has now passed the House three times—twice as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act and once as a standalone bill. The Senate recently passed a similar version of the bill, and we are working with our Senate colleagues to harmonize the differences.

While I am pleased that a bipartisan consensus is finally forming around the urgent need to streamline and strengthen how the Federal government acquires and deploys IT, this bill would actually under fund in those programs that are proven to save money over the long term.

Mr. Chair, as I said at the outset, this bill veers sharply from the bipartisan model we had been working toward. By attempting to disinvest in the IRS, House Republicans are actually disinvesting in our taxpayers and undermining our efforts to enforce the law and reduce the deficit. They are further eroding the notion of local control by continuing to meddle in the local decision making of the District of Columbia. And they are making a shortsighted decision to not invest more in IT reforms that have proven to save money. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the bill before us today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, while I appreciate the Appropriations Committee's efforts to

return to regular order, the Administration has issued a veto threat for this bill—and it's not hard to understand why.

While the bill does an adequate job funding the federal judiciary—as well as some important entrepreneurial initiatives at the Small Business Administration—virtually every other funding allocation and policy directive in this bill is either insufficient or misguided.

The Internal Revenue Service is funded at below sequestration levels, which will unquestionably hinder taxpayer assistance and undermine efforts to close the tax gap. The Securities and Exchange Commission charged with protecting investors and policing our financial markets is funded at \$300 million below the President's request. And the Election Assistance Commission tasked with ensuring the integrity of our elections is eliminated altogether.

In addition to these funding decisions, H.R. 5016 contains policy riders hostile to the President's Climate Action Plan, the Affordable Care Act, women's reproductive health and standards governing the political activities of tax-exempt organizations. The independence of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau would be terminated under this legislation.

Mr. Chair, this bill is wrong on funding and wrong on policy. I urge a no vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. No pro forma amendment shall be in order except that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees, may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. The Chair of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose. Amendments so printed shall be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5016

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Departmental Offices including operation and maintenance of the Treasury Building and Annex; hire of passenger motor vehicles; maintenance, repairs, and improvements of,

and purchase of commercial insurance policies for, real properties leased or owned overseas, when necessary for the performance of official business, \$175,000,000: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading—

(1) not to exceed \$2,000,000 is for the Office of the Secretary/Deputy Secretary;

(2) not to exceed \$2,000,000 is for the Office of Legislative Affairs;

(3) not to exceed \$200,000 is for official reception and representation expenses;

(4) not to exceed \$258,000 is for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate; and

(5) up to \$21,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

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AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,750,000)”.

Page 152, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,750,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the young chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) for not only his great work that he has done on this bill but also presenting this bill before the Rules Committee along with the gentleman, Mr. SERRANO, who not only ably spoke about their bill but defended its process and the attempt that they are trying to make today to pass this into law.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment will reduce Department of the Treasury funding for salaries and expenses of departmental offices by 1 percent. This \$1.75 million cut will not only reasonably save the government much-needed funds but will also send a clear signal to the Treasury Department that they must take seriously their oversight responsibilities over the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, known as the OCC.

I have been engaged in a process on behalf of a constituent of mine for a number of years, and I am here finally on the floor today as a result of frustration and what I think is an outright lack of effectively doing their job in the OCC.

Beginning in 2007, the OCC opened an action against T Bank, NA, with regard to their relationship with a payment processor, specifically investigating the bank's CEO, a gentleman from Dallas, Texas, Patrick Adams. The investigation culminated in a trial before an administrative law judge. That admin-

istrative law judge was picked specifically by the OCC as the administrative judge.

On November 8, 2012, the judge recommended that all charges brought by the Comptroller of the Currency against Mr. Adams be dismissed on November 8, 2012. Most disturbing is that the Comptroller has refused to render a decision, leaving Mr. Adams all this time in legal limbo.

12 CFR 109.40 clearly states the Comptroller “shall render a final decision within 90 days after notification of the parties that the case has been submitted for final decision.”

Despite being required by law, the Comptroller has refused to render a final decision 15 months after the official submission by the administrative judge. Instead, the Comptroller has extended the 90-day period four times, most recently in May of this year. The Code of Federal Regulations provides no avenue for the Comptroller to extend such a decision.

I believe this delay represents a significant deficiency in the operations of an agency under the purview of the Treasury Department. Mr. Chairman, I will tell you that I have tried to work tirelessly through this problem with the gentleman from Dallas, Texas, my constituent, and it is the Federal Government, through the OCC, who refuses to abide by a decision made by an administrative judge that they chose and has waited 15 months, holding this gentleman in limbo at a time of his life when he has spent millions of dollars to protect himself against the Federal Government, and the administrative judge ruled against the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, it is time that the OCC do their job. And since they are not, I am here on the floor today, and I am asking Members of this body to take the action that is necessary, regular, and, I consider, reasonable. So I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would yield, at this time, to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), the subcommittee chair.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I just want to thank him for bringing this to our attention and let him know that I am happy to support this amendment.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman. And, Mr. Chairman, I want you to know that I would appreciate not only his help, but also the help of the inspector general of the Treasury Department, who has been advised of this circumstance, and we are waiting for their final decision. Even though it is 15 months late, I believe we should move forward and take the \$1.7 million away from an agency that does not live within the law.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, departmental salaries and expenses of Treasury have already been cut by \$17.4 million this year as compared to last year. That includes the departmental offices account. That means that this portion of the bill is 4.4 percent below what the administration requested.

Mr. Chairman, there is no need to cut it any further. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF TERRORISM AND FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the necessary expenses of the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to safeguard the financial system against illicit use and to combat rogue nations, terrorist facilitators, weapons of mass destruction proliferators, money launderers, drug kingpins, and other national security threats, \$120,000,000: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading: (1) not to exceed \$28,000,000 is available for administrative expenses; and (2) \$15,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided further*, That the unobligated balances of prior year appropriations made available for terrorism and financial intelligence activities under the heading “Department of the Treasury—Departmental Offices—Salaries and Expenses” shall be transferred to, and merged with, this account.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000).”

Page 4, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000).”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Florida and the gentleman from New York for consideration of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, budgets are about choices. We have a choice to make here that is an interesting one, and I wanted to point it out in the form of presenting this amendment.

The Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence is one of the most important functions of the Treasury Department. Economic and trade sanctions are issued and enforced by the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, and they protect the financial

system from criminal and illicit activities and counteract national security threats from drug lords, terrorists, weapons of mass destruction, proliferators, and rogue nations, among others.

In addition to that, this office provides vital analysis with regard to foreign intelligence and counterintelligence across all elements of the national security community. I think it is fair to say that this office has done excellent work in connection with the Iran Sanctions Act, which is an act within the jurisdiction of my committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The committee involved here directs the Department of the Treasury to post online and disseminate publicly those companies that are not compliant with the Iran Sanctions Act as well as any foreign entities doing business with the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps. In addition to that, this office has done excellent work with regard to cutting back on the threat of genocide in Sudan, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Despite the essential functioning of this office for the purpose of our carrying out American foreign policy, this office has a budget of only \$120 million for the entire year. I contrast that with the budget being proposed of \$158 million for the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

In short, we are spending, or proposing to spend, \$38 million more for the Treasury inspector general to inspect the IRS than we are proposing to spend for the Treasury to carry out its essential functions of economic trade and trade sanctions. These functions basically make our troops safe and keep America safe. Without the economic sanctions that we imposed against Iran, we might see American troops fighting today in the Middle East. It is essential and important that these functions be carried out without being curtailed for a lack of money.

I don't suggest that we equalize these two accounts, although I think a good argument could be made to do that. Rather, I suggest that we reduce the disparity between these two accounts by adding \$5 million to allow the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to carry out its essential functions for U.S. foreign policy and reduce the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration budget by a corresponding \$5 million.

Again, budgets are about choices. I think that our national security is our number one priority, and I think that whatever may be that is being done by the Treasury inspector general to investigate the IRS, it can wait as long as that money is needed to keep America safe.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because the bill strongly supports the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and actually provides \$14 million above the request, and that is to make sure there are robust and forceful sanction programs. This bill also supports the TIGTA. It provides \$581,000 above the request to ensure that the inspector general can keep a careful and close eye on the IRS activities.

So I appreciate the gentleman's support for the TFI, but it cannot come at the expense of the IRS watchdog. Everyone knows what has been happening with the IRS, and we need a strong IG to oversee the IRS. They are doing good and much-needed oversight, and the bill already provides Treasury's financial intelligence programs with a significant increase.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on the amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was rejected.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$35,351,000, including hire of passenger motor vehicles; of which not to exceed \$100,000 shall be available for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature, to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Inspector General of the Treasury; and of which not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX
ADMINISTRATION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, including purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles (31 U.S.C. 1343(b)); and services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, at such rates as may be determined by the Inspector General for Tax Administration; \$158,000,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016; of which not to exceed \$500,000 shall be available for unforeseen emergencies of a confidential nature, to be allocated and expended under the direction of the Inspector General for Tax Administration; and of which not to exceed \$1,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POSEY

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 10, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman CRENSHAW for his help on this amendment and for his support on this issue of critical importance to the Florida financial industry.

My amendment transfers \$1 million from the Internal Revenue Service enforcement division to the IRS office of the inspector general. It is my intent that this money be used to study the impact of IRS nonresident alien bank account reporting and requirements on the United States economy.

The IRS has issued a final regulation requiring all banks in the United States to report to the IRS the amount of interest paid to nonresident alien individual depositors. Now these are people who are not taxpayers, and they do not owe us taxes.

These payments are not subject to U.S. taxes, so these reports do not collect a single penny of additional revenue. This regulation also reverses a 90-year policy that the interest earned by foreign depositors in American banks would not be taxed or reported.

□ 2015

When the IRS first proposed this regulation in 2001, a bipartisan coalition of more than 100 Members of Congress opposed it. The IRS eventually withdrew the crazy proposal.

In 2011, the entire Florida delegation signed a letter to the Internal Revenue Service expressing concern with the economic impact of this policy, and I thank my colleague, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for taking the lead on that initiative.

On July 25, 2012, the House passed my amendment to H.R. 4078, the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act, which would have prevented the IRS from enforcing the IRS nonresident alien reporting requirement. The amendment was passed with bipartisan support, but the Senate failed to take up the bill.

The IRS regulation places United States banks at a global disadvantage relative to foreign banks that lack such reporting requirements. Furthermore, United States banks hold \$500 billion in nonresident alien bank accounts.

Millions of dollars have already been withdrawn by foreign depositors, and it only promises to get worse. Because every dollar in bank deposits generates nearly \$9 in lending, these withdrawals will reduce the amount of credit available to individual and commercial borrowers, hurting the United States' economy at a time when we need to be recovering, not suffering worse.

A similar IRS program imposes a requirement on foreign financial institutions to report information on accounts held by Americans overseas. This has already resulted in foreign banks canceling banking services to U.S. citizens to avoid compliance costs.

For these reasons, I ask that the money transferred to the IRS inspector general be used to conduct an economic impact study of these policies, including an analysis of the effect on capital levels, capital flight, safety and soundness, and changes to public confidence in depository financial institutions, something Treasury is arguably required to do already under current law, but has refused to do.

I include a letter of support from the Credit Union National Association and the World Council of Credit Unions to be entered into the RECORD.

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC., AND WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS, INC.,

July 14, 2014.

Hon. BILL POSEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE POSEY: On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) and the World Council of Credit Unions (World Council), we are writing to thank you for your efforts to address the difficulties and compliance costs associated with the newly-implemented Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). CUNA is the largest credit union advocacy organization in the United States, representing America's state and federally chartered credit unions and their 99 million members. World Council is the leading trade association and development organization for the international credit union movement. Worldwide, there are nearly 56,000 cooperatively owned credit unions in 101 countries with approximately \$1.7 trillion in total assets and 200 million credit union members.

FATCA is designed to create a tax information reporting and withholding system for certain payments that are made to financial institutions and other entities. The FATCA statute passed by Congress in 2010 requires foreign financial institutions to register with the IRS and detect taxable account activity by U.S. citizens in foreign countries; these requirements are making it difficult for U.S. citizens living overseas, including American credit union members, to maintain access to financial services in the countries where they live. The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) FATCA regulation also requires U.S.-based financial institutions, including U.S. credit unions, to conduct due diligence and tax withholding on international funds transfers even though the FATCA statute passed by Congress made no mention of U.S.-based credit unions or banks.

CUNA and the World Council support the amendment you intend to offer to HR. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2015. Your amendment would transfer \$1 million in funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) enforcement division and instead provide \$1 million to the IRS Inspector General's office to conduct an economic impact study of FATCA. We believe this study is necessary given the complexity of implementing FATCA, the complex rulemaking that has

taken place, and the myriad unintended consequences of the law on U.S. financial institutions and U.S. citizens living abroad.

We appreciate all of your work to ensure that credit unions remain focused on their mission of serving their members rather than spending precious time and resources complying with unduly burdensome regulations.

On behalf of America's credit unions and around the globe, thank you for offering this amendment. We look forward to its consideration and enactment.

Sincerely,

BILL HAMPEL,
President & CEO,
Credit Union National Association,
Inc.

BRIAN BRANCH,
President & CEO,
World Council of
Credit Unions, Inc.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POSEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the gentleman from Florida working with the committee on this amendment. We are glad to accept it.

Recently, the IRS began enforcement of this new regulation requiring U.S. banks to report the amount of interest earned on deposits made by non-resident aliens, and this new regulation is detrimental to Florida's economy and the U.S. economy as a whole because it weakens the competitiveness of the U.S. financial institutions and forces foreign capital to flee our country.

The regulation burdens U.S. financial firms with additional paperwork and has the unintended consequence of causing many of these foreign depositors to take their business and capital elsewhere, so hundreds of billions of dollars will flee the economy.

That will impede small business lending and affect local communities. Both Congress and the administration will benefit from a fuller understanding of how the regulation affects banks, their clientele, and all of the communities, so I urge a "yes" vote in support of this amendment.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I urge opposition to this amendment. The IRS has already been cut overall by \$341 million from last year's funding level. This will prevent the IRS from going after tax cheats and helping those who are attempting to obey the law.

The Taxpayer Advocate has even said that insufficient funding of the IRS is one of the most serious problems facing taxpayers. This underfunding will force the IRS to operate with 9,500 fewer staff, which means that less than 50

percent of taxpayers who reach out to the IRS for assistance on the telephone help line will be able to get it, while waiting times for those who do get answers will rise to 35 minutes or longer.

As many as 24 million taxpayers would be unable to reach the IRS for assistance. That is unacceptable.

The cuts in this bill will also result in \$2 billion in uncollected revenue compared to what could have been collected at the requested level, thereby increasing the deficit by that amount.

Take as contrast funding at more than \$1.6 million above last year's level and over half a million more than was requested. I am not sure what they have done to deserve an increase that they didn't even ask for.

During our hearing, it became clear that the IG didn't fairly represent the findings of its own investigator. Its lead investigator reviewed 5,500 emails and concluded that there was no indication of political motivation, yet the IG failed to mention that until months later after his order was released, and you will certainly not hear Republicans mention it now.

So I am not sure what they are trying to reward, but it certainly is not good work. I oppose this amendment and urge that everyone else do so as well.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation would not be necessary if the IRS or the Treasury had already done what was required by law. When you promulgate a rule that has over a \$100 million impact on the private sector, you are supposed to do a cost-benefit analysis, and they refused to do it in this case.

They took the position that, well, it doesn't cost that much money just to fill out a little form and try and rat out foreign bank depositors here.

The reality is studies show it clearly will have a multibillion-dollar impact.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE
TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Special Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343), \$34,234,000.

FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, including hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and training expenses of non-Federal and foreign

government personnel to attend meetings and training concerned with domestic and foreign financial intelligence activities, law enforcement, and financial regulation; services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; not to exceed \$7,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and for assistance to Federal law enforcement agencies, with or without reimbursement, \$108,661,000, of which not to exceed \$34,335,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$200,000)”.

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$100,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member of this Appropriations Committee for their hard work and working together, Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. SERRANO. These are important matters, and I thank them for the opportunity to present this amendment.

My amendment is a simple theory, but a very important one. This amendment provides \$100,000 to the IRS taxpayer services account to assist parents who have lost dependent children during the tax year with assistance in filing income taxes and supports one-stop IRS tax preparation support for parents of deceased dependent children whose child's SS number has been stolen and used by identity thieves to steal tax refunds.

I am the founder and cochair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, and in many instances, we find in our work the issues of giving children incentives and worrying about children's health, but this is a very devastating posture for parents to be in.

At a hearing held by Chairman SAM JOHNSON on the Ways and Means Committee, a hearing on Social Security death records dated February 2, 2012, and I will read—the testimony of the statement said:

We will hear the heartbreaking story of one family whose 4-year-old daughter had her identity stolen shortly after she passed away. Only when their tax return was rejected by the IRS did they learn that an identity thief had already filed a return claiming their child as a dependent.

In an article regarding this terrible tragedy, it indicates that this little girl had fought for 33 months to fight brain cancer. The parents were overwhelmed with grief and medical bills. The mourning parents decided to file for a tax extension to get their paperwork in order, but within 24 hours of filing in October, the family's return

was rejected. Someone had already fraudulently claimed their daughter's Social Security number.

My colleagues, I would ask that this amendment be considered because in actuality it deals with this very question; it provides more resources to address the question of protecting identity and the identity theft that occurs.

My amendment, as I indicated, increases it by \$100,000. As parents and grandparents, most of us may not know the pain these parents are feeling, but we can do something to make a necessary obligation easier for them to fulfill.

The IRS operates a 1-800 help line and provides tax assistance at no charge to tens of thousands of families who prepare their own taxes. The funds provided in this bill are intended to be used to allow training to assist the IRS to do a better job of meeting the needs of parents who have lost a dependent child during the tax year or prior to their filing of taxes.

Just put ourselves in the shoes of this family whose little 4-year-old fought for 33 months and in their distress, with all of these overwhelming bills, to come and find this dastardly act of someone stealing the child's ID.

This amendment would address these cases where the Social Security number of a recently deceased child is stolen and is used by thieves to claim tax funds that should have gone to the family.

Identity theft is a terrible crime that violates the privacy of victims. All of us, no matter what committees we are involved in, in the Judiciary Committee which I sit on, Homeland Security, we are grappling with the issues of privacy and identity theft.

How many of us have had the impact of such, but it has not been as devastating, I would imagine, as the identity theft of your deceased child.

The crime first came to the attention of several House committees in 2011. As I made note of, SAM JOHNSON, the chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee on the Ways and Means Committee, had this issue in 2012.

They only need a Social Security number, a date of birth, and name of the child. This information would be found on medical records, school records, or other forms completed by parents in the course of registering a child for various activities.

This is a crime. This is a shame. My amendment would give some comfort to help the IRS to help these parents. I ask my colleagues to approve this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the intent of the gentle-

woman's amendment. I have great sympathy for the situation that the family found itself in, but I have to remind my colleagues that the bill already cuts FinCEN by \$3.3 million compared to 2014, and our bill increases taxpayer services by \$7.5 million.

So I wish the IRS could do a better job of dealing with taxpayer services. That is one of the areas that they really need to get a handle on because there are too many stories like the one she just told, but FinCEN does good work.

They work with industry to detect and discourage and apprehend money launderers, so I don't think we should cut them any further. As I pointed out, we have increased the funding for taxpayer services, and so for that reason, I have to oppose the gentlewoman's amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me say to my colleagues, I don't think there is much more that I can say than repeat the story of the 33-month fight by their little girl.

It is \$100,000 that we are asking to help these parents who are desperate and mourning. I ask my colleagues to step a moment in the shoes of those mourning parents, to help avoid the identity theft that comes from a child because a child is dead and they have a Social Security number.

So I ask my colleagues, again, to support the Jackson Lee amendment. I ask both sides of the aisle to consider the pain of parents who experience this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2030

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say one final thing. In terms of taxpayer services, this bill already provides \$2.1 billion for taxpayer services. As I point out, that is an increase over last year. We have already cut FinCEN by \$3.3 million.

So, for that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 5, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,339,000)”.

Page 67, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,339,000)”.

Page 68, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

Page 68, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

Page 71, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Massachusetts and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would increase the funding provided to the Treasury Department's Office of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, by \$3.339 million so that it remains at its current level of \$112 million.

This amendment would offset this necessary increase through corresponding decreases in the funding provided for the repairs and alterations and the rental of space accounts within the General Services Administration.

If adopted, the amendment would have no effect on budget authority and would reduce outlays by \$1 million.

As cochair of the bipartisan Task Force on Antiterrorism and Proliferation Financing, I have worked closely with our cochair, ED ROYCE, the gentleman from California, and with FinCEN, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, to help strengthen our national antiterrorist finance strategy, and I realize the increased need to be able to quickly and efficiently track and stop the flow of funds to terrorist groups in doing this important work.

Through the task force, we have witnessed the critical and important work that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network engages in. The skilled staff at FinCEN works tirelessly every day to track and stop the flow of illicit funds that would otherwise be used to aid terrorism in order to safeguard our financial system from evolving money laundering and mounting national security threats. We all know very well the risks presented by Hezbollah in Syria, al Qaeda in Yemen, ISIS in Iraq, and Boko Haram in Nigeria.

By sharing financial intelligence with law enforcement, private industry, and its foreign counterparts, FinCEN supports financial crime investigations throughout the world. Congress has taken significant steps towards utilizing terrorist financing as a viable intelligence tool, as well as disrupting the financing of terrorist activities. Nevertheless, terrorists' proven ability to move money through innovative means necessitates continued progress in this critical counterterrorism area.

As the chairman pointed out, FinCEN does incredibly important

work. Most recently, FinCEN has played an instrumental role on the ground in Ukraine in support of international efforts to recover billions of dollars in missing Ukrainian funds that were misappropriated by former Ukrainian Government officials, including former President Viktor Yanukovych.

With today's increasingly complex and rapidly evolving terrorist networks, we cannot risk our national security by reducing funding for this important department.

I appreciate the chairman's challenges and the ranking member's challenges in trying to balance priorities within this bill, and I respect both of those gentlemen, but I do urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment in order to make sure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is properly funded. The balance here is funding for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network versus a reduction in the repairs and alterations account and the rental space account for the General Services Administration. I think that we recognize where the real priorities of this Congress should be. This is not what the chairman mentioned in his opening remarks. This is not nonessential funding. This is not wasteful funding. This is very important funding with respect to the national security of our country.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LYNCH. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just want to thank you for bringing this to our attention and am pleased to support the amendment.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TREASURY FORFEITURE FUND
(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, \$750,000,000 are rescinded.

BUREAU OF THE FISCAL SERVICE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of operations of the Bureau of the Fiscal Service, \$348,184,000; of which not to exceed \$4,210,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, is for information systems modernization initiatives; and of which \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

In addition, \$165,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to reimburse administrative and personnel expenses for financial management of the Fund, as authorized by section 1012 of Public Law 101-380.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX AND TRADE
BUREAU
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of carrying out section 1111 of the Homeland Security Act of

2002, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$96,000,000; of which not to exceed \$6,000 for official reception and representation expenses; not to exceed \$50,000 for cooperative research and development programs for laboratory services; and provision of laboratory assistance to State and local agencies with or without reimbursement.

UNITED STATES MINT

UNITED STATES MINT PUBLIC ENTERPRISE FUND

Pursuant to section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, the United States Mint is provided funding through the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund for costs associated with the production of circulating coins, numismatic coins, and protective services, including both operating expenses and capital investments: *Provided*, That the aggregate amount of new liabilities and obligations incurred during fiscal year 2015 under such section 5136 for circulating coinage and protective service capital investments of the United States Mint shall not exceed \$20,000,000.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

To carry out the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvements Act of 1994 (subtitle A of title I of Public Law 103-325), including services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for EX-3, \$230,000,000. Of the amount appropriated under this heading—

(1) not less than \$177,000,000 is available until September 30, 2016, for financial assistance and technical assistance under sections 108(a)(1)(A) and 108(a)(1)(B), respectively, of Public Law 103-325, of which up to \$3,102,500 may be used for the cost of direct loans: *Provided*, That the cost of direct loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$25,000,000;

(2) not less than \$15,000,000 is available until September 30, 2016, for financial assistance, technical assistance, training and outreach programs, designed to benefit Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaskan Native communities and provided primarily through qualified community development lender organizations with experience and expertise in community development banking and lending in Indian country, Native American organizations, tribes and tribal organizations and other suitable providers;

(3) not less than \$18,000,000 is available until September 30, 2016, for the Bank Enterprise Award program; and

(4) up to \$20,000,000 may be used for administrative expenses, of which up to \$300,000 for the administrative expenses of a direct loan program.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 7, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to again thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for the work that they are doing on H.R. 5016.

I want to indicate that I think this is an important amendment, as was the previous one. It increased funding by \$500,000 to the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund program for people receiving financial assistance and for the responsibilities that this very important subagency has.

Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund program administers the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, the CDFI. Through its various programs, the CDFI Fund enables locally-based organizations to further goals such as: economic development—job creation, business development, and commercial real estate development; affordable housing—housing development and homeownership; and community development financial services—provision of basic banking services to underserved communities and financial literacy training.

The good news, Mr. Chairman, is that this spreads across the Nation, regardless of whether you are an urban center or whether you are a rural center, in particular, through these programs, direct investment in supporting and training financial institutions that provide loans, investment financial services, and technical assistance to underserved populations and communities.

Basically, it is a yes rather than a stop sign to job creation beyond the borders of the urban community and into our rural communities as well. From the perspective of Texas, this is a good thing because it emphasizes overall investment and development.

It also is good for Native Americans through its Native initiative by taking action to provide financial assistance, technical assistance, and training to Native CDFIs and other Native entities proposing to become or create Native CDFIs.

I am very glad for the support that has been given by this committee for this particular fund. I believe that the Jackson Lee amendment, with the addition of the amount of \$500,000, will again help expand the opportunity for there to be increased investment.

Let me make this final point. The loss of wealth in rural communities that are creating hardships should not be forgotten where a substantial portion of their wealth, like urban dwellers, was in their homes. This restores and continues to restore opportunities to develop wealth among our individual families and communities. I ask that the Jackson Lee amendment be supported.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just want you to know that we have no objection to your amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman very much.

With that, Mr. Chairman, let me thank the members of this committee.

As I indicated, this will be a good amendment to help the people of this great Nation continue their restoration of wealth and economic development. I ask for support of the Jackson Lee amendment.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
TAXPAYER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Internal Revenue Service to provide taxpayer services, including pre-filing assistance and education, filing and account services, taxpayer advocacy services, the operating expenses of the Taxpayer Advocate Service, and other services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, at such rates as may be determined by the Commissioner, \$2,130,000,000, of which not less than \$5,600,000 shall be for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, of which not less than \$10,000,000 shall be available for low-income taxpayer clinic grants, and of which not less than \$12,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, shall be available for a Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance matching grants program for tax return preparation assistance.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 10, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have had a great deal of discussion today on the floor about the activity of the IRS, and these stories have been known to us. We have had a great deal of testimony—hours and hours and hours of testimony—in the Ways and Means Committee overseen by Chairman CAMP.

What we know is this: that the IRS has grossly overstepped its bounds in

asking questions of groups filing for tax-exempt status that go so far as to ask about the content of an organization's prayers.

Now, think about this, Mr. Chairman. The First Amendment to the Constitution has as its first freedom our freedom of religion in this country, and what have we seen? We have seen the Internal Revenue Service reach its long arm into different tax-exempt organizations and have made inquiries about what is happening as it relates to prayers.

Here is an example, Mr. Chairman, that I have. This is a document, official document from the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, et cetera, et cetera, to the Coalition for Life of Iowa. Under Penalties of Perjury, on page 2, Mr. Chairman, of this official document from the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS asked this in writing:

Please explain in detail the activities at these prayer meetings. Also, provide the percentage of your time with organizations spent on prayer groups as compared with other activities of the organization.

Mr. Chairman, are you kidding me?

The Internal Revenue Service is using its power and its influence to try and intimidate organizations, organizations that have as their base the faith that they freely wish to extend and they wish to communicate. Some lists were lists of questions that the IRS was so onerous that they asked for list after list after list.

Here is another one. They went after a group and they said, well, tell us all about whether each person, board member, officer, key employee, or member of their family, has, was, or plans to be a candidate for public office.

Now, of all the ridiculous inquiries. Do you know what that tells me? It tells me, Mr. Chairman, the enforcement division of the IRS has too much money, that is what it tells me.

What I am trying to do with this amendment is to follow up on action that the House has already taken, and a House that took this action unanimously not long ago in February by passing a bill that I introduced, Protecting Taxpayers from Intrusive IRS Requests Act, that is now pending in the other body.

I am very simply trying to get the attention of the Internal Revenue Service, the attention of the employees, the attention of the Commissioner that is all to say that you don't have this kind of authority; and if you have got this kind of money to spend messing around with American groups and so forth, and as the Internal Revenue Service is now declaring itself to be the entity that decides who gets to participate in the public square and who doesn't get to participate in the public square, then they clearly have too much money.

□ 2045

Very simply, Mr. Chairman, here is what I am trying to do. I am trying to take money out of that enforcement fund, which excludes the exempt services, which has been up to their eyeballs in this whole mess, and direct it over to an area that can actually defend taxpayers.

I urge its consideration.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROSKAM. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am pleased to support his amendment.

Mr. ROSKAM. Reclaiming my time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. The gentleman says that the IRS has too much money. I haven't done the math totally, but I think if we were to accept every amendment that will come up in the next couple of days against the IRS, we would not only reach zero on the budget for the IRS, we would probably go under and create a crisis that we don't know how to handle.

The enforcement account at IRS has already been cut by \$72 million above last year and is more than \$421 million below the President's request. The taxpayer service account is already funded above last year's level.

Given the lack of funding for the IRS, there should be no need to plus-up an account that has actually increased while the overall funding for the agency has decreased. That is just a simple statement to understand.

I understand the need to continue to attack the IRS under this belief that they went after just a certain kind of organization. They went after no one. They asked questions of both sides, both conservative groups and liberal groups. I guess we are not going to hear the end of it for the next couple of days. It might be 3 days of bashing the IRS.

So I urge opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, there is no need to attack the IRS if the IRS doesn't attack the American public. The IRS is the manipulator. The IRS is the entity that used this power of manipulation to ask this question:

Explain in detail the activities at your prayer meetings.

That is nothing that the IRS has anything to do with. That is nothing that they should have anything to do with.

And I am not for a second saying that we need to continue to go after the IRS

until the IRS says, Here's all the emails, we've come clean, and so forth, but somehow the IRS being a victim here, I don't know. The IRS is no victim. The people that are being targeted unfairly are the victims. When they sought to assert their First Amendment right, Mr. Chairman, they are the victims.

I am not asking you to accept every amendment. I am just asking you to accept the Roskam amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,800,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like a few more dimes and nickles for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly program. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly program offers free tax help to individuals who are age 60 years old or older. I am not there yet, but I hope to be there one day.

Cooperative grant agreements are entered into between the IRS and eligible organizations to provide tax assistance to elderly taxpayers. The funds provided by the IRS are used by organizations to reimburse volunteers for their out-of-pocket expenses, including transportation, meals, and other expenses incurred by them in providing tax counseling assistance at locations convenient to the taxpayers.

This is very important because what we are saying here is that this money leverages volunteer help. There are tens of thousands of volunteers all around the country, including in my district in Orlando, that rely upon this funding to be able to provide the services that are needed by our elderly citizens.

One of the good things about my proposal here, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not taking this \$2.8 million from any other account. Rather, there is a \$2.13 billion account for taxpayer serv-

ices, and this simply adds the carveout from that total for Tax Counseling for the Elderly.

Let's think about this. There are over 50 million seniors who qualify around the country for this program—that is one-quarter of our adult population—but the percentage of this account for taxpayer services, this \$2 billion account, is not one-quarter for this program. It is not even 1 percent for this program. It is one-quarter of 1 percent of the total amount that we are allocating here for taxpayer services.

I modestly propose that we increase that amount from one-quarter of 1 percent to three-eighths of 1 percent.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAYSON. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I think tax counseling for the elderly is very important, and I am happy to accept your amendment.

Mr. GRAYSON. Reclaiming my time, I am happy to accept your acceptance of this amendment. I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses for tax enforcement activities of the Internal Revenue Service to determine and collect owed taxes, to provide legal and litigation support, to conduct criminal investigations, to enforce criminal statutes related to violations of internal revenue laws and other financial crimes, to purchase and hire passenger motor vehicles (31 U.S.C. 1343(b)), and to provide other services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, at such rates as may be determined by the Commissioner, \$4,950,000,000, of which not less than \$60,257,000 shall be for the Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement program.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 62, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I bring a very simple amendment. As the Clerk read, you saw it is just two lines.

Let's reduce another \$2 million of that IRS enforcement account, and let's move this over to help another

Federal agency do its job. Because we have had one agency that is making life difficult for taxpayers and business owners, now let's have an agency that is supposed to be doing their job. Let's make certain that they do it.

What we are doing is redirecting this million dollars over to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's budget for third-party testing relief to assist them in completing and meeting their statutory requirements.

What has happened, in August, 2011, Congress passed an amendment to the CPSC Improvement Act mandating that they identify ways to reduce the third-party testing burdens that are facing our American businesses. That was to reduce the burden.

After soliciting comments in November of 2011, CPSC staff identified 14 ways in which this could be done. In October of the following year, 2012, they approved eight of the 14 recommendations, suggesting ways that the Commission could move forward. However, as we stand here 2 years later after that period, I am sure few are surprised to hear that CPSC still has not followed through with this mandate. In fact, the only action taken thus far has been a single workshop held on April 3 to identify materials that may not require testing. In fact, the only action taken thus far on these approved recommendations has been to solicit comments from industry on three separate occasions and to hold one workshop. It is clear that the agency has placed the requirements of burden reduction on the industry, not on the bureaucrats at the CPSC.

It is important to note why Congress passed our CPSC amendment in the first place. Our current economic situation is indeed dire. It was then and continues to be. The American people depend immensely on our American businesses to provide jobs. Even more so, the American people are depending on us to help create the environment that will spur job growth.

The third-party testing burden hinders the ability of these companies to hire more employees and to expand their product lines. It hinders the ability of these businesses to grow the economy. It is detrimental to our workforce. Additionally, the testing hinders Americans who own small businesses, as they are the ones who are having to absorb these extra costs.

The Commission claims that these third-party testing regulations are paramount to our safety when, in fact, our domestic industries spend millions of dollars each and every year on unnecessary testing, including on materials known to never contain harmful chemicals.

Congress recognized this back in 2011. We took action. We expect the CPSC to follow through and to take the necessary actions. It has been 3 years since the mandate went into effect, and

it is time that we encourage the CPSC to get their act together and move forward with the implementation on the mandate.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I want the gentlewoman to know that this is a very good amendment. I support it, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Reclaiming my time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, for a minute there, I was almost convinced that they are not after the IRS, but they are even willing to give money to an agency they traditionally do not support just to get at the IRS.

The IRS has already been cut overall by \$341 million from last year's funding level. This will prevent the IRS from going after tax cheats and helping those who are attempting to obey the law.

The Taxpayer Advocate has even said that insufficient funding of the IRS is one of the most serious problems facing taxpayers. This IRS needs more funding, not less.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is funded \$5 million below last year's level, and we are supportive of remedying that in conference. However, we simply cannot support this offset.

It is my understanding that the sponsor of this amendment would like the money to be used for the CPSC to prescribe new or revised third-party testing regulations. Hearing a Republican offering an amendment to fund regulations makes it very tempting for me to support this amendment, since it is such a rare event.

It is also ironic in that there is another possible Republican amendment preventing the CPSC from even proceeding to review comments submitted by the public on another regulation.

These dueling amendments point out the obvious problem when Congress doesn't allow the proper process to proceed and instead cherry-picks where and when it wants to interfere. This is clearly just another attack on the IRS, and I oppose the amendment and hope all my colleagues will also do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I think it would be instructive to my colleague to realize what we are doing is saying the agency doesn't have the right to continue to cherry-pick. Fourteen suggestions 3 years ago; we have been waiting for 2 years. They have said eight were approved.

What we have is businesses who would like to expand the business, businesses that would like to bring American products to the American marketplace, and the third-party testing burden is placed on these businesses. The CPSC is not doing their job to create the right environment.

I would encourage everyone to support this amendment. Let's make certain that these agencies do their job and work with the industry to be certain that we create the environment for jobs growth to take place in this country.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, the House will complete its consideration of H.R. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill. The bill includes two amendments that would weaken important consumer product safety protections. I strongly oppose both provisions, as well as the underlying bill.

One of the provisions would reduce funding for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by \$2 million and increase funding for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) by \$1 million. If that money would be dedicated to strengthening the CPSC's efforts to protect consumers, I might support it. However, it is the sponsor's intention that those additional CPSC funds be used to support the Commission's analysis of third-party testing to determine whether those requirements should be eased. That analysis has already been conducted by the CPSC. It sought public comment, reviewed the comments it received, and has so far not decided to revise its third-party testing requirements—a decision that is allowed under the statute. Throwing more money at the CPSC to redo an analysis it has already completed is a waste of taxpayer dollars, and it would do nothing to further the Commission's role of promoting the safety of American consumers.

The other provision would prohibit funds from being used by the Commission to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed "voluntary recall" rule. It would limit the CPSC's ability to explore possible changes that could reduce or eliminate recall delays, make recall notices more effective, or address the small number of firms that do not follow through on agreed-upon corrective action plans. While we have seen significant improvements in recalls since the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act was signed into law almost six years ago, there is no justification for preventing the CPSC from continuing to enhance the voluntary recall process.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission plays a critical role in protecting all Americans from hazardous products. This mission is too important for Congress to constrain CPSC's flexibility in determining, through an open and responsive process, the best way to carry out its goals.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2100

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, No. 178.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$353,000,000)”.

Page 152, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$353,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple but important amendment which will save taxpayer money and demand accountability for one of the Federal Government's most invasive and rogue agencies—the IRS.

This amendment reduces overall appropriations in the bill for the Internal Revenue Service by approximately 3 percent and brings funding for the IRS down to the FY 2007 appropriations. Current funding is between 2007 and 2008 levels. Additionally, my amendment still allows for more than \$10.5 billion to go to the IRS. In this time during which we have over \$7 trillion in debt and a deficit this year exceeding \$500 billion, this is a modest reduction at best. Again, this amendment only makes a 3 percent reduction to bring the appropriations in line with the 2007 appropriations.

More directly than the financial condition of the country is the fact that this agency has shown contempt for the American taxpayer. It has ignored Congress and ignored subpoenas. It has stonewalled. It has destroyed evidence. It has lied. It has abused its powers and targeted honest Americans for exercising their political beliefs. The list of scandals and examples of mismanagement within the IRS seems to grow every day. This agency, which aggressively pursues American citizens it believes deserve extra scrutiny, must understand that the IRS is, first and foremost, accountable to the American people, not the other way around.

John Adams said that facts are stubborn things. In April, this body held former IRS Commissioner Lois Lerner in contempt of Congress for her role and testimony in relation to the IRS' targeting of conservative groups. Ms. Lerner acted with reckless disregard for the constitutional rights of United States citizens while working at the IRS, and she must be held accountable. The blatant disregard of basic liberties and the use of a government agency to harass, target, intimidate, and threaten lawful, honest citizens was the worst form of authoritarianism.

President Obama erroneously claimed that there isn't even a “smid-

gen of corruption” in the IRS targeting scandal, and yet a trail of emails proves otherwise. Further, Ms. Lerner is still refusing to testify on the grounds that she fears criminal prosecution. She should. She lied to Congress. She abused her position. She violated the rights of Americans. She tried to harm the electoral process and intimidate voters.

Getting the truth and demanding accountability from President Obama's IRS should not be too much to ask for. Yet officials in this administration continue to offer excuses and half-truths for what has developed into a disturbing trend of waste, fraud, and abuse. Tax information about the President's political opponents has been leaked, Americans were targeted for their political beliefs, and senior executives were given bonuses for their work. Waste and inefficiency have plagued the agency for years. The Treasury inspector general has reported the IRS has been wasting upwards of \$15 billion a year—yes, that is 15 billion with a “b”—more than \$140 billion since 2003, due to its failure to comply with Federal law to curb improper payments.

Democrats and Republicans across the country have been demanding that Congress do something other than hold hearing after hearing about the problems at the IRS. This amendment does something that Congress has the complete power to do—it uses the power of the purse. As you know, we don't have a lot of other options, but we do know that the IRS scandal is one of the most serious scandals ever engaged in by any administration.

How can the American people trust the Federal Government to use their tax dollars efficiently when the agency tasked with collecting them squanders billions before they can even be appropriated?

This amendment simply brings IRS funding to the 2007 levels. The IRS must prove that it can be trusted with the hard-earned tax dollars of the American people before it asks Congress to increase its budget.

If you disapprove of the IRS' targeting of conservative groups for their political beliefs, then support my amendment. If you disapprove of the IRS' ignoring of congressional subpoenas, then support my amendment. If you disapprove of this agency's stonewalling of Congress, destroying evidence, and lying to the American people, then support my amendment.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, the good news is that the whole bill is not on the IRS, so, eventually, we will move on to something else, and we won't see any more of these attacks.

The IRS has already been cut overall by \$341 million from last year's funding level. This will prevent the IRS from going after tax cheats—I know it is repetitious, but it is a fact—and from helping those who are attempting to obey the law. The Taxpayer Advocate has even said that the insufficient funding of the IRS is one of the most serious problems facing taxpayers.

This underfunding will force the IRS to operate with 9,500 fewer staff, which means that less than 50 percent of taxpayers who reach out to the IRS for assistance on the telephone help line will be able to get it, and the waiting times for those who do get answers will rise to 35 minutes or longer. As many as 24 million taxpayers will be unable to reach the IRS for assistance, and that is unacceptable. The cuts in this bill will also result in \$2 billion in uncollected revenue compared to what could have been collected at the requested level, thereby increasing the deficit by that amount.

I think what is being missed here tonight with all of these amendments is that, yes, there is a concern on the other side—and there was a concern here also, and there still may be—in terms of what went on and what needs to be straightened out, but the answer is not to cut the IRS down to bare bones, because our next problem will be that the deficit will continue to grow because we won't be able to do the proper collecting of tax dollars in this country.

I oppose this amendment, and I urge that everyone else do so as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that this is a 3 percent reduction, and it brings it back to 2007 levels. The Treasury inspector general has reported that the IRS has been wasting upwards of \$15 billion a year—more than \$140 billion since 2003—due to its failure to comply with Federal law to curb improper payments.

I think what we could do is save taxpayers a lot more money if they just didn't call the IRS. This is a blatant disregard of basic civil liberties in the use of a government agency to harass, target, intimidate, and threaten lawful, honest citizens. We need to bring the IRS into compliance.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$788,111,800)”.

Page 152, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$788,111,800)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, my friend from New York was pointing out that, at some point, we are going to move on from the IRS, but I want to point out that this section is specifically about the enforcement of what the IRS has been doing.

Last year, we learned that the IRS has been targeting American taxpayers for their political beliefs for the last 4 or 5 years. During this period, a culture of shading the truth was fostered and developed by directors and administrators throughout the IRS. Now this culture within the IRS has grown to one of stonewalling, doubletalk, and mistrust.

It is up to Congress to use the power of the purse, Mr. Chairman, to rein in the IRS and force them to conduct their analysis in an unbiased manner. This is our constitutional tool. The IRS has proven itself to be unable to do so, which is why I am introducing this amendment that cuts more than \$788 million from the IRS' budget. With the combined cuts in the underlying bill of \$341 million, this will approximately cut the IRS' budget by 10 percent from its current funding levels. The underlying legislation takes a good step in the right direction, and many of the amendments, including the last one that was just adopted, are a step in the right direction, but I believe, unfortunately, that this doesn't go far enough.

We need to keep in mind that the IRS is one of the most feared agencies within the Federal Government—left, right or center. They can freeze bank accounts, garnish wages, and seize assets with a flick of a pen. Congress needs to utilize the power of the purse—our constitutional tool and responsibility. I might add—to send the IRS a message to put an end to this newfound “business as usual.”

It is up to Congress to prevent the IRS from ever slipping back into its targeting practices. The best way to do that is to force them to consolidate their resources and prioritize. Congress, itself, has been forced to do this. Our own offices, Mr. Chairman, have been forced to do this over the last number of years, and there is no reason why the IRS cannot follow suit.

We cannot allow the IRS to be used as a political weapon because, as I had pointed out, it doesn't matter if an American's political views are left of the spectrum, right of the spectrum or

somewhere in between. The IRS is one of the most powerful agencies that we have, and for them to be injected into this process as a political weapon is simply wrong. Political targeting is not the only example, however, and this is not the real problem I am trying to get at. I believe there is another problem, which is a tax on those who cannot defend themselves. Political targeting is only a part of the story.

The other one is, in 2012, a Taxpayer Advocate Service report found that 69 percent of individuals who claimed the adoption tax credit were audited by the IRS. Okay. That seems like a pretty aggressive move. Unfortunately, for the IRS, only 1.5 percent of the credits claimed were ever disallowed. The Taxpayer Advocate Service and the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, have both noted that the adoption credit claims represented less than one-tenth of 1 percent of all individual returns for the 2011 filing season. By comparison, the IRS spent approximately 3.5 percent of its total staff days on the initial reviews, correspondence, and audits of these adoption tax claims. Let me repeat that. One-tenth of 1 percent are the total claims, yet the IRS spends 3.5 percent of all of its staff days in pursuing these. This is not about tax cheats. This is about harassment. In essence, the IRS spent 35 times the number of work hours investigating adoptive parents compared to other tax filers.

West Michigan, which is the area I represent, is blessed to have one of the highest adoption rates in the entire Nation, hardworking families who want to bring another into their homes, someone who has been abused or neglected. They should not have to be burdened by the echoing footsteps of the taxman.

I am angry, Mr. Chairman. The American people are angry, and they should be. Clearly, the IRS has too much time on its hands and not enough focus. The recklessness with which the IRS is acting by targeting Americans for their political views or as to whether they have adopted a child is simply wrong, and it must be stopped immediately.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, my early math tells me that, if the amendments that we just passed stick in conference, we have already cut \$1.154 billion from enforcement. Those are the folks who are going to collect taxes from people who don't want to pay taxes.

I continue to make my comments—again, sounding repetitious—that there has to be a moment when this stops,

when we realize that, yes, there are issues that have to be dealt with at the IRS. There have always been issues that have had to be dealt with at the IRS, but the idea of zeroing out this account and zeroing out the enforcement account just does not make any sense. I would hope that we would just pay attention to that and pay attention to the fact that, while we may have differences with an agency, we have never, ever in the years that I have been here seen anyone, any party or any group, go after a particular agency the way we have gone after the IRS, not only tonight, but in the last few months.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2115

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I am stunned that my amendment would be characterized as zeroing it out. In fact, my amendment provides \$4.16 billion for IRS enforcement budget.

I want to know what employer would reward unacceptable behavior. I think we have the answer, Mr. Chairman, and that is my colleagues across the aisle.

This is a 19 percent cut to the enforcement budget, 10 percent cut overall. This brings us back to 2004–2005 levels and, in fact, this House approved a budget last year of \$3.87 billion, so my amendment doesn't even bring us down as low as what had been passed by the House just last year.

I urge passage of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OPERATIONS SUPPORT

For necessary expenses of the Internal Revenue Service to support taxpayer services and enforcement programs, including rent payments; facilities services; printing; postage; physical security; headquarters and other IRS-wide administration activities; research and statistics of income; telecommunications; information technology development, enhancement, operations, maintenance, and security; the hire of passenger motor vehicles (31 U.S.C. 1343(b)); the operations of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board; and other services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, at such rates as may be determined by the Commissioner; \$3,620,000,000, of which not to exceed \$300,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, of which not to exceed \$10,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, the Internal Revenue Service shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Comptroller General of the United States detailing the cost and schedule performance for its major information technology investments, including the purpose and life-cycle stages of the investments; the reasons for

any cost and schedule variances; the risks of such investments and strategies the Internal Revenue Service is using to mitigate such risks; and the expected developmental milestones to be achieved and costs to be incurred in the next quarter: *Provided further*, That the Internal Revenue Service shall include, in its budget justification for fiscal year 2016, a summary of cost and schedule performance information for its major information technology systems.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 152, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, on Friday, June 13, the IRS admitted to Congress that it had destroyed 2 years of Lois Lerner’s documents—documents at the very center of the IRS targeting individuals for their beliefs.

The IRS buried this fact on page 15 of a 27-page document, 4 months after political appointees in the Obama administration had been informed that the emails were destroyed.

When IRS Commissioner Koskinen came before the Ways and Means Committee earlier this year, he pledged transparency, stating, “When I find out something, you will be the first to know.”

Well, we now know that is not true, as the IRS has misled Congress and obstructed our investigation for months. The IRS even went so far as promising the Ways and Means Committee that it would receive all Lerner documents in May, after knowing that thousands of Lerner emails were destroyed and they could not possibly fulfill our request. This is inexcusable.

Once the Ways and Means Committee learned of the destroyed emails, we asked that the IRS provide all information and documents related to the emails, as well as make IT employees available for interview. The IRS has refused this request and will not make IT employees available for interview.

I come to the floor today to reduce by \$2 million the IRS’ funds for the Office of the Commissioner and Office of Legislative Affairs, who recently have attempted to obstruct this investigation and who have misled Congress and the American people.

The Committee on Ways and Means will continue to pursue this investigation until we understand the full scope of the targeting and obtain all of the documents and interviews the committee has requested.

The American people have lost trust in the IRS, and a full accounting of the

targeting and those responsible is necessary before the IRS can hope to rebuild that trust.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I just want him to know that I rise in strong support of this amendment.

We have talked about the fact that the IRS has betrayed the trust of the American people, and if they are just going to circle the wagons, that is just going to raise more suspicion, so I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee, which I chair, launched this investigation about 2 years ago into the targeting of conservative organizations, and the IRS has continued to be evasive and obstructive. It is unacceptable.

We have kept pressure on, and cracks are now showing, illustrating a culture at this agency that tolerates and even encourages politically motivated activity.

Mr. Chairman, the IRS has lost credibility with the American people. Today, the American people view this agency as a tool of political intimidation and retribution, instead of an unbiased nonpolitical agency.

The American people demand truth and justice in this matter, and so do I. No American should live in fear of an administration willing to use the IRS to inflict pain on those who they do not agree with ideologically. This amendment will help solve some of that.

By reducing the commissioner and the Office of Legislative Affairs by \$2 million, we will use the power of the purse to put them further on notice that they have to come clean on this. We will not stop until we get the answers.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is completely irresponsible and unnecessary.

My colleague may be angry at the Internal Revenue Service, but defunding the very entities that would supply the information he is requesting is not going to get him that information any faster. These offices actually have nothing to do with setting a policy with regard to email retention.

This amendment is simply another attempt to find a conspiracy where the Republican Party has been unable to find one previously.

At this point, the IRS has spent at least \$14 million providing hundreds of thousands of pages of information to the committees of jurisdiction here, and, instead of providing them with more money to provide more information, the majority wants to cut the IRS further.

This is not a well-thought-out or responsible amendment, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it because it does exactly the opposite of what my colleague claims it would do.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, Chairman CAMP’s amendment simply seeks the truth. It seeks the truth about what the IRS knew, what they targeted, what they offered up—more importantly, simply to make available those on the staff who dealt with, supposedly, the loss of these emails.

The fact of the matter is no government should ever try to silence the voices of Americans who simply disagree with it. Chairman CAMP’s investigation seeks the truth, to hold those accountable who violated the law, and to make sure this never happens again to any American, Republican, Democrat, any partisan stripe or independent thought.

We deserve the truth. This amendment gets to the truth, and it should be accepted by Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BUSINESS SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses of the Internal Revenue Service’s business systems modernization program, \$250,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including related Internal Revenue Service labor costs, and contractual costs associated with operations authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided*, That not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, the Internal Revenue Service shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Comptroller General of the United States detailing the cost and schedule performance for CADE 2 and Modernized e-File information technology investments, including the purposes and life-cycle stages of the investments; the reasons for any cost and schedule variances; the risks of such investments and the strategies the Internal Revenue Service is using to mitigate such risks; and the expected developmental milestones to be achieved and costs to be incurred in the next quarter.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available in this Act to the Internal Revenue Service may be transferred to any other Internal Revenue Service appropriation upon the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 102. The Internal Revenue Service shall maintain an employee training program, which shall include the following topics: taxpayers' rights, dealing courteously with taxpayers, cross-cultural relations, ethics, and the impartial application of tax law.

SEC. 103. The Internal Revenue Service shall institute and enforce policies and procedures that will safeguard the confidentiality of taxpayer information and protect taxpayers against identity theft.

SEC. 104. Funds made available by this or any other Act to the Internal Revenue Service shall be available for improved facilities and increased staffing to provide sufficient and effective 1-800 help line service for taxpayers. The Commissioner shall continue to make improvements to the Internal Revenue Service 1-800 help line service a priority and allocate resources necessary to enhance the response time to taxpayer communications, particularly with regard to victims of tax-related crimes.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available to the Internal Revenue Service by this Act may be used to make a video unless the Service-Wide Video Editorial Board determines in advance that making the video is appropriate, taking into account the cost, topic, tone, and purpose of the video.

SEC. 106. The Internal Revenue Service shall issue a notice of confirmation of any address change relating to an employer making employment tax payments, and such notice shall be sent to both the employer's former and new address and an officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service shall give special consideration to an offer-in-compromise from a taxpayer who has been the victim of fraud by a third party payroll tax preparer.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to target citizens of the United States for exercising any right guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to target groups for regulatory scrutiny based on their ideological beliefs.

SEC. 109. None of funds made available by this Act to the Internal Revenue Service shall be obligated or expended on conferences that do not adhere to the procedures, verification processes, documentation requirements, and policies issued by the Chief Financial Officer, Human Capital Office, and Agency-Wide Shared Services as a result of the recommendations in the report published on May 31, 2013, by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration entitled "Review of the August 2010 Small Business/Self-Employed Division's Conference in Anaheim, California" (Reference Number 2013-10-037).

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any individual to carry out any transfer of funds to the Internal Revenue Service under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-152).

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to implement or enforce section

5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 6055 of such Code, section 1502(c) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), or any amendments made by section 1502(b) of such Act.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Internal Revenue Service may be obligated or expended under any bonus, award, or recognition program that does not consider, with respect to determining whether an employee should receive such program funds, the conduct and Federal tax compliance of such employee.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT
OF THE TREASURY
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 113. Appropriations to the Department of the Treasury in this Act shall be available for uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901), including maintenance, repairs, and cleaning; purchase of insurance for official motor vehicles operated in foreign countries; purchase of motor vehicles without regard to the general purchase price limitations for vehicles purchased and used overseas for the current fiscal year; entering into contracts with the Department of State for the furnishing of health and medical services to employees and their dependents serving in foreign countries; and services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 114. Not to exceed 2 percent of any appropriations in this title made available under the headings "Departmental Offices—Salaries and Expenses", "Office of Inspector General", "Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program", "Financial Crimes Enforcement Network", "Bureau of the Fiscal Service", "Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau" and "Community Development Financial Institutions Fund Program Account" may be transferred between such appropriations upon the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided*, That no transfer under this section may increase or decrease any such appropriation by more than 2 percent.

SEC. 115. Not to exceed 2 percent of any appropriation made available in this Act to the Internal Revenue Service may be transferred to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's appropriation upon the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any such appropriation by more than 2 percent.

SEC. 116. None of the funds appropriated in this Act or otherwise available to the Department of the Treasury or the Bureau of Engraving and Printing may be used to redesign the \$1 Federal Reserve note.

SEC. 117. The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer funds from the "Bureau of the Fiscal Service—Salaries and Expenses" to the Debt Collection Fund as necessary to cover the costs of debt collection: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be reimbursed to such salaries and expenses account from debt collections received in the Debt Collection Fund.

SEC. 118. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used by the United States Mint to construct or operate any museum without the explicit approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House Committee on Financial Services, and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SEC. 119. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act or source to the Department of the Treasury, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the United States Mint, individually or collectively, may be used to consolidate any or all functions of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the United States Mint without the explicit approval of the House Committee on Financial Services; the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 120. Funds appropriated by this Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for the Department of the Treasury's intelligence or intelligence related activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414) during fiscal year 2015 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

SEC. 121. Not to exceed \$5,000 shall be made available from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's Industrial Revolving Fund for necessary official reception and representation expenses.

SEC. 122. The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a Capital Investment Plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 30 days following the submission of the annual budget submitted by the President: *Provided*, That such Capital Investment Plan shall include capital investment spending from all accounts within the Department of the Treasury, including but not limited to the Department-wide Systems and Capital Investment Programs account, Treasury Franchise Fund account, and the Treasury Forfeiture Fund account: *Provided further*, That such Capital Investment Plan shall include expenditures occurring in previous fiscal years for each capital investment project that has not been fully completed.

SEC. 123. (a) Not later than 2 weeks after the end of each quarter, the Office of Financial Stability and the Office of Financial Research shall submit reports on their activities to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(b) The reports required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the obligations made during the previous quarter by object class, office, and activity;

(2) the estimated obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year by object class, office, and activity;

(3) the number of full-time equivalents within each office during the previous quarter;

(4) the estimated number of full-time equivalents within each office for the remainder of the fiscal year; and

(5) actions taken to achieve the goals, objectives, and performance measures of each office.

(c) At the request of any such Committees specified in subsection (a), the Office of Financial Stability and the Office of Financial Research shall make officials available to testify on the contents of the reports required under subsection (a).

SEC. 124. Within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit an itemized report to the Committees on Appropriations of the

House of Representatives and the Senate on the amount of total funds charged to each office by the Franchise Fund including the amount charged for each service provided by the Franchise Fund to each office, a detailed description of the services, a detailed explanation of how each charge for each service is calculated, and a description of the role customers have in governing in the Franchise Fund.

SEC. 125. (a) Section 155 of Public Law 111-203 is amended as follows:

- (1) In subsection (b)—
 - (A) in paragraph (1)—
 - (i) by striking “immediately”; and
 - (ii) by inserting “as provided for in appropriations Acts” after “to the Office”;
 - (B) by striking paragraph (2); and
 - (C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(2) In subsection (d), by striking the heading and inserting “ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE.—”.

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

SEC. 126. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to approve, license, facilitate, authorize, or otherwise allow, whether by general or specific license, travel-related or other transactions incident to non-academic educational exchanges described in section 515.565(b)(2) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 127. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a joint report not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act regarding travel pursuant to sections 515.560(a)(1), 515.560(c)(4)(i), and 515.561 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) Such report shall include, for each fiscal year beginning with 2007 under the aforementioned category of travel:

- (1) number of travelers; average duration of stay for each trip;
- (2) average amount of U.S. dollars spent per traveler;
- (3) number of return trips per year; and
- (4) total sum of U.S. dollars spent collectively in each fiscal year.

SEC. 128. During fiscal year 2015—

(1) none of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used by the Department of the Treasury, including the Internal Revenue Service, to issue, revise, or finalize any regulation, revenue ruling, or other guidance not limited to a particular taxpayer relating to the standard which is used to determine whether an organization is operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare for purposes of section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (including the proposed regulations published at 78 Fed. Reg. 71535 (November 29, 2013)); and

(2) the standard and definitions as in effect on January 1, 2010, which are used to make such determinations shall apply after the date of the enactment of this Act for purposes of determining status under section 501(c)(4) of such Code of organizations created on, before, or after such date.

SEC. 129. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to provide for the enforcement of any rule, regulation, policy, or guideline implemented pursuant to the Department of the Treasury Guidance for U.S. Positions on MDBs Engaging with Developing Countries on Coal-Fired Power Generation dated October 29, 2013, when enforcement of such rule, regulation, policy, or guideline would prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, the carrying out of any coal-fired or other power-generation project the

purpose of which is to increase exports of goods and services from the United States or prevent the loss of jobs from the United States.

SEC. 130. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the appropriate agencies, departments, bureaus, and commissions that have expertise in terrorism and complex financial instruments, shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act on economic warfare and financial terrorism.

SEC. 131. Each calendar month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate an accounting of the number of individuals who have not paid the full amount of any premium owed for the preceding month for coverage under a qualified health plan that was enrolled in through an Exchange under title I of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

This title may be cited as the “Department of the Treasury Appropriations Act, 2015”.

TITLE II

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the White House as authorized by law, including not to exceed \$3,850,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 and 3 U.S.C. 105; subsistence expenses as authorized by 3 U.S.C. 105, which shall be expended and accounted for as provided in that section; hire of passenger motor vehicles, and travel (not to exceed \$100,000 to be expended and accounted for as provided by 3 U.S.C. 109); and not to exceed \$19,000 for official reception and representation expenses, to be available for allocation within the Executive Office of the President; and for necessary expenses of the Office of Policy Development, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 and 3 U.S.C. 107, \$55,000,000.

EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Executive Residence at the White House, \$12,700,000, to be expended and accounted for as provided by 3 U.S.C. 105, 109, 110, and 112–114.

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

For the reimbursable expenses of the Executive Residence at the White House, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That all reimbursable operating expenses of the Executive Residence shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, such amount for reimbursable operating expenses shall be the exclusive authority of the Executive Residence to incur obligations and to receive offsetting collections, for such expenses: *Provided further*, That the Executive Residence shall require each person sponsoring a reimbursable political event to pay in advance an amount equal to the estimated cost of the event, and all such advance payments shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That

the Executive Residence shall require the national committee of the political party of the President to maintain on deposit \$25,000, to be separately accounted for and available for expenses relating to reimbursable political events sponsored by such committee during such fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the Executive Residence shall ensure that a written notice of any amount owed for a reimbursable operating expense under this paragraph is submitted to the person owing such amount within 60 days after such expense is incurred, and that such amount is collected within 30 days after the submission of such notice: *Provided further*, That the Executive Residence shall charge interest and assess penalties and other charges on any such amount that is not reimbursed within such 30 days, in accordance with the interest and penalty provisions applicable to an outstanding debt on a United States Government claim under 31 U.S.C. 3717: *Provided further*, That each such amount that is reimbursed, and any accompanying interest and charges, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts: *Provided further*, That the Executive Residence shall prepare and submit to the Committees on Appropriations, by not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Act, a report setting forth the reimbursable operating expenses of the Executive Residence during the preceding fiscal year, including the total amount of such expenses, the amount of such total that consists of reimbursable official and ceremonial events, the amount of such total that consists of reimbursable political events, and the portion of each such amount that has been reimbursed as of the date of the report: *Provided further*, That the Executive Residence shall maintain a system for the tracking of expenses related to reimbursable events within the Executive Residence that includes a standard for the classification of any such expense as political or nonpolitical: *Provided further*, That no provision of this paragraph may be construed to exempt the Executive Residence from any other applicable requirement of subchapter I or II of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.

WHITE HOUSE REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For the repair, alteration, and improvement of the Executive Residence at the White House pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 105(d), \$500,000, to remain available until expended, for required maintenance, resolution of safety and health issues, and continued preventative maintenance.

COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Council of Economic Advisers in carrying out its functions under the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.), \$3,765,000.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$12,600,000.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Administration, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 and 3 U.S.C. 107, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$111,000,000, of which not to exceed \$12,006,000 shall remain available until expended for continued modernization of the information technology infrastructure within the Executive Office of the President.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Management and Budget, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, to carry out the provisions of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and to prepare and submit the budget of the United States Government, in accordance with section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, \$89,300,000, of which not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for official representation expenses: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Office of Management and Budget may be used for the purpose of reviewing any agricultural marketing orders or any activities or regulations under the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.): *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available for the Office of Management and Budget by this Act may be expended for the altering of the transcript of actual testimony of witnesses, except for testimony of officials of the Office of Management and Budget, before the Committees on Appropriations or their subcommittees: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this or prior Acts shall be used, directly or indirectly, by the Office of Management and Budget, for evaluating or determining if water resource project or study reports submitted by the Chief of Engineers acting through the Secretary of the Army are in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements relevant to the Civil Works water resource planning process: *Provided further*, That the Office of Management and Budget shall have not more than 60 days in which to perform budgetary policy reviews of water resource matters on which the Chief of Engineers has reported: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the appropriate authorizing and appropriating committees when the 60-day review is initiated: *Provided further*, That if water resource reports have not been transmitted to the appropriate authorizing and appropriating committees within 15 days after the end of the Office of Management and Budget review period based on the notification from the Director, Congress shall assume Office of Management and Budget concurrence with the report and act accordingly: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall: (1) consult with each standing committee in the House of Representatives and the Senate with respect to the number of printed and electronic copies (including the appendix, historical tables, and analytical perspectives) of the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request that each such committee requires; and (2) provide, using the funds made available under this heading, each such committee with the requisite number of copies by no later than the date that the President submits such budget to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$52,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the President submits to Congress the budget of the United States Government for fiscal year 2016, in accordance with section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; for research activities pursuant to the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of

2006 (Public Law 109-469); not to exceed \$10,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and for participation in joint projects or in the provision of services on matters of mutual interest with nonprofit, research, or public organizations or agencies, with or without reimbursement, \$22,000,000: *Provided*, That the Office is authorized to accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, both real and personal, public and private, without fiscal year limitation, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Office.

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS
PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, \$245,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, for drug control activities consistent with the approved strategy for each of the designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas ("HIDTAs"), of which not less than 51 percent shall be transferred to State and local entities for drug control activities and shall be obligated not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That up to 49 percent may be transferred to Federal agencies and departments in amounts determined by the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, of which up to \$2,700,000 may be used for auditing services and associated activities: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of Public Law 106-58, any unexpended funds obligated prior to fiscal year 2013 may be used for any other approved activities of that HIDTA, subject to reprogramming requirements: *Provided further*, That each HIDTA designated as of September 30, 2014, shall be funded at not less than the fiscal year 2014 base level, unless the Director submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate justification for changes to those levels based on clearly articulated priorities and published Office of National Drug Control Policy performance measures of effectiveness: *Provided further*, That the Director shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the initial allocation of fiscal year 2015 funding among HIDTAs not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, and shall notify the Committees of planned uses of discretionary HIDTA funding, as determined in consultation with the HIDTA Directors, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For other drug control activities authorized by the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-469), \$108,250,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be available as follows: \$95,000,000 for the Drug-Free Communities Program, of which \$2,000,000 shall be made available as directed by section 4 of Public Law 107-82, as amended by Public Law 109-469 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note); \$1,400,000 for drug court training and technical assistance; \$8,600,000 for anti-doping activities; \$2,000,000 for the United States membership dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency; and \$1,250,000 shall be made available as directed by section 1105 of Public Law 109-469: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading may be transferred to other Federal departments and agencies to carry out such activities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT AND
REFORM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the furtherance of integrated, efficient, secure, and effective uses of information technology in the Federal Government, \$9,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may transfer these funds to one or more other agencies to carry out projects to meet these purposes: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit quarterly reports not later than 45 days after the end of each quarter to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Government Accountability Office identifying the savings achieved by the Office of Management and Budget's government-wide information technology reform efforts: *Provided further*, That such reports shall include savings identified by fiscal year, agency, and appropriation.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to enable the Vice President to provide assistance to the President in connection with specially assigned functions; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 and 3 U.S.C. 106, including subsistence expenses as authorized by 3 U.S.C. 106, which shall be expended and accounted for as provided in that section; and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$4,200,000.

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the care, operation, refurbishing, improvement, and to the extent not otherwise provided for, heating and lighting, including electric power and fixtures, of the official residence of the Vice President; the hire of passenger motor vehicles; and not to exceed \$81,000 pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 106(b)(2), \$290,000: *Provided*, That advances, repayments, or transfers from this appropriation may be made to any department or agency for expenses of carrying out such activities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. From funds made available in this Act under the headings "The White House", "Executive Residence at the White House", "White House Repair and Restoration", "Council of Economic Advisers", "National Security Council and Homeland Security Council", "Office of Administration", "Special Assistance to the President", and "Official Residence of the Vice President", the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or such other officer as the President may designate in writing), may, with advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, transfer not to exceed 10 percent of any such appropriation to any other such appropriation, to be merged with and available for the same time and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred: *Provided*, That the amount of an appropriation shall not be increased by more than 50 percent by such transfers: *Provided further*, That no amount shall be transferred from "Special Assistance to the President" or "Official Residence of the Vice President" without the approval of the Vice President.

SEC. 202. Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of

the Office of Management and Budget shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the costs of implementing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law 111-203). Such report shall include—

(1) the estimated mandatory and discretionary obligations of funds through fiscal year 2019, by Federal agency and by fiscal year, including—

(A) the estimated obligations by cost inputs such as rent, information technology, contracts, and personnel;

(B) the methodology and data sources used to calculate such estimated obligations; and

(C) the specific section of such Act that requires the obligation of funds; and

(2) the estimated receipts through fiscal year 2019 from assessments, user fees, and other fees by the Federal agency making the collections, by fiscal year, including—

(A) the methodology and data sources used to calculate such estimated collections; and

(B) the specific section of such Act that authorizes the collection of funds.

SEC. 203. None of funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of any officer or employee of the Executive Office of the President to prepare, sign, or approve statements abrogating legislation passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President.

SEC. 204. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of any officer or employee of the Executive Office of the President to prepare or implement an Executive Order that contravenes existing law.

SEC. 205. (a) During fiscal year 2015, any Executive Order issued by the President shall include a statement from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on the budgetary impact of the Executive Order.

(b) Any such statement shall include—

(1) a narrative summary of the costs and revenue impacts of such order on the Federal Government;

(2) the impact on mandatory and discretionary obligations and outlays, listed by Federal agency, for each year in the 5-fiscal year period beginning in fiscal year 2015; and

(3) the impact on revenues of the Federal Government over the 5-fiscal year period beginning in fiscal year 2015.

(c) If an Executive Order is issued during fiscal year 2015 due to a national emergency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may issue the statement required by subsection (a) not later than 15 days after the date that the Executive Order is issued.

This title may be cited as the “Executive Office of the President Appropriations Act, 2015”.

TITLE III THE JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the operation of the Supreme Court, as required by law, excluding care of the building and grounds, including hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; not to exceed \$10,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and for miscellaneous expenses, to be expended as the Chief Justice may approve, \$74,937,000, of which \$2,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law

for the salaries of the chief justice and associate justices of the court.

CARE OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

For such expenditures as may be necessary to enable the Architect of the Capitol to carry out the duties imposed upon the Architect by 40 U.S.C. 6111 and 6112, \$11,640,000, to remain available until expended.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries of officers and employees, and for necessary expenses of the court, as authorized by law, \$30,192,000.

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of the chief judge and judges of the court.

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries of officers and employees of the court, services, and necessary expenses of the court, as authorized by law, \$17,807,000.

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of the chief judge and judges of the court.

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the salaries of judges of the United States Court of Federal Claims, magistrate judges, and all other officers and employees of the Federal Judiciary not otherwise specifically provided for, necessary expenses of the courts, and the purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for Probation and Pretrial Services Office staff, as authorized by law, \$4,784,659,000 (including the purchase of firearms and ammunition); of which not to exceed \$27,817,000 shall remain available until expended for space alteration projects and for costs related to new space alteration and construction projects; and of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016, for the Integrated Workplace Initiative: *Provided*, That the amount provided for the Integrated Workplace Initiative shall not be available for obligation until the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts submits a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate showing that the estimated cost savings resulting from the Initiative will exceed the estimated amounts obligated for the Initiative.

□ 2130

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 41, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$42,000,000)”.

Page 67, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$43,000,000)”.

Page 71, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$43,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Fi-

nancial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for the fiscal year 2015.

My amendment is simple. It transfers resources from the General Services Administration, also known as GSA, to the U.S. Court of Appeals, the U.S. district courts, our Nation’s bankruptcy courts, and other related judicial programs.

Specifically, it gives the U.S. court system an additional \$42 million, and it comes directly from the wasteful spending within the GSA. The \$42 million transfer to the courts will put their budget in line with the budget request for fiscal year ‘15.

Let me say that I have taken issue with government waste since my very first days in Congress. I knew it was bad, but I did not fully comprehend how bad things were until I actually got here and started to get my hands dirty while digging around for waste, fraud, and abuse.

I take particular issue with the GSA. The mission of the GSA is to “deliver the best value in real estate, acquisition, and technology services to government and the American people.”

Given the major GSA scandal involving wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars on conferences with clowns and fortunetellers and on YouTube rap videos, it is clear employees within this agency have lost sight of this mission.

Furthermore, by our government’s own estimates, there may be 77,000 empty or underutilized buildings across the country. The Office of Management and Budget estimates these buildings could be wasting hard-earned taxpayer dollars at a rate of up to \$1.7 billion a year—yes, \$1.7 billion. That is astonishing.

We are even spending money on buildings that are completely empty because the grass needs mowing, the pipes must be maintained, the fences surrounding the buildings must be checked and repaired, and the list goes on and on.

Again, I truly appreciate and applaud the excellent work the committee has done on this bill. It is a particularly tough one to craft this year in the wake of the IRS scandals and others.

I do take issue with any increase whatsoever to GSA’s budget for rental of space. We are wasting billions on empty buildings, and we are worried about billions in rental agreements—\$5.5 billion in rental agreements.

I would also like to note that the amount proposed in the underlying bill is over \$700 million more than the entire court system of the United States. We are talking the Supreme Court, appellate courts, circuit courts, bankruptcy courts, and other Justice offices and initiatives.

They are the third branch of government, and their budget is still \$700 million less than the money spent on rental agreements.

The judiciary enforces the rule of law, and it administers justice in a fair and impartial manner. In fact, it is our justice system that is possibly America's most attractive component to others around the world that yearn to be free and have a fair day in court, those who yearn for rights under the law.

So, you see, there is something wrong with this disproportionate appropriation. One is for billions in waste, while the courts struggle with a steady rise in their caseload. Again, we are spending more than \$700 million more on rent space than our courts, and we are wasting nearly \$2 billion a year on buildings being empty or underutilized.

At this point, this amendment should speak for itself. We are wasting billions on rent when we have empty spaces all over the place. We must either sell the empty buildings or cut GSA's rental of space budget. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my commonsense amendment.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued leadership on the committee, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary under current law for the salaries of circuit and district judges (including judges of the territorial courts of the United States), bankruptcy judges, and justices and judges retired from office or from regular active service.

In addition, for expenses of the United States Court of Federal Claims associated with processing cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-660), not to exceed \$5,423,000, to be appropriated from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.

DEFENDER SERVICES

For the operation of Federal Defender organizations; the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of attorneys appointed to represent persons under 18 U.S.C. 3006A and 3599, and for the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of persons furnishing investigative, expert, and other services for such representations as authorized by law; the compensation (in accordance with the maximums under 18 U.S.C. 3006A) and reimbursement of expenses of attorneys appointed to assist the court in criminal cases where the defendant has waived representation by counsel; the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of attorneys appointed to represent jurors in civil actions for the protection of their employment, as authorized by 28 U.S.C. 1875(d)(1); the compensation and reimbursement of expenses of attorneys appointed under 18 U.S.C. 983(b)(1) in connection with certain judicial civil forfeiture proceedings; the compensation and reimbursement of travel expenses of guardians ad litem appointed under 18 U.S.C. 4100(b); and for necessary training and general administrative expenses, \$1,044,394,000, to remain available until expended.

FEEES OF JURORS AND COMMISSIONERS

For fees and expenses of jurors as authorized by 28 U.S.C. 1871 and 1876; compensation of jury commissioners as authorized by 28 U.S.C. 1863; and compensation of commissioners appointed in condemnation cases pursuant to rule 71.1(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. Appendix Rule 71.1(h)), \$55,827,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the compensation of land commissioners shall not exceed the daily equivalent of the highest rate payable under 5 U.S.C. 5332.

COURT SECURITY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, incident to the provision of protective guard services for United States courthouses and other facilities housing Federal court operations, and the procurement, installation, and maintenance of security systems and equipment for United States courthouses and other facilities housing Federal court operations, including building ingress-egress control, inspection of mail and packages, directed security patrols, perimeter security, basic security services provided by the Federal Protective Service, and other similar activities as authorized by section 1010 of the Judicial Improvement and Access to Justice Act (Public Law 100-702), \$525,763,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until expended, to be expended directly or transferred to the United States Marshals Service, which shall be responsible for administering the Judicial Facility Security Program consistent with standards or guidelines agreed to by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Attorney General.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts as authorized by law, including travel as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1345, hire of a passenger motor vehicle as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b), advertising and rent in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, \$82,824,000, of which not to exceed \$8,500 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Judicial Center, as authorized by Public Law 90-219, \$26,724,000; of which \$1,800,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2016, to provide education and training to Federal court personnel; and of which not to exceed \$1,500 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the salaries and expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of chapter 58 of title 28, United States Code, \$16,556,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000 is authorized for official reception and representation expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—THE JUDICIARY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. Appropriations and authorizations made in this title which are available for salaries and expenses shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 302. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Judiciary in this Act may

be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except "Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services, Defender Services" and "Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services, Fees of Jurors and Commissioners", shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under sections 604 and 608 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in section 608.

SEC. 303. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the salaries and expenses appropriation for "Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services" shall be available for official reception and representation expenses of the Judicial Conference of the United States: *Provided*, That such available funds shall not exceed \$11,000 and shall be administered by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts in the capacity as Secretary of the Judicial Conference.

SEC. 304. Section 3314(a) of title 40, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting "Federal" for "executive" each place it appears.

SEC. 305. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. 561-569, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States Marshals Service shall provide, for such courthouses as its Director may designate in consultation with the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, for purposes of a pilot program, the security services that 40 U.S.C. 1315 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to provide, except for the services specified in 40 U.S.C. 1315(b)(2)(E). For building-specific security services at these courthouses, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall reimburse the United States Marshals Service rather than the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 306. (a) Section 203(c) of the Judicial Improvements Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-650; 28 U.S.C. 133 note), is amended in the second sentence (relating to the District of Kansas) following paragraph (12), by striking "23 years and 6 months" and inserting "24 years and 6 months".

(b) Section 406 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2470; 28 U.S.C. 133 note) is amended in the second sentence (relating to the eastern District of Missouri) by striking "21 years and 6 months" and inserting "22 years and 6 months".

(c) Section 312(c)(2) of the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act (Public Law 107-273; 28 U.S.C. 133 note), is amended—

(1) in the first sentence by striking "12 years" and inserting "13 years";

(2) in the second sentence (relating to the central District of California), by striking "11 years and 6 months" and inserting "12 years and 6 months"; and

(3) in the third sentence (relating to the western District of North Carolina), by striking "10 years" and inserting "11 years".

SEC. 307. Section 84(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by inserting "Bakersfield," after "shall be held at".

This title may be cited as the "Judiciary Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE IV
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FEDERAL FUNDS
FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR RESIDENT TUITION
SUPPORT

For a Federal payment to the District of Columbia, to be deposited into a dedicated account, for a nationwide program to be administered by the Mayor, for District of Columbia resident tuition support, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds, including any interest accrued thereon, may be used on behalf of eligible District of Columbia residents to pay an amount based upon the difference between in-State and out-of-State tuition at public institutions of higher education, or to pay up to \$2,500 each year at eligible private institutions of higher education: *Provided further*, That the awarding of such funds may be prioritized on the basis of a resident's academic merit, the income and need of eligible students and such other factors as may be authorized: *Provided further*, That the District of Columbia government shall maintain a dedicated account for the Resident Tuition Support Program that shall consist of the Federal funds appropriated to the Program in this Act and any subsequent appropriations, any unobligated balances from prior fiscal years, and any interest earned in this or any fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the account shall be under the control of the District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer, who shall use those funds solely for the purposes of carrying out the Resident Tuition Support Program: *Provided further*, That the Office of the Chief Financial Officer shall provide a quarterly financial report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for these funds showing, by object class, the expenditures made and the purpose therefor.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR EMERGENCY PLANNING
AND SECURITY COSTS IN THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

For a Federal payment of necessary expenses, as determined by the Mayor of the District of Columbia in written consultation with the elected county or city officials of surrounding jurisdictions, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the costs of providing public safety at events related to the presence of the National Capital in the District of Columbia, including support requested by the Director of the United States Secret Service in carrying out protective duties under the direction of the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for the costs of providing support to respond to immediate and specific terrorist threats or attacks in the District of Columbia or surrounding jurisdictions.

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA COURTS

For salaries and expenses for the District of Columbia Courts, \$234,400,000 to be allocated as follows: for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, \$13,400,000, of which not to exceed \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, \$115,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; for the District of Columbia Court System, \$70,000,000, of which not to exceed \$2,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; and \$36,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, for capital improvements for District of Columbia courthouse facilities: *Provided*, That funds made available for capital improvements shall be ex-

pendent consistent with the District of Columbia Courts master plan study and facilities condition assessment: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts under this heading shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for salaries and expenses of other Federal agencies: *Provided further*, That, 30 days after providing written notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the District of Columbia Courts may reallocate not more than \$6,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading among the items and entities funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That, the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia may, by regulation, establish a program substantially similar to the program set forth in subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, for employees of the District of Columbia Courts.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR DEFENDER SERVICES IN
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

For payments authorized under section 11-2604 and section 11-2605, D.C. Official Code (relating to representation provided under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act), payments for counsel appointed in proceedings in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia under chapter 23 of title 16, D.C. Official Code, or pursuant to contractual agreements to provide guardian ad litem representation, training, technical assistance, and such other services as are necessary to improve the quality of guardian ad litem representation, payments for counsel appointed in adoption proceedings under chapter 3 of title 16, D.C. Official Code, and payments authorized under section 21-2060, D.C. Official Code (relating to services provided under the District of Columbia Guardianship, Protective Proceedings, and Durable Power of Attorney Act of 1986), \$49,890,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading shall be administered by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, this appropriation shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for expenses of other Federal agencies.

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE COURT SERVICES
AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

For salaries and expenses, including the transfer and hire of motor vehicles, of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, as authorized by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, \$228,500,000, of which not to exceed \$2,000 is for official reception and representation expenses related to Community Supervision and Pretrial Services Agency program, of which not to exceed \$25,000 is for dues and assessments relating to the implementation of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Interstate Supervision Act of 2002; of which \$169,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses of Community Supervision and Sex Offender Registration, to include expenses relating to the supervision of adults subject to protection orders or the provision of services for or related to such persons, of which up to \$6,990,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2017, for

the relocation of an offender supervision field office; and of which \$59,500,000 shall be available to the Pretrial Services Agency: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts under this heading shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for salaries and expenses of other Federal agencies: *Provided further*, That amounts under this heading may be used for programmatic incentives for offenders and defendants successfully meeting terms of supervision: *Provided further*, That the Director is authorized to accept and use gifts in the form of in-kind contributions of the following: space and hospitality to support offender and defendant programs; equipment, supplies, and vocational training services necessary to sustain, educate, and train offenders and defendants, including their dependent children; and programmatic incentives for offenders and defendants meeting terms of supervision: *Provided further*, That the Director shall keep accurate and detailed records of the acceptance and use of any gift under the previous proviso, and shall make such records available for audit and public inspection: *Provided further*, That the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Director is authorized to accept and use reimbursement from the District of Columbia Government for space and services provided on a cost reimbursable basis.

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE

For salaries and expenses, including the transfer and hire of motor vehicles, of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, as authorized by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, \$41,000,000: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts under this heading shall be apportioned quarterly by the Office of Management and Budget and obligated and expended in the same manner as funds appropriated for salaries and expenses of Federal agencies: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, and in addition to the authority provided by section 307(b) of the District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act (sec. 2-1607(b), D.C. Official Code), upon approval of the Board of Trustees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, the District of Columbia Public Defender Service may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.

FEDERAL PAYMENT TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COORDINATING COUNCIL

For a Federal payment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, \$1,900,000, to remain available until expended, to support initiatives related to the coordination of Federal and local criminal justice resources in the District of Columbia.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

For a Federal payment, to remain available until September 30, 2016, to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, \$295,000, and for the Judicial Nomination Commission, \$255,000.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

For a Federal payment for a school improvement program in the District of Columbia, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended, for payments authorized under the Scholarship for Opportunity and Results Act

(division C of Public Law 112-10): *Provided*, That, to the extent that funds are available for opportunity scholarships and following the priorities included in section 3006 of such Act, the Secretary of Education shall make scholarships available to students eligible under section 3013(3) of such Act (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 211) including students who were not offered a scholarship during any previous school year: *Provided further*, That within funds provided for opportunity scholarships \$3,000,000 shall be for the activities specified in sections 3007(b) through 3007(d) and 3009 of the Act.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD

For a Federal payment to the District of Columbia National Guard, \$375,000, to remain available until expended for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program.

FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR TESTING AND TREATMENT OF HIV/AIDS

For a Federal payment to the District of Columbia for the testing of individuals for, and the treatment of individuals with, human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the District of Columbia, \$5,000,000.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FUNDS

Local funds are appropriated for the District of Columbia for the current fiscal year out of the General Fund of the District of Columbia ("General Fund") for programs and activities set forth under the heading "District of Columbia Funds Summary of Expenses" and at the rate set forth under such heading, as included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request Act of 2014 submitted to the Congress by the District of Columbia as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in section 450A of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (section 1-204.50a, D.C. Official Code), sections 816 and 817 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (secs. 47-369.01 and 47-369.02, D.C. Official Code), and provisions of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for operating expenses for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2015 under this heading shall not exceed the estimates included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request Act of 2014 submitted to Congress by the District of Columbia as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act or the sum of the total revenues of the District of Columbia for such fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated may be increased by proceeds of one-time transactions, which are expended for emergency or unanticipated operating or capital needs: *Provided further*, That such increases shall be approved by enactment of local District law and shall comply with all reserve requirements contained in the District of Columbia Home Rule Act: *Provided further*, That the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia shall take such steps as are necessary to assure that the District of Columbia meets these requirements, including the apportioning by the Chief Financial Officer of the appropriations and funds made available to the District during fiscal year 2015, except that the Chief Financial Officer may not reprogram for operating expenses any funds derived from bonds, notes, or other obligations issued for capital projects.

This title may be cited as the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2015".

TITLE V

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Administrative Conference of the United States, authorized by 5 U.S.C. 591 et seq., \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, of which not to exceed \$1,000 is for official reception and representation expenses.

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. Section 1017(a)(2)(C) of Public Law 111-203 is repealed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 59, beginning on line 20, strike section 501.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. I will tell you, Mr. Chair, if the Affordable Care Act, so-called ObamaCare, is the ultimate tempest for the Tea Party pot, then I guess the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the CFPB, is a very, very close second.

Since assuming the majority in 2010, House Republicans have passed bill after bill to gut and undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Frankly, I have just lost track of all the bills and attempts by the majority to undermine our Nation's top financial consumer watchdog.

It is well documented that Congress wanted its funding to be free of political influence when it created the Bureau. In order to protect the consumers, it needed to be free of political influence.

So, Mr. Chair, my amendment strikes the provision in the Financial Services Appropriations bill, section 501, that the House is considering today, as it is nothing more than yet another effort by the majority to derail the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau from its mission to protect consumers.

Originally, I had my staff draft an amendment to delete sections 501 and 502, but after consulting with the CBO, I was informed that striking section 502 would score as a cost to the bill.

I wanted to make sure that there would be no objection based on adding a cost to the bill, so in order to make my amendment in order, my amendment just strikes section 501 and not 502.

Let me be clear, Mr. Chairman, both sections 501 and 502 of the bill before us today undermine the CFPB. They would alter the independent funding process and vision for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was es-

tablished in Dodd-Frank, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

This is consistent with other independent banking regulatory agencies. Other independent banking regulatory agencies are not at the beck and call of the Appropriations Committee and whoever is in control of the political environment.

What has the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, our Nation's consumer watchdog, done for us lately? What has it done for consumers?

Well, Mr. Chair, the agency has refunded \$3 billion to 9.7 million victims of unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices in financial markets since 2011. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has helped millions of people and has stopped fraud.

The dedicated mission of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to protect consumers of financial products from fraud and deceptive schemes, inspires trust in our markets, which attracts capital and promotes the allocation of capital to productive, legitimate endeavors.

□ 2145

The CFPB is the tough cop on Wall Street, but it is also the fair cop on the Wall Street beat.

The amendment before you, Mr. Chair, that I am offering affirms the current independent funding source for the CFPB, which is the best way to preserve the integrity and independence of the agency.

Now, I know that Republicans plead that this provision is about oversight or transparency. But when you scratch the surface, you will realize that the claim is just not credible. It is just yet another attempt to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and, ultimately, it seeks to defund the CFPB and make it a paper tiger. It seeks a return to the bad old days, Mr. Chair, and bad old ways that set the stage for the 2008 financial crisis.

I really do urge all Members to support my amendment and to support the working independence of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau so the agency may continue to ensure U.S. markets are the fairest and most robust in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, congressional oversight makes agencies both more responsive and more responsible.

The Dodd-Frank Act authorizes the CFPB to fund itself by drawing money from the Federal Reserve to the extent that the Bureau Director deems necessary—necessary—that is all he has to

say. Now, the Fed doesn't oversee the Bureau. They don't exercise any authority over it, but they must transfer whatever funds the Bureau requests, up to \$600 million. And since 2011, the Bureau has diverted over \$1.5 billion—\$1.5 billion—from the Fed, and those are funds that would otherwise be applied for deficit reduction, without any congressional input or approval of its activities.

And listen to this: of that money that the Bureau has received, they are now planning to spend more on renovating and redecorating a building than the building is actually worth. The inspector general of the Federal Reserve, which has oversight of the Bureau, also found that the Bureau needs to improve its recordkeeping and controls around the government travel cards, purchase cards, conferences, information, security, and procurement.

So section 501 neither abolishes the Bureau nor limits the Bureau's funding. Instead, it simply allows Congress and all Americans to understand what they do, how they do it, and how much it costs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote.

I would now like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), my ranking member.

Mr. SERRANO. With all due respect to my colleague, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, when the bill was being written, I recall going to the sponsors of this bill both here and the Senate and saying make sure that this agency is under appropriation supervision, under supervision of the House of Representatives. And I still believe that part of the fiscal crisis which we are still living under was the lack of supervision over the SEC and over the actions of Wall Street. So I am strongly in support of having them answer to us and at least have input from the people's House—from the people's Representatives—to ask them to come before us and tell us what they are doing.

It sounds great for many Members to have an agency be on its own and do the right thing. But past history shows us that when we did that, when we did not supervise, and when we did not have oversight, it did just the opposite.

I am from New York, Mr. Chairman, and I tell you that Wall Street went berserk because we did not pay attention, we did not do oversight, and we did not hold them accountable. So I would hope that we defeat this amendment with all due respect to my colleague.

Ms. MOORE. Well, I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, Wall Street went berserk because we didn't fund the SEC and the CFTC. That is the problem. These watchdog agencies are charged with an onerous task, and we don't provide the appropriations, and this is what is going to happen to the CFPB, as well, under this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, accountability and transparency are good things. I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk that affects line 18, I believe.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair notes that the amendment addresses a portion of the bill not yet read for amendment.

Is there objection to consideration of the amendment at this time?

Mr. CRENSHAW. Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is an objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read the next paragraph.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 502. Effective October 1, 2015, notwithstanding section 1017 of Public Law 111-203—

(1) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall not transfer amounts specified under such section to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; and

(2) there are authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection such sums as may be necessary to carry out the authorities of the Bureau under Federal consumer financial law.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 60, line 2, strike "and".

Page 60, strike lines 3 through 7 and insert the following:

(2) the Director of the Bureau may collect an assessment, fee, or other charge from any entity (defined as any bank holding company with more than \$50,000,000,000 in assets or any nonbank financial holding company with respect to which a determination has been made pursuant to section 113 of Public Law 111-203) equal to the amount the Director determines is necessary and appropriate to carry out the responsibilities of the Bureau;

(3) funds derived from any assessment, fee, or charge collected or payment made pursuant to this section shall not be construed to be Government funds or appropriated monies, and shall not be subject to apportionment for purposes of chapter 15 of title 31 or any other provision of law; and

(4) the Director shall have sole authority to determine the manner in which the obligations of the Bureau shall be incurred and its disbursements and expenses allowed and paid, in accordance with this section.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment that will address provisions within this legislation that threaten the independent funding of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency that has been remarkably successful in standing up for consumers and taxpayers who have been subject to the deceptive practices of bad actors in our financial system.

To those who have ever fallen victim to a payday or predatory loan, to those who have had a dispute with a credit card company over excessive late fees or interest rates, to those who have had issues with a bank account, mortgage loan, or even a credit score, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is your watchdog. It is your advocate. It is your cop on the beat. And, thus far, your advocate has done an outstanding job. To date, 12.6 million consumers have received more than \$3.8 billion in direct refunds because of the CFPB's enforcement actions.

In large part, the CFPB is able to accomplish these tasks because of its political independence. It is able to prosecute bad actors without regard for the political blow-back. This is directly due to the CFPB's independent funding stream. But, Mr. Chairman, this legislation would end the Bureau's independence by tying its funding to the highly political congressional appropriations process.

The result will be a weakened CFPB, one unable to properly advocate on behalf of our Nation's consumers. And if enacted into law, we would be one step closer to the Republican goal of ending the CFPB altogether—and its work on behalf of our students, seniors, families, and servicemembers.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would end this reckless attempt to politicize consumer protection by removing this provision and replacing it with language that allows the Bureau to maintain its independent funding.

Unfortunately, the rules of the House make it impossible to restore CFPB's current funding mechanism. Therefore, this amendment funds the Bureau through the collection of a fee imposed upon banks and financial institutions that have more than \$50 billion in assets. I hope my colleagues on the other side would agree with an approach that preserves the independence of our Nation's only consumer financial watchdog without costing taxpayers a dime.

Mr. Chairman, while it is certainly a possibility, ruling this amendment out

of order would simply demonstrate the hypocrisy of the Republican Party. Last week, in a letter to Chairman SESSIONS, I expressed my concerns about this and other provisions that inappropriately legislate on an appropriations bill. I asked him not to protect these from a point of order. Since he and his Republican colleagues have refused, I am now forced to offer this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to include for the RECORD this letter.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2014.

Hon. PETE SESSIONS,
Chairman, Committee on Rules,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SESSIONS: I write to respectfully request that the Committee on Rules not protect sections 125, 501, 625, 626 and 632 of H.R. 5016, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2015, from points of order, as these sections place improper funding restrictions on our financial regulatory agencies and inappropriately authorize on an appropriations bill.

Specifically, section 125 of H.R. 5016 places improper funding restrictions on the Office of Financial Research (OFR), the office specifically created in the wake of the worst financial crisis to study systemic risk across the U.S. economy and inform the decisions of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC). Section 155 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-203) explicitly funds the OFR through assessments on both bank holding companies with more than \$50 billion in assets and nonbank financial companies supervised by the Federal Reserve. Congress provided the OFR with a funding source similar to many FSOC member agencies to ensure that the OFR always had sufficient funding to conduct the research needed to monitor threats to our financial system. Section 125 disregards existing law by subjecting the OFR to the appropriations process beginning in 2015.

Additionally, section 501 of H.R. 5016 consists of legislating on an appropriations bill. This section alters section 1017 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which establishes the process by which operations of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are independently funded by the Federal Reserve System. It has been well-established that Congress intended for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's funding to be free of political influence, similar to other independent banking regulatory agencies. Sources of funding for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have been appropriately debated during the current Congress in the authorizing Committee of jurisdiction. I therefore ask that section 501 be exposed to a point of order.

Further, several sections of H.R. 5016 place improper restrictions on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In particular, section 625 prevents the SEC from spending from the Reserve Fund for the next year. The Reserve Fund was created under section 991 of the Dodd-Frank Act in order to facilitate long-range planning and budgeting by the Commission, particularly since the Commission's technology systems have traditionally lagged behind dramatic market changes. Also, the Reserve Fund was created because Congress recognized that the Commission requires resources to respond to unforeseen crises such as the so-called "Flash Crash" of

May 2010, when U.S. stock markets plummeted approximately 9 percent in just a few minutes. Congress already has robust oversight over the use of the Reserve Fund, with the SEC required under the Dodd-Frank Act to notify the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Appropriations within 10 days of making a Reserve Fund obligation. Section 625 would overturn existing law, and create uncertainty both for the future of the SEC's efforts as well as the stability of our financial markets.

Additionally, section 626 of H.R. 5016 violates Rule XXI, clause 2, by making changes to SEC's existing authority to regulate the disclosure of material information, which may include political contributions made by corporations. The SEC has broad authority to protect investors by requiring that companies disclose information to the public so that investors can make informed decisions. Although there are questions as to whether political contributions made by companies are material to investors, section 626 would prevent the SEC from even considering this issue. As a result, this provision would hamstring our securities regulator from fulfilling its statutory mandate.

Finally, section 632 of H.R. 5016 consists of legislating on an appropriations bill. This section would substantially alter section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Act, which requires financial institutions with access to the federal banking safety net to spin-off certain swaps dealing activities to separately capitalized affiliates. The underlying section in Dodd-Frank is subject to significant debate, and its inclusion in a spending bill is inappropriate. I therefore also ask that section 632 be exposed to a point of order.

In order to uphold the integrity of the appropriations process, I ask that the Committee on Rules submit to the requests contained within this letter. The funding process for our financial regulatory agencies should not be used as a way to side-step the proper role of authorizing Committees in Congress.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member.

Ms. WATERS. My amendment is a simple effort to ensure the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau remains an effective advocate for American consumers. It is an attempt to correct just one of many bad provisions in this legislation, which underfunds our Wall Street regulators, impedes our ability to identify systemic risk across the United States, and harms the ability of regulators to properly protect our Nation's investors and retirees.

Mr. Chairman, I am saddened to be back here fighting to preserve the CFPB. I am disappointed that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have aligned themselves with predatory lenders and other bad actors in the financial system at the expense of protecting consumers. It is shameful that, once again, this House is forced to spend precious time and resources tearing down this first-of-its-kind agency which ensures that consumers have an advocate at the highest levels of government—with the power to fight for them.

So I would urge the adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law, and it constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

□ 2200

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment confers new authority.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to be heard on the point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, as I said in my earlier presentation, I sent a letter to Chairman SESSIONS, and I expressed my concerns about this and other provisions that inappropriately legislate on an appropriations bill. While the gentleman from the opposite side of the aisle is saying that this is inappropriate, certainly it has been inappropriate to legislate on this appropriations in the way that they have done in order to remove the protection from the CFPB and allow it to be at the mercy of the politics of the appropriations process in this House, and so I would ask that my amendment be recognized and that we would have a vote on this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language conferring authority. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 503. (a) During fiscal year 2015, on the date that a request is made for a transfer of funds in accordance with section 1017 of Public Law 111-203, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall notify Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate of such requests.

(b)(1) Any such notification shall include the amount of the funds requested, an explanation of how the funds will be obligated by object class and activity, and why the funds are necessary to protect consumers.

(2) Any notification required by this section shall be made available on the Bureau's public website.

SEC. 504. (a) Not later than 2 weeks after the end of each quarter of each fiscal year, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall submit a report on its activities to the Committees on Appropriations of the

House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(b) The reports required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the obligations made during the previous quarter by object class, office, and activity;

(2) the estimated obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year by object class, office, and activity;

(3) the number of full-time equivalents within each office during the previous quarter;

(4) the estimated number of full-time equivalents within each office for the remainder of the fiscal year; and

(5) actions taken to achieve the goals, objectives, and performance measures of each office.

(c) At the request of any such committee specified in subsection (a), the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall make Bureau officials available to testify on the contents of the reports required under subsection (a).

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable under 5 U.S.C. 5376, and not to exceed \$4,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$118,000,000.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Communications Commission, as authorized by law, including uniforms and allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; not to exceed \$4,000 for official reception and representation expenses; purchase and hire of motor vehicles; special counsel fees; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$322,748,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$322,748,000 of offsetting collections shall be assessed and collected pursuant to section 9 of title I of the Communications Act of 1934, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That any offsetting collections received in excess of \$322,748,000 in fiscal year 2015 shall not be available for obligation: *Provided further*, That remaining offsetting collections from prior years collected in excess of the amount specified for collection in each such year and otherwise becoming available on October 1, 2014, shall not be available for obligation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(B), proceeds from the use of a competitive bidding system that may be retained and made available for obligation shall not exceed \$106,000,000 for fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not less than \$11,090,000 shall be for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provi-

sions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$34,568,000, to be derived from the Deposit Insurance Fund or, only when appropriate, the FSLIC Resolution Fund.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, \$67,500,000, of which not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out functions of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 2 of 1978, and the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and including hire of experts and consultants, hire of passenger motor vehicles, and including official reception and representation expenses (not to exceed \$1,500) and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, \$25,500,000: *Provided*, That public members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel may be paid travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5703) for persons employed intermittently in the Government service, and compensation as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received from fees charged to non-Federal participants at labor-management relations conferences shall be credited to and merged with this account, to be available without further appropriation for the costs of carrying out these conferences.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Trade Commission, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$293,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$300,000 shall be available for use to contract with a person or persons for collection services in accordance with the terms of 31 U.S.C. 3718: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$100,000,000 of offsetting collections derived from fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$14,000,000 in offsetting collections derived from fees sufficient to implement and enforce the Telemarketing Sales Rule, promulgated under the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (15 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), shall be credited to this account, and be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2015, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$179,000,000: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Federal Trade Commission may be used to implement subsection (e)(2)(B) of section 43 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t).

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION REAL PROPERTY ACTIVITIES FEDERAL BUILDINGS FUND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF REVENUE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Amounts in the Fund, including revenues and collections deposited into the Fund shall be available for necessary expenses of real property management and related activities not otherwise provided for, including operation, maintenance, and protection of federally owned and leased buildings; rental of buildings in the District of Columbia; restoration of leased premises; moving governmental agencies (including space adjustments and telecommunications relocation expenses) in connection with the assignment, allocation and transfer of space; contractual services incident to cleaning or servicing buildings, and moving; repair and alteration of federally owned buildings including grounds, approaches and appurtenances; care and safeguarding of sites; maintenance, preservation, demolition, and equipment; acquisition of buildings and sites by purchase, condemnation, or as otherwise authorized by law; acquisition of options to purchase buildings and sites; conversion and extension of federally owned buildings; preliminary planning and design of projects by contract or otherwise; construction of new buildings (including equipment for such buildings); and payment of principal, interest, and any other obligations for public buildings acquired by installment purchase and purchase contract; in the aggregate amount of \$9,130,409,000, of which—

(1) \$420,460,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and acquisition (including funds for sites and expenses, and associated design and construction services) of additional projects at—

(A) California, Calexico, Calexico West Land Port of Entry, \$98,062,000;

(B) California, San Diego, San Ysidro Land Port of Entry, \$216,828,000; and

(C) New York, Alexandria Bay, Land Port of Entry, \$105,570,000:

Provided, That each of the foregoing limits of costs on new construction and acquisition projects may be exceeded to the extent that savings are effected in other such projects, but not to exceed 10 percent of the amounts included in a transmitted prospectus, if required, unless advance approval is obtained from the Committees on Appropriations of a greater amount;

(2) \$965,817,000 shall remain available until expended for repairs and alterations, including associated design and construction services, of which—

(A) \$402,282,000 is for Major Repairs and Alterations;

(B) \$378,535,000 is for Basic Repairs and Alterations; and

(C) \$185,000,000 is for Special Emphasis Programs, of which—

(i) \$40,000,000 is for Fire and Life Safety;

(ii) \$100,000,000 is for Consolidation Activities: *Provided*, That consolidation projects result in reduced annual rent paid by the tenant agency: *Provided further*, That no consolidation project exceed \$10,000,000 in costs: *Provided further*, That consolidation projects are approved by each of the committees specified in section 3307(a) of title 40, United States Code: *Provided further*, That preference is given to consolidation projects that achieve a utilization rate of 130 usable square feet or less per person for office space: *Provided further*, That the obligation of funds under this paragraph for consolidation activities may not be made until 10 days after

a proposed spending plan and explanation for each project to be undertaken, including estimated savings, has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate;

(iii) \$20,000,000, Judiciary Court Security Program; and

(iv) \$25,000,000 is for Real Property Disposal: *Provided*, That disposal projects result in reduced annual operating costs: *Provided further*, That preference is given to disposal projects that are excess or surplus and have the highest fair market value and the greatest potential to sell: *Provided further*, That the obligation of funds under this paragraph for property disposal activities may not be made until 10 days after a proposed spending plan and explanation for each project to be undertaken, including estimated savings, has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate:

Provided further, That the amounts provided in this or any prior Act for "Repairs and Alterations" may be used to fund costs associated with implementing security improvements to buildings necessary to meet the minimum standards for security in accordance with current law and in compliance with the reprogramming guidelines of the appropriate Committees of the House and Senate: *Provided further*, That the difference between the funds appropriated and expended on any projects in this or any prior Act, under the heading "Repairs and Alterations", may be transferred to Basic Repairs and Alterations or used to fund authorized increases in prospectus projects: *Provided further*, That the amount provided in this or any prior Act for Basic Repairs and Alterations may be used to pay claims against the Government arising from any projects under the heading "Repairs and Alterations" or used to fund authorized increases in prospectus projects;

(3) \$5,500,000,000 for rental of space to remain available until expended; and

(4) \$2,244,132,000 for building operations to remain available until expended, of which \$1,122,727,000 is for building services, and \$1,121,405,000 is for salaries and expenses: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available under this paragraph for building operations may be transferred between and merged with such appropriations upon notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 5 percent by any such transfers: *Provided further*, That section 508 of this title shall not apply with respect to funds made available under this heading for building operations:

Provided further, That the total amount of funds made available from this Fund to the General Services Administration shall not be available for expenses of any construction, repair, alteration and acquisition project for which a prospectus, if required by 40 U.S.C. 3307(a), has not been approved, except that necessary funds may be expended for each project for required expenses for the development of a proposed prospectus: *Provided further*, That funds available in the Federal Buildings Fund may be expended for emergency repairs when advance approval is obtained from the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That amounts necessary to provide reimbursable special services to other agencies under 40 U.S.C. 592(b)(2) and amounts to provide such reimbursable fencing, lighting, guard booths, and other facilities on private or other property

not in Government ownership or control as may be appropriate to enable the United States Secret Service to perform its protective functions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3056, shall be available from such revenues and collections: *Provided further*, That revenues and collections and any other sums accruing to this Fund during fiscal year 2015, excluding reimbursements under 40 U.S.C. 592(b)(2) in excess of the aggregate new obligational authority authorized for Real Property Activities of the Federal Buildings Fund in this Act shall remain in the Fund and shall not be available for expenditure except as authorized in appropriations Acts.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

GOVERNMENT-WIDE POLICY

For expenses authorized by law, not otherwise provided for, for Government-wide policy and evaluation activities associated with the management of real and personal property assets and certain administrative services; Government-wide policy support responsibilities relating to acquisition, travel, motor vehicles, information technology management, and related technology activities; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; \$58,000,000.

OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses authorized by law, not otherwise provided for, for Government-wide activities associated with utilization and donation of surplus personal property; disposal of real property; agency-wide policy direction, management, and communications; the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; \$61,049,000, of which \$26,328,000 is for Real and Personal Property Management and Disposal; \$25,729,000 is for the Office of the Administrator, of which not to exceed \$7,500 is for official reception and representation expenses; and \$8,992,000 is for the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 5 percent of the appropriation made available under this heading for Office of the Administrator may be transferred to the appropriation for the Real and Personal Property Management and Disposal upon notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, but the appropriation for the Real and Personal Property Management and Disposal may not be increased by more than 5 percent by any such transfer.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General and service authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$65,000,000, of which \$2,000,000 is available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$50,000 shall be available for payment for information and detection of fraud against the Government, including payment for recovery of stolen Government property: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for awards to employees of other Federal agencies and private citizens in recognition of efforts and initiatives resulting in enhanced Office of Inspector General effectiveness.

ALLOWANCES AND OFFICE STAFF FOR FORMER PRESIDENTS

For carrying out the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1958 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), and Public Law 95-138, \$1,672,000.

FEDERAL CITIZEN SERVICES FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of Citizen Services and Innovative Technologies, including services authorized by 40 U.S.C. 323

and 44 U.S.C. 3604; and for necessary expenses in support of interagency projects that enable the Federal Government to enhance its ability to conduct activities electronically, through the development and implementation of innovative uses of information technology; \$53,294,000, to be deposited into the Federal Citizen Services Fund: *Provided*, That the previous amount may be transferred to Federal agencies to carry out the purpose of the Federal Citizen Services Fund: *Provided further*, That the appropriations, revenues, reimbursements, and collections deposited into the Fund shall be available until expended for necessary expenses of Federal Citizen Services and other activities that enable the Federal Government to enhance its ability to conduct activities electronically in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$90,000,000: *Provided further*, That appropriations revenues, reimbursements, and collections accruing to this Fund during fiscal year 2015 in excess of such amount shall remain in the Fund and shall not be available for expenditure except as authorized in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That any appropriations provided to the Electronic Government Fund that remain unobligated as of September 30, 2014, may be transferred to the Federal Citizen Services Fund: *Provided further*, That the transfer authorities provided herein shall be in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 507. Funds available to the General Services Administration shall be available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 508. Funds in the Federal Buildings Fund made available for fiscal year 2015 for Federal Buildings Fund activities may be transferred between such activities only to the extent necessary to meet program requirements: *Provided*, That any proposed transfers shall be approved in advance by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 509. Except as otherwise provided in this title, funds made available by this Act shall be used to transmit a fiscal year 2016 request for United States Courthouse construction only if the request: (1) meets the design guide standards for construction as established and approved by the General Services Administration, the Judicial Conference of the United States, and the Office of Management and Budget; (2) reflects the priorities of the Judicial Conference of the United States as set out in its approved 5-year construction plan; and (3) includes a standardized courtroom utilization study of each facility to be constructed, replaced, or expanded.

SEC. 510. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to increase the amount of occupiable square feet, provide cleaning services, security enhancements, or any other service usually provided through the Federal Buildings Fund, to any agency that does not pay the rate per square foot assessment for space and services as determined by the General Services Administration in consideration of the Public Buildings Amendments Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-313).

SEC. 511. From funds made available under the heading "Federal Buildings Fund, Limitations on Availability of Revenue", claims against the Government of less than \$250,000 arising from direct construction projects and acquisition of buildings may be liquidated from savings effected in other construction

projects with prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 512. In any case in which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate adopt a resolution granting lease authority pursuant to a prospectus transmitted to Congress by the Administrator of the General Services Administration under 40 U.S.C. 3307, the Administrator shall ensure that the delineated area of procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus for all lease agreements, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to each of such committees and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to exercising any lease authority provided in the resolution.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out functions of the Merit Systems Protection Board pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 2 of 1978, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, and the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (5 U.S.C. 5509 note), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, hire of passenger motor vehicles, direct procurement of survey printing, and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$40,655,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, together with not to exceed \$2,345,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016, for administrative expenses to adjudicate retirement appeals to be transferred from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund in amounts determined by the Merit Systems Protection Board.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION
OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in connection with the administration of the National Archives and Records Administration and archived Federal records and related activities, as provided by law, and for expenses necessary for the review and declassification of documents, the activities of the Public Interest Declassification Board, the operations and maintenance of the electronic records archives, the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901), including maintenance, repairs, and cleaning, \$360,000,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008, Public Law 110-409, 122 Stat. 4302-16 (2008), and the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), and for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$4,130,000.

REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

For the repair, alteration, and improvement of archives facilities, and to provide adequate storage for holdings, \$7,600,000, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND
RECORDS COMMISSION
GRANTS PROGRAM

For necessary expenses for allocations and grants for historical publications and records

as authorized by 44 U.S.C. 2504, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN
FUND

For the Community Development Revolving Loan Fund program as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 9812, 9822 and 9910, \$2,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2016, for technical assistance to low-income designated credit unions.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out functions of the Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, and the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, hire of passenger motor vehicles, and not to exceed \$1,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$15,420,000.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF TRUST FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out functions of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 2 of 1978 and the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; medical examinations performed for veterans by private physicians on a fee basis; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere; hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$2,500 for official reception and representation expenses; advances for reimbursements to applicable funds of OPM and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for expenses incurred under Executive Order No. 10422 of January 9, 1953, as amended; and payment of per diem and/or subsistence allowances to employees where Voting Rights Act activities require an employee to remain overnight at his or her post of duty, \$95,910,000; and in addition \$118,425,000 for administrative expenses, to be transferred from the appropriate trust funds of OPM without regard to other statutes, including direct procurement of printed materials, for the retirement and insurance programs: *Provided*, That the provisions of this appropriation shall not affect the authority to use applicable trust funds as provided by sections 8348(a)(1)(B), 8958(f)(2)(A), 8988(f)(2)(A), and 9004(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be available for salaries and expenses of the Legal Examining Unit of OPM established pursuant to Executive Order No. 9358 of July 1, 1943, or any successor unit of like purpose: *Provided further*, That the President's Commission on White House Fellows, established by Executive Order No. 11183 of October 3, 1964, may, during fiscal year 2015, accept donations of money, property, and personal services: *Provided further*, That such donations, including those from prior years, may be used for the development of publicity materials to provide information about the White House Fellows, except that no such donations shall be accepted for travel or reimbursement of travel expenses, or for the salaries of employees of such Commission.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF TRUST FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provi-

sions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$4,384,000, and in addition, not to exceed \$21,340,000 for administrative expenses to audit, investigate, and provide other oversight of the Office of Personnel Management's retirement and insurance programs, to be transferred from the appropriate trust funds of the Office of Personnel Management, as determined by the Inspector General: *Provided*, That the Inspector General is authorized to rent conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out functions of the Office of Special Counsel pursuant to Reorganization Plan Numbered 2 of 1978, the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454), the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-12) as amended by Public Law 107-304, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-199), and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-353), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, payment of fees and expenses for witnesses, rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and hire of passenger motor vehicles; \$21,452,000.

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Postal Regulatory Commission in carrying out the provisions of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435), \$14,152,000, to be derived by transfer from the Postal Service Fund and expended as authorized by section 603(a) of such Act.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT
BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, as authorized by section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee), \$4,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND
TRANSPARENCY BOARD
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board to carry out the provisions of title XV of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), and to develop and test information technology resources and oversight mechanisms to enhance transparency of and detect and remediate waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal spending, and to develop and use information technology resources and oversight mechanisms to detect and remediate waste, fraud, and abuse in obligation and expenditure of funds as described in section 904(d) of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2), which shall be administered under the terms and conditions of the accountability authorities of title XV of Public Law 111-5, \$15,000,000.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Securities and Exchange Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, the rental of space (to include multiple year leases) in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and

not to exceed \$3,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$1,400,000,000 to remain available until expended; of which not less than \$9,239,000 shall be for the Office of Inspector General; of which not to exceed \$50,000 shall be available for a permanent secretariat for the International Organization of Securities Commissions; of which not to exceed \$100,000 shall be available for expenses for consultations and meetings hosted by the Commission with foreign governmental and other regulatory officials, members of their delegations and staffs to exchange views concerning securities matters, such expenses to include necessary logistic and administrative expenses and the expenses of Commission staff and foreign invitees in attendance including: (1) incidental expenses such as meals; (2) travel and transportation; and (3) related lodging or subsistence; of which funding for information technology initiatives shall be increased over the fiscal year 2014 level by not less than \$50,000,000; and of which not less than \$68,872,000 shall be for the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis: *Provided*, That fees and charges authorized by section 31 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78ee) shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,400,000,000 of such offsetting collections shall be available until expended for necessary expenses of this account: *Provided further*, That the total amount appropriated under this heading from the general fund for fiscal year 2015 shall be reduced as such offsetting fees are received so as to result in a final total fiscal year 2015 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 85, line 19, insert after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$300,000,000)”.

Page 86, line 16, insert after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$300,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment to fully fund the Securities and Exchange Commission, one of Wall Street's top sheriffs, at the President's request of \$1.7 billion and at no cost to the taxpayer.

The United States has the most vibrant capital markets, which are the envy of the world. Both large and small businesses looking to raise capital are able to do so with incredible efficiency and at minimal cost. Businesses are able to do this because their investors know that there are strong rules of the road and a regulator that will hold them accountable.

The underlying bill, however, undermines the SEC by cutting nearly \$300 million or nearly 20 percent from the requested level. Wall Street's cop is woefully underfunded already, and one need only look as far as its IT budget

compared with just a few of the entities it oversees.

In fiscal year 2013, the IT budgets of the six largest financial institutions equaled an amount more than 100 times that of the SEC. Although my Republican colleagues suggest that they are generously providing an increase, they use budget gimmicks to mask real cuts to IT infrastructure.

The world's capital markets have grown at an ever-accelerating rate, and likewise, so has the SEC's responsibilities. Today, the SEC oversees 11,000 investment advisers, 10,000 mutual funds, 4,450 broker-dealers, the securities exchanges, clearing agencies, credit rating agencies, and other self-regulatory organizations. The SEC also reviews the disclosures of nearly 9,000 public companies.

Following the 2008 financial crisis, Congress significantly increased SEC's responsibilities by requiring oversight of hedge funds, municipal advisers, and certain derivatives by passing Dodd-Frank. My amendment is needed to support all of these activities.

The Republican bill also includes substantial carve-outs, which will lead to cuts to enforcement and examinations. The SEC will have to impose hiring freezes for lawyers that would have brought enforcement cases against bad actors.

Last year, SEC recovered \$3.4 billion in 2013—or twice the amount that would fully fund the agency. The SEC will also have to furlough examiners under the Republican bill, examiners that are needed to reduce the backlog of investment advisers that have never been visited by the SEC.

There is broad opposition to the Republican funding level. The White House says:

At this level, the SEC will be unable to add critical positions in market oversight, compliance, and enforcement to carry out its financial oversight responsibilities.

What is really disappointing is that Congress can fund the SEC at any level without affecting the debt and deficit. There are no budget savings from cutting the SEC. That is because the SEC's budget is paid through tiny fees on securities transactions.

Here is what CalPERS, the largest public pension plan in the United States, says about SEC funding:

The Commission's work can't be achieved without the resources it needs to be effective. The SEC needs to be given the tools to do the job: full and independent funding.

In addition, investor advocates like the AARP, the Consumer Federation of America, as well as industry groups like the Investment Adviser Association and the Financial Planning Association all support fully funding the SEC, and so should you.

A fully-funded SEC helps America's entrepreneurs raise funds to finance jobs and development. A fully-funded SEC ensures that our markets operate

efficiently. A fully-funded SEC protects hard-earned savings funding our Nation's retirement and our children's education.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, this committee is not starving the SEC for funds. The SEC received an 11 percent increase in fiscal year 2012. They received an 8 percent increase over the sequester level in 2014, and this year, the SEC is asking for \$350 million more than they received in 2014. That is a 26 percent increase over fiscal year 2014.

Now, for fiscal year 2015, the committee recommends \$1.4 billion. That is \$50 million above the fiscal year 2014, and it is specifically for critical SEC information technology initiatives.

Listen to this: since 2001, Congress has increased the SEC's funding level by more than 200 percent. Not many Federal agencies can say they have received that kind of increase the way the SEC has. Then you ask yourself: What did the Commission get for that increased funding?

Well, the Commission missed the Madoff Ponzi scheme. They signed a no-bid lease for almost a million square feet of office space they didn't need, they produced inaccurate financial statements, they failed to conduct a serious and thorough review of the agency's bureaucratic and siloed structure in order to become more efficient and more effective, and they wasted over a million dollars on unnecessary equipment.

I might add they have had some of their rules thrown out in court due to the lack of economic analysis.

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That is just to name a few of the embarrassing moments that the SEC enforcement and management has endured. This is not about a lack of funding. Throwing more money at the SEC is not the answer.

We believe the Commission needs to get back on track to show real progress before we give them hundreds of millions of dollars of new money. The bill has targeted extra funding in areas of need within the Commission. That is information technology and economic analysis.

Over the past 3 years, this committee has consistently supported the SEC's information technology funding. If we could upgrade the information technology systems they will be better able to leverage their resources, catch the bad actors, and provide the quality review that securities filings demand.

The fact that this agency is fee-funded in no way diminishes the need for

congressional oversight over the Commission's funding.

The SEC, in summary, is not starved for resources. We can't buy a better regulator. Those are just nice talking points, but they are not really based on facts.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman and Members, listening to my friend on the opposite side of the aisle you would think that the SEC has no additional responsibilities.

As I quoted in my presentation:

The world's capital markets have grown at an ever accelerating rate, and likewise, so have the SEC's responsibilities. Today, the SEC oversees 11,000 investment advisers, 10,000 mutual funds, 4,450 broker-dealers, the securities exchanges, clearing agencies, credit rating agencies, and other self-regulatory organizations. The SEC also reviews the disclosures of nearly 9,000 public companies.

And, following the 2008 financial crisis, Congress increased SEC's responsibilities by requiring oversight of hedge funds, municipal advisors, and certain derivatives by passing Dodd-Frank.

So, my friend on the opposite side of the aisle disregards all of this as if the SEC doesn't have these expanded responsibilities. They certainly do, and they should be paid for. Again, this does not increase any debt. This is paid for through the many companies that have to pay a small fee, and they will not allow those fees to be used to support the work of the SEC and the IT needs that they have. It does not make good sense.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment, which is very similar to an amendment I offered in full committee during consideration of this bill.

The bill currently provides \$300 million less for the SEC than what the administration has asked for in 2015, and prohibits the SEC from using the reserve fund established by Dodd-Frank for missing critical IT needs, which is, in effect, another \$70 million reduction in funding.

At the proposed funding level, the SEC would have to reduce its current staff at the very time they need to be hiring new experts who help protect investors and to fully implement all of the rules and responsibilities required by Dodd-Frank.

Our Nation is still feeling the effect of the complex financial schemes that

led to the 2008 financial meltdown. The reforms in Dodd-Frank will help prevent future problems, but the SEC needs adequate funding to carry them out.

This amendment deals with that issue. Ms. WATERS' amendment is one that really supplies the strength for creating and for supporting that "cop on the beat" that we always mention on the issue of Wall Street. We can't allow that to happen again. The SEC has its responsibility. We continue to cut its funding. And I repeat, I was around when we had the power to do oversight, and we didn't do it, and the agency itself did not do it, and that led to that meltdown which we are still feeling the effects of.

I support your amendment, and I hope everybody else would vote in support of it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I just want to remind everyone, as I pointed out, in a little over 10 years, the funding for the SEC has increased over 200 percent—200 percent. I think there is adequate money to do the job they were given to do. They just need to do it effectively and efficiently, like other areas of government are asked to perform.

With that, I urge a "no" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Selective Service System, including expenses of attendance at meetings and of training for uniformed personnel assigned to the Selective Service System, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 4101–4118 for civilian employees; hire of passenger motor vehicles; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and not to exceed \$750 for official reception and representation expenses; \$21,500,000: *Provided*, That during the current fiscal year, the President may exempt this appropriation from the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1341, whenever the President deems such action to be necessary in the interest of national defense: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be expended for or in connection with the induction of any person into the Armed Forces of the United States.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the Small Business Administra-

tion, including hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by sections 1343 and 1344 of title 31, United States Code, and not to exceed \$3,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$253,882,000, of which not less than \$12,000,000 shall be available for examinations, reviews, and other lender oversight activities: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to charge fees to cover the cost of publications developed by the Small Business Administration, and certain loan program activities, including fees authorized by section 5(b) of the Small Business Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, revenues received from all such activities shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for carrying out these purposes without further appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Small Business Administration may accept gifts in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 and may co-sponsor activities, each in accordance with section 132(a) of division K of Public Law 108–447, during fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That \$6,100,000 shall be available for the Loan Modernization and Accounting System, to be available until September 30, 2016.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 87, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,882,000)".

Page 88, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,882,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple, but important, amendment, which will redirect resources in the bill to important entrepreneurial development programs with the SBA.

Specifically, the amendment reduces a \$3.8 million increase, above the fiscal year 2014 level, that was slated to go towards administration and bureaucracy. Instead, the amendment prioritizes spending and redirects those funds to important programs that actually help small businesses, like the HUBZone program, Small Business Development Centers, SCORE, women's business centers, the State and trade export promotion, Native American outreach, and veterans business outreach centers.

If programs with the SBA are going to get an increase above fiscal year 2014 levels, it should be for worthwhile SBA programs, not bureaucracy.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and create on average seven out of every 10 new jobs. The SBA needs to continue to support worthwhile efforts that foster economic growth. The entrepreneurial development programs within the SBA do exactly that.

In 2013, Small Business Development Centers helped nearly 15,000 entrepreneurs start businesses, providing

counseling for nearly 65,000 others. SBDCs assist more than 530,000 clients annually and are a critical program for creating jobs and helping small businesses grow.

In 2013, the SCORE program assisted with the creation of nearly 70,000 new jobs. The program provided important services that helped open the doors of nearly 40,000 businesses.

I could go on about several other of the entrepreneurial development programs, but I think you get my point, so in the interest of time I will not.

I will discuss, however, the offset of this amendment. The committee was critical of the Small Business Administration in the committee report accompanying this bill.

I would like to quickly read a few excerpts from that report:

The committee believes the SBA should especially focus on these “true” small businesses and less on larger businesses in “high-growth” areas that have more capacity and access to capital.

The committee remains concerned about the quality of lender oversight at SBA. SBA’s loan programs depend on an array of outside parties to be executed.

In fiscal year 2011, the SBA Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that more than half of the loan dollars guaranteed by the SBA were made using delegated authorities with limited oversight.

In an OIG report released June 6, 2014, the OIG found that the SBA’s Loan Guarantee Processing Center (LGPC) “emphasized quantity over quality for 7(a) loan reviews,” and loan specialists were not provided adequate guidance and training to conduct 7(a) loan review assignments.

The committee has consistently provided SBA with robust resources and expects the SBA to appropriately fund the LGPC in order to provide a thorough review of all loans made by the center. SBA loans made without an effective review process leaves taxpayers on the hook for any defaults. The committee expects SBA to adopt the recommendations included in the OIG report and will continue to monitor the SBA’s progress in this area.

I ask my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment, and I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Florida, the chairman.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I am pleased to support his amendment.

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of programs supporting entrepreneurial and small business development, \$197,825,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$19,400,000.

OFFICE OF ADVOCACY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Advocacy in carrying out the provisions of title II of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634a et seq.) and the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), \$8,750,000, to remain available until expended.

BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended, and for the cost of guaranteed loans as authorized by section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-699), \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2015 commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 shall not exceed \$7,500,000,000: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015 commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act shall not exceed \$18,500,000,000 for a combination of amortizing term loans and the aggregated maximum line of credit provided by revolving loans: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015 commitments to guarantee loans for debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 shall not exceed \$4,000,000,000: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2015, guarantees of trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act shall not exceed a principal amount of \$12,000,000,000. In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$147,726,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for Salaries and Expenses.

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, \$186,858,000, to be available until expended, of which \$1,000,000 is for the Office of Inspector General of the Small Business Administration for audits and reviews of disaster loans and the disaster loan programs and shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for the Office of Inspector General; of which \$176,858,000 is for direct administrative expenses of loan making and servicing to carry out the direct loan program, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for Salaries and Expenses; and of which \$9,000,000 is for indirect administrative expenses for the direct loan program, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for Salaries and Expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 513. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Small Business Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*,

That any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 608 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

PAYMENT TO THE POSTAL SERVICE FUND

For payment to the Postal Service Fund for revenue forgone on free and reduced rate mail, pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of section 2401 of title 39, United States Code, \$58,342,000: *Provided*, That mail for overseas voting and mail for the blind shall continue to be free: *Provided further*, That 6-day delivery and rural delivery of mail shall continue at not less than the 1983 level: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Postal Service by this Act shall be used to implement any rule, regulation, or policy of charging any officer or employee of any State or local child support enforcement agency, or any individual participating in a State or local program of child support enforcement, a fee for information requested or provided concerning an address of a postal customer: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this Act shall be used to consolidate or close small rural and other small post offices.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$243,000,000, to be derived by transfer from the Postal Service Fund and expended as authorized by section 603(b)(3) of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435).

UNITED STATES TAX COURT SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, including contract reporting and other services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$50,000,000: *Provided*, That travel expenses of the judges shall be paid upon the written certificate of the judge.

TITLE VI GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 601. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 602. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 603. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 604. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 605. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for any activity or for paying the salary of any Government employee where funding an activity or

paying a salary to a Government employee would result in a decision, determination, rule, regulation, or policy that would prohibit the enforcement of section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307).

SEC. 606. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 607. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 608. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates a new program; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress; (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by the Committee on Appropriations of either the House of Representatives or the Senate for a different purpose; (5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; (6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or (7) creates or reorganizes offices, programs, or activities unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided*, That prior to any significant reorganization or restructuring of offices, programs, or activities, each agency or entity funded in this Act shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further*, That at a minimum the report shall include: (1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level; (2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and (3) an identification of items of special congressional interest: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated or limited for salaries and expenses for an agency shall be reduced by \$100,000 per day for each day after the required date that the report has not been submitted to the Congress.

SEC. 609. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropria-

tions of the House of Representatives and the Senate for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines.

SEC. 610. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Executive Office of the President to request—

(1) any official background investigation report on any individual from the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

(2) a determination with respect to the treatment of an organization as described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code from the Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply—

(1) in the case of an official background investigation report, if such individual has given express written consent for such request not more than 6 months prior to the date of such request and during the same presidential administration; or

(2) if such request is required due to extraordinary circumstances involving national security.

SEC. 611. The cost accounting standards promulgated under chapter 15 of title 41, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to a contract under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program established under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 612. For the purpose of resolving litigation and implementing any settlement agreements regarding the nonforeign area cost-of-living allowance program, the Office of Personnel Management may accept and utilize (without regard to any restriction on unanticipated travel expenses imposed in an Appropriations Act) funds made available to the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to court approval.

SEC. 613. No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion, or the administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the Federal employees health benefits program which provides any benefits or coverage for abortions.

SEC. 614. The provision of section 613 shall not apply where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SEC. 615. In order to promote Government access to commercial information technology, the restriction on purchasing non-domestic articles, materials, and supplies set forth in chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (popularly known as the Buy American Act), shall not apply to the acquisition by the Federal Government of information technology (as defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code), that is a commercial item (as defined in section 103 of title 41, United States Code).

SEC. 616. Notwithstanding section 1353 of title 31, United States Code, no officer or employee of any regulatory agency or commission funded by this Act may accept on behalf of that agency, nor may such agency or commission accept, payment or reimbursement from a non-Federal entity for travel, subsistence, or related expenses for the purpose of enabling an officer or employee to attend and participate in any meeting or similar function relating to the official duties of the officer or employee when the entity offering payment or reimbursement is a person or entity subject to regulation by such agency or commission, or represents a person or entity subject to regulation by such agency or com-

mission, unless the person or entity is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

SEC. 617. Notwithstanding section 708 of this Act, funds made available to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission by this or any other Act may be used for the inter-agency funding and sponsorship of a joint advisory committee to advise on emerging regulatory issues.

SEC. 618. Not later than 45 days after the end of each quarter, the Department of the Treasury, the Executive Office of the President, the Judiciary, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the General Services Administration, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Small Business Administration shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a quarterly accounting of the cumulative balances of any unobligated funds.

SEC. 619. (a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Executive agency covered by this Act otherwise authorized to enter into contracts for either leases or the construction or alteration of real property for office, meeting, storage, or other space must consult with the General Services Administration before issuing a solicitation for offers of new leases or construction contracts, and in the case of succeeding leases, before entering into negotiations with the current lessor.

(2) Any such agency with authority to enter into an emergency lease may do so during any period declared by the President to require emergency leasing authority with respect to such agency.

(b) For purposes of this section, the term "Executive agency covered by this Act" means any Executive agency provided funds by this Act, but does not include the General Services Administration or the United States Postal Service.

SEC. 620. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Federal Trade Commission to complete the draft report entitled "Interagency Working Group on Food Marketed to Children: Preliminary Proposed Nutrition Principles to Guide Industry Self-Regulatory Efforts" unless the Interagency Working Group on Food Marketed to Children complies with Executive Order No. 13563.

SEC. 621. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses for the following positions:

(1) Director, White House Office of Health Reform, or any substantially similar position.

(2) Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, or any substantially similar position.

(3) Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury assigned to the Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry and Senior Counselor for Manufacturing Policy, or any substantially similar position.

(4) White House Director of Urban Affairs, or any substantially similar position.

SEC. 622. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all

judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless the Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 623. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless the Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

SEC. 624. (a) There are appropriated for the following activities the amounts required under current law:

(1) Compensation of the President (3 U.S.C. 102).

(2) Payments to—

(A) the Judicial Officers' Retirement Fund (28 U.S.C. 377(o));

(B) the Judicial Survivors' Annuities Fund (28 U.S.C. 376(c)); and

(C) the United States Court of Federal Claims Judges' Retirement Fund (28 U.S.C. 178(l)).

(3) Payment of Government contributions—

(A) with respect to the health benefits of retired employees, as authorized by chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, and the Retired Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (74 Stat. 849); and

(B) with respect to the life insurance benefits for employees retiring after December 31, 1989 (5 U.S.C. ch. 87).

(4) Payment to finance the unfunded liability of new and increased annuity benefits under the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (5 U.S.C. 8348).

(5) Payment of annuities authorized to be paid from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund by statutory provisions other than subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any amount appropriated by this section from any otherwise applicable limitation on the use of funds contained in this Act.

SEC. 625. During fiscal year 2015, no funds shall be obligated from the Securities and Exchange Commission Reserve Fund established by section 991 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Public Law 111-203).

□ 2230

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 104, after line 21, insert the following: SEC. ____ . Section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall collect an annual fee from investment advisers

that are subject to inspection or examination by the Commission under this title to defray the cost of such inspections and examinations.

“(2) EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN STATE-REGULATED INVESTMENT ADVISERS.—No fees shall be collected under this subsection from any investment adviser that is prohibited from registering with the Commission under section 203 by reason of section 203A.

“(3) FEE AMOUNTS.—

“(A) AMOUNT TO BE COLLECTED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall seek to ensure that the aggregate amount of fees collected under this subsection with respect to a specific fiscal year are equal to the estimated cost of the Commission in carrying out additional inspections and examinations for such fiscal year.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph and with respect to a fiscal year, the term ‘additional inspections and examinations’ means those inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title for such fiscal year that exceed the number of inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title conducted during fiscal year 2012.

“(B) FEE CALCULATION FORMULA.—The Commission shall establish by rulemaking a formula for determining the fee amount to be assessed against individual investment advisers, which shall take into account the following factors:

“(i) The anticipated costs of conducting inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title, including the anticipated frequency of such inspections and examinations.

“(ii) The investment adviser's size, including the assets under management of the investment adviser.

“(iii) The number and type of clients of the investment adviser, and the extent to which the adviser's clients pay other fees established by the Commission, including registration and transaction fees.

“(iv) Such other objective factors, such as risk characteristics, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(C) ADJUSTMENT OF FORMULA.—Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Commission shall review the fee calculation formula and, if, after allowing for a period of public comment, the Commission determines that the formula needs to be revised, the Commission shall revise such formula before fees are assessed for the following fiscal year.

“(4) PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.—The Commission shall make the following information publicly available, including on the Web site of the Commission:

“(A) The formula used to determine the fee amount to be assessed against individual investment advisers, and any adjustment made to such formula.

“(B) The factors used to determine such formula, including any additional objective factors used by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (3)(B)(iv).

“(5) AUDIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, every 2 years, conduct an audit of the use of the fees collected by the Commission under this subsection, the reviews of the formula used to calculate such fees, and any adjustments made by the Commission to such formula.

“(B) REPORT.—After conducting each audit required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall issue a report on such audit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(6) TREATMENT OF FEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall be available to the Commission, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to pay any costs associated with inspecting and examining investment advisers that are subject to inspection and examination under this title.

“(B) FUNDS NOT PUBLIC FUNDS.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall not be construed to be Government or public funds or appropriated money. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall not be subject to apportionment for the purpose of chapter 15 of title 31, United States Code, or under any other authority.

“(C) FUNDS SUPPLEMENTAL TO OTHER AMOUNTS.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall supplement, and be in addition to, any other amounts available to the Commission, under a regular appropriation or otherwise, for the purpose described in subparagraph (A).”

Mr. CRENSHAW (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will continue to report the amendment.

The Clerk continued to read.

Ms. WATERS (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a commonsense provision that would help reverse some of the damaging efforts directed at the SEC we have seen this Congress, efforts that have been squarely aimed at hamstringing the Commission, including: underfunding the SEC by \$300 million, or 20 percent below the President's fiscal year 2015 request; bogging down the SEC in onerous cost-benefit analysis provisions that would divert resources away from important efforts, like enforcement; and myriad attempts in the Financial Services Committee to limit the information available to retirees that make decisions about whether to put their hard-earned money into public companies.

My amendment would help to counteract these efforts by providing the SEC with the authority to impose and collect reasonable user fees on federally registered investment advisers for the purpose of increasing the number and frequency of SEC examinations. This is consistent with my bill, H.R.

1627, the Investment Adviser Examination Improvement Act, which I have coauthored with Representative DELANEY.

Today, investment advisers may go more than a decade before being visited by the SEC. It is absolutely essential that we improve the oversight of investment advisers, the people that manage the assets of millions of individual and institutional investors across the country. This is particularly true if we are underfunding the SEC by \$300 million, as this underlying bill proposes.

The SEC currently only examines approximately 9 percent of advisers annually out of the almost 11,000 advisers registered with the Commission. The legislation and this amendment provide the SEC with additional resources to conduct more examinations and protect investors.

I believe this amendment and our bill provides the simplest, most efficient solution to the problem of inadequate adviser oversight. Also, because the user fees contemplated in the amendment would only be used to fund the regulation of investment advisers and not to subsidize other functions at the SEC, I think that this option would be more cost-effective for the industry. In fact, a study by the Boston Consulting Group supports that point.

This amendment will help the SEC to close this resource gap. By entrusting this responsibility to the Commission, it will also leverage their 70-year history of experience in this regulatory role and prevent the establishment of a duplicative SRO bureaucracy.

In addition to consumer and retiree advocates, my bill is supported by the investment adviser industry, including the Investment Adviser Association, the Financial Planning Association, the National Association of Personal Financial Advisers, and the Certified Financial Planner Board. They support my bill because they know that clear rules of the road and robust examinations bolster public confidence in the market and ultimately help their bottom line.

I urge the adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states, in pertinent part:

“An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law.”

This amendment directly amends existing law.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment directly amends existing law. The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI. The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 626. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used by the Securities and Exchange Commission to finalize, issue, or implement any rule, regulation, or order regarding the disclosure of political contributions, contributions to tax exempt organizations, or dues paid to trade associations.

SEC. 627. Section 2(c) of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-241; 39 U.S.C. 416 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “2 years” and inserting “6 years”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) STAMP DEPICTIONS.—Members of the public shall be offered a choice of 5 stamps under this Act, depicting an African elephant or an Asian elephant, a rhinoceros, a tiger, a marine turtle, and a great ape, respectively.”

SEC. 628. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the agencies specified in subsection (b) shall each submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on—

(1) increasing public participation in the rulemaking process and reducing uncertainty;

(2) improving coordination with other Federal agencies to eliminate redundant, inconsistent, and overlapping regulations; and

(3) identifying existing regulations that have been reviewed and determined to be outmoded, ineffective, or excessively burdensome.

(b) The agencies required to submit a report specified in subsection (a) are—

(1) the Consumer Product Safety Commission;

(2) the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(4) the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 152, line 9, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of that portion of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 629. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to award a contract for services to train any employee of an Executive agency (as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code) to learn how to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress.

SEC. 630. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act to the Internal Revenue Service may be used to destroy, deface, or dispose of records, regardless of their physical form or characteristics, in contravention of chapters 29, 31, and 33 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Federal Records Act).

(b) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the United States shall conduct an inspection and submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs on the compliance by the Internal Revenue Service with the provisions of chapters 29, 31, and 33 of title 44, United States Code, during calendar years 2009 through 2013.

SEC. 631. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require the disclosure by a provider of an electronic communication service or a remote computing service of the contents or related information detailed in section 2703(c) of title 18, United States Code, of a wire or electronic communication that is in electronic storage with or otherwise held or maintained by the provider, as such terms are defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code, by any other than a means authorized under section 2703(b)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 632. Section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 8305) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “insured depository institution” and inserting “covered depository institution”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) COVERED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘covered depository institution’ means—

“(A) an insured depository institution, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

“(B) a United States uninsured branch or agency of a foreign bank.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading for such subsection, by striking “INSURED” and inserting “COVERED”;

(B) by striking “an insured” and inserting “a covered”;

(C) by striking “such insured” and inserting “such covered”; and

(D) by striking “or savings and loan holding company” and inserting “savings and loan holding company, or foreign banking organization (as such term is defined under Regulation K of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (12 C.F.R. 211.21(o)))”;

(3) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) ONLY BONA FIDE HEDGING AND TRADITIONAL BANK ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any covered depository institution that limits its swap and security-based swap activities to the following:

“(A) HEDGING AND OTHER SIMILAR RISK MITIGATION ACTIVITIES.—Hedging and other similar risk mitigating activities directly related to the covered depository institution’s activities.

“(B) NON-STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP ACTIVITIES.—Acting as a swaps entity for swaps or security-based swaps other than a structured finance swap.

“(C) CERTAIN STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP ACTIVITIES.—Acting as a swaps entity for swaps or security-based swaps that are structured finance swaps, if—

“(i) such structured finance swaps are undertaken for hedging or risk management purposes; or

“(ii) each asset-backed security underlying such structured finance swaps is of a credit

quality and of a type or category with respect to which the prudential regulators have jointly adopted rules authorizing swap or security-based swap activity by covered depository institutions.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) STRUCTURED FINANCE SWAP.—The term ‘structured finance swap’ means a swap or security-based swap based on an asset-backed security (or group or index primarily comprised of asset-backed securities).

“(B) ASSET-BACKED SECURITY.—The term ‘asset-backed security’ has the meaning given such term under section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “an insured” and inserting “a covered”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “an insured depository” and inserting “a covered depository”; and

(B) by striking “the insured depository” each place such term appears and inserting “the covered depository”.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS—GOVERNMENT-WIDE

DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, AND CORPORATIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. No department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this or any other Act for fiscal year 2015 shall obligate or expend any such funds, unless such department, agency, or instrumentality has in place, and will continue to administer in good faith, a written policy designed to ensure that all of its workplaces are free from the illegal use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances (as defined in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)) by the officers and employees of such department, agency, or instrumentality.

SEC. 702. Unless otherwise specifically provided, the maximum amount allowable during the current fiscal year in accordance with subsection 1343(c) of title 31, United States Code, for the purchase of any passenger motor vehicle (exclusive of buses, ambulances, law enforcement vehicles, protective vehicles, and undercover surveillance vehicles), is hereby fixed at \$13,197 except station wagons for which the maximum shall be \$13,631: *Provided*, That these limits may be exceeded by not to exceed \$3,700 for police-type vehicles, and by not to exceed \$4,000 for special heavy-duty vehicles: *Provided further*, That the limits set forth in this section may not be exceeded by more than 5 percent for electric or hybrid vehicles purchased for demonstration under the provisions of the Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 1976: *Provided further*, That the limits set forth in this section may be exceeded by the incremental cost of clean alternative fuels vehicles acquired pursuant to Public Law 101-549 over the cost of comparable conventionally fueled vehicles: *Provided further*, That the limits set forth in this section shall not apply to any vehicle that is a commercial item and which operates on emerging motor vehicle technology, including but not limited to electric, plug-in hybrid electric, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

SEC. 703. Appropriations of the executive departments and independent establishments for the current fiscal year available for expenses of travel, or for the expenses of the activity concerned, are hereby made available for quarters allowances and cost-of-living allowances, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 5922 through 5924.

SEC. 704. Unless otherwise specified in law, during the current fiscal year, no part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be used to pay the compensation of any officer or employee of the Government of the United States (including any agency the majority of the stock of which is owned by the Government of the United States) whose post of duty is in the continental United States unless such person: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) is a person who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence and is seeking citizenship as outlined in 8 U.S.C. 1324b(a)(3)(B); (3) is a person who is admitted as a refugee under 8 U.S.C. 1157 or is granted asylum under 8 U.S.C. 1158 and has filed a declaration of intention to become a lawful permanent resident and then a citizen when eligible; or (4) is a person who owes allegiance to the United States: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, affidavits signed by any such person shall be considered prima facie evidence that the requirements of this section with respect to his or her status are being complied with: *Provided further*, That for purposes of subsections (2) and (3) such affidavits shall be submitted prior to employment and updated thereafter as necessary: *Provided further*, That any payment made to any officer or employee contrary to the provisions of this section shall be recoverable in action by the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to any person who is an officer or employee of the Government of the United States on the date of enactment of this Act, or to international broadcasters employed by the Broadcasting Board of Governors, or to temporary employment of translators, or to temporary employment in the field service (not to exceed 60 days) as a result of emergencies: *Provided further*, That this section does not apply to the employment as Wildland firefighters for not more than 120 days of nonresident aliens employed by the Department of the Interior or the USDA Forest Service pursuant to an agreement with another country.

SEC. 705. Appropriations available to any department or agency during the current fiscal year for necessary expenses, including maintenance or operating expenses, shall also be available for payment to the General Services Administration for charges for space and services and those expenses of renovation and alteration of buildings and facilities which constitute public improvements performed in accordance with the Public Buildings Act of 1959 (73 Stat. 479), the Public Buildings Amendments of 1972 (86 Stat. 216), or other applicable law.

SEC. 706. In addition to funds provided in this or any other Act, all Federal agencies are authorized to receive and use funds resulting from the sale of materials, including Federal records disposed of pursuant to a records schedule recovered through recycling or waste prevention programs. Such funds shall be available until expended for the following purposes:

(1) Acquisition, waste reduction and prevention, and recycling programs as described in Executive Order No. 13423 (January 24, 2007), including any such programs adopted prior to the effective date of the Executive Order.

(2) Other Federal agency environmental management programs, including, but not limited to, the development and implementation of hazardous waste management and pollution prevention programs.

(3) Other employee programs as authorized by law or as deemed appropriate by the head of the Federal agency.

SEC. 707. Funds made available by this or any other Act for administrative expenses in the current fiscal year of the corporations and agencies subject to chapter 91 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available, in addition to objects for which such funds are otherwise available, for rent in the District of Columbia; services in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 3109; and the objects specified under this head, all the provisions of which shall be applicable to the expenditure of such funds unless otherwise specified in the Act by which they are made available: *Provided*, That in the event any functions budgeted as administrative expenses are subsequently transferred to or paid from other funds, the limitations on administrative expenses shall be correspondingly reduced.

SEC. 708. No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be available for interagency financing of boards (except Federal Executive Boards), commissions, councils, committees, or similar groups (whether or not they are interagency entities) which do not have a prior and specific statutory approval to receive financial support from more than one agency or instrumentality.

SEC. 709. None of the funds made available pursuant to the provisions of this or any other Act shall be used to implement, administer, or enforce any regulation which has been disapproved pursuant to a joint resolution duly adopted in accordance with the applicable law of the United States.

SEC. 710. During the period in which the head of any department or agency, or any other officer or civilian employee of the Federal Government appointed by the President of the United States, holds office, no funds may be obligated or expended in excess of \$5,000 to furnish or redecorate the office of such department head, agency head, officer, or employee, or to purchase furniture or make improvements for any such office, unless advance notice of such furnishing or redecoration is transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. For the purposes of this section, the term “office” shall include the entire suite of offices assigned to the individual, as well as any other space used primarily by the individual or the use of which is directly controlled by the individual.

SEC. 711. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1346, or section 708 of this Act, funds made available for the current fiscal year by this or any other Act shall be available for the interagency funding of national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications initiatives which benefit multiple Federal departments, agencies, or entities, as provided by Executive Order No. 13618 (July 6, 2012).

SEC. 712. (a) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended by any department, agency, or other instrumentality of the Federal Government to pay the salaries or expenses of any individual appointed to a position of a confidential or policy-determining character that is excepted from the competitive service under section 3302 of title 5, United States Code, (pursuant to schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations) unless the head of the applicable department, agency, or other instrumentality employing such schedule C individual certifies to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management that the schedule C position occupied by the individual was not created solely or primarily in order to detail the individual to the White House.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to Federal employees or members of the armed forces detailed to or from an element of the intelligence community (as that term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))).

SEC. 713. No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be available for the payment of the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government, who—

(1) prohibits or prevents, or attempts or threatens to prohibit or prevent, any other officer or employee of the Federal Government from having any direct oral or written communication or contact with any Member, committee, or subcommittee of the Congress in connection with any matter pertaining to the employment of such other officer or employee or pertaining to the department or agency of such other officer or employee in any way, irrespective of whether such communication or contact is at the initiative of such other officer or employee or in response to the request or inquiry of such Member, committee, or subcommittee; or

(2) removes, suspends from duty without pay, demotes, reduces in rank, seniority, status, pay, or performance or efficiency rating, denies promotion to, relocates, reassigns, transfers, disciplines, or discriminates in regard to any employment right, entitlement, or benefit, or any term or condition of employment of, any other officer or employee of the Federal Government, or attempts or threatens to commit any of the foregoing actions with respect to such other officer or employee, by reason of any communication or contact of such other officer or employee with any Member, committee, or subcommittee of the Congress as described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 714. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 715. No part of any funds appropriated in this or any other Act shall be used by an agency of the executive branch, other than for normal and recognized executive-legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, and for the preparation, distribution or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or film presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress, except in presentation to the Congress itself.

SEC. 716. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act may be used by an

agency to provide a Federal employee’s home address to any labor organization except when the employee has authorized such disclosure or when such disclosure has been ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 717. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to provide any non-public information such as mailing, telephone or electronic mailing lists to any person or any organization outside of the Federal Government without the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 718. No part of any appropriation contained in this or any other Act shall be used directly or indirectly, including by private contractor, for publicity or propaganda purposes within the United States not heretofore authorized by Congress.

SEC. 719. (a) In this section, the term “agency”—

(1) means an Executive agency, as defined under 5 U.S.C. 105; and

(2) includes a military department, as defined under section 102 of such title, the Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(b) Unless authorized in accordance with law or regulations to use such time for other purposes, an employee of an agency shall use official time in an honest effort to perform official duties. An employee not under a leave system, including a Presidential appointee exempted under 5 U.S.C. 6301(2), has an obligation to expend an honest effort and a reasonable proportion of such employee’s time in the performance of official duties.

SEC. 720. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1346 and section 708 of this Act, funds made available for the current fiscal year by this or any other Act to any department or agency, which is a member of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), shall be available to finance an appropriate share of FASAB administrative costs.

SEC. 721. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1346 and section 708 of this Act, the head of each Executive department and agency is hereby authorized to transfer to or reimburse “General Services Administration, Government-wide Policy” with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, funds made available for the current fiscal year by this or any other Act, including rebates from charge card and other contracts: *Provided*, That these funds shall be administered by the Administrator of General Services to support Government-wide and other multi-agency financial, information technology, procurement, and other management innovations, initiatives, and activities, as approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the appropriate interagency and multi-agency groups designated by the Director (including the President’s Management Council for overall management improvement initiatives, the Chief Financial Officers Council for financial management initiatives, the Chief Information Officers Council for information technology initiatives, the Chief Human Capital Officers Council for human capital initiatives, the Chief Acquisition Officers Council for procurement initiatives, and the Performance Improvement Council for performance improvement initiatives): *Provided further*, That the total funds transferred or reimbursed shall not exceed \$17,000,000 for Government-Wide innovations, initiatives, and activities: *Provided further*, That the funds transferred to or for reimbursement of “General Services Administration, Government-wide Policy” during fiscal

year 2015 shall remain available for obligation through September 30, 2016: *Provided further*, That such transfers or reimbursements may only be made after 15 days following notification of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SEC. 722. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a woman may breastfeed her child at any location in a Federal building or on Federal property, if the woman and her child are otherwise authorized to be present at the location.

SEC. 723. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1346, or section 708 of this Act, funds made available for the current fiscal year by this or any other Act shall be available for the inter-agency funding of specific projects, workshops, studies, and similar efforts to carry out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Council (authorized by Executive Order No. 12881), which benefit multiple Federal departments, agencies, or entities: *Provided*, That the Office of Management and Budget shall provide a report describing the budget of and resources connected with the National Science and Technology Council to the Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Science and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 90 days after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 724. Any request for proposals, solicitation, grant application, form, notification, press release, or other publications involving the distribution of Federal funds shall indicate the agency providing the funds, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number, as applicable, and the amount provided: *Provided*, That this section shall apply to direct payments, formula funds, and grants received by a State receiving Federal funds.

SEC. 725. (a) PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL AGENCY MONITORING OF INDIVIDUALS’ INTERNET USE.—None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used by any Federal agency—

(1) to collect, review, or create any aggregation of data, derived from any means, that includes any personally identifiable information relating to an individual’s access to or use of any Federal Government Internet site of the agency; or

(2) to enter into any agreement with a third party (including another government agency) to collect, review, or obtain any aggregation of data, derived from any means, that includes any personally identifiable information relating to an individual’s access to or use of any nongovernmental Internet site.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The limitations established in subsection (a) shall not apply to—

(1) any record of aggregate data that does not identify particular persons;

(2) any voluntary submission of personally identifiable information;

(3) any action taken for law enforcement, regulatory, or supervisory purposes, in accordance with applicable law; or

(4) any action described in subsection (a)(1) that is a system security action taken by the operator of an Internet site and is necessarily incident to providing the Internet site services or to protecting the rights or property of the provider of the Internet site.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) The term “regulatory” means agency actions to implement, interpret or enforce authorities provided in law.

(2) The term “supervisory” means examinations of the agency’s supervised institutions, including assessing safety and soundness, overall financial condition, management practices and policies and compliance with applicable standards as provided in law.

SEC. 726. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to enter into or renew a contract which includes a provision providing prescription drug coverage, except where the contract also includes a provision for contraceptive coverage.

(b) Nothing in this section shall apply to a contract with—

(1) any of the following religious plans:

(A) Personal Care’s HMO; and

(B) OSF HealthPlans, Inc.; and

(2) any existing or future plan, if the carrier for the plan objects to such coverage on the basis of religious beliefs.

(c) In implementing this section, any plan that enters into or renews a contract under this section may not subject any individual to discrimination on the basis that the individual refuses to prescribe or otherwise provide for contraceptives because such activities would be contrary to the individual’s religious beliefs or moral convictions.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require coverage of abortion or abortion-related services.

SEC. 727. The United States is committed to ensuring the health of its Olympic, Pan American, and Paralympic athletes, and supports the strict adherence to anti-doping in sport through testing, adjudication, education, and research as performed by nationally recognized oversight authorities.

SEC. 728. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for official travel to Federal departments and agencies may be used by such departments and agencies, if consistent with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-126 regarding official travel for Government personnel, to participate in the fractional aircraft ownership pilot program.

SEC. 729. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this or any other appropriations Act may be used to implement or enforce restrictions or limitations on the Coast Guard Congressional Fellowship Program, or to implement the proposed regulations of the Office of Personnel Management to add sections 300.311 through 300.316 to part 300 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, published in the Federal Register, volume 68, number 174, on September 9, 2003 (relating to the detail of executive branch employees to the legislative branch).

SEC. 730. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no executive branch agency shall purchase, construct, or lease any additional facilities, except within or contiguous to existing locations, to be used for the purpose of conducting Federal law enforcement training without the advance approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, except that the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center is authorized to obtain the temporary use of additional facilities by lease, contract, or other agreement for training which cannot be accommodated in existing Center facilities.

SEC. 731. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this or any other Act may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States, unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news

story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 732. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 552a of title 5, United States Code (popularly known as the Privacy Act), and regulations implementing that section.

SEC. 733. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used for any Federal Government contract with any foreign incorporated entity which is treated as an inverted domestic corporation under section 835(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 395(b)) or any subsidiary of such an entity.

(b) WAIVERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any Secretary shall waive subsection (a) with respect to any Federal Government contract under the authority of such Secretary if the Secretary determines that the waiver is required in the interest of national security.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Any Secretary issuing a waiver under paragraph (1) shall report such issuance to Congress.

(c) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to any Federal Government contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act, or to any task order issued pursuant to such contract.

SEC. 734. During fiscal year 2015, for each employee who—

(1) retires under section 8336(d)(2) or 8414(b)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, or

(2) retires under any other provision of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of such title 5 and receives a payment as an incentive to separate, the separating agency shall remit to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund an amount equal to the Office of Personnel Management’s average unit cost of processing a retirement claim for the preceding fiscal year. Such amounts shall be available until expended to the Office of Personnel Management and shall be deemed to be an administrative expense under section 8348(a)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 735. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to recommend or require any entity submitting an offer for a Federal contract or otherwise performing or participating in acquisition at any stage of the acquisition process (as defined in section 131 of title 41, United States Code) of property or services by the Federal Government to disclose any of the following information as a condition of submitting the offer or otherwise performing in or participating in such acquisition:

(1) Any payment consisting of a contribution, expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement for an electioneering communication that is made by the entity, its officers or directors, or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries to a candidate for election for Federal office or to a political committee, or that is otherwise made with respect to any election for Federal office.

(2) Any disbursement of funds (other than a payment described in paragraph (1)) made by the entity, its officers or directors, or any of its affiliates or subsidiaries to any person with the intent or the reasonable expectation that the person will use the funds to make a payment described in paragraph (1).

(b) In this section, each of the terms “contribution”, “expenditure”, “independent expenditure”, “electioneering communication”, “candidate”, “election”, and “Federal office” has the meaning given such term in the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).

SEC. 736. None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to pay for the painting of a portrait of an officer or employee of the Federal government, including the President, the Vice President, a member of Congress (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to Congress), the head of an executive branch agency (as defined in section 133 of title 41, United States Code), or the head of an office of the legislative branch.

SEC. 737. (a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in this section, no part of any of the funds appropriated for fiscal year 2015, by this or any other Act, may be used to pay any prevailing rate employee described in section 5342(a)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code—

(A) during the period from the date of expiration of the limitation imposed by the comparable section for previous fiscal years until the normal effective date of the applicable wage survey adjustment that is to take effect in fiscal year 2015, in an amount that exceeds the rate payable for the applicable grade and step of the applicable wage schedule in accordance with such section; and

(B) during the period consisting of the remainder of fiscal year 2015, in an amount that exceeds, as a result of a wage survey adjustment, the rate payable under subparagraph (A) by more than the sum of—

(i) the percentage adjustment taking effect in fiscal year 2015 under section 5303 of title 5, United States Code, in the rates of pay under the General Schedule; and

(ii) the difference between the overall average percentage of the locality-based comparability payments taking effect in fiscal year 2015 under section 5304 of such title (whether by adjustment or otherwise), and the overall average percentage of such payments which was effective in the previous fiscal year under such section.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no prevailing rate employee described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 5342(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, and no employee covered by section 5348 of such title, may be paid during the periods for which paragraph (1) is in effect at a rate that exceeds the rates that would be payable under paragraph (1) were paragraph (1) applicable to such employee.

(3) For the purposes of this subsection, the rates payable to an employee who is covered by this subsection and who is paid from a schedule not in existence on September 30, 2014, shall be determined under regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rates of premium pay for employees subject to this subsection may not be changed from the rates in effect on September 30, 2014, except to the extent determined by the Office of Personnel Management to be consistent with the purpose of this subsection.

(5) This subsection shall apply with respect to pay for service performed after September 30, 2014.

(6) For the purpose of administering any provision of law (including any rule or regulation that provides premium pay, retirement, life insurance, or any other employee benefit) that requires any deduction or contribution, or that imposes any requirement or limitation on the basis of a rate of salary or basic pay, the rate of salary or basic pay payable after the application of this subsection shall be treated as the rate of salary or basic pay.

(7) Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to permit or require the payment to

any employee covered by this subsection at a rate in excess of the rate that would be payable were this subsection not in effect.

(8) The Office of Personnel Management may provide for exceptions to the limitations imposed by this subsection if the Office determines that such exceptions are necessary to ensure the recruitment or retention of qualified employees.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the adjustment in rates of basic pay for the statutory pay systems that take place in fiscal year 2015 under sections 5344 and 5348 of title 5, United States Code, shall be—

(1) not less than the percentage received by employees in the same location whose rates of basic pay are adjusted pursuant to the statutory pay systems under sections 5303 and 5304 of title 5, United States Code: *Provided*, That prevailing rate employees at locations where there are no employees whose pay is increased pursuant to sections 5303 and 5304 of title 5, United States Code, and prevailing rate employees described in section 5343(a)(5) of title 5, United States Code, shall be considered to be located in the pay locality designated as “Rest of United States” pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, for purposes of this subsection; and

(2) effective as of the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning after September 30, 2014.

SEC. 738. (a) The Vice President may not receive a pay raise in calendar year 2015, notwithstanding the rate adjustment made under section 104 of title 3, United States Code, or any other provision of law.

(b) An employee serving in an Executive Schedule position, or in a position for which the rate of pay is fixed by statute at an Executive Schedule rate, may not receive a pay rate increase in calendar year 2015, notwithstanding schedule adjustments made under section 5318 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, except as provided in subsection (g), (h), or (i). This subsection applies only to employees who are holding a position under a political appointment.

(c) A chief of mission or ambassador at large may not receive a pay rate increase in calendar year 2015, notwithstanding section 401 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-465) or any other provision of law, except as provided in subsection (g), (h), or (i).

(d) Notwithstanding sections 5382 and 5383 of title 5, United States Code, a pay rate increase may not be received in calendar year 2015 (except as provided in subsection (g), (h), or (i)) by—

(1) a noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service paid a rate of basic pay at or above level IV of the Executive Schedule; or

(2) a limited term appointee or limited emergency appointee in the Senior Executive Service serving under a political appointment and paid a rate of basic pay at or above level IV of the Executive Schedule.

(e) Any employee paid a rate of basic pay (including any locality-based payments under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, or similar authority) at or above level IV of the Executive Schedule who serves under a political appointment may not receive a pay rate increase in calendar year 2015, notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in subsection (g), (h), or (i). This subsection does not apply to employees in the General Schedule pay system or the Foreign Service pay system, or to employees appointed under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, or to employees in another pay system whose position would be

classified at GS-15 or below if chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, applied to them.

(f) Nothing in subsections (b) through (e) shall prevent employees who do not serve under a political appointment from receiving pay increases as otherwise provided under applicable law.

(g) A career appointee in the Senior Executive Service who receives a Presidential appointment and who makes an election to retain Senior Executive Service basic pay entitlements under section 3392 of title 5, United States Code, is not subject to this section.

(h) A member of the Senior Foreign Service who receives a Presidential appointment to any position in the executive branch and who makes an election to retain Senior Foreign Service pay entitlements under section 302(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-465) is not subject to this section.

(i) Notwithstanding subsections (b) through (e), an employee in a covered position may receive a pay rate increase upon an authorized movement to a different covered position with higher-level duties and a pre-established higher level or range of pay, except that any such increase must be based on the rates of pay and applicable pay limitations in effect on December 31, 2013.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for an individual who is newly appointed to a covered position during the period of time subject to this section, the initial pay rate shall be based on the rates of pay and applicable pay limitations in effect on December 31, 2013.

(k) If an employee affected by subsections (b) through (e) is subject to a biweekly pay period that begins in calendar year 2015 but ends in calendar year 2016, the bar on the employee's receipt of pay rate increases shall apply through the end of that pay period.

SEC. 739. (a) The head of any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this or any other appropriations Act shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period—

(1) a description of the purpose of the conference;

(2) the number of participants attending each conference;

(3) a detailed statement of the costs to the government for the conference, including—

(A) the cost of any food or beverages;

(B) the cost of any audio-visual services;

(C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and

(D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and

(4) a description of the contracting procedures used, including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Not later than 15 days after the date of a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this or any other appropria-

tions Act during fiscal year 2015 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000, the head of any such department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending such conference.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this or any other appropriations Act may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference described in subsection (c) that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012.

SEC. 740. None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used to increase, eliminate, or reduce funding for a program, project, or activity as proposed in the President's budget request for a fiscal year until such proposed change is subsequently enacted in an appropriation Act, or unless such change is made pursuant to the reprogramming or transfer provisions of this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 741. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any title other than title IV or VIII shall not apply to such title IV or VIII.

VIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 801. There are appropriated from the applicable funds of the District of Columbia such sums as may be necessary for making refunds and for the payment of legal settlements or judgments that have been entered against the District of Columbia government.

SEC. 802. None of the Federal funds provided in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes or implementation of any policy including boycott designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress or any State legislature.

SEC. 803. (a) None of the Federal funds provided under this Act to the agencies funded by this Act, both Federal and District government agencies, that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2015, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditures for an agency through a reprogramming of funds which—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or responsibility center;

(3) establishes or changes allocations specifically denied, limited or increased under this Act;

(4) increases funds or personnel by any means for any program, project, or responsibility center for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(5) re-establishes any program or project previously deferred through reprogramming;

(6) augments any existing program, project, or responsibility center through a reprogramming of funds in excess of \$3,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) increases by 20 percent or more personnel assigned to a specific program, project or responsibility center, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(b) The District of Columbia government is authorized to approve and execute reprogramming and transfer requests of local funds under this title through November 7, 2015.

SEC. 804. None of the Federal funds provided in this Act may be used by the District of Columbia to provide for salaries, expenses, or other costs associated with the offices of United States Senator or United States Representative under section 4(d) of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiatives of 1979 (D.C. Law 3-171; sec. 1-123, D.C. Official Code).

SEC. 805. Except as otherwise provided in this section, none of the funds made available by this Act or by any other Act may be used to provide any officer or employee of the District of Columbia with an official vehicle unless the officer or employee uses the vehicle only in the performance of the officer's or employee's official duties. For purposes of this section, the term "official duties" does not include travel between the officer's or employee's residence and workplace, except in the case of—

(1) an officer or employee of the Metropolitan Police Department who resides in the District of Columbia or is otherwise designated by the Chief of the Department;

(2) at the discretion of the Fire Chief, an officer or employee of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department who resides in the District of Columbia and is on call 24 hours a day or is otherwise designated by the Fire Chief;

(3) the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(4) the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia;

(5) at the discretion of the Chief Medical Examiner, an employee of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner who resides in the District and is on call 24 hours a day or is otherwise designated by the Chief Medical Examiner;

(6) at the discretion of the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, an officer or employee of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency who resides in the District and is on call 24 hours a day or is otherwise designated by the Director; and

(7) at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Corrections, an officer or employee of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections who resides in the District of Columbia and is on call 24 hours a day or is otherwise designated by the Director.

SEC. 806. (a) None of the Federal funds contained in this Act may be used by the District of Columbia Attorney General or any other officer or entity of the District government to provide assistance for any petition drive or civil action which seeks to require Congress to provide for voting representation in Congress for the District of Columbia.

(b) Nothing in this section bars the District of Columbia Attorney General from reviewing or commenting on briefs in private lawsuits, or from consulting with officials of the District government regarding such lawsuits.

SEC. 807. None of the Federal funds contained in this Act may be used for any program of distributing sterile needles or syringes for the hypodermic injection of any illegal drug.

SEC. 808. Nothing in this Act may be construed to prevent the Council or Mayor of the District of Columbia from addressing the issue of the provision of contraceptive coverage by health insurance plans, but it is the intent of Congress that any legislation enacted on such issue should include a "conscience clause" which provides exceptions for religious beliefs and moral convictions.

SEC. 809. (a) None of the Federal funds contained in this Act may be used to enact or carry out any law, rule, or regulation to legalize or otherwise reduce penalties associated with the possession, use, or distribution of any schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) or any tetrahydrocannabinols derivative for any purpose.

(b) None of the funds contained in this Act may be used to enact or carry out any law, rule, or regulation to legalize or otherwise reduce penalties associated with the possession, use, or distribution of any schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) or any tetrahydrocannabinols derivative for recreational purposes.

SEC. 810. None of the funds appropriated under this Act shall be expended for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

SEC. 811. (a) No later than 30 calendar days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Mayor, and the Council of the District of Columbia, a revised appropriated funds operating budget in the format of the budget that the District of Columbia government submitted pursuant to section 442 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (D.C. Official Code, sec. 1-204.42), for all agencies of the District of Columbia government for fiscal year 2015 that is in the total amount of the approved appropriation and that realigns all budgeted data for personal services and other-than-personal services, respectively, with anticipated actual expenditures.

(b) This section shall apply only to an agency for which the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia certifies that a reallocation is required to address unanticipated changes in program requirements.

SEC. 812. No later than 30 calendar days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Mayor, and the Council for the District of Columbia, a revised appropriated funds operating budget for the District of Columbia Public Schools that aligns schools budgets to actual enrollment. The revised appropriated funds budget shall be in the format of the budget that the District of Columbia government submitted pursuant to section 442 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (D.C. Official Code, Sec. 1-204.42).

SEC. 813. (a) Amounts appropriated in this Act as operating funds may be transferred to the District of Columbia's enterprise and capital funds and such amounts, once transferred, shall retain appropriation authority consistent with the provisions of this Act.

(b) The District of Columbia government is authorized to reprogram or transfer for operating expenses any local funds transferred or reprogrammed in this or the four prior fiscal years from operating funds to capital funds, and such amounts, once transferred or reprogrammed, shall retain appropriation author-

ity consistent with the provisions of this Act.

(c) The District of Columbia government may not transfer or reprogram for operating expenses any funds derived from bonds, notes, or other obligations issued for capital projects.

SEC. 814. None of the Federal funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 815. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law or under this Act, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2015 from appropriations of Federal funds made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2015 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2016, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided*, That a request shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further*, That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines outlined in section 803 of this Act.

SEC. 816. (a) During fiscal year 2016, during a period in which neither a District of Columbia continuing resolution or a regular District of Columbia appropriation bill is in effect, local funds are appropriated in the amount provided for any project or activity for which local funds are provided in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015 as submitted to Congress (subject to any modifications enacted by the District of Columbia as of the beginning of the period during which this subsection is in effect) at the rate set forth by such Act.

(b) Appropriations made by subsection (a) shall cease to be available—

(1) during any period in which a District of Columbia continuing resolution for fiscal year 2016 is in effect; or

(2) upon the enactment into law of the regular District of Columbia appropriation bill for fiscal year 2016.

(c) An appropriation made by subsection (a) is provided under the authority and conditions as provided under this Act and shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by this Act.

(d) An appropriation made by subsection (a) shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for such project or activity during the portion of fiscal year 2016 for which this section applies to such project or activity.

(e) This section shall not apply to a project or activity during any period of fiscal year 2016 if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such project or activity to continue for such period, or

(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such project or activity to continue for such period.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect obligations of the government of the District of Columbia mandated by other law.

SEC. 817. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in this title or in title IV shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this title or of title IV.

TITLE IX—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 901. (a) No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion or the administrative expenses in connection with a multi-State qualified health plan offered under a contract under section 1334 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 USC 18054) which provides any benefits or coverage for abortions.

(b) The provision of subsection (a) shall not apply where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

The Acting CHAIR. Are there any amendments to that portion of the bill?

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 902. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN MARSHALL HANSON

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize retired Captain Marshall Hanson, United States Navy, who suddenly passed away last week at the age of 63.

I worked closely with Captain Hanson in his role as the director of legislation and military policy at the Reserve Officers Association. I know that so many of his friends and colleagues share my sentiments when I say that we have lost a tireless advocate of America's Reservists and the men and women who serve in uniform.

Captain Hanson was born in Darby, Pennsylvania, and raised in Glen Rock, New Jersey, and Seattle, Washington. A 1972 graduate of the University of Washington, he was commissioned through Naval ROTC. Later, he earned an MBA from the University of Washington and graduated with distinction from the Naval War College.

Captain Hanson served 3 years in Active Duty and 27 years in the Naval Re-

serve, retiring in August 2002, before continuing his service to those in uniform through his advocacy on Capitol Hill.

I offer my thoughts and prayers to Captain Hanson's family and loved ones. May he rest in peace.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a health issue in the family.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GALLEG0 (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of funeral in district.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1376. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 360 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 1813. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6379. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Continuation of Conservation Reserve Program, Including Transition Incentives Program received June 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6380. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Application of "Security-Based Swap Dealer" and "Major Security-Based Swap Participant" Definitions to Cross-Border Security-Based Swap Activities [Release No.: 34-72472; File No.: S7-02-13] (RIN: 3235-AL25) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6381. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities, Requirement, and Definitions; Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Program [Docket ID: ED-2013-OESE-0159; CFDA Number: 84.215G] received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6382. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation (RIN: 1210-AB61) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6383. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonably Available Control Technology Update to Address Control Techniques Guidelines Issued in 2006, 2007, and 2008 [EPA-R01-OAR-2010-0460; A-1-FRL-9904-73-Region 1] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6384. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems [EPA-R01-OAR-2013-0509; A-1-FRL-9909-99-Region 1] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6385. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Approval of Revisions to the Jefferson County Portion of the Kentucky SIP; Emissions During Startups, Shutdowns, and Malfunctions [EPA-R04-OAR-2013-0272; FRL-9911-96-Region 4] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6386. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flutriafof; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0654 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0655; FRL-9910-38] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6387. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0384; FRL-9911-17] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6388. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sodium bisulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0922; FRL-9910-50] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6389. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Spirodiclofen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0411; FRL-

9910-52] received June 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6390. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Monongahela River; Pittsburgh, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0231] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6391. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Waiver of Citizenship Requirements for Crewmembers on Commercial Fishing Vessels [Docket No.: USCG-2010-0625] (RIN: 1625-AB50) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6392. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Petaluma River Closure for Highway Widening, Petaluma River, Petaluma, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0311] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6393. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; ODBA Draggin' on the Waccamaw, Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Bucksport, SC [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0097] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6394. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cincinnati Reds Fireworks Displays Ohio River, Mile 470.1-470.4; Cincinnati, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0080] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6395. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Village West Marina 4th of July Fireworks Display, Fourteenmile Slough, Stockton, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0307] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6396. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Vallejo 4th of July Fireworks, Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0394] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6397. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; Morehead City, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0155] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6398. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Previously Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0984; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-022-AD; Amendment 39-17859; AD 2014-11-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to

5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 4197. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-519, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CAMP: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5021. A bill to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-520 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 669. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5021) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the High Trust Fund, and for other purposes (Rept. 113-521). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4197 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5093. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting the marketing of firearms to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5094. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup certain bonuses or awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. RIGELL):

H.R. 5095. A bill to mandate all Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives to complete annual ethics training conducted by the Committee on Ethics; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5096. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal

criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5097. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow certain veterans to participate in the Patient-Centered Community Care program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5098. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily exempt from the employer health insurance mandate certain Medicare and Medicaid providers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5099. A bill to amend the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act to remove the National Security Agency from the list of the entities consulted during the development of information systems standards and guidelines; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 5100. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to report revenue generated by each sports team, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 5101. A bill to establish a National Freight Network Trust Fund to improve the performance of the national freight network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5102. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the requirement for employer disclosure of information on health care coverage of employees who are Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 5103. A bill to impose sanctions on Chinese state-owned enterprises and any person who is a member of the board of directors, an executive officer, or a senior official of a Chinese state-owned enterprise for benefiting from cyber and economic espionage against the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 5104. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a demonstration program to enter into budget-neutral, performance-based contracts for energy and water conservation improvements for multifamily residential units; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TERRY (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 5105. A bill to direct the Attorney General to report to Congress on the number of aliens unlawfully present in the United States who appear and fail to appear before immigration judges for proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERA of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUNES, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 5106. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the "Philmore Graham Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KAPTUR, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FARR, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. HAHN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SE-

WELL of Alabama, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.J. Res. 119. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. GIBSON):

H. Res. 668. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Community Development Block Grant program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

243. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of the 307th Red House Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

244. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 340 urging the Congress and the President to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

245. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Illinois, relative to Senate Resolution No. 1124 urging the Congress and the President to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

246. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 7 opposing the FDA's proposed Produce Rule and the Adoption of any numeric water quality standard for irrigation water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

247. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 77 supporting the Hawaii Food and Wine Festival; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

248. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 urging the Congress to take action to support, establish or construct a national museum recognizing atrocities against American Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

249. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 urging Congress to provide permanent multiyear funding for the Payment In Lieu of Taxes program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

250. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 21 regarding the sovereign character of Payment in Lieu of Taxes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

251. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 13 calling upon the Federal Government to honor promises that honored with all states east of Colorado and transfer title of public lands to all willing western states; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

252. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Utah, relative to

House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 regarding School and Institutional Trust Lands Exchange Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

253. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution No. 736 calling for the convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

254. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution No. 371 calling for the convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

255. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Vermont, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 27 urging the Congress to call a convention for the sole purpose of proposing amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

256. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Utah, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 recognizing February 10, 2014, as the 60th anniversary of the introduction of the legislation that added the words "Under God" to the United States Pledge of Allegiance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

257. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 8 urging the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Rules to consider House Resolution 231; to the Committee on Rules.

258. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 memorializing the Congress to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

259. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 122 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Diabetic Testing Supply Access Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

260. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 10 urging the Department of State to support the following enclosed positions in negotiations with Canada regarding any modification or future implementation of the Columbia River Treaty; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Foreign Affairs.

261. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 6 urging the Department of Health and Human Services to suspend the imposition of the PPACA taxes on the healthcare industry; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

262. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 153 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, and Science, Space, and Technology.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3 ("Congress shall have the power . . . To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes[.]").

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 1 ("[to] provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States") and 10 ("[to] define and punish. . . Offenses against the Law of Nations").

However, the Supreme Court has held that Congress's authority to legislate with respect to matters outside U.S. boundaries is based on national sovereignty in foreign affairs and, consequently, is not limited by the enumerated powers delegated to Congress. For example, in *United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp.* (1936), the Supreme Court ruled that the "broad statement that the federal government can exercise no powers except those specifically enumerated in the Constitution, and such implied powers as are necessary and proper to carry into effect the enumerated powers, is categorically true only in respect of our internal affairs."

On March 30, 2011, in *United States v. Brehm*, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia upheld the constitutionality of the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA, on which the current legislation is modeled), on this basis.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 5097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 5099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 5100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the author-

ity to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper" to provide for the "general Welfare" of Americans. In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96-88), Congress declared that "the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively." The Department of Education's mission is to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 5101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 5102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER:

H.R. 5103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 5104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Welfare Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1); Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3)

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 5105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 4, granting Congress the authority "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, . . ."

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 5106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power...to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.J. Res. 119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention

for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 182: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 318: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 351: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 401: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 460: Mr. COSTA and Mr. HALL.
H.R. 533: Mr. TIPTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 543: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 851: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 871: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 872: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 873: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 988: Mr. COOK and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 997: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 1015: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 1148: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1179: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 1225: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1239: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1274: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1330: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1462: Mr. GARCIA and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 1620: Mr. COBLE, Mr. GOSAR, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 1640: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 1698: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1795: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1812: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 1844: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1852: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1962: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1984: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2003: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2220: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2366: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MARINO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. COLE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HALL, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. MICA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 2428: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2450: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2453: Mr. FORBES and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2591: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2594: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2602: Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 2647: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 2697: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2727: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 2801: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 2835: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 2847: Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2918: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2937: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2959: Mr. YOHO and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 3040: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3136: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 3310: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 3367: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 3374: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 3377: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3382: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3490: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 3544: Mr. COOK and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 3662: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3698: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 3708: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3709: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3712: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3723: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 3858: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 3877: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3978: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3992: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4041: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 4056: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4103: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4119: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4143: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4159: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4190: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4237: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 4251: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4272: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4276: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 4306: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 4325: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4330: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4351: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4365: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4387: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4427: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4446: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 4447: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.
H.R. 4504: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 4567: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 4577: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 4582: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4625: Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 4634: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 4659: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 4693: Mr. KEATING, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4701: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4717: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4726: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4736: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 4749: Mr. KLINE, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4750: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4781: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 4807: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4831: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4864: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4871: Mr. HURT and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4906: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4920: Mr. TERRY and Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 4960: Mr. REED, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 4971: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 4979: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 4982: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 4983: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 4984: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4988: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. YOHO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 5014: Mr. BENTIVOLIO and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 5018: Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. BARR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 5029: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 5051: Mr. WALZ, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 5052: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 5053: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. Stewart, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 5060: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CHU, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 5078: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HANNA, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 5081: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 5084: Mr. POLIS, Ms. BASS, and Mr. COSTA.
H.J. Res. 41: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.J. Res. 118: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 109: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. GOWDY.
H. Res. 456: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 522: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 525: Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H. Res. 536: Ms. KUSTER and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H. Res. 570: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 614: Mr. POSEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. YOHO, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RIBBLE.
H. Res. 620: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. LANCE.
H. Res. 622: Mr. STEWART.
H. Res. 633: Mr. YOHO.
H. Res. 644: Mr. FLEMING, Mrs. BLACK and Mr. POMPEO.
H. Res. 665: Mr. LANCE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS LIMITED, TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

The provisions of H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, do not contain any congressional earmarks limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 5021, do not contain any congressional earmarks limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 5021 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement guidance FIN-2014-G001 (relating to BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses) issued on February 14, 2014.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. MEEHAN

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to modify or rebuild any portion of the White House bowling alley, including using phenolic synthetic material.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. CAPUANO

AMENDMENT No. 3: Page 104, beginning on line 22, strike section 626.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. BACHUS

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reinstall the Red Mountain sculpture on the plaza of the Hugo Black Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. SESSIONS

AMENDMENT No. 5: Page 2, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,750,000)".

Page 152, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,750,000)".

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to confidentiality and disclosure of returns and return information).

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. LYNCH

AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 5, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,339,000)”.

Page 67, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,339,000)”.

Page 68, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

Page 68, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

Page 71, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,669,500)”.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MS. WATERS

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 85, line 19, insert after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$300,000,000)”.

Page 86, line 16, insert after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by \$300,000,000)”.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MS. WATERS

AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 104, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall collect an annual fee from investment advisers that are subject to inspection or examination by the Commission under this title to defray the cost of such inspections and examinations.

“(2) EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN STATE-REGULATED INVESTMENT ADVISERS.—No fees shall be collected under this subsection from any investment adviser that is prohibited from registering with the Commission under section 203 by reason of section 203A.

“(3) FEE AMOUNTS.—

“(A) AMOUNT TO BE COLLECTED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall seek to ensure that the aggregate amount of fees collected under this subsection with respect to a specific fiscal year are equal to the estimated cost of the Commission in carrying out additional inspections and examinations for such fiscal year.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph and with respect to a fiscal year, the term ‘additional inspections and examinations’ means those inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title for such fiscal year that exceed the number of inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title conducted during fiscal year 2012.

“(B) FEE CALCULATION FORMULA.—The Commission shall establish by rulemaking a formula for determining the fee amount to be assessed against individual investment advisers, which shall take into account the following factors:

“(1) The anticipated costs of conducting inspections and examinations of investment advisers under this title, including the anticipated frequency of such inspections and examinations.

“(ii) The investment adviser’s size, including the assets under management of the investment adviser.

“(iii) The number and type of clients of the investment adviser, and the extent to which the adviser’s clients pay other fees established by the Commission, including registration and transaction fees.

“(iv) Such other objective factors, such as risk characteristics, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(C) ADJUSTMENT OF FORMULA.—Prior to the end of each fiscal year, the Commission shall review the fee calculation formula and, if, after allowing for a period of public comment, the Commission determines that the formula needs to be revised, the Commission shall revise such formula before fees are assessed for the following fiscal year.

“(4) PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.—The Commission shall make the following information publicly available, including on the Web site of the Commission:

“(A) The formula used to determine the fee amount to be assessed against individual investment advisers, and any adjustment made to such formula.

“(B) The factors used to determine such formula, including any additional objective factors used by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (3)(B)(iv).

“(5) AUDIT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, every 2 years, conduct an audit of the use of the fees collected by the Commission under this subsection, the reviews of the formula used to calculate such fees, and any adjustments made by the Commission to such formula.

“(B) REPORT.—After conducting each audit required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall issue a report on such audit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(6) TREATMENT OF FEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall be available to the Commission, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to pay any costs associated with inspecting and examining investment advisers that are subject to inspection and examination under this title.

“(B) FUNDS NOT PUBLIC FUNDS.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall not be construed to be Government or public funds or appropriated money. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall not be subject to apportionment for the purpose of chapter 15 of title 31, United States Code, or under any other authority.

“(C) FUNDS SUPPLEMENTAL TO OTHER AMOUNTS.—Funds derived from fees assessed under this subsection shall supplement, and be in addition to, any other amounts available to the Commission, under a regular appropriation or otherwise, for the purpose described in subparagraph (A).”.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays on July 8, 2014, I was absent from votes in the House. I, therefore, missed rollcall votes 369 and 370. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 369 and "aye" on rollcall No. 370.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,591,098,482,428.39. We've added \$6,964,221,433,515.31 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MAGGIE MOLLOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEAD START CHILD-PARENT CENTERS, INC.

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maggie Molloy, who is retiring after 40 years as executive director of the Tucson-based Head Start Child-Parent Centers, Inc.

Maggie began her career in early childhood as an intern at Arizona State University in its early childhood center. In 1972, while working on her master's degree in early childhood education and family development, she responded to an opening for a teacher position at Child Development Centers, a Tucson-based non-profit and delegate agency for Head Start programs in Tucson.

Maggie started as education director of the program, when I served as executive director. In 1974, when I transitioned to a new position, Maggie was named executive director—a position she has held for the past four decades.

Under her leadership, Child-Parent Centers has become the largest provider of Head Start services in Southern Arizona, growing to 43 locations spread across five Arizona counties.

The agency has a sweeping vision: Strong communities filled with successful families and children. That includes a commitment to ensure that all eligible families—including the children of migrant/seasonal workers and children with disabilities—receive the education, nutrition and family support services Head Start provides.

Maggie has provided dynamic leadership for an agency that now has more than 500 employees. She leads a volunteer-based board of directors that incorporates members from the community with backgrounds in fiscal management, early childhood education and legal practices and procedures.

I am proud to recognize Maggie Molloy—a visionary leader, an enthusiastic and passionate advocate and change agent for thousands of Southern Arizona children and their families.

SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 657

HON. C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this statement is to highlight my support of House Resolution 657 which passed by unanimous consent on July 11, 2014. Had I been able to, I would have co-sponsored this resolution. I firmly support Israel's right to defend itself against the unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization. I condemn these attacks on our Israeli friends and call on Hamas to immediately cease all rocket fire and other attacks against Israel. Israel remains a vital ally of the United States in the Middle East, and it is in the best interest of both countries to maintain our cooperation and support.

HONORING JON MEIS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a young man from my district who is truly a hero. On June 5, 2014, Seattle Pacific University was faced with tragedy when a shooter opened fire in one of the university's residence halls. A student was killed, and it was only thanks to the actions of Jon Meis from Renton, Washington, that more lives were not taken.

Mr. Meis is himself a student at SPU and when he was placed in a dangerous situation, he gave no thought to his own life. Instead, he acted to protect his fellow students by pepper-

spraying and tackling the gunman, allowing the police enough time to get to campus and take control of the situation.

As a former police officer, I know just how critical Mr. Meis's actions were in apprehending the shooter and saving lives. I am so proud of this young man: for his courage, his dedication to his community, his selflessness. I am proud of the way our greater Seattle community has banded together to support the SPU community during this difficult time, and I mourn with them for the young man who died that day. As Mr. Meis himself pointed out, it takes a tragedy to make a hero. I know we all wish such an event had never taken place, but Mr. Meis ensured that further tragedy was prevented. So, once again, I thank him and I honor him.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FREIGHT NETWORK TRUST FUND ACT OF 2014

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act of 2014 to provide a guaranteed, dedicated funding source, at no additional expense to taxpayers, to serve our nation's freight movement.

The Port of Los Angeles is in my backyard and when I came to Congress, I was surprised that there was a lack of focus on ports and freight transportation in general. One of the reasons I cofounded the PORTS Caucus is to educate Members about the importance of freight transportation to our nation's economy.

We are a consumer economy. Whether it is a "mom and pop" store on the corner or a large retailer like Target, we don't think twice when we go to these stores to purchase groceries, toys, or clothing. When we go to the store, we expect that milk and the Barbie dolls are on the shelf.

We also want to ensure that goods Made in America—including manufacturing and agriculture—are able to be shipped efficiently across our nation's highways and rail to our ports for export, which is crucial to our nation's continued economic success.

Ultimately, in MAP-21—our last surface transportation bill—we were successful in including provisions to start the conversation about developing a national freight transportation network.

The problem is that today there is not enough funds to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent—let alone have the necessary investment to modernize and increase the efficiency of our freight network. That will not keep our economy global competitive as we continue progressing through the 21st Century.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For example, goods that leave the Port of Los Angeles take 48 hours to arrive in Chicago and takes 30 hours to travel across the city. This bottleneck is unacceptable and means higher costs for consumers, more congestion, more pollution, and less jobs. The bottom line is that we need to fund our nation's freight network.

If we fail to fund our ports, we will lose our competitive edge and add costs to our goods. A USDOT report, Freight Transportation: Improvements and the Economy, estimates the cost of carrying freight on the highway system at between \$25 and \$200 an hour. Unexpected delays can increase the cost of transporting goods by 50 to 250 percent.

I believe that is crucial for our nation to have a dedicated source of funding to keep our nation's freight network globally competitive. Therefore, I am introducing the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act of 2014 that would direct 5 percent of all import duties collected by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at Ports of Entry to be spent on freight transportation. This is at no new cost to a business or taxpayer as it uses the funds our CBP officials are collecting at the border as freight enters our nation.

This legislation would create the National Freight Network Trust Fund as an off-budget trust fund to only serve the roads of the National Freight Network and those roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry.

It would also create a dedicated funding source at no new cost to the public by depositing 5 percent of all import duties collected by CBP and place these funds in the National Freight Network Trust Fund. Five percent of import duties would deposit roughly \$1.9 billion in the Trust Fund every year at our current rate of imports.

The legislation would also direct the Secretary of Transportation to work in accordance with the National Freight Strategic Plan to identify improvements to the National Freight Network, on-dock rail, and roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry, which show the greatest need in providing for the movement of freight and goods across the United States. It would also provide grants at the Secretary's discretion to State, regional and local transportation authorities to make freight network improvements.

This bill will infuse billions back into the economy every year, help create good paying American jobs and keep our nation's ports strong and globally competitive.

This is a win for our ports and for our nation's economy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR FRANK WICKS

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Frank Wicks. Command Sergeant Major Wicks has served the people of New York and the United States admirably throughout his career. He will be missed.

Born in Troy, New York, Command Sergeant Major Wicks entered the Army in November 1982 and attended Basic Training in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

His assignments include the 205th Support Group, 2nd Battalion 105th Infantry, Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, Company A 204th Engineer Battalion, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, 2nd Battalion 106th Regiment, 1st Battalion 108th Infantry, Headquarters 27th Brigade Combat Team, and Headquarters 53rd Troop Command. His Command Sergeant Major assignments include 2nd Battalion 106th Regiment, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry in Utica, NY, 27th Infantry Brigade in Syracuse, NY, and the 53rd Troop Command, Valhalla, NY.

Command Sergeant Major Wicks has served in every leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major. He has also served as an Instructor at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. In October 2003, CSM Wicks mobilized and deployed as the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry and Task Force Hunter Command Sergeant Major to the Sunni Triangle, Iraq, serving as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer in the conduct of combat and stability operations of the Task Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

His military education includes all four Noncommissioned Officers Development Courses culminating in his graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy in June of 2002. Command Sergeant Major Wicks has earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from NYACK College.

Command Sergeant Major Wicks' awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal ("M" device 4th award, bronze hourglass), the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with numeral 4), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Yet, Command Sergeant Major Wicks' career is much more than a list of accolades. While those are important and serve as a testament to his knowledge, drive, and continual self-improvement, more important are the lives across New York, the United States, and the world that Command Sergeant Major Wicks has impacted for the better. On behalf of all those individuals, directly or indirectly, impacted by Command Sergeant Major Wicks throughout his career I express my deepest appreciation for his leadership and wish him and his family the best in their next endeavor.

HONORING RAYMOND HARRY
GANTZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities find their strength in the dedicated individuals who offer their time and energy to benefit the public good. For the Yonkers community, Raymond Harry Gantz personified that strength and dedication for decades.

Ray was born to Ellen White and Harry R. Gantz in 1944. Following high school and college, he spent a few years serving his country in the Naval Reserve, stationed in the Great Lakes, and started a wonderful family. After leaving the service, Ray pursued a career in sales, where his bubbly personality and gift of gab helped him sell everything from insurance to vitamins to Avon products.

Upon retiring, Ray decided to once again serve the public good by dedicating his time to several community organizations and groups in Yonkers. He served as Vice President of the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee; Board Member of the Nepperhan Community Center; Member of the Terrace City Lodge #1499 Senior Group #9; and Board Member and Advisor of Jefferson Terrace Resident Council Association.

A doting and proud grandfather, Ray could always be found with a smile on his face and a joke ready, products of his overall happy disposition. He stayed busy in retirement beyond his community work, returning in recent years to sales where he tried his hand at being a vendor at various flea markets, festivals and craft fairs.

Sadly, Ray passed away on June 7, 2014 at the age of 69, surrounded by the friends and family he loved so, all of whom he touched in some special way. Although he is gone, the legacy Ray has left and the work he did to better his community will live forever, and I am proud to honor him and his life here today.

RECOGNIZING PROPHETSTOWN,
ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Prophetstown, Illinois, on the one year anniversary of the tragic fire that destroyed over half of their historic downtown.

The massive fire destroyed eight buildings and damaged two others in a blaze that took two dozen first responders hours to put out.

While this fire was devastating, seeing the people of Prophetstown come together in its aftermath has been truly inspiring.

They rallied together behind the town slogan "Prophetstown Strong" and worked together to support the individuals and businesses who were impacted by this tragedy.

On July 15, they will again come together to recognize the first responders who saved a

woman's life one year ago and to break ground for a new building in their historic downtown.

I am honored to recognize the people of Prophetstown today and to represent them in Congress each and every day. They truly demonstrate the best of what a community can accomplish by working together.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
ROCHESTER'S LABORATORY FOR
LASER ENERGETICS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, provided \$68 million for the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE), a \$4 million increase over last year.

I strongly support this funding for LLE, which is a unique national resource and one of the crown jewels of New York State. One of two lasers at LLE, the OMEGA laser is the world's second most powerful ultraviolet fusion laser in the world. The second of LLE's lasers, the OMEGA EP (Extended Performance) laser, is a high-intensity, high-energy short-pulse laser. The LLE is a vital component of our nation's scientific capital and leadership, a key to strategic work on an independent energy future, a leader in developing innovative approaches to enhancing our national security, and a crucial part of New York's high-tech economy. It also serves as the principal laser research facility for Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

The LLE has attracted nearly \$2 billion to the State of New York and more than 1,000 individuals whose jobs are tied to the program. The laser lab also provides a strong stimulus to the local economy through start-up companies such as QED Technologies, Lucid Inc., and Sydor Instruments, fueling New York State's rapidly growing high-technology sector. Through the National Laser Users Facility, the LLE attracts as many as 300 additional scientists each year from national laboratories, universities, and companies, and continues to produce some of the best and brightest Master's and Ph.D. students.

If there's any place the Federal Government should be investing, it's in the laser lab's research programs, which create jobs through the creation of spin-off companies. The work they are doing in high energy density research is remarkable, working every day to get us closer to energy independence and enhance our national security. I am proud of the LLE's contribution to the vibrant, growing high-tech community of Rochester.

GINGER ANDENUCIO
CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ginger Andenucio, an educator from Pueblo, Colorado. After 36 years of service in Pueblo County District 70, Ms. Andenucio is retiring to spend time with her family and friends.

Ms. Andenucio has had an exemplary career as an educator and an administrator in District 70. Long before she began her career as a teacher, she was a student in the District, and after college, Ms. Andenucio was drawn to working in there. During her time in the classroom, she would teach at the elementary, middle and high school levels. After teaching for 20 years, Ms. Andenucio began working in the administration, where she was tasked with building District 70's gifted and talented program. From there, she climbed the ladder, eventually becoming the Assistant Superintendent. Under her leadership, District 70 launched programs such as Gateway to Technology, the International Baccalaureate program, and Project Lead the Way. Ms. Andenucio also led the transition to modernize classrooms by bringing laptops and Promethean boards to schools. Throughout this period, she has had one goal in mind, to create a better learning experience for the students of District 70.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Andenucio's hard work and dedication are an example to us all. I stand with the residents of Pueblo County and the students and parents of District 70 in thanking Ms. Andenucio and congratulating her on a lifetime of service. Although she is retiring from her current post, I am confident she will continue to be a valuable part of her community, and I look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TURKEY'S INVASION
OF CYPRUS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus and to call for the end to Turkey's continued and illegal occupation.

The Greek Cypriot community continues to struggle and face the denial of its fundamental human rights. Turkish troops and colonists from mainland Turkey based in the occupied area prevent thousands of Greek Cypriots from returning to their homes, and those who chose to stay in the occupied region face daily threats and discrimination. Their properties are often confiscated or sold without their consent. They face daily religious persecution, as Turkish troops restrict access to and destroy religious sites, and constrain freedom of worship.

Turkey continues to obstruct attempts to discover the fate of military and civilian personnel who have been unaccounted for since the invasion 40 years ago. Turkey has prevented the exhumation of mass graves in its restricted military areas, even under the offer of U.N. supervision.

Fortunately, Cyprus's government continues in its commitment to a U.N.-sponsored process to reach a lasting solution that would create a bizonal, bicomunal federation respectful of the human rights of all Cypriots, Greek or Turkish. Last year, President Anastasiades proposed several measures which would significantly contribute to the negotiating process, and recently, the leaders of both Cypriot communities issued a Joint Statement which lays a strong foundation for future talks. The United States has welcomed both of these developments as crucial steps toward a lasting solution. Regrettably, the Turkish government has not only rejected all of these proposals, but also exercises "gunboat diplomacy" to interfere with legal oil and gas explorations in the Cypriot Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Forty years is too long for a people to be denied their basic rights. It is too long to be separated from one's family and one's home. It is time to make Cyprus an example of reconciliation, peace, and stability for the eastern Mediterranean, and for the international community at-large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 403—"aye" (MTR) and rollcall No. 404—"no" (final passage H.R. 4718).

RECOGNIZING DR. SHAINY
VARGHESE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Shainy Varghese, an assistant professor at the University of Houston—Victoria (UHV) School of Nursing, who is a recipient of the Nurses.com Giving Excellence Meaning Award of Texas. Dr. Varghese is the first person from UHV to receive the award. Her award came in the House, Community and Ambulatory Care category. Varghese and five other Texas finalists will advance to the national contest where they will compete with nurses from other regions.

It was Dr. Varghese's community involvement that set her apart from the three other regional finalists. She started her own nurse-managed clinic, which is rare for a nurse practitioner, and gives medical care to anyone in need. This clinic has improved access to primary care in Fort Bend County. Aside from this award, Dr. Varghese was awarded the Excellence in Nursing Bronze Medal by the Good

Samaritan Foundation in 2012. She has been a permanent member of the staff at UHV since 2009 where her research specialty is telehealth.

Our community is lucky to have Dr. Varghese who is actively making a difference in our community and educating our future nurses. On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, best of luck to Dr. Varghese and congratulations on becoming a finalist for this prestigious award.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ENDING THE 40 YEAR DIVISION OF CYPRUS

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. In 1974, Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus reportedly to protect Turkish Cypriots from tensions with Greek Cypriots. Turkey then launched a second phase of the invasion which resulted in 1,500 missing Greek Cypriots, an estimated 5,000 civilian deaths and 170,000 refugees. In 1983, the Turkish Cypriot occupied area declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, though it has never been recognized by any country other than Turkey.

Currently, around 40,000 Turkish troops patrol the occupied area, making the northern part of Cyprus one of the most highly militarized areas in the world. Thousands of Greek Cypriots are being denied their fundamental right to return to their homes. Greek Cypriot properties are constantly being confiscated or sold without their owners' consent. Freedom of worship continues to be restricted as access to religious sites are blocked and systematically destroyed. Furthermore, Turkey continues to obstruct the process of determining the fate of persons missing since the invasion by prohibiting the exhumation of remains from mass graves.

Thankfully, the Cyprus Government remains fully committed to the United Nations (U.N.) sponsored process to reach a sustainable settlement that would reunify Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation in accordance with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Additionally, the President of Cyprus has outlined several promising measures that contributed an atmosphere that would facilitate the negotiating process. In February 2014, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities resumed formal negotiations. The promotion of security and stability in the region is a vital foreign policy issue to the United States, and the anniversary of the Turkish invasion should serve as a reminder that it is well past time to end the forcible division of Cyprus.

PEARLAND FORCE WINS TEXAS STATE TITLE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pearland Force softball team for winning the Texas state title in their division of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). The Pearland Force played hard and won seven consecutive games in a great display of teamwork and athleticism to win the championship tournament.

As a young fastpitch team that has already achieved so much, I'm excited to see their next accomplishments in both their community and athletic endeavors.

Congratulations to the Pearland Force coaches and players—Brent Marek, Stephanie Reyes, Pilo Garcia, Jr., Stephen Borden, Nichole Mann, Stephanie Lopez, Bayleigh Borden, Isabella Reyes, Erin Connolly, Kyla Sides, Holly Vollman, Katie Bishop, Grace Atchison, Mya Martinez and Karyme Garcia. I wish the Pearland Force the best of luck in their upcoming ASA tournaments. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to the coaches and players for this fantastic victory!

RIVERSIDE KAYAK CONNECTION RECOGNITION

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the celebrated efforts of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and in particular, its partner organization the Riverside Kayak Connection. The Riverside Kayak Connection, located in Wyandotte, Michigan, is a kayak and canoe shop that successfully launched as a result of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative which began in 1999. This Riverside Kayak Connection is co-chaired by two very dedicated and community-oriented individuals who I am proud to call my friends: Marketing Director Anita Twardesky and Extension Educator Mary Bohling.

The ultimate objective of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and its partner organization, the Riverside Kayak Connection, is to create an efficient regional pathway system that will connect the twenty-one Downriver communities, Wayne, and Monroe Counties through a network of non-motorized trails and greenways. The Riverside Kayak Connection's Detroit River tours are immensely popular among citizens in the Downriver area of Michigan and have helped to create a greater sense of awareness as to the ecological and economic opportunities that are present in and around the watershed. Both Anita Twardesky and Mary Bohling have been invaluable in leading this environmental, community-driven effort. The Co-Chairs offer a variety of services to assist communities in their greenway

and water trail efforts, including technical consultation, project management, meeting facilitation, and grant writing assistance.

Anita Twardesky is an accomplished and respected recreation and trails professional. She also serves as Public Relations & Community Outreach for Riverside Kayak Connection where she is responsible for promoting outdoor recreation, paddle sports, and the ecotourism in the area. Formerly, she served as Parks & Recreation Director for the cities of Woodhaven and Flat Rock. Her appointments include Co-Chair of the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, Chair of the Trails Committee for the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association, and member of the State Wide Advisory Group Michigan Water Trails.

Mary Bohling, besides co-chairing the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, is also Co-Founder and Board Member of the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, a non-profit organization created to support the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. She also chairs the Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council as well, developing and implementing fisheries and wildlife habitat restoration projects.

The Riverside Kayak Connection has become an essential aspect of the Downriver community's effort to promote an efficient, environmentally friendly regional system that encourages a variety of travel options. I strongly appreciate and admire the hard work and dedication that the Riverside Kayak Connection has given to my district and the Downriver community in developing and encouraging diversity of travel. Today I express my sincerest thanks to the Co-Chairs of this great organization as they continue to make our waterways and greenways a treasure for generations to come.

COMMENDING KENDALL SHEFFIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kendall Sheffield for being named the 2013–14 Gatorade Texas Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Kendall will be a senior at Thurgood Marshall High School in Missouri City, Texas this fall. This prestigious award recognizes Kendall both for being an outstanding student, as well as the top high school boys track & field athlete in all of Texas.

His track records place him in the top five high school showing of 2014, winning the 110-meter high hurdles (13.63 seconds) and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles (36.34 seconds) at this spring's 4A state meet. Kendall is also an asset in his community. He maintains a B average, is a member of the football team, is active in his church and volunteers with the elderly in his community and the local food bank.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Kendall Sheffield for winning the 2013–14 Gatorade Texas Boys Track &

Field Athlete of the Year. We look forward to his continued success on and off the field.

HONORING ABBVIE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL STUDENTS FROM THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am most proud to rise today to honor AbbVie, a leading global biopharmaceutical company based in Illinois's 10th District, for its incredible commitment to enhance the educational opportunities available to local students in its hometown, the City of North Chicago.

In today's economy, education is a prerequisite for success, providing students with the tools and skillsets they need to climb the ladder of opportunity, realize their potential and accomplish their ambitions. We must dedicate ourselves to providing all children, regardless of zip code, with access to high-quality, affordable education so that they may fully develop their individual talents.

AbbVie recently launched its inaugural "Week of Possibilities," a volunteer service initiative focused on helping revitalize the City of North Chicago. Working alongside its nonprofit partner, Heart of America Foundation, AbbVie hopes to transform four North Chicago School libraries with innovative new layouts and refurbished interiors.

In addition, each library will receive nearly 2,000 new books and high-tech new equipment, including iPads. On the first day of school, all of the students will go home with seven new books of their own.

This effort shows the tremendous impact that successful businesses and business leaders can have by giving back to their local communities. Thanks to AbbVie's outstanding commitment to service, more children will have the opportunity to pursue their passions and achieve their dreams.

CONGRATULATING PEARLAND ISD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taresa Jacobsen of Lawhon Elementary and Mark Lesmeister of Dawson High School for winning Pearland Independent School District's 2014 Teachers of the Year.

Mrs. Jacobsen has been a teacher for seven years, spending her last four at Lawhon Elementary. She has been a great asset for her students and works hard to keep their parents aware of their children's progress in the classroom. She takes the time to get to know her students well and incorporates that knowledge in her teaching.

Mr. Lesmeister joined the Dawson High School faculty in 2008 and is helping to design the physics program. Thanks to his passion for teaching, he encourages many of his students to consider a career in teaching themselves and strongly believes students should graduate with a scientific understanding in order to make rational decisions.

I wish Mrs. Jacobsen and Mr. Lesmeister the best of luck in their teaching careers and thank them both for going above and beyond for their students. Great teachers help develop future leaders. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Taresa Jacobsen and Mark Lesmeister for their commitment to teaching and for earning the Pearland ISD 2014 Teachers of the Year!

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold a joint hearing to examine options for assuring domestic space access.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine what makes a bank systemically important.

SD-538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert W. Holleyman II, of Louisiana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Cary Douglas Pugh, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the Protocol Amending the Convention be-

tween the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990 (Treaty Doc. 113-04), The Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Poland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 13, 2013, at Warsaw (Treaty Doc. 113-05), H.R. 4028, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom, S. 2577, to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014, S. Res. 498, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization, S. Res. 500, expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to enhanced relations with the Republic of Moldova and support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity, and the nominations of Alfonso E. Lenhardt, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank.

S-116

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine challenges at the border, focusing on examining and addressing the root of the causes behind the rise in apprehensions at the Southern Border.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of Veterans' Affairs health care.

SD-G50

2:15 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine phone scams, focusing on progress and potential solutions.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine strengthening trade enforcement to protect American enterprise and grow American jobs.

SD-138

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine consumer choice, consolidation and the future video marketplace.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of the Interior's land buy-back program.

SD-628

3 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine S. 571, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes, S. 1153, to establish an improved regulatory process for injurious wildlife to prevent the introduction and establishment in the United States of nonnative wildlife and wild animal pathogens and parasites that are likely to cause harm, S. 1175, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program to provide loans and loan guarantees to enable eligible public entities to acquire interests in real property that are in compliance with habitat conservation plans approved by the Secretary of the Interior under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, S. 1202, to establish an integrated Federal program to respond to ongoing and expected impacts of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, restoring, and conserving the natural resources of the United States, and to maximize government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments and other entities, S. 1232, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes, H.R. 1300, to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer programs and community partnerships for the benefit of national wildlife refuges, S. 1381, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, S. 1650, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaska Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, S. 2225, to provide for a smart water resource management pilot program, S. 2530, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or exportation of mussels of certain genus, and S. 2560, to authorize the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to seek compensation for injuries to trust resources and use those funds to restore, replace, or acquire equivalent resources.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reenergizing United States-India ties.

SD-419

JULY 17

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.,

USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Pamela Pepper, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Brenda K. Sannes, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, and Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, and Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance

To hold hearings to examine accountability and corporate culture in wake of the General Motors (GM) recalls.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the role of trade and technology in 21st century manufacturing.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Central America in crisis and the exodus of unaccompanied minors.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine the need to improve patient safety and reduce preventable deaths.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Defense.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Federal reserve portfolio, focusing on capitalizing on investments in research and development.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and David Pressman, of New York, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs

in the United Nations, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine abuse of structured financial products, focusing on misusing barrier options to avoid taxes and leverage limits, including a set of transactions that utilize financial engineering and structured financial products.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine anti-semitism, racism and discrimination in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, including xenophobia, discrimination against Christians, and members of other religions, and intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

SD-562

JULY 23

10 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine S. 2516, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, focusing on the need for expanded public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence Federal elections.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine empowering women entrepreneurs, focusing on understanding successes, addressing persistent challenges, and identifying new opportunities.

SH-216

JULY 30

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine responses to natural disasters in Indian country.

SD-628

SENATE—Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we wait expectantly for You to bring order from our world's chaos. Empower our lawmakers today to contribute harmony to our Nation and world by living with purity. Make their thoughts and desires so pure that they can bear Your scrutiny. Make their words so pure that You delight to hear them. Make their deeds so pure that You find joy in seeing them. And because of their pure thoughts, desires, words, and deeds, may our Senators possess such pure hearts that they will see You.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, there will be a period of morning business until 12 noon today, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half.

At 12 noon today the Senate will proceed to executive session and to a se-

ries of two rollcall votes on the following nominations: cloture on Norman C. Bay to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and cloture on Cheryl A. LaFleur to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Following the second vote, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings. If cloture is invoked on either of the nominations, the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 3 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on confirmation of the two nominations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2599
AND H.R. 4718

Mr. President, it is my understanding that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2599) to stop exploitation through trafficking.

A bill (H.R. 4718) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to both of these bills.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

FERC NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, later today, as I have just mentioned, the Senate will hold two rollcall votes to confirm nominations to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—Norman Bay and Cheryl LaFleur.

I am aware of the important nature of these two nominations, and I realize that their confirmations have significant consequences.

Upon her confirmation, Cheryl LaFleur will remain at the FERC as chair for 9 months. Following that period of time, Norman Bay will then assume the position of FERC chair.

I appreciate very much the work done by a number of Senators to get us to the point where we are. The chair of the energy committee, Senator MARY LANDRIEU, has done really hard work, and it has been a bipartisan effort to move these nominations forward.

I have been assured by both nominees that the issue which the Wall Street Journal editorialized about yesterday—and they called it “the federal takeover of New York's electric grid”—will be addressed. I have spoken to both nominees, and they will take a hard

look at that. When it came out yesterday, I directed attention to that, and that will be addressed by both of them, and they have said so.

HOBBY LOBBY DECISION

Mr. President, last week my friend, the Republican leader, essentially declared victory for American women in their struggle for equality by saying:

We've come a long way in pay equity and there are a ton of women CEO's now running major companies. . . . I could be wrong, but I think most of the barriers [for American women] have been lowered.

The Republican leader seems to be suggesting the obstacles preventing women from receiving equal treatment under the law have been conquered—the struggle for equality for women is over.

The only things missing from the Republican leader's declaration would be an aircraft carrier and a large “MISSION ACCOMPLISHED” sign hanging in the background. We all remember that. Remember, that was President Bush declaring the war in Iraq was basically over. Well, it was not. And the war regarding women is not over.

The Republican leader suggested that the notion of ensuring equal rights for American women is tantamount to “preferential treatment.” That was his opinion. That is as shocking as it is troubling.

The truth is, regardless of what Republicans in Congress may say, the barriers of inequality for American women are very real and very substantial. Take this as an example. There are many examples, but let's try this one: The Republican leader mentioned pay equity. American women are paid an average of 77 cents for every \$1 their male colleagues make for doing the exact same work. It is not fair. But instead of working with Senate Democrats to give working women a fair shot at equal pay for equal work, Republicans refuse to even let the legislation be debated. This was one of their multitude of filibusters.

The Republican leader also spoke of the growing number of women CEOs at major companies. Now try this one on: Currently, among Fortune Magazine's listing of the 500 top companies in the world, there are 24 chief executives who are women. That is 4.8 percent of all the CEOs in the Fortune 500. If anyone believes—including my friend, the Republican leader—that fewer than 1 in 20 is good enough, this perfectly illustrates the Republicans' antiquated beliefs concerning working women and American women in general.

But perhaps the most disturbing reminder of the inequality barriers that

women face is the Supreme Court's recent Hobby Lobby decision. Just a few weeks ago, five men on the U.S. Supreme Court gave corporate bosses the right to interfere with their employees' decisions about birth control.

In its Hobby Lobby decision, those five Justices ruled that for-profit companies can assert religious objections to deny their employees—who may not share their same religious views—the contraceptive coverage required by law. That is what the Court said.

The Court's decision was stunningly wrong. The Court's misguided decision effectively takes away the right of American women to decide their own health care, instead empowering boardrooms to make final decisions on their employees' access to birth control.

How is it possible that in the 21st century we are debating whether or not bosses should be able to dictate their employees' family planning? It is 2014. It is not 1906 or 1907 or 1915.

Health coverage is a form of payment or compensation for employees.

There is a strike going on in New York—they are going to start Monday, I am told—for the largest short-haul railroad. Mr. President, 300,000 people ride that every day. What is the big sticking point? It is health care. Health care is a big deal to everybody. Health care is a form of payment or compensation for employees. Should employers' religious beliefs be able to dictate how you spend your paycheck and your days off? Of course not. So why would we let bosses decide something so personal and so private as the use of contraceptives?

Last week Senators PATTY MURRAY and MARK UDALL introduced the Not My Boss's Business Act to fix the Hobby Lobby decision. This legislation would make it illegal for any company to deny their workers specific health benefits, including birth control, as required by Federal law.

The Murray-Udall bill preserves the exemption for houses of worship and the accommodation for religious nonprofits that have religious objections to contraceptive coverage.

The decision to use birth control is private—and it should be—and it should not be subject to the personal or religious beliefs of some corporate boss; otherwise, where is it going to end? As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated in her dissenting opinion:

Would the exemption . . . extend to employers with religiously grounded objections to blood transfusions; antidepressants; medications derived from pigs—

And there are medications derived from swine that help people get well—including anesthesia, intravenous fluids, and pills coated with gelatin; and vaccinations?

That is what Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said.

As Justice Ginsburg points out, the Court's decision is a very, very slippery slope. It opens the door to endless pos-

sibilities in which corporate boardrooms trump employees' health coverage.

That is why I support this bill, which clearly establishes a woman's right to quality health care. By passing the Not My Boss's Business Act, the U.S. Senate can knock down a significant barrier to women's equality. Regardless of what Republicans in Congress will tell you, we have a long, long way to go before American women are equal in all aspects of the law, as they should be.

The bill before us is a step in the right direction. It will help undo the damage done by the Supreme Court. But, more importantly, the Not My Boss's Business Act will help ensure American women have access to the health coverage they need and deserve and should be entitled to by law.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we hear the President is planning to spend the week calling for Congress to pass highway funding legislation that Congress is already planning to pass. It seems odd for the President to be focusing so intently on something that is inevitable while ignoring other issues that really should be addressed—issues such as ObamaCare.

So many middle-class families in my State and across the country continue to suffer from the impact of this law. One thing that becomes increasingly clear with each passing day is the extent—the extent—to which ObamaCare is particularly hard on women.

Research shows that women make about 80 percent of the health care decisions for their families in our country. Yet ObamaCare has caused countless women to lose the health care plans they had and liked. When these women first spoke out about the betrayal they felt when they lost their plans, many of the law's supporters simply waved their concerns away or said they were making it up. They said they were lying or that their plans were “junk”—because, of course, the critics knew better. It is a pattern that seems to have continued ever since.

American women also now have fewer choices of doctors and hospitals under ObamaCare. The bill's supporters have continually waived those concerns aside too.

Millions of Americans use flexible spending accounts to pay for out-of-pocket health care expenses. But ObamaCare imposes arbitrary limits on how much of a family's own hard-earned money can be set aside, and the law also prevents people who have come to depend on FSAs from using them to pay for common expenses such as allergy medicine or cold medication.

ObamaCare's cuts to Medicare Advantage and other regulatory actions could reduce the average benefit for

women and men who rely on this program by more than \$1,500 a year. Concerns such as these are all simply brushed aside by ObamaCare's supporters.

Washington should also be looking for ways to grow economic opportunities for women, but ObamaCare, of course, does just the opposite. I have heard from businesses large and small in Kentucky that fear they will not be able to cope with the higher costs of coverage under ObamaCare. They do not want to cut hours for their staffs or eliminate jobs, but many may no longer really have a choice.

Many of them are worried about new mandates that place millions of Americans—nearly two-thirds of them women—at risk of having their hours and wages reduced. One of my constituents from Somerset recently wrote to tell me what this new ObamaCare mandate has meant for her.

I'm employed at a major chain putting these rules into effect now. This is causing us to lose up to eleven hours per week averaging \$440.00 . . . [less] per month less in wages. Obamacare [is] causing us to lose hours [and] lose wages, yet expecting us to spend more.

Let me repeat that. She says ObamaCare is causing her to lose hundreds of dollars a month in lost wages and at the same time causing health care costs to skyrocket. This is simply not right.

Yet despite these terrible stories that keep pouring into our offices, the people who supported this law when it passed continue to defend it now. We kept warning them that ObamaCare would hurt jobs and increase costs. They had to know ObamaCare was going to reduce choices for women and limit their access to certain doctors and hospitals. But Washington Democrats voted for ObamaCare anyway. They created these problems. That is why they should be working with Republicans now to start over with real, patient-centered reform that lowers costs and that women and men in this country actually want, but of course they refuse. They are just doubling down on ObamaCare.

Now they are trying to convince people of another untruth—that somehow it is not possible to preserve our Nation's long tradition of tolerance and respect for people of faith while at the same time preserving a woman's ability to make her own decisions about contraception. Washington Democrats are doing this based on a claim that, in the words of the Washington Post's nonpartisan Fact Checker, is “simply wrong.”

I realize Democrats may think the best way to keep people from focusing on the impact of ObamaCare on middle-class families is to just make things up and to attempt to divide us. Well, I think that is a shame. It takes a pretty dim view of what we are capable of as a country. The goal here

should not be to protect the freedoms of some while denying the freedoms of others; the goal here and always should be to preserve everybody's freedoms. We can do both. That is just what a number of us on this side are proposing to do this week. Instead of restricting Americans' religious freedoms, we should preserve a woman's ability to make contraceptive decisions for herself. That is why we plan to introduce legislation this week that says no employer can block any employee from legal access to her FDA-approved contraceptives. There is no disagreement on that fundamental point. The American people know that. They know Democrats are just attempting to offer another false choice. What we are saying is that of course you can support both religious freedom and access to contraception.

Look, if Washington Democrats really wanted to help women, they would work with us to do so. We have been imploring them to work with us to deliver relief to middle-class women for years now, to work with us on a new approach to the health care law that is hurting millions of American women. It is not too late. Work with us to increase jobs, wages, and opportunity at a time when American women are experiencing so much hardship as a result of this administration's policies—especially ObamaCare.

BAY NOMINATION

I would like to voice my opposition to the nomination of Norman Bay to be a Commissioner of and eventually lead the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. I fail to see what qualifies Mr. Bay to be Chairman of the Commission, especially when the Acting Chair of FERC, whom he would displace, is much more qualified to hold the position. Unlike most FERC Commissioners in the last decade, he has never served as a State utility regulator, he has never served on the Commission and does not possess the background in policy areas that FERC is charged with overseeing.

In contrast to Mr. Bay, the current Acting Chair of FERC, Cheryl LaFleur, is much more qualified to hold the Chair position. Ms. LaFleur came to FERC with more than two decades of experience in the electric and natural gas industries, including roles as chief operating officer, general counsel, and acting CEO of National Grid USA and its predecessor. I find it shameful that this administration would seek to displace a well-qualified woman in favor of a male nominee with less experience.

More importantly and of utmost concern to my home State, there are factors that lead us to believe Mr. Bay would reliably serve as a rubberstamp for this administration's extreme antioal agenda. This agenda harms the people of Kentucky and is one I most strenuously oppose.

As the current head of FERC's enforcement office, he has shown a his-

tory of targeting carbon-intensive businesses. Who is to say that if installed as the next head of FERC, he will not come after Kentucky businesses relying on the coal industry for electricity, which is 90 percent of my State.

Moreover, during his testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee this past May, Bay cited his home State of New Mexico as an example of a real-life "all of the above" approach to energy. He mentioned his State's reliance on solar, wind, oil, and gas for its energy mix. Notably left out of this supposed "all of the above" approach, however, was any mention of coal—which, by the way, provides 70 percent of the electricity in New Mexico.

For all of these reasons—because he is not qualified, because he holds an antioal agenda, and because he will be only too willing to implement this administration's antioal policy—I will be opposing Norman Bay's nomination to FERC. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

NOT MY BOSS'S BUSINESS ACT

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the repercussions of the Supreme Court's misguided Hobby Lobby decision which allows employers to refuse to cover employees' health plans under the false pretense that corporations can not only have religious beliefs but they can impose those beliefs on their employees.

Several days ago I was home in the great State of Colorado. I stood shoulder to shoulder with experts in women's health care who joined me to highlight how the Hobby Lobby decision is already negatively affecting women in our State.

One Denver-based OB-GYN explained how physicians might now have to consider an employer's religious beliefs when making medical recommendations. She said the Court's decision fundamentally interferes with health

care decisions that should be based solely on a patient's well-being.

Because of the Supreme Court's 5-to-4 decision, women across America are now facing the uncertainty that their bosses may restrict the health care benefits Federal law currently secures for them.

Birth control has been deemed an essential preventive health service by a nonpartisan independent group of doctors and other medical experts. Ninety-nine percent of American women have used birth control at some point in their lives. They use it for a variety of health reasons. In fact, just hours after Senator MURRAY and I introduced legislation in response to the Hobby Lobby decision, a Colorado mother called my office to share the story of how her college-age daughter was suffering from a health condition that was so debilitating that it kept her from attending class or really participating in any activities at school. As a result, her doctor prescribed a form of birth control that ended up managing her symptoms and getting her back on track. This Colorado mother wanted to make sure I knew that access to contraception is not just about birth control and that if her employer took away the contraception coverage in her family's health plan, her daughter would not have coverage for a medically necessary treatment.

Regardless of why women take birth control, none of those reasons have any connection to how they do their jobs. Their bosses have no business interfering in those decisions. But with the Court's ruling in Hobby Lobby, corporations and CEOs have been handed the right to play the role of gatekeeper for what kind of health care employees and their families can access as a part of their health insurance plan. That is not acceptable to Coloradans.

I have heard the arguments from those who say the Supreme Court's decision narrowly protects religious freedom. I think we can all agree that where religious freedoms are being threatened, we as Americans have a duty to act swiftly to address it. But the fact is that actual religious institutions are already exempt from requirements that run contrary to their beliefs. Remember, the men and women who went to work for Hobby Lobby signed up to work at a craft store, not a religious organization.

This decision, in the words of Justice Ginsburg, is one of startling breadth. In the Hobby Lobby majority opinion, the Supreme Court said its decision only applied to "closely held" corporations, but up to 90 percent of American companies are considered closely held and over half of Americans work for a closely held company. To call this decision "narrow" is as wrong as the reasoning behind it.

Contrary to what supporters of the decision are saying, this is just not

about contraceptives. We have been warned by legal experts, including Justice Ginsburg and the other three Justices who joined in her dissent, that this decision could lead to employers discriminating against women, minority groups, and others because a company's owner may object to any number of medications or procedures, such as vaccines or HIV treatment.

Just over 2 short weeks ago, before the Hobby Lobby decision, workers knew exactly what health services they had access to under their health plans. They did not need to be labor lawyers to figure out which benefits they would receive, which benefits they might be at risk of losing, or how much more they would have to pay out of pocket for prescription drugs or other critical health treatments. However, with the Hobby Lobby case, that has all changed.

Supporters of the Hobby Lobby decision want women to believe this is not a big deal. But let me be clear. This has the potential to change health coverage for millions of women. I am not—along with millions of Americans—going to stand for this kind of discrimination. I trust women to make their own health care decisions. I do not believe their employers should have a say in that. Through their hard work and insurance premiums, women have earned and already paid for coverage that includes copay-free contraception under Federal law. Health insurance is a part of their compensation packages. There is nothing free about it; they have earned it.

Not only does this case wedge bosses into private health care decisions, it unfairly burdens hard-working women, ignoring the fact that contraception can be crucial to women and families' economic success. The ability to decide when, how, and with whom to have a family is critical to the health and economic security of women and their families.

The Supreme Court even stated this in its opinion in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992. I wish to quote the Supreme Court from 1992:

The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.

That is what the Court said in 1992.

Today many employees are left wondering if that economic freedom is in jeopardy. Women are left to ask their bosses whether they will continue to cover their birth control—a topic of conversation which women should never be forced to bring up at work, an issue which is certainly not a boss's business.

Throughout my time in Congress I have long believed we all have the fundamental right to live our lives as we choose, free from needless intrusion, whether by the government, by bureaucrats, or by corporations and CEOs, and

certainly free from intrusion by politicians. Indeed, a woman should be free to make her own health decisions based on what is right for her and her family, not according to her employer's religious beliefs.

So the reason I am standing here today is to make very clear that this type of intrusion will not stand. I am proud to lead the effort with Senator MURRAY to ensure that employers cannot refuse to cover health services guaranteed to women under Federal law.

Our bill, the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act, would restore a woman's power to make personal health care decisions based on what is best for her and her family, free from corporate interference. I invite my colleagues of both parties to join this effort, and I thank my colleagues who will stand with Senator MURRAY and me this week to say: Women's health care is not your boss's business.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join with the senior Senator from Colorado, and I thank him for his excellent statement and leadership on this issue as we kick off this important debate on our bill, the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act, or, as we just heard, the "Not My Boss's Business Act."

I start off by asking our colleagues a few basic questions: First of all, who should be in charge of a woman's health care decisions? Should it be the woman making those decisions with her partner, her doctor, and her faith or should it be her boss making those decisions for her based on his own religious beliefs?

To me and to the vast majority of the people across the country, the answer to that question is obvious: Women should call the shots when it comes to their health care decisions—not their boss, not the government, not anyone else, period. But we are here because five men on the Supreme Court disagreed.

Five men on the Supreme Court decided there should be a group of women across America who are required to ask their boss for permission to access basic health care. Five men on the Supreme Court decided a corporation should have more rights than the women it employs. Five men on the Supreme Court rolled back the clock on women across America, and we are here today because we cannot allow that to stand. People across the country think the Supreme Court was dead wrong on this decision, and we are here to be their voice.

When we passed health care reform, we made sure every woman has access to basic health care, including contraception, which is used or will be used

by 99 percent of the women in this country. When 58 percent of women use birth control for purposes other than pregnancy prevention—including managing endometriosis, ovarian cysts, and other medical conditions—we know this provision could have a sweeping impact on women across our country. In fact, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, 30 million women nationally are already eligible for this benefit, and when the law is fully implemented, 47 million women nationally will have access to no-pay birth control, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. By the way, thanks to this benefit, women have already saved \$483 million, and that is just in the last year alone.

Contraception was included as a required preventive service in the Affordable Care Act on the recommendation of the independent nonprofit Institute of Medicine and other medical experts because it is essential to the health of women and families. After many years of research, we know ensuring access to effective birth control has a direct impact on improving the lives of women and their families in America. It is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality, to reduced risk of ovarian cancer, to better health outcomes for women and, by the way, far fewer unintended pregnancies and abortions, which is a goal we all should share.

We should all know improving access to birth control is a good health care policy and it is good economic policy. We know it will mean healthier women, healthier children, and healthier families, and we know it will save money for businesses and consumers. But with their ruling, setting a potential dangerous precedent, the Supreme Court has not only inserted a woman's boss into her health care decisions, in many cases they have given him the final word.

In the aftermath of this decision, women across America are turning to Congress and demanding we fix this. And by the way it is not just women who want Congress to act. People across the country understand, if bosses can deny birth control, then they can deny vaccines or HIV treatment or other basic health care services for employees and for their dependents. I think what men across America understand is it is not just the female employees who are impacted, it is their wives and their daughters who are on their health care plan as well.

As the ink was still drying on Justice Alito's misguided opinion in this case, I made an unwavering commitment to do everything I could to protect women's access to health care since the five male Justices of the Supreme Court decided they would not. That is why I have been working with my partner, the senior Senator from Colorado, to introduce this bill, and I am proud that

in the many days since then we have received such strong support from people across the country.

Our straightforward and simple legislation will ensure that no CEO or corporation can come between people and their guaranteed access to health care, period.

This shouldn't be a controversial issue. The only controversy about birth control is the fact that it is 2014 and women across America are still fighting for this basic health care.

The data is clear. Ensuring access to contraceptive coverage isn't just the right thing to do, it is a critical part of making sure women and their families have a fair shot. In the 21st century, women and their families shouldn't be held back by outdated policies and unfair practices.

Again, it is not just about access to contraception. This includes pay equity, access to childcare, higher minimum wage, and it absolutely includes the right to make their own medical and religious decisions without being dictated to or limited by their employer.

The bottom line is this: Women use birth control for a host of reasons, none of which should require a permission slip from their boss.

I thank Leader REID for moving this bill to the floor so quickly and for his commitment to getting this done because women across the country are expecting action. They do not want to wait. As we move forward on this bill this week, I hope enough Republicans can put proven science over their partisan politics and join us and revoke this Court-issued license to discriminate and return the right of Americans to make their own decisions about their own health care and their own bodies.

I thank Senator UDALL once again for his work with me on this common-sense and bicameral legislation. I also thank the Members of the House Pro-Choice Caucus who introduced their companion legislation in the House, and I sincerely hope our Republican colleagues on both sides of the Capitol will join us. For those who don't, for those Republicans who have already said they oppose our legislation, I am interested in hearing their answer to the question I posed a few minutes ago: Do they think bosses should be in charge of a woman's health care decision? Do they think women should have to ask their boss permission for health care used by 99 percent of the women? Do they think we as a country should start down the path where CEOs and corporations can start making decisions for all kinds of health care for their employees?

Women across the country will be watching this debate, and I think they will be very interested in seeing who is on their side.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MURRAY). No objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to support the "Not My Boss's Business Act," which will help to fix the recent Supreme Court Hobby Lobby decision by making it illegal for a company to deny their workers specific health care benefits, including birth control, as is required to be covered by Federal law.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill which is necessary to ensure that all women have access to preventive care.

I wish to say, on a personal note, I was a young child growing up in a household with a working mother. Mom worked for a big corporation and worked in human resources. My table would often be one where it was discussed that my mother was dealing with challenges of racial discrimination, challenges of sexism in the workplace. I watched how my mother, in human resources, would fight to make sure that we as a nation, as well as this particular corporation, continued to advance in fairly treating all of its employees. I was proud to watch my mother assert her independence, her freedoms, and her basic sense of equity, which resonates with the highest values of this Nation.

What is frustrating to me now is here we stand in 2014, and we seem to be fighting so many battles and advancements we won before that are still needing to be fought.

It is unthinkable to me that as we should be turning our focus toward other things such as paid family leave or raising the minimum wage, here we are again fighting about whether women should have the right to have access to birth control. This is unfortunate because contraception is essential to a woman's right to make her own personal health care decisions. Birth control is not only basic to making health care decisions, but it is one in which 99 percent of women avail themselves. Throughout their lifetime we will see 99 percent of American women avail themselves of birth control.

These women should not be forced to decide between contraception and a tank of gas or between contraception and meals for their family, contraception and paying rent.

The Hobby Lobby decision, if you think about it, is imposing the will of a corporation—one corporation's board member's religious beliefs or what-have-you can be imposed such that it would cost women who now want to exercise their freedom up to \$1,000 a year. For minimum-wage or low-wage work-

ers, the out-of-pocket cost for birth control each month is a real and substantive financial burden.

Let's be clear. Workers have insurance coverage through their labor. It is part of their earned pay. This is not a free giveaway. They earned this coverage. What they spend their health care coverage on is their business, not their boss's business.

I deeply value ideals of religious liberty. This is what this country was founded on. But religious liberty belongs to all of us; it does not belong to a corporation. Religious liberty means being free from having other people's religions foisted upon you, imposed upon you, or forced upon you.

Most employees would never dream of telling their bosses what they must decide and abide by in terms of religious freedom. And by that same principle, no boss should have the right to impose his religion on the people who work for him.

That is one of the reasons why so many faith leaders have spoken against the Hobby Lobby decision. It is now making it acceptable for a corporation to impose on the individual liberty of others their religious beliefs, also the financial freedom that goes along with that, and also the ability for a woman to make critical health care decisions. They might even be interfering with a doctor telling a patient what is best for them and their health.

The views held by companies' owners should not be able to interfere with this basic understanding of fundamental rights. The Not My Boss's Business Act protects workers' religious liberty by not allowing their bosses to impose this hardship, to impose their religion, and to impose what I believe ultimately comes down to discrimination.

Finally, the precedent set by this decision could open the door wider and wider for more court cases and more employers who want to deny more aspects of basic health coverage and services because they claim it conflicts with the boss's religious beliefs. From blood transfusions to vaccinations, we are now in a minefield in which we can have the destruction of religious freedom of employees and the health care freedom we have fought so hard to manifest.

The Hobby Lobby decision is a step backward that we must correct. It is a step against women's rights. It is a step against religious freedom. It is a step against workers who earn basic benefits to have the ability to make those benefits real in their lives.

The Not My Boss's Business Act will make it clear that bosses cannot discriminate. The Not My Boss's Business Act will make it clear that there should be equal treatment under the law for the tens of thousands of workers whose coverage now hangs in the balance.

A woman's health care decisions should be between that woman and her doctor. There is no room for a boss's religious beliefs in that equation, period.

I watched for decades, growing up, not only my mother but countless people fight to establish basic principles in the workplace. We cannot go back now. This is such a critical piece of legislation, to correct for the mistakes in this Supreme Court decision and assert those fundamental American ideals, that individuals should be able to make their own health care decisions, that bosses and corporations should not impose religious beliefs on others, and that we are a nation where every woman can create a sacrosanct and private relationship with her doctor and make ultimately the health care decisions that are best for her, not ones in any way influenced or affected by a corporation.

I thank again the Senate and the Presiding Officer for this time but, most importantly, I thank Senator MURRAY and other Senators who have led on this issue. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I am proud to follow my colleague from New Jersey, and I am proud to say I am a cosponsor of Senator MURRAY's bill and Senator UDALL's bill, the Udall-Murray bill, that is going to make sure we protect the health of our families.

I am going to put up a beautiful photograph of the Supreme Court where above the portico these words are inscribed: "Equal Justice Under Law." We have reprinted them here. I am going to keep this for the remainder of my remarks, because I think that is the essential issue before us. Those four words are the promise of our country that every American should be treated equally, should be respected, should be honored.

I wish to note that these words don't say: Equal justice under law except for women. They don't say: Equal justice under law except for birth control. And they don't say: Equal justice under law as long as it is OK with your boss.

The beauty of this Nation is we respect each other's rights and freedoms, and we have shed blood to make sure those freedoms are protected.

Yet with this Hobby Lobby ruling, five men, who happen to be appointed by Republicans, decided that a corporation has the power to deny me or to deny you coverage of critical health care for us and for our families.

What is very upsetting to me is that they have seized on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to justify giving for-profit companies the sweeping power to deny their employees access to affordable birth control, and we believe it will prove to be other health care benefits required under Federal law.

I speak as someone who voted for the Kennedy bill, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, that if anybody thinks Ted Kennedy wanted to deny access for birth control, then they didn't know Ted Kennedy and they didn't read at all the RECORD as we debated that bill.

I voted for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act because it was written to protect an individual's freedom of religion so that if I, as a religious individual working for a corporation, don't want to use the birth control coverage, I don't have to. But if I want to, I make that choice. If I, as an independent individual, want to vaccinate my child, it is covered under law, under the insurance. I can if I want to. No one can force me to do that.

The idea behind the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was to protect the individual, and I quote: "Government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion."

Let me repeat: "a person's exercise of religion." It doesn't say a corporation's exercise of religion, your boss's exercise of his religion. It was about protecting the individual.

What the conservative majority of the Court did 2 weeks ago turned the Religious Freedom Restoration Act on its head. As someone who supported that act, it made me angry, sad—put in the adjective. It is wrong to reinterpret what a law meant. It stood the Religious Freedom Restoration Act on its head when they ruled a corporation can put its own ideology ahead of the religious freedom and health care needs of its employees.

A female employee should be able to decide whether to use birth control. And that is not all that is at stake after the Hobby Lobby decision, because we know if you follow their logic that if a corporation can deny birth control because of a religious objection, what if they object to a blood transfusion? There are certain religions that do. Then the employee can't get a blood transfusion. And what if they object to a vaccine or HIV treatment? Then, in order for employees to have access to those treatments, they wouldn't have the insurance. We all know, from looking at the real world, if you don't have insurance, these treatments become very expensive and you may not be able to avail yourselves of them.

Chief Justice John Roberts, during oral arguments in the Hobby Lobby case, made it clear that Congress can fix this and override the Court's decision, and I agree. That is why I am so thankful to Senator MURRAY and Senator UDALL for working so hard and so fast so we can have the remedy right now. It is important that we act fast. People are very confused out there as to what they can count on in their insurance coverage.

We are going to have a vote on this tomorrow. It is a cloture vote to end

debate so we can actually get to a vote on the substance. Sadly, it means we need 60 votes, a supermajority. But I hope and frankly pray that we get those 60 votes because we need to protect women's health.

The Murray-Udall bill is called the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act, but they have nicknamed it Not My Boss's Business Act, which I like. It is not my boss's business what I decide to do.

It would require employers to follow the Federal law when offering health insurance to their employees, notwithstanding the Religious Freedom Restoration Act which, as I said, I believe the Court stood on its head. It was meant to protect individuals, not corporations, not your boss.

The bill says corporations cannot hide behind the Religious Freedom Restoration Act to deny their workers coverage to the benefits we have in law. More than 180 House and Senate lawmakers have cosponsored this bill so far, and I hope our colleagues will vote for it.

I was saying we need to act fast because there is confusion out there. Virtually so many women rely on birth control at some point in their lives, it is amazing. Sixty percent of women who take birth control, 6.5 million American women, do so in whole or in part to treat painful and difficult medical conditions.

Let me say that again. One may take a birth control pill for birth control, but there are many other uses for that pill; 1.5 million women out of the 6.5 million who use it, at least in part for other conditions, use it solely as a medication to treat those painful and difficult conditions.

By allowing employers to deny coverage for contraception, the Court is depriving many women and families of health care. Surveys have shown that 55 percent of young women, aged 18 to 34, struggle to afford birth control, which can cost as much as \$600 per year. Maybe the Supreme Court Justices in their ivory tower think that is not a lot of money, but let me state, for women working the minimum wage, even for women earning more than the minimum wage, it is quite a hit to their pocketbooks.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out in her dissent that a woman earning the minimum wage would spend nearly an entire month's wage to get an IUD, \$1,000. Imagine. This case has unjustly singled out women's health services.

I have to make a note here. I do not know of any employer that is dropping coverage for Viagra. I don't. I have asked around. I have been on TV, I have invited folks to let me know. Oh, no, Viagra is fine; birth control is not fine. Just put the pieces together yourself. I think this decision discriminates against women, and in the slippery slope argument you are going to see it

affect everyone. And we need to listen to the women who rely on birth control to improve their health and the health of their families. Let me tell you a few stories. Raquel from Sacramento was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2010. After her treatment her doctors told her she needed to use birth control to ensure she did not become pregnant for the next 3 years because she was really sick. Luckily, her employer covers birth control and now, happily, 4 years later she is pregnant with her first child. What could have happened to her if she had gone through an unintended pregnancy? It could have been pretty devastating. What if she had worked for a different employer who refused to offer her that birth control? Her health and the health of her child would have been at risk and that would have been tragic. So let's listen to her.

Let's listen to Katherine from Pleasant Hill, CA, who relies on birth control after having her first child.

Both my husband and I want to be the best possible parents for our son, and having another child so soon would hurt our ability to do that. A variety of affordable birth control options are crucial for me and for all first-time moms like me!

Many years ago I was on the board of Planned Parenthood, and what we said all the time was that our dream was that every child be a wanted child—a wanted child. As a parent myself and as a grandparent I tell you right now it takes a lot to raise a child. Hillary Clinton said it takes a village. It certainly takes loving parents, and it takes a loving family. It certainly costs money, and it certainly takes energy.

We want our families to be healthy. We want our families to be productive, and birth control is a success story. It breaks my heart that women just like Katherine who work at Hobby Lobby and other for-profit corporations now could be denied access to affordable health care unless we fix this.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act was not about giving your boss the power over you like this. It was about giving you the right to make your own choices and decisions. We need to listen to women like Ariana in Redding, CA, who wrote:

I am a recent college graduate trying to make ends meet and pay off my student loans. It is a great relief to know I can get the birth control I need without a copay.

These are real stories. If the boss doesn't like that you choose birth control, that is his right. If he wants to sit down with his daughter and tell her his religious objection, and if she agrees with him, that is fine. I mean, that is what America is about. But don't take your religious beliefs, your ideology, your biases, your prejudices, and your opinions and foist them on your employees. That is not this country. That is not what we are about.

Shouldn't we care more about the rights of women and their families than the rights of a few employers who can exercise that in their families? This bill we are going to vote on is critical, and I hope it won't die as a result of partisanship. We have to rise above partisanship around here.

"Equal justice under law"—that is what it says over the portico. And frankly, there is another issue. If you look at what has happened to the rates of abortion since we have seen more use of birth control, they are going down. There has been a study in one of our Nation's big cities that proved that because there was broad use of birth control, abortions went down by 50 percent. Imagine. So if that is our concern regardless of whether we are pro-choice or not, we shouldn't be embracing decisions that make it more difficult for women to get access to birth control.

So equal justice under the law doesn't say: "except for women." It doesn't say: "except if my boss disagrees with me." It is pretty beautiful. It is pretty clear. It is something that we have to respect. It is for the ages, and tomorrow we are going to see if our colleagues agree. Every Senator must take a stand tomorrow for individual liberty. When we vote tomorrow, let's be reminded: Women are watching. The American people will hold each of us accountable if we fail to protect their rights and their ability to decide what is best for their families.

I have been around a while. I was around when one of the Bushes was actually on the board of Planned Parenthood—George Herbert Walker Bush. Suddenly this issue is back—birth control—and suddenly we are arguing over it again.

So I say this. I may be wearing a white jacket, but it is not a white doctor's coat. I am not a doctor, and I don't want to put myself, as a politician, in between a woman and her doctor or in between a family and their doctor. Let's leave important health care choices where they belong: with women, with families, with doctors, and not with politicians, in the Senate or Justices sitting in a courtroom.

Thank you very much. I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on either the Bay or LaFleur nomination the confirmation vote or votes occur at 3:15 p.m. with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act, to stand up for what I thought was a commonly shared value—that a woman's health care decisions are between her and her doctor, not her and her boss. I thought that was well-established, straightforward—simple, even.

But it turns out that the majority of the Supreme Court thought differently when it came to certain kinds of health care decisions: whether a woman would have access to contraceptives without copays as guaranteed by Federal law. As we all know now, 2 weeks ago the Supreme Court held in Hobby Lobby that an employer's personal beliefs can trump some of the most private and significant health care decisions a woman makes.

So let me be very clear on where I stand: What kind of birth control a female employee uses is not her boss's business.

I have heard some of the supporters of the Supreme Court decision argue that ruling is a narrow ruling, and that it only applies to closely held family businesses. That doesn't tell the whole story because just 3 days after this ruling in Hobby Lobby the Court said that a nonprofit religious college didn't have to comply with a contraceptive coverage requirement even though it had already had an accommodation that allowed it to avoid paying for such coverage itself.

The majority even pointed to this accommodation in the Hobby Lobby ruling as an example of a less restrictive alternative that could be open to for-profit businesses. A few days later that same accommodation wasn't good enough.

In her dissent Justice Sotomayor wrote:

Those who are bound by our decisions usually believe that they can take us at our word. Not so today.

In other words, in less than a week the Supreme Court's conservative majority went from issuing a supposedly narrow ruling to potentially broadening it to encompass a new class of institutions. The impact of the ruling in Hobby Lobby will most definitely not be limited to those closely held businesses, as some say. I have heard others argue, in essence: Don't worry. The ruling doesn't expressly ban access to contraceptives. It just shifts the additional cost of the coverage back to the women.

But those who say erecting a barrier of cost between a woman and birth control will give her the same access she had before the decision don't understand what women have to go through to get covered and don't understand the many reasons why women use birth control. Since the coverage requirement went into effect last year, the number of women who got their birth

control without a copay jumped from 14 percent to 56 percent. That means some serious costs were avoided for many women.

The average annual savings for women last year was \$269. In total, women in the United States saved \$483 million on contraceptives, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Among those women were 917,000 in North Carolina alone who were eligible for preventive services without additional copays. Many of these women sought and used birth control medications for reasons that had absolutely nothing to do with planning pregnancy. In fact, oral contraceptives are a key treatment for at least three major medical conditions that affect women. Polycystic ovary syndrome affects 5 to 10 percent of women of reproductive age, and if left untreated can lead to the development of ovarian cysts or infertility. In addition, 11 percent of women are affected by endometriosis in their lifetime, and 40,000 women each year are diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Many women are at risk of developing ovarian cancer—one of the most deadly cancers in the United States—and women with ovarian cancer also can receive treatment via birth control. And yes, one of the best known ways to reduce the risk of these conditions is birth control.

Employers who make their female employees pay out of pocket for contraceptives aren't just imposing their personal beliefs, they are also making it more difficult for women to access important lifesaving medical treatment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I would like to ask for another 45 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HAGAN. That is why I believe it is so important to debate and to pass the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act. This bill would fix the Hobby Lobby decision by making it illegal for any company to deny their workers specific health benefits, including birth control, that would be required to be covered. It would make clear that bosses cannot discriminate against their female workers and would ensure equal treatment under the law for tens of thousands of workers for which coverage hangs in the balance. It would preserve and codify the existing accommodation for our nonprofit religious employees.

It is troubling to me that in 2014 we are even debating women's access to contraception. Nearly all women—99 percent—will use it at some point in their lives, and they should have access to safe, effective birth control if they choose to use it—plain and simple.

This bill would ensure that those decisions about an employee's health can stay between the woman and her doctor, not between the woman and her

boss. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CONGO ADOPTION POLICY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to talk about an issue today that transcends party lines: the humanitarian crisis we are seeing in Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In September of last year the Congo informed the United States that they would no longer issue exit visas for Congolese children who were in the process of being adopted by American parents. These are kids that have gone through the adoption process and yet the Government of the Congo says they cannot leave the country. This terrible and unjustifiable action has left hundreds of children and their families here in the United States in limbo.

Last Friday the Congolese Government announced an end to exit permit exceptions until the country passes what they deem are new adoption laws. I stand here today to express our deep concern and commitment to resolve this crisis from so many in the Senate. We have over 50 cosponsors for a resolution calling on the Congo to do the right thing. Those of us who have cosponsored this are looking for a way to help these children who have already been adopted to be reunited with their families permanently.

More than 350 families have finalized adoptions of Congolese children. They have obtained the necessary U.S. approvals, including U.S. visas authorizing their children to immigrate to the United States. There were 400 additional families in the process of completing adoptions at the time Congo imposed this moratorium. In every way that matters, including in what they feel in their hearts, these are their children.

All told, more than 800 children are caught in this diplomatic nightmare. By the way, that is about 10 percent of total adoptions worldwide by American families last year. These are international adoptions, so it is a significant number. Many of these kids have special needs, and those needs are not being met. Until they are able to come home and be with their families, those needs will not be met. In fact, some lives have been put at risk. In fact, six of these children have already died.

I had the opportunity to meet with some of the parents of some of these children and have seen some of the photos and heard some of the stories. If the Congolese Government would simply do the right thing and allow these exit permits, lives would be saved. We can't remain silent in the face of this tragedy.

Together with Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana, I am offering a resolution

calling on the administration to take action and demand that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo resume processing these adoption cases and issuing exit permits so these kids can leave. They need to prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions which were initiated before the suspension began.

I thank Senator LANDRIEU for her hard work on this matter, as well as 50 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have joined us.

Last week I met with a number of families from Ohio, and we had the opportunity to talk about some of these kids and some of their specific circumstances. We also talked about what these families are ready to do, and they are ready to give these kids the support and love they need.

I met with the Millimans from Columbus, OH. They are adopting a little girl who has very serious medical conditions. They are in the final stages of the adoption process, and they fear they will not be able to provide her the treatment and care she needs.

I also met with the Webb family. The Webbs are in the process of adopting a child from the Congo to bring to their home in Wooster, OH. The Webbs' biological daughter Heather is also in the process of adopting from the Congo. They were both in the Capitol to talk about their kids and what they have been through.

These families represent the very best of our country and our values, a respect for these young people's lives and a commitment to live with humility, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable children. This diplomatic impasse is keeping these families apart. It is time the administration joined with Congress to support the families and the children involved in this crisis in every way possible.

In the coming days, I hope we will speak with one voice and demand that Congo reverse their decision and process these adoptions as quickly as possible. It is my sense this is an issue that will come up in committee this week. I hope before this session is out we will be able to take this up on the floor of the Senate, pass it, and begin to put some pressure on the Congolese Government to do the right thing. It is time to allow these children to be with their loving families.

With that, I yield back all time and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last week I heard the majority leader speak

about people who are happy with the President's health care law. While I agree that some people have been helped by the law, many Americans have been hurt by the law's destructive side effects. Republicans have given examples of people from all across the country of all ages and in all kinds of situations being harmed by the health care law, and we found that a disproportionate number of those being hurt are women. These are middle-class Americans who work hard, do the right thing, and they just want to care for themselves and their families.

The health care law that the President wrote—and every Senate Democrat in the Senate voted for—is standing between them and the lives they want to live. That is what I am hearing from my neighbors back home in Wyoming, and I think I hear from more individuals than many of the Senators do because I was a physician and practiced medicine in Wyoming for 25 years. I have taken care of patients and families.

I would like to share with everyone what I have been hearing from the women around the State of Wyoming and how this law has been impacting their lives.

I got a letter from a woman in Gillette, WY, and she said: "I wanted to share with you my frustration and worry concerning the Affordable Care Act."

She said she and her husband have three daughters—ages 12, 9, and 3—and her husband started a new business. She said: "Thanks to the new health care law our insurance premium increased \$560 per month." That is \$6,700 more a year that this family has to pay for insurance under the President's health care law.

She wrote:

As we struggle to plan for our girls' futures, attempt to make my husband's business prosper, and dream of what our future may hold once our children are raised, it is disheartening that we will now pay nearly \$17,000 a year for health insurance.

She said:

There are so many things we could, and should, be able to do with that money. That additional \$560 per month could be put in our girls' college funds, be given back to our church and community. Sadly, we don't have the luxury of deciding how to use that hard-earned money.

We have been told by Washington that we will spend our money on health insurance. I have never felt so completely let down by the American government.

Here is a woman who just wants to raise her family, send her daughters to college, maybe grow the family business, and there she is in Wyoming struggling with the burden Washington Democrats imposed on her with this terrible health care law and its damaging and disheartening side effects.

President Obama says the Democrats who voted for this law should "forcefully defend and be proud" of the health care law.

Are Democrats in the Senate who voted for this health care law proud of what they are doing to this woman and her family? Are Democrats willing to come to the floor and forcefully defend and be proud that this Wyoming family has to spend thousands of dollars on health insurance instead of on their daughters' college funds?

Millions of women all across America are in the same situation as this woman in Gillette, WY. There has been a new study that looked at how much more money people are paying this year for insurance in the ObamaCare exchanges than they paid last year before the Obama health care law kicked in. They found that a lot of women are paying much more because of the President's health care law.

In North Carolina—and we just heard from the Senator from North Carolina—an average 27-year-old woman is paying \$1,100 more for health insurance coverage than she did last year. In North Carolina a 64-year-old woman is paying \$5,000 more because of all of the requirements of the health care law. Is that Senator willing to come back and forcefully defend and be proud of this health care law and what it has done to these women in her home State?

It is the same in Arkansas. An average 40-year-old woman pays \$1,300 more this year because of the law. A 64-year-old woman in Arkansas is paying \$3,400 more this year in the exchanges. In one State after another, women are paying more. Women of all ages are getting hurt. The Washington Post had a very interesting story about this on June 24.

It said: "Older women bear the brunt of higher health insurance costs under Obamacare." That is the headline from the Washington Post—"Older women bear the brunt of higher insurance costs under Obamacare."

The article says a new report found "women age 55 to 64 will face a huge spike in cost when they go out to buy individual insurance on the federal exchange."

The article says, "These women bear the brunt of the increased premiums and out of pocket expenses after the Affordable Care Act."

Under President Obama and the Democrats' plan, older women are bearing the brunt of higher health insurance costs. This is a disgraceful side effect of the Democrats' health care law. Women across the country are paying more money for insurance they do not need, do not want, and will likely never use.

Are Democrats willing to come to the floor of the Senate and forcefully defend and be proud of the fact that older women are bearing the brunt of higher health insurance costs under this law?

I got another letter from a rancher from Newcastle, WY. She and her husband were paying \$650 a month for insurance. She said, "We don't carry maternity insurance because we have

completed our family." This woman has had a hysterectomy.

I get letters more than maybe most because I am a physician who practiced in Wyoming for a long time.

She says their insurance agent told them they couldn't renew their policy at the end of last year. The reason? Because it didn't meet the President's requirement that they have to have maternity coverage, so they had to choose a new policy from the exchange.

Now, remember, she doesn't need or want maternity coverage and she is never going to use it because she has had a hysterectomy. According to President Obama and the Democrats, it doesn't matter one bit. It doesn't matter.

They were paying \$650 a month before ObamaCare. She said her insurance agent quoted her rates for a comparable policy of anywhere between \$1,300 and \$1,600 a month or they could take a bronze policy with much less coverage than they had before for \$900—still more than they were paying before. So \$3,000 a year more than they paid before ObamaCare, and the out-of-pocket costs would be much higher and much more difficult for the family.

This woman from Wyoming writes:

We're being forced out of a good policy, which we pay for with hard-earned money, which we choose, into a dangerous financial health care situation, with less coverage, and which puts my husband and I, who are proud of our own sustainability, on to what we consider the welfare rolls by needing a government subsidy to afford a plan that we don't want or need.

We don't want, we don't need, and we are forced on to it.

She writes:

To say that we're angry is an understatement. Why is this happening? Why can Obama force me into this? We feel helpless.

This isn't what the President of the United States promised the American people. It is not what every Democrat who voted for the health care law promised the American people.

It seems to me that President Obama and Democrats in the Senate just don't get it. All these women wanted was a chance to buy insurance coverage that worked for them. They wanted the right to be left alone to make their own choices about their family's health care, not to have Washington make choices for them. They wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost.

President Obama wasn't interested in listening to what women wanted. He wanted to tell—he wanted to mandate—he wanted to tell them and mandate what he thought was best for them. It is outrageous.

I hear from people almost every day who are feeling the costly and cruel side effects of the health care law.

I heard from a woman in Casper, WY, where I practiced and was chief of staff of the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper. She gets her insurance through her

job. The costs have gone up so much under ObamaCare that she is worried about what might happen. She writes:

I am concerned for what I might be facing when my employer has to comply with the [health care law] next year. I have not had children yet because of the effects the recession had on me and my husband. I would very much like to think we could have one in the next couple of years, however, the insurance fiasco worries me.

So this woman is worried that the health care law might actually affect her and her husband having a family.

Why did President Obama take away the rights of women to choose what health coverage is right for them and their families? This was an active decision made by Democrats in this body and the President of the United States to take away the rights of women to choose what health coverage is right for them and their families.

Why did President Obama raise the cost of health care and make it more expensive for women?

These are just a few of the women who are being hurt by ObamaCare and just a few of the ways the President's health care law is affecting women all across America.

Again, there are some people who have been helped by the law. Some people are happy with their insurance. Nobody is denying that. There are also people who have been hurt by the law and who can't afford it and who are devastated because of it. What does the President have to say to those people? Why won't President Obama sit down with just one of these women who has written to me and actually listen to the damage he has done to them, to their families, and to their health care as a result of his health care law?

Why won't Democrats come to the floor of the Senate and talk about these millions of Americans—millions of women—whom they have harmed with the health care law?

Republicans have offered ideas for health care reform that allow women to make choices on what is best for them and their families. If they want maternity coverage, they can find a policy that offers it. They wouldn't be forced to pay for what they don't need or don't want just because someone in Washington tells them they must. People wanted health care reform to give them access to quality, affordable care—not more expensive coverage.

Republicans are going to keep coming to the floor. We are going to keep offering real solutions for better health care without all of these expensive and offensive side effects.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, as have many Americans, I have watched with increasing concern and increasing frustration the rapidly growing humanitarian crisis on our southern border. More than 60,000 unaccompanied alien children—mostly minors from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—have been apprehended at the border in this fiscal year, and we have 2½ months remaining. The numbers are staggering. Another 40,000 family members—one or both parents traveling with their children—have also been apprehended just in this fiscal year.

To put these numbers in perspective, in 2008, the number of unaccompanied alien children apprehended at the border was 8,000. Three years later, in 2011, the number had doubled. It had doubled to 16,000. This is a situation we perhaps didn't see coming, but should have.

Today, of course, the numbers are staggering, as I mentioned. The number has skyrocketed. In fact, in April and May of this year, 10,000 have arrived. We simply cannot sit back and let this situation grow worse as it does day by day. We must now find a way to solve this crisis and stem the flow of unaccompanied minors entering our country. It is imperative that this Congress and this administration work together to do this and do this immediately. We dare not move toward our regularly scheduled August recess without accomplishing the solution or resolution of this current crisis, which is impacting children, impacting families, impacting communities, impacting many across the United States in terms of this crisis.

As we do this, I think it is important that we be guided by some key principles, including laws that are currently on the books—laws that might need to be adjusted—as well as compassionate hearts in terms of how we deal with those who are here but will need to be returned to their homeland.

First, clearly and foremost, we have to enforce existing law. Existing law says we need an orderly process. Immigration needs to be legal. It needs to be processed in an orderly way and in a way so that we can accommodate those who come from out of the country. I am the son of an immigrant who was processed through a legal process, a process that speaks for many of us not only here in this Chamber but for many across America. We are all in a sense immigrants. For over 200 years, we have come as immigrants through a legal process. Today we find a situation where our borders are being swamped with those who are attempting to come illegally, for whatever reason. More importantly, we have to make it clear to them that the law does not allow

this to happen. So we have to get control of the border. We have to get control of our immigration process.

I think all of us feel the need for immigration reform. Step No. 1 has to be securing our borders so we can convince the American people we can return to an orderly process of bringing immigrants to this country and not be overwhelmed by the illegal immigration flowing to our southern borders. It is also important because we need to let the families know and the children know their trip to America is not what has been promised them.

Many believe this humanitarian crisis is focused on how we handle these children once they arrive at the border, and there is a need to address that issue. But in reality, the crisis for these children begins when they start their trip, given the dangers of the journey. We now know the children who are making these dangerous treks from Central America are often in the hands of smugglers, drug cartels, coyotes—criminal elements that are delivering a false lie to families and individuals in these countries. They are basically saying, Get your children across the border and they will then be absorbed into American society and they will be in a better place. And, by the way, write us a check for \$7,000 or \$10,000 or \$5,000, whatever the market bears, and we will ensure that your children arrive safely, and then you won't have to worry about them anymore. That is simply not true.

Sadly, from the latest information that has come to us, in surveys that are being taken and investigations that are being made, the story is horrendous. Often, for those in the hands of those who are seeking to bring them along the approximately 1,500-mile trip from Central America to the Texas border, the reality of what these children are facing and what these families are facing is startling and it is an issue that absolutely has to be addressed.

Doctors Without Borders exists in southern and central Mexico, and they did surveys of those who were attempting to make this trip. They indicated that 58 percent of their patients suffered at least—at least—one episode of violence along their way from Central America to the United States. One media network did an investigation that followed the path of Central American migrants, including children, and while their numbers have not been verified or documented, they are staggering. Even if the results are half of what they claim, it is a situation of immense humanitarian dysfunction. They found that 80 percent of all migrants will be assaulted, 60 percent of women will be raped, and only 40 percent will actually make it to the border.

Let's say those numbers are exaggerated. There is some indication this media outlet was, perhaps, sensationalizing their numbers. Let's say it is just

half of that. But if it is half of that, it is a situation we absolutely cannot tolerate. We absolutely cannot sit by and say the only humanitarian crisis is taking care of these children once they cross the border—making sure they have vaccinations, sustenance, and a place to sleep until we get them processed. Those who claim that need to understand the crisis that exists before they ever get to the border, and the impact on these children in particular.

In 2010, when the narrative coming out of the administration was chipping away at our Nation's immigration laws through the abuse of prosecutorial discretion, this generated whispers of hope that ran rampant through the families of our Central American neighbors and gave a false confidence that if you illegally enter our country, once you are here, you will be able to stay. The belief spread in 2012 when the President took his prosecutorial discretion a step further by essentially halting the removal of illegal immigrants who arrived as minors.

There was a process where, of course, they were given a piece of paper, which basically said: You have to appear before a judge, who will determine whether you are able to stay in the country or whether you will have to be sent back home.

The narrative there was: This is your document that allows you to stay in America. In fact, it was not that at all. But because of the overwhelming number of people who received these documents, allowing them to stay here until they were adjudicated by a judge—because that number now exists around 375,000, and there is no way we can possibly adjudicate these and make these decisions in a short amount of time—those who arrived simply melded into the society, and most never showed up before a judge who was making a decision about their legality or illegality.

A key part of what we have to do here, in my opinion, is a repatriation plan. It is easy to just simply throw money out there and say we will come up with a plan later. I cannot support a provision that does not have policy changes to address this situation—policy changes that will allow us to inform our Central American neighbors that they must make every possible effort to engage with us in telling the truth to their constituencies and the parents of these children as to what lies ahead for them: the fact that they will be subjected to potential brutality, unspeakable, brutal efforts and consequences of this trip, as well as returned to their families and their countries.

We have to together make this message clear that our laws require that these children be sent back, but we also have to make it abundantly clear they are putting their children at great harm and great risk to believe this nar-

rative that says: They will be fine, they will be taken care of. Just give us the money and we will make sure your children become Americans and they will be fine in the future.

Secondly, I think we need to go a step further. To deter children from making this journey, we have to return those who have already come.

Included in a viable repatriation program has to be a streamlined process. I mentioned the number of the hundreds of thousands who are still waiting for their adjudication. There have been efforts and suggestions made by some of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis that we address and dramatically increase the number of judges who can go down to the border and make these decisions quickly so we can safely return these children home without having the horror of seeing these children rejected in different communities and no place to put them, as the numbers simply overwhelm our ability to care for them.

The administration does have some flexibility under current law to move families and children through these immigration proceedings in an accelerated manner. However, I believe—and the Secretary of Homeland Security has stated—that we need to go further to change current law to treat all unaccompanied alien children the same.

Now this is the President's own Secretary of Homeland Security, who has been to the border, whom I have met with and talked to several times, who is assiduously trying to address this issue in a bipartisan way. We need to work together to make sure we put the processes in place and the policies in place before we simply decide on a number and hope for the best later.

We need to change the law to allow Central American children who qualify to choose voluntarily to return as well, rather than go through drawn-out immigration proceedings that should still lead to their removal and damage any chance they have to seek legal immigration in the future.

This narrative out there, this story out there, is: Oh well, just go back across the border. Then maybe tomorrow you will get back here, and someone else will pick you up, and you will go to a different place, and you will start the process all over again, and you will finally get handed a piece of paper, and then don't worry about showing up in 12 to 18 months later. You can meld into society, and everything will be well. That absolutely has to be addressed. If we do not do that, we will not succeed with this process.

We also need to use our leverage with these foreign countries to gain their cooperation if they refuse to cooperate with us—whether it is withholding foreign aid, whether it is any number of punitive measures. We need to make sure the governments of these nations understand the risk to their children,

the harm to their children, and the fact that we are going to enforce the law, and that if they want to continue future relations with the United States through a legal immigration process, they have to work with us to convince their constituencies and give them the truth as to what is happening to their children—to engage in this process of working with us to stop this flow of illegals.

Now, obviously, we have to provide reasonable care for those who are already here. The vast majority of the new funding the President is requesting would go for caring for the illegal immigrants who are already here. It includes housing, transporting, and caring for the children and families already in the United States.

I believe it is our responsibility as a nation and as a compassionate society to care for the hurt and displaced. But we cannot simply open our arms and encourage all the world's children to strike out on their own, face endless dangers, and come to our shores with the belief that they will be welcomed and accepted and integrated into our society. We simply do not have the capacity to do that on a worldwide basis, and we see the trouble we are having from just three countries. What are we actually doing to stem the flow of unaccompanied alien children coming to the United States? And when will we begin to see the tide turn? That is something that has to happen and must happen initially.

Finally, in addition to the care which we must provide—the sustenance and the health care and the bedding and the nutrition and the efforts we need to make; and thank goodness for so many nonprofit organizations, churches, and others that have volunteered to join us in this particular effort—but it cannot be an ongoing effort. It has to be something that is accompanied by significant changes I have talked about before in terms of policy. You have to stop the bleeding. You have to stop the effort first and convince the American people that we finally gained control of our borders before we can move to any kind of sensible immigration reform.

This is going to be expensive. We are going to have to make sure the money we are spending is spent as part of a plan to address the problem—not just simply address it and have the problem continue, but address it in a way, on a one-time basis, that we put an end to this story: Send your children and they will be just fine.

Mr. President, the time is moving on, and I know my colleague is waiting to speak and we have votes coming up. So let me shorten this by simply concluding, at the end of the day, we have a huge humanitarian crisis on our hands on our border. I believe we have a moral responsibility to swiftly address and solve this crisis. We have to understand that the crisis involves

more than just unaccompanied minors. We cannot ignore the national security implications of a weak border. There are many dark powers in this world that wish to see the influence of the United States diminish—that wish to extinguish the beacon of freedom that we have been to the world.

So for the sake of the rule of law, for the sake of our national security and the safety of these children, it is imperative we act now and get it right. It will only happen if this body, the Congress—the House and the Senate—and the President will work together to put in place, on an expedited basis, a sensible plan to address this humanitarian crisis. “Save the children” means: Don’t put those children in the hands of smugglers, coyotes, criminal elements, only for them to go through the horrendous consequences that have become the humanitarian crisis we are addressing.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP.)

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NORMAN C. BAY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote to invoke cloture on the Bay nomination.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that the time be yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Martin Heinrich, Tom Harkin, Tammy Baldwin, Cory A. Booker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 222 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heller	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (CO)
Durbin	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Menendez	Warner
Franken	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—45

Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	King	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Alexander
Begich

Corker
Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 51, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote to invoke cloture on the LaFleur nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Harry Reid, Tom Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Bill Nelson, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tom Harkin, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2019, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Ayotte	Hagan	Murray
Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Barrasso	Hatch	Paul
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blunt	Heller	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Boxer	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Brown	Johanns	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Cochran	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Warner
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warren
Fischer	McConnell	Whitehouse
Flake	Menendez	Wicker
Franken	Merkley	Wyden
Graham	Murkowski	
Grassley	Murphy	

NAYS—10

Cardin	Isakson	Schumer
Chambliss	Mikulski	Walsh
Cruz	Moran	
Gillibrand	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Coburn	Schatz
Begich	Corker	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 85, the nays are 10. The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NORMAN C. BAY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NOMINATION OF CHERYL A. LAFLEUR TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3:15 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. If neither side yields time, both sides will be equally charged.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, are we in a quorum call presently?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I have come to speak about the two

nominees on the executive calendar who are before us this afternoon. Norman Bay and Cheryl LaFleur are nominated to be commissioners on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, an increasingly critical, independent regulatory commission.

As the Senate has considered these nominations, there has been kind of a weird drama that has played out throughout the entire community that follows the FERC and, as I understand, the agency itself has been really very distracted by it. Many are concerned the wrong person is set to take over as chair of the FERC and that the Commission is at risk of losing its reputation for objectivity. So for the benefit of Senators who are not on the energy committee and for members of the public who have not followed the controversy surrounding these nominees, let me provide a little bit of perspective this afternoon.

Both nominees have been serving at the FERC. Ms. LaFleur currently leads the agency as its chair. She has done so with distinction for the better part of a pretty difficult year. This is a year that has brought about the polar vortex and challenges to bulk power system reliability. The other individual, Mr. Bay, is an employee. He is the director of the agency's Office of Enforcement. He was appointed to that post by its somewhat controversial former chair, John Wellinghoff of Nevada.

If confirmed, Mr. Bay will become the first FERC employee in the agency's history who would go directly and immediately to the commission itself, despite just 5 years of relevant experience. Furthermore, Mr. Bay will not only be elevated to the post of commissioner; President Obama has announced that Mr. Bay will be designated as chairman after his confirmation. That means that Ms. LaFleur, the FERC's only female commissioner, will be demoted when Mr. Bay takes over as chair. How soon Ms. LaFleur's demotion will take place is unclear at this moment.

At the energy committee's business meeting to consider these nominees, there was a lot of talk about a deal that would allow Ms. LaFleur to remain as chair for a period of time. It was suggested that this would give Mr. Bay some much needed on-the-job training as a rank and file commissioner. So there was a lot of discussion going back and forth. I was certainly part of that discussion. But talk of a deal and confirmation of a deal, giving the assurances that certainly this Senator has sought and yet was not given—talking about a deal and getting a deal are two different things.

So as we discuss where we are with these nominees, I think it is important to recognize that even if Ms. LaFleur stays on for a period of months—whether it is 9 months as some have

suggested the deal is or a different period of time—what we understand is that Ms. LaFleur will only be allowed to continue in an acting capacity.

So stop and think about this. We have President Obama who has nominated Ms. LaFleur twice for high office, and despite what I think has been her distinguished service as a commissioner and as chair of the FERC, the White House dismisses her as an acting chair. The administration reportedly has limited her authority even to hire staff. As some have suggested, this is just a technicality and this is what happens within the Commission. That is not my understanding at all. I would view it as an affront. If one is going to be the chair, one should have the full authorities of the chair.

Even though I disagree with "Acting" Chair LaFleur on some key policy matters, by all accounts, from both Republicans and Democrats, she is doing a good job. She is fair. She seeks balance. She has the temperament I think we need for this commission. She has the personal qualities of leadership we look for. She clearly has the experience. She has 25 years' worth of experience, in fact. I certainly hope she will be easily confirmed this afternoon. In fact, I hope Chair LaFleur's bipartisan support has not hurt her prospects.

Chair LANDRIEU observed during the committee's consideration of these nominees that Ms. LaFleur's renomination "was not a sure thing just a couple of months ago." But we have to ask: Why not? Why wasn't the renomination of the only woman serving as a FERC commissioner—a Harvard-educated Obama appointee from Massachusetts—why wasn't she a sure thing from the get-go? Was it her bipartisan appeal? I would certainly hope not. Was it her good work as a chair? Again, I hope not. To me, those are reasons one would choose her to lead the FERC, not someone else.

One hint came from our majority leader, Senator REID. He recently told the Wall Street Journal that Ms. LaFleur "has done some stuff to do away with some of Wellinghoff's stuff." Now, he didn't really define what "stuff" that was and didn't acknowledge that much of Mr. Wellinghoff's "stuff" was either controversial or incapable of withstanding legal challenge.

Before we turn to Mr. Bay and his unprecedented promotion from Director of the Commission's Office of Enforcement in the face of Ms. LaFleur's demotion, let's discuss the agency the White House proposes he would lead for just a second. Why does the chairmanship of the FERC matter so much? Well, the Presiding Officer sits on the energy committee. She knows. She is watching this. She is looking at the issues of reliability. In the energy world, FERC regulates "midstream everything." The chairman is its CEO, and under his or her leadership, FERC

regulates interstate natural gas and oil pipelines, LNG import and export facilities, the sale of electricity at wholesale, the transmission of electricity in interstate commerce—basically the Nation's bulk power system, practically speaking, its high voltage transmission networks, also the reliability of the bulk power system, the licensing of hydroelectric facilities and the safety of dams. The list goes on and on.

One further example is the safeguarding of sensitive information about our critical energy infrastructure—information that was compromised by FERC during the tenure of former Chairman Wellinghoff. That series of events is now subject to an ongoing inquiry by the inspector general of the Department of Energy, and it is a breach that Ms. LaFleur has vowed will not happen again.

Given the significance of this agency, let's consider Mr. Bay. So, beyond the demotion of Ms. LaFleur, and beyond his lack of relevant experience, what is causing me pause? To begin, there are questions about the fairness and transparency of the functioning of the FERC Office of Enforcement during Mr. Bay's tenure there. I haven't resolved those questions, but I know others are looking at them. Senator BARRASSO has called attention to some of the questions. He has called for an independent review of the facts in dispute.

Second is the question of the circumstances under which Mr. Bay would recuse himself from at least 43 different matters, including some high profile matters that have been pending in the Office of Enforcement on his watch. But, unfortunately, Mr. Bay apparently doesn't see a need to recuse himself from these proceedings.

Third are the answers that Mr. Bay provided to questions from those of us on the energy committee. At best, many were unclear and, at worst, his responses were simply evasive.

Finally, I keep coming back to the deal—the waiting period that was needed to attract enough support on the Democratic side to report Mr. Bay's nomination from committee. So we have to ask the question: What are those terms? Will the acting chair have the opportunity to serve fully and completely as chair? Will it be clear that Mr. Bay is not a “shadow chairman” or a “chairman-in-waiting” during this crucial period? At a minimum, before we make a choice about who should lead the FERC, the President owes Senators a clear time line of who will be in charge and what the powers are that will be given to him or her.

FERC is just too important a commission. It is too important for appointees to be handled in this way.

So, today, I am going to be supporting the confirmation of Ms. LaFleur. In fact, I am pleased to support her, even though I don't always agree

with her policy views. But I do regret I will not give my support to Mr. Bay, and I urge other Senators to withhold their support as well.

With that, I would yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE
INTERFERENCE ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to take this opportunity to speak in support of the Murray legislation to protect women's health from corporate interference. Because of an obligation to speak at a memorial service tomorrow, I will not be able to speak tomorrow morning. I feel so strongly about this issue that I would like to say a few words today.

This legislation ensures that the personal opinion of an employer doesn't trump the medical opinion of a doctor. I sure wish this legislation were not necessary, but, unfortunately, because of the recent Supreme Court decision now known as the Hobby Lobby decision, it is necessary.

Let's talk about how we got here. As the Presiding Officer knows, we worked on health care reform. We were so concerned that over 40 million people didn't have access to health care. We were concerned that just being a woman was treated as a preexisting condition. We were charged double for our insurance, and we often had to pay significant copayments for those procedures related to early detection and screening, for those procedures that would affect us such as mammogram care. So on a bipartisan basis we ended that discrimination so women couldn't be charged more than men of the same age or comparable health status.

We also wanted to be sure we could do preventive health care benefits. That was an amendment I offered on the Senate floor. We had a spirited debate, even with Senator MURKOWSKI. Senator MURKOWSKI and I agreed on the same goals, but we had different methods. Ours won; mine won. I wanted to be sure politicians didn't decide what was preventive health care. I wanted to be sure politicians didn't decide what should be covered or not, and I didn't want to bring politics into it. So we turned to one of the most distinguished organizations in our government that makes recommendations to our government on health care policy. It is known as the Institute of Medicine. It is a nonpartisan group funded by this Congress made up of scientific experts to advise us on medical and health care. We wanted them to tell us what should be the preventive services that were included.

So when we hear the criticism: “Some government agency decided this; some bureaucrat decided this”—these are scientists, these are physicians, these are skilled researchers, and they determined that women should have access to eight preventive

health care benefits for free. First of all, screening for gestational diabetes—that is, when a woman gets diabetes while she is pregnant or because she is pregnant—high risk to the mother, high risk to the child. That means high risk HPV DNA testing, annual counseling and screening for HIV, comprehensive lactation support, and counseling, screening for domestic violence, an annual well-woman preventive care visit, and a full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods. That is what it was. It was the Institute of Medicine—the Institute of Medicine—not BARBARA MIKULSKI, not the Democrats, not President Obama—that said the FDA-approved contraceptive methods should be available.

That brings us to the Supreme Court and Hobby Lobby, a for-profit company, employing thousands of people of different faiths and religions.

Hobby Lobby's owners did not want to cover certain forms of contraception for their female employees. They said it was against their religious beliefs, and the Supreme Court agreed with that—actually, the five men on the Supreme Court said they did not have to. The women on the Supreme Court offered a dissenting opinion.

This ruling of the Court says the personal opinion of your employer is more important than the medical opinion of your doctor. As the Presiding Officer from Wisconsin knows—she, has put a lot of work into understanding health care and the delivery system—contraceptive methods are not always used to prevent pregnancy. Some are to deal with fibroids and other medical conditions. This ruling, unfortunately, says that a for-profit company can deny female employees coverage of important preventive health care based on religious objections of the company's health care ownership or leadership team.

I always felt health care decisions should be made by the patient and their doctor, by a woman and her doctor, not by an employer or an insurance company. So it concerns me greatly that the Supreme Court Justices decided against that. It concerns me greatly that the Supreme Court Justices decided the employers should have the power to determine what medical care is available to their female employees. This is pretty scary, actually. I support what Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg said. What exemption does this extend? Does this go to blood transfusions for some groups, antidepressants for some other groups, vaccinations for other groups? The Supreme Court said: Oh, no, it is only for this. Well, one Supreme Court decision leads to another Supreme Court decision.

So Senator MURRAY, who is an architect of a bill of which I am a cosponsor, has led the way. Her bill does two things. It prohibits employers from denying coverage of specific health care

items or services if the coverage of that item or service is required by Federal law. It keeps in place, however, protections for religious organizations. So houses of worship can be exempted from this mandate of contraceptive coverage, religious nonprofits can certify that they do not want to offer contraceptive care, and insurers work separately with employees.

The Supreme Court decision is an attempt to deny women's access to birth control disguised as an effort to protect religious freedom. I am a strong supporter of religious freedom. I stood on this floor and voted with its architect, Senator Ted Kennedy—a happy memory—that we would always have this religious protection of religious organizations, their nonprofit affiliates.

So I hope we do support the Murray bill, that it follows the processes within the Senate, and it comes to our attention. I believe this will go a long way to clarifying this very important distinction between the religious freedom, particularly of religious organizations—houses of worship and the nonprofits affiliated with them—but it does not embody in a private business the rights of an individual.

Madam President, I thank you for your attention and that of the Senate. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Thank you, Madam President.

I have to dispel some of the myths that are being told about the Hobby Lobby decision.

First of all, one of the biggest distortions I think has been this hashtag campaign #NotMyBossBusiness because before the Hobby Lobby decision—and as now—employers cannot deny their employees access to birth control.

So let's be clear. Employers cannot deny their employees access to birth control. So the #NotMyBossBusiness hashtag and I think some of the statements that are being made on the Hobby Lobby decision are a misrepresentation or distortion of what that decision stands for.

You do not have to take my word for it. In fact, the Washington Post Fact Checker yesterday debunked several of the outrageous claims that are being made about this decision. In fact, here are some of the things we know are true about the Hobby Lobby decision: "Nothing in the ruling allows a company to stop a woman from getting or filling a prescription for contraceptives." "Nothing in the ruling allows a company to stop a woman from getting or filling a prescription for contraceptives."

The majority opinion of Hobby Lobby actually states expressly that "under our cases, women (and men) have a constitutional right to obtain contraceptives."

In fact, what the Fact Checker found in response to one lawmaker's claim about the Hobby Lobby decision—who claimed that it means employers can restrict the ability of their employees to use contraceptives—the Washington Post stated:

No boss under this ruling has the right to tell an employee that they cannot use birth control. That's simply wrong.

I think that is very important for the American people to understand, for the women of this country to understand.

Also, the Washington Post, when debunking many of the claims made about the Hobby Lobby decision, said: "Simply put, the court ruling does not outlaw contraceptives, does not allow bosses to prevent women from seeking birth control and does not take away a person's religious freedom."

In fact, what the decision does is focus on the fact that under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which was a law that was passed with overwhelming support in the House of Representatives and in this body—in fact, by our count, as I understand it, over a dozen Democrat Members of the current Senate actually supported the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in some way. It was signed into law by President Clinton. So it used to be bipartisan that we would support religious freedom in this body. The notion that somehow Hobby Lobby as a closely-held corporation would have to give up all their religious beliefs seems to me to be antithetical to what we supported on a bipartisan basis in this Congress, which is the religious freedom of Americans that is reflected in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

In fact, contrary to the misleading rhetoric, the Hobby Lobby decision does not take away a woman's access to birth control. That existed before the Hobby Lobby decision and it exists today. That existed before ObamaCare and it exists today, thankfully.

No employee is prohibited from purchasing any FDA-approved drug or device. Contraception remains readily available and accessible to women nationwide. Prior to ObamaCare passing in this body, over 85 percent of large businesses already offered contraceptive coverage to their employees.

One thing that has not been mentioned is the ObamaCare mandate that has been the subject of the Hobby Lobby decision does not even apply to businesses that are under 50 employees in this country. So there are millions of women for whom the mandate that is addressed in the Hobby Lobby decision does not even apply to.

For lower income women, there are five programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that ensure access to contraception for women, including Medicaid.

In fact, more than 19 million women were eligible for government-supported

contraceptive assistance in 2010, and that has not changed.

So for those who would distort the Court's decision and insist that we cannot stand for religious liberty while simultaneously ensuring that women continue to have safe, affordable access to birth control—it is just not true. We can do both and we need to do both on behalf of the American people because people have deeply held religious beliefs, and it was so important to our Founding Fathers that they put respect for religion and protection of people's ability to choose what they believe in in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Americans believe strongly that we should be able to practice our religion without undue interference from the government. That goes to our character. So what happened in the Supreme Court's decision in Hobby Lobby is reaffirming that, but it did not say an employer will somehow now be making the decision whether a woman can have contraception. That is not what it said. In fact, employers have no right under the law to even know what my prescriptions are or any other woman's prescriptions are for contraception. So any suggestion to the contrary is entirely misleading.

The decision applies to closely-held businesses whose owners have genuine religious convictions. In this case, the company's owner, the Green family, agreed to provide coverage for 16 of the 20 contraceptive methods that are required under ObamaCare, including birth control pills. So I want people to understand that. They only had a moral objection to the remaining four methods.

In the narrow ruling, the Court agreed, based on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—an act that was introduced into Congress by the late Senator Edward Kennedy from Massachusetts and then-Congressman CHARLES SCHUMER from New York. Again, it was supported by over a dozen of my Democrat colleagues at the time. They brought forth the law because they were concerned at the time about another Supreme Court decision which held that generally applicable laws that have nothing to do with religion could effectively prevent Americans from fully exercising their religious rights. And guess what? It passed a then Democrat-controlled House by voice vote and was approved by a Democrat-controlled Senate by a vote of 97 to 3. There is not much that happens around here 97 to 3.

When President Clinton signed it into law, he said: "What this law basically says is that the government should be held to a very high level of proof before it interferes with someone's free exercise of religion."

In the Hobby Lobby decision, the government did not even try to meet that standard. They have tried to meet

that standard with other religious organizations, but they did not even try in this situation to contend what the Court found to be genuinely-held religious beliefs on a very limited basis.

There have been a lot of misrepresentations about the breadth of this decision. The Court's majority opinion explicitly states that the ruling does not "provide a shield for employers who might cloak illegal discrimination as a religious practice."

Additionally, the Court said that "our decision should not be understood to hold that an insurance-coverage mandate must necessarily fall if it conflicts with an employer's religious beliefs," meaning that someone must show a genuine religious objection. The government can overcome it if they are willing to show that they can do it in a less restrictive way. They did not even try in this case.

Well, some Americans may disagree with the family who owns the Hobby Lobby stores. All Americans believe religious freedom is a fundamental right that should not be abridged. When President Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law, he said:

Our laws and institutions should not impede or hinder, but rather should protect and preserve fundamental religious liberties.

I come to the floor today because I want people to understand this decision. Employers cannot tell you what kind of contraception you can have as a woman. Employers cannot even know what kind of contraception you have as a woman. That is protected under HIPAA laws, privacy laws that are very important.

Finally, this notion that it is not my boss's business—of course an employer cannot tell you that you cannot go fill a prescription for contraception. I think that to suggest otherwise is really to distort what the facts of this case are.

I believe we can protect people's fundamentally-held religious beliefs and provide women safe, effective access to contraception. Because of that, I will be introducing legislation on the Senate floor. That legislation would reaffirm that no employer can restrict an employee's access to contraceptives. Finally, it would also ensure that we look at ways to potentially give women greater access to contraceptives.

The legislation I will be introducing would also ask the FDA to study whether women can purchase contraceptives over the counter and whether it would be safe and effective for adult women to be able to do so. So we should have the FDA look at this issue to see if women can perhaps have even greater access than they do right now.

But the American people need to understand that the Hobby Lobby decision did not change women's access to contraceptives. In fact, under our HIPAA laws, no employer can know

what kind of contraception you may have been prescribed or are using. No employer can tell you that you cannot fill a prescription for any kind of contraception that you think is appropriate and that your doctor thinks is appropriate for you.

Finally, I would say our bill also does one other important thing; that is, it repeals the restrictions ObamaCare put on health savings accounts and flexible spending accounts. ObamaCare actually reduced the amount someone can put aside on a tax-free basis to pay for their own health care. ObamaCare also restricted the use of those accounts for purchase of over-the-counter medications. I have had many of my constituents complain to me about this. We would like to eliminate those restrictions and give people greater ability to set aside money on a tax-free basis to pay for their own health concerns, including over-the-counter medications.

One thing I would say finally is that I have heard so much from my constituents about the concerns they have with ObamaCare. I have heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who voted for ObamaCare, now come to the floor and complain about the Hobby Lobby decision. Well, I would argue that we are where we are today because they decided that ObamaCare was the way to go for health care in this country.

I have heard from a lot of my both male and female constituents about the real concerns they have with ObamaCare that I hope we will debate on this floor. I have heard from people who lost policies they liked, who are paying more for coverage than they were before, have higher deductibles. I have had women write me about concerns that their employer is going to cut their hours because of ObamaCare. Talk about a bad mandate. It redefined the 40-hour workweek. It is now a 30-hour workweek. So people are losing hours.

In my own State of New Hampshire, right now 10 of our hospitals are excluded from the exchange. We are not a very big State. It is a big deal. So some people have lost access to the doctor with whom they had a longstanding relationship or the hospital where they had their first child. Now, if they are expecting their second child and they are on the exchange, that hospital is excluded, and they are in a situation where ObamaCare is restricting women's rights as far as what hospital they can go to, when they could have gone there before.

Those are the real issues as we think about what has happened with ObamaCare. There are so many other issues I could talk about, stories my constituents have written to me. But I would hope the American people understand that employers cannot restrict your access to contraception. We will reassert in our bill that no employer

can do that. We will look at the FDA studying whether women can potentially have greater access to contraceptives in a safe and effective manner by looking at whether adult women can safely purchase contraceptives over the counter.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. I rise to speak on the pending nominations.

I appreciate the majority leader scheduling this vote to confirm Mr. Norman Bay to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC is one of the lesser known but perhaps one of the most important independent agencies in the Federal Government. It has jurisdiction over interstate transmission of electricity, oil, and natural gas, as well as licensing of hydroelectric power.

I believe Mr. Bay will be an outstanding member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I urge all of my colleagues to support his nomination today.

Since 2009 Mr. Bay has been the Director of the Office of Enforcement at FERC, where he has gained extensive experience in the regulation of energy markets. The Office of Enforcement is responsible for market oversight and surveillance and for implementing the antimanipulation authority Congress enacted in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This authority provided FERC new tools to combat the type of market manipulation that produced the devastating power crisis a decade ago across the West.

Under Mr. Bay's leadership, FERC has increased transparency in its work, while bringing a number of enforcement actions that have helped protect the integrity of the energy markets and provided \$300 million in relief to consumers—\$300 million back into the pockets of energy consumers.

He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School and has had a long and distinguished career of public service. Before joining FERC, he taught law at the University of New Mexico. He also served as an assistant U.S. attorney and in 2000 was nominated by the President to be the U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico. He was confirmed in that position by the full Senate by unanimous consent.

Mr. Bay is an outstanding public servant with extensive experience in the field of energy markets. I am confident he will judiciously implement FERC's statutory responsibility of oversight of our Nation's energy infrastructure, competitive markets, and reliability.

At his confirmation hearing in May, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee had a chance to

question Mr. Bay extensively on his work at the FERC and his views on regulatory policy. Senator Pete Domenici, a former chairman and longtime member of the energy committee from my home State of New Mexico, spoke at the hearing in strong support of Mr. Bay's nomination. Senator Jeff Bingaman, another former chairman of the energy committee from New Mexico, wrote a letter in support of his nomination.

The Senate must give consent to the President's nominees to be members of the FERC. The Senate is fulfilling that responsibility with this vote today. However, there should be no misunderstanding—Congress gave the President alone the responsibility of designating a member of the Commission to be the Chairman of the Commission. The law enacted by Congress in 1977 remains very clear: The President, and not the Senate, determines who will serve as Chairman of the Commission.

I believe Mr. Bay will be fair, balanced, pragmatic, and a consensus-oriented member of the FERC. He will decide cases on the merits, based on the facts, based on the law and on the record.

I am pleased to support the nominations of both Commissioner LaFleur and Mr. Bay to be members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I hope the Senate will vote today to confirm them both.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes and that it not be counted against the majority's time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week the President was in Denver, CO, where he talked about the economy. He said this: "By almost every measure, we are better off than when I took office." That is quite a statement. "By almost every measure we are better off than when I took office." I know a lot of Americans struggling with high health care bills who might disagree with that because the truth is that very few Americans are better off than they were 5½ years ago. Household income has plummeted by more than \$3,300 since the President took office. Meanwhile, the price of everything, from milk to the refrigerator to store it in, has risen. Gas prices have nearly doubled since the President took office. College costs have soared. Of course, family health insurance premiums have increased by nearly \$3,000 per family.

Combine reduced income with higher prices and you get a reduced living standard. Under the Obama Presidency, families who were once comfortably in the middle class are now struggling to

make ends meet. Other Americans have dropped out of the middle class altogether.

There are 3.7 million more women in poverty today than there were when the President took office. Mr. President, you want to talk about the war on women?

When the President took office, 33 million Americans were on food stamps. Today more than 46 million Americans receive food stamps. Americans struggling financially have had few opportunities to get ahead because the Obama economy has offered very little in the way of opportunity.

The President likes to talk about the jobs the economy has gained recently. But what he does not say is that 5 years after the recession officially ended, our economy is still posting recession-type levels of unemployment.

Back in 2009 the President's economic advisers confidently predicted that unemployment would fall below 6 percent in 2012. Well, here we are 2 years later. We are still not below 6 percent unemployment even after a historic expansion of monetary policy and the largest fiscal stimulus since World War II. The only reason the unemployment rate is not higher is because so many Americans have given up looking for a job entirely and dropped out of the workforce. The labor force participation rate currently stands at 62.8 percent—near a 36-year low. To put it another way, if the labor participation rate today were what it was when the President took office, unemployment would not be a little over 6 percent, it would be 10.2 percent. That is how many people have completely dropped out of the labor force and are no longer even looking for a job.

Then there are the millions of Americans who are working part time because they cannot find a full-time job. The Labor Department reported that the economy lost more than half a million full-time jobs in June and gained almost 800,000 part-time jobs. That is not a good statistic. It is the rare part-time job that pays all the bills and gives financial stability. Americans need more full-time jobs, not more part-time jobs.

They also need the opportunity for higher paying jobs, but that is another opportunity which is in short supply in the Obama economy. Forty-one percent of the jobs lost during the recession were high-wage jobs, but just 30 percent of the jobs recovered have been high-wage jobs. Similarly, 37 percent of the jobs lost in the recession were mid-wage jobs, while just 26 percent of the jobs gained since the recession have been mid-wage jobs. Meanwhile, while just 22 percent of the jobs lost during the recession were low-wage jobs, 44 percent of the jobs gained since the recession have been low-wage jobs.

We are trading high-wage jobs for low-wage jobs, full-time jobs for part-

time jobs. That is the reality that many Americans are experiencing. The Obama recovery, however, has been producing low-wage part-time jobs—not the types of jobs that Americans need for a future of financial security and stability.

No policy is threatening Americans' economic future more than ObamaCare. As every American knows, ObamaCare has failed to deliver on its promise of making health care more affordable. The President promised that his health care law would reduce premiums by \$2,500. Instead, premiums have risen.

Millions of Americans had their insurance plans cancelled and were told that their new plans would cost more—sometimes much, much more. One constituent wrote to tell me that the cheapest plan she could find for her family of four would cost \$17,000. Another wrote to tell me that his insurance plan was cancelled due to ObamaCare and the cheapest bronze plan he could find was \$987 a month—more than double what he was paying before. On top of that, the plan had a higher deductible and significantly higher cost-sharing requirements than his old plan.

I am sure every one of my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—has received letters just like this. Our constituents are hurting. What middle class family can afford to pay \$17,000 a year in insurance or double its health care premiums from the year before?

ObamaCare is placing an immense burden on middle-class families. The huge premium hikes that many Americans are facing are having a real impact on families' budgets. Money eaten by health care costs is money that can't be spent on a daughter's college education or a new car to replace the failing one or on repairs for the roof—and there is seemingly no end to ObamaCare's penalties.

In addition to hiking insurance premiums, ObamaCare is also encouraging companies to drop spousal coverage from their health plans. UPS and the University of Virginia, for example, have already dropped spousal coverage because of ObamaCare. Women are particularly affected by this since, as the Wall Street Journal reports, they tend to be the ones being dropped from employer-sponsored health care plans.

Then there is ObamaCare's marriage penalty. A woman who qualifies for a tax subsidy to help her purchase insurance could lose that subsidy if she gets married—even if both she and her husband qualified for the subsidy when they were single.

ObamaCare isn't just hiking Americans' health care bills, it is also damaging their economic prospects. Thanks to the 30-hour workweek rule, ObamaCare is helping to drive the surge in part-time employment. Businesses that couldn't afford to give

health insurance to workers working more than 30 hours have been forced to reduce their employees' hours and, by extension, their wages. Sixty-three percent of those affected by this provision are women.

Then there is the employer mandate, which is discouraging wage growth and making it more difficult for employers to grow their businesses and to hire new workers. When employers are forced to pay for benefits they can't afford, they often have no choice but to reduce wages or cancel raises and abandon plans for growing their businesses.

Then there are the other ObamaCare provisions that discourage job growth, such as the tax on medical devices such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, which has already been responsible for the loss of thousands of jobs in the medical device industry.

The last thing that we need right now in this weak economy is the kind of widespread devastation ObamaCare is causing. Americans are being hit from both sides. ObamaCare is raising their medical bills and it is destroying their job opportunities.

If the President were serious about trying to help middle-class Americans, he would be looking at where his health care law went wrong and at least supporting fixes for its most damaging provisions.

If Democrats were serious about fixing health care and helping the economy, they would be taking up Senator COLLINS' Forty Hours is Full Time Act, which would fix the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule and put Americans back to work or they would support my bill to eliminate the employer mandate for schools, colleges, and universities, so that these institutions aren't forced to cut wages or to eliminate positions.

Democrats thought if Americans found out what was in ObamaCare and what it meant for them, they would come to like it. Well, Americans have found out what is in the President's health care law, what it means for them, and they don't like it.

ObamaCare is hurting American families, it is hurting our economy, and it is time to start over and replace this bill with real health care reform, the kind that will lower costs, that will increase choice, and that will put Americans back in charge of their health care.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Cheryl LaFleur to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and in opposition to the nomination of Norman Bay to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

On May 20, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, of which I am a member, held a hearing on these two nominations. I had questions regarding Mr. Bay's qualifications prior to that hearing, and they were not allayed. If

anything, they were reinforced. Mr. Bay's experience in the energy field consists of his service over the past 5 years as Director of the Office of Enforcement at the FERC, a tenure which has been marked by that office's controversial theories of market manipulation and concerns by long-time industry experts about due process. Mr. Bay has 5 years of enforcement experience, but he has no regulatory experience. By contrast, Commissioner LaFleur, currently serving as the Acting Chairman of the FERC, has 5 years of experience on the FERC and decades of experience in the energy sector, including as a State utility commissioner. Yet we are being asked to demote Commissioner LaFleur to commissioner and replace her with an unproven and arguably less qualified candidate.

But most important from my perspective is whether a nominee will address the key responsibilities assigned to the agency to which he or she is being nominated. At FERC, job one with respect to the electric sector is assuring just and reasonable electric service in interstate commerce, which Congress has found for the past 80 years to be in the public interest. Assuring the reliability of such service is an important task that Congress explicitly made part of FERC's responsibilities nearly a decade ago.

At our May 20 hearing, I asked Mr. Bay whether he agreed with the developing consensus that baseload power plants, the "always on" energy resources vital to reliable operation of the grid, deserve additional consideration for the irreplaceable reliability benefits they provide. Mr. Bay answered that he looked forward to reviewing comments on the issue. I then asked whether as a commissioner he would look at the cumulative effect of EPA rules that, by various estimates, have resulted in the announced closure of 40,000 to 70,000 megawatts of coal-fired power plants across the country, many of them in Ohio, the closure of which has raised strong concerns about maintaining electric reliability in many parts of the country. He answered that if confirmed, he would be willing to discuss the issue with his colleagues to see if consensus could be reached.

Mr. President, these are simple questions that go to the heart of FERC's mission. On both, Mr. Bay gave non-answer answers that are the basis for substantial concern. Either you agree that something needs to be done to keep power plants running that are vital to maintaining a reliable electric system, or you don't. Either you are concerned that EPA's rules, which even the environmental groups attribute to shutting more than 68,000 megawatts of coal-fired generation, need to be evaluated for their electric reliability impacts, or you don't.

A presidential nominee deserves the benefit of the doubt, but in the case of

Mr. Bay, whose nomination has been rushed to the floor, the doubts remain too strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CALENDAR NOS. 894, 704, AND 508

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 842, the Senate remain in executive session and consider Calendar Nos. 894, Nealon; 704, Wood; and 508, Jaenichen; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations considered in this agreement to be confirmed by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to make a few comments about nominees that are before the Senate for confirmation and to thank Members on both sides of the aisle for working together to try to move forward two very important nominees for FERC.

First, let me say there has been some criticism of one of the nominees from some Members of the other party and, of course, everyone is entitled to their opinion; that is what the Senate is for. But I would like to make sure that the Senate record reflects an opinion of someone whom I admire greatly and I believe is very admired—significantly admired—by every Member of this Senate, and that is the opinion of Senator Domenici, the Republican chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for many years and a long-serving Senator from the State of New Mexico.

Senator Domenici, it may not be clearly understood, actually came to the energy committee to testify on behalf of Norman Bay.

His testimony was one of the most artful and compelling I have seen in my days here—which are now quite long at almost 18 years—and unusual in the sense that he read from no

script, spoke from the heart, and spoke to Democratic and Republican members of our committee. This is some of what he had to say:

I am pleased to provide a strong statement of support to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on behalf of Norman C. Bay. I first met Norman in early 2000, when he was nominated to be the U.S. Attorney in the District of New Mexico. I supported his nomination then and I support his nomination now to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission . . .

He was a good U.S. Attorney—fair, capable, and non-partisan—and, with my support, he remained in office as U.S. Attorney until 2001.

He continues:

In July 2009, Norman became the Director of the Office of Enforcement (OE) at FERC. This is a big job, because among other things OE must administer the anti-manipulation authority of the Energy Policy Act of 2005—a bill that I had authored when I was the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and one that passed with wide bipartisan support. The anti-manipulation authority was intended to give FERC the tools to combat the type of manipulation we saw in the Western Power Crisis from 2000 to 2001. I am pleased to hear that FERC has brought a number of significant anti-manipulation cases and that the EPA authority I gave to FERC has been put to good use to protect consumers, as well as the integrity of the wholesale natural gas and power markets.

I could not think of a more compelling person to have in your corner than the former Republican chair of the energy committee in support of the Bay nomination.

Now, there are a handful of Members on the other side that have opposed every nominee put forward by President Obama because their agenda is very different. It is a political agenda. But on policy, Senator Pete Domenici's testimony goes a long way in his support of a man who he believes is extremely qualified for the job to which the President has nominated him.

In addition to the compelling testimony of Senator Domenici, which was very influential in my final decision to support this nominee, I also want to present for the record the letter from the Republican Governor of New Mexico, Susana Martinez, who let me know personally that she would have loved to have been there personally to testify on behalf of Norman Bay but was unable to do so because of her schedule. She goes on to write a strong letter of recommendation, which is in the record of our committee. She says:

I am certain that Norman has been dedicated in his efforts to protect consumers, has been fair and balanced in his approach, and has focused on doing the right thing on behalf of the public interest.

For all those reasons, I hope the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will approve Norman's nomination to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

These are just a few of the strong testimonials that led me to finally consent to my support of Norman Bay, but

I did so with the support of the Presiding Officer as a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, making sure that the current chair, Cheryl LaFleur, could stay on for an additional length of time. I would have liked another year. Some people wanted 3 months, some people wanted 6 months, and some people wanted a full term. But we settled on a 9-month compromise—which is actually the fundamental nature of our business in the Senate.

It has been lost in the last couple of years, but I continue to be an optimistic believer that a good compromise can help us move the country forward, reduce rancor, hold people together, and make some decisions that are so important for the people who we are trying to serve.

FERC is not an insignificant entity. FERC, given the power by us, is the guardian of the public interest in our natural gas and electricity markets, something that Louisiana knows a lot about—natural gas and electricity markets.

We produce a tremendous amount of oil and gas for this Nation, and we consume a lot of oil and gas as producers of chemicals and other products that use natural gas as a feedstock. We are proud of our industry, and I would never casually support members on FERC if I didn't believe they were prepared to do this job and to do it well.

In particular, with the testimony from the former Republican chairman of the committee and a current serving Republican Governor for Norman Bay, I feel confident, based on his background, that he could do a good job, after working with Cheryl LaFleur for 9 months, which is the agreement that the White House and others have made.

Let me talk about Cheryl LaFleur for a moment. She is a graduate of Princeton. She is able, she is competent, and she has served as a member of FERC. She, in my view, has also been doing a spectacular job. She will continue to serve as chair of FERC for the next 9 months—should she be confirmed today—and will continue with the members of FERC to try to provide reliable power and electricity to our country—being fair and protecting the public interest.

This is a very complicated field of law and policy, as we know. This is not an easy part of the law to interpret.

There are many different electricity markets, there are many different ways to supply it. They are not-for-profits, they are municipals, and they are public utility companies. They all have pipelines and issues that have to go before FERC, and there are over 2,000 people who work for this agency. It may not be a household word, but it affects every household in America. So Cheryl LaFleur will remain, at my request, as chair for 9 months. Norman Bay will come on and train, if you will,

under her leadership, and I think grow into the role as a policymaker. He clearly is qualified—by the demonstration of the letters I have put in.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the leadership role he has played in outlining that path forward, trying to broker a compromise between people who wanted to do it very differently.

We had opposition on both sides for what is actually happening today, as we know, but we worked with Democrats and Republicans, trying to find a way forward, honoring the right of the President to make his nominations and still doing the right thing by FERC and the country. I personally think we have achieved that. I wanted to put that on the record before we vote. I understand the vote should be called any moment now.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BAY NOMINATION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Bay nomination.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield all time back for both sides.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Norman C. Bay, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2018?

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask for the yeas and nays.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "nay."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Cardin	Gillibrand
Begich	Carper	Hagan
Bennet	Casey	Harkin
Blumenthal	Coons	Heinrich
Booker	Donnelly	Heller
Boxer	Durbin	Hirono
Brown	Feinstein	Johnson (SD)
Cantwell	Franken	Kaine

Klobuchar	Murphy	Stabenow
Landrieu	Murray	Tester
Leahy	Nelson	Udall (CO)
Levin	Pryor	Udall (NM)
Manchin	Reed	Warner
Markey	Reid	Warren
McCaskill	Rockefeller	Whitehouse
Menendez	Sanders	Wyden
Merkley	Schumer	
Mikulski	Shaheen	

NAYS—45

Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Risch
Chambliss	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Isakson	Scott
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cornyn	King	Thune
Crapo	Kirk	Toomey
Cruz	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Corker	Schatz
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON LAFLEUR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the LaFleur nomination.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I yield back all time and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2019?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Ayotte	Boxer	Cochran
Baldwin	Brown	Collins
Barrasso	Burr	Coons
Begich	Cantwell	Cornyn
Bennet	Carper	Crapo
Blumenthal	Casey	Cruz
Blunt	Chambliss	Donnelly
Booker	Coats	Durbin
Boozman	Coburn	Enzi

Feinstein	Kirk	Reid
Fischer	Klobuchar	Risch
Flake	Landrieu	Rockefeller
Franken	Leahy	Rubio
Graham	Lee	Sanders
Grassley	Levin	Scott
Hagan	Manchin	Sessions
Harkin	Markey	Shaheen
Hatch	McCain	Shelby
Heinrich	McCaskill	Stabenow
Heitkamp	McConnell	Tester
Heller	Menendez	Thune
Hirono	Merkley	Toomey
Hoeven	Murkowski	Udall (CO)
Inhofe	Murphy	Udall (NM)
Isakson	Murray	Vitter
Johanns	Nelson	Warner
Johnson (SD)	Paul	Warren
Johnson (WI)	Portman	Whitehouse
Kaine	Pryor	Wicker
King	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—7

Cardin	Moran	Walsh
Gillibrand	Roberts	
Mikulski	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Corker	Schatz
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The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. NEALON TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

NOMINATION OF ROBERT A. WOOD FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

NOMINATION OF PAUL NATHAN JAENICHEN, SR., TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras; Robert A. Wood, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament; and Paul Nathan Jaenichen, Sr., of Kentucky, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

VOTE ON NEALON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Nealon nomination.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, we yield back time on all three nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Hearing no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WOOD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert A. Wood, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON JAENICHEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Paul Nathan Jaenichen, Sr., of Kentucky, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today in support of the Not My Boss's Business Act. I thank Senator MURRAY and Senator UDALL for introducing this legislation to help address the recent Supreme Court decision.

Women have gone to the tops of the mountains and to outer space. Women are serving as CEOs, as scientists, and starting our own companies. Here in the Senate we have gone from no women to 20, and that is a great accomplishment.

But for all of our progress—and there has been a lot—this stubborn fact remains: Women still struggle to attain the basic health care services that allow them to plan their families, protect their health, and contribute to our

economy. This is fundamentally an issue of fairness and an issue of equality.

I have always said that the Affordable Care Act is a beginning and not an end. I would like to see changes to that bill. I have sponsored changes to that bill. But the law does take significant steps forward on health care for women. One that is of particular importance to women is requiring that all health insurance plans cover FDA-approved forms of contraception. This decision was based on the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine.

The Institute of Medicine had good reason to include contraception as an essential preventive service. We know that pregnancies that are planned are good for moms; they are good for babies. Better access to contraception prevents unintended pregnancies—something we can all agree we want. We do not want unintended pregnancies. We do not want to have abortions. So better access to contraception, as has been proven time and time again, brings down those numbers. And access to birth control is essential for women to meet their career and their education and their family goals.

Not every employer was required to provide contraceptive coverage. Certain nonprofit religious employers were allowed an exemption. It protected the beliefs of religious nonprofits but could be implemented in a way that still ensured all women could receive the same preventive services in their health insurance.

What I do not believe is sensible, however, is allowing any for-profit business to ask for an exemption. That, in practice, is what the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court ruling could do and what the bill we are considering today would correct.

First, what this bill will not do: It will not force churches or religiously affiliated nonprofits to offer contraception coverage. This bill maintains their exemption. It will not force anyone to use contraception. That decision is and must remain with each person.

What this bill will do, however, is to add a provision to the Affordable Care Act's requirements that would prohibit an employer from denying coverage of a health care service that is required under Federal law. It clarifies that this requirement applies even under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—the law that the Supreme Court ruled was violated by the contraception coverage requirement.

In other words, it says if you work for an American corporation, you can expect that your health insurance—which you work for and receive as part of your compensation—will cover the same basic preventive health benefits everyone else receives. It says that your boss—regardless of his or her religious beliefs—cannot pick and choose what benefits your health insurance covers.

This is common sense. A woman's decision about her birth control is between her and her doctor, not her employer. What she chooses to use her compensation for is really not her boss's business, whether we are talking about a salary or other compensation, including health insurance.

There is no doubt that women have come a long way. But when a woman's boss can step in, as a result of this narrowly decided Court decision—a 5-4 ruling—and prevent her from making the best health care decisions for her health, her career, and her future, it makes me wonder just how far we have actually come.

Mr. President, that is why I urge you to support this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This important legislation will help preserve the rights of employees while protecting religious employers. It will help women access the preventive services they need and it will prevent unintended pregnancies and improve the health of both women and their children. That is not just good for women; that is good for families, that is good for business, that is good for our economy, and that is good for our future.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in defense of the most fundamental principle on which our Republic was founded—what is rightly recognized as our first freedom—religious liberty.

Our fellow citizens today do not think much of Congress. The Gallup organization, whose results are actually less grim than some other polls, gives Congress a job approval rating of just 15 percent. That figure has not risen above the teens in more than 3 years.

Now and then, however, Congress does rise to the occasion, putting aside partisan or ideological differences to achieve something important for our Nation and its citizens.

One example occurred in 1993—I had a lot to do with it—when liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans, stood to defend a fundamental human right. On October 27, 1993, this body passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act by a vote of 97 to 3.

It went through the House by a unanimous vote. By mid-November the House had passed it unanimously and President Bill Clinton had signed it into law. I was there at the signing ceremony on the south lawn. Despite the overwhelming bipartisan support for final passage of RFRA, it took Congress 3 years to achieve that defense of religious freedom.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights held hearings in 1990 and 1992, and the full Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing in 1992. Concerned citizens and groups came together to form the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion—a grassroots effort more diverse than any I have ever seen in all of my 38 years here. Americans of every political stripe joined hands to defend the first freedom mentioned in the Bill of Rights. The resulting legislation, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, allows the Federal Government to interfere with the exercise of religion only for the most compelling reason and only in the least restrictive way. This law was necessary because in 1990 the Supreme Court had changed the legal standard, making it easy, rather than difficult, for the government to burden religious exercise.

A bill recently introduced here in the Senate, S. 2578, would turn the clock back, requiring that Federal laws and regulations ignore rather than respect religious freedom. This is the first time in American history that the Congress will consider a bill intended to diminish the protections for the religious liberty of all Americans. It is part of a broader campaign to demonize religious freedom as the enemy, as an obstacle to certain political goals.

It is important for the American people to know the truth about how we got here. The Affordable Care Act requires that most employers provide insurance coverage at no cost to employees for what it calls preventive services. Regulations from the Department of Health and Human Services define that category as covering all forms of birth control approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including both contraceptives and methods that can act after conception.

The difference between a contraceptive and an abortifacient is the difference between preventing and taking human life. That discrepancy may be meaningless to some, but it is very important to many and can be a matter of the most profound moral and religious significance. As a result of the birth control mandate, many religious employers faced massive fines if they followed their religious beliefs, so some of them filed suit to prevent its enforcement.

This is exactly the kind of situation that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was enacted to address, the kind of situation that should require the government to justify why it wants to interfere with the exercise of religion.

Cases brought by two companies owned by religious families made it to the Supreme Court. These companies do provide insurance coverage for the FDA's 16 methods of contraception, but they believe that doing so for its 4 methods of birth control that can

cause abortion violates their deeply held religious beliefs.

Two weeks ago, in a case titled “*Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*,” the Supreme Court ruled that the HHS birth control mandate does not sufficiently accommodate these employers’ exercise of religion as required by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

It took a lot of work to establish RFRA’s defense of religious freedom, but it would not take much work to destroy it. The bill we will soon consider, S. 2578, would in one fell swoop reduce the free exercise of religion from a fundamental human right to a cheap election-year prop.

RFRA was developed after months of discussion and debate. It was the product of bipartisan deliberation and considered judgment. I know. I was there. I was the one who talked Senator Kennedy into coming on this bill. When it was signed on the south lawn—when President Clinton signed it, Senator Kennedy was one of the most proud people there. This bill represents vindication of the fundamental and natural rights that we originally established government to protect.

By contrast, S. 2578 was thrown together in a matter of days. It has not received a single committee hearing in either Chamber. In fact, here in the Senate it is not even being sent to a legislative committee. The majority has put their finger to the political wind and decided that all they want is a show vote they can spin to their advantage in the election this fall. That is ridiculous. They ought to be ashamed.

One sign of what is really going on is the fact that the bill’s “findings” are about four times as long as its actual provisions, and it reads more like a series of press releases than serious legislative language. The bill’s supporters wish to ram it through Congress without meaningful deliberation, without hearings, without the kind of scrutiny that would expose this effort for what it is. The bill’s findings, for example, say not one word about the exercise of religion that gave rise to the Hobby Lobby litigation in the first place. Instead, one of the bill’s findings claims that those lawsuits were filed by employers who simply wanted to deny their employees health insurance coverage for birth control. I guess you can call it contraception. In reality, the employers do not want to take anything away from anyone. They simply ask, as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act requires, that laws and regulations about health insurance coverage also consider and balance their basic right to religious exercise.

I have heard proponents of this legislation make wild claims that corporations are denying access to health care, intruding into people’s bedrooms, and even taking away their freedoms. Nonsense. Such claims do not even pass the

laugh test. They are so clearly false that those who peddle such fiction must ignore both RFRA and the Supreme Court’s decision in the Hobby Lobby case or deliberately distort them beyond recognition.

Just yesterday the Washington Post Fact Checker listed example after example of what it charitably described as the rhetoric getting way ahead of the facts as Democrats have made one outlandish claim after another.

Finding 19 in this bill is perhaps its most outrageous, claiming that legislation “is intended to be consistent with the Congressional intent in enacting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.” But of course that claim is absurd on its face. Congress expressed its purpose in enacting RFRA in the text of that statute, including RFRA’s finding that its legal standard applies “in all cases where the free exercise of religion is substantially burdened.” RFRA’s most prominent backers in Congress also expressed its intent. Over in the House, for example, then-Representative CHARLES SCHUMER said that RFRA would restore the American tradition of “allowing maximum religious freedom”—spoke about this bill, spoke glowingly about what it means on both sides of the floor.

The bill before us today does the opposite, requiring employers to provide insurance coverage “notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law,” including specifically the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. If a bill prohibiting consideration of religious exercise is consistent with the law requiring consideration of religious exercise, such as RFRA, then words have no meaning whatsoever.

We are also told that S. 2578 simply responds to the Supreme Court’s recent decision in Hobby Lobby, but in reality it goes much further. The Supreme Court’s decision involved only the Affordable Care Act and the HHS birth control mandate, but this bill prohibits consideration of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act regarding insurance coverage of any health care item or service required by any Federal law or regulation. The Affordable Care Act and the HHS birth control mandate apply to employers with at least 50 employees, but this bill’s much broader mandate applies to any employer regardless of size. The Hobby Lobby case involved a for-profit corporation, but this bill applies to any employer. This bill appears to be not so much a response to the Supreme Court’s decision in Hobby Lobby as the attempt to broaden and extend the Affordable Care Act and the HHS birth control mandate.

The bill’s mandate that health insurance coverage for any health care item or service under any Federal law or regulation be provided notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law seems to reach beyond the Religious

Freedom Restoration Act. Does it include, for example, the Hyde-Weldon amendment or other laws that have for more than 40 years protected health care providers and facilities from being forced to participate in abortion? Before you answer no, remember that no one thought RFRA’s protections for religious freedom would ever be attacked as they are today.

Under S. 2578, the lone protections for the fundamental right of religious exercise would be the narrow statutory exemption for churches and houses of worship and the weak administrative accommodation for religious nonprofits that could be revoked at any time. Even worse, the bill would allow for a future reduction or elimination of this so-called accommodation but not for its expansion. Not only would religious freedom be diminished immediately but what is left would be subject to a one-way ratchet toward elimination.

Earlier this summer I spoke here on the Senate floor about how religious freedom in America has three key dimensions: It includes religious behavior as well as belief. It applies collectively as well as individually. It is public as well as private in scope.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act represents the full understanding of religious freedom. It requires that when Congress considers legislation or executive branch agencies consider regulations, they must take this fundamental freedom into account and give it the respect it deserves. S. 2578 would be the first bill to create an exemption from RFRA and the first bill explicitly to prohibit consideration of the fundamental right of religious exercise.

Five years after enacting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Congress enacted the International Religious Freedom Act, which established the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. That legislation declared that the “right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States.” The Senate passed that legislation by a vote of 98 to 0, including 10 Democrats who have today cosponsored the bill before us that would disregard freedom of religion. Those Democrats include the majority leader and the sponsor of S. 2578. They cannot have it both ways.

Like his predecessors, President Obama designated January 16 as Religious Freedom Day. In his proclamation, the President declared that “my administration will remain committed to promoting religious freedom both at home and across the globe. We urge every country to recognize religious freedom as both a religious right and a key to a stable, prosperous and peaceful future.” Actions speak louder than words. Either religious freedom undergirds the origin and existence of America or it does not. Religious freedom is either a universal right or it is

not. Religious freedom is either a key to a stable and prosperous future or it is not.

If America is about allowing maximum religious freedoms, as my colleague the senior Senator from New York once said, then it should continue to do so.

It is time for this body to choose whether it will protect religious liberty or whether it will seek to destroy it.

In 1993, Congress stood up to defend the free exercise of religion after a Supreme Court decision undermined it. The bill before us today would undermine the free exercise of religion after a Supreme Court decision defended it.

In 1993, the free exercise of religion was offered as a solution. The bill before us today targets religious freedom as the problem. It treats certain religious beliefs as simply unworthy of recognition and religious exercise in general as a second- or even a third-rate value. I believe we can both uphold fundamental rights and find solutions to public policy issues.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, even though we have differences about policy, will once again join together for the common good by recommitting ourselves and our Nation to the fundamental right of religious freedom. We have to do this. It is the first freedom mentioned in the Bill of Rights. One would think everybody here would be absolutely on the side of upholding it.

This bill is anything but that, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle start to realize how important this is and vote against this terrible bill that has been slapped together for political purposes.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, Republicans are on the attack once again, trying to put women's fundamental rights on the chopping block. I stand with my colleagues to fight back. Senator PATTY MURRAY of Washington, Senator MARK UDALL of Colorado, and 40 other Senators have stood to sponsor new legislation to reverse the Supreme Court's shocking decision in Hobby Lobby, where the Court gave corporations the power to deny their employees access to birth control. We will vote on this legislation tomorrow morning, and I urge my colleagues to pass it without delay.

Right now, with millions of Americans still out of work and struggling to recover from the worst economic down-

turn since the Great Depression, with 40 million Americans dealing with student loans, with millions of people working full time at minimum wage and still living in poverty, with the big banks getting bigger, workers getting poorer, and seniors struggling to make ends meet, Republicans in Washington have decided that the most important thing for them to focus on is how to deny women access to birth control.

I will be honest: I cannot believe we are even having a debate about whether employers can deny women access to birth control. Guys, this is 2014, not 1914. Most Americans thought this was settled long, long ago. But for some reason Republicans keep dragging us back here over and over again.

After all, the Hobby Lobby case is just the most recent battle in an all-out Republican assault on women's access to basic health care. In 2012 the Republicans tried to pass the Blunt amendment, a proposal that would have allowed employers and insurance companies to deny women access to health care services based on any vague moral objection. Democrats said no, the President said no, and the American people said no to this offensive idea.

But instead of listening to the American people, Republicans in Washington doubled down. Remember last year's government shutdown that nearly tanked our economy? That fight started with a GOP effort to hold the whole operation of the Federal Government hostage in order to try to force Democrats and the President to let employers deny their workers access to birth control. Well, we rejected the hostage taking. Democrats said no, the President said no, and the American people said no to this offensive idea.

But instead of listening to the American people, Republicans turned to their rightwing friends on the Supreme Court, and those Justices did what Congress would not do, what the President would not do, and what the American people would not do. Those Justices decided that corporations have the right to ignore the law and determine for themselves whether their employees can access basic health care coverage.

The Hobby Lobby decision is a stunning case. As Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noted in her dissent, the result of this case could be to deny "legions of women who do not hold their employers' beliefs access to contraceptive coverage that the ACA would otherwise secure."

The case is the first step on a slippery slope that could eventually allow corporations to deny health care coverage to employees for other medical care including immunizations that protect our children from deadly disease, HIV treatment that saves lives or blood transfusions needed in surgeries.

The Hobby Lobby case is stunning, but not entirely surprising. Giant cor-

porations and their rightwing allies fight every day in Congress to protect their own privileges and to bend the laws to benefit themselves. They devote enormous resources to the task. Sometimes we beat them anyway. We beat them when they tried to pass the Blunt amendment, and we beat them when they tried to shut down the government over birth control. But when corporations lose in Congress, they don't just give up. They know they can often turn defeat into victory if they can get a favorable court decision. So while they push hard on Congress, they also devote enormous resources to influencing the courts, trying to transform our judiciary from a neutral, fair and impartial forum into just one more rigged Washington game. Nowhere has the success of this strategy to rig the courts been more obvious than with the U.S. Supreme Court. Three well-respected legal scholars recently examined 20,000 Supreme Court cases from the last 65 years, and they listed the top 10 most procorporate Justices in that entire time. The results? The five conservative Justices sitting on the Court today were all in the top 10, and Justices Alito and Roberts are numbers 1 and 2.

So it is no surprise that those five Justices banded together in the Hobby Lobby case to decide that corporations have more rights than the women who work for them. They decided that corporations are people who matter more than real living men and women who work hard everyday and who are entitled to the protection of our laws.

Now we can fight back against this decision and against the corporate capture of our Federal courts. We can fight back by appointing judges who are fair, judges who are impartial, judges who won't show up on any "top 10" list for putting a thumb on the scales in favor of big business. We can fight back tomorrow by passing legislation to overturn this terrible Supreme Court decision.

The proposed law, called the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act is simple. It does not require any person, any church, any house of worship, any faith or any religious nonprofit to endorse or provide insurance coverage for contraception. It does just one thing: It prevents ordinary for-profit corporations from ignoring the law and imposing their own religious beliefs on their employees by refusing to provide basic health benefits that are legally required. That was the law before Hobby Lobby, and it should be the law again.

Senators will have a chance to vote tomorrow, and I urge every Senator to do the right thing. But whatever happens, we have won this fight many times before, and I am confident that sooner or later we will win it again, because no matter how many resources the other side pours into this battle,

they will never convince Americans that their bosses should be in charge of their most intimate health care decisions, and they will never convince Americans that corporations are people whose imagined rights are somehow more important than the health of real living, breathing people.

I have a daughter, I have granddaughters, and I will never stop fighting the efforts of backward-looking ideologues who want to cut women's access to birth control. We have lived in that world, and we are not going back—not ever.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, according to the Border Patrol, more than 57,000 unaccompanied children have entered the United States illegally this year. That number is expected to grow to 90,000 by the end of the year and 140,000 by the end of next year. These startling facts speak for themselves. Swift and dramatic action, both on the part of Congress and the administration is needed.

We know why most children are coming. America offers more opportunity than the country from which they are fleeing. Most of these children hope to be reunited with a parent or a relative. Many just hope to blend into the United States and to stay for an indefinite period of time. I understand that.

I understand the incentive to be in the United States, but we cannot simply allow this to continue. According to reports about a recent White House meeting the President had with some people concerned about this wave of people coming from Central America, the President said that sometimes there is an inherent injustice in where you are born, and no President can solve that. He reportedly said that Presidents must send the message that you just cannot show up at the border, plead for asylum or refugee status and hope to get it.

The President is quoted as saying:

... then anyone can come in, and it means that, effectively, we don't have any kind of system. We are a Nation with borders that must be enforced.

The President is right. If the reckless journey from Central America or Mexico or any other country to the United States is met with, at worst, long stays in the United States and, at best, long stays coupled with family reunification, these crossings will continue. It is just human nature. Even if every child and every adult is ultimately deported 6 months or a year from now, it will be too late, for in the intervening months the message is: Make it to the United States and you can stay.

The incentives must change. When planes full of those who crossed are returned, people in those countries will stop paying smugglers thousands of

dollars to take their children north. Incentives work, and in this case it may be the only way.

So what are we to do? At one point the President asked Congress for some legal authority. Congress should give it to him. In addition, Senator MCCAIN and I will offer a bill that will hinge U.S. foreign aid to Central American countries on their response to this situation, providing for refugee processing in those countries. They will heighten penalties for human trafficking and it will expedite the removal of those who are here without a legitimate claim.

The President did ask for funds to deal with the crisis, although he asked for those funds without reforms. I am pleased to say that there appears to be a growing consensus that any funding request in a supplemental bill should include substantive reforms that deal with the existing circumstances that we are in as well as heading off future impacts. In the meantime the administration has at its discretion the ability to dramatically stem this wave of crossings.

I will talk about a few of the options that the President clearly has right now. First and foremost, the Department of Homeland Security is not required to release unaccompanied children after they have been apprehended. While requiring DHS to transfer them to Health and Human Services within 72 hours, the 2008 trafficking law provides flexibility in "exceptional circumstances."

Second, the administration has at its discretion the ability to expedite or trim the timelines of hearings for unaccompanied children. For example, the President can direct the Department of Justice to not agree to continuances for these hearings. He should do that as well.

Third, for children already released to HHS, the President can direct HHS to not place children automatically with their parents or family members. The 2008 trafficking protection law requires the administration to place children in the "least restrictive setting" in their best interest. The administration has discretion as to what constitutes least restrictive setting. If we acknowledge, as the President has, that most of these children will not be able to stay in the United States, why would we place them with a parent or a guardian only to take them from that parent or guardian months or years later? That, I would submit, is not in their best interest.

I am certain that there are those who will object to these actions if taken by the President, but I will submit that we should do everything we can to ensure that another 30,000 or 60,000 or 100,000 children do not stream north on this dangerous journey. The real question is, What wouldn't we do to prevent that from happening? The current situ-

ation is not humane at all. It is not humane to allow these children to come forward this way.

Let me be clear. For those seeking asylum, there will be many who will have a legitimate claim of persecution. Nobody is talking about shutting down the avenues to submit or to have such a claim. There will still be protections for genuine asylum seekers. It is best for those who seek refuge to do so in their own home country at an American embassy or consulate. That should, at best, be done in their own country. The legislation we will put forward will provide more resources for that to happen.

Earlier this month the President's spokesman indicated that "it's unlikely that most of the kids who go through this process will qualify for humanitarian relief, which is to say that most of them will not have a legal basis . . . to remain in the country."

Cecilia Munoz, the Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, made it clear: "If you look at the history of these kinds of cases and apply them to the situation, it seems very unlikely that the majority of these children are going to have the ability to stay in the United States."

Here is my primary concern: Despite discretion to do otherwise, the administration continues to provide precisely the goal of those crossing illegally—being allowed to enter the United States, reuniting with their families, and staying for an extended period of time. They are allowing these incentives to continue. Despite firm quotes and statements otherwise, the administration's response to the crisis is a case study in sending the wrong message.

In his July 8 request for \$3.7 billion in supplemental spending related to this crisis, the President stated that his administration would work with Congress to "ensure that [they] have the legal authority" they need, including "providing the Secretary of Homeland Security additional authority to exercise discretion in processing the return and removal of unaccompanied children from these Central American countries." More than a week later, with the wave of children crossing illegally every day and increased anger pointed at the issue, it remains anyone's guess as to what the President is actually seeking. He didn't ask for any new authority in the funding request that was just sent up. In the days after the supplemental request was made, it became clear that nearly \$2 billion of the funding request is for the Department of Health and Human Services—a department that plays no role in deportation and a department that the administration permits to place those who cross illegally with families inside the United States.

Congress needs to do what it can to provide the statutory tools to address this crisis. As I mentioned earlier, the

senior Senator from Arizona and I will offer a bill in the coming days to do that. In the meantime, the President has the discretion and the authority to act within the law, follow the law, and offer the right incentives so we don't have this situation continuing as it is today. I encourage the President to do so.

With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The senior Senator from New Jersey.

IRAN NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come again to the floor to speak about one of our greatest national security challenges, which is a nuclear-armed Iran and the latest conflicting remarks coming from Iran's leaders.

I will say at the outset, as I have said in the past, I support the administration's diplomatic efforts. I have always supported a bipartisan, two-track policy of diplomacy and sanctions. At the same time, I am convinced that we should only relieve pressure on Iran in exchange for very verifiable concessions that will fundamentally dismantle Iran's illicit nuclear program and that any deal be structured in such a way that alarm bells will sound from Vienna to Washington to Moscow and Beijing should Iran restart its program anytime in the next 20 or 30 years.

I am gravely concerned by the recent remarks of Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah, whose views about what Iran is willing to give up in a deal seem to deliberately undermine the positions of Iran's negotiators in Vienna and clearly curtail their flexibility as we enter into a critical stage of the talks.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Zarif gave an interview that went public with Iran's negotiating position. Let's break down exactly what it is he offered. He said Iran will freeze its nuclear fuel program for several years in exchange for being treated like other peaceful nuclear nations and for sanctions relief. Let's be clear. This will leave 19,000 centrifuges spinning in Iran. It would not, from what I can tell, require Iran to dismantle anything. In my view, that is not a starting place for an end game. It is the same obfuscation and the same Iranian tactics we have seen for years and decades. Iran puts offers on the table that appear to be concessions but in reality are designed to preserve Iranian illicit nuclear infrastructure and enrichment so that the capacity to break out and rush toward a nuclear weapon is still very much within reach. That is not an end game; it is a nonstarter.

Essentially what Zarif is offering is the same concessions as what Iran made for the interim agreement over 6 months ago. In exchange, Iran gets sanction relief—except we know Iran is not like any other nation, and its history of cheating, lying, and evading inspections proves it.

One commentator said this morning: "So it seems that Iran is trying to protect its nuclear breakout capacity while trying to appear moderate."

Zarif's proposal last night is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. It is more moderate than the Ayatollah's outlandish demand for 190,000 centrifuges last week, but at its core it is an offer to not give anything in terms of enrichment capacity and in exchange receive sanctions relief, and that is unacceptable.

The Zarif proposal will extend the joint plan of action, allowing Iran's nuclear program to run in place subject to inspections but will not make a single concession—none—that would demonstrably set back Iran's nuclear ambitions in the long term, including no concessions on the number of centrifuges in the secret Fordow enrichment facility. Iran would get the relief it wants while retaining the infrastructure to quickly rebuild its stockpile of highly enriched uranium. That is straight out of the North Korea handbook—freeze and preserve your ability for a future date.

I remind my colleagues in the Senate that in October of 1994, the United States and North Korea signed an agreed framework which the international community hoped would end the ongoing crisis over North Korea's nuclear program. The agreement froze the operation and construction of North Korea's nuclear reactors which were part of its covert nuclear weapons program. In exchange, the United States agreed to provide two proliferation-resistant nuclear power reactors. There were high hopes for the agreement. Many called it a first step in the full normalization of political and economic relations with North Korea.

While North Korea carried out some of the measures in the agreement, it simultaneously continued its ballistic missile program by improving the range and accuracy of its missiles, and it secretly began to pursue a clandestine program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons separate from the plutonium program which the agreement had frozen.

Once again, international tensions came to a head in January of 2003 when North Korea withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and following its withdrawal from the NPT, North Korea kicked out IAEA inspectors, restarted the nuclear reactor that had been frozen under the 1994 agreed framework, and began moving spent fuel rods to a reprocessing center that could produce plutonium.

At the time of its withdrawal, North Korea, like Iran, said it "had no intention of making nuclear weapons" and that its nuclear activities "would be confined only to power production and other peaceful purposes." Of course, as we know now, North Korea would conduct a nuclear test establishing its potential to build nuclear weapons.

This history should serve as a warning about what could happen if we allow Iran to maintain a robust nuclear infrastructure.

The fact is that Iran is simply agreeing to freeze and to temporarily lock the door on its nuclear weapons program as is and walk away. Should they later walk away from the deal, as they have in the past, they can simply unlock the door and continue their nuclear weapons program from where they are today. That is exactly what the talks—in my mind—were intended to avoid.

As I stand here, there is a rush for our negotiators in Vienna and Secretary Kerry to go and try to save the essence of what seems to be a significant distance between the parties. I know our side is working in good faith to reach an agreement. Our terms have been on the table for months, and now, at the critical hour, the Supreme Leader throws a monkey wrench into the negotiations and even surprises his own negotiating team by demanding that 190,000 centrifuges remain for any final deal.

At this point it is our obligation to ask some very pointed questions. Are Zarif and President Ruhani truly empowered to make this deal? Even though Zarif and Ruhani's intentions seem sincere, can we say the same about the ultimate decisionmaker in Tehran, Supreme Leader Khamenei? Does the Supreme Leader truly want a deal or are his redlines an attempt to undermine the negotiations?

Secretary Kerry said this morning that "the U.S. believes Iran has the right to a peaceful nuclear program under the NPT."

Let's remind ourselves of first principles. No country has a right to enrichment. They may have the ability to enrichment or a desire to enrich, but they do not have the right to enrich, and certainly not Iran given its past behavior.

Let's remember how we reached this point. Over a period of decades, Iran has deceived the international community about its nuclear program, breaching its international commitment in what everyone agrees was an attempt to make Iran a nuclear weapons state or at least a threshold state. Experts such as those at the Institute for Science and International Security believe that Iran began building a secret uranium enrichment centrifuge facility underground at Fordow in 2006—3 years—3 years—before it was declared to the International Atomic Energy Administration. Now Iran is seeking to turn the tables on the negotiation to again convince the international community—through words rather than deeds—that it seeks a peaceful nuclear energy program. The Supreme Leader called the idea of closing Fordow "laughable." For my colleagues, this is a facility built under a mountain, declared only after Iran was caught

cheating, and designed to withstand a military strike. It does not take a nuclear expert to draw the obvious conclusion about Iran's intentions.

If Iran can't even agree to close the facility that is at the heart of its covert enrichment program, what concessions can it possibly make that would address international concerns? Are we supposed to take Iran at its word when its actions have demonstrated over years that it is not a good-faith actor? Are we supposed to believe that Iran wants 190,000 centrifuges—about 171,000 more than it has right now—for peaceful purposes? That is truly laughable.

Even for a country that doesn't have the world's third largest oil reserves—which Iran does—that would be an absurd position. Iran can—and in fact already does—get cheaper and better nuclear fuel for the Bushehr reactor from Russia than it could make at home. Let me repeat that. It gets cheaper and better fuel from Russia for its nuclear reactor at the Bushehr facility than what it can make at home.

Experts agree that centrifuges must be a part of the deal. David Albright, a respected former International Atomic Energy Administration inspector, has said for Iran's move from an interim to a final agreement, it would have to close the Fordow facility and remove between 15,000 and 16,000 of its existing 20,000 centrifuges. Even then, we are looking at a breakout time of about 6 to 8 months, depending on whether Iran has access to uranium enriched to just 3.5 percent or access to 20-percent enriched uranium.

Dennis Ross, one of America's pre-eminent diplomats and foreign policy analysts, who has served under both Democratic and Republican Presidents, has said Iran should retain no more than 10 percent of its centrifuges. That is no more than 2,000.

So maybe the comments we have heard from the Supreme Leader were, as some analysts have suggested, an effort by the Supreme Leader to superimpose limitations on the negotiating team so at some point they would be free to say these issues are out of their hands, in the hope of somehow forcing a better deal this week in Vienna. So I suggest that we are either seeing a not so clever game of good cop-bad cop or Iran's negotiators in Vienna have done a poor job of communicating what their boss believes is the bottom line at the negotiating table or maybe we just haven't been listening to what we don't want to hear. From the onset of the talks, Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif and President Rouhani have said they would not dismantle any centrifuges. President Rouhani was adamant in an interview on CNN that Iran would not be dismantling its centrifuges.

Let me quote from that interview with Mr. Zakaria.

President Rouhani:

We are determined to provide for the nuclear fuel of such plants inside the country,

at the hands of local Iranian scientists. We are going to follow on this path.

Zakaria said:

So there will be no destruction of centrifuges, of existing centrifuges?

President Rouhani said:

No, no, not at all.

Let's remember that the onus in these talks is on Iran, not the P5+1. Iran is the party at fault. Iran is the party that came to these talks with unclean hands. Iran is the party that has been consistently and overwhelmingly rebuffed by the United Nations and the international community for its nuclear ambitions and support for terrorism, the subject of six U.N. Security Council resolutions and a multitude of sanctions regimes.

Just last week the U.S. courts agreed to a landmark payment of \$1.7 billion to the families of Iranian terror victims, including families of the 241 servicemembers who died in the bombing of the Marine Corps barracks bombing in Lebanon in 1983—31 years ago—and 19 who died in the Khobar Towers bombing in eastern Saudi Arabia in 1996—both bombings perpetrated by Iran. Iran's duplicity has been going on for decades.

So who is the bad guy here? Now commentators may choose to see the U.S. Congress as the antagonist here, but I suggest they look across the table and decide whether they want to take a deal with Iran on a nod and a handshake. In my view, through its history, through its actions, through its false words and deeds for decades, Iran has forgone the ability for us to shake on a deal that freezes their program. The only option on the table can be a long-term deal that dismantles Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program—a deal that clearly provides for a long-term verification, inspection, and enforcement regime, and incentives for compliance in the form of sanctions relief—based on Iranian actions that are verifiable, not on what Iran claims to be the truth.

The fact is, from my perspective, there is no sanctions relief signing bonus. If Iran wants relief from sanctions, then it needs to tangibly demonstrate to the world it is giving up its quest for nuclear weapons—period.

Let's remember that, although none of us in this Chamber are at the negotiating table, we have a tremendous stake in the outcome. Without Congress's bipartisan action on a clear sanctions regime, there would have been no talks and we would not even have had the hope of ending Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions. As a separate and coequal branch of government representing the American people, Congress has an obligation to provide oversight and a duty to express our views of what a comprehensive deal should look like. I will continue to come to this floor to express my views and my concerns given what we have heard and seen in the past from Iran.

Iran has a history of duplicity with respect to its nuclear program, using past negotiations to cover advances in its nuclear program. And let's not forget that President Rouhani, as the former negotiator for Iran, said, in no uncertain terms:

The day that we invited the three European ministers to the talks, only 10 centrifuges were spinning at Natanz. We could not produce one gram of U4 or U6. We did not have the heavy water production. We could not produce yellowcake. Our total production of centrifuges inside the country was 150. We wanted to complete all of these. We needed time. We did not stop. We completed the program.

That is his quote.

The simple truth is he admitted to deceiving the West.

Everyone knows my history on this issue. Everyone knows where I stand. It is the same place I have always stood. For 20 years I have worked on Iran's nuclear issues, starting when I was a junior Member of the House, pressing for sanctions to prevent Iran from building the Bushehr nuclear powerplant and to halt IAEA support for Iranian mining and enrichment programs. For a decade I was told that my concern had no basis, that Iran would never be able to bring the Bushehr plant on line, and that Iran's activities were not a concern.

Well, history has shown those assessments about Iran's abilities and intentions were simply wrong. The fact is Iran's nuclear aspirations have been a long and deliberate process. They did not materialize overnight, and they will not end simply with a good word and a handshake. We need verification.

If Iran's nuclear weapons capability is frozen rather than largely dismantled, they will remain at the threshold of becoming a declared nuclear State should they choose to start again, because nothing will have changed if nothing is dismantled.

Make no mistake. Iran views developing a nuclear capability as fundamental to its existence. It has seen the development of nuclear weapons as part of a regional hegemonic strategy to make Tehran the center of power throughout the region. That is why our allies and partners in the region—not just Israelis, but the Emiratis and the Saudis—are so skeptical and so concerned about having a leak-proof deal. Quite simply, our allies and partners do not trust Iranian leaders, nor do they believe that Iran has any intention of verifiably ending its nuclear weapons program.

So while I welcome diplomatic efforts as what we have worked toward and I share the hope that the administration can achieve a final comprehensive agreement that eliminates this threat to global peace and security, for the U.S. Congress to support the relief that Iran is looking for, we will need a deal that doesn't just freeze Iran's nuclear weapons program, but a deal—

demonstrated through verifiable action by Iran over years—that in fact turns back the clock and makes the world a safer place.

Let me say the fact is there are those who have created a false narrative over the last 6 months that now seems to be self-perpetuating, that anyone who expresses an opinion different than the desire to have a deal—almost a deal at any cost—is a warmonger. For those who now say, Well, if we don't have a deal, then what? I would remind them of what the administration has said time and time again: No deal is better than a bad deal. I agree with that sentiment. But I am concerned that there are forces that would accept a deal even if it is a bad deal. This doesn't serve the interests of the negotiators at the table in Vienna, and it doesn't serve the interests of the American people who want to ensure that Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon, and that any deal permanently eliminates the possibility that Iran could develop a nuclear weapon that threatens the international order. One mistake is all it takes.

At the end of the day, keeping the pressure on Iran to completely satisfy the United Nations and the international community's demands to halt and reverse its illicit nuclear activities is the best way to avoid war in the first place.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I wish to commend the senior Senator from New Jersey for the powerful remarks he has just given about the threat posed both to the United States and to the world of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons capabilities. I wish to commend the Senator from New Jersey for his leadership, along with Senator MARK KIRK, on Iran sanctions legislation—legislation that enjoys wide bipartisan support—and indeed that would have passed into law months ago were it not for the majority leader of this Chamber refusing to allow a vote on it. Even to this day, we should vote on Kirk-Menendez, because a substantial majority of Members of this body and of the House of Representatives would pass this legislation to make clear what the senior Senator from New Jersey just made clear: that no deal is not nearly as bad as a bad deal, which all of us fear we are on the verge of entering into in Vienna.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

I rise today to address the misguided foreign policy of the Obama administration, which is wreaking catastrophic consequences across the globe. The Obama-Clinton-Kerry foreign policy has profoundly undermined our national security, along with that of our friend and ally, the Nation of Israel.

Just last week the White House coordinator for the Middle East, Phillip

Gordon, gave an astonishing speech at an international conference from Tel Aviv to try yet again to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In his remarks, Mr. Gordon criticized Israel for the failure of the most recent round of attacks, urging yet further concessions to the Palestinians. He asserted that the United States, as Israel's "greatest defender and closest friend," had the obligation to ask "fundamental questions" about Israel's very viability as a democratic Jewish State after the breakdown of negotiations.

I am not sure about the role Mr. Gordon suggests friends should play, but undermining our allies is not one of them.

Mr. Gordon threatened that America would not be able to prevent the international isolation of Israel—what Secretary of State John Kerry shockingly recently referred to as Israel becoming an "apartheid" state—if Israel did not return to the table on terms he found acceptable.

Mr. Gordon warned that the clock is ticking and that Israel should not take for granted the Palestinian Authority's willingness to negotiate. He claimed that the administration's negotiations with Iran had halted that country's nuclear program and made Israel safer.

Mr. Gordon's comments are belied by the facts given that, No. 1, this conference took place under the direct threat of rocket attack from the Palestinian-sanctioned terrorist group Hamas—indeed, delegates literally had to, at one point, scatter for shelter—given that, No. 2, these rockets were fired by the very same terrorist actors who abducted and then brutally murdered three Jewish boys 3 weeks ago near Hebron, and given that, No. 3, Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan announced just days later that it was working closely with Iran in its attacks on Israel, declaring Hamas's "connection with Hezbollah and Iran is much stronger today than what people tend to think."

Given these facts, Mr. Gordon's remarks seem utterly detached from reality.

Even more disturbing, the speech did not take place in a vacuum but, rather, was part of a coordinated messaging effort. It was accompanied by an op-ed by President Obama in Ha'aretz, which sponsored the conference, repeating Mr. Gordon's main themes. Taken as a whole, these statements demonstrate that the administration's longstanding policy of pressuring Israel into a peace deal with the Palestinians remains unchanged by the harsh reality in which Israel finds herself.

In the hopes of demonstrating that there are some in the U.S. Government who do not share this policy, I would like to offer an alternative approach.

As Israel's greatest partner and ally, the United States has weathered with

Israel relentless attacks from terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah, belligerents from rogue nations like Iran, and unrelenting hostility from international organizations like the United Nations.

As such, we are veritable brothers in arms—and who better than a brother to tell the truth about you?

The truth is that Israel is the one country in the Middle East that fully shares America's fundamental values and interests.

The truth is that Israel is a vibrant, inclusive democracy that respects the rights of its citizens—Jewish and Arab alike.

The truth is that Israel has for more than six decades wanted nothing more than peace and has repeatedly made significant concessions to achieve it.

The truth is that Israel can never be isolated on the international stage because the United States, with or without the President, will continue to stand with Israel.

And the truth is that for the United States to abandon Israel would be to abandon the very moral principles that have made our Nation exceptional.

These basic truths should inform any discussion of the current conflict taking place between Israel and the Palestinians.

We also need to recognize that the circumstances leading to the 2012 cease-fire between Hamas and Israel are not the circumstances in which we find ourselves today, and that the terms of that agreement have proven inadequate to the current reality. Both Israel and the United States had hoped that the relative calm following the 2012 cease-fire would lead to peace and that the increasing prosperity of the West Bank would lead the Palestinians to renounce war. Sadly, those hopes proved illusory. That cease-fire did not change the fact that the Palestinians have remained implacably hostile and, indeed, their government is actively indoctrinating yet another generation in vicious genocidal hatred toward Israel and the West.

That simmering hatred burst into flame last month when three innocent teenagers—Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaar, and Eyal Yifrah—were kidnapped and murdered by Hamas agents. In a stark reminder of how intertwined our nations are, Naftali was a dual Israel-American citizen. This was a vicious attack against innocent Jews, regardless of their nationality, and Americans as well as Israelis were considered legitimate targets.

There is a temptation to refer to the murder of three teenagers as a senseless tragedy that should be handled by law enforcement. But this attack was nothing of the sort. It was a terrorist atrocity coldly plotted and executed by vicious killers whose only motivation was to murder teenage Jews regardless of their citizenship, and whose larger

mission is the annihilation first of Israel and then of the United States.

It was therefore my privilege last week to file S. 2577, a bill that would direct the Secretary of State to offer a reward of up to \$5 million for the capture or killing of Naftali's killers—and by extension those of Gilad and Eyal as well.

No one doubts Israel's ability to handle this matter on her own, but the Hamas terrorists need to be perfectly clear that the United States understands that kidnapping and murdering a U.S. citizen is an attack on us as well and we will actively support Israel's response to this atrocity.

I am gratified by the support this bill has gotten in the Senate from both sides of the aisle and, in particular, I am gratified that this bill is cosponsored by the senior Senator from New Jersey, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and I look forward to that committee's markup of the bill this week and then, hopefully, to its passage through both Houses of Congress. There is also a bipartisan version of this bill in the House of Representatives led by Representative DOUG LAMBORN of Colorado and Representative BRAD SHERMAN of California.

Following the discovery of the murdered teens, the Israeli Government has moved decisively against Hamas in a just and appropriate action to both bring the terrorists responsible to justice and to degrade Hamas's capability to launch further attacks.

Now is not the moment to suggest that Israel open itself to further terrorist attack by, for example, withdrawing from the West Bank.

Now is not the moment to urge restraint or to try to broker yet another temporary cease-fire that does not stop the threat of Hamas murdering innocent civilians. Now is the moment to support Israel in the effort to eliminate the intolerable threat of Hamas, and given Hamas's commitment to terrorist violence, the Israeli response is by necessity military and it must be decisive.

This conflict is not of Israel's choice; it is Hamas's choice, and to argue that there is some sort of viable diplomatic alternative, as Mr. Gordon and President Obama did last week, is denying the truth.

In addition to the current military offensive, there are a number of important long-term steps that the Government of Israel has taken to reduce the threat of terrorist attacks and so to secure the civilian population. One is the security barrier in the West Bank initiated by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during the second intifada. Necessitated by waves of Palestinian suicide bombers targeting Israel, this fence was immediately decried as an abuse of the Palestinian people and, indeed, declared illegal by the International

Court of Justice. But since the fencing began, attacks have declined by 90 percent—90 percent. No apology should be required for securing a nation's border and for saving innocent civilian lives.

The Israeli missile defense system that protects against short-range rockets coming out of Gaza is an equally remarkable success story. In partnership with the United States, Israel has conceived, designed, and implemented Iron Dome, which enjoyed a remarkable 87 percent success rate during the 2012 operation Pillar of Defense and to all appearances is exceeding that performance in this most recent action. Iron Dome has dramatically changed Israel's ability to determine the future on its own terms, not because the Palestinians have in any way modified their eagerness to fire rockets at their neighbors in an attempt to murder innocent civilians but, rather, because the Israelis now have a system capable of neutralizing the vast majority of those rockets and protecting the hospitals and schools and homes that the Palestinians seek to destroy.

President Obama wrote in his Ha'aretz op-ed that "[w]hile walls and missile defense systems can help protect against some threats, true safety will only come with a comprehensive negotiated settlement." But that can only be true when both sides genuinely seek peaceful coexistence, which at this time, sadly, the Palestinians do not. Projects like the security barrier and Iron Dome may well be, both practically and philosophically, Israel's only real option. That the Israel response to hostility out of the territories has been primarily defensive is an important illustration of their preferred approach to this problem, which is not to attack or destroy but, rather, to protect and defend.

This posture illustrates the fundamental difference between the Israelis, who have pledged they will stop fighting when the Palestinians stop fighting, and the Palestinians who swear they will stop fighting only when Israel ceases to exist. As Prime Minister Netanyahu recently said: Israel uses missiles to protect its citizens; whereas Hamas uses its citizens to protect its missiles.

We must reject any assertion of moral equivalence between the Palestinians who seek to attack Israel and the Israelis who are trying to defend themselves from terrorist attack.

Nowhere was the contrast between these two sides more clear than in the two investigations that are taking place into the murders that occurred in Israel in recent weeks. After the bodies of Naftali, Gilad, and Eyal were discovered, an Arab teen, Mohammed Abu Khdeir, was tragically, savagely murdered by Jewish extremists in a perverted attempt at retribution. Prime Minister Netanyahu rightly, quickly, and emphatically condemned this act

and he called the victim's father personally to offer condolences. Naftali's mother Rachael stated her sympathy publicly saying:

No mother or father [should] go through what we are going through now. We share the pain of the parents of Muhammad Abu Khdeir. . . . Even in the depth of the mourning over our son, it is hard for me to describe how distressed we were over the outrage that happened in Jerusalem—the shedding of innocent blood is against morality, it is against the Torah and Judaism, it is against the basis of our life in this country. The murderers of our children, who ever sent them, who ever helped them and who ever incited toward that murder—will all be brought to justice, but it will be them, and no innocent people, it will be done [by] the government, the police, the justice department and not by vigilantes.

Contrast Rachael Fraenkel's powerful statement with that of the mother of one of the Hamas suspects in Naftali's abduction and murder, who while the boys were still missing and before their executed bodies had been discovered, publicly announced: "They're throwing the guilt on him by accusing him of kidnapping. If he truly did it—I'll be proud of him until my final day. . . . If he did the kidnapping, I'll be proud of him. I raised my children on the knees of the religion, they are religious guys, honest and clean-handed, and their goal is to bring the victory of Islam."

Contrast those two statements. One is serious law enforcement responding to the wrongful murder of a teenager. The other is a society that celebrates, that glorifies, that lionizes vicious criminals who kidnap and murder innocent teenagers. Further highlighting the contrast is the fact that the murderers of Mohammed Abu Khdeir were apprehended in less than a week. The Israeli police moved and moved expeditiously.

Almost a month after the abduction of Naftali, Gilad and Eyal, their Hamas murderers are still at large because they are being protected by those who consider them heroes rather than terrorists. When Mr. Gordon asserted in his speech that Israel's "military control of another people," for "recurring instability," and for "embolden[ing] extremists" were to blame for the regions problems, he ignored the facts that the Palestinian Authority bears the real responsibility for the crisis by including Hamas in their so-called "unity government," and then urging the international community to officially sanction this deal with the devil.

This should not be surprising as the PA is headed by Mahmoud Abbas, a Holocaust denier who was Yasser Arafat's right-hand man for 3 decades. Ever since Arafat and Abbas were given autonomy to run the Palestinian territories 20 years ago through the Oslo Accords, they have used that power to radicalize their population and to harden opposition to the very idea of peaceful existence with the Jewish State of Israel.

Palestinian children are bombarded with heavy-handed propaganda praising the virtues of suicide bombers and other mass murderers. Sesame Street-style puppets and cartoon characters are horrifically used to encourage children to grow up to become terrorists. Yet President Obama hails President Abbas as a man who can help broker a peace deal. Phillip Gordon called him in his speech last week a “reliable partner” for peace. Holocaust deniers are not reliable partners. Leaders who incite hatred and bigotry and the murder of innocent children are not reliable partners.

Just 2 months ago I was back in the nation of Israel. I traveled to the north of Israel, to the Ziv hospital, a hospital in the north of Israel that has treated over 1,000 Syrians wounded in the horrific civil war waging in that country. I met with those Israeli physicians and nurses as they described how they have given over \$8 million in free medical care, uncompensated.

One person in particular I spoke with there was a social worker who described the shock and trauma of young children. Imagine, you are a little boy, you are a little girl in Syria. You go to bed in your bedroom. A bomb, a missile, a mortar comes through the ceiling and explodes. When you awake, you have been horrifically wounded. You find yourself in the nation of Israel in a hospital surrounded by Israeli doctors and nurses.

What this social worker told us was that as horrifying as being the victim of terrorism, as horrifying as some of these little boys or girls discovering limbs of their body had been blown off, that consistently the greatest terror of these children was finding themselves in Israel because their entire time they had been told that Israel was the devil. This social worker who is fluent in Arabic would spend time talking and reassuring these children and comforting them, because they were sure horrible things would happen to them.

Why were they sure of this? Because they had been taught those lies from the moment they could learn. One Israeli physician described to me a comment that a Syrian woman made to her. She said: My entire life the Army that I had been told was there to protect me—now they are trying to kill me. My entire life the Army I had been told wanted to kill me—now they are the only people protecting me and my family.

We will not see peace between Israel and the Palestinians until the Palestinian Government stops incitement, stops systematically training its children to hate and to kill. Neither Hamas nor its partner, the Palestinian Authority, has displayed any interest in peace. The so-called Hamas-affiliated technocrats that Abbas has embraced have done nothing to curb Hamas's violence, as missiles continue to rain

down on innocent civilians in Israel or even to express sympathy for the murdered Jewish teenagers. Even that is a bridge too far given the hatred that the Palestinian Government promotes.

The incessant campaign of incitement carried but out by the PA lays bear the myth that Abbas is in any way a moderate or possesses any real desire for peace with the Jewish state. In his speech, Mr. Gordon asserted that “Israel should not take for granted the opportunity to negotiate peace with President Abbas, who has shown time and again that he is committed to non-violence and coexistence with Israel.” How can any rational sentient person utter that sentence—that Mr. Abbas has shown time and again that he is committed to nonviolence and coexistence with Israel, while he partners with Hamas, a terrorist organization that is raining rockets on Israel as we speak, when he is directly responsible for a pattern of incitement that is training young Palestinians in vicious, racial bigotry and hatred, that is celebrating murderers and kidnappers as heroes and martyrs?

Anyone who utters a statement like Mr. Gordon uttered is being willfully blind to the facts on the ground. Given that it was Mr. Abbas, not Israel, who accepted Hamas into the PA's Government, the burden should be on the PA, not Israel, to unequivocally condemn not only Hamas but also their fellow terrorist groups, the Islamic Jihad and Abbas' own Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

The PA should not take for granted the limitless patience, not only of Israel but also the United States, and, indeed, any responsible members of the civilized world for the legitimization of these terrorist groups.

While the PA harbors Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade or any other terrorist group and supports their vicious activity, it should forfeit its position as a legitimate negotiating partner with Israel. It is the height of delusion to suggest that Israel should accommodate the Palestinian Authority with any further security concessions until this activity stops.

While the PA harbors Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade or any other terrorist groups, and supports their vicious activity, it should forfeit any and all material support from the taxpayers of the United States—not one penny. Only when the PA takes significant and affirmative steps to stop the incitement, eradicate terrorism, and demonstrate its leadership ability to honor their pledged commitments in the past, including the Oslo Accords, and affirms Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state should this aid be reconsidered.

It must also be recognized that Hamas is not acting alone in the current crisis. In an alarming escalation of the rocket attacks out of Gaza, Hamas militants recently fired an M-

302 type rocket an unprecedented 70 miles north, some 30 miles north of Tel Aviv, meaning that now 6 million Israelis are vulnerable to the rocket attacks.

Israel has intercepted a shipment of these weapons bound for Gaza from Iran earlier this year. It now appears that some of them have gotten through by other means. As Osama Hamdan's celebrating their close collaboration demonstrates, neither Hamas nor Iran is even trying to hide the connection. In the face of this blatant hostility from the Islamic Republic of Iran, it seems the height of foolishness for the United States to be participating in nuclear negotiations with Tehran at this time. Iran's leaders are actively engaged in inciting and supplying violent terrorists. Indeed, Iran is the chief state sponsor of terrorism on the globe today.

Our focus should be on thwarting Iran's behavior in Gaza and across the world, not in engaging in diplomatic niceties over Chardonnay in Vienna. Given Iran's ongoing pattern of arming Hamas with increasingly sophisticated weapons, it is simply unacceptable to risk their achieving nuclear capability by exploiting the eagerness—the utterly unexplainable eagerness—of the Obama administration to get a deal—any deal—any deal at all it seems—by the July 20, 2014, deadline.

We need to recognize that the arbitrary decision to relax sanctions and to engage in 6 months of negotiations under the joint plan of action last year was a historic mistake. We need to dramatically reverse course, and we should immediately reimpose sanctions until Iran makes fundamental concessions by ceasing all uranium enrichment, handing over its stockpiles of enriched uranium, and destroying its 19,000 centrifuges.

The Obama, Clinton, Kerry foreign policy is setting the stage for Iran to acquire nuclear weapon capability. If Iran acquires that capability, it will pose a grave if not mortal threat to the nation of Israel and to the United States. The strategy of the Obama administration—relaxing sanctions first and then hoping to get some concessions later—is putting the proverbial cart before the horse.

You do not negotiate with bullies and tyrants by conceding everything at the outset and then hoping for good faith. Instead, we should reimpose those sanctions and additionally, as a further condition, we should demand that Iran stop its state sponsorship of terrorist attacks against our allies. Only then should Iran see a relaxation of sanctions.

In the coming days, I will be filing legislation which will do exactly that: reimpose strong sanctions on Iran immediately, strengthen those sanctions, include an enforcement mechanism to ensure that these measures are implemented, and call for the dismantling of

Iran's nuclear program, which should be the only path to relaxing sanctions in the future.

This legislation will lay out a clear path that Iran can follow to evade the sanctions: Simply behave in good faith and stop its relentless march towards acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

The connection between Hamas and Iran is a sobering reminder of a larger context in which the events of the past month have taken place. They are not an isolated local issue that could be managed if only Israel would act with restraint. Both the United States and Israel want the Palestinian people to have a secure and prosperous future free from the corrosive hatred that has so far prevented them from thriving. But as has been demonstrated time and time again, the simple truth is that concessions from Israel are not going to alleviate that hatred. The truth is that aid from the United States is not going to alleviate that hatred. The truth is that even the establishment of a Palestinian State would not alleviate that hatred while the avowed policy of the Palestinian Government is the destruction of Israel.

Only when the Palestinians take it upon themselves to embrace their neighbors and to eradicate terrorist violence from their society can a real and just peace be possible. Until then, there should be no question of the firm solidarity of the United States with Israel in the mutual defense of our fundamental values and interests. This is nothing less than the defense of our very exceptionalism as a nation—that same exceptionalism fueled by those God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to which Israel aspires.

Writing in the New York Times last September, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that it is “extremely dangerous to encourage people to see themselves as exceptional.”

In a very odd echo of President Putin's sentiment, Secretary Kerry said just today, in Vienna, that hearing politicians talk about American exceptionalism makes him quite uptight because it is “in-your-face” and so might offend other nations. Secretary Kerry should know, as President Putin clearly fears, it is indeed discomfiting for bullies and tyrants such as Hamas and their Iranian sponsors to see free people boldly assert their exceptionalism. Indeed, in modern history it has been dangerous for totalitarian despots when the American people rise and defend our exceptionalism.

I would encourage Secretary Kerry to unambiguously explain American exceptionalism to his colleagues across the negotiating table. They might benefit from hearing that one of the most exceptional things about America is that we will robustly support our allies when they are engaged with the radical terrorist enemy that targets us both.

It is not enough, as Mr. Gordon seems to think sufficient, to “fight for it [Israel] every day in the United Nations.” We shouldn't just “have Israel's back.” We should be proud to stand beside Israel, to make sure that both Hamas and Iran know that the United States is ready to provide whatever moral support or military resupply Israel might need.

It is true we might risk a little of the criticism from the international community that seems to be of such concern to Mr. Gordon and to President Obama, but the United Nations should be the least of our worries at this point.

In any event, threats of Israel finding herself isolated—threats sadly emanating, in part, from the administration of this government—appear empty, as many of our closest friends, including Canada, Great Britain, France, and Germany, have spoken out in the strongest of terms supporting Israel's right to self-defense.

I add my voice to theirs and urge President Obama to reconsider the counterproductive policies laid out by Mr. Gordon last week. The White House should explicitly disavow Mr. Gordon's misguided speech, haranguing, and attacking our friend and ally in the nation of Israel.

A negotiated settlement is not an absolute prerequisite to Israel's security, as the administration has claimed but, rather, establishing Israel's security may be the only way to eventually reach any such settlement. Israel's fight against radical Islamic terrorism and by extension the radical Iranian regime that supports it is our fight as well.

There is a reason they call Israel the little Satan and America the great Satan. This menace does not discriminate between Israelis and Americans, and it cannot be placated or appeased even by the deftist diplomacy. It must be diligently defended against and at times, when necessary, it must be directly confronted.

This is difficult, dangerous work that Israel's Government and the brave men and women who serve in its Armed Forces are doing right now for the sake of both nations. I hope and I pray for their continuing success as America stands, unashamedly, alongside the nation of Israel.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

MR. KAINE. I rise to describe my concerns with the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling of the Hobby Lobby case and also to describe my support for the Murray-Udall legislation which I am cosponsoring and which we will act on later this week.

First, just a word about one item in the case that is not my main concern but is worthy of a passing comment; that is, whether a corporation can have religious rights.

Of course, individuals can have religious rights. Churches can have religious rights. Religiously affiliated organizations have religious rights. That has been recognized often. But do corporations have religious rights?

I would argue that the Supreme Court's decision in *Hobby Lobby* that they do is sort of fundamentally at odds with what notion a corporation is. Corporations exist for many reasons, but fundamentally the core of a corporation is the creation of a fictional entity that is supposed to stand apart from the individual owners. That fictional entity has rights and responsibilities that are different than the rights and responsibilities of the owners. In fact, we create the corporate forum to protect the individual owners. The individual owners, once a corporate forum is created, as you know, are generally protected against legal liability. A corporation's actions, if they are illegal, can only be held against the corporation and except in very rare instances the individuals who own the corporation are free from the liability that might flow from a corporation's acts.

So the basic question is, if individuals decide to form a corporation to distance themselves and to protect themselves from liability for a cooperation's acts, how can they also presume to exercise their religious viewpoints—their personal, intimate, religious viewpoints—through the very form of the corporation? It is allowing the owners to have it both ways—complete protection from legal liability but continued ability to exercise their personal and intimate religious viewpoints through the corporate forum.

I think the notion of corporate religious freedom is almost an oxymoron. The statute at question in the Supreme Court case, the RFRA statute, refers to the sincerely held religious beliefs of a person.

What are the sincerely held religious beliefs of a person of the corporation under the corporate charter that would be granted by the States? In order to determine that, should we inquire in this instance, for example, whether the families of the owners ever use contraception? If in fact they did, would that undermine a claim that they have a sincerely held religious belief against contraception?

What if it could be shown that the owners invested in stocks in companies that produced contraception, would that undermine the claim that a corporation has a sincerely held religious belief against contraception? I don't know the answers to these questions, but I think the mere raising of the questions demonstrates again that the notion of a corporation exercising religious beliefs is highly suspect.

But I don't think the *Hobby Lobby* case was about religious freedom. I read the opinion. I practiced law, including constitutional law for 17 years.

I have read the opinion. I don't think this is a case about religious freedom.

I think the opinion in the Hobby Lobby case is, instead, part of an anticontraception movement where the political goal is not just to encourage women or families to not use contraception but instead it is geared toward the reduction of social access to contraception for all.

This isn't a case about religious freedom. It is a case that is very focused on attempts to reduce access to contraception throughout American society.

The Court does something in the opinion that is fascinating. There is a phrase—I am not a poker player, but there is a phrase that if you play a lot of poker, a poker player should watch for their tell. If they reveal by knocking on the table or something that, oh, well, they are bluffing now, you watch for the tell. I think the Hobby Lobby majority opinion has a tell that tells us this case is not about religious freedom.

In response to a notion raised in the dissent: Well, hold on a second. If you allow this corporation to deny coverage for contraception because it has a sincerely held religious belief against contraception, there are other religions and other corporations that might have a sincerely held religious belief against transfusion. That is a sincere belief of certain religions commonly practiced in America; against vaccination, that is a sincerely held religious belief in certain religions in America. There are other sincerely held religious beliefs, but the majority in this opinion says: Oh, don't worry. This is just about contraception. You don't need to worry that the rationale in this case would be used to allow an employer to exclude vaccination or to exclude transfusions.

If those are religious beliefs every bit as sincere as some who think contraception is bad, why wouldn't this ruling apply to those kinds of coverage?

The fact that the Supreme Court took such care in the majority opinion to say: Don't worry. It is not going to apply to that, tells me this is not a case about religious freedom. Because if it were a case about religious freedom, a sincerely held religious belief about transfusions or vaccinations would be equally implicated by this case. The Court instead is very clearly telling people: Don't worry. You don't need to worry about this stuff.

So it is not about religious freedom. I read this case as a very candid admission that what the case is truly about is contraception access.

There is an unfortunate legal movement in this country—that is kind of surprising—where the focus is to deny women access to contraception, even though access to contraception has been constitutionally protected in this country since 1967, nearly 50 years.

I am stunned. I am reluctant as a lawyer to criticize court opinions. Law-

yers always have different points of view. You always have to give some latitude that the court might decide something in a different way than you think. But I am stunned to see in the rationale expressed by the majority that the Court is joining an ideological, anti-access movement.

Contraception access is important to women, it is important to families, and it is important to society. For women, contraception is important not only surrounding the planning of pregnancy but the hormones in contraception are often prescribed for all manner of other conditions, some related to pregnancy and reproduction and some unconnected to pregnancy and reproduction. The access to contraception is critically important, and that is why the panel that looked at implementing the Affordable Care Act found that contraception was an important active goal of prevention. Prevention is good. Contraception is part of prevention.

Contraception is also costly. So when a company strips that coverage from employees and says, "You can just buy it yourself if you want," let's be clear. That is not a minor expense, especially in a time where wages have been stagnant. It is a significant expense, and the notion that coverage would be stripped away from thousands and thousands of employees is not a minor burden at all, it is a significant burden on their lives.

Contraception is not only important for women, it is important for society. Contraception and the access to contraception are achieving important social goals. From 2008 to 2011, in 3 years, the number of abortions in the United States fell by 13 percent, and teen pregnancy in this Nation has been falling steadily since 1991. Why are both of these things happening? Those who study these laudable trends conclude that access to contraception is one of the main reasons abortion is falling and that teen pregnancy is falling.

It would seem those are laudable trends that we would want to continue and that access to contraception therefore is very important, but the Court instead finds otherwise.

I want to conclude and say I don't think this is a case about religious freedom. I think the Court has strangely joined an anticontraception ideological crusade. But I want to say a word about religious freedom. It is critically important. I am a lifelong Catholic. I served as a missionary with Jesuit missionaries in 1981. I am a Virginian, and it was a Virginian, James Madison, who wrote the draft of the Constitution, including the First Amendment, the Bill of Rights that protects our rights to religious freedom.

Gary Wills, the great American historian, said, "Every wonderful idea in the American Constitution was already part of somebody else's Constitution or laws." Our drafters did a great job of

finding the best and putting it in. But there was only one unique provision in the American Constitution that wasn't part of any organic law before us and that was freedom of religion. Jefferson wrote it into Virginia law, the Statute of Religious Freedom, in 1780. The basic idea was no one can be punished or preferred for their choice of worship or for their choice not to worship. That has been a critical component of American life for a very long time. So religious freedom is incredibly important.

There was nothing about the bill we will take up on the floor tomorrow that impinges upon religious freedom because, as you know, if a church or a religiously affiliated institution or an individual or even a corporation has as their view that contraception is wrong, they can take to the airways. They can run a newspaper ad. They can go stand on a street corner. They can encourage anyone they want by explaining the merits of their view and hoping to persuade someone that they are right, and they are protected in doing that. They are protected in their religious liberty to try to encourage people to follow their points of view. But when these entities try to go beyond that, and in this case corporations, and use legal mechanisms not just to encourage people but whether it is lawsuits or personhood amendments or other things that we see popping up in States and here in this body, not just to discourage use of contraception but instead to reduce access to contraception for women—even women who do not share their moral point of view, who do not share their particular religion—then I view that as extremely troubling and actually contrary to the notion of religious freedom that is established in the First Amendment. Advocate your moral position, but don't force it onto people who have a different moral viewpoint.

In conclusion, I support the bill we will debate tomorrow because it will protect the access to contraception. Whether people choose to use contraception or not will be up to them and to their own medical and their own moral calculation, and that is as it should be in a society that is supposed to protect the rights of all.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, thank you.

Before I get into the business I have come to address, let me thank the distinguished Senator from Virginia for his remarks. I was a lawyer at a time when the previous case on this subject came out of the Supreme Court that said something very different. It said if you were a Native American and if as a Native American you had a sincerely held religious belief that peyote was actually a part of your religion's sacrament, that in pursuing that ritual

and that tradition you could utilize peyote notwithstanding the laws of the State to the contrary. That was the argument they made. It was protected by the free exercise of religion. The Supreme Court said absolutely not. No way. If you are a Native American, your sincerely held belief that peyote is an appropriate part of your religious sacrament is overruled because of society's interest in enforcing the law generally.

Now if you are a corporate CEO, a completely different set of rules applies. Remember, in the case of the Native Americans the question was whether that individual could ingest the peyote themselves and they were told no, the interest of the State prevailed. In this case, if you are a corporate CEO, you are being told that you are free to exercise a right to control what other people do. And in this case the Supreme Court completely reversed itself and said no, the State has to back off if you are a corporate CEO telling other people what they have to do. But if you are a Native American seeking to honor your own tradition, well, there the State can butt in and move around.

So in addition to the distinctions the Senator so eloquently and properly described, certain of this might have been influential with the Court in the fact that these were corporate CEOs, and there is very little the corporate CEO can do that the five activists on the conservative side of this Court won't encourage them to do and let them do.

I will reserve for another day statistics of how this Court has over and over again turned itself over to corporate interests and over and over again ruled in favor of corporate interests and over and over again reversed precedent to give precedence to corporate interests in this country.

I thank the Senator.

CLIMATE CHANGE

My original topic of being here before I got into the subject is this is my 74th visit to the floor to urge my colleagues that it is truly time to wake up to the threats of climate change.

The reports keep rolling in. The latest one for coastal States such as ours is a study called "Risky Business" that was commissioned by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who knows something about coastal issues, having been flooded by Sandy, former George W. Bush Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, and former hedge fund manager Tom Steyer. This report calculated the economic effects of climate change throughout the United States and it found that along our coast between \$66 billion and \$106 billion worth of existing property—property that Americans own right now—will likely be below sea level by 2050. By 2100, \$238 billion to \$507 billion worth of Americans' hard-earned property will be underwater.

Now, everything doesn't happen just as you guess. Sometimes you get bad news that there are long odds and you need to be prepared for those long odds. The report found there are 1 in 20 odds that by 2100, the end of this century, there would be around \$700 billion of infrastructure below sea level and nearly \$730 billion more of infrastructure that would be potentially in trouble during high tides. So our landlocked colleagues may laugh this off, but if a similar threat were looming at their State's door, they would, I submit, be paying attention. For coastal States such as ours, this is deadly serious. The Atlantic coast, including Rhode Island—a coastal State named the Ocean State, the second most heavily populated State in terms of population density in the country—we have a lot of people living along that coastline. Our coast will see the worst of it.

Climate change, unfortunately, has become, mostly since Citizens United for reasons I have elaborated on before, a taboo subject now for Republicans in Congress. So the discussion here of climate change is somewhat one-sided, but Americans who are witnessing climate change's effects firsthand in every State around the country know—and if they don't know they are learning—that climate change is a real problem.

I have discussed my travels to Florida, to Iowa, to North and South Carolina, to Georgia, to New Hampshire, and of the actions these people are taking in their home States to stave off the worst effects of their changing oceans and climate. But at the local level folks truly aren't denying climate change. That is something that is unique to Congress and the peculiar world we inhabit. They are not denying, they are paying attention. And it is not just in coastal States that people are paying attention.

This week I am going to look at Utah. Utah is right here on this section of the map of the southwest corridor of our country. This is a map of temperature trends. Temperature is not complicated. It is not some difficult theory that people have to try to get their minds around. We measure it with thermometers. It is pretty straightforward stuff.

On this chart we see that average temperatures over the last 13 years compared to the long-term average over a century show there has been an increase in temperature across the entire State of Utah. Down here, this region, the average has increased 2 full degrees Fahrenheit. In the southeastern part of the State there are actually spots where the temperature has risen as much as 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Southern Utah is home to iconic national parks including Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Arches National Park. In Utah, park officials aren't denying cli-

mate change. Just last week the Park Service released a report called "Climate Exposure of U.S. National Parks in a New Era of Change." This report studied dozens of climate variables in 289 national parks. In Bryce, Zion, and Arches, the report shows higher year-round temperatures, hotter summers and warmer winters. Such significant shifts in temperature can mean less snowpack, worse wildfire seasons, and abnormal conditions for the plants and animals that reside in those parks.

Utah is getting warmer and it is getting drier. The U.S. Geological Survey shows a significant drop in the size and scope of floods in rivers and streams all across the Southwest in this area from 1920 to 2008, and that of course includes southern Utah.

Indeed, here are the symbols for the negative trends, and the biggest symbol for a negative trend in river and stream flooding is this one. If you cannot see the map very clearly, that is southern Utah. Here is the State of Utah right here and there is the location where the highest drying trend in streams is taking place—again, not complicated. This isn't a theory, this is based on simple rainfall measurements and simple flooding measurement.

If you look at it, you will see another place that is going up a lot. We New Englanders are seeing an increase, although in the Southwest they are seeing a substantial decrease. So when those characters come into our hearings and give testimony saying, oh, you don't have to worry about this because there isn't an overall increase in flooding or anything, yeah, because they offset each other—but go to Utah and you see a very distinct trend and it is drier. Other factors, such as population growth and water management policies, play a role, but Lake Powell in Utah is about half full right now. Lake Mead, farther down the Colorado River in Nevada, has drained down to just 39 percent of its capacity. That is the lowest level Lake Mead has ever been since it was first filled behind the Hoover Dam. Scientists at Colorado State University, at Princeton, and at the U.S. Forest Service predict that unless we take major action climate change may lead to water shortages so severe that Lake Powell and Lake Mead dry up completely.

The drying of the Western United States and of southern Utah means less water for drinking, fighting fires, farming, wildlife, and recreation. Salt Lake City gets 80 percent of its water supply from snowpack in the Uinta and Wasatch Mountains. If predictions hold true, local water managers in Utah will no longer be able to depend on historical data to predict and manage how much water the mountains will yield. Utah will be in a brave new world—a dry new world.

The prolonged drought conditions in the Western United States, compared

to the last century, make it ripe for forest fires, and indeed a recent study of western wildfire trends—led by Dr. Philip Dennison of the University of Utah—from 1984 to 2011, fires have become larger and more frequent. The total area burned by these fires is increasing over this time period at roughly 90,000 acres burned per year. That is the rate of increase.

The recent National Climate Assessment similarly shows that “between 1970 and 2003, warmer and drier conditions increased burned area in western U.S. mid-elevation conifer forests by 650 percent.” That report is quite clear about the link between climate change and these forest fires in the region, noting that “climate outweighed other factors in determining burned area in the western U.S.”

These changes in temperature and precipitation are putting Utah’s iconic desert sagebrush at risk, according to Peter Alder, an ecologist at Utah State University. Sagebrush is grazed by livestock, and it is important to Utah’s ranching industry. Dr. Alder is working with faculty and students from seven area universities to better understand the vulnerability of sagebrush ecosystems to climate change.

These Utah scientists are not denying climate change, and neither is, for instance, Utah State University. Utah State has entire new courses of study to train the next generation of students to predict and combat climate change. Utah State has its own climate action plan. Utah State has an active climate center, and it is not the only one. The University of Utah has an active sustainability center and an army of students and researchers working on addressing climate change. Each year, the University of Utah publishes an annual report on climate change.

Members of Utah’s delegation may be pretending climate change is not real, but Utah’s universities are not. They are not denying. They are acting. Utah’s capital city is not denying climate change.

There may be a barricade of polluter influence around Congress, but mayors all across the country are taking action, including in Utah, as we saw with the unanimous resolution of the Conference of Mayors recently. The United States Conference of Mayors ranked Salt Lake City, UT, and its mayor Ralph Becker first place in the Mayors Climate Protection Center rankings because of the impressive work being done in Salt Lake City. For example, the Salt Lake City Public Safety Building will be the first public safety building in the Nation to achieve a net zero rating, which means it generates as much electricity as it uses.

Utah also has energy investors who are wide awake, building a growing number of solar installations. Community Solar has a pilot project in Salt Lake that allows homeowner groups to

purchase solar energy. It is estimated that over its 25-year lifetime, this installation will avoid 5,500 tons of carbon dioxide pollution.

Renewable energy is integral in Utah’s energy portfolio moving forward. In this chart, we can see this display showing that by 2050, Utah will rely mostly on wind, solar, geothermal, and natural gas to achieve carbon dioxide emission reductions of 80 percent compared to 1990 levels. As we can see, the yellow is solar. Solar is projected to account for more than half of this shift.

Utah-based businesses, such as EBay, are enhancing renewable energy. EBay built a data center in South Jordan, UT, and wanted to make sure it used only clean energy to run that facility. To accomplish this, EBay worked with GOP State senator Mark Madsen, Rocky Mountain Power—the State’s largest electric utility—and a local renewable energy generator on legislation to make renewable energy available to Utah electricity consumers. None of them were denying climate change. The renewable energy bill was unanimously passed by the Utah State Senate and House of Representatives and signed into law by Republican Governor Gary Herbert. EBay employs 1,500 people in Utah, including its 400-member group in Salt Lake City known as the Green Team, dedicated to making the company environmentally responsible. They are not denying climate change in Utah. EBay is actually looking to add another data facility and more jobs using that same clean energy framework.

The faith community in Utah is taking action as well. Utah Interfaith Power and Light is a network of nearly 30 Christian, Jewish, and nondenominational congregations, representing thousands of Utahans seeking “to promote earth stewardship, clean energy, and climate justice.” In addition to conducting free energy audits for new-member churches and offering plans to increase energy efficiency in their buildings, Utah Interfaith Power and Light also works to educate its members about climate change and advocates at the local and State level for moral and responsible climate policy.

Then, of course, there is the famous Utah ski industry. The operators of Utah’s great ski resorts have been outspoken about the threat climate change poses to their business. Five of them—Alta Ski Area, Canyons Resort, Deer Crest Private Trails, Deer Valley, and Park City Mountain Resort—signed the BICEP coalition’s Climate Declaration in support of national action on climate change. They are not denying climate change.

Indeed, the Park City Foundation in Utah issued a report explaining that as drought and increasing temperatures reduced the snowpack in the Cascade Range and the Rocky Mountains, the

future of skiing and snowboarding in those ranges is at risk. This Utah report predicts a local temperature increase of 6.8 degrees Fahrenheit by 2075, which could cause a total loss of snowpack in the lower Park City resort area. Beyond the loss to the skiing tradition in Park City, this will result in thousands of lost jobs, tens of millions in lost earnings, and hundreds of millions in lost economic output, and that is according to this Utah report.

In Utah as in other States there is a groundswell coming from local communities asking for action on climate change. There are scientists, public health advocates, business owners and corporate leaders, outdoorsmen, faith leaders, State and local officials, and countless others demanding action on climate change and leading the charge.

David Folland is a retired pediatrician, and he is the co-leader of the Salt Lake City Citizens Climate Lobby, which recently joined 7 other Utahans and 600 volunteers from around the country to come to Congress to push us for swift passage of a proper carbon fee. In a Salt Lake City Tribune op-ed last week, Dr. Folland wrote: “[p]lacing a fee on carbon sources and returning the proceeds to households would create jobs, build the economy, improve public health, and help stabilize the climate.”

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have Dr. Folland’s op-ed printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Outside these walls, climate change is an issue Republicans can actually discuss. Outside these walls, 2012 Republican Presidential candidate John Huntsman, who won reelection as Utah’s Republican Governor in 2008 with almost 80 percent of the vote—this is a popular guy in Utah—wrote a New York Times op-ed this year entitled “The G.O.P. Can’t Ignore Climate Change.” That is the title of Governor Huntsman’s article.

He wrote:

While there is room for some skepticism given the uncertainty about the magnitude of climate change, the fact is that the planet is warming, and failing to deal with this reality will leave us vulnerable—and possibly worse. Hedging against risk is an enduring theme of conservative thought. It is also a concept diverse groups can embrace.

That is from Utah’s former Governor.

By the way, when he ran for reelection and won by that near 80-percent margin, he was running on a pretty good environmental platform. He was not denying. But in Congress there is silence from the Republican Party—except those who come and say that climate change is just a big old hoax. It would have to be the most complicated hoax in the world, with most of our corporations, the Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—NOAA—

and innumerable other groups involved in it, and it would be pretty impressive to actually raise the level of the seas 8 to 10 inches as a part of that complicated hoax, but I guess that is their notion of why that is happening.

Here, other than that hoax argument, there is silence. No Republican comes to the floor to say: You are right. This is a problem. We should do something about it. Let's work together. We may not agree on the solution right now, but let's at least work on it as a serious problem.

They won't do that. The Republican Party has taken the position and followed the direction of the polluters. It is as simple as that. I, for one, believe they will be judged very harshly for that choice because Americans know better. Utahns know better. More and more people across America see what is happening before them, and they are no longer fooled by the phony campaign of denial.

I hope this Congress will listen to the people in our home States and the people across this country and wake up to what has now become a clear and present danger. We need to do what the people who elected us sent us here to do, which is face reality, make sensible choices, work together, and solve problems, not stick our heads in the sand and pretend problems don't exist.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Salt Lake Tribune, July 11, 2014]
OP-ED: CARBON TAX PROVIDES MARKET-BASED SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
(By David Folland)

Imagine receiving a check for \$390 each month, deposited directly into your checking account, through no effort of yours except that you had previously voted for visionary members of Congress. Indeed that is what a family of 4 would receive if carbon fee and dividend legislation were to be enacted by the Congress, according to a new study by the highly-respected economic analysis firm REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.). The study was commissioned by Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL).

Last week I joined 7 other CCL volunteers from Utah in Washington, D.C., to ask our federal elected officials to support such a carbon fee and dividend (F&D) policy. We were among 600 other volunteers who together visited over 500 members of Congress or their aides. Our visits were all part of actions by the non-partisan, non-profit Citizens Climate Lobby, a rapidly growing organization of committed volunteers who are creating the political will for a stable climate. We are taking democracy into our own hands and not leaving our future to the paid lobbyists and special interest groups.

The REMI study modeled the effect of a fee and dividend policy. In this plan, a fee would be charged on the carbon-based fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) at the point they enter the economy (the mine well head, or port of entry) based on the amount of carbon dioxide they produce when burned. The fee would increase by a defined amount yearly for 20 years. The revenues would be distributed to households equally.

The results after 20 years are striking: 2.8 million jobs would be created; the economy

would grow by \$1.375 trillion more than the economy with no carbon fee; 227,000 lives would be spared due to reduced air pollution; and carbon dioxide emissions would be reduced by 52 percent.

Sound too good to be true? Not really. By returning all revenues to households, consumers would spend their dividend, adding to demand for goods and services. And energy prices actually decrease after the 11th year, as less-expensive energy sources come on line. Americans would enjoy better health as coal-fired power plants and other dirty energy sources are phased out and their toxic fumes eliminated.

This market-based solution contrasts quite markedly to the EPA regulations proposed by President Obama. The EPA regulations pertain only to coal-fired power plants. By contrast, F&D's effects would ripple through the entire economy. Also, the elevated cost of electricity from EPA regulations would affect the poorest citizens most severely. By returning the dividend to households, two thirds of people would receive more in their dividend checks than they would pay for the increased cost of energy and goods, and that would include the poorest among us. Also our proposal would not grow government, thus could appeal to both political parties.

After a long day of lobbying, Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse addressed the CCL volunteers. He suggested that the tipping point that will lead to action and policy on global warming is probably closer than most people think. Many who attended the conference have the same feeling. Our members of Congress and/or their aides listened carefully and responded thoughtfully to our proposal.

There is ample reason for our elected federal officials to support carbon fee and dividend legislation whether or not they are concerned about the threats of global warming. Placing a fee on carbon sources and returning the proceeds to households would create jobs, build the economy, improve public health, and help stabilize the climate.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor, and I note the absence after quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday I went to Chicago to a residential neighborhood, and I went into a building and saw a piece of American history and an American humanitarian challenge, the likes of which we have seldom seen. In this building were 70 children. They were children who just hours and days ago were at the border of the United States in Mexico. They had turned themselves in to the border officials and they were being processed. Our law says that within 72 hours they need to be moved from the law enforcement world to the world of protection or at least a secure environment. That is the right thing to do. It was a law passed years ago when President Bush was in the White House, signed by him, and I believe unanimously passed by at

least one of the Chambers, so it was not controversial at the time. It was thoughtful. It basically said if it is an unaccompanied child at the border, within 72 hours put them in a safe place.

This is one of the safe places across America. It is a shelter in the city of Chicago. It is not the only one. It is protected from the public. If someone went by it in a car, they wouldn't even know it was a shelter with 70 children inside, in a residential neighborhood where for 19 years the shelter has been welcome, because it is clear, secure—no problems.

But now we face a challenge because the number of children unaccompanied coming into the United States is reaching recordbreaking proportions.

America, primarily because of location and other circumstances, seldom has faced anything like a refugee crisis. We can remember efforts by the Haitians or the Cubans, maybe the Vietnamese, the Hmong people, to come to the United States, but our experience pales in comparison to countries such as Jordan. Ten percent of the population of Jordan today is refugees who come to that country from all over the Middle East. With Syria collapsed under the weight of war and all of the horrors that it brought, 2.3 million, maybe 3 million left Syria for countries such as Jordan and Turkey and Lebanon. For these countries, refugees are part of their daily lives. For the United States, it is rare. It is rare to see one. It is rare to speak to one.

That is why yesterday's experience for me was so important. I had heard all of these stories about these children and a lot of speculation about why they are here and what we should do with them, and I wanted to see them firsthand.

Let me tell my colleagues, of the 70 children, there were some who were newborns, babies being held by their mothers. I have reached a point where it is hard for me to guess anyone's age, particularly young people. It is harder still when they are from countries in Central America because they are smaller in stature, many of them malnourished, and they are usually a little older than one might think. They look younger. But five women walked into this dining hall carrying their babies, and I don't believe a single one of them was 15 years old. They had brought these babies, many of them on buses, for 8 days to the border of the United States to try to escape. Cases of rape and assault had led to these pregnancies and these babies, and they were trying to get away from drug gangs and threats on their lives. And here they were, in this neighborhood in Chicago, in a safe place, with others just like them.

Then I went among the children—90 percent of them from Central America; some from Africa, some from China; 90

percent of them from Central America—and I would speak to them and hear their stories. For many of them, there was a relative in the United States they were hoping to find so they could finally find a safe place. This situation is a terrible humanitarian crisis involving vulnerable children.

The United States is about to be tested. We are going to be tested as a people—our generation—as to how we respond. I hope we pass that test.

Remember, our country—the United States—issues a report card every year. The State Department issues a human rights report card on the world. The United States stands in judgment of the world and their record on human rights, and we take into consideration the way they treat women, how other countries treat children, how they treat refugees, and we grade them. That is a pretty bold position for us to stand in judgment of other countries, but we do, hoping we can set a standard they will follow and hoping we can hold them to those standards. Now we are going to be graded. The United States will be graded as to how we respond to this crisis.

The President has sent a bill to Congress. He is asking for a substantial sum of money so we can not only deal with this issue at the border but beyond, in places such as the shelter I visited in Chicago.

There is a lot of speculation among Senators and Congressmen about how our laws are going to deal with this current flood of children coming into the United States. We know why they are coming. Many are being pushed out of their country by drug gangs and violence—girls who are threatened with sexual assault if they don't give in to a gang leader and then, if they do, killed and left in plastic bags by the side of the road. Young boys are drafted into these gangs at the point of a gun; they are going to comply or be shot and killed. That is the reality, not to mention the horrible poverty which is endemic to these three countries—Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

So now we have to decide what we will do. There are several things that are obvious. First, I am glad President Obama and Vice President BIDEN are going to Central America and telling these families: Please, do not send any more children. It is just too dangerous. They don't automatically come into the United States and receive citizenship. If people have heard that, it is wrong.

We have told these countries, begged their leaders to help us in discouraging these children from coming. But in many cases desperate parents, desperate families are doing desperate things.

I asked yesterday at the shelter: Is it true that some of the teenage girls who arrive here—and they all go through a physical exam—are on birth control

pills? They said: Yes. Before they start the journey, their families will give the girls birth control pills as a protection from pregnancy because they fear they will be assaulted and raped. I can't imagine—I cannot imagine a family situation so desperate where they would make that decision, but it is happening.

I looked too at some of the comments that have been made. There are people who have said we need to flood the border of the United States with National Guard troops. It doesn't make sense because these children are not trying to sneak past border guards; they are turning themselves in as soon as they cross the border because they have a little piece of paper with the name of someone in the United States to contact. So more troops and guards on the border won't change those desperate children.

One of them I saw from Guatemala with his little sister. She is a cute little thing but too shy to say anything to me. He, through a translator, said a few words, and he carried her on his shoulders across the Rio Grande River. That is what his responsibility was, and he was going to get across that river with his little sister. He did. That is why we need to look at this in human terms as well.

Before I came to Congress, I used to be a lawyer in Central Illinois, the small town of Springfield. It is not a big city, I guess, by our State's terms, but we are proud of our population—but not a major city. I practiced law there, and I knew what it was like in a small town to practice law. I also knew this: No one in good conscience with an ethical bone in their body would put a 6-year-old kid in a courtroom and say: Good luck. We never did that. It was inconceivable. If there was a child whose fate was going to be decided in a courtroom, there was a guardian ad litem appointed to represent that child's interests—not the interests of any other party, just that child. There may have been an attorney appointed in addition to represent that child because we realize they cannot make decisions for themselves.

Now we are faced with a suggestion by some that when it comes to these children, within a few days after their arrival in the United States, they will be put in a courtroom. If Members of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives came to that shelter in Chicago and saw those little children sitting at the table, they would be embarrassed by that suggestion. We can't do that. It isn't fair to them, and it doesn't reflect well on our values if it is even suggested. We have to have a process that is fair and one that reflects our values in the United States.

This is a human tragedy. These children have made it through this death-defying journey. I can tell my colleagues it broke my heart when I heard

them tell their stories. A little girl—she was there with her little brother. She was 12; her little brother was 6. He had Down syndrome, and she brought him from Honduras to the United States. She said she came by bus and she was on that bus for 6 or 7 days before she made it to the border. Can my colleagues imagine turning a child loose to catch a bus ride that would last 6 or 7 days to go to a country in the hopes they might be safer and also take their disabled little brother with her? Every time that little boy would get up and scramble around the room, she was right after him. She wasn't going to let him out of her sight. That is what her life is and what it has been, and it is an indication of the kind of children we are now facing and need to deal with.

This is not a political issue, although politics are involved. It is much more. It is humanitarian—testing who we are, what we believe. It is a challenge to us to deal with immigration in the 21st century. It is a challenge to us as well to make sure that at the end of the day, history writes this chapter about the American people and says they were good and caring people, compassionate and caring people.

Today I received a press release that was put out by a religious group, the Evangelical Leaders of America. This is not my religion, but I respect very much what they had to say. I would like to read what one of the ministers said:

As a former Texan, my heart goes to the border of Texas. As a born-again Christian, the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls me to compassionate action for those who are suffering right now as a result of the immigration crisis, especially the children.

This was written by Ronnie Floyd, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the multicampus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas. His Friday Baptist Press op-ed continues:

This is an emergency situation that requires the best of each of us in America . . . The gospel of Jesus Christ moves me to call on all of us to demonstrate compassionate action toward the immigrant.

As I said, he is not a member of my religion, but I respect very much that he would stand up and speak out and remind people that this really is a test. Regardless of whether one is a Christian or some other denomination or one has no religion, it is a test of who we are and our human values.

When I read the suggestion that these young children need to be placed in a hearing room or a courtroom within a few days with the possibility of someone standing by their side—that is wrong. That is just wrong. We can't let that happen.

Many years ago we signed a refugee convention saying that when it came to refugees, countries in the world should accept and adopt the same humane standards.

Now we are facing our refugee crisis here in the United States. We need to make it clear to these countries that these children are not coming in to be citizens of the United States. That is not in the cards. But we never want to be in a position where these children are returned to dangerous situations, harmed, and it is on our conscience, on our watch. That is unacceptable.

I want to say one thing in closing. We need to solve this problem, but God forbid that is the end of the conversation. We passed an immigration bill, a comprehensive immigration bill, to clean up this broken immigration system over a year ago on the Senate floor. Democrats and Republicans agreed on it, and we sent it to the House of Representatives. But for over a year they have refused to even call the bill, refused to even debate the bill, refused to even come up with a substitute to the bill. They are ignoring the broken immigration system in America and criticizing this President when the breakdown is obvious.

The President is ready. He has said over and over he will step aside and let them work it out and come up with a congressional answer. But there is no excuse for this. For Congress to refuse to accept its responsibility when it comes to immigration reform is just wrong. I am glad the Senate met its responsibility, and now I call on my colleagues over in the House to do the same.

(Mr. DONNELLY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, on June 30, five conservative Justices of the Supreme Court held that certain for-profit corporations—closely held corporations—could refuse to provide their female employees with coverage for health care benefits that are guaranteed by law. This Hobby Lobby decision, some estimates suggest, would apply to as many as 90 percent of American businesses, depending on what the courts define as a “closely held” corporation.

This was an activist decision by an activist Supreme Court. Congress never intended for for-profit corporate entities to claim religious beliefs or to use religious objections to deny their employees rights guaranteed by law.

For-profit corporations, for the record, are not people, and they are not created for a religious or charitable purpose. They are created to make a profit while giving their owners protections from liability under the law. I have been to a lot of churches. I have yet to see a corporation in a pew in a church.

Moreover, previous cases ruled on by the Supreme Court have established a tradition of privacy—one that permits women, not the government or their employers, to make their own decisions about birth control and family planning.

The ruling in Hobby Lobby violates that tradition by empowering for-profit

corporations to claim religious objections to a law that guarantees access to cost-free contraceptive coverage. As a result of this decision, women across America are at risk of losing access to elements of their health care coverage, including coverage for prescription birth control pills and more.

Birth control is an important part of a woman's health care, and millions—99 percent of child-bearing-age women—rely on these benefits.

The Affordable Care Act and its regulations provide for insurance coverage for birth control, allowing for a woman, her family, and her doctor to decide what is best. As a result, about 30 million women have gained access to cost-free insurance coverage for contraceptive services, including 1.1 million in my State of Illinois—almost 10 percent of the population.

This is coverage that nearly all women use. In 2013 the Centers for Disease Control reported that 99 percent of sexually active women between the ages of 15 and 44 have used birth control at some point in their lives.

So here is the bottom line: No for-profit corporate entity should be allowed to discriminate against women and take away an insurance benefit that a woman is entitled to just because the owner of the company does not agree with it. A woman's personal health choices are none of her boss's business.

Last week my colleagues and I introduced legislation that would ensure that women affected by this decision can continue to get contraceptive coverage they need and that the law provides regardless of who signs their paycheck.

Importantly, this bill being offered by Senators PATTY MURRAY and MARK UDALL prevents any corporation from using the Supreme Court decision to deny women access to services guaranteed to them under Federal law.

Although the Supreme Court ruling focused primarily on contraceptive coverage, it left the door open for future litigation challenging other basic health care benefits—vaccines, blood transfusions. This is unacceptable, and the legislation before us would stop this discrimination once and for all.

This legislation is not about overriding the religious beliefs of any living person or any nonprofit charity. Our legislation respects and accommodates the beliefs of individuals and nonprofits. Remember, the Hobby Lobby case involved for-profit companies which are not human beings but are legal entities that are incorporated for a profit-making purpose.

When people decide to incorporate a for-profit entity, they agree that the entity will be subject to basic laws that protect the rights of their employees, including laws that prevent discrimination and laws that enable women who work for them to access adequate health care.

The decision of the activist Hobby Lobby majority suddenly allows these for-profit corporations to declare themselves exempt from these basic laws and discriminate against women's health care coverage. That is a significant change in the law and, as a result, untold thousands of American women will end up losing access to affordable health care that they had been guaranteed.

This is a problem, and it is a challenge. We need to protect women's access to affordable prescription contraception and prevent corporate entities—for-profit corporations—from interfering with their employees' health care decisions.

This week in the Senate my colleagues and I will have a chance to vote on it. I think it is a critical vote. I might add another element here. Many people want to discuss the issue of birth control in the context of abortion, a hot-button issue, and it has been for years across America. The record is pretty clear. If there are more unplanned pregnancies, there are more likely more abortions. Reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies reduces the number of abortions. It is simple math. There are some who disagree on theological grounds. They cannot disagree on biological grounds. So standing up for family planning and birth control to avoid unplanned and unwanted pregnancies is going to reduce the incidence of abortion in this country—something I hope all of us feel would be a positive development. I certainly do.

So I hope we can stand together this week on a bipartisan basis and tell the Supreme Court they are wrong and pass this new law that takes away the power of bosses to determine the health care of the women who work for them.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his suggestion?

Mr. DURBIN. I do. I am sorry; I did not see my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am honored to follow those eloquent and powerful remarks by my friend and colleague from Illinois, and I am particularly impressed and moved by his comments on young people coming across the border that deserve better from this Nation—better in the care they receive when they are here, better in the due process and the justice this country gives them once they have arrived. But I am here to talk about the Hobby Lobby decision by the Supreme Court and to second in every single respect the remarks that Senator DURBIN has just made.

I went to the site of a new Hobby Lobby store in the State of Connecticut, being built in Manchester—

the second in Connecticut—where its goods and services will be available to consumers in Connecticut. It is an impressive new structure. But it was not a groundbreaking or ribbon cutting. I went there to call on Hobby Lobby to do right for its employees and for its customers in the State of Connecticut.

I went there to make public a letter that I have written to the chief executive of Hobby Lobby, asking that he and his company respect the law, history, and policy of our State and also of the United States.

The U.S. Supreme Court has made its decision interpreting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in giving this corporation—a for-profit entity—the right to tell its women employees that they have no access to certain kinds of contraceptive care approved by the FDA. That is a legal decision that cannot be overturned by my speaking on the floor of the Senate or in my writing to the CEO of Hobby Lobby. But it can be overturned by a law that changes that opinion—changes the opinion, in effect, by overruling it.

That is the purpose of the Not My Boss's Business Act, as well as the Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act, and that is the reason I am going to vote for it because I feel that women should be making these decisions with their doctors, and that neither politicians nor business executives nor their corporate entities should be interfering and intruding in that decision.

We can debate whether corporations ought to have these rights under the law, whether they are entitled to use the law, in effect, to assert legal claims, whether to the First Amendment or to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This decision was a statutory one. We can disagree with it all we want. But the way to overturn it is to legally adopt a new statute here.

That is why I am so strongly supporting this change in the law that I hope will be adopted on a bipartisan basis, because there ought to be nothing partisan about women's health care, about preventing unnecessary abortion, as Senator DURBIN has said so well, and about providing a form of health care that really is in the interests of families as well as women. It is in all of our interests.

I called on Hobby Lobby to put aside the technical distinctions that it can assert and the legal principles that it may invoke because it is a self-funded plan under the law, but simply do the right thing and follow Connecticut's law, policy, and history.

Connecticut has a law. It is a State statute that was adopted in 1999. I vigorously advocated for it. It requires that contraceptive care be covered by insurance plans—any contraceptive method approved by the FDA. That is the law of Connecticut—well established, long accepted, and strongly sup-

ported, and Hobby Lobby is flouting it. Maybe in letter it has a leg to stand on, but in spirit it is thumbing its nose at the people of the State of Connecticut. My message to Hobby Lobby is, if you want Connecticut customers, respect Connecticut's law.

Now, this principle of privacy—of women following their conscience and their conviction, making these decisions on their own, one way or the other, to use contraceptives or not, after consulting with their doctor or other medical experts and their family, their clergy, personal advisors—this principle of personal privacy is enshrined not only in Connecticut law but in our history. In fact, Connecticut has led the Nation in asserting and respecting the right of privacy. *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which struck down a prohibition on the sale of contraceptives, arose in Connecticut, argued by a great renowned Connecticut lawyer Catherine Roraback.

The right of privacy, as one of our Supreme Court Justices said, is essentially and fundamentally the right to be let alone. It is the right to be let alone from unwarranted government interference and intrusion. This interpretation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act by the Supreme Court contravenes that basic principle embodied and enshrined in Connecticut history as well as law.

I call on Hobby Lobby to respect that law and our policy of respecting that right of privacy that is embedded and respected in the way that law enforcement as well as our statutes and our courts interpret their role in Connecticut, and their authorities and their powers. The fundamental principle here is that religious liberty should be respected.

It is the religious liberty of those executives at Hobby Lobby, its owners and private corporation shareholders, for-profit entity owners. They deserve respect for their religious liberty. But religious liberty is about the right to practice your religion; it is not the right to impose your religion on someone else. This country was founded on that fundamental principle of religious liberty and the right of privacy, the right to be let alone from unnecessary and unwarranted interference. It is the right of privacy and religious liberty that is at stake here in this activist, erroneous Supreme Court decision, which we have the power to overturn here, and to restore religious freedom, truly restore the liberty of conscience and conviction that is so fundamental to American life and American exceptionalism.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING DRESS FOR SUCCESS LEXINGTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dress for Success Lexington and its Kentucky co-founders, Analisa Wagoner and Jennifer Monarch. It was my distinct pleasure to help these women secure 501(c)(3) nonprofit status from the IRS for their business, and I am honored to know that I have played a role, albeit a minor one, in all the good that will continue to come of Wagoner and Monarch's venture.

Dress for Success was founded in New York City in 1997. Since then the organization had expanded into 128 cities around the world, including locations in Louisville and Lexington, KY.

As its name suggests, Dress for Success provides gently used, professional clothes to disadvantaged women. This is not, however, the totality of the organization's services. Looking the part is indeed a piece of the equation, but to ensure success they also provide counseling and training as their clients navigate the jobs market and begin work.

Jennifer and Analisa opened the doors to Dress for Success Lexington over a year ago. In the intervening time, they were inundated with enough clothing donations to render their initial location inoperable. There is a business model that does not work unless people are willing to give. Fortunately, helping others in need is second nature for the people of Lexington, KY.

Last September, Dress for Success Lexington moved into a newer, much larger location in the Eastland Shopping Center. And with its newly acquired non-profit status, which makes the organization eligible for certain grants, donations, and a tax-exempt status, the future looks decidedly bright for Dress for Success Lexington.

Dress for Success Lexington is a model for serving the community. They are not just helping people—more importantly they are providing the tools and training for women to help themselves, and in turn do the same for others.

Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to

these exemplary citizens and Dress for Success Lexington.

Mr. President, the Lexington Herald-Leader recently published an article profiling Analisa Wagoner and Jennifer Monarch, and their work with Dress for Success Lexington. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Aug. 21, 2013]

DRESS FOR SUCCESS LEXINGTON HAS FOUND A HOME, PLANS TO OPEN IN LATE SEPTEMBER
(By Merlene Davis)

I wrote about Analisa Wagoner and Jennifer Monarch in April as they were being overrun by mounds of gently worn clothing.

They had run out of room for the generous donations from Lexington women who were more than willing to help their less fortunate sisters get on their feet.

A bit overwhelmed but definitely not discouraged, Wagoner and Monarch had been approved to start a local affiliate of the international Dress for Success program which provides professional attire, a support network and career development tools to help women become economically independent.

Now I am writing about them because they have secured a permanent home for Dress for Success Lexington in the Eastland Shopping Center. It will open in late September. The non-profit will be the second such program in Kentucky. Louisville's affiliate was established in 2000.

Wagoner said the new location is getting spruced up and painted, the furnace is being replaced and a dressing room is being added.

"We are still in that process," she said. "In the ideal, fingers-crossed time line, we may get the keys by the end of the week."

That will be followed by the addition of furniture and clothing racks.

Meanwhile, the women have scheduled the first of many mandatory orientation and training sessions for volunteers. People are needed in administration, inventory, fundraising, outreach, and technical and graphic areas. Soon, there will be a need for volunteers in the career center to conduct mock interviews, offer job search tips and edit résumés and cover letters. The training session will be held at the Central Library downtown.

"That is where we held our start-up meeting in May," Wagoner said. "We have come so far since then. We've come full circle."

The sessions are geared to get everyone on the same page, she said. A video provided by the worldwide organization will be shown, featuring Joi Gordon, chief executive officer, who will talk about the program.

Those in attendance will be able to select their preferred area in which to help.

The Eastland site has more than 2,000 square feet of space and was the "last missing piece of the puzzle," Monarch said. It will be enough space for organized racks of professional clothing, two dressing rooms, an area with computers, and office space.

"With the space, we have everything we need to start helping women, which is our No. 1 and only goal," she said.

Clients are helped through referral only, Wagoner said, and after completing a job training program through a government or social services agency.

The client then works with a volunteer personal shopper who helps her select appro-

priate attire and also provides support and encouragement as she prepares for job interviews.

After landing a job, the client can then return for more clothing and support.

On Sept. 19, referral agencies will be invited to an open house to learn about the program's mission. But that's not all the events being planned. On Oct. 1, Mayor Jim Gray will be on hand for the official opening.

And on Oct. 17, local designers, who have been given outfits that aren't suited for the workplace, will show off their skills in a Recycle the Runway fundraiser and fashion show at The Grand Reserve on Manchester Street.

Wagoner and Monarch are determined to see this program flourish. Considering where they started and where they are now, I wouldn't advise anyone to stand in their way.

It will be better for us to just get onboard.

REMEMBERING GEORGE CARNES, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to report some sad news to my Senate colleagues. On June 29, 2014, Mr. George Carnes Jr. of Walker, KY, passed away at the age of 87.

George was born on November 3, 1926, to George and Mossie Bargo Carnes. In the aftermath of the Second World War, he served his country as a part of the U.S. Army's German occupation force.

Upon returning from Germany, George married Lena Shelton on a summer day in 1953. Family was paramount in George's life, and the two were happily married for 52 years until Lena's passing. Together they had, and are survived by, three children Alene Foley, Sandra Howard, and George Carnes III.

I am fortunate to know well one of his four grandchildren, Andrew Howard, who is on my staff, and to see firsthand the product of George's influence. George loved most of all spending time with his family, whether it was discussing the latest Kentucky basketball and Cincinnati Reds news, passing down his farming techniques, or simply playing with his two great-grandchildren.

George was also a man of great faith. As an ordained Baptist minister, he was a member of the Salt Gum Baptist Church and former pastor of the Moore's Creek Baptist Church.

George was an exemplary citizen who served his country honorably, was devoted to his church and community, and loved his family. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to George Carnes Jr.

Mr. President, Hopper Funeral Home, Inc. recently published in area newspapers an obituary for Mr. Carnes. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From Hopper Funeral Home, Inc.]

GEORGE CARNES JR.

George Carnes Jr. (Junior) age 87, of Walker, Kentucky, was born there on November 3, 1926, to the late George and Mossie Bargo Carnes. Junior died Sunday, June 29, 2014, in the Pineville Community Hospital. On July 7, 1953, he united in marriage to Lena Shelton and they were married for 52 years before her passing and were loving parents to Alene Foley of Barbourville, Kentucky; Sandra Howard and husband, Rev. Rondald Howard, Pineville, Kentucky; George Carnes III, of Walker, Kentucky. Along with his parents and wife, Lena, George was preceded in death by his brothers; Alonzo, Cloyd, McCoy, LeeRoy, Raymond, Flem D. and sisters; Dorothy Carnes and Edna Carnes Messer.

In addition to his three children, Junior is survived by his sister, Evelyn Carnes Warren of Arjay, Kentucky; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who he loved dearly. His grandchildren include granddaughter Beth Howard; three grandsons; Michael Foley and wife, Jennifer; Jason Foley and wife, Codi; and Andrew Howard. Junior's favorite times were spent with his two great-grandchildren; Connor Foley and Grace Foley, having tea parties, watching dance performances, playing baseball and passing on his love for farming. He also loved Kentucky basketball and the Cincinnati Reds and would chat with anyone on any given day about the Wildcats or the Reds.

Junior was a member of the Salt Gum Baptist Church and an ordained Baptist Minister and former pastor of the Moore's Creek Baptist Church. He served in the United States Army as part of the German occupation force and was an employee of McCracken-McCall Lumber Company, Viall Lumber Company, Marshall Lumber Company and Forest Products.

Funeral Services for George Carnes Jr. will be conducted at the Chapel of the Hopper Funeral Home on Thursday, July 3, 2014, at 1:00 pm, with Rev. Rondald Howard and Bro. Terry Joe Messer officiating and special music by Rev. and Mrs. Ricky Broughton. Burial will follow in the George Carnes Cemetery at Walker. Pallbearers will be grandsons, nephews, family and friends. Friends will be received at the Hopper Funeral Home, Wednesday after 6:00 pm and Thursday after 10:00 am until the funeral hour at 1:00 pm.

REMEMBERING KEN GRAY

Mr. DURBIN. Today, we mourn the loss of a Southern Illinois legend, Congressman Ken Gray. Kenny had many roles in his lifetime. He was a licensed auctioneer, a pilot, and a magician. But he made his greatest mark serving the people of Southern Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly a quarter of a century.

Kenny was a World War II veteran who served with the Army and Air Force in North Africa, Italy, Southern France and Central Europe. After the war he operated an air service in Benton, IL.

He was elected to Congress in 1954 at the age of 30 and went on to serve 10 consecutive terms. When he first went to Washington, Southern Illinois was an impoverished, rural area. Congressman Gray took great pride in the regional improvements he helped steer to

his region. His work made a real difference in the daily lives of Southern Illinoisans.

His constituents loved him and the House entrusted him with increasing responsibilities. Speakers of the House Sam Rayburn and Tip O'Neil regularly called on him to preside over the chamber.

You could never forget Kenny Gray. With his rainbow of sport coats and personal helicopter, Kenny was a legend. He even had a pink Cadillac. His repertoire of jokes borrowed heavily from Red Skelton and hometown stories from Little Egypt.

Among his notable achievements in Congress: Ken helped write the 1956 Federal-Aid Highway Act, which created America's interstate highway system. Kenny kept the pen that President Dwight D. Eisenhower used to sign the historic legislation.

With president Delye Morris, Kenny Gray helped to put Southern Illinois University Carbondale on the map as a leading university in America.

Today the section of Interstate 57 between milepost 0, at the Illinois State line, to milepost 106, at the Marion/Jefferson County line, is known as Ken Gray Expressway in honor of his role in the creation of America's highway system.

You can also see Kenny Gray's legacy in Rend Lake, which was created by the Army Corps of Engineers and supplies 15 million gallons of water per day to 300,000 people in more than 60 Southern Illinois communities. Rend Lake has saved more than \$100 million worth of property downstream during flood years and it would not exist without Kenny Gray's leadership.

Congressman Gray stepped away from Congress in 1974. My mentor Paul Simon succeeded him in Congress. When Paul ran for the Senate in 1984, Kenny Gray returned to Congress to serve two more terms. In 1988, Kenny left Congress for the last time to come home after developing a muscular disorder caused by a tick bite on a congressional visit to Brazil.

Ken Gray passed away just days after we lost another Illinois political giant with whom he served in Congress, Senator Alan Dixon.

Alan Dixon once said of Kenny Gray, "A true political legend, Gray never was defeated. He just quit."

Congressman Gray remained a voice in the community after leaving Congress. We will miss that voice, but we won't forget his achievements.

I want to express my condolences to Kenny's family, especially his wife Margaret "Toedy" Holley-Gray, his daughters: Diann, Becky and Candy, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CYPRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a troubling anniversary

—that of the 40th year of the division of the island of Cyprus.

U.N. peacekeepers first came to Cyprus in 1964 due to intercommunal fighting.

Since 1974, Cyprus has been divided into the government-controlled two-thirds of the island and the remaining one-third of the island which is administered by Turkish Cypriots and occupied by Turkish military forces. The Republic of Cyprus, which joined the European Union in 2004, continues to be the only internationally recognized government on the island.

Tragically, Cyprus has been divided now for four decades, with a U.N. buffer zone separating the entire island—the so-called green line. Violence today is rare, but the long-term impacts of the separation are stark—displaced people, memories of family members killed in earlier violence, and lost property rights. Quite simply, a people who share a common island have been unnecessarily divided for far too long.

Over the last decade there have been signs of hope that the island would be reunified and the Turkish occupation brought to an end. In 2009, for example, I visited Cyprus and met with then Cypriot President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat. Christofias and Talat, at considerable political risk, had undertaken negotiations that showed real promise—talks that I and the international community hoped would succeed. Unfortunately, they did not, and several years have passed without a resolution.

Meanwhile, the situation in Cyprus has left an island and a region divided. People have died. Families have been separated. An entire coastal area, Varosha, remains an occupied ghost town. There has been a great deal of pain inflicted on the people of this island.

While I am saddened by this 40th anniversary, I am also encouraged that a new group of leaders in Cyprus has undertaken talks that show some promise. After Vice President JOE BIDEN visited Cyprus in May, Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu agreed to meet at least twice a month and undertake confidence building measures aimed at easing the many years of mistrust between the two sides.

I hope the leaders of Turkey will also step forward and bring an end to the military occupation of a third of the island. Such military seizure of territory has no place in today's modern Europe.

While this is a Cypriot-led process and negotiation, I wish to express my strong hope and support for the current negotiations to bring peaceful and enduring settlement to the island.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the situation in Cyprus. Forty years ago this week, military forces from Turkey invaded Cyprus, eventually taking con-

trol of 38 percent of the island. Cyprus has remained divided ever since. As we observe this solemn occasion, I call on all parties to find a peaceful negotiated settlement in Cyprus.

Cyprus is an important partner to the United States, and I appreciate the recent attention given to Cyprus reunification by the Obama administration. In May 2014, Vice President BIDEN visited the island and met with President Anastasiades and Dr. Eroglu. Vice President BIDEN personally conveyed our country's support for reunification of Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation. However, as Vice President BIDEN said, "... ultimately, the solution cannot come from the outside. It cannot come from the United States or anywhere else; it has to come from the leaders of the two communities, and from the compelling voices of the civil society leaders..."

In February 2014, Cypriot leaders issued a joint statement, prompting the formal resumption of unification talks. I was encouraged by this step but have followed this issue long enough to know that negotiators face a difficult, though not insurmountable, task. I wish them well in their negotiations and hope we can soon see progress towards a peaceful reunification in Cyprus.

MOUNT CHASE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Town of Mount Chase, ME. Mount Chase was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this sesquicentennial marks Mount Chase's incorporation, the year 1864 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the land surrounding Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest peak, was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Penobscot and Maliseet tribes. In the 1830s, the first White settlers were drawn by the fertile soil, vast stands of timber, and fast-moving streams, and the young village became a center of the Maine North Woods' lumber industry. The wealth produced by the forests and saw mills was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. The incorporated town that followed was named for the prominent mountain peak, Mount Chase, which towers more than a half-mile above the farms and forests below.

The arrival of the railroads in the aftermath of the Civil War further secured Mount Chase's prominence in the lumber industry, and the town was home to the largest cold-storage plant on the line for wild game and other

perishable food products. By the end of the 19th century, modern transportation and the region's spectacular scenery and abundant wildlife combined to create a new economic opportunity—great sporting camps and lodges that drew outdoor enthusiasts from around the world. Today, the people of Mount Chase continue to honor the strong land use traditions and love of the outdoors that have helped make such places as Shin Pond a favorite recreation destination for residents and visitors.

In the early 20th century, the history, industry, and beauty of the Mount Chase region were made immortal by the great Swedish-born artist Carl Sprinchorn, who spent many years at Shin Pond. From his paintings of the strenuous daily life of lumberjacks to his evocative landscapes, the artist recorded a very special time in Maine history and a place that remains special today.

This 150th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for generations have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Mount Chase has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

HAMTRAMCK FIRE DEPARTMENT CENTENNIAL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our Nation's first responders are in many ways our everyday heroes. Always ready when we need them most, they risk their lives to ensure our safety. To do this, they spend long hours away from their families on grueling shifts and make countless other sacrifices. For the last century, the Hamtramck Fire Department has been a part of this distinguished tradition.

The Hamtramck Fire Department was established in its current form in 1914, but the department's roots run deeper. The Hamtramck Spouters, the first organized firefighting unit in the area, was founded in February 1857. From its inception, the department has sought to improve with each passing year, which has led to many advances, including updated technology, lowered response times, and fewer fires through prevention efforts. The department has served Hamtramck citizens with distinction, even as tough economic times have made the job harder. Their mission to protect the residents of Hamtramck is as vital today as it was 100 years ago.

Today, the fire department tackles a heavy load, making more than 3,100 runs each year. In the process, they have saved countless lives and property, often at great personal risk. Their courageous service is remark-

able, and their reputation within the community is impeccable.

The Hamtramck Fire Department also has sought to make an impact in the community outside of the fire hall. From organizing park cleanups, to buying uniforms for Hamtramck High School's women's basketball team, the fire department has provided valuable services to the community.

Just this year, the fire department won a fireworks display for the city in the national Red, White & You contest. They were chosen from a group of more than 2,500 entries. Because of their efforts, the city hosted its first Fourth of July fireworks display in more than three decades. Announcing the fireworks display, Fire Chief Paul Wilk noted, "We are a very diverse city that's fallen on hard times—we need a boost like this."

The pride in their city and sense of service the department displayed in their application to the Red, White & You contest bears repeating. Firefighter John Dropchuck, who has been with the department for 15 years, wrote, "Cultural diversity and a strong blue collar work ethic make up the backbone of our town. There is no better representation of the pursuit of the 'American Dream' than Hamtramck. . . The Hamtramck Fire Department is entering this contest on behalf of our residents, who we feel deserve this celebration." The commitment of Hamtramck's firefighters to going above and beyond for their city and its citizens is an example for all of us.

On May 3, 2014, the Hamtramck Fire Department celebrated its 100th anniversary with the annual St. Florian March and Mass. It was a fitting way to mark this historic milestone, giving the community an opportunity to offer their thanks. On July 5, the celebrations continued with an impressive fireworks display, another opportunity to come together in fellowship and thanksgiving.

We owe our Nation's firefighters and first responders a huge debt of gratitude. Their bravery and willingness to serve provides families across Michigan with a measure of security. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating the Hamtramck Fire Department on a century of service and a job well done. They are a wonderful example of public service, and I wish them much success as they continue their mission to protect the public.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST FRANCISCO J. BRISENO-ALVAREZ

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC Francisco Brisenno-Alvarez who died on September 25, 2011 serving our Nation in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Brisenno-Alvarez was assigned to Headquarters Com-

pany, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

SPC Brisenno-Alvarez died of injuries sustained when the vehicle in which he was riding was attacked with an improvised explosive device in Laghman Province while conducting combat operations. He was 27 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: his father Javier Brisenno, mother Lurdes Alvarez, and siblings Adrian and Diana Brisenno.

Francisco graduated from U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City in 2003. He enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard on September 11, 2010 and served as a motor transport operator in the 700th Brigade Support Battalion and then with the 1-279th Infantry Regiment.

As evident from reading through quotes from friends and family, Francisco touched people's lives in remarkable ways:

Brenda Fetzko, a neighbor said, "I know he loved his mother very much so" and was a good man and had a strong connection to his family. "He was a very good person and was just getting his life going."

Ruben Gonzalez, a friend said, "Paco was a very nice man, and I am proud to say that he was my friend from high school and after. . . . I'm very proud of you Francisco."

Juan Cerano, a cousin said, "He died doing the right thing. He died serving and protecting his country. He was like the brother I never had. There's always going to be a part of him in our hearts."

MG Myles Deering, the Oklahoma Adjutant General said, "My thoughts and prayers are with the Brisenno-Alvarez family and those of our wounded heroes. SPC Brisenno-Alvarez answered the call to serve this great Nation and help defend it. His loyalty and ultimate sacrifice for the sake of our Country will never be forgotten."

A true warrior, Francisco died while participating in tough and demanding combat operations. This fight took Francisco from us prematurely, but make no mistake; it is a fight we will win. We must continue our unwavering support for the men and women protecting our Nation and allies.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Francisco's family and friends. Francisco lived a life of love for his family and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER D. GALEY

Mr. President, it is my honor to also remember Army SPC Christopher D.

Gailey. Chris and PFC Sarina N. Butcher, 19, of Checotah, OK, lost their lives November 1, 2011, in Laja Ahmad Khel, Paktia province of Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their military vehicle during a supply mission.

Born September 15, 1985, in Bartlesville, OK, Chris attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, MO, before returning and graduating with the class of 2005 from Caney Valley High School in Ramona, OK.

Those who knew Chris said he was a man who "loved his country, loved America and loved his family."

Eager to join the National Guard, he enlisted in June 2004 before graduating high school and was assigned to the 700th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma National Guard, Tulsa, OK. Previously deployed to Iraq in 2007 to 2008 as a motor vehicle operator, he departed for Afghanistan in June 2011.

The Oklahoma National Guard family is deeply saddened by the loss of these two outstanding citizen-soldiers," MG Myles L. Deering, the Adjutant General for Oklahoma, said in a news release. "Their commitment and willingness to serve our nation during a time of war is indicative of their tremendous character and courage. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends and those that continue to serve our country in Afghanistan."

Survivors include his parents Shan and Tammy Gailey of Ochelata, OK, his daughter Allison Marie Gailey of Bartlesville, one brother Beau Dugan of Merriam, KS, two sisters Angelina Janelle Niko of Bartlesville and Kristina Jeanette Gailey of Stillwater, OK, his paternal grandmother Lela Belle Gailey of Marshfield, MO, his maternal grandparents Carl Eugene Maples and his wife Carol of Joplin, MO, one uncle Jesse Robert Gailey, four aunts: Barbara Jane Foster, Shawn Dee Adams, Manya Alice Maples, and Sonya Jolene Hamblin, and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

"Keep good memories of him," his father Shan Gailey said. "Keep him in your heart."

Funeral services were held on November 12, 2011 in the Bartlesville Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Full military rites were conducted by the Oklahoma National Guard and interment was in the Ochelata Cemetery in Ocheleta, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Christopher D. Gailey, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom. ARMY STAFF SERGEANT ALLEN R. McKENNA, JR.

Mr. President, I also wish to remember a remarkable young man, Army SSG Allen R. McKenna, Jr. Robby died February 21, 2012 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Robby was born July 17, 1983 in Oklahoma City, OK and graduated from Noble High School, where he met his wife Lindsey. He enlisted in the Army in September 2004 and was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

The military was a natural choice for him, and he took college courses to advance his military career, his mother said. "He had his clothes ironed by 5 a.m. That boy loved it," she said. "He just always had a love for the military, the discipline and the way they hold their head high."

His second tour of duty to Afghanistan began on September 6, 2011. While deployed he was able to come home in December 2011 to witness the birth of his youngest child Waylon.

"He was the greatest father my boys could ask for. He was a great husband who loved us all very much. It makes me sad to know we won't grow old together, but he lived a beautiful life and (he) gave me three of the most beautiful things I could ask for," his wife Lindsey said.

His mother said she looked forward to getting calls from her son while he was in Afghanistan. "I learned very quick when a phone call came in at 3 a.m. to jump up and answer it," Mitchell said. "He would call and play his guitar and sing me a song he had written."

On March 6, 2012, Robby was laid to rest in Hillside Cemetery in Purcell, OK. Oklahoma Governor, Mary Fallin ordered flags on State property to fly at half-staff on March 6, 2012 in honor of Robby.

Robby is survived by his wife Lindsey McKenna of Purcell, three sons: Allen Robert McKenna III, Michael "Mickey" McKenna, and Waylon Roan McKenna, and the only girl in the family, his pet cat "Scat;" father and stepmother, Allen and Pam McKenna of Purcell, grandparents Bill and Charlotte McKenna of Alex, Alvie and Cleta Mitchell and Grace Cummins of Noble, OK; three brothers and their families, Billy and Jamie Bingenheimer of Little Axe, OK, Bobby and Charlene Bingenheimer of Purcell, OK, and Scotty and Lenette McKenna of Anchorage, AK, one sister Jessi McKenna of Purcell, OK, stepfather Lamar Bingenheimer, step-grandparents Frankie and Mary Rinehart of Purcell, OK, father-in-law, Donnie Jones of Noble, OK, mother-in-law Donya Jones of Norman, OK, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Today we remember Army SSG Allen R. McKenna, Jr., a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WALTER PARKER

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I would like to take the time to recognize the loss of Walter Parker. Walter Parker passed away on June 25, 2014, in Anchorage, AK. Walt Parker was dedicated to our State and he made his mark in many ways.

Walter Parker came up to Alaska in 1946 after serving in World War II and held vital roles in the development of the State of Alaska. From overseeing the construction of the Dalton Highway to being appointed to the Alaska State Pipeline office, Walter Parker helped shape Alaska into what it is today. He was a constant advocate for stronger communities, higher education, parks and trails, safer transportation and better communities. He was a musher, trapper, bush pilot, planner and borough assemblyman who never lost his commitment or faith to help make Alaska a great place to live.

Throughout his life, Walter Parker approached all parts of his life with excitement, passion, idealism and energy—he was a force to be reckoned with. He passed on his knowledge by teaching at the University of Alaska and helped our State after the devastation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He served as chairman of the Alaska Oil Spill Commission. Later in his life, he held various government positions and was involved in public interest organizations that helped make Alaska better.

The loss of Walter Parker is sad and all who knew him mourns his loss. The work Walter Parker did for Alaska will never be forgotten, and we are all thankful for his commitment and dedication to the people of Alaska. •

REMEMBERING FRED BROWN

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to honor and remember long time Alaskan, Mr. Fred Brown. Mr. Brown died in Fairbanks at the Denali Center on Friday, June 27, 2014 at the age of 70.

Fred Brown was a former 4-term Fairbanks legislator who was elected in 1974 served in the Alaska House of Representatives in the 1970s and early 1980s. He was not only an active member of the community, but a man with a passion for contributing to the development of the State of Alaska. With a remarkable passion for music and radio, he enriched the territory and State for decades. He was an avid ham radio operator known by the call sign KL7CUS.

Outside the legislature, Fred Brown played the flute, piccolo and contra bassoon for 50 years with the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra. He was also an active member at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church where his memory will be honored.

Fred Brown cared deeply about his community and was committed to public service. As a legislator, he carried himself and the State forward with self-determination and dignity. His wife Helen said her husband had three main passions: "Politics, music and religion were what mattered to him, which is a strange combination, but that really was the triumvirate of his life." He was a master of parliamentary procedure and scrupulously ran meetings according to Mason's Rules in the interest of fairness to all.

While we mourn the loss of his presence, the legacy of this remarkable man lives on. He leaves behind many friends who are grateful to have known his exceptional character. The people of Alaska will always owe a debt of gratitude to former Alaska legislator Fred Brown.

On behalf of his family and his many friends, I ask that we honor Fred Brown's memory.●

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMER LIBERIAN REGIME OF CHARLES TAYLOR THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13348 ON JULY 22, 2004—PM 50

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2014.

Although Liberia has made significant advances to promote democracy, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone convicted Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity, the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, still challenge Liberia's efforts to strengthen its democracy and the or-

derly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2014.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 255. An act to amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 272. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 291. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

H.R. 330. An act to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

H.R. 356. An act to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes".

H.R. 507. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 803. An act to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

H.R. 876. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1158. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

H.R. 1216. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

H.R. 2337. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

H.R. 3110. An act to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within

Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1376. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 1813. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed during the session of the Senate by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".

H.R. 606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".

H.R. 1192. An act to redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Frémont".

H.R. 1786. An act to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2223. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".

H.R. 2291. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office".

H.R. 2802. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3027. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".

H.R. 3085. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3534. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the "Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 4185. An act to revise certain authorities of the District of Columbia courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4193. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4195. An act to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4197. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4355. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office".

H.R. 4416. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".

H.R. 5029. An act to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals.

H.R. 5031. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation.

H.R. 5056. An act to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes.

At 5:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5021. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 451. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1192. An act to redesignate Mammoth Peak in Yosemite National Park as "Mount Jessie Benton Frémont"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1786. An act to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Pro-

gram, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2223. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2291. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2802. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 418 Liberty Street in Covington, Indiana, as the "Fountain County Veterans Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3027. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3085. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3534. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the "Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4195. An act to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4197. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4355. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 B Street in Perryville, Arkansas, as the "Harold George Bennett Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4416. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5029. An act to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5031. An act to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5056. An act to improve the efficiency of Federal research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2599. A bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

H.R. 4718. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 5021. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2609. A bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment:

S. 1865. A bill to amend the prices set for Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps and make limited waivers of stamp requirements for certain users (Rept. No. 113-210).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Joseph P. Mohorovic, of Illinois, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2012.

*Judith M. Davenport, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020.

*Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2013.

*Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

*Elizabeth Sembler, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2020.

*Robert S. Adler, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2014.

*Victor M. Mendez, of Arizona, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

*Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

*Bruce H. Andrews, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

*Marcus Dwayne Jadotte, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Angela R. Holbrook and ending with Martha A. Rodriguez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 4, 2014.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 2601. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ensure futures commission merchant compliance; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2602. A bill to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2603. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2604. A bill to authorize the sale of certain National Forest System land in the State of Georgia; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 2605. A bill to preserve religious freedom and a woman's access to contraception; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 2606. A bill to require the termination of any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is found to have retaliated against a whistleblower; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2607. A bill to extend and modify the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2608. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national monuments and restrictions on the use of national monuments, to establish requirements for the declaration of marine national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2609. A bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2610. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2611. A bill to facilitate the expedited processing of minors entering the United States across the southern border and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 502. A resolution concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 84

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 109

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 109, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from South

Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1249, a bill to rename the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the Department of State the Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to provide for an Assistant Secretary to head such Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to establish programs with respect to childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer.

S. 1505

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1505, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from definition under that Act.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2244, a bill to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2323, a bill to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 2329

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2329, a bill to prevent Hezbollah from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2335

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2335, a bill to exempt certain 16 and 17 year-old children employed in logging or mechanized operations from child labor laws.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2481

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2498, a bill to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

S. 2529

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2529, a bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 3990 of the Public Health Service Act.

S. 2543

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2563

At the request of Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2563, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway safety and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards totaling up to \$5,000,000 for information on the kidnapping and murder of Naftali Fraenkel, a dual United States-Israeli citizen, that began on June 12, 2014.

S. 2578

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2578, a bill to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2585, a bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to Iran to protect against human rights abuses in Iran, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. NELSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 498

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 498, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2607. A bill to extend and modify the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with my colleague Senator DEAN HELLER, legislation that would extend a critical and innovative program for our nation's veterans. Senator HELLER and I urge our colleagues to consider The Assisted Living Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury Extension, AL-TBI, Act which authorizes the continuation of a Veterans Health Administration program that provides intensive care and rehabilitation to veterans with severe brain injuries.

Thanks to this program, veterans with traumatic brain injuries more quickly re-adjust to their day-to-day lives—from making dinner for others, to fixing a faucet, to doing yard work. AL-TBI consists of privately run group homes around the country where veterans are immersed in therapies for movement, memory, speech, and gradual community reintegration. Veterans in these homes benefit from 24-hour team-based care. There are about twenty of these homes in New Jersey that have yielded impressive results. Nationally, several dozen veterans have been rehabilitated from severe injuries that are notoriously difficult to treat.

This program is working to help a generation of veterans with traumatic brain injuries and so many older veterans that have been suffering for decades. Since 2001, more than 265,000 U.S. troops suffered traumatic brain injuries, according to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. While most were mild concussions, over 26,000 men and women veterans suffered from moderate or severe head wounds. Advances in medicine keep alive soldiers with head wounds that might have killed them in previous conflicts. However, the ability to cure these injuries has not kept pace. Innovative, effective programs must be supported by Congress in order to give our veterans the care they need and deserve.

But unfortunately, as the program nears the end of its 5-year authorization, veterans across the country are being told that they need to prepare to move out of the facilities in September. I have heard from a veteran in New Jersey, who was told he will need to be out of the program on September 15 and worries he will be out on the street. He has made tremendous gains with the AL-TBI program. He has rekindled his relationship with his son. He is able to do basic math again. But, he has a lot more to do to get his independence back. We cannot leave him

and other veterans like him out in the cold.

The VA offers no alternative program that replicates the comprehensiveness of the rehabilitative care, the benefit of providing care in a residential setting, and the positive impact on veterans of sustained, longer-term care.

This is a proven program that does not require new funds, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join Senator HELLER and myself in supporting this critical piece of legislation for our Nation's veterans.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2611. A bill to facilitate the expedited processing of minors entering the United States across the southern border and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2611

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Helping Unaccompanied Minors and Alleviating National Emergency Act" or the "HUMANE Act".

TITLE I—PROTECTING CHILDREN

SEC. 101. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending the paragraph heading to read as follows: "RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN";

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States"; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by amending the subparagraph heading to read as follows: "AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES"; and

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "countries contiguous to the United States" and inserting "Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and any other foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate"; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(D)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking "PLACEMENT IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS" and inserting "EXPEDITED DUE PROCESS AND SCREENING FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN";

(B) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a)(2), shall be—" and inserting "who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)—";

(C) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) shall be placed in a proceeding in accordance with section 235B of the Immigra-

tion and Nationality Act, which shall commence not later than 7 days after the screening of an unaccompanied alien child described in paragraph (4);";

(D) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (iii) and (iv), respectively;

(E) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

"(ii) may not be placed in the custody of a nongovernmental sponsor or otherwise released from the custody of the United States Government until the child is repatriated unless the child is the subject of an order under section 235B(e)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;";

(F) in clause (iii), as redesignated, by inserting "is" before "eligible"; and

(G) in clause (iv), as redesignated, by inserting "shall be" before "provided".

SEC. 102. EXPEDITED DUE PROCESS AND SCREENING OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended by inserting after section 235A the following:

"SEC. 235B. HUMANE AND EXPEDITED INSPECTION AND SCREENING FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

"(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term 'asylum officer' means an immigration officer who—

"(1) has had professional training in country conditions, asylum law, and interview techniques comparable to that provided to full-time adjudicators of applications under section 208, and

"(2) is supervised by an officer who—

"(A) meets the condition described in paragraph (1); and

"(B) has had substantial experience adjudicating asylum applications.

"(b) PROCEEDING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the screening of an unaccompanied alien child under section 235(a)(4) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(a)(4)), an immigration judge shall conduct a proceeding to inspect, screen, and determine the status of an unaccompanied alien child who is an applicant for admission to the United States.

"(2) TIME LIMIT.—Not later than 72 hours after the conclusion of a proceeding with respect to an unaccompanied alien child under this section, the immigration judge who conducted such proceeding shall issue an order pursuant to subsection (e).

"(c) CONDUCT OF PROCEEDING.—

"(1) AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION JUDGE.—The immigration judge conducting a proceeding under this section—

"(A) shall administer oaths, receive evidence, and interrogate, examine, and cross-examine the alien and any witnesses;

"(B) may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and presentation of evidence; and

"(C) is authorized to sanction by civil money penalty any action (or inaction) in contempt of the judge's proper exercise of authority under this Act.

"(2) FORM OF PROCEEDING.—A proceeding under this section may take place—

"(A) in person;

"(B) at a location agreed to by the parties, in the absence of the alien;

"(C) through video conference; or

"(D) through telephone conference.

"(3) PRESENCE OF ALIEN.—If it is impracticable by reason of an alien's mental incompetency for the alien to be present at the

proceeding, the Attorney General shall prescribe safeguards to protect the rights and privileges of the alien.

"(4) RIGHTS OF THE ALIEN.—In a proceeding under this section—

"(A) the alien shall be given the privilege of being represented, at no expense to the Government, by counsel of the alien's choosing who is authorized to practice in such proceedings;

"(B) the alien shall be given a reasonable opportunity—

"(i) to examine the evidence against the alien;

"(ii) to present evidence on the alien's own behalf; and

"(iii) to cross-examine witnesses presented by the Government;

"(C) the rights set forth in subparagraph (B) shall not entitle the alien—

"(i) to examine such national security information as the Government may proffer in opposition to the alien's admission to the United States; or

"(ii) to an application by the alien for discretionary relief under this Act; and

"(D) a complete record shall be kept of all testimony and evidence produced at the proceeding.

"(5) WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.—In the discretion of the Attorney General, an alien applying for admission to the United States may, and at any time, be permitted to withdraw such application and immediately be returned to the alien's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence.

"(d) DECISION AND BURDEN OF PROOF.—

"(1) DECISION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—At the conclusion of a proceeding under this section, the immigration judge shall determine whether an unaccompanied alien child is likely to be—

"(i) admissible to the United States; or

"(ii) eligible for any form of relief from removal under this Act.

"(B) EVIDENCE.—The determination of the immigration judge under subparagraph (A) shall be based only on the evidence produced at the hearing.

"(2) BURDEN OF PROOF.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In a proceeding under this section, an alien who is an applicant for admission has the burden of establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the alien—

"(i) is likely to be entitled to be lawfully admitted to the United States or eligible for any form of relief from removal under this Act; or

"(ii) is lawfully present in the United States pursuant to a prior admission.

"(B) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—In meeting the burden of proof under subparagraph (A)(ii), the alien shall be given access to—

"(i) the alien's visa or other entry document, if any; and

"(ii) any other records and documents, not considered by the Attorney General to be confidential, pertaining to the alien's admission or presence in the United States.

"(e) ORDERS.—

"(1) PLACEMENT IN FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.—If an immigration judge determines that the unaccompanied alien child has met the burden of proof under subsection (d)(2), the judge shall order the alien to be placed in further proceedings in accordance with section 240.

"(2) ORDERS OF REMOVAL.—If an immigration judge determines that the unaccompanied alien child has not met the burden of proof required under subsection (d)(2), the judge shall order the alien removed from the

United States without further hearing or review unless the alien claims—

“(A) an intention to apply for asylum under section 208; or

“(B) a fear of persecution.

“(3) CLAIMS FOR ASYLUM.—If an unaccompanied alien child described in paragraph (2) claims an intention to apply for asylum under section 208 or a fear of persecution, the officer shall order the alien referred for an interview by an asylum officer under subsection (f).

“(f) ASYLUM INTERVIEWS.—

“(1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ‘credible fear of persecution’ means, after taking into account the credibility of the statements made by the alien in support of the alien’s claim and such other facts as are known to the officer, there is a significant possibility that the alien could establish eligibility for asylum under section 208.

“(2) CONDUCT BY ASYLUM OFFICER.—An asylum officer shall conduct interviews of aliens referred under subsection (e)(3).

“(3) REFERRAL OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—If the officer determines at the time of the interview that an alien has a credible fear of persecution, the alien shall be held in the custody of the Secretary for Health and Human Services pursuant to section 235(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(b)) during further consideration of the application for asylum.

“(4) REMOVAL WITHOUT FURTHER REVIEW IF NO CREDIBLE FEAR OF PERSECUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), if the asylum officer determines that an alien does not have a credible fear of persecution, the officer shall order the alien removed from the United States without further hearing or review.

“(B) RECORD OF DETERMINATION.—The officer shall prepare a written record of a determination under subparagraph (A), which shall include—

“(i) a summary of the material facts as stated by the applicant;

“(ii) such additional facts (if any) relied upon by the officer;

“(iii) the officer’s analysis of why, in light of such facts, the alien has not established a credible fear of persecution; and

“(iv) a copy of the officer’s interview notes.

“(C) REVIEW OF DETERMINATION.—

“(i) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General shall establish, by regulation, a process by which an immigration judge will conduct a prompt review, upon the alien’s request, of a determination under subparagraph (A) that the alien does not have a credible fear of persecution.

“(ii) MANDATORY COMPONENTS.—The review described in clause (i)—

“(I) shall include an opportunity for the alien to be heard and questioned by the immigration judge, either in person or by telephonic or video connection; and

“(II) shall be conducted—

“(aa) as expeditiously as possible;

“(bb) within the 24-hour period beginning at the time the asylum officer makes a determination under subparagraph (A), to the maximum extent practicable; and

“(cc) in no case later than 7 days after such determination.

“(D) MANDATORY PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.—Any alien subject to the procedures under this paragraph shall be held in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to Section 235(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(b))—

“(i) pending a final determination of credible fear of persecution; and

“(ii) after a determination that the alien does not such a fear, until the alien is removed.

“(g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (f)(4)(C) and paragraph (2), a removal order entered in accordance with subsection (e)(2) or (f)(4)(A) is not subject to administrative appeal.

“(2) RULEMAKING.—The Attorney General shall establish, by regulation, a process for the prompt review of an order under subsection (e)(2) against an alien who claims under oath, or as permitted under penalty of perjury under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, after having been warned of the penal ties for falsely making such claim under such conditions to have been—

“(A) lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

“(B) admitted as a refugee under section 207; or

“(C) granted asylum under section 208.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 235A the following:

“Sec. 235B. Humane and expedited inspection and screening for unaccompanied alien children.”.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ORDERS OF REMOVAL.—Section 242 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1252) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or an order of removal issued to an unaccompanied alien child after proceedings under section 235B” after “section 235(b)(1)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “or section 235B” after “section 235(b)(1)” each place it appears; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by inserting “OR 235B” after “SECTION 235(B)(1)”; and

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “section 235(b)(1)(B),” and inserting “section 235(b)(1)(B) or 235B(f);”;

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “OR 235B” after “SECTION 235(B)(1)”; and

(B) by inserting “or section 235B” after “section 235(b)(1)” in each place it appears;

(C) in subparagraph (2)(C), by inserting “or section 235B(g)” after “section 235(b)(1)(C);”;

(D) in subparagraph (3)(A), by inserting “or section 235B” after “section 235(b).”

SEC. 103. DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) SPECIAL MOTIONS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

(1) FILING AUTHORIZED.—Beginning on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may, at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Secretary, permit an unaccompanied alien child who was issued a Notice to Appear under section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229) during the period beginning on January 1, 2013, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) to appear, in-person, before an immigration judge who has been authorized by the Attorney General to conduct proceedings under section 235B of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 102;

(B) to attest to their desire to apply for admission to the United States; and

(C) to file a motion—

(i) to expunge—

(I) any final order of removal issued against them between January 1, 2013 and the date of the enactment of this Act under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a); or

(II) any Notice to Appear issued between January 1, 2013 and the date of the enactment of this Act under section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229); and

(ii) to apply for admission to the United States by being placed in proceedings under section 235B of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(2) MOTION GRANTED.—An immigration judge may, at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the judge, grant a motion filed under paragraph (1)(C) upon a finding that—

(A) the petitioner was an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232)) on the date on which a Notice to Appear described in paragraph (1) was issued to the alien;

(B) the Notice to Appear was issued during the period beginning on January 1, 2013, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(C) the unaccompanied alien child is applying for admission to the United States; and

(D) the granting of such motion would not be manifestly unjust.

(3) EFFECT OF MOTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the granting of a motion to expunge under paragraph (2)—

(A) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall immediately expunge any final order of removal resulting from a proceeding initiated by any Notice to Appear described in paragraph (1), and such Notice to Appear; and

(B) the immigration judge who granted such motion shall, while the petitioner remains in-person, immediately inspect and screen the petitioner for admission to the United States by conducting a proceeding under section 235B of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(4) PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.—An unaccompanied alien child who has been granted a motion under paragraph (2) shall be held in the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232).

SEC. 104. EMERGENCY IMMIGRATION JUDGE RESOURCES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall designate up to 40 immigration judges, including through the hiring of retired immigration judges or magistrate judges, or the reassignment of current immigration judges, that are dedicated to conducting humane and expedited inspection and screening for unaccompanied alien children under section 235B of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 102.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Attorney General shall ensure that sufficient immigration judge resources are dedicated to the purpose described in subsection (a) to comply with the requirement under section 235B(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

SEC. 105. PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKERS, SEX OFFENDERS, AND OTHER CRIMINALS.

Section 235(c)(3) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, including a mandatory biometric criminal history check” before the period at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following—

“(D) PROHIBITION ON PLACEMENT WITH SEX OFFENDERS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not place an unaccompanied alien child in the custody of an individual who has been convicted of—

“(I) a sex offense, (as defined in section 111 of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16911); or

“(II) a crime involving a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.—A biometric criminal history check under subparagraph (A) shall be based on a set of fingerprints or other biometric identifiers and conducted through—

“(I) the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

“(II) criminal history repositories of all States that the individual lists as current or former residences.”.

TITLE II—BORDER SECURITY AND TRADE FACILITATION

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(2) **COCAINE REMOVAL EFFECTIVENESS RATE.**—The term “cocaine removal effectiveness rate” means the percentage that results from dividing the amount of cocaine removed by the Department of Homeland Security’s maritime security components inside or outside a transit zone, as the case may be, by the total documented cocaine flow rate as contained in Federal drug databases.

(3) **CONSEQUENCE DELIVERY SYSTEM.**—The term “Consequence Delivery System” means the series of consequences applied to persons illegally entering the United States by the Border Patrol to prevent illegal border crossing recidivism.

(4) **GOT AWAY.**—The term “got away” means an illegal border crosser who, after making an illegal entry into the United States, is not turned back or apprehended.

(5) **HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS.**—The term “high traffic areas” means sectors along the northern and southern borders of the United States that are within the responsibility of the Border Patrol that have the most illicit cross-border activity, informed through situational awareness.

(6) **ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSING EFFECTIVENESS RATE.**—The term “illegal border crossing effectiveness rate” means the percentage that results from dividing the number of apprehensions and turn backs by the number of apprehensions, turn backs, and got aways. The data used by the Secretary of Homeland Security to determine such rate shall be collected and reported in a consistent and standardized manner across all Border Patrol sectors.

(7) **MAJOR VIOLATOR.**—The term “major violator” means a person or entity that has

engaged in serious criminal activities at any land, air, or sea port of entry, including possession of illicit drugs, smuggling of prohibited products, human smuggling, weapons possession, use of fraudulent United States documents, or other offenses serious enough to result in arrest.

(8) **OPERATIONAL CONTROL.**—The term “operational control” means a condition in which there is a not lower than 90 percent illegal border crossing effectiveness rate, informed by situational awareness, and a significant reduction in the movement of illicit drugs and other contraband through such areas is being achieved.

(9) **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.**—The term “situational awareness” means knowledge and an understanding of current illicit cross-border activity, including cross-border threats and trends concerning illicit trafficking and unlawful crossings along the international borders of the United States and in the maritime environment, and the ability to forecast future shifts in such threats and trends.

(10) **TRANSIT ZONE.**—The term “transit zone” means the sea corridors of the western Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the eastern Pacific Ocean through which undocumented migrants and illicit drugs transit, either directly or indirectly, to the United States.

(11) **TURN BACK.**—The term “turn back” means an illegal border crosser who, after making an illegal entry into the United States, returns to the country from which such crosser entered.

SEC. 202. BORDER SECURITY RESULTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, every 180 days thereafter until the Comptroller General of the United States reports on the results of the review described in section 203(k)(2)(B), and annually after the date of such report, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and the Government Accountability Office that—

(1) assesses and describes the state of situational awareness and operational control; and

(2) identifies the high traffic areas and the illegal border crossing effectiveness rate for each sector along the northern and southern borders of the United States that are within the responsibility of the Border Patrol.

(b) **GAO REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after receiving the initial report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees regarding the verification of the data and methodology used to determine high traffic areas and the illegal border crossing effectiveness rate.

SEC. 203. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE BORDER.

(a) **STRATEGY TO SECURE THE BORDER.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit, to the appropriate congressional committees, a comprehensive strategy for—

(1) gaining and maintaining situational awareness and operational control of high traffic areas not later than 2 years after the date of the submission of the implementation plan required under subsection (c); and

(2) gaining and maintaining operational control along the Southwest border of the United States not later than 5 years after such date of submission.

(b) **CONTENTS OF STRATEGY.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include a consideration of the following:

(1) An assessment of principal border security threats, including threats relating to the smuggling and trafficking of humans, weapons, and illicit drugs.

(2) Efforts to analyze and disseminate border security and border threat information between the border security components of the Department of Homeland Security and with other appropriate Federal departments and agencies with missions associated with the border.

(3) Efforts to increase situational awareness, in accordance with privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights protections, including—

(A) surveillance capabilities developed or utilized by the Department of Defense, including any technology determined to be excess by the Department of Defense; and

(B) use of manned aircraft and unmanned aerial systems, including camera and sensor technology deployed on such assets.

(4) Efforts to detect and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States.

(5) Efforts to ensure that any new border security technology can be operationally integrated with existing technologies in use by the Department of Homeland Security.

(6) An assessment of existing efforts and technologies used for border security and the effect of such efforts and technologies on civil rights, private property rights, privacy rights, and civil liberties.

(7) Technology required to maintain, support, and enhance security and facilitate trade at ports of entry, including nonintrusive detection equipment, radiation detection equipment, biometric technology, surveillance systems, and other sensors and technology that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary.

(8) Operational coordination of the border security components of the Department of Homeland Security.

(9) Lessons learned from Operation Jumpstart and Operation Phalanx.

(10) Cooperative agreements and information sharing with State, local, tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the northern or southern borders, or in the maritime environment.

(11) Border security information received from consultation with—

(A) State, local, tribal, and Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the northern or southern border, or in the maritime environment; and

(B) border community stakeholders (including through public meetings with such stakeholders), including representatives from border agricultural and ranching organizations and representatives from business and civic organizations along the northern or southern border.

(12) Agreements with foreign governments that support the border security efforts of the United States, including coordinated installation of standardized land border inspection technology, such as license plate readers and RFID readers.

(13) Staffing requirements for all border security functions.

(14) A prioritized list of research and development objectives to enhance the security of the international land and maritime borders of the United States.

(15) An assessment of training programs, including training programs regarding—

(A) identifying and detecting fraudulent documents;

(B) protecting the civil, constitutional, human, and privacy rights of individuals;

(C) understanding the scope of enforcement authorities and the use of force policies;

(D) screening, identifying, and addressing vulnerable populations, such as children and victims of human trafficking; and

(E) social and cultural sensitivity toward border communities.

(16) Local crime indices of municipalities and counties along the southern border.

(17) An assessment of how border security operations affect crossing times.

(18) Resources and other measures that are necessary to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the average wait times of commercial and passenger vehicles at international land ports of entry along the southern border and the northern border.

(19) Metrics required under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit, to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Government Accountability Office, an implementation plan for each of the border security components of the Department of Homeland Security to carry out such strategy.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The implementation plan required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) specify what protections will be put in place to ensure that staffing and resources necessary for the maintenance of operations at ports of entry are not diverted to the detriment of such operations in favor of operations between ports of entry; and

(B) include—

(i) an integrated master schedule and cost estimate, including lifecycle costs, for the activities contained in such implementation plan; and

(ii) a comprehensive border security technology plan to improve surveillance capabilities that includes—

(I) a documented justification and rationale for technology choices;

(II) deployment locations;

(III) fixed versus mobile assets;

(IV) a timetable for procurement and deployment;

(V) estimates of operation and maintenance costs;

(VI) an identification of any impediments to the deployment of such technologies; and

(VII) estimates of the relative cost effectiveness of various border security strategies and operations, including—

(aa) the deployment of personnel and technology; and

(bb) the construction of new physical and virtual barriers.

(3) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after receiving the implementation plan in accordance with paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit an assessment of such plan to the appropriate congressional committees a report on such plan.

(d) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of each Quadrennial Homeland Security Review required under section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) beginning with the first such Review that is due after the implementation plan is submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit, to the appropriate congressional committees, an updated—

(1) strategy under subsection (a); and

(2) implementation plan under subsection (c).

(e) METRICS FOR SECURING THE BORDER BETWEEN PORTS OF ENTRY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement metrics, informed by situational awareness, to measure the effectiveness of security between ports of entry, including—

(1) an illegal border crossing effectiveness rate, informed by situational awareness;

(2) an illicit drugs seizure rate, which measures the amount and type of illicit drugs seized by the Border Patrol in any fiscal year compared to an average of the amount and type of illicit drugs seized by the Border Patrol for the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years;

(3) a cocaine seizure effectiveness rate, which shall be measured by calculating the percentage of the total documented cocaine flow rate (as contained in Federal drug databases) that is seized by the Border Patrol.

(4) estimates, using alternative methodologies, including recidivism data, survey data, known-flow data, and technologically-measured data, of—

(A) total attempted illegal border crossings;

(B) total deaths and injuries resulting from such attempted illegal border crossings;

(C) the rate of apprehension of attempted illegal border crossers; and

(D) the inflow into the United States of illegal border crossers who evade apprehension; and

(5) estimates of the impact of the Border Patrol's Consequence Delivery System on the rate of recidivism of illegal border crossers.

(f) METRICS FOR SECURING THE BORDER AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement metrics, informed by situational awareness, to measure the effectiveness of security at ports of entry, which shall include—

(A) an inadmissible border crossing rate, which measures the number of known inadmissible border crossers who are apprehended, excluding those border crossers who voluntarily withdraw their applications for admission, against the total estimated number of inadmissible border crossers U.S. Customs and Border Protection fails to apprehend;

(B) an illicit drugs seizure rate, which measures the amount and type of illicit drugs seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection in any fiscal year compared to an average of the amount and type of illicit drugs seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection for the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years;

(C) a cocaine seizure effectiveness rate, which shall be measured by calculating the percentage of the total documented cocaine flow rate (as contained in Federal drug databases) that is seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(D) estimates, using alternative methodologies, including survey data and randomized secondary screening data, of—

(i) total attempted inadmissible border crossers;

(ii) the rate of apprehension of attempted inadmissible border crossers; and

(iii) the inflow into the United States of inadmissible border crossers who evade apprehension;

(E) the number of infractions related to personnel and cargo committed by major violators who are apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at ports of entry, and the estimated number of such infractions committed by major violators who are not so apprehended; and

(F) a measurement of how border security operations affect crossing times.

(2) COVERT TESTING.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall carry out covert testing at ports of entry and submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security and the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the results of such testing. The Secretary shall use such results to inform activities under this subsection.

(g) METRICS FOR SECURING THE MARITIME BORDER.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement metrics, informed by situational awareness, to measure the effectiveness of security in the maritime environment, which shall include—

(1) an estimate of the total number of undocumented migrants the Department of Homeland Security's maritime security components fail to interdict;

(2) an undocumented migrant interdiction rate, which measures the number of undocumented migrants interdicted against the total estimated number of undocumented migrants the Department of Homeland Security's maritime security components fail to interdict;

(3) an illicit drugs removal rate, which measures the amount and type of illicit drugs removed by the maritime security components of the Department of Homeland Security inside a transit zone in any fiscal year compared to an average of the amount and type of illicit drugs removed by such components inside a transit zone for the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years;

(4) an illicit drugs removal rate, which measures the amount of illicit drugs removed by the maritime security components of the Department of Homeland Security outside a transit zone in any fiscal year compared to an average of the amount of illicit drugs removed by such components outside a transit zone for the immediately preceding 5 fiscal years;

(5) a cocaine removal effectiveness rate inside a transit zone;

(6) a cocaine removal effectiveness rate outside a transit zone; and

(7) a response rate which measures the Department of Homeland Security's ability to respond to and resolve known maritime threats, both inside and outside a transit zone, by placing assets on-scene, compared to the total number of events with respect to which the Department has known threat information.

(h) COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall collaborate with the head of a national laboratory within the Department of Homeland Security laboratory network with expertise in border security and the head of a border security university-based center within the Department of Homeland Security centers of excellence network to develop, and ensure the suitability and statistical validity of, the metrics required under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN OTHER METRICS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the head of the national laboratory and the head of a border security university-based center shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security for other suitable metrics that may be used to measure the effectiveness of border security.

(3) **CONSULTATION.**—In addition to the collaboration described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall also consult with the Governors of every border State and the representatives of the Border Patrol and U.S. Customs and Border Protection regarding the development of the metrics required under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

(i) **EVALUATION BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide the Government Accountability Office with the data and methodology used to develop the metrics implemented under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after receiving the data and methodology referred to in paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the suitability and statistical validity of such data and methodology.

(j) **CERTIFICATIONS AND REPORTS RELATING TO OPERATIONAL CONTROL.**—

(1) **BY THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**—

(A) **TWO YEARS.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that situational awareness and operational control of high traffic areas have been achieved not later than 2 years after the date of the submission of the implementation plan required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit an attestation of such achievement to the appropriate congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States.

(B) **FIVE YEARS.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that operational control along the southwest border of the United States has been achieved not later than 5 years after the date of the submission of the implementation plan required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit an attestation of such achievement to the appropriate congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States.

(C) **ANNUAL UPDATES.**—Every year beginning with the year after the Secretary of Homeland Security submits the attestation under subparagraph (B), if the Secretary determines that operational control along the southwest border of the United States is being maintained, the Secretary shall submit an attestation of such maintenance to the appropriate congressional committees and the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) **BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.**—

(A) **REVIEWS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review and assess the attestations of the Secretary of Homeland Security under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1).

(B) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 120 days after conducting the reviews described in subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report on the results of each such review to the appropriate congressional committees.

(k) **FAILURE TO ACHIEVE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS OR OPERATIONAL CONTROL.**—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that situational awareness, operational control, or both, as the case may be, has not been achieved by the dates referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (j)(1), as the case may be, or if the Secretary determines that operational control is not being annually maintained pursuant to subparagraph (C) of such subsection, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after such dates, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) describes why situational awareness or operational control, or both, as the case may be, was not achieved; and

(2) includes a description of impediments incurred, potential remedies, and recommendations to achieve situational awareness, operational control, or both, as the case may be.

(l) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT ON BORDER SECURITY DUPLICATION AND COST EFFECTIVENESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that addresses—

(1) areas of overlap in responsibilities within the border security functions of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(2) the relative cost effectiveness of border security strategies, including deployment of additional personnel and technology, and construction of virtual and physical barriers.

(m) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that contains—

(1) a resource allocation model for current and future year staffing requirements that includes—

(A) optimal staffing levels at all land, air, and sea ports of entry; and

(B) an explanation of U.S. Customs and Border Protection methodology for aligning staffing levels and workload to threats and vulnerabilities and their effects on cross border trade and passenger travel across all mission areas;

(2) detailed information on the level of manpower available at all land, air, and sea ports of entry and between ports of entry, including the number of canine and agricultural specialists assigned to each such port of entry;

(3) detailed information that describes the difference between the staffing the model suggests and the actual staffing at each port of entry and between the ports of entry; and

(4) detailed information that examines the security impacts and competitive impacts of entering into a reimbursement agreement with foreign governments for U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities.

SEC. 204. PROHIBITION ON LAND BORDER CROSSING FEE STUDY.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not conduct any study relating to the imposition of a border crossing fee for pedestrians or passenger vehicles at land ports of entry along the southern border or the northern border of the United States.

SEC. 205. BORDER SECURITY RESOURCES.

(a) **EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS.**—Consistent with the Southern Border Security Strategy required under section 203, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall upgrade existing technological assets and equipment, and procure and deploy additional technological assets and equipment on the southern border.

(b) **PHYSICAL AND TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADE, AND ACQUISITION OF BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES.**—Consistent with the Southern Border Security Strategy required under section 203, the Secretary, shall upgrade existing physical and tactical infrastructure of the Department of Homeland Security, and construct and ac-

quire additional physical and tactical infrastructure on the Southern Border, including the following:

(A) U.S. Border Patrol stations.

(B) U.S. Border Patrol checkpoints.

(C) Forward operating bases.

(D) Monitoring stations.

(E) Mobile command centers.

(F) Land border port of entry improvements.

(G) Other necessary facilities, structures, and properties.

(c) **CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENTS.**—

(1) **ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.**—Consistent with the Southern Border Security Strategy required under section 203, the Secretary is authorized to increase the number of trained active-duty U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers deployed on the Southern Border, including—

(A) officers serving in the Office of the Border Patrol;

(B) officers serving in the Office of Air and Marine; and

(C) officers serving in the Office of Field Operations, including officers stationed at land border ports of entry.

(2) **EXPEDITED TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT AUTHORITY.**—When exercising authority under this section, the Secretary is authorized—

(A) to conduct enhanced recruiting operations for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel;

(B) to conduct additional training academies for U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel; and

(C) to promulgate regulations allowing for the expedited training of U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel.

(d) **NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under this section may be expended, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, for the Governor of a State to order any units or personnel of the National Guard of such State to perform operations and missions under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, on the southern border.

(2) **ASSIGNMENT OF OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—National Guard units and personnel deployed under paragraph (1) may be assigned such operations, including missions specified in paragraph (3), as may be necessary to provide assistance for operations on the southern border.

(B) **NATURE OF DUTY.**—The duty of National Guard personnel performing operations and missions described in subparagraph (A) shall be full-time duty under title 32, United States Code.

(3) **RANGE OF OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS.**—The operations and missions assigned under paragraph (2) shall include the temporary authority—

(A) to provide assistance for law enforcement, including the interdiction of human trafficking, illicit drugs, and contraband crossing the border;

(B) to assist in the provision of humanitarian relief;

(C) to increase ground-based mobile surveillance systems;

(D) to deploy additional unmanned aerial systems and manned aircraft sufficient to maintain continuous surveillance of the southern border;

(E) to deploy and provide capability for radio communications interoperability between U.S. Customs and Border Protection

and State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies;

(F) to construct checkpoints along the southern border to bridge the gap to long-term permanent checkpoints;

(G) to provide assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, particularly in rural, high-trafficked areas, as designated by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(H) to enhance law enforcement rotary wing operations supporting quick reaction forces, medical air evacuations, and incident awareness and assessment operations; and

(I) to provide equipment and training to law enforcement agencies.

(4) **MATERIEL AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall deploy such materiel and equipment and logistical support as may be necessary to ensure success of the operations and missions conducted by the National Guard under this subsection.

(5) **EXCLUSION FROM NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL STRENGTH LIMITATIONS.**—National Guard personnel deployed under paragraph (1) shall not be included in—

(A) the calculation to determine compliance with limits on end strength for National Guard personnel; or

(B) limits on the number of National Guard personnel that may be placed on active duty for operational support under section 115 of title 10, United States Code.

(6) **FUNDING.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(e) **STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Emergency Management Agency shall enhance law enforcement preparedness, humanitarian responses, and operational readiness along the Southern border through Operation Stonegarden.

(2) **GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), amounts made available under this section shall be allocated for grants and reimbursements to State and local governments in Border Patrol Sectors on the southern border for personnel, overtime, travel, costs related to combating illegal immigration and drug smuggling, and costs related to providing humanitarian relief to unaccompanied alien children who have entered the United States.

(B) **FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**—Allocations for grants and reimbursements to State and local governments under this paragraph shall be made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through a competitive process.

(3) **FUNDING.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 502—CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMIT ISSUANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO FOR ADOPTED CONGOLESE CHILDREN SEEKING TO DEPART THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE,

Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 502

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of Congo;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of Congo, providing an estimated \$274,000,000 bilateral aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo in fiscal year 2013 and an additional \$165,000,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the policy of the United States Government toward the Democratic Republic of Congo is “focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens”;

Whereas the United Nations, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and other international organizations have recognized a child’s right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents;

Whereas there are United States families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that international adoptions of all children are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner;

(3) expresses concern over the impact on children and families caused by the current

suspension of exit permit issuance within the Democratic Republic of Congo;

(4) respectfully requests that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo—

(A) resume processing adoption cases and issuing exit permits via the Ministry of Gender and Family’s Interministerial Adoption Committee and Directorate of General Migration;

(B) prioritize the processing of intercountry adoptions which were initiated before the suspension; and

(C) expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and

(5) encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the United States Department of State and the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process and ensure the welfare of all children adopted from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3557. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3557. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1069. ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Not later than June 30, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on greenhouse gas emissions of the Department of Defense during the previous calendar year. The report shall include a review and description of greenhouse gas emissions by military department, Defense Agency, and type of activity, including electricity consumption, transportation, and heating.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The title of the hearing is, “Leveraging America’s Resources as a Revenue Generator and Job Creator: A View from State and Local Partners,” and the purpose is to focus on the State and local government benefits in terms of revenue generated and jobs created from natural resource production.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC, 20510–6150, or by email to Caroline_Bruckner@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Caroline Bruckner at (202) 224–7556.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 12 p.m. in room S–216 of the United States Capitol.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Chronic Illness: Addressing Patients’ Unmet Needs.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “S. 1696, The Women’s Health Protection Act: Removing Barriers to Constitutionally Protected Reproductive Rights.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND TERRORISM

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 15, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Taking Down Botnets: Public and Private Efforts to Disrupt and Dismantle Cybercriminal Networks.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNLOCKING CONSUMER CHOICE AND WIRELESS COMPETITION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 461, S. 517.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 517) to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Unlocking Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF EXISTING RULE AND ADDITIONAL RULEMAKING BY LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.

(a) REPEAL AND REPLACE.—As of the date of the enactment of this Act, paragraph (3) of section 201.40(b) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended and revised by the Librarian of Congress on October 28, 2012, pursuant to the

Librarian’s authority under section 1201(a) of title 17, United States Code, shall have no force and effect, and such paragraph shall read, and shall be in effect, as such paragraph was in effect on July 27, 2010.

(b) RULEMAKING.—The Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, who shall consult with the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information of the Department of Commerce and report and comment on his or her views in making such recommendation, shall determine, consistent with the requirements set forth under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, whether to extend the exemption for the class of works described in section 201.40(b)(3) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as amended by subsection (a), to include any other category of wireless devices in addition to wireless telephone handsets. The determination shall be made in the first rulemaking under section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United States Code, that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) UNLOCKING AT DIRECTION OF OWNER.—Circumvention of a technological measure that restricts wireless telephone handsets or other wireless devices from connecting to a wireless telecommunications network—

(1)(A) as authorized by paragraph (3) of section 201.40(b) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, as made effective by subsection (a); and

(B) as may be extended to other wireless devices pursuant to a determination in the rulemaking conducted under subsection (b); or

(2) as authorized by an exemption adopted by the Librarian of Congress pursuant to a determination made on or after the date of enactment of this Act under section 1201(a)(1)(C) of title 17, United States Code, may be initiated by the owner of any such handset or other device, by another person at the direction of the owner, or by a provider of a commercial mobile radio service or a commercial mobile data service at the direction of such owner or other person, solely in order to enable such owner or a family member of such owner to connect to a wireless telecommunications network, when such connection is authorized by the operator of such network.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as expressly provided herein, nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter the scope of any party’s rights under existing law.

(2) LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this Act alters, or shall be construed to alter, the authority of the Librarian of Congress under section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) COMMERCIAL MOBILE DATA SERVICE; COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICE.—The terms “commercial mobile data service” and “commercial mobile radio service” have the respective meanings given those terms in section 20.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term “wireless telecommunications network” means a network used to provide a commercial mobile radio service or a commercial mobile data service.

(3) WIRELESS TELEPHONE HANDSETS; WIRELESS DEVICES.—The terms “wireless telephone handset” and “wireless device” mean a handset or other device that operates on a wireless telecommunications network.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 517) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 2609, H.R. 5021

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2609) to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 5021) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I now ask for a second reading en bloc and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY
16, 2014

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the

time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 850 with the time until 10:15 a.m. controlled as follows: 10 minutes for Senator GRASSLEY, 10 minutes for Senator CORNYN, 10 minutes for Senator SHAHEEN, and any remaining time under the control of Senator MCCASKILL; further, that at 10:15 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked, the time until 12:20 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and at 12:20 p.m., all postcloture time be expired, the Senate proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that upon disposition of the White nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 459, S. 2578, with the time until 2 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and the time from 2 p.m. until 2:10 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that at 2:10 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2578.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, this agreement sets up as many as

three rollcall votes tomorrow: at 10:15 a.m. a cloture vote on the White nomination; at 12:20 p.m. a vote on confirmation of the White nomination, if cloture is invoked; and at 2:10 p.m. a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2578, Protect Women's Health From Corporate Interference Act of 2014.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:24 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 15, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAUL NATHAN JAENICHEN, SR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT A. WOOD, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORMAN C. BAY, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2018.

CHERYL A. LAFLEUR, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMES D. NEALON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 15, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT PITTENGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, I joined several of my colleagues and hundreds of people in the Congressional Auditorium to watch a gripping new film, "The Interpreters," by VICE News, about the American failure to protect Afghans who helped our soldiers as guides, interpreters, and drivers. Their lives are now at risk as a result of their brave service and our failure to act.

For almost a decade, I have been battling to have the United States honor these obligations by effectively implementing the Special Immigrant Visas program authorized by Congress. For a while, we were battling the bureaucracy itself, which issued an embarrassing total of 32 visas for all of 2012 to help save these poor souls trapped in a bureaucratic hell.

Since the beginning of the year, this bureaucratic logjam has broken and we have been able to raise it to an average of 400 a month. With that progress has come troubling news.

Congress set the cap on these visas artificially low—only 3,000 for the entire fiscal year. These visas are effectively gone now. They are used up. It is not theoretical. We have 6,000 Afghan applicants in the pipeline right now and more who are looking for relief and safety.

Recently, Secretary Kerry, in a powerful opinion piece in the LA Times, noted this challenge and called on Congress to act and raise the cap. With each day that passes, as is so vividly illustrated by VICE Media's gripping documentary, these are people whose lives and those of their families are left to the tender mercies of the Taliban seeking revenge and setting as an example.

One case just caught my eye. The plight of Mohammad is typical. His father was murdered and his toddler brother was abducted, all because of his special service to the United States. Without a Special Immigrant Visa, he was next on the list to be kidnapped, tortured, and perhaps beheaded.

As Secretary Kerry pointed out, "the way a country winds down a war in a faraway place and stands by those who risk their own safety to help us in the fight sends a powerful message to the world that is not soon forgotten." Secretary Kerry said:

And as the withdrawal proceeds, the United States is in danger of sending the wrong message to the interpreters and others who put their lives on the line to help our troops and diplomats do their jobs.

That is why this is so urgent.

Remember how we brought the Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa back to life last October in the middle of impossible circumstances during the government shutdown? There was bipartisan support, thanks to Leader CANTOR, Leader HOYER, Chairman GOODLATTE, TULSI GABBARD, ADAM KINZINGER, and others. A number of bipartisan leaders sprung to action. We need that same bipartisan spirit of support and urgency for the Afghan visa program. As soon as possible, Congress must authorize at least 1,000 additional visas for this fiscal year to get us through these next critical months.

It is the moral obligation of every Member of Congress not to just cosponsor H.R. 4594, the bipartisan Afghan Allies Protection Act, which I have introduced with my friend and colleague ADAM KINZINGER and Senators MCCAIN and SHAHEEN in the Senate, but we should demand action before we adjourn.

As Congressman KINZINGER pointed out, it doesn't matter where you stood

on the Iraq war—I thought it was a tragic mistake, and I still do—but what matters now is where we stand in keeping our commitments. Innocent lives are at stake. American honor is on the line. Our future actions could be compromised if people don't trust us.

It is our duty to save the lives of those who risked so much to help us when we needed them. They need us to cosponsor H.R. 4594 to protect innocent lives and American honor.

FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor today because I believe that Congress must put an end to the waste of American lives and taxpayer dollars overseas.

Recently, President Obama requested \$500 million to train and arm Syrian rebels. In his editorial, "Congress Can Stop Obama's Ramp Up to War," Pat Buchanan made an excellent point, saying:

Before Congress takes up his proposal, both Houses should demand that Obama explain exactly where he gets the constitutional authority to plunge us into what the President himself calls "somebody else's civil war."

Buchanan goes on to comment:

Syria has not attacked us. Syria does not threaten us. Why are we joining a jihad to overthrow the Syrian Government?

Mr. Speaker, Iraq is another country in which America has again become involved to the detriment of our best interests.

A former commandant of the Marine Corps, who has been my adviser for the past 6 years, stated in a recent email to me, "We should not put boots on the ground." He went on to say that the situation in Iraq is "a Middle East issue that needs a Middle East solution," not more American troops.

Unfortunately, there are currently 750 American boots on the ground in Iraq, with authorization from the President for up to 770 in the future.

As our involvement in Iraq escalates, I am reminded of another important point made by Pat Buchanan:

It is astonishing that Republicans who threaten to impeach Obama for usurping authority at home remain silent as he prepares to usurp the war powers—to march us into Syria and back into Iraq.

Last August, Americans rose as one to tell Congress to deny Obama any authority to attack Syria. Are Republicans now prepared to sit mute as

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Obama takes us into two new Middle East wars on his own authority?

Mr. Speaker, Marine Lieutenant General Greg Newbold wrote an insightful editorial for *Time* in April 2006, titled, "Why Iraq Was a Mistake." From 2000 until 2002, General Newbold was director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and describes himself as "a witness and therefore a party to the actions that led us to the invasion of Iraq—an unnecessary war."

In closing, I would like to quote a paragraph from General Newbold's editorial regarding the distortion of intelligence that drew America into the Iraq war in the first place:

In 1971, the rock group The Who released the antiwar war anthem, titled, "Won't Get Fooled Again." To us, its lyrics evoked a feeling that we must never again stand by quietly while those ignorant of and casual about war lead us into another one and then mismanage the conduct of it.

Never again, we thought, would our military's senior leaders remain silent as American troops were marched off to an ill-considered engagement. It's 35 years later, and the judgment is in: The Who had it wrong. We have been fooled again.

Those are sad, sad words. We have been fooled again.

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress have the responsibility, based on the Constitution, to never get fooled again, but too many times we do not uphold our constitutional rights. I believe the words of Pat Buchanan and Greg Newbold articulate the many reasons that no President should bypass Congress and the Constitution to send our military into combat.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I have a photograph from the Greensboro News-Record. Here we go again in setting up our men and women in uniform that possibly could get killed in a foreign country. Mr. Speaker, this is a group of Army soldiers bringing a flag-draped coffin off of a plane.

Please, God, don't let us forget that those in uniform are our children, and we must protect them by meeting our constitutional responsibility.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and please, God, continue to bless America.

FOOD INSECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of summer food security programs for America's children because, unlike Congress, hunger doesn't take a summer vacation.

Today, in the United States, food insecurity is persistent and rampant. We are one of the richest and most powerful Nations in the world, yet one in five households with children experience food insecurity each year.

Any American suffering from hunger is cause for concern, but it is especially troubling to think that so many American children lying in bed at night are struggling to sleep because they are hungry.

Thankfully, most children in America who aren't able to get adequate sustenance at home are provided meals for free or at a reduced rate during the school year. In fact, 21 million children nationwide rely on free or reduced-price meals during the school year, and 825,000 of those children are from my State of Illinois.

But while we have worked hard to ensure our children are fed during the school year, we often overlook the fact that many of these same children lack access to these meals during the summer months. Of the many children who receive free or reduced-price lunches during the school year, only 14 percent currently access meals during the summer. This is why the USDA's Summer Food Service Program is so important.

As Members of Congress, it is imperative that we support and promote these programs so families who need help during the summer months can take advantage of them.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a Summer Food Service Program in my district with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and No Kid Hungry Illinois. I was able to see firsthand how the program is benefiting children in Illinois and across the country. These programs are working and making a positive difference for our local families.

Take, for example, the story of Maria and her husband from Chicago Heights. Maria works part-time at a laundromat while her husband works full-time in a lumberyard. These two hardworking Americans are doing all they can to provide for their children. But times are still tough and food is more and more expensive. To help pick up the slack, Maria and her children visit the Lunch Bus.

The Lunch Bus is a great program that not only provides lunch for low-income children during the summer, but also provides a safe place for those children to play and meet other kids. There are families all over America like Maria's family that work hard every day to provide for their children; but oftentimes, despite their hard work, difficult circumstances cause them to come just short.

We in this Congress have a responsibility to stand up for these hardworking families and to ensure no child in America goes to bed hungry. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the bipartisan Summer Meals Act, which will expand the USDA summer nutrition program to help more children across this country access quality meals during the summer months.

Rather than slashing these funds, we need to focus on positive steps we can

take to end hunger across the country. The best way we can reduce the amount of Federal Government spending on food nutrition programs is by supporting legislation that creates jobs and helps families earn a living wage.

Moving forward, it is incumbent on all of us to promote summer food nutrition programs and to ensure that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which expires next year, is reauthorized at sufficient levels.

□ 1015

As I said, Mr. Speaker, hunger does not take a summer break, and neither should we when it comes to taking care of America's children.

I will do all I can to make sure these children have access to nutritious meals all year round, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

STRATEGIC ENERGY POLICY—UTILIZING NATURAL GAS AT HOME AND ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in a dramatic shift from just a short time ago, the United States is reducing its dependence on foreign sources of energy. It has the opportunity to become a major force in the international energy market. It is being made possible through the development of our domestic energy resources, namely the expansion of unconventional resources, such as shale gas and oil.

Through remarkable innovations, the U.S. has been able to access oil and gas from shale formations that were previously inaccessible or uneconomical to produce. As a result, we have quickly moved from energy dependence and a weaker footing to energy abundance and strategic leverage both domestically and abroad.

At a time when the economy has not recovered at an acceptable pace, gas production in particular areas, such as the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, have provided a key source of economic relief and job creation. As a result of the Marcellus, Pennsylvanians and Americans across the country are benefiting from lower heating costs, businesses are able to produce goods more efficiently, and manufacturers are looking to relocate to the United States to create products, support economic expansion, and grow jobs that were previously headed overseas.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we are to sustain the same level of growth and expansion, policymakers must make smart choices for the future so that we support rather than hinder this opportunity. To start, we must continue to expand gas utilization domestically.

The Marcellus shale, for example, has changed where, in the United States, gas is transported and utilized and how it is transported from region to region. This reconfiguration requires new infrastructure, including pipelines for transmission and transport and new processing facilities, and this all requires long-term planning and investment.

Additionally, because the domestic production of natural gas is far surpassing U.S. demand, most economists agree that a modest expansion of natural gas exports would serve to stabilize domestic prices and supply, which is critical to sustaining the rapid growth in the industry that we have witnessed. Furthermore, each gas export terminal is a multibillion-dollar investment that creates construction jobs in addition to the more permanent positions within the natural gas value chain. That means jobs for steelworkers, turbine manufacturers, pipefitters, and others, which will help communities across the country.

Given the situation in Ukraine and events in the Middle East, we are reminded that our energy resources can also provide significant geopolitical benefits. Exporting even a small amount of these plentiful resources overseas to our allies will strengthen not only our domestic economy but our national security. President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and leaders of the European Union have clearly stated that additional global supplies of natural gas will benefit Europe and our strategic partners. For this reason, I am proud to say the House recently passed H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act. This bipartisan bill would streamline the permitting process for natural gas exports.

In February 2014, the United States Department of Commerce reported that our national trade deficit for 2013 improved by \$63.1 billion in comparison to 2012. However, despite this improvement, figures for the month of April are now showing that imports are increasing and that exports are decreasing, and as a result, the trade deficit is now at a 2-year high. With the U.S. Department of Commerce having acknowledged that increased petroleum exports are a key factor that can contribute to a lower trade deficit, it makes perfect sense to allow additional LNG exports in order to further reduce the trade deficit. In addition to its economic and international benefits, natural gas has helped to significantly lower our carbon emissions, which decreased by 3.8 percent last year in the United States, down to 1994 levels, according to government data.

The United States needs a smart energy policy that enables the citizens to continue receiving the benefits of abundant, low-cost energy, but also one that utilizes these resources as a tool of strategic leverage to improve

our environment and shape international events to the benefit of America and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, we have made a smart and strategic decision in the House with the passage of H.R. 6. Let's continue to advance similar policies to further leverage the many benefits of our domestic energy resources. Let's do it for the good of the American people and our Nation's strategic competitiveness in the world.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Export-Import Bank, the official export credit agency of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is so frustrating to see this normally bipartisan effort to support the American economy get hijacked. I would bet, Mr. Speaker, that this bill could pass on suspension, that two-thirds of this House would be willing to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank, if we were to put it to a vote on this floor—but no. Instead, we are forced, once again, to yield to a minority of the majority—the Tea Party—which demands the decapitation of an economic development and jobs creator giant—the United States of America's Export-Import Bank.

Why is this? Is it because the Bank doesn't work? No. It is an example of how government effectively could partner with the private sector. The Bank puts U.S. exporters on equal footing when foreign competitors have foreign export aid, and it bridges the gaps in the private market.

The reality is that, in the global marketplace, our competitors are aggressively using their export banks. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which is my district, is still very much a manufacturing economy—the second in the Nation relying on this sector. Every day, workers in Milwaukee compete against foreign workers with extensive and aggressive foreign export credit agency backing.

Today, the United States Export-Import Bank supports an estimated 205,000 export-related jobs in the United States. My fellow Republican Wisconsin colleagues—Representative RYAN and Representative SENSENBRENNER—not long ago urged Bank financing because “all steps should be taken to reinvigorate the economy and bring jobs to the United States.” With higher than average unemployment in Milwaukee, the need for the Bank has not changed. Not only does the Bank support jobs, but it makes a profit from its operation and pays funds back to the U.S. taxpayers—\$5 billion since 1990.

Opponents don't acknowledge that. Instead, they call for gimmick ac-

counting, or, as my CPA and tax attorney colleague Representative BRAD SHERMAN calls it, “fairytale value” accounting. Further, opponents claim that the Bank exclusively helps big corporations, yet 90 percent of the Bank's activities help small business, and that number is on the rise. Just ask Apple Steel Rule Die in Milwaukee, a company you have never heard of because it is not a big company. In fact, new reports from The Brookings Institution show that the failure to reauthorize the Bank hurts small and medium-sized businesses the most.

I hear Delta testify against the Ex-Im Bank, and then, hypocritically, turn around and use foreign export credit agencies for their fleet. By the way, Delta would qualify to use more foreign export credit to buy foreign-made Airbus aircraft if Congress does not reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. For real, colleagues, do any of us believe that Delta will turn down foreign support to buy an Airbus plane or a plane from the Chinese? Come on now. I have got a bridge to sell you.

Opponents also say the Bank only supports 2 percent of exports. Exactly. The Bank's mission is limited. It does not compete when private financing is available. The Export-Import Bank's fees are higher than U.S. commercial bank fees. It is not in competition. It works in concert with banks here in the United States. This is further proof that the Bank is working. However, that 2 percent still supports a lot of economic activity in Milwaukee. When I am back in my district, unions and businesses—large and small—are hand in hand, saying reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

We use the rhetoric of jobs an awful lot around here in Congress. Now is the time to take a powerful stand for U.S. jobs and U.S. workers. Actions speak louder than words. I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

COMMEMORATING THE MEMORY AND HEROIC SACRIFICE OF STATEN ISLAND FIREMAN LIEUTENANT GORDON “MATT” AMBELAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart but also with a swelling of pride that I rise before this House today to honor the memory and the heroic sacrifice of one of the FDNY's bravest—Lieutenant Gordon “Matt” Ambelas.

Lieutenant Ambelas, a veteran Staten Island fireman with 14 years of distinguished service, tragically gave his life this past Fourth of July weekend. He was attempting to rescue victims trapped in a horrific blaze in Brooklyn.

Lieutenant Ambelas leaves behind a devoted wife and two beautiful girls. He is New York's first firefighter to fall in the line of duty since 2012. While a family and a community mourn the excruciating loss of one of their finest native sons—one of their most dedicated protectors—Lieutenant Ambelas is a testament to the uncommon courage and sacrifice at the very core of the entire FDNY family and to the harrowing dangers they face in keeping America's greatest city safe every day.

Lieutenant Ambelas died after searching the 19th floor of a burning Brooklyn housing complex, determined to leave no innocent victim behind, as the flames spread rapidly from floor to floor. Undaunted by the danger that would have melted the courage of most any man, Matt faced it, undeterred, head on.

So I join all of my constituents in Brooklyn, on Staten Island, and all New Yorkers in acknowledging the immense debt of gratitude we all owe to Matt and his brothers in the FDNY, who put our safety above their own day in and day out.

While standing among those honoring Lieutenant Ambelas at his funeral on Staten Island last week, I was humbled by the incredible valor of Matt's actions. We watched as Matt's brothers in uniform, especially the Beach Boys of Ladder 81 on Staten Island and the Hooper Street Gang of Ladder 119 in Brooklyn, paid their final respects to the fallen hero. Seeing firsthand the mixture of strength and despair on their faces, I saw Matt's wife, Nanette, and their beautiful daughters, Giovanna and Gabriella. This was a very stark reminder that not only do we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to fallen heroes like Matt but also to the loving families that bear the immeasurable sacrifice right along with them.

When our Nation was viciously attacked on 9/11, 343 FDNY firefighters gave their lives. Since then, 18 more, including Matt, have fallen in the line of duty. Each loss, while a weight on our hearts, adds yet another angel to that storied brotherhood of heroes. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in the remembrance and commemoration of a true American hero in every sense of the word.

May God bless Lieutenant Ambelas. May He bring comfort to his young family. May He protect all of our brave FDNY firefighters, and may the noble sacrifice enshrined in Matt's memory never be forgotten.

To you, Nanette, please know that you, Gia, and Gabby are in my thoughts, in my prayers, and my heart is broken for your enormous loss.

□ 1030

PAWS FOR CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman famously said that if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog, and I can tell you that many of our Nation's animal shelters and rescue groups would be more than happy to introduce you to a new friend.

Between 5 and 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and the hardworking individuals at these shelters and rescues try to make sure that each of these animals makes its way to a forever home.

I have been so fortunate that my entire life I have had rescue dogs as part of my family. As a girl, it was Scotty Daisy. As a newlywed, my husband and I adopted Samantha and Walter, and as a family, with my three sons, we welcomed Bison into our family.

I want to honor the hard work of volunteers and staff at animal shelters and rescue groups across the Nation, and I encourage my colleagues to join me today at this year's Paws for Celebration event on Capitol Hill.

This event, sponsored by the ASPCA and hosted by the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus, will feature adoptable dogs and cats from shelters and rescues from around the Washington, D.C., area.

It will be a great opportunity for Members of Congress to take a moment and thank the shelter and rescue community for their hard work and dedication to our Nation's homeless pets.

Who knows? You might even find that friend in Washington you have been looking for.

HAMAS AGGRESSION FORCES ISRAEL TO DEFEND ITSELF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, 400 rocket attacks from Gaza in the past 3 weeks—Israel has made several attempts to defuse the issue and the situation.

This is how Hamas responded: "We will not agree to quiet in exchange for quiet. If Israel does not agree to our demands, I expect we will continue this battle."

Can you imagine that? Demands from Hamas that Israel not respond to rocket attacks. That is the only way you will get quiet for quiet between Israel and Hamas.

Now, we all know where this recent exchange started. On June 12, the abduction and subsequent murder of three Israeli teenagers, suspected by Hamas members, inflamed the situation, and then it was pushed over the edge by a murder of a Palestinian boy by Jewish extremists, Mr. Speaker.

There is a difference between how both sides act. From the Israeli Prime Minister, "I unequivocally condemn the murder of a Palestinian youth in Jerusalem. Murder, riots, incitement, vigilantism—they have no place in our democracy."

Israel quickly tracked down and arrested the teens' suspected murderers—tracked them down and arrested them and is prosecuting them.

What is the response from Hamas? What is the like response? In response, they launched nearly 400 rockets at Israel since June 14. For a month, this has been going on—into their population centers, not into military targets, Mr. Speaker, but population centers.

Now, last week, I attended a briefing with Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer to discuss the ongoing operation in Gaza, and one of the things I found interesting was all the members that were there from Israel had on their phones an application which sounded an air raid siren every time one sounded in Israel. We could scarcely get through the briefing because they were just continually going off all around the room.

I imagined myself in my hometown, hunkered down in my basement against a rocket attack. No civilization should live this way.

Interestingly enough, we viewed surveillance video of Hamas members using their own people as human shields. The Israelis actually send a warning shot—this is the building we are going to hit, this is where you are making rockets, and we are going to attack it next.

You would think that people would run from the building, knowing it is going to be blown up, but what does Hamas do? They send people, Mr. Speaker, to the building.

I would remind everybody the responsibility for civilian casualties, when those civilians are used as human shields, lies with the party that deliberately places them at risk, namely, Hamas.

Understand, they are placing their launch sites and their factories next to mosques, next to churches, next to hospitals, next to schools. The plan is—their intent is to make sure that, when Israel responds, responds to an attack, that there are maximum casualties of civilians, so that Americans will think that the Israelis are bad, that the narrative is that Israelis are using an unmeasured response—response.

Remember, it is a response, Mr. Speaker. No other country faces daily rocket attacks against its civilians, nor would any, nor should any other nation tolerate such violence, and we strongly condemn the continued rocket fire into Israel and the deliberate targeting, again, Mr. Speaker, of citizens.

Now, this can all end. President Mahmoud Abbas can renounce the

Hamas-backed unity government. How are we ever going to get to peace when their unity government is unified with terrorists, Mr. Speaker?

Since the beginning of July, the Palestinian terrorists have fired hundreds of missiles and projectiles at the population centers in Israel and, just recently, rejected the cease-fire negotiated by Egypt.

What is it that they want? Well, we know what they want. They want Israel obliterated from the map, Mr. Speaker.

For our administration, who has at times been with Israel—but not enough times—I would urge them, instead of calling on restraint for Israel, asking Israel to restrain—they are responding, Mr. Speaker, to attacks on their civilian population.

Instead of asking them to restrain, demand the PA denounce, renounce Hamas and start supporting Israel and give them the necessary resources to meet this threat.

CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about children and to talk about children around the world, here at home, and I guess what is most on many Americans' minds because of the visuals that they have seen, unaccompanied children coming into my State, the State of Texas.

I was down at the border some weeks ago, maybe just 2 weeks ago, and I looked at the reality of what many people see on television, and what I looked at was impoverished, frightened children, 12 years and under, children with diapers, children who were frightened and without their parents.

In addition, I saw the lovingness of volunteers from Catholic Charities to save the children, to many residents in the border community reaching out and helping.

Now, we are about to engage in a debate based upon the President's recommendation of what they need to humanely treat these children. Frankly, I believe that many in America have gotten the wrong information through various excerpts and commentaries that have been made by people who are uninformed.

I am very glad in Houston, on this past weekend, we had over 80 religious leaders from all denominations, communities, people who drove into Houston from counties way beyond Houston, all standing up and acknowledging their commitment to the humane treatment of children. They were from diverse backgrounds. They were ethnically diverse and racially diverse, as I said, religiously diverse.

Ministers like Dr. Terrance Grant Malone and Dr. Freddie Haynes, Dr.

John Ogletree, Dr. D.Z. Cofield, pastors from Faith Temple, I believe, in Polk County—if I have it correct—and individuals from the United Methodist Church, Catholic Charities, Episcopal Church, people who are in the midst of Ramadan from the Islamic Muslim faith, all ready to help these children—that is the America that all of us know.

That is the America that the Statue of Liberty stands in the harbor of New York and has said, over the years, to bring me your forlorn.

That is the same America who can stand alongside of Jordan, who is taking thousands and thousands of Syrians; or Turkey, that is taking thousands upon thousands of Syrians—not the America who listens to the fears and wrong information about disease.

These children are medically checked, but if you will check the documents, you will find that, in spite of the poverty, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala immunizes at least 90 to 95 percent of their children; but yet we doublecheck, and we immunize again.

So I think it is important to understand that this law that has, in actuality, been at the center point of my friends on the other side of the aisle wanting to change, with the introduction now of the humane law, is a law that should stay in place and that we should give children of any country, contiguous or noncontiguous, at least due process rights because these are children who in actuality have fled violence or human trafficking or sex trafficking and they are sometimes unable to articulate that in a short period of time.

They need counsel, and they need courts that understand. To rush through the decision, to have a court make a decision in 72 hours is absolutely absurd and impossible.

To only increase immigration judges by 40, I have introduced H.R. 4940 that increases immigration judges by 70. At this point, immigration judges have 1,660 per court versus a district court that has less than 500 cases, and they are overwhelmed. There is no way that you can process these children presently, and the expedited proceedings are not going to work.

Where is our claim to due process for these children? I look forward to working deliberatively, having these children in the process that they are in. By the way, they are in a deportation process. They are not just here to stay.

Putting them in a humane condition, debunking the myth of disease, and having these children go and find that these children will appear in court by having lawyers and enforcing the border with the border security bill, H.R. 1417, that this House and this House leadership refuses to put on the floor of the House, which passed over almost 2 years ago.

If you want border security, pass the border security bill that we have written.

Finally, Mr. Speaker I want to care about American children. The violence must stop. I want to work with those who are being shot by guns across America. Let's stop the gun violence.

We need a Marshall Plan for the children who are being shot by guns in our country. Care for children all over the world.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 42 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Steve Walker, Fairview Village Church, Eagleview, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I pray for each Member of this body to be mindful of Your will. You have blessed us with great freedoms and given the Members of this House great responsibility. With this responsibility comes even greater challenges.

Therefore, I ask, Lord, bless our Representatives. May every man and woman have the courage to speak their mind, the stamina to stay the course, and the determination to stand their ground, for conviction is not bendable. Progress is not made when men are not bound on principle.

Lord, I ask that this body be not just a group of representatives but, rather, a collection of free men and free women with a desire to guide a free Nation.

May they be strong in faith, abounding in wisdom, and righteous in nature. Lord, grant the home of each Member peace.

I pray in the name of my Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the calendar.

CORINA DE CHALUP TURCINOVIC

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 306) for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 306

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR CORINA DE CHALUP TURCINOVIC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Corina de Chalup Turcinovic shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Corina de Chalup Turcinovic enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Corina de Chalup Turcinovic, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

(e) DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES.—The natural parents, brothers, and sisters of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic shall not, by virtue of such relationship, be accorded any right, privilege, or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the

third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

WELCOMING REVEREND STEVE WALKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Steve Walker, the Family Ministry pastor for the Fairview Village Church in Eagleville, Pennsylvania, which serves thousands of area residents in southeastern Pennsylvania.

A native of the State of Washington, Pastor Walker received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and then proudly served in the United States military.

In 1991, Pastor Walker began working full time in the ministry, and since then, has served as a children's pastor in Tacoma, Washington; as an associate pastor in Topeka, Kansas; and as the lead pastor in Carson City, Nevada—all before starting his current position in Eagleville.

On a more personal note, Pastor Walker and his wife of over 30 years, Shari, have raised two terrific daughters, Ashley and Stephanie. Pastor Walker also demonstrated tremendous courage and unshakable faith as he battled cancer in 2003. He has since conquered the disease and has emerged from that battle with a renewed passion for serving the church, his congregants, and the community.

It is therefore my privilege to welcome Pastor Walker, his wife, Shari, and daughter Stephanie to the House of Representatives today and to thank him for serving as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE BANDITS OF HAMAS KEEP ON SHOOTING

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Hamas terrorists in Gaza keep shooting their rockets into Israel. Israel has used defensive weapons to intercept some. However, Iranian-backed Hamas keeps on reloading its six-shooters and firing into civilian areas.

The Israeli Government is shooting back and is headed to Gaza to stop the bandits.

Our government wants a cease-fire. Cease-fires in the past have just given Hamas time to obtain more ammo rockets from Iran. Also, Hamas shields its command centers underneath schools and hospitals in Gaza. So it cowers behind women, children, the elderly, and the sick.

Hamas wants Israel annihilated.

Israel is following the first natural right of a nation—it is protecting its people. Now it has taken the fight to the terrorists, as it has a right and an obligation to do.

The United States should be helping Israel eliminate this terrorist group instead of criticizing Israel for protecting its citizens from murder. The only way to stop this war against Israel is for Hamas to be defeated.

And that's just the way it is.

NO DEVOLUTION

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, you have heard the term "reinvent the wheel." We have some people around here who want to un-invent the wheel. The Tea Party—"small government at any cost"—radicals have what they think is a brilliant new idea. It is called "devolution."

We will devolve the duty, the obligation, and the funding of the national transportation system to the 50 States. Oh, what a great idea. Well, no. Actually, we tried it in the last century. It failed pretty miserably. Here it is: 1956. This is the brand spanking new Kansas Turnpike. Oklahoma said they would build—oh, they ran out of money, so Oklahoma didn't build their section. Kansas did. For 3 years, cars crashed through the barrier at the end of this and landed in Emil Schweitzer's farm field. That is devolution. They want to go back to that.

Dwight David Eisenhower said, no, that is not acceptable. He passed a bill for a national transportation system, funded by a user fee, and the highway got completed.

Now we want to go back to that era? We want to compete with the world by spending less on transportation, by having less Federal coordination, and by passing a pathetic Band-Aid bill today with pretend money that will limp us through the next 9 months?

No. We need a substantial investment in our national transportation system—putting millions of people back to work, making us first class again, and competing with the rest of the world. No devolution.

IRS WITH OBAMACARE DESTROYS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the American people know the IRS cannot be trusted.

The IRS has been corrupted by this administration, undermining the integrity of its longtime employees. Former IRS employee Lois Lerner arrogantly refuses to answer questions, and now the IRS is claiming to have lost hard drives containing emails that could lead to revealing the truth.

House Republicans know that if the IRS implements ObamaCare the American people's security will be placed at risk. The House will vote on a bill that reforms the Internal Revenue Service, keeps them in check, and restores accountability. This piece of legislation prohibits the IRS from targeting people based on their political beliefs, and it restricts the agency from enforcing ObamaCare.

The President's broken promises have already caused pain for hard-working American families, destroying jobs. We must do all that we can to prevent future injustices.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

INVEST IN AMERICAN WORKERS AND NATION-BUILDING AT HOME

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today, the House will consider legislation to prevent the highway trust fund from going broke. This action is critical, as a broke highway trust fund will result in no highway trust fund and will further result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs this construction season. Unfortunately, the measures under consideration in the House and Senate are weak, temporary fixes.

To effectively address America's crumbling infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates the need for \$3.6 trillion by 2020. Historically, this type of bold investment has created jobs and transformed the American economy. When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law, only 7 percent of the funds dealt with infrastructure projects. These projects accounted for nearly two-thirds of jobs created under the Act.

Congress is failing the American people by not making the investments we need to stay globally competitive. Let's invest in American workers and American manufacturers and make a real commitment to nation-building right here at home.

CHINA TIBET VISAS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, for over five decades now, the Chinese Communist Party has ruled Tibet harshly and has treated the Tibetan people with great disdain.

The current regime says that Tibet is open to all visitors, but the truth is that actual access is highly restricted and is subject to arbitrary closures. It is difficult for tourists to access the region, and it is almost impossible for journalists and diplomats to get in to report on conditions.

When Chinese officials get visas to the U.S., they are not kept out of certain States or cities. They are free to travel our Nation, as are Chinese tourists and reporters. It is time that the Chinese Government lives up to its word and allows access to Tibet, not only for Americans, but for the many religious pilgrims from nations around the world.

I am a proud cosponsor of Congressman MCGOVERN's bill, H.R. 4851, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2014. The bill restricts access to America for those Chinese Government officials who are responsible for blocking travel to Tibet. This is a matter of basic fairness and is critical to ensuring that human rights are protected in Tibet.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, unless Congress acts, on September 30 the Export-Import Bank will go out of existence. This is a government program that has been around for 80 years—since Franklin Roosevelt—helping businesses export products and create jobs in America.

Last week, Congressman JOHN LARSON and I joined the largest Chamber of Commerce in the State of Connecticut, along with three small exporting businesses, pleading with Speaker BOEHNER to please bring up a bill to extend the life of the Export-Import Bank, which has happened routinely on a bipartisan basis over the last 80 years.

Madam Speaker, I want to make two points. Number one, this program does not cost the taxpayers money. Last year it returned \$1 billion to the Treasury. Secondly, our largest competition—China and Germany—are doubling the sizes of their export-import programs because they understand that that is a way to grow their economies and to take away jobs and customers from our country, from America.

Please, Mr. Speaker, listen to the 850 business groups all across the country, led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Bring up the Export-Import Bank reauthorization for a vote, and let's get this economy growing again.

MICHAEL T. MCCULLOCH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael T. McCulloch, a social studies teacher at R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Every year, a teacher from North Carolina's Fifth District spends a week accompanying me as I go about my legislative duties. The Teacher in Congress program includes attending committee hearings and floor debates, as well as researching at the Library of Congress and with House staff, learning how this institution works.

Mr. McCulloch has taught for 19 years and hopes to use this experience to learn about the inner workings of our legislative branch and how our country's governmental structure was formed.

I commend Mr. McCulloch for his commitment to teaching the next generation about the revolutionary ideas on which our Nation was founded. It has been a pleasure to get to know him, and I hope this week proves fruitful for him and his students.

□ 1215

INDIA'S SANITATION CRISIS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, recent news has been filled with stories about the impact of India's sanitation crisis, like the NPR story about the horrific murder and rape of two young girls that could have been prevented if they didn't need to sneak out into the night to relieve themselves, leaving them vulnerable to attack.

Today, The New York Times has a heartbreaking piece directly linking the root cause of India's malnutrition crisis to the lack of adequate sanitation.

Many of the 162 million children under the age of five who are malnourished are suffering less from a lack of enough food and more from poor sanitation, and sadly, even those children who are lucky enough to survive are left with mental and physical deficits that will haunt them their entire lives.

This crisis that leaves women vulnerable, needlessly ends lives early, and undermines economic growth has solutions. I would strongly urge my colleagues to join me and Judge PoE in sponsoring the Water for the World Act to make American efforts more effective, preventing the needless loss of a child's life every minute and the threat to young women and girls.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALFRED SETTLE DOCKERY, III

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Alfred Settle Dockery, III, who passed away in Raleigh last week. Settle was a kind-hearted man who was passionate about improving his community.

Settle grew up in Rockingham, North Carolina, and graduated from the College of Design at NC State University. He was a member of the 1967 football team, the highest ranked team in school history, at number three in the Nation. Settle scored a touchdown in the first NC State win at Carter-Finley Stadium.

After college, Settle began his career as a landscape architect, eventually moving to real estate development. He was a member of the original Raleigh Greenway Commission and a member of the Raleigh Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

He was a well-known man who took pride in his work and wanted to make Raleigh a better place to live. Settle was a loving father, husband, and grandfather, and he will be deeply missed by all that knew him.

FREEDOM RIDERS

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, this summer, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. Passage of this law was the culmination of years of courageous work by a diverse group of men and women who banded together to fight against racism and inequality.

One group, the Freedom Riders, deserves our sincere applause. Starting with a handful of participants, they grew into a national movement, traversing the South, challenging segregation laws.

These brave young souls included many courageous students. Notable among them was our colleague, the Honorable JOHN LEWIS, as well as many brothers of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, of which he is a member.

As we honor the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer, as well as Phi Beta Sigma's centennial anniversary, we are reminded that the voices and actions of a few youth today can and will build a better future for all of us tomorrow.

I thank the Freedom Riders for the America they have made better for all of us.

SECURE OUR BORDERS NOW

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I was recently contacted by a constituent of mine, Lois Doyle. She shared with me the tragic passing of her daughter, Amanda, at the hands of a drunk driver. Words cannot fully express my sympathy for her family and her loved ones.

This is a tragedy that could have and should have been prevented. No driver should have ever got behind the wheel after drinking, but this drunk driver was in Texas illegally. He should not have been in the country. He should not have been driving.

To make things even worse, the illegal driver was released on bail and has fled the country and will never stand trial. This tragedy would have been avoided had our border been secure. This was a preventable and avoidable tragedy.

Mr. President, please secure our borders now.

INCREASED VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, I have been horrified, as many have, to see the increased violence in Israel against Israel. The bombings in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and the specific targeting of the Ben Gurion Airport are unbelievable to me, and my heart goes out to the millions of people who are suffering on both sides. This senseless violence has to stop.

Hamas has been using human shields to protect its terrorist infrastructure, and despite claims to the contrary, Hamas does not have Palestinian interests at heart.

The United States stands with the Israeli people and has invested in the Iron Dome missile defense system that has worked to save the lives of thousands of men, women, and children all over the country.

Thousands of rockets from Gaza were fired at Israel. Thank God the Iron Dome intercepted at least 90 percent of the rockets that would have fallen on schools, on homes, on synagogues, on mosques.

Frightened parents are sending their children away from home to safety amid these attacks.

I believe that Israel has, of course, the right to defend herself and her people from these senseless terrorist attacks.

Israel agreed to a recent call for cease-fire. Hamas did not. I hope we have a cease-fire, but until then, Israel has the right to defend herself and her people.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today because Sunday, July 20, marks the 40th anniversary of the division of the Republic of Cyprus.

I fully support the reunification of Cyprus, and it is encouraging that the Government of Cyprus remains fully committed to the U.N.-sponsored process to reach an enduring settlement that would reunify Cyprus based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation in accordance with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The occupation of Cyprus has led to thousands of Greek Cypriots being denied their fundamental right to return to their homes, freedom of worship continues to be severely restricted, and access to religious sites blocked.

Cyprus is an important ally of the United States, and its newest discovery of offshore gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean will strengthen cooperation with the United States and with our ally, Israel, and offer an alternative source of energy supply to Europe.

As a strategic partner of the United States, Madam Speaker, Cyprus can help us promote security and stability in this volatile region.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN ROBERT ROE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the sad news that former Congressman Robert Roe passed away today at the age of 90.

A native of Passaic County, New Jersey, Bob served in the Army during the Second World War. He was elected to represent the Eighth District in 1969. Some of our longer-tenured colleagues will remember Bob for his noted ability to reach across the aisle.

During his time in Congress, he rose to the chairmanship of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. He also chaired the Committee on Public Works and Transportation from 1991 until his retirement in 1993.

A true public servant, he wasn't in it for power. When he became chairman of Public Works, he lasted only one term, in part because he exhausted himself writing the greatest highway bill in the history of the country.

However, that highway bill, through it, he achieved changes to the transportation policy to focus on connecting different modes. His favorite term was "intermodal transportation," redefining how we invest in our infrastructure with this emphasis on safety and planning.

It is ironic that today, this day, we are going to vote on a transportation bill, the day he went to his Maker.

Bob is truly a legend in our era. He left big shoes to fill for all of his successors in Congress, myself included.

The building I am in, in Paterson, New Jersey, was named after him, the Robert A. Roe Federal Office Building, a fitting tribute to a great American.

My family loved him. We offer condolences to his entire family and all 35 nieces and nephews.

COMMEMORATING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACKWATER BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. RIGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGELL. Madam Speaker, last month, my wife, Teri, and I had the pleasure of attending a joint church service which brought together Blackwater Baptist Church and New Oak Grove Baptist Church. That occurred in Virginia's Second Congressional District, which I have the privilege to serve.

The two churches were celebrating the 240th anniversary of Blackwater Baptist, and what a service and celebration it was.

What was particularly enjoyable and noteworthy is that one has a largely White congregation, the other a largely African American congregation, and that is relevant, and, indeed, it is central to my point because Blackwater Baptist Church, which stood at the American Civil War, once had a slave balcony in its sanctuary.

Now, the pastors of the two churches, Greg Hammer and Tyrone Johnson, they are remarkable men. They bring their two congregations together once a year for a joint church service. They are close friends, and they talk often about their Christian faith, which binds them together.

They also have the courage to talk about race, to celebrate the progress that we have made, and to take on responsibly the challenges that remain in our country.

Madam Speaker, this is what we need more of in America, and I commend them both and their congregations.

SMART GUNS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise once again to highlight the harmful, hypocritical influence of the gun lobby in America.

Just last week, The New York Times columnist, Joe Nocera, relayed the story of Andy Raymond, a Maryland gun dealer who faced death threats and

hate mail from pro-gun radicals, all for trying to sell a gun that could save lives, the smart gun.

Smart gun technology is a breakthrough, one that could prevent thousands of accidental deaths and keep criminals from using stolen guns, yet intimidation and threats keep these products from the market while the gun lobby stands idle.

Last month, Senator MARKEY and I called on the NRA to denounce these so-called activists and their threats. They are all that stands between consumers and safer gun technology, and we cannot allow harassment and threats to continue while 45 Americans are shot, on average, in a gun accident every single day in America.

Smart guns can stop this.

AMERICANS WANT LOWER LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a new Gallup poll has found that, by a 2 to 1 margin, Americans want to decrease immigration levels, not increase them. The recent survey shows that 41 percent of Americans support a decrease in immigration. Just 22 percent want it to go up.

Only a minority, approximately one-quarter of Independents and Democrats expressed a desire to increase immigration, and a Rasmussen poll found that people earning under \$30,000 support a reduction in immigration by a 3 to 1 margin.

When is the President going to listen to the American people? They know that when a country has lost control of its borders, it has lost control of its future.

EXTENSION OF MAP-21

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, later today, the House will move forward on an extension of the current transportation authorization, MAP-21. This will ensure that Federal funding is available to meet our infrastructure needs through spring of next year.

For some 700,000 construction workers, including roughly 6,000 in Nevada, this is welcome news. Nonetheless, this short-term fix is only a Band-Aid on a sore that continues to fester.

For businesses, State departments of transportation, local governments, and transit authorities, this kind of unpredictability, which has gotten fairly common in Congress, hurts our economy and the ability for the public and private sectors to plan to meet our Nation's needs.

The clock is ticking, but there is still time to avoid a manufactured crisis

again next year. If we work together, put all funding options on the table, and consult with stakeholders, we can get serious about building needed infrastructure, creating jobs, and investing in our future.

□ 1230

REMEMBERING RAYMOND P. MONGILLO, SR.

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, Raymond P. Mongillo, Sr., was a Middletown Township, Bucks County businessman. He was a public servant and a United States Army veteran of the Korean war. He passed away on July 8, 4 days after his 82nd birthday. He had dedicated and devoted many years in service to his community, to veterans organizations, and to his church.

Ray was a leader in the effort to preserve Middletown Township's quality of life and served for 24 years on the Middletown Board of Supervisors. He was very instrumental in saving Styer's farm and orchard from future development. Aiming for the best outlook, he said:

The main thing is preserving it. We'd like to keep it going in its present form, as a farm store with pumpkins and hayrides.

And so it is, and it stands as a monument to Ray's hard work.

He leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Margaret, five children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends—and he has left a space that will be very hard to fill.

THE MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, as we debate the bipartisan H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, I would like to draw your attention to another important bipartisan effort, the Marketplace Fairness Act.

Over a year ago, the Senate passed that act with strong bipartisan support from 69 Senators. As you know, essentially what it says is that we will treat retailers the same, whether they are brick-and-mortar retailers in our downtown or Internet retailers, and if the State has passed a sales tax, then it would apply to all transactions.

This is important. When I talk to Vermont's small business owners, they tell me stories about the incredible unlevel playing field that they face. Folks come in, browse, shop, and then go online to buy. The difference is the sales tax avoidance.

These brick-and-mortar businesses are absolutely essential to the vitality

of so many communities in Vermont and in so many communities in your State. This is hurting our small businesses, which make up about 60 percent of our State's private sector workforce.

Madam Speaker, I urge us to act on the Marketplace Fairness Act.

OBAMACARE HAS GOT TO GO

(Mr. GOODLATTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, the people of Virginia's Sixth District are hardworking, busy running small businesses, teaching, raising families, earning a living, and trying to make ends meet. It is Congress' duty to make their lives as uncomplicated by government as possible. Time and time again, however, we have seen ObamaCare doing the very opposite.

Across my district, hourly employees are seeing cutbacks in their workweeks. Multiple employers are weighing the costs of offering health coverage to their employees. I have received countless complaints from folks whose insurance was canceled or whose premiums increased.

It is offensive that the White House dismisses these experiences as "anecdotal." The people in my district do not consider their lives, their businesses, and their health care to be anecdotal. Delays and exemptions have proven that this law is flawed and unworkable.

ObamaCare has got to go and be replaced by patient-centered health care reform.

SUPPORT FOR UNDERAGE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, the current surge of children seeking entrance to the United States and the protection of our laws is a humanitarian challenge that we cannot ignore. The reasons for this surge are complex, ranging from a misunderstanding of the 2008 law signed by President Bush to discourage human trafficking to the consequences of our drug wars.

Our focus should be the interests of the children. Any person in this country is assured due process and the protection of our laws. Shortcutting these protections would be a tragedy and a crime. Each case must be decided on an individual basis, taking the child's best interest into account. Sending children back to be likely victims of murder or other crimes would be morally unacceptable and would cause new waves of refugees.

As in the aftermath of World War II when the United States helped rebuild

Europe, taking the moral and humanitarian road will benefit us in the long run, whether this means finding homes for these children in the United States or helping their countries of origin develop the infrastructure to receive them back. This will create safe, friendly, and stable neighbors.

I urge Americans to support the humanitarian road that will benefit the children and our country.

IRAQ

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, for a decade, the United States, the international community, and the Iraqi people sacrificed immeasurably in support of the Iraqi people and their future. Generations of Americans and Iraqis bear the indelible marks of this conflict. Unfortunately, the gains wrought at such cost are now jeopardized by the shortsightedness and malfeasance of Iraq's political leaders.

To survive, Iraq needs a government that is inclusive and representative. And if we are to support Iraq militarily or in any other way, our Nation must know that we are supporting such a government, a condition that I do not believe the Maliki regime meets.

Moreover, if the U.S. is to assist Iraq beyond current efforts, the President must seek a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force from Congress. I believe that authorization and that debate is absolutely essential, and I am concerned about the slippery slope we are going down.

We must not become further embroiled in another Iraq conflict without both a thorough debate and a legitimate partner in the Iraqi Government.

OUR FAILING INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Republicans talk a lot about the need for the Federal Government to provide businesses with certainty so they can plan for the future. I agree with them. So why do they continue to block a long-range plan to fix our crumbling roads and bridges?

Across the country, one of every nine bridges is structurally deficient, and the American Society of Civil Engineers recently gave our national infrastructure a grade of D-plus. In my district alone, 129 bridges have been deemed functionally obsolete, and 65 are structurally deficient. Every American who drives a car, rides a train, or crosses a bridge knows we need to act.

Our national infrastructure was once the envy of the world. In a lot of communities today, it is an embarrass-

ment. A strong, long-term investment in infrastructure provides States, cities, and businesses the certainty they need for the future. It will keep Americans safe and help commerce move more efficiently, and it will put tens of thousands of workers back on the job.

Madam Speaker, we should take this opportunity to create jobs and certainty for a change and enact a multiyear transportation bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

PERMANENT INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3086) to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3086

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. PERMANENT MORATORIUM ON INTERNET ACCESS TAXES AND MULTIPLE AND DISCRIMINATORY TAXES ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1101(a) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note) is amended by striking "during the period beginning November 1, 2003, and ending November 1, 2014".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxes imposed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 3086, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The clock is ticking down on a key law that protects Internet freedom. On November 1, 2014, a temporary moratorium on State taxation of Internet access will expire.

In 1998, Congress temporarily banned State and local governments from newly taxing Internet access or placing multiple or discriminatory taxes on Internet commerce. With minor modifications, this ban was extended three times with enormous bipartisan support. The most recent extension passed in 2007.

If the moratorium is not renewed, the potential tax burden on consumers will be substantial. The average tax rate on communications services in 2007 was 13.5 percent, more than twice the average rate on all other goods and services. To make matters worse, this tax is regressive. Low-income households pay 10 times as much in communications taxes as high-income households as a share of income.

The Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act converts the moratorium into a permanent ban on which consumers, innovators, and investors can permanently rely by simply striking the 2014 end date. This legislation prevents a surprise tax hike on Americans' critical services this fall. It also maintains unfettered access to one of the most unique gateways to knowledge and engines of self-improvement in all of human history.

This is not an exaggeration. During the 2007 renewal of the moratorium, the Judiciary Committee heard testimony that more than 75 percent of the remarkable productivity growth that increased jobs and income between 1995 and 2007 was due to investments in telecommunications networks technology and the information transported across them.

Everyone in Silicon Valley knows Max Levchin's story. He came to America from the Soviet Union at age 16. His family had \$300 in its pocket, and he learned English by watching an old TV set he hauled out of a dumpster and repaired. Ten years later, he sold PayPal, the well known Internet payments platform he cofounded, for \$1.5 billion.

That is the greatness of the Internet. It is a liberating technology that is a vast meritocracy. It does not care how you look or where you come from. It offers opportunity to anyone willing to invest time and effort. That is precisely why Congress has worked acidulously for 16 years to keep Internet access tax-free. Now we must act again once and for all.

The Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act has 228 cosponsors. The Judiciary Committee reported it favorably by a vote of 30-4. Nevertheless, small pockets of resistance remain. They argue that the Internet is no longer a fledgling technology in need of protection. But it is precisely the ubiquity of

the Internet that counsels for a permanent extension. It has become an indispensable gateway to scientific, educational, and economic opportunities. It is the platform that turned Max Levchin from an impoverished immigrant into a billionaire. The case for permanent tax-free access to this gateway technology is stronger today than it ever has been.

Opponents also claim that this legislation will lower State revenues. Seven States currently enjoy an exemption from the moratorium. This legislation lets these grandfather clauses expire. But these grandfathered States had no reasonable expectation of maintaining their special status. The original moratorium included a grandfather clause to give States that were then taxing Internet access some time to transition to other sources of revenue. Some discontinued taxing Internet access in support of a national broadband policy. For those that still haven't, it has been 16 years, time enough to change their tax codes. If the revenue grandfathered States now reap is truly essential, it should be straightforward for the State to recoup it through a different form of taxation.

It is important to note that the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act does not address the issue of State taxes on remote sales made over the Internet. It merely prevents Internet access taxes and unfair multiple or discriminatory taxes on e-commerce, whether inside the taxing State or without.

I would like to specifically thank Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ESHOO, Subcommittee Chairman BACHUS, and Subcommittee Ranking Member COHEN for their work on and support of this legislation.

This bipartisan legislation is about giving every American unfettered access to the Internet, which is the modern gateway to the American Dream. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Internet Tax Freedom Act, enacted in 1998, established a temporary moratorium on multiple and discriminatory taxation of the Internet as well as new taxes on Internet access. This moratorium is due to expire on November 1 of this year.

□ 1245

Since 1998, Congress has extended the moratorium on three occasions. Unfortunately, however, H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, responds to the impending expiration of the moratorium by making it permanent and ending the act's grandfather protections for States that impose such taxes prior to the act's enactment date.

The approach taken in H.R. 3086 is problematic for a number of reasons.

First, Congress, instead of supporting this seriously flawed legislation, should really be focusing on meaningful ways to help State and local governments, taxpayers, and local retailers. The House can do that by addressing the remote sales tax issue.

In addition to extending the expiring moratorium on a temporary basis, the House should take up and send to the Senate legislation such as the Marketplace Fairness Act, which was mentioned earlier today on the floor of the House by the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH). That bill incentivizes remote sellers to collect and remit sales taxes as well as require States to simplify several procedures that would benefit retailers. Such legislation would enable States and local governments to collect the over \$23 billion in estimated uncollected sales tax each year.

The measure would also help level the playing field for local retailers—who must collect sales taxes—when they compete with out-of-State businesses that do not collect these taxes. Retail competitors should be able to compete fairly with their Internet counterparts at least with respect to sales tax policy. The House should do its part and adjust the remote sales tax disparity before the end of this Congress.

In addition, this legislation will severely impact the immediate revenues for the grandfather-protected States and all States progressively in the long term. The Congressional Budget Office, for example, estimates that this bill will cost certain States “several hundred million dollars annually” in lost revenues.

Indeed, the Federation of Tax Administrators estimates that the bill will cause the grandfather-protected States to lose at least \$500 million in lost revenue annually. These States include Texas, which would lose \$350 million a year in revenue; Wisconsin, which would lose about \$127 million per year; Ohio, which would lose about \$65 million per year; and South Dakota, which would lose about \$13 million per year.

Further, this bill would become effective during the mid-cycle for the grandfather-protected States. Because these States have to balance their State budgets, they will need to cut spending or raise taxes to balance their budgets.

Should this become law, State and local governments will have to choose whether they will cut essential government services—such as educating our children, maintaining needed transportation infrastructure, and providing essential public health and safety services—or shift the tax burden onto other taxpayers through increased property, income, and/or sales taxes.

Meanwhile, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that the permanent moratorium will deny the

non-grandfathered States almost \$6.5 billion in potential State and local sales tax revenues each year in perpetuity. H.R. 3086 will burden taxpayers and services while excluding an entire industry from paying their fair share of taxes.

Finally, the bill ignores the fundamental nature of the Internet. The original moratorium was intentionally made temporary to ensure that Congress, industry, and State and local governments would be able to monitor the issue and make adjustments where necessary to accommodate new technologies and market realities.

The act was intended as a temporary measure to assist and nurture the fledgling Internet that back in 1998 was still in its commercial infancy. Yet this bill is oblivious to the significantly changed environment of today's Internet.

The bill's supporters continue to believe that the Internet still is in need of extraordinary protection in the form of exemption from all State taxation. But the Internet of 2014 is not the same as its 1998 predecessor. Today's Internet is considerably different in terms of both the types of accessibility and the accompanying technology.

The Internet then was access primarily a slow, unreliable dial-up service. But now technology has provided many types of methods to access the Internet, and we can anticipate that the Internet and its attendant technology will continue to evolve. By permanently extending the tax moratorium, however, Congress severely limits its ability to revisit it and to make any necessary adjustments.

Simply put, a permanent moratorium is unwise, and so I urge my colleagues to think about this carefully and oppose H.R. 3086.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for his leadership on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3086, a bill that would make permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which was passed a number of years ago, around the time when I came to Congress the first time.

The Internet is an essential part of our everyday lives. Americans use it to run small businesses, to do research, apply for jobs, listen to music, communicate with friends and family, check the weather and traffic, and a whole bunch of things. It is really a part of virtually all Americans' lives nowadays.

Madam Speaker, since 1998, Congress has made sure that access to the Inter-

net remains tax-free. Unfortunately, this protection expires in November, as has been mentioned, at which point taxes will go up on every American who wants to get online.

Now is the time to make this policy of having access to the Internet free of taxes permanent. Now is the time to protect Internet access.

Madam Speaker, the Internet is an essential component of our economy. It drives innovation, job creation, and has resulted in a higher standard of living for virtually every American. The bill before us today provides certainty to Americans by making the current law of the land permanent and protecting access to the Internet from new taxes.

Madam Speaker, there is common ground in this Chamber today. We all agree that the Internet is an essential part of our lives and an incredibly powerful tool for communication, education, and job creation. Let's not make accessing the Internet more costly and more difficult.

Madam Speaker, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act protects all Americans' access to the Internet from new taxes, and I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, after nearly two decades, it does make sense to make this moratorium permanent. The moratorium is one of the reasons for the huge growth in the digital economy. The Internet wouldn't be what it is today without affordable Internet access. And, by the way, this tax relief is not to companies. It is to individuals who access the Internet.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the Judiciary Committee for ensuring that the moratorium is made permanent before it expires. But the work on discriminatory taxes is not done. Wireless access to the Internet is still vulnerable to discriminatory taxation. The average tax is 17.2 percent—it goes as high as 25 percent in some States—and a disproportionate number of low-income Americans access the Internet only through wireless devices.

We have the Wireless Tax Fairness Act that I introduced. It has 220 cosponsors. So, in addition to voting for this moratorium on Internet taxation, I would encourage my colleagues to ask for a vote on the Wireless Tax Fairness Act that, after all, is sponsored by a majority of this House.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for their leadership on this issue.

Now I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) for his statement and thank him for his leadership on this issue as well.

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act. I believe that this permanent extension is necessary to ensure the Internet remains accessible for all Americans.

Madam Speaker, the Internet economy is growing and changing every day, and this pro-growth legislation will support the vibrant online marketplace of goods and ideas by preventing State and local tax policies from creating barriers to access.

Americans use the Internet every day to communicate, to work, and to get an education. They shouldn't have to pay an unnecessary and unfair tax to do so.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his work on this important bipartisan bill. I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, Ms. JUDY CHU, a distinguished member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 3086 in its current form.

As a former member of the Board of Equalization, which is California's elected statewide tax board, and as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I support a temporary—not a permanent—extension of the current moratorium.

Madam Speaker, when the Internet was in its infancy, Congress rightfully put the moratorium in place to outlaw any burdensome tax regulations on Internet access. The Internet has grown tremendously since then, and it will undoubtedly evolve over time. As it evolves, Congress should be called upon to revisit these issues. But I believe that a permanent moratorium would make reexamination of technology and market realities very difficult in the future.

A permanent moratorium would impede a State or local government's ability to make taxing decisions that are right for them. This is the message I have heard from States, counties, and cities. Take, for example, the city of Pasadena, which is the largest city in my district. Pasadena does not have any plans to impose taxes and fees on Internet access. However, it has concerns with a permanent extension that could shut the doors years down the line.

In fact, Madam Speaker, the National League of Cities, the League of California Cities, and the California State Association of Counties all oppose this bill. They are opposing it because they see a dramatic decline of sales tax revenue due to the increase in online sales that are not taxed, and that is why I also support the Marketplace Fairness Act. It would require large businesses to collect online sales tax.

I can tell you that this makes a dramatic difference in whether local government has the funds to fill the potholes and clean the streets. Since enacting its remote sellers sales tax law, my home State of California brought in \$260 million in its first year of collection. This is an improvement, but the potential for future growth is even greater, with a little over \$1 billion of use taxes still to be collected from remote sales in California alone.

□ 1300

With this act, we can stop the closing of businesses on Main Street and have a fighting chance to keep the jobs that they provide our communities. Keeping the Internet tax moratorium temporary helps in this fight. A short-term moratorium strikes the right balance between respecting the rights of local taxing authority and the ability for the Internet to grow.

Congress must reserve the flexibility to examine the Internet Tax Freedom Act from time to time. That is why I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a leader on technology issues.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, because I support ensuring that Internet access remains free from predatory taxes imposed by State and local governments looking to fill their coffers at the expense of their residents.

I think we just saw why this bill is needed because there are two different philosophies. Especially for those who support this legislation, this is an area where we want to continue to have the Internet free, especially as the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) said, that this goes to the user, and I think that is one thing that we need to understand here.

This legislation ensures that no person is discouraged from accessing the Internet and experiencing its transformative power. The Internet is a tool for democracy and education. It is an outlet for free expression and the megaphone for those who were previously ignored. It connects individuals and is a means for creative entrepreneurship.

The Internet allows for all boundaries to be transcended—cultural, religious, geographical, and lingual. Our economy, the expressions of our freedom, and our role as a beacon of hope and democracy are all enhanced by free and open access to the Internet.

I want to applaud the work of the chairman in ensuring this Congress is doing everything in its power to promote an open Internet that can be accessed without predatory taxes and fees.

Again, this is about the people that we represent, moms and dads who have the dream of a better America where they are making it for their kids and not being imposed upon by government simply looking to fill their coffers at the expense of citizens.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and my friend for yielding this time to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of this legislation, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act. This is a bill that has been stated before that will permanently eliminate any barriers created by the taxation of Internet access.

The current tax moratorium is going to expire shortly on November 1, which would then open the doors to taxation on Internet access. I think it is very important to make this very clear. This really protects consumers because the taxation would fall to them and their access to the Internet.

This issue should not be confused with the issue of sales taxes collected by jurisdictions and the discrepancies between Main Street and what is purchased on the Internet. That is not what this issue is about. This is clearly, I think, a consumer issue.

Now, whether for communication, commerce, business, education, research, the Internet is an integral part of the everyday lives of the American people and around the world as well, so we need to encourage its usage. We need to protect that usage, and I think we need to do everything we can to ensure that the access to the Internet is universal.

This legislation has widespread support in the House. It has been my pleasure to work with Chairman GOODLATTE as the Democratic lead on this effort. It has 228 bipartisan cosponsors in the House—I think that is the most eloquent statement about it—and there are 51 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. It has strong support of the communications, Internet, and e-commerce communities.

I think this is an affordability issue. It is a consumer issue. It is sensible. It is bipartisan, and I believe that it deserves the full support of the House.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) for her leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Madam Speaker, I am here to speak in strong support of Internet tax freedom. I am a believer in the power of the Internet. It means a lot for America. It means a lot for the world.

Because of our commitment to keeping Internet access largely unencumbered by taxes and government control, we have created something really cool—a dynamic market for goods and services and, most importantly, a marketplace for ideas.

Our rights to freedom of speech and freedom of association have grown as the Web opens new outlets for expression in advocacy. Whether it is a group of citizens organizing to petition the government for a redress of their grievances or somebody looking for the love of their life on an Internet dating site, the Internet is there, but we cannot get comfortable.

We cannot forget that the power to tax—and might I add the power to overregulate—is the power to destroy. That is why I am up here supporting the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act, and I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and our numerous cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. This is good for America and good for the world.

Please join me in voting “yea.”

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia, the full committee chairman, and I would like to enter into a little bit of a colloquy.

I am an original cosponsor. I certainly want to prevent taxation of the Internet, but as you know, I represent one of the 36 districts in Texas, and in my district, my largest city is the city of Arlington, and they currently collect approximately \$1 million a year in revenue from connection fees to the Internet in their city limits, and under this bill, that would be prohibited.

I had been led to believe that we were going to have the same grandfather provision that we have had for the last 16 years. Apparently, that is not the case.

Could the chairman enlighten me why we are not grandfathering existing local collection fees, and what might be done in conjunction with the other body if and when this goes to conference?

I yield to the chairman.

Mr. GOODLATTE. First of all, I thank the gentleman for his question, and I and others have been clear that we think these grandfather clauses should expire. When they first were adopted 16 years ago, it was with the intention that they be phased out. Of course, they have had 16 years, and we would like to have them do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

Our goal is to have a clean, permanent moratorium signed into law as

promptly as possible. If the gentleman from Texas can engineer a phaseout consistent with that goal, I am certainly willing to work with him in that objective.

Mr. BARTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON. If the gentleman will allow me to be part of the process and inform me at such a time that it would be possible to offer an amendment or to work with you and the other body, I would certainly be more than willing to do that.

Mr. GOODLATTE. As this measure is considered in the Senate and then in conference between the House and Senate, we would look forward to working with you.

Mr. BARTON. I thank the gentleman. Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the ranking member and the chairman of the full committee. We seek opportunities on the Judiciary Committee to compromise and work together. This legislation would have been an excellent opportunity to be able to work together.

I appreciate the position of my chairman, but I know that Mr. CONYERS and myself worked on a compromise that I think and hope that, as we ultimately watch this bill make its way through the process, that we will be able to draw upon the Conyers-Jackson Lee compromise that makes this Internet Tax Freedom Act extended for a certain period of time.

We understand that there are frustrations on all sides. This bill would make permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which imposes a moratorium on taxing Internet services, but as written would delete the existing grandfather clause which has been in place since the original passage of the bill in 1998 that allowed a number of States with unique circumstances, at the State and local level, to impose tax on Internet access services.

Now, we can suggest that the present bill is a laissez-faire bill. Let me say that there is another principle of states' rights, and I have often heard it from my friends on the other side of the aisle. When it is for good, we should look at it as a reasoned answer to the uniqueness of the 50 States.

The Conyers-Jackson Lee amendment preserves the grandfather clause, so that Texas and other States could raise this very valuable revenue, but more importantly, it retains the moratorium for 4 years for us to be able to address this question in a fair manner. We offered this in the full committee, and there are many who support this compromise beyond the States that would be impacted.

A letter that I have received from the director of Citizens for Tax Justice writes in opposition to making permanent the Federal law—and I will include the letter for the RECORD—by banning State and local governments from subjecting Internet access to the same taxes they impose on other goods and services.

This letter goes on to say that it was decided that this infant industry needed special protection from taxes. Now, we are beyond that, but we are harming States.

I just want to use, as an example, the State of Texas will lose \$280 million; cities will lose \$51 million; transit, \$18 million; special districts, \$4 million; a total of \$358 million. When we are putting more burdens on States, we need to not remove an opportunity where they can raise revenue innocently and in good conscience.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Why are we barring our States from doing their good due diligence, providing resources—needed resources—for schools and infrastructure and health care?

So I am well aware of the arguments on the other side, but listen to our arguments. We are not stopping the taxation issue; we are putting a moratorium for 4 years, so that we can reassess it.

I ask my colleagues to consider that as they consider this legislation. I rise in opposition to this legislation.

Madam Speaker, the bill would make permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act, which imposes a moratorium on taxing Internet services, but, as written, would delete the existing grandfather clause that has been in place since the original passage of the bill in 1998 that has allowed Texas at the state and local level to impose tax on Internet access services.

At the markup in the Judiciary Committee, Ranking Member CONYERS and I offered an amendment to extend the moratorium and the grandfather protections for four years. Unfortunately it failed on a primarily party line vote in the Committee.

Now, the authors of this bill would deem to tell Texas what it can do or not do regarding its tax policy. At the heart of the notion of federalism is the right of states to legislate matters within their own jurisdiction.

The lines of authority between states and the federal government are, to a significant extent, defined by the United States Constitution and relevant case law.

The Constitution does, however, provide certain specific limitations on that power. In this instance, states would be prohibited from taxing Internet access.

H.R. 3086 would make the moratorium permanent but it would not extend the grandfather protections on which seven states, including Texas, still rely on.

The Conyers-Jackson Lee amendment preserved this "grandfather clause" so that Texas

could continue to raise this very valuable revenue.

And the Conyers-Jackson Lee amendment retained the moratorium on taxation for four years instead of making it permanent.

Unfortunately, for Texas, this legislation would delete the existing grandfather clause that has been in place since the original passage of the bill in 1998 that has allowed Texas at the state and local level to impose tax on Internet access services.

The original intent of ITFA in 1998 was to encourage development of the Internet, which at the time was a new technology. The Internet is no longer an infantile industry.

Madam Speaker, as a practical matter this justification is no longer applicable given the substantial advancements in technology that have occurred since 1998.

Bundling non-Internet based services with Internet services creates a loophole for industry to avoid taxes altogether.

Again, the Conyers-Jackson Lee amendment would have preserved this "grandfather clause" so that the state can continue to raise this very valuable revenue. As written the bill raises significant federalism concerns and essentially tells Texas what to do—nobody messes with Texas.

I urge my colleagues to vote for fairness and judicial economy by opposing this legislation in its current form.

H.R. 3086: EFFECT ON TEXAS

State: \$280 million
City: 51 million
Transit: 18 million
County: 5 million
Special districts: 4 million
Total: \$358 million (per year)

JULY 14, 2014.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: Citizens for Tax Justice writes in opposition to making permanent the federal law banning state and local governments from subjecting Internet access to the same taxes that they impose on other goods and services. This ban was first enacted with the "Internet Tax Freedom Act" (ITFA) in 1998 and extended several times since then.

Both the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act" (H.R. 3086) and "Internet Tax Freedom Forever Act" (S. 1431) would make this ban permanent, thereby forever treating the Internet differently from other goods and services by barring state and local governments from deciding for themselves whether or not to tax it.

In 1998 Congress decided that the internet was an "infant industry" needing special protection from the taxes that state and local governments impose on other goods and services. Today, the infant of 1998 has the keys to the American economy, yet lawmakers are still coddling it by proposing to make the tax ban permanent.

Congress should allow the ban to expire as scheduled on November 1.

Sincerely,

ROBERT S. MCINTYRE,
Director, Citizens for Tax Justice.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AND ADVISORS,

June 17, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: On behalf of local governments across the nation, our organizations want to express our opposition to H.R. 3086, the "Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA)." Instead, as the expiration date for the current moratorium on taxing Internet access approaches, and Congress considers changes to ITFA, our organizations recommend a shorter-term extension of ITFA, as a sensible solution that respects state and local taxing authority. In addition, any extension must maintain both the long-standing grandfather provisions that preserve existing state and local revenues, as well as certain general business taxes that were not intended to be part of the moratorium.

Over the next several years, most of the services known as telecommunications and cable services will transition to broadband. As a result, the scope of the services that ITFA shields from state and local taxation will greatly expand, even if ITFA's language remains unchanged. In light of this substantial expansion and the need to protect the fiscal strength of state and local governments, we encourage you to support a temporary extension of ITFA, rather than making it permanent, as H.R. 3086 would do. That would allow time to assess more fully (1) the transition from telecommunications and cable services to ITFA-protected broadband services; (2) its impact on state and local governments' tax bases and revenues; and (3) its impact on the relative tax obligations of industry sectors to which ITFA does not apply. A temporary extension of ITFA ensures that Congress has the opportunity to revisit the moratorium to correct any unintended consequences.

For these reasons, our organizations urge you to support a fair, short-term extension of the Internet tax moratorium. We look forward to assisting you and your staff in these efforts.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW D. CHASE,
Executive Director,
National Association
of Counties.

CLARENCE E. ANTHONY,
Executive Director,
National League of
Cities.

TOM COCHRAN,
Executive Director,
U.S. Conference of
Mayors.

ROBERT J. O'NEILL,
Executive Director,
International City/
County Management
Association.

JEFFREY L. ESSER,
Executive Director,
Government Finance
Officers Association.

STEPHEN TRAYLOR,
Executive Director,
National Association
of Telecommuni-
cations Officers and
Advisors.

[From the Hill, July 14, 2014]

CONGRESS POISED TO SLAM STATES ON
INTERNET ACCESS CHARGES

(By Michael Mazerov)

The House is slated to vote this week on a bill to permanently bar states from applying their normal sales taxes to the monthly charges that households and businesses pay companies like Comcast or Verizon Wireless for Internet access—potentially costing states roughly \$7 billion a year in potential revenue.

For starters, the bill would strip Hawaii, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin of at least \$500 million in annual state and local revenue from their existing taxes on these charges.

Beyond costing states the \$7 billion a year in potential revenue to support education, healthcare, roads, and other services, the bill would violate an understanding between Congress and the states dating back to the 1998 Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA): that any ban on applying sales taxes to Internet access charges would be temporary and not apply to existing access taxes.

Enacted when Internet commerce was still in its infancy, ITFA sought to balance Congress' desire to encourage development of the Internet against states' and localities' need to finance essential services. Thus, it imposed only a temporary "moratorium" on new taxes on Internet access and protected existing taxes through a "grandfather" clause.

Congressional extensions of ITFA in 2001, 2004, and 2007 maintained those two key features. This latest ITFA legislation, though, eliminates both—the first time Congress has seriously considered doing so.

Every state would feel the impact. The seven states with taxes would start losing revenues this year, forcing some to cut services or raise other taxes to keep their budgets balanced. The remaining states would continue to lose as much as \$6.5 billion in potential revenue each year from their inability to tax Internet access charges.

The forgone revenue would likely grow substantially over time as more people sign up for Internet access and current subscribers trade up to faster, more expensive, service.

The House bill would have other, unintended effects. Eliminating the grandfather, for example, would put at risk numerous other state and local taxes that Internet access providers pay on the things they buy in order to provide Internet service, such as fiber-optic cable, or gasoline for their vehicles. Almost all of these taxes existed before 1998, so the grandfather protects them from legal challenge. But if Congress eliminates the clause, Internet access providers could challenge these taxes in court as indirect taxes on access service and therefore voided by ITFA.

The bill's proponents argue that banning taxes on Internet access charges is necessary to close the "digital divide" between low- and high-income households. Keeping monthly Internet access as inexpensive as possible by exempting it from roughly \$2-\$4 in taxes will encourage low-income people to subscribe and service providers to extend broadband service to low-income neighborhoods, they claim.

But there's scant evidence to support this argument. Studies haven't found a significant difference, in either the share of households with broadband or the availability of broadband service, between states that tax access and those that don't. And numerous studies find that Internet access costs are a

smaller cause of the "digital divide" than unfamiliarity with computers and the Internet and a belief that the Internet is irrelevant to the person's life.

In fact, a permanent ITFA would likely impede the goal of getting more people online—especially low-income people who don't have Internet at home. Many people first use the Internet in public schools, libraries, and community centers, all of which rely on state and local tax revenue. The less state and local revenue that such institutions receive, the less they could provide Internet service.

Some in Congress argue that states and localities should accept a permanent ITFA as part of a deal that would also include enactment of the Marketplace Fairness Act, which would empower states to require large Internet merchants to charge sales tax on all taxable sales. Any extension of the moratorium, however, must include the grandfather clause. Eliminating that clause would threaten to invalidate many existing taxes on Internet access providers, as noted earlier.

Congress' proper course would be to end, not extend, the ban on state and local taxation of Internet access. The Internet is no longer an infant industry needing protection from taxes that apply to other services for which Internet access is a close substitute. Cable television service is widely taxed, for example, but if someone decides to pay Verizon \$50 a month so that they can stream Netflix to their TV, ITFA bans the taxation of the access charge. This unequal treatment doesn't make sense.

Even if Congress wants to renew ITFA, surely the terms should be no more favorable than in 1998—a temporary exemption for taxes on access service, with pre-1998 taxes still grandfathered—and must include the Marketplace Fairness Act, which the Senate has passed with broad bipartisan support.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ), who has been a steadfast proponent of Internet tax freedom.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for bringing this piece of legislation forward, and I appreciate the bipartisan manner in which it is done.

The Internet is working. It is working. It is one of the great things about our economy. It is one of the great things that is happening in this country. It is creating jobs, and it is creating excitement with the younger generation. It is providing for innovation. We are leading the world in what we are doing.

Access is not necessarily available to everybody. We have people from inner cities to Indian reservations to rural communities to those who are just seeking to try to be part of this community and have access and get information and be informed and be educated and allowed to engage in commerce.

Since 1998, this has been the position of the United States of America, and if you look at the Internet, it truly is interstate commerce. We can be standing side by side, right next to each other, and you can send a tweet or a Facebook message or an email, whatever sort of electronic communication,

and it literally can zoom around the country—hopefully through Utah—and then back to the person standing right next to you.

□ 1315

But in order for all that to work, the magic of the Internet and all that to work, it needs to be unimpeded. It needs to keep those costs as low as possible to ensure the maximum amount of access so those in our communities who are still trying to get in there, from our seniors, the rural communities, again, to our inner cities.

The wisdom that happened in 1998 has been reaffirmed multiple times. Only two people in the history of this piece of legislation have ever voted against this piece of legislation. The majority of the House of Representatives are cosponsors on this piece of legislation that is before us today. So, I urge its passage.

There are some other pieces of legislation that I would like the body to look at. I think we do have to deal with the remote sales tax issues. I think there are transactions that happen remotely. I would like to see parity in that—another topic for another day, but something that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

The issue before us today is are we going to allow the freedom for Internet access to happen at the lowest cost possible without the government coming in and thinking, oh, this is another bucket of funds that we can just tax on. The consequence is we would have less people involved and engaged. Companies are going to take care of this, but individuals who are trying to access the Internet, we need to keep those costs as low as possible.

Think about your telephone bill. We don't want that to be lit up. You know how that is lit up with all these different taxes. We don't want the Internet to be lit up like a Christmas tree with all these different taxes. It is interstate commerce. It is the purview, I think, of the United States Congress. That is why this bill is so needed. That is why I proudly joined as a cosponsor and why I urge its passage today.

And again, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Members on both sides of this body for bringing this bill forward. I urge its passage.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to conclude by pointing out that we might be going in the wrong direction with this misguided legislation. It will devastate State revenues, especially those States currently protected by the grandfather clause, and force State governments to eliminate essential governmental programs and services and burden taxpayers.

Furthermore, 11 national organizations are concerned with the fiscal impact on our State and local govern-

ments: the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and 15 other labor organizations: the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, the American Federation of Teachers, the UAW, SEIU. Fifteen national labor organizations and 11 national, local, and State government organizations all join with us who are urging my colleagues to reject this seriously flawed legislation.

Please join us in making sure that we, the people, prevail on this measure in the House of Representatives.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LIST OF OPPONENTS OF H.R. 3086

There is a long list of opponents of this bill. These opponents are concerned with the fiscal impact on our state and local governments. Opponents include such state and local groups as—the National Governors Association, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Federation of Tax Administrators, the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, the International City/County Management Association, the Government Finance Officers Association, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, and the Multistate Tax Commission.

Also opposing this bill are labor groups such as—the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), the Communication Workers of America (CWA), the Department for Professional Employees (DPE), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), the National Education Association (NEA), the Services Employees Union International (SEIU), the United Auto Workers (UAW), and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, passing the permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act would increase access all across America for millions of Americans, especially lower-income Americans, increase growth and increase opportunity, increase jobs in this country.

Now is the time to act. A permanent ban on taxation of Internet access is crucial for protecting the future of our digital economy. If the ban on Internet access taxes is not renewed by November 1, the potential tax burden on Americans will be substantial. It is estimated that Internet access tax rates could be more than twice the average rate of all other goods and services. Low-income households could pay ten times as much as high-income households as a share of income.

The last thing that Americans need is another bill on their doorsteps. A tax on Internet access would burden millions of Americans who rely on the

Internet to conduct business, communicate, educate, and live.

Over the past 14 years, Congress has extended ban after ban on States taxing Internet access. The measures have been met with enormous bipartisan support. Only five “no” votes were cast in the history of these renewals in the House and the Senate.

As price rises, demand falls. If the ban lapses, State telecommunications taxes could take effect, and those rates are already too high. Former White House Chief Economist Austan Goolsbee estimated that a tax that increased the price of Internet access by 1 percent would reduce demand for Internet access by 2.75 percent.

The permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act merely prevents Internet access taxes and unfair multiple and discriminatory taxes on e-commerce. It does not tackle the issue of Internet sales taxes.

Madam Speaker, this is a great issue for the Congress to move forward on in a bipartisan fashion that will help to create jobs and economic growth and foster continued greater access of the Internet. After all, isn't that what we want? We want every American to have opportunity to access this in the most affordable way so that they can have the educational opportunities, the employment opportunities, the recreational opportunities, the social opportunities that are created by the Internet.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago, I joined my colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee in supporting the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act when it was reported out of committee by a vote of 30 to 4.

It is clear that there is broad bipartisan agreement that we should not allow the current moratorium on Internet access taxes to expire. While I joined my colleagues in moving this legislation forward to provide clarity and certainty in this area, I also have serious concerns that Congress has failed to resolve another critical issue related to state taxation and the Internet: e-fairness and the current exemption for state and local sales tax collection for online purchases.

Since the Internet Tax Freedom Act first passed in 1998, Congress has made far too little progress in developing a coherent policy that addresses the intersection of state taxation and the Internet. Aside from extending this tax moratorium three times since it first passed, Congress has yet to pass legislation like the Marketplace Fairness Act or similar legislation that would allow states to tax e-commerce sales at the same rate as sales from brick-and-mortar stores. Instead we have seen states attempting to set a patchwork of policies that simply doesn't work. A federal solution is needed from Congress.

In the meantime, adoption of the Internet has exploded since ITFA first passed in 1998, and today, 75 percent of American households

subscribe to broadband Internet services, and hundreds of billions of dollars worth of commerce is done over the Internet annually. The Census Bureau recently announced that total e-commerce sales for 2013 were estimated to have increased nearly 17 percent (16.9 percent) from 2012, totaling \$263 billion in 2013.

Given the importance of the Internet to consumers and to economic growth, it is Congress's responsibility to determine a federal approach to e-fairness, and I am disappointed that we are simply looking at this bill in isolation without regard to the other issues related to Internet and taxation.

While I support an extension of the current moratorium on Internet access taxes, I believe we cannot move this legislation forward while also continuing to allow the Internet to serve as a sales tax loophole. The issue of e-fairness is a related issue that we must commit to tackling, and I know there is bipartisan support for doing so.

This is a critical jobs issue that I continue to hear about from small businesses in my district.

It is the role of Congress to ensure that our nation's tax policies and regulation don't unfairly burden one business model over the other. Yet, brick and mortar businesses can't fairly compete right now because states do not have the ability to efficiently collect the taxes owed from online purchases. Only Congress can fix this and I believe we must continue to move forward on legislation like the Marketplace Fairness Act.

I hope that House Leadership does not consider our work on Internet tax policy complete after voting today on the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act and I look forward to continuing to work with members on both sides of the aisle to work to find a solution to move forward on both ITFA and e-fairness legislation like the Marketplace Fairness Act before the end of this year.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA). I want to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for bringing this legislation to the floor today.

H.R. 3086 which permanently extends the moratorium on Internet access taxes and prohibits discriminatory taxation of internet commerce has 228 bi-partisan cosponsors. Originally passed in 1998 and extended three times since with broad bi-partisan support. H.R. 3086 encourages the flow of commerce and information over the internet and improves our nation's ability to compete in the global economy.

The original intent of this law was to protect and nurture what once was a fledgling industry. Today, access to the internet has become the engine of our 21st century global economy. The internet is one the primary drivers of U.S. economic growth innovation and productivity and it is indispensable for finding jobs and accessing education and health care resources. Permanently extending the ITFA protects citizens from a fee to access this indispensable tool while continuing to encourage the growth of a key driver for American global competitiveness.

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3086, the Permanent Internet

Tax Freedom Act. This legislation makes permanent the ban on state and local taxation of Internet access. This is vital to ensuring continued economic growth powered by the Internet and digital economy.

I am encouraged by the bipartisan support for this legislation and am hopeful that it will be enacted into law before the November 1 expiration date.

As a former state legislator and Minnesota House Majority Leader, I am a strong believer in states' rights. In addition to the legislation before the House today, I would also like to highlight the efforts of my colleagues JASON CHAFFETZ, STEVE WOMACK, SUZAN DELBENE, JACKIE SPEIER, and other members of the Judiciary Committee.

They are working diligently on similar states' rights legislation to address federal law for sales made over the Internet. This is important, because purchasing items on the Internet should not offer tax breaks that are not extended to brick and mortar retailers. States should be encouraged to compete with one another by keeping tax rates low, not by promoting one form of commerce over another.

The Internet Tax Freedom Act has helped e-commerce grow to over \$220 billion this year. And with 20 percent annual growth projected through 2017, it's time to update outdated federal interstate commerce laws to ensure all retailers are treated the same.

The tax code should not pick winners and losers. As commerce is conducted on the Internet, we should ensure there is an even playing field for all businesses.

In fact, I've heard from many retailers in my home state of Minnesota about the importance of this legislation to their ability to compete on a level playing field.

Madam Speaker, I'm hopeful this body will also consider this legislation before the end of the year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3086.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5021, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 669 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 669

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5021) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes. All

points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, modified by the amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill. House Resolution 669 provides a closed rule, as is customary for bills that are reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, for H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014.

On July 10, the Ways and Means Committee marked up H.R. 5021. The committee ordered the bill favorably reported by voice vote.

The bill is simple. It extends our transportation programs and our reforms enacted by MAP-21, and it pays for the extension without raising taxes on hardworking American taxpayers.

This extension is crucial. Prior to the expiration of MAP-21 later this fall, the highway trust fund is expected to encounter a funding shortfall. The Secretary of Transportation has warned that, as early as August, payments from the trust fund to the States will begin to be delayed.

Let's be clear: this bill is just an interim remedy for our current situation. It is not a solution to our transportation funding problem.

As a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I can testify to the work that Chairman SHUSTER and the committee are doing

to provide a multiyear authorization bill. It is a deliberative, thoughtful process. The underlying bill advances that process.

The underlying bill proposes policies that have previously received bipartisan support. Further, these policies have previously also been embraced by the Senate.

The bill extends the surface transportation programs and funding through May 2015. It provides stability and certainty for States. It continues our investments in infrastructure. It staves off job losses at the height of the construction season. And it allows the process to move forward toward a long-term solution.

Some have suggested or proposed a short-term patch for just a few months. There are some who would like to see this just provide enough time to get through the election. A short-term extension would guarantee a crisis. Even worse, that manufactured crisis is easily avoidable.

Central Floridians are still trying to dig their way out of years of economic downturn. We are focusing on improving our families' financial situation, and certainly we don't need a downturn in construction—and especially infrastructure construction in the State of Florida and in my particular area, central Florida.

A short-term extension is, at best, feeble and, at worst, irresponsible. Washington should not do less when it can do better. Washington should not add to the list of crises of its own doing by passing a short-term patch when a longer-term answer is within reach.

The task at hand remains avoiding the expiration of the existing transportation authorization. The existing authorization is actually a good bill.

MAP-21 included significant reforms to cut out Federal red tape and bureaucracy. It streamlined the project delivery process. It reformed and consolidated programs. It improved safety. It ended the process of earmarks in transportation bills.

MAP-21 set deadlines for slow-moving projects. It set a new NEPA funding threshold and expedited projects that were destroyed by disaster.

MAP-21 consolidated more than 100 programs by nearly two-thirds. It eliminated dozens of ineffective programs and provided more resources and flexibility to States. It also incentivized States to seek partners in the private sector to finance and operate infrastructure projects.

Further, MAP-21 passed the House by a strong bipartisan vote of 373-52, including the support of the gentleman from Colorado. It passed the Senate by an equally strong bipartisan vote of 74-19. The White House issued a statement that said they were pleased with the bill.

While we continue with a process that will lead to a multiyear authoriza-

tion bill, there is no reason why we should not support an extension of MAP-21. Extending MAP-21 through next summer is simply an extension of another year of good transportation policy.

Once again, I rise in support of this rule and the potential this extension holds for producing a thoughtful process that results in a quality long-term authorization bill.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today, we are considering the rule for H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. While this bill provides an extension of Federal highway programs, frankly, our Nation deserves a long-term solution to support our transportation infrastructure needs that will allow for a more effective and efficient use of resources through public-private partnerships and long-term contracts. In effect, by engaging in short-term legislating, we are actually raising the cost of infrastructure projects across the country, making it less efficient rather than more than efficient.

Unfortunately, this bill is a closed rule, which I do not support. It limits debate. It doesn't allow Democrats or Republicans to come up with ideas for amendments to improve the bill. That should be what this legislative body is all about.

I have friends on both sides of the aisle who have ideas to make this more efficient, to save taxpayers money, and to get more infrastructure bang for their buck, ideas like a national infrastructure bank, a bipartisan bill by my colleague, Mr. DELANEY, that would allow for lower-cost financing with locally driven infrastructure projects, at no taxpayer cost.

None of us are even allowed to discuss for not 10 minutes, not 1 minute, not a single moment, any amendments under this closed rule, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "no" on this closed rule.

In 2012, Congress passed the Moving Ahead for Progress program that my colleague, Mr. WEBSTER, mentioned, which reauthorized Federal surface transportation programs and maintained the solvency of the highway trust fund through the end of September 2014.

That seemed like a little ways off at the time, but here we are in July of 2014, fast approaching insolvency of the trust fund in September of 2014. How inconvenient to members of the Republican Party that this might occur before an election. Suddenly, there is an

impetus to do something about it, to actually address the issue or at least to kick the can down the road a few months until, conveniently, after the election when we actually have a national discussion about how to meet our infrastructure needs and to pay for them.

This bill is simply a very short-term highway trust fund patch. It only extends the highway programs through May 31, 2015, and transfers \$10.8 billion to the highway trust fund.

As Transportation Secretary Foxx said, without a patch, tens of thousands of critical projects and 700,000 jobs will be jeopardized. In fact, States are already preparing to delay or halt ongoing projects if the funding runs out in September. My home State of Colorado alone has nearly 50 active construction projects that could be at risk if we don't pass some kind of patch.

But this approach is just another kick the can down the road approach, to have a national discussion about infrastructure, to encourage efficiency of our Federal dollars rather than forcing contractors to bid out higher amounts because of uncertainty about whether their contracts will be long-term or short-term.

There are several easy ways that we could pay for a long-term transportation fix. The simplest would be immigration reform. H.R. 15 would generate over \$200 billion in the first 10 years and close to a trillion over 20 years that could be used to invest in infrastructure across our country.

Others have talked about using some kind of user fee. Traditionally, the gas tax has been used as a proxy for people who use our highways.

I am very disappointed that not only are we not considering any long-term solutions to reauthorizing MAP-21, but we are not even allowed to improve this current bill before us, not just to make it longer term, but to offer simple, efficient ideas to make it work better and get more bang for our buck.

Our Nation relies on Congress to pass measures that ensure that our roadways, bridges, and transit systems are the best in the world. This bill falls short on that account. The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our country's infrastructure a D-plus grade on its 2013 report. In this increasingly competitive global economy, a D-plus is not enough to get us by as a nation to create jobs and grow our economy.

My home State of Colorado has increasing transportation needs, as do many other States. In the wake of floods last September, rockslides, landslides, and mudslides caused damage to roadways and bridges in Colorado. Five hundred miles of roadway were affected at the peak of the flood and 120 bridges were damaged, resulting in over \$500

million of additional repairs to our already beleaguered transportation infrastructure. While the Colorado Department of Transportation did an excellent job completing short-term fixes to get traffic moving, there remain many long-term projects along our canyons and roadways where we need permanent repairs to our roads. There simply isn't enough of an investment in this highway infrastructure bill to address our infrastructure needs.

Again, we don't necessarily need to spend more money. We can simply pass the Partnership to Build America Act—if it were allowed to be introduced as an amendment under this bill, I would be happy to—a bipartisan bill by Representative DELANEY with 70 sponsors from both sides of the aisle that would essentially help finance locally driven projects to the tune of \$750 billion at a low interest rate by allowing U.S. multinational companies who have tax-deferred profits overseas to bring back their earnings to the United States, where they can invest them in growing employment and infrastructure here. It is a win-win scenario. Yet under this closed amendment process, we are not even allowed to bring up this bill.

This measure falls short on a number of accounts. Its short-term nature makes the growing importance of public-private partnerships more difficult. And yet if we could simply amend this bill and improve it or make it longer term, we could finally have a discussion about our national infrastructure.

The House majority continues to have a closed process where bills are constructed and not allowed to be improved upon by Republicans or Democrats here in the House. I know that we can do better, and I encourage my colleagues to oppose this rule, bring down this rule so we can have an open process regarding transportation funding.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I think it is important to note that the authorization is not ending next month. It is just the funds are running out. We have got to extend the funds. The authorization continues on through the end of the year.

That authorization was a good bill, as I explained in my opening remarks. MAP-21 was an excellent piece of legislation that consolidated a lot of programs, allowed States more flexibility, and gave them a pathway to create many of the infrastructure projects we need. This is just the money. And then we go a little bit further so we are not creating a crisis right before we adjourn.

So I think, in the end, this is a very good piece of legislation. It puts forth what is needed. We need money to finish the authorization we already have. That is what this does.

The administration policy from the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget says this: "With surface transportation funding running out"—he is only talking about the funding. He knows that the policy still is in place—"and hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk later this summer, the administration supports House passage of H.R. 5021 . . . This legislation would provide for continuity of funding for the highway trust fund during the height of the summer construction season and keep Americans at work repairing the Nation's crumbling roads, bridges, and transit systems."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, the hallmark of a great country is a great infrastructure.

In its infancy, this country built interstate canals that helped commerce and life become strong and our economy vigorous. In the height of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln met with Justin Morrill, then a Senator from the State of Vermont, and conceived the ambition of an intercontinental railroad. In the 1950s, President Dwight D. Eisenhower said that we needed an interstate highway system.

This temporary bill, where our only responsibility is to make sure we can preserve what we have by having the funds necessary to repair roads and bridges is an abdication of our responsibility. Congress can do better, and America needs better. Our bridges and our roads are falling apart. I recently visited two projects in Vermont that are in desperate need of repair, but this bill provides temporary funding for 8 months. Not only that, instead of basing it on user fees, which have always been the way we funded infrastructure projects that we all benefit by, it raids pension funds. It essentially creates a pothole in future pensions to fill potholes in our highways.

Some folks are saying that we need time in order to put together a long-term bill. Madam Speaker, we have had time. What we need is a decision. There are options out there. As the gentleman from Colorado said, we are not lacking options; what we are lacking is will. This has traditionally been an area of common agreement between Republicans and Democrats where, yes, it is always difficult to figure out what that revenue source is, but that difficulty is not an excuse for Congress to fail to do its job and give this highway trust fund a sustainable and long-term revenue source so that folks in Montpelier and folks in Austin, Texas, can put together those plans to repair our roads and bridges, put America back to work, and get this economy going.

I urge us to defeat this rule and to defeat this bill and for Congress finally to do its job.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the future of our transportation system in this country.

Back at home in Sussex, Bergen, and Warren Counties in the Fifth District of New Jersey, they are only asking the same thing that people across America are, and that is to have a safe and efficient transportation system of roads and bridges.

The highway trust fund is bankrupt. Our past highway bills have been filled with excessive Federal regulation and pork-laden projects, meaning that the maintenance of our roads and bridges has not been getting done. So we are here today because we don't have the money now to fix them.

Going forward, we have two clear choices. Either we can continue down the same path, the current path, passing a bill to bail out the trust fund to the tune of some \$50 billion, or we can find a better way.

Personally, I get tired every year going and speaking to the Secretary of Transportation—it doesn't matter which party—and asking him: Can you tell me what exactly the needs are on Route 17 in Bergen County or Route 519 in Sussex or Warren County? I ask that question, and again and again they will say: Where's Route 17? Where's Route 517? Where's Route 519?

We are here saying we cannot continue to allow Washington, who doesn't know our needs and doesn't know our roads, to tell us how to run things. The solution to our current quagmire is to return the power back to the people who know better, back to the States. States, counties, and local officials are the ones that use these roads. They are in the best position to decide how to use these transportation dollars.

There is not one single Federal official here in Washington, elected or otherwise, who knows the needs of my community or your community with specific detail as well as the people who actually live there, who actually drive on those roads, and who actually have to maintain those roads.

So it is about time, after all these years, that we re-empower the States, re-empower the counties, re-empower the local officials, the people who live and use these roads, to make the transportation decisions, instead of people here in Washington who have no clue what the needs are, who have no idea what the problems are, who have no idea as to actually provide, what I said at the very beginning, what the people in my counties of the Fifth District want as a safe and efficient transportation system.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank Mr. POLIS for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule for H.R. 5021. This closed rule prevents an opportunity for us to address the larger issues related to passing a long-term surface transportation reauthorization, and that is what Mr. POLIS and Mr. WELCH are talking about. I agree.

The constituents that I represent in North Carolina feel that it is critical to extend the highway trust fund. This bill is only one piece of what must be done to strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and economy.

The need to pass surface transportation reauthorization funding is extremely critical. MAP-21 expires at the beginning of October. At the same time, each day brings us closer to a highway trust fund shortfall and risks putting major transportation projects on hold and stalling our economy.

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The North Carolina DOT has indicated that the highway trust fund insolvency would jeopardize 108 projects and 20,000 jobs across my State.

Eastern North Carolina remains one of the poorest districts in the country despite the economic resurgence many other areas of the country have seen. Strengthening infrastructure helps encourage economic development, increase commerce and improve tourism. We cannot afford to halt construction, growth, and progress. We must find a way to provide consistent and robust transportation funding. We need a fix to the reauthorization act.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this closed rule so that we can have a larger conversation about the long-term surface transportation reauthorization.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a leader on transportation issues.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Mr. POLIS.

I listened carefully to what you said, and you are right—this closed rule is a disservice. My respected friend from Florida, I think, is just wrong.

Madam Speaker, this is not a solution, and it is not a deliberate, thoughtful process. We have not had a single hearing on transportation finance in the Ways and Means Committee all year. We didn't have one the year before that. We haven't had a hearing in the 43 months that Republicans have been in charge. This is a perfectly predictable problem that was created by the halfhearted bill that they passed last Congress. We knew this was coming for months. Now we are here.

With all due respect, I, too, am disappointed that we have a rule that does

not make in order broad discussion and amendment. We have been unable in this Congress to deal meaningfully with the looming transportation crisis. The gentleman is on the Transportation Committee. He doesn't have a bill. We are almost through this Congress, and we don't have a bill. America is falling apart. America is falling behind. We have failed to give America's communities the resources and a robust 6-year reauthorization plan.

We have done it before under the chairmanship of Bud Shuster and Ranking Member Jim Oberstar, and I was happy to have played a small role. That bill made a difference.

If we fail to come to grips with the funding level and, instead, in approving this rule and the underlying bill, this Congress is giving itself a ticket out of town to adjourn and pass it on to not just the next Congress but to the Congress after that. Make no mistake. In May 2015, you are not going to be in any different a place. It is going to be May 2017.

Congress has legitimate policy differences. I appreciate my friend from New Jersey. Some people think that the Federal Government should get out of the partnership that we have had and reduce or eliminate the Federal gas tax. They are willing to give up on the successful partnership and let each State decide what to do, when it wants to do it, or what it is able or not able to do. They would abandon all sense of a national vision and the ability to shape transportation policies. That is rejected by the mayors, rejected by county commissioners, rejected by State transportation officials. They want that partnership.

Frankly, there are some people who feel the gas tax ought to be adjusted to deal with inflation and increased fuel economy as well as the demands of a growing Nation with an aging infrastructure. Some people are comfortable with the Republican budget, which will have no new projects for 15 months and will doom us to a 30 percent reduction over the next 10 years. Those are legitimate policy differences, but we are not dealing with them here on the floor. We are shrugging our shoulders, passing them on to the next Congress and, frankly, to the Congress after that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I agree with the people who build and maintain and use our transportation infrastructure. We should address this infrastructure question head on. American infrastructure used to be the best in the world and a point of pride, bringing Americans together. It is now a source of embarrassment and deep concern as we fall further and further behind global leaders.

We ought to reject this rule. We ought to allow full debate and, by all

means, resolve the funding question now so we can go forward. America deserves no less.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to make sure we remind everybody that there were 373 Members who voted for that halfhearted bill, including the gentleman who spoke against that bill but who voted for it just 2 years ago. Why? Because it was good policy. It set forth some policy moving forward in that MAP-21 allowed for more flexibility for the local communities to determine what they needed. It took 100 projects and silos and so forth and reduced them down by a major amount. It gave that flexibility to the States.

As for my State, we have the largest transportation program this year that we have ever had—\$10 billion—which is \$2 billion more than it was the year before. Why? Because this program and this project and this bill and the reauthorization worked, and all we are doing is extending that good policy. The policy already extends all the way through the end of the year. We are funding it. That is the real need, to finish funding it, and then we extend it another 5 months.

To me, it is a great piece of legislation that can be improved. It gives us the time as we come along and begin working on the reauthorization bill that we are getting ready to propose at some point in time in the future. The staff is already working, and the Members are giving ideas. I have met with the staff, and have given them some ideas that I thought would work, and that is happening right now.

This does not preclude us from continuing on. We don't have to have, really, even within the current timeframe, a new reauthorization bill until the end of the year. However, we do need funding. That is what this bill does. It provides the funding necessary to complete what, I think, was a very good piece of public policy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire if the gentleman yielded back?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman reserved.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, our country's roads and highways are a vital asset to our economic competitiveness. Strengthening our transportation infrastructure will, of course, make our roads and transit systems safer, but it also will support commerce, create jobs, and strengthen our Nation's economy.

In my home State of Rhode Island, 20 percent of our bridges are in poor condition. Without any changes, 40 percent of the State's bridges will be structurally deficient by 2024, and, according to a report released yesterday by

the White House, if Congress fails to act, over 3,500 jobs in Rhode Island will be jeopardized. This should not be allowed to happen, and Congress has a responsibility to provide the funding for these important transportation projects.

The highway trust fund is a critical resource that supports the building and repairing of our roads, highways and bridges, and hundreds of thousands of jobs all across our country. Although I support acting quickly to replenish the highway trust fund, I am very disappointed that this bill is being brought up under a closed rule, ensuring that we cannot consider alternative and more robust funding mechanisms.

Although the Highway and Transportation Funding Act presents a solution that will extend surface transportation authorization until next May and ensure the highway trust fund does not become insolvent next month, a short-term solution is not enough. We have to find a long-term solution to this issue that secures real investments in rebuilding America. Due to the nature of construction projects, of course, States, localities, and contractors need long-term financing to allow for the proper planning of infrastructure projects. The uncertainty has already put important transportation projects at risk, so this governing by crisis must end.

Earlier this month, I welcomed Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to Rhode Island, and we discussed the urgent need to replenish the highway trust fund to help maintain Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure system and the absolute necessity of a long-term and sustainable funding model. We met with local, State, and Federal leaders and stakeholders to hear their concerns and to discuss a path forward.

This closed rule does not allow us to offer any solution to this problem. I urge my colleagues to reject this closed rule so that we can address this serious issue in a real way.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, if—or should I say when—we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will bring up legislation that will prevent employers from denying common birth control coverage to women, and it will fix the damage that has been done by the recent Hobby Lobby Supreme Court decision. Now more than ever, it is critical to protect everyone's right to health services, including that of basic contraception.

To discuss our proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Madam Speaker, in January of this year, I joined over 90 of my House col-

leagues in filing an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in advance of the arguments in *Hobby Lobby v. Sebelius*.

The free exercise of religion is one of our country's foundational principles and greatest strengths, but so too is the fundamental commitment to equality and fairness—the core idea that the rights and privileges of one American never snuff out the rights and privileges of one's neighbor's.

We are disappointed in the Court's ruling that closely held corporations can now place themselves between patients and doctors. We are disappointed that it is yet another blow to women's health. We are disappointed in yet another threat to the economic security of women and families, and we are disappointed that, for the first time, our Supreme Court gave a religious exemption to a generally applicable law to a for-profit corporation.

For-profit corporations do not exist to advance the interests of individuals with a shared religious faith, and in fact, they are prohibited by law from hiring, firing, or structuring their memberships on the basis of religion.

I am proud to stand with Representatives SLAUGHTER, DEGETTE, and NADLER in offering legislation to keep private medical decisions between patients and their doctors, and I look forward to the day that our laws acknowledge that corporations are not people and that the constitutional rights of an individual are what this country is formed to enshrine and protect.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I just want to remind the audience or anyone listening that we are talking about a rule that is dealing with transportation funding and about extending it so that we can continue the jobs necessary and finish the projects that have been started in States and so that we can start new ones. That is what we are talking about here and not necessarily about the issue that was just presented.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, with due respect to my colleague from Florida, the gentleman is incorrect.

We have stated it and will offer the language on the previous question. So, as long as we can have the votes to defeat the previous question, we will be able to bring to the floor under the procedures of this body a bill that will ensure that women have access to contraception as part of basic health care. That is under the rules of this House—by defeating the previous question now being discussed and that I will offer—and we will be able to move forward on ensuring that women have access to comprehensive birth control.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. POLIS.

Madam Speaker, I rise, like my colleague Mr. KENNEDY, to urge a “no”

vote on the previous question so that we can discuss a matter that is very urgent to the women of this country.

The most blessed moment of my life was the birth of my son, Ben. His life has brought me great joy as well as great responsibilities. The decision to bring Ben into the world was a private decision, made by his father and me. We didn't call our Congressman, and we didn't call my employer.

Now it appears, with the Hobby Lobby case, that the Supreme Court of the United States seems to think that life begins at incorporation. I vehemently disagree. Employers belong in the workplace and not in the doctor's office or in our bedrooms. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Not My Boss' Business Act, which will ban a corporation from using its owner's religious belief to deny health care coverage for contraception. No one should lose access to birth control because her company doesn't approve of it. A woman's family planning decision is not her boss' decision, and it is none of her boss' business.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a leader on the issue.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman from Colorado and, as well, the manager of this rule.

I too rise to be able to push for voting “no” on the previous question, dealing with making sure that we fix the taking away of women's rights as it relates to choice and pass the it is not my boss's business legislation that gets us back right-side up, taking care of women and their rights, in particular, as it relates to their own body and their family choices as well, to make sure that they have the right to take care of their own family.

Let me also say that I would wish and had hoped that the present underlying bill, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act, was truly a bill that committed to the American people that we believe in the investment of infrastructure in creating jobs.

This is not what this bill is. This is a temporary fix, saying to the American cities and transit centers, our transit facilities, and buses and highways and freeways, that you are only a side thought here in the United States Congress. We will give you a small amount of money, transferring \$9.8 billion from the general fund and \$1 billion from the leaking underground storage tank trust fund, just to give you a temporary fix. We are going to put a finger in the dam.

We are not going to have a concerted, concentrated, responsible assessment of America's transportation needs so

that we can fund it. We are not going to ask Houston metro what monies they need. We are not going to ask Texas what monies they need. We are not going to ask New York or California.

I would simply say we have got to get away from the I don't believe in government crowd and work with the people who understand that government has a role. The Federal Government has a role. It is a rescue facility. It is an SOS. It helps people in need, when the States are in need, and it helps to build infrastructure.

The highway system that President Eisenhower, a Republican, created—which we have been recognized for—here, we are nickel-and-diming, so I hope that we will get down to the table, work with those of us who are concerned.

Finally, vote “no” on the previous question because it is not your boss's business. If you want to have family planning, it is certainly not your boss's business.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security, I rise in to speak on the rule and in support of the underlying bill, H.R. 5021, the “Highway and Transportation Funding Act,” which reauthorizes federal-aid highway and transit programs for eight months—through May 31, 2015—by transferring \$10.8 billion from in other federal funds to the Highway Trust Fund to cover projected trust fund shortfalls over that time.

Instead of this temporary extension, I would have strongly preferred that we were debating a comprehensive, fair, equitable, and long-term transportation reauthorization bill the nation desperately needs. We have had two years to do so.

Democrats want such a bill as does the President. But apparently our friends across the aisle do not since they have spent the last two years wasting time on advocating policies wanted by no one except for the right-wing extremists of the Tea Party.

But I support this emergency but temporary measure because as the Department of Transportation has reported, if we do not act now highway trust fund balances by the beginning of August will reach dangerously low levels and result in a reduction of payments to states by an average of 28 percent.

Many states have already begun to cancel or delay planned construction projects, threatening 700,000 thousands of jobs, including 106,100 jobs in my home state of Texas.

The funds to be transferred are \$9.8 billion from the General Fund and \$1 billion from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust Fund. The cost of the transfer from the general fund of the Treasury is offset through an extension of customs fees and “pension smoothing,” which is a euphemism for allowing some large corporations to underfund their pension systems.

Madam Speaker, the Highway Trust Fund was created in 1956 during the Eisenhower Administration to help finance construction of the Interstate Highway System, which modernized the nation's transportation infrastructure and was instrumental in making the United

States the world's dominant economic power for two generations. Our national leaders then understood that investing in our roads and bridges strengthened our economy, created millions of good-paying jobs, and improved the quality of life for all Americans.

It is currently composed of two accounts that fund federal-aid highway and transit projects built by states. Federal funding from the trust fund accounts for a major portion of state transportation spending.

The Highway Trust Fund is financed by gasoline and diesel taxes, which until the last decade produced a steady increase in revenues sufficient to accommodate increased levels of spending on highway and transit projects.

However, those tax rates—18.4 cents/gallon federal tax on gasoline and a 24.4 cents/gallon tax on diesel fuel—have remained unchanged since 1993 and were not indexed to inflation so the value of those revenues has eroded over the years, and, combined with the fact that vehicles have been getting increasingly better mileage, the revenues deposited into the Highway Trust Fund beginning last decade have not kept pace with highway and transit spending from the trust fund.

Consequently, since 2008, Congress has periodically had to transfer at the 11th hour general Treasury revenues into the trust fund to pay for authorized highway and transit spending levels and avoid a funding shortfall. The total amount to date is \$54 billion.

Obviously, this is practice is economically inefficient and injects uncertainty in the highway construction plans, projects, and schedules of state and local transportation agencies, not to mention the anxiety it causes to workers and businesses who economic livelihood is dependent on those projects.

Madam Speaker, the last transportation authorized by Congress for 4 years or more, SAFETEA-LU, expired on September 30, 2009, at the end of FY 2009. Because Congress and the Administration could not agree to a new reauthorization, it was necessary to resort to stop-gap temporary extensions on no less than eight occasions spanning a period of 910 days before Congress finally enacted the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act” (MAP-21 Act) on July 6, 2012, which reauthorized highway and transportation programs through Fiscal Year 2014, a little more than two years, or until September 30, 2014.

MAP-21 was intended as a short-term measure to give Congress and the Administration breathing room to reach agreement on a long-term reauthorization bill.

Yet, as Mr. LEVIN, the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, has pointed out, since gaining the majority in 2010, his Republican colleagues have failed to take any action to sustain the Highway Trust Fund over the long-term and shore up vital infrastructure projects and has not held even a single hearing on financing options for the Highway Trust Fund.

Instead, House Republicans have wasted the nation's time voting to repeal the Affordable Care Act more than 50 times, waging a War on Women, voting to hold the Attorney General in contempt, pursuing partisan investigations into Benghazi, the IRS, and the Fast and Furious scandal originating in the Bush Administration.

Instead of doing their job, their big new idea is to sue the President for doing his job.

Madam Speaker, enough is enough. It is long past time for this Congress, and especially the House majority, to focus on the real problems and challenges facing the American people.

And one of the biggest of those challenges is ensuring that American has a transportation policy and the infrastructure needed to compete and win in the global economy of the 21st Century.

To that we have to do extend the reauthorization of current transportation programs and to authorize the transfer of the funds to the Highway Trust Fund needed to fund authorized construction projects and keep 700,000 workers, including 106,100 in Texas on the job.

But that is only a start and just a part of our job. The real work that needs to be done in the remaining days of this Congress is to reach an agreement on a long-term highway and transportation bill that is fair, equitable, fiscally responsible, creates jobs and leads to sustained economic growth.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision took direct aim at women's rights by giving employers a legal right to make personal health decisions for their employees.

This devastating ruling opened the door to a wide range of discrimination and denial of basic health care services for women. Now, all closely held corporations, which represent 90 percent of American businesses, can legally impose their own religious beliefs on female employees.

That is why I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the Not My Boss' Business Act, which would undo this damage and prevent for-profit companies from using the religious beliefs of the owner as an excuse to discriminate against women and limit their individual health care rights and choices.

Ninety-nine percent of American women will make the decision to use contraceptives at some point in their lives. What rights do corporations have to deny them this choice?

The Hobby Lobby decision is a significant step backwards for women's health and equality, so I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question, so that we can bring up and consider this important legislation and move bosses out of the bedroom and back into the boardroom.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman from Florida has any remaining speakers.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. No, Madam Speaker, we don't.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this Congress seems committed to kicking the can down the road, avoiding discussions of real solutions, failing to solicit ideas from Members of both sides of the aisle to move our country forward, and just stumbling along.

I think we can do better as a Nation, and we need to do better with regard to our Nation's infrastructure.

Yes, this bill funds the highway trust fund until next May. That is important; but what happens after May 2015? Is that the magic month where we finally agree that we need to take long-term action to address our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges?

This Congress continues to manage self-imposed crisis to self-imposed crisis. That is no way to run a company. It is certainly no way to run a country.

As long as we kick the can down the road, we are reducing the certainty that developers and contractors need to plan for the future and increasing costs for taxpayers for supporting our existing infrastructure.

We are undercutting opportunities for public-private partnerships because of the lack of stability or even knowing when or if or in what form the highway trust fund will be funded in the future.

If we don't act to provide stability to the highway trust fund, we are not only putting our economy at risk, but the safety and well-being of all those who send us here as their representatives. It is not only a competitiveness issue. It is a safety issue for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. When we defeat the previous question, we can send our colleagues back to work with regard to infrastructure and a long-term solution and address an issue that my constituents have been writing me about and that American women and men across the country have been crying out for.

Contraception was a tremendous leap forward for women and for the American people. It empowers women to make the reproductive choices that make sense for them and their families. It reduces the number of abortions. It helps ensure that children are planned and well-raised, yet the recent Supreme Court decision throws into jeopardy the availability of contraception as a basic part of comprehensive health care.

By defeating the previous question, we can bring to the floor a simple bill that I strongly support that would remedy that and ensure that women have access to contraceptive choices as part of their basic health care and prevent us returning to the pre-contraception era.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This rule provides for ample and open debate. It advances a bill that originally passed the House 373-52, one of the most bipartisan votes we have had since I have been here.

The underlying bill extends good public policy. That policy was supported, like I said, by 373 Members of the House, 74 in the Senate, and signed by the President.

While we must look forward to the passage of another multiyear transportation authorization, there is no reason we should not pass the extension. Certainty means "the state of being free from doubt or reservation; confident; sure."

Extending our transportation programs until next summer provides our States with certainty. It also ensures that our highway trust fund does not become insolvent at the end of this month.

This extension will keep our transportation construction workers on the job. It will keep our transit systems functioning at full capacity. It will continue our investments in our economy. It will do all these things, without raising taxes on the American people.

Most importantly, it advances the process of a multiyear transportation bill. I look forward to working with Chairman SHUSTER and other members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as we focus on producing a long-term bill that strengthens our transportation programs.

The passage of this extension gives us the opportunity to work together and produce a solution that continues to deliver an unmatched transportation system for the American people. It is our responsibility to make sure that that happens.

This bill is the last chance to fulfill our responsibility to the American people and to provide our States with certainty before the highway trust fund reaches insolvency.

I urge all Members of this House to vote for the rule, vote for the bill, keep our transportation systems operating, and let us work together for a long-term solution.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 669 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5051) to ensure that employers cannot interfere in their employees' birth control and other health care decisions. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 5051.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative

Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 192, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 407]

YEAS—228

Aderholt	Buchanan	Crawford
Amash	Bucshon	Crenshaw
Amodei	Burgess	Culberson
Bachmann	Calvert	Daines
Bachus	Camp	Davis, Rodney
Barletta	Capito	Denham
Barr	Carter	Dent
Barton	Cassidy	DeSantis
Benishek	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Bentivolio	Chaffetz	Duffy
Billirakis	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (UT)	Coble	Duncan (TN)
Black	Coffman	Ellmers
Blackburn	Cole	Farenthold
Boustany	Collins (GA)	Fincher
Brady (TX)	Collins (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Bridenstine	Conaway	Fleischmann
Brooks (AL)	Cook	Fleming
Brooks (IN)	Cotton	Flores
Broun (GA)	Cramer	Forbes

Fortenberry	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Fox	LoBiondo	Rokita
Franks (AZ)	Long	Royce
Frelinghuysen	Lucas	Runyan
Gardner	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (WI)
Garrett	Lummis	Salmon
Gerlach	Marchant	Sanford
Gibbs	Marino	Scalise
Gibson	Massie	Schock
Gingrey (GA)	McAllister	Schweikert
Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)	Scott, Austin
Goodlatte	McCaul	Sensenbrenner
Gosar	McClintock	Sessions
Gowdy	McHenry	Shimkus
Granger	McIntyre	Shuster
Graves (GA)	McKeon	Simpson
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Griffin (AR)	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Griffith (VA)	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)
Grimm	Meadows	Smith (TX)
Guthrie	Meehan	Southerland
Hall	Messer	Stewart
Hanna	Mica	Stivers
Harper	Miller (FL)	Stockman
Harris	Miller (MI)	Stutzman
Hartzler	Mullin	Terry
Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney	Thompson (PA)
Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)	Thornberry
Hensarling	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Herrera Beutler	Noem	Tipton
Holding	Nugent	Turner
Hudson	Nunes	Upton
Huelskamp	Olson	Valadao
Huizenga (MI)	Palazzo	Wagner
Hultgren	Paulsen	Walberg
Hunter	Pearce	Walden
Hurt	Perry	Walorski
Issa	Peterson	Weber (TX)
Jenkins	Petri	Webster (FL)
Johnson (OH)	Pittenger	Wenstrup
Johnson, Sam	Pitts	Westmoreland
Jolly	Poe (TX)	Whitfield
Jones	Pompeo	Wilson (SC)
Jordan	Posey	Wittman
Joyce	Price (GA)	Wolf
Kelly (PA)	Rahall	Womack
King (IA)	Reed	Woodall
King (NY)	Reichert	Yoder
Kinzinger (IL)	Renacci	Yoho
Kline	Ribble	Young (AK)
Labrador	Rice (SC)	Young (IN)
LaMalfa	Rigell	
Lamborn	Roby	
Lance	Roe (TN)	
Lankford	Rogers (AL)	
Latham	Rogers (KY)	
Latta	Rogers (MI)	

NAYS—192

Barber	Crowley	Hastings (FL)
Barrow (GA)	Cuellar	Heck (WA)
Bass	Cummings	Higgins
Beatty	Davis (CA)	Himes
Becerra	Davis, Danny	Hinojosa
Bera (CA)	DeFazio	Holt
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Honda
Bishop (NY)	Delaney	Horsford
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Hoyer
Bonamici	DelBene	Huffman
Brady (PA)	Deutch	Israel
Braley (IA)	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Jeffries
Brownley (CA)	Doyle	Johnson (GA)
Bustos	Duckworth	Johnson, E. B.
Butterfield	Edwards	Kaptur
Capps	Ellison	Keating
Capuano	Engel	Kelly (IL)
Cárdenas	Enyart	Kennedy
Carson (IN)	Eshoo	Kildee
Cartwright	Esty	Kilmer
Castor (FL)	Farr	Kind
Castro (TX)	Fattah	Kirkpatrick
Chu	Foster	Kuster
Cicilline	Frankel (FL)	Langevin
Clark (MA)	Fudge	Larsen (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Gabbard	Larson (CT)
Clay	Gallo	Lee (CA)
Cleaver	Garamendi	Levin
Clyburn	Garcia	Loeb
Cohen	Grayson	Loeb
Connolly	Green, Al	Lofgren
Conyers	Green, Gene	Lowenthal
Cooper	Grijaiva	Lowe
Costa	Gutiérrez	Lujan Grisham
Courtney	Hahn	(NM)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Pastor (AZ)	Sewell (AL)
Lynch	Payne	Shea-Porter
Maffei	Pelosi	Sherman
Maloney,	Perlmutter	Sinema
Carolyn	Peters (CA)	Sires
Maloney, Sean	Peters (MI)	Slaughter
Matheson	Pingree (ME)	Smith (WA)
Matsui	Pocan	Speier
McCarthy (NY)	Polis	Swalwell (CA)
McCollum	Price (NC)	Takano
McDermott	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
McGovern	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McNerney	Richmond	Tierney
Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Titus
Meng	Ruiz	Tonko
Michaud	Ruppersberger	Tsongas
Miller, George	Rush	Van Hollen
Moore	Ryan (OH)	Vargas
Moran	Sánchez, Linda	Veasey
Murphy (FL)	T.	Vela
Nadler	Sanchez, Loretta	Velázquez
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Visclosky
Neal	Schakowsky	Walz
Negrete McLeod	Schiff	Wasserman
Nolan	Schneider	Schultz
O'Rourke	Schrader	Waters
Owens	Schwartz	Waxman
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Welch
Pascarella	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
	Serrano	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—12

Byrne	DesJarlais	Miller, Gary
Campbell	Hanabusa	Nunnelee
Cantor	Kingston	Roskam
Carney	Lewis	Williams

□ 1440

Ms. DEGETTE, Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania, O'ROURKE, PAYNE, NOLAN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. POMPEO, MULLIN, JOHN-SON of Ohio, and PETERSON changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 186, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 408]

AYES—231

Aderholt	Buchanan	Cotton
Amash	Bucshon	Cramer
Amodei	Burgess	Crawford
Bachmann	Calvert	Crenshaw
Bachus	Camp	Culberson
Barber	Capito	Daines
Barletta	Carter	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Cassidy	Denham
Barton	Chabot	Dent
Benishek	Chaffetz	DeSantis
Bentivolio	Clawson (FL)	Diaz-Balart
Billirakis	Coble	Duckworth
Bishop (UT)	Coffman	Duffy
Blackburn	Cole	Duncan (SC)
Boustany	Collins (GA)	Duncan (TN)
Brady (TX)	Collins (NY)	Ellmers
Bridenstine	Conaway	Farenthold
Brooks (AL)	Cook	Fincher
Brooks (IN)	Cooper	Fitzpatrick

Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski

LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell

Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano

Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Black
Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Carney
Chu
DesJarlais
Garrett
Gohmert
Hanabusa
Kingston
Lewis
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Williams

□ 1447

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 661 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5016.

Will the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) kindly take the chair.

□ 1449

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. BISHOP of Utah (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday, July 14, 2014, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) had been disposed of, and the

bill had been read through page 152, line 15.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

An amendment by Mr. ROSKAM of Illinois.

An amendment by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

An amendment by Ms. WATERS of California.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 258, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 409]

AYES—161

Amash	DeLauro	Kelly (IL)
Barber	DelBene	Kennedy
Barletta	Dingell	Kildee
Barrow (GA)	Doyle	Kind
Bass	Duckworth	Kuster
Beatty	Duncan (TN)	Langevin
Becerra	Edwards	Larsen (WA)
Bera (CA)	Engel	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Enyart	Lee (CA)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Levin
Bonamici	Esty	Lipinski
Brady (PA)	Farenthold	LoBiondo
Broun (GA)	Farr	Loeb sack
Brown (FL)	Fattah	Lofgren
Brownley (CA)	Foster	Lowenthal
Burgess	Frankel (FL)	Lowe y
Bustos	Fudge	Lujan Grisham
Butterfield	Gabbard	(NM)
Capps	Gallego	Luján, Ben Ray
Cárdenas	Garamendi	(NM)
Carson (IN)	Garcia	Maloney,
Cartwright	Gibson	Carolyn
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	Maloney, Sean
Cicilline	Griffith (VA)	Matsui
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	McCollum
Clay	Gutiérrez	McDermott
Cleaver	Hahn	McGovern
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	McNerney
Cohen	Higgins	Meadows
Conyers	Hinojosa	Meeks
Costa	Holt	Meng
Courtney	Honda	Miller, George
Crowley	Horsford	Murphy (FL)
Cuellar	Hoyer	Napolitano
Cummings	Jackson Lee	Negrete McLeod
Davis (CA)	Jeffries	Nolan
Davis, Danny	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
DeFazio	Jones	Owens
DeGette	Kaptur	Pallone
Delaney	Keating	Pascrell

NOES—186

Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Broun (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Costa
Courtney

Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez

Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal

Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Peters (CA)
Pingree (ME)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta

NOES—258

Aderholt
Amodel
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capuano
Carter
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clark (MA)
Clawson (FL)
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellison
Ellmers
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy

Sanford
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Stockman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry

Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg

Byrne
Campbell
Cantor
Carney
Chu

Walden
Walorski
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—13

DesJarlais
Hanabusa
Kingston
Lewis
Miller, Gary

Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

Nunnelee
Waxman
Williams

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Horsford
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)

Lummis
Maffei
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita

NOES—80

Beatty
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Clark (MA)
Clay
Connolly
Conyers
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny

DeLauro
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fudge
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hoyer
Huffman

Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tsongas
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1453

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM)
on which further proceedings were
postponed and on which the ayes pre-
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 338, noes 80,
not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 410]

AYES—338

Aderholt
Amash
Amodel
Bachmann
Bachus
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps

Cárdenas
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cueellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeBene

Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)

Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Larsen (WA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Long
Lynch
Matheson
McGovern
Michaud
Miller, George

Moore	Sánchez, Linda	Speier	Loeb sack	O'Rourke	Shea-Porter
Moran	T.	Tierney	Lofgren	Pascarell	Sherman
Nadler	Sánchez, Loretta	Tonko	Lowenthal	Pastor (AZ)	Sinema
Neal	Sarbanes	Van Hollen	Lowey	Payne	Sires
O'Rourke	Schakowsky	Veasey	Lujan Grisham	Pelosi	Slaughter
Pallone	Schneider	Velázquez	(NM)	Perlmutter	Smith (WA)
Pascarell	Schrader	Wasserman	Luján, Ben Ray	Peters (CA)	Speier
Perlmutter	Schwartz	Schultz	(NM)	Peters (MI)	Swalwell (CA)
Pingree (ME)	Scott (VA)	Waxman	Lynch	Pingree (ME)	Takano
Pocan	Scott, David	Welch	Maffei	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Price (NC)	Sherman	Yarmuth	Maloney,	Poe (TX)	Thompson (MS)
Richmond	Sires		Carolyn	Polis	Tierney
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)		Maloney, Sean	Price (NC)	Titus

NOT VOTING—14

Byrne	DesJarlais	Miller, Gary
Campbell	Garamendi	Nunnelee
Cantor	Hanabusa	Royce
Carney	Kingston	Williams
Chu	Lewis	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1457

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”
So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 170, noes 244, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 411]

AYES—170

Barber	Crowley	Gutiérrez
Bass	Cuellar	Hahn
Beatty	Cummings	Hastings (FL)
Bera (CA)	Davis (CA)	Heck (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis, Danny	Higgins
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Himes
Blumenauer	DeGette	Hinojosa
Bonamici	Delaney	Holt
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Honda
Braley (IA)	DelBene	Horsford
Brown (FL)	Deutch	Hoyer
Brownley (CA)	Dingell	Huffman
Bustos	Doggett	Israel
Butterfield	Doyle	Jackson Lee
Capps	Duckworth	Jeffries
Capuano	Edwards	Johnson (GA)
Cárdenas	Engel	Kaptur
Carson (IN)	Enyart	Keating
Cartwright	Esty	Kelly (IL)
Castor (FL)	Farr	Kennedy
Castro (TX)	Fattah	Kildee
Cicilline	Foster	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Frankel (FL)	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Fudge	Kirkpatrick
Cleaver	Gabbard	Kuster
Clyburn	Garamendi	Langevin
Cohen	Garcia	Larsen (WA)
Connolly	Grayson	Larson (CT)
Conyers	Green, Al	Lee (CA)
Costa	Green, Gene	Levin
Courtney	Grijalva	Lipinski

Aderholt	Fox
Amash	Franks (AZ)
Amodei	Frelinghuysen
Bachmann	Gallego
Bachus	Gardner
Barletta	Garrett
Barr	Gerlach
Barrow (GA)	Gibbs
Barton	Gibson
Becerra	Gingrey (GA)
Benish	Gohmert
Bentivolio	Goodlatte
Bilirakis	Gosar
Bishop (UT)	Gowdy
Black	Granger
Blackburn	Graves (GA)
Boustany	Graves (MO)
Bridenstine	Griffin (AR)
Brooks (AL)	Griffith (VA)
Brooks (IN)	Grimm
Broun (GA)	Guthrie
Buchanan	Hall
Bucshon	Hanna
Burgess	Harper
Calvert	Harris
Camp	Hartzler
Capito	Hastings (WA)
Carter	Heck (NV)
Cassidy	Hensarling
Chabot	Herrera Beutler
Chaffetz	Holding
Clawson (FL)	Hudson
Clay	Huelskamp
Coble	Huizenga (MI)
Coffman	Hultgren
Cole	Hunter
Collins (GA)	Hurt
Collins (NY)	Issa
Conaway	Jenkins
Cook	Johnson (OH)
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.
Cotton	Johnson, Sam
Cramer	Jolly
Crawford	Jones
Crenshaw	Jordan
Culberson	Joyce
Daines	Kelly (PA)
Davis, Rodney	King (IA)
Denham	King (NY)
Dent	Kinzinger (IL)
DeSantis	Kline
Diaz-Balart	Labrador
Duffy	LaMalfa
Duncan (SC)	Lamborn
Duncan (TN)	Lance
Ellison	Lankford
Elmiers	Latham
Eshoo	Latta
Farenthold	LoBiondo
Fincher	Long
Fitzpatrick	Lucas
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer
Fleming	Lummis
Flores	Marchant
Forbes	Marino
Fortenberry	Massie

NOES—244

Matheson
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford

Schock	Stewart	Walorski
Schrader	Stockman	Weber (TX)
Schweikert	Stutzman	Webster (FL)
Scott (VA)	Terry	Wenstrup
Scott, Austin	Thompson (PA)	Westmoreland
Sensenbrenner	Thornberry	Whitfield
Serrano	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Sessions	Tipton	Wittman
Shimkus	Tsongas	Wolf
Shuster	Turner	Womack
Simpson	Upton	Woodall
Smith (MO)	Valadao	Yoder
Smith (NE)	Visclosky	Yoho
Smith (NJ)	Wagner	Young (AK)
Smith (TX)	Walberg	Young (IN)
Southerland	Walden	

NOT VOTING—18

Brady (TX)	Hanabusa	Sánchez, Linda
Byrne	Kingston	T.
Campbell	Lewis	Scalise
Cantor	Miller, Gary	Stivers
Carney	Nunnelee	Williams
Chu	Owens	
DesJarlais	Pallone	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1500

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. WATERS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 235, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 412]

AYES—184

Bachus	Cohen	Gabbard
Barber	Connolly	Gallego
Bass	Conyers	Garamendi
Beatty	Cooper	Garcia
Becerra	Courtney	Grayson
Bera (CA)	Crowley	Green, Al
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Green, Gene
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Grijalva
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Gutiérrez
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Hahn
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Braley (IA)	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Brown (FL)	Delaney	Higgins
Brownley (CA)	DeLauro	Himes
Bustos	DelBene	Hinojosa
Butterfield	Deutch	Holt
Capps	Dingell	Honda
Capuano	Doggett	Horsford
Cárdenas	Doyle	Hoyer
Carson (IN)	Duckworth	Huffman
Cartwright	Edwards	Israel
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Jackson Lee
Castro (TX)	Engel	Jeffries
Cicilline	Enyart	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Esty	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Fattah	Keating
Cleaver	Foster	Kelly (IL)
Clyburn	Frankel (FL)	Kennedy
	Fudge	Kildee

Kilmer	Moran	Schrader
Kind	Murphy (FL)	Schwartz
Kirkpatrick	Nadler	Scott (VA)
Kuster	Napolitano	Scott, David
Langevin	Serrano	Neal
Larsen (WA)	Nolan	Sewell (AL)
Larson (CT)	O'Rourke	Shea-Porter
Lee (CA)	Pallone	Sherman
Levin	Pascarell	Sires
Lewis	Pastor (AZ)	Slaughter
Lipinski	Payne	Smith (WA)
Loeb sack	Pelosi	Speier
Lofgren	Perlmutter	Swalwell (CA)
Lowenthal	Peters (CA)	Takano
Lowey	Peters (MI)	Thompson (CA)
Lujan Grisham	Pingree (ME)	Thompson (MS)
(NM)	Pocan	Tierney
Luján, Ben Ray	Price (NC)	Titus
(NM)	Quigley	Tonko
Lynch	Rahall	Tsongas
Maloney,	Rangel	Van Hollen
Carolyn	Richmond	Vargas
Maloney, Sean	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
Matsui	Ruiz	Vela
McCarthy (NY)	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
McCollum	Rush	Visclosky
McDermott	Ryan (OH)	Walz
McGovern	Sánchez, Linda	Wasserman
McNerney	T. Schultz	Waters
Meeks	Sanchez, Loretta	Waxman
Meng	Sarbanes	Welch
Michaud	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Miller, George	Schiff	Yarmuth
Moore	Schneider	

NOES—235

Aderholt	Fleming	Latham
Amash	Flores	Latta
Amodei	Forbes	LoBiondo
Bachmann	Fortenberry	Long
Barletta	Fox	Lucas
Barr	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Barrow (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Lummis
Barton	Gardner	Maffei
Benishek	Garrett	Marchant
Bentivolio	Gerlach	Marino
Bilirakis	Gibbs	Massie
Bishop (UT)	Gibson	Matheson
Black	Gingrey (GA)	McAllister
Blackburn	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Boustany	Goodlatte	McCaul
Brady (TX)	Gosar	McClintock
Bridenstine	Gowdy	McHenry
Brooks (AL)	Granger	McIntyre
Brooks (IN)	Graves (GA)	McKeon
Broun (GA)	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Buchanan	Griffin (AR)	McMorris
Bucshon	Griffith (VA)	Rodgers
Burgess	Grimm	Meadows
Calvert	Guthrie	Meehan
Camp	Hall	Messer
Capito	Hanna	Mica
Carter	Harper	Miller (FL)
Cassidy	Harris	Miller (MI)
Chabot	Hartzler	Mullin
Chaffetz	Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney
Clawson (FL)	Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)
Coble	Hensarling	Negrete McLeod
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer
Cole	Holding	Noem
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Nugent
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Nunes
Conaway	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Cook	Hultgren	Owens
Costa	Hunter	Palazzo
Cotton	Hurt	Paulsen
Cramer	Issa	Pearce
Crawford	Jenkins	Perry
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Peterson
Culberson	Johnson, E. B.	Petri
Daines	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Davis, Rodney	Jolly	Pitts
Denham	Jones	Poe (TX)
Dent	Jordan	Polis
DeSantis	Joyce	Pompeo
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Duffy	King (IA)	Price (GA)
Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Reed
Duncan (TN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Reichert
Ellmers	Kline	Renacci
Farenthold	Labrador	Ribble
Farr	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)
Fincher	Lamborn	Rigell
Fitzpatrick	Lance	Roby
Fleischmann	Lankford	Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)	Sessions	Valadao
Rogers (KY)	Shimkus	Wagner
Rogers (MI)	Shuster	Walberg
Rohrabacher	Simpson	Walden
Rokita	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Rooney	Smith (NE)	Weber (TX)
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (NJ)	Webster (FL)
Roskam	Smith (TX)	Wenstrup
Ross	Southerland	Westmoreland
Rothfus	Stewart	Whitfield
Royce	Stivers	Wilson (SC)
Runyan	Stockman	Wittman
Ryan (WI)	Stutzman	Wolf
Salmon	Terry	Womack
Sanford	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Scalise	Thornberry	Yoder
Schock	Tiberi	Yoho
Schweikert	Tipton	Young (AK)
Scott, Austin	Turner	Young (IN)
Sensenbrenner	Upton	

NOT VOTING—13

Byrne	DesJarlais	Nunnelee
Campbell	Eshoo	Sinema
Cantor	Hanabusa	Williams
Carney	Kingston	
Chu	Miller, Gary	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1503

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I
move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;
and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.
YODER) having assumed the chair, Mr.
BISHOP of Utah, Acting Chair of the
Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union, reported that that
Committee, having had under consider-
ation the bill (H.R. 5016) making appro-
priations for financial services and
general government for the fiscal year
ending September 30, 2015, and for
other purposes, had come to no resolu-
tion thereon.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR
OF H.R. 1810

Mr. CLAWSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that I may here-
after be considered to be the first spon-
sor of H.R. 1810, a bill originally intro-
duced by Representative Radel of Flor-
ida, for the purposes of adding cospon-
sors and requesting reprintings pursu-
ant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
THE FORMER LIBERIAN REGIME
OF CHARLES TAYLOR—MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-
135)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid be-
fore the House the following message
from the President of the United

States; which was read and, together
with the accompanying papers, referred
to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emer-
gencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides
for the automatic termination of a na-
tional emergency unless, within 90
days prior to the anniversary date of
its declaration, the President publishes
in the *Federal Register* and transmits to
the Congress a notice stating that the
emergency is to continue in effect be-
yond the anniversary date. In accord-
ance with this provision, I have sent to
the *Federal Register* for publication the
enclosed notice stating that the na-
tional emergency with respect to the
former Liberian regime of Charles Tay-
lor declared in Executive Order 13348 of
July 22, 2004, is to continue in effect be-
yond July 22, 2014.

Although Liberia has made signifi-
cant advances to promote democracy,
and the Special Court for Sierra Leone
convicted Charles Taylor for war
crimes and crimes against humanity,
the actions and policies of former Libe-
rian President Charles Taylor and
other persons, in particular their un-
lawful depletion of Liberian resources
and their removal from Liberia and se-
creting of Liberian funds and property,
still challenge Liberia's efforts to
strengthen its democracy and the or-
derly development of its political, ad-
ministrative, and economic institu-
tions. These actions and policies con-
tinue to pose an unusual and extraor-
dinary threat to the foreign policy of
the United States. For this reason, I
have determined that it is necessary to
continue the national emergency with
respect to the former Liberian regime
of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2014.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION
FUNDING ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that all Members
may have 5 legislative days to revise
and extend their remarks and include
extraneous materials on H.R. 5021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, pursu-
ant to House Resolution 669, I call up
the bill (H.R. 5021) to provide an exten-
sion of Federal-aid highway, highway
safety, motor carrier safety, transit,
and other programs funded out of the
Highway Trust Fund, and for other
purposes, and ask for its immediate
consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to House Resolution 669, the

amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, modified by the amendments printed in House Report 113-521, are adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5021

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

Sec. 1001. Extension of Federal-aid highway programs.

Sec. 1002. Administrative expenses.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs

Sec. 1101. Extension of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration highway safety programs.

Sec. 1102. Extension of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration programs.

Sec. 1103. Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs

Sec. 1201. Formula grants for rural areas.

Sec. 1202. Apportionment of appropriations for formula grants.

Sec. 1203. Authorizations for public transportation.

Sec. 1204. Bus and bus facilities formula grants.

Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials

Sec. 1301. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

Sec. 2001. Extension of Highway Trust Fund expenditure authority.

Sec. 2002. Funding of Highway Trust Fund.

Sec. 2003. Funding stabilization.

Sec. 2004. Extension of Customs user fees.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the existing Highway Trust Fund system is unsustainable and unable to meet our Nation’s 21st century transportation needs;

(2) MAP-21 included important reforms that must be built upon in the next reauthorization bill to increase the efficient and effective utilization of Federal funding;

(3) these reforms should include the elimination of duplicative Federal regulations and increase the authority and responsibility of the States to safely and efficiently build, operate, and fund transportation systems that best serve the needs of their citizens, including the ability of each State to implement innovative solutions, while also maintaining the appropriate Federal role in transportation; and

(4) Congress should enact and the President should sign a surface transportation reauthorization and reform bill prior to the expiration of this Act.

TITLE I—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM EXTENSION

Subtitle A—Federal-Aid Highways

SEC. 1001. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAMS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in this subtitle, requirements, authorities, condi-

tions, eligibilities, limitations, and other provisions authorized under divisions A and E of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141), the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-244), titles I, V, and VI of SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59), titles I and V of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178), the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (104-59), titles I and VI of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240), and title 23, United States Code (excluding chapter 4 of that title), which would otherwise expire on or cease to apply after September 30, 2014, are incorporated by reference and shall continue in effect until May 31, 2015.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.**—Except as provided in section 1002, there is authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, a sum equal to $\frac{243}{365}$ of the total amount authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund for programs, projects, and activities for fiscal year 2014 under divisions A and E of MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141) and title 23, United States Code (excluding chapter 4 of that title).

(2) **GENERAL FUND.**—Section 1123(h)(1) of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 202 note) is amended by inserting “and \$19,972,603 out of the general fund of the Treasury to carry out the program for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015” before the period at the end.

(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided in this subtitle, funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (b)(1) for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, shall be distributed, administered, limited, and made available for obligation in the same manner and at the same levels as $\frac{243}{365}$ of the amounts of funds authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for fiscal year 2014 to carry out programs, projects, activities, eligibilities, and requirements under MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141), the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-244), SAFETEA-LU (Public Law 109-59), titles I and V of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105-178), the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (104-59), titles I and VI of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240), and title 23, United States Code (excluding chapter 4 of that title).

(2) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—Funds authorized to be appropriated out of the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) under this section shall be—

(A) available for obligation and shall be administered in the same manner as if such funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) subject to section 1102 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 104 note), as amended by this subsection.

(3) **OBLIGATION CEILING.**—Section 1102 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 104 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(ii) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) \$26,800,569,863 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (10) by striking “2011” and inserting “2012”; and

(ii) in paragraph (12) by inserting “, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, only in an amount equal to \$639,000,000, less any reductions that would have otherwise been required for that year by section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), then multiplied by $\frac{243}{365}$ for that period” after “those fiscal years”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015” after “2014”;

(ii) by striking paragraph (1)(A) and inserting the following:

“(A) amounts provided for administrative expenses and programs; and”;

(iii) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “or, for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending May 31, 2015, that is equal to $\frac{243}{365}$ of such unobligated balance” after “unobligated balance of amounts”;

(iv) in paragraph (5) by striking “section 204” and inserting “sections 202 and 204”; and

(v) by inserting “or period” after “the fiscal year” each place it appears;

(D) in subsection (d) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”;

(E) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015” after “2014”; and

(II) by inserting “or period” after “the fiscal year” each place it appears; and

(ii) in paragraph (3) by striking “section 133(c)” and inserting “section 133(b)”.

SEC. 1002. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other law, there is authorized to be appropriated from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), from amounts provided under section 1001, for administrative expenses of the Federal-aid highway program \$292,931,507 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.

(b) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—Funds authorized to be appropriated by this section shall be—

(1) available for obligation, and shall be administered, in the same manner as if such funds were apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, except that such funds shall remain available until expended; and

(2) subject to the limitation on obligations for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, specified in section 1102 of MAP-21 (23 U.S.C. 104 note), as amended by this subtitle.

Subtitle B—Extension of Highway Safety Programs

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.

(a) **EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.**—

(1) **HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS.**—Section 31101(a)(1) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$156,452,055 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(2) HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Section 31101(a)(2) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$75,563,014 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(3) NATIONAL PRIORITY SAFETY PROGRAMS.—Section 31101(a)(3) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$181,084,932 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(4) NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER.—Section 31101(a)(4) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(5) HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 31101(a)(5) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$19,306,849 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS.—Section 2009(a) of SAFETEA-LU (23 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(i) in the first sentence by inserting “and in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015” after “fiscal years 2013 and 2014”; and

(ii) in the second sentence by inserting “and in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “fiscal years 2013 and 2014”.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31101(a)(6) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) \$16,976,712 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(b) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—Section 403(f)(1) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting “ending before October 1, 2014, and \$1,664,384 of the total amount available for apportionment to the States for highway safety programs under section 402(c) in the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “each fiscal year”.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF TITLE 23.—Section 31101(c) of MAP-21 (126 Stat. 733) is amended by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “fiscal years 2013 and 2014”.

SEC. 1102. EXTENSION OF FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS.—Section 31104(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (8);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (9) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) \$145,134,247 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 31104(i)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (H);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (I) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) \$172,430,137 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(c) GRANT PROGRAMS.—

(1) COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(1) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$19,972,603 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”.

(2) BORDER ENFORCEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(2) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$21,304,110 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”.

(3) PERFORMANCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(3) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”.

(4) COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 4101(c)(4) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$16,643,836 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”.

(5) SAFETY DATA IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—Section 4101(c)(5) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1715) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and \$1,997,260 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”.

(d) HIGH-PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.—Section 31104(k)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and up to \$9,986,301 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”.

(e) NEW ENTRANT AUDITS.—Section 31144(g)(5)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and up to \$21,304,110 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “per fiscal year”.

(f) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—Section 4127(e) of SAFETEA-LU (119 Stat. 1741) is amended by inserting “and \$2,663,014 to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”.

(g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.—Section 4134(c) of SAFETEA-LU (49 U.S.C. 31301 note) is amended by inserting “and \$665,753 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”.

SEC. 1103. DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT.

Section 4 of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015” after “2014”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) by striking “for each” and all that follows before “the Secretary of the Interior” and inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

Subtitle C—Public Transportation Programs

SEC. 1201. FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.

Section 5311(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” before “shall be distributed”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$16,643,836 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” before “shall be apportioned”.

SEC. 1202. APPORTIONMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5336(h)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “for each fiscal year ending before October 1, 2014, and \$19,972,603 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” before “shall be set aside”.

SEC. 1203. AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

(a) FORMULA GRANTS.—Section 5338(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and \$8,595,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$8,595,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$5,722,150,685 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and \$128,800,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$128,800,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$85,749,041 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “and \$6,657,534 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”;

(C) in subparagraph (C) by striking “and \$4,458,650,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$4,458,650,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$2,968,361,507 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”;

(D) in subparagraph (D) by striking “and \$258,300,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$258,300,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$171,964,110 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”;

(E) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking “and \$607,800,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$607,800,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$404,644,932 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”;

(ii) by striking “and \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$19,972,603 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”; and

(iii) by striking “and \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$13,315,068 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,”;

(F) in subparagraph (F) by inserting “and \$1,997,260 for the period beginning on October

1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”;

(G) in subparagraph (G) by inserting “and \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”;

(H) in subparagraph (H) by inserting “and \$2,563,151 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”;

(I) in subparagraph (I) by striking “and \$2,165,900,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$2,165,900,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$1,441,955,342 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(J) in subparagraph (J) by striking “and \$427,800,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$427,800,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$284,809,315 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(K) in subparagraph (K) by striking “and \$525,900,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$525,900,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$350,119,726 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(b) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION AND DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS.—Section 5338(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$46,602,740 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(c) TRANSIT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 5338(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$4,660,274 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT.—Section 5338(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$4,660,274 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(e) HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING.—Section 5338(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(f) CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS.—Section 5338(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “and \$1,907,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$1,907,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$1,269,591,781 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(g) ADMINISTRATION.—Section 5338(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and \$104,000,000 for fiscal year 2014” and inserting “, \$104,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and \$69,238,356 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”;

(2) in paragraph (2) by inserting “for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and not less than \$3,328,767 for the period beginning on October

1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” before “shall be available”; and

(3) in paragraph (3) by inserting “for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and not less than \$665,753 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” before “shall be available”.

SEC. 1204. BUS AND BUS FACILITIES FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5339(d)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and \$43,606,849 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “\$65,500,000”;

(2) by inserting “for each such fiscal year and \$832,192 for such period” after “\$1,250,000”; and

(3) by inserting “for each such fiscal year and \$332,877 for such period” after “\$500,000”.

Subtitle D—Hazardous Materials

SEC. 1301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5128(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) \$28,468,948 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015.”.

(b) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND.—Section 5128(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively, and by adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) by striking “From the” and inserting the following:

“(1) FISCAL YEARS 2013 AND 2014.—From the”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—From the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Fund established under section 5116(i), the Secretary may expend for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015—

“(A) \$125,162 to carry out section 5115;

“(B) \$14,513,425 to carry out subsections (a) and (b) of section 5116, of which not less than \$9,087,534 shall be available to carry out section 5116(b);

“(C) \$99,863 to carry out section 5116(f);

“(D) \$416,096 to publish and distribute the Emergency Response Guidebook under section 5116(i)(3); and

“(E) \$665,753 to carry out section 5116(j).”.

(c) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING GRANTS.—Section 5128(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and \$2,663,014 for the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015,” after “2014”.

TITLE II—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 2001. EXTENSION OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “October 1, 2014” in subsections (b)(6)(B), (c)(1), and (e)(3) and inserting “June 1, 2015”; and

(2) by striking “MAP-21” in subsections (c)(1) and (e)(3) and inserting “Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014”.

(b) SPORT FISH RESTORATION AND BOATING TRUST FUND.—Section 9504 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “MAP-21” each place it appears in subsection (b)(2) and inserting “Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014”; and

(2) by striking “October 1, 2014” in subsection (d)(2) and inserting “June 1, 2015”.

(c) LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND.—Paragraph (2) of section 9508(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “October 1, 2014” and inserting “June 1, 2015”.

SEC. 2002. FUNDING OF HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 9503 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7) and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraphs:

“(5) ADDITIONAL SUMS.—Out of money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is hereby appropriated—

“(A) \$7,765,000,000 to the Highway Account (as defined in subsection (e)(5)(B)) in the Highway Trust Fund; and

“(B) \$2,000,000,000 to the Mass Transit Account in the Highway Trust Fund.

“(6) ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN FUND BALANCE.—There is hereby transferred to the Highway Account (as defined in subsection (e)(5)(B)) in the Highway Trust Fund amounts appropriated from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund under section 9508(c)(3).”.

(b) APPROPRIATION FROM LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 9508 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) ADDITIONAL TRANSFER TO HIGHWAY TRUST FUND.—Out of amounts in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund there is hereby appropriated \$1,000,000,000 to be transferred under section 9503(f)(6) to the Highway Account (as defined in section 9503(e)(5)(B)) in the Highway Trust Fund.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9508(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”.

SEC. 2003. FUNDING STABILIZATION.

(a) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%”.

(b) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29

U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(C)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

"If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	90%	110%
2018	85%	115%
2019	80%	120%
2020	75%	125%
After 2020	70%	130%

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1021(f)(2)(D)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i) by inserting “and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014” after “MAP-21” both places it appears, and

(ii) in clause (ii) by striking “2015” and inserting “2020”.

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under subclauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(C) STABILIZATION NOT TO APPLY FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ACCELERATED BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION RULES.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The second sentence of paragraph (2) of section 436(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv))”.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—The second sentence of subparagraph (B) of section 206(g)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(3)(B)) is amended by striking “of such plan” and inserting “of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv))”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(B) COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS.—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(4) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If this paragraph applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

(B) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(I) pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under any provision as so amended, and

(II) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

(ii) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless, during the period—

(I) beginning on the date that the amendments made by this subsection or the regulation described in clause (i)(I) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such amendments or such regulation, the effective date specified by the plan), and

(II) ending on the date described in clause (i)(II) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect, and such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

(C) ANTI-CUTBACK RELIEF.—A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1054(g)) and section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 solely by reason of a plan amendment to which this paragraph applies.

(d) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING TARGET DETERMINATION PERIODS.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Clause (i) of section 430(h)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Clause (i) of section 303(h)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “the first day of the plan year” and inserting “the valuation date for the plan year”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(2) ELECTIONS.—A plan sponsor may elect not to have the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) apply to any plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, either (as specified in the election)—

(A) for all purposes for which such amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1054(g)) for such plan year.

A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of such Act and section 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under this paragraph.

SEC. 2004. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), and

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, extends Federal surface transportation programs and ensures the solvency of the highway trust fund through May 2015. H.R. 5021 is a clean extension of the surface transportation programs and continues the MAP-21 reforms.

We have an immediate, critical need to address the solvency of the trust fund and extend the current surface transportation law. This bill does that in a responsible way, with policies that have all previously received strong bipartisan and bicameral support. If Congress fails to act, thousands of transportation projects and hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country will be at risk. This legislation provides much-needed certainty and stability for the States.

This bill in no way precludes Congress from continuing to work on addressing a long-term funding solution and a long-term reauthorization bill, which remains a top priority for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. However, this legislation is the responsible solution at this time, ensures that we don't play politics with these programs, and enables us to continue making improvements to our surface transportation system.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, DC, July 14, 2014.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Education and the Workforce with regard to H.R. 5021 on those matters within the committee's jurisdiction.

In the interest of expediting the House's consideration of H.R. 5021, the Committee on Education and the Workforce will forgo further consideration of this bill. However, I do so only with the understanding this procedural route will not be construed to prejudice my committee's jurisdictional interest and prerogatives on this bill, or any other similar legislation, and will not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to my committee in the future.

I respectfully request your support for the appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Education and the Workforce

should this bill or a similar bill be considered in a conference with the Senate. I also request you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 15, 2014.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
*Chairman, Committee on Education and the
Workforce, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by forgoing action on this legislation, the Committee on Education and the Workforce is not waiving any of its jurisdiction and will not be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I will include our letters on H.R. 5021 in the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this bill today is absolutely necessary to keep our surface transportation programs up and running. In less than a month, the highway trust fund will go belly up and force-feed our States rationed payments for their transportation and infrastructure investments. This would starve our national economy, put States in a desperate situation, and cost jobs. Congress must act now to avert this unnecessary crisis.

The bill under consideration today will help States get through the remainder of the construction season. It will also provide time for Congress to come together and pass a longer-term surface transportation law so that we don't find ourselves in this crisis mode again.

But this needs to happen sooner rather than later because this bill leaves our highway, transit, and safety programs on autopilot. While the driverless car may be the wave of the future, it is no way to run our transportation programs, and I know the chairman has driven those cars on autopilot.

Passing extension after extension only brings us more of the same, and our States have already said that the status quo isn't meeting their needs.

A long-term, robust surface transportation bill is the only way we are going to address our greatest infrastructure challenges. It is the only way we will be able to build on what works and reform what isn't. It is one of the few

sure-fire ways to boost our economy, create jobs, and help us compete with our global rivals.

"Starving the beast" simply doesn't work when it comes to transportation and infrastructure policy. We need greater investment in our roads and bridges. We need an increased focus on moving freight across our borders and overseas.

We should grow regional collaborations to build significant projects, and we must bring every possible transportation job back to the U.S. to be done by American workers.

It is worth noting that this debate is about far more than accounting, dollar signs, and trust funds. It is about the men and women who work in these industries and have to face needless uncertainty about their futures. It is about those that rely on public transit systems. And it is about the driving public who must endure aging infrastructure and the car repair bills and safety concerns that come with it.

I am going to vote for this bill today not because it is the best solution, but because it does avert an immediate crisis and keeps the ball rolling forward.

I thank the members of the Ways and Means Committee for their work on this bill, and I look forward to working with our chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, to bring forward a robust, long-term surface transportation bill to vote on in the near future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, the debate we are having today is not really about the future of the highway trust fund. Unfortunately, today is about doing what Congress does too often—kicking the can down the road, avoiding one crisis while setting up another.

I recognize that more time is often needed to craft a more robust bipartisan solution, the result of which is often well worth the delay, but, Mr. Speaker, we must come to our senses. We must realize that another short-term patch is not really what our State governments are calling for; this is not really what the American Trucking Association or the Chamber of Commerce is calling for; and this is not what the American people sent us here to accomplish.

For close to 50 years, the highway trust fund was self-sustaining. Those who used the roads paid for the roads. But we have been stalled in the 20th century. The fuel tax, which traditionally paid for highway improvements, hasn't been changed since 1993, while construction costs have grown more expensive, cars have become more fuel efficient or run on alternative fuels,

and infrastructure needs have continued to rise.

In the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, we have had hearing after hearing where State transportation officials, mayors, Governors, truckers, transit operators, economists, and experts in transportation policy have testified with unwavering support for a long-term, fully funded surface transportation bill. That should be our goal.

But at the end of the day, we can't let the quest for the perfect stand in the way of the good or the acceptable. In this case, we have an obligation to keep our highway projects going, our transportation moving, and our economy growing. Since this is the only option we have today, this is what we will do.

We need to stop the patches and budget gimmicks and come up with a viable, real solution on how we fund the trust fund. History shows that it is hard to do before an election. Perhaps it will be easy to do after that.

So I ask my colleagues to consider this question: Which is the more responsible path, more budget gimmicks or raising revenue to actually pay for needed spending?

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), ranking member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend from West Virginia for yielding, and I thank both the chairman and the ranking member for their hard work on this bill. I know that they both wanted a long-term bill and that they have worked for a long-term bill.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that we have a bipartisan, bicameral bill, but I think that for all concerned, it expresses bipartisan disappointment. We had 2 years to do a bill since MAP-21, and all we have been able to produce is an 8-month stopgap fix.

At the same time, the States and the localities we represent are probably grateful for small favors today. The administration had already announced rationing because of the insolvency of the trust fund as of August 1, with only what little money would come in to replenish the trust fund for each State.

We were staring at both an insolvent trust fund and a loss of the construction season at the same time. That would have been an economic catastrophe, with the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. We must use this moment to face that we cannot rebuild our bridges, roads, and transit systems on pension-smoothing stopgap extensions.

The State backlog of projects will be left untouched by this bill. Because we have produced a climate of uncertainty, States won't dare start up the real work that needs to be done on their roads, bridges, and transit because they are getting a patchwork

bill. Patchwork bills yield patched-up roads and bridges and deteriorating transit.

At the very least, we owe it to the country to revisit this bill as soon as possible and as early as October. The delay in MAP-21 got us today's stopgap measure. Congress needs a spur under its saddle to avoid another delay.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), from a State in which a referendum arose that increased the user fee to fund the highway system.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his work on H.R. 5021, which I rise in support of this afternoon, which provides greater certainty and sufficient funding for infrastructure projects across the Nation. Without an immediate solution for the highway trust fund, our State highway departments are left wondering if there will be adequate funding to continue any infrastructure improvement.

In March of this year, the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department warned that, without congressional action to remedy the highway trust fund shortfall, continuing with highway and infrastructure contracts that were scheduled for April letting would have threatened the ability to pay contractors. As a result, 10 vital projects totaling over \$60 million were either put on hold or forced to find alternative methods of temporary financing.

My colleagues have described similar scenarios in their own States, meaning that across the Nation new infrastructure projects have already ground to a halt, threatening general contractors, their employees, suppliers, and putting at risk the jobs that are both directly and indirectly supported by these projects.

I think most lawmakers can agree that ensuring that we have a reliable and modern infrastructure on land, water, rail, and air is critical. With the Senate announcing last week an agreement with Chairman CAMP and House leaders to enact a short-term funding solution, we can now turn our attention back to a multiyear transportation bill that will provide long-term assurance to States for financing infrastructure improvements.

In moving forward with a long-term bill, we can spend time with stakeholders and constituents—the ultimate users of the infrastructure—and allow them to weigh in on what is being considered. As we return our focus to long-term legislation, we must also examine how to reform the highway trust fund so that taxpayers will know how their dollars are being spent. With costs increasing and funds at a premium, we owe our constituents a more transparent system that demonstrates effective use of their money on infrastructure improvement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H.R. 5021, and I look forward to working on a long-term, comprehensive transportation bill to ensure our Nation's future growth. We can't continue to beat the drum to attract businesses, add jobs, and improve the economy if we are not willing to use our authority to invest in our Nation's infrastructure.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, allow me to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL and Subcommittee Chair PETRI and Ranking Member ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act for 2014.

In particular, the bill before the House this afternoon would do two things: first, it would provide a total of \$35.3 billion for highway, public transit, and surface transportation programs; secondly, it would extend surface transportation programs authorized under MAP-21 through May 31, 2015.

I support this bill because it takes almost 60,000 construction jobs in Texas out of harm's way, and it ensures that over 3,500 active highway and transit projects in Texas will not be slowed or stopped by the highway trust fund's shortfall.

However, my support for this bill is reluctant, as I believe we have missed another opportunity to craft a long-term highway program yet again. While I am pleased that we have come together to address the impeding highway crisis, we are also kicking the can down the road again.

Today, 65 percent of our Nation's roads are rated at less than good condition, and 25 percent of our bridges require significant repair. In Texas alone, we have over 300,000 miles of public roads, 8 percent of which are in poor condition.

The measure before us today all but ensures that we will be having this exact same debate again sometime in the next Congress; rather, what we need to do is adopt a long-term plan that will provide certainty, increase transit investments, and keep workers in our construction industries on the job. When we return from the August recess, I urge my colleagues to work together and begin crafting a long-term surface transportation bill. We have seen again and again legislating by crisis is not effective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

As our roads erode and our transit systems decay, we owe our constituents no less than acting in their best interest and enacting a long-term bill as soon as possible.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), one of the committee's true experts on infrastructure, a mayor of a small city, and a construction business owner.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation that will keep our highway trust fund solvent until we agree on a long-term solution.

If we fail to act, the money to fund surface transportation projects will soon run dry. That could result in the stoppage of more than 7,000 projects. We would lose countless jobs across the country, and in my home State of Pennsylvania as well.

I have always supported a highway bill of a least 5 years or more, but in the absence of one, I support this proposal to give us time to work out a longer-term funding solution. We need a plan that will meet our transportation needs while also providing contractors and builders the guidance they need to invest in equipment and employees.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), a very valued member of our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for bringing this before us today.

This short-term highway trust fund fix is crucial for keeping our highway and transit systems solvent, and I intend to vote for it. Letting the highway trust fund become insolvent would be irresponsible and cut 700,000 jobs and increase congestion. But once our work is done here today, we do need a long-term, creative solution to fund our much-needed transportation projects in this country.

Over 64 percent of the roads in Los Angeles are in utter disrepair, costing each resident driver nearly \$832 a year. My own dad, who was a county supervisor in Los Angeles for 40 years, used to offer people a dollar for every pothole they could find in his district. If he made that offer today, he would go broke.

To fill this funding gap, I support looking at different ways of funding our roads in addition to the gas tax, such as vehicle miles traveled, which charges drivers by the miles that they travel.

For our national economy, we need to focus on freight infrastructure. Freight bottlenecks cost us approximately \$200 billion a year. Yesterday, I introduced the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act for a long-term

fix that creates dedicated funding for our freight infrastructure.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this short-term fix and join me in looking forward to solving this problem long term.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), who is from one of the most innovative States in funding and moving projects forward at a very fast pace.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation.

Last year, I was honored to be conferee a for MAP-21, the highway bill, and I am proud of the bill that our conference committee produced and was subsequently signed into law. Our Nation's transportation projects are being completed faster, and States like my home State of Indiana receive more Federal funding than they had in the past.

We do need a long-term solution to fund our infrastructure. Today, however, we need to support this extension. This funding is critical for projects such as Interstate 69, which runs through my district.

With construction season underway, we need to ensure that every State can continue with the summer construction projects that are ongoing. This legislation is necessary to keep thousands of Americans working to rebuild our infrastructure—improving the flow of commerce and ensuring the safety of Americans as they travel.

I would like to thank Chairman CAMP and Chairman SHUSTER for their leadership, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

□ 1530

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio), a distinguished member of our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, we can pretend that we care about the future of America and its transportation system. We used to be number one in the world, widely recognized. We are now rated 26th, and we are moving down quickly.

The system is falling apart. There are 140,000 bridges that need repair or replacement, and 40 percent of the pavement on the National Highway System has failed to the point at which you have to dig it up, not just resurface it. There is a \$70 billion backlog in our transit systems just to bring everything up to a state of good repair. That is not even to begin to think about building a 21st century transportation system to compete with the rest of the world. For the Chinese, 9 percent of their GDP goes to transportation. They want to be able to move people and goods more efficiently and to out-compete us. Even Brazil, 6 percent. India, 6

percent. The United States of America, 1 percent. We have got to get serious about this.

Today, we are going to do a little shuffling around of some money, and say, oh, we can pretend, by pension smoothing and this and that, that we are creating money so we get around not creating more debt or deficit here. Come on. Really, it is pretty phony stuff. Let's get real about how we are going to fund our transportation future.

We are fighting with people who believe in a theory called "devolution." That is, they want to devolve the duty of building a national transportation system to the 50 dispersed States and let them figure it out. We tried that. This is 1956. The brand new Kansas Turnpike ended in Emil Schweitzer's farm field for years because Oklahoma couldn't afford their part of that system until the Eisenhower bill passed, and we had a highway trust fund.

We know this works—user-fee based, a national system, coordinating among the States, not having roads that disconnect at the border, not tolling the heck out of everything, which some people would have us do, not fragmenting the system. What are you going to say to the Port of Los Angeles, where 40 percent of the freight comes into the country? Oh, you figure out how to get the freight out of L.A. to serve the rest of the country, and you pay for it. No. This is a national obligation. It is international and national competitiveness. We have to get serious, and this bill here today is not serious or long term.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), a long-term member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, someone who fights every day for West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, more than 700,000 jobs and 6,000 road and bridge projects could be in jeopardy if payments from the Federal highway trust fund are delayed. I rise today in support of the Highway and Transportation Funding Act, which would prevent this catastrophic scenario.

In my home State of West Virginia, more than 200 projects are currently receiving Federal funding. If we fail to act now, we risk layoffs at the height of the summer construction season. Inaction would cripple the efforts of our State highway department to maintain our roads and bridges after a particularly harsh winter and to build new projects like U.S. Route 35, Corridor H, and the King Coal Highway in West Virginia.

American motorists, construction workers, and small businesses deserve

certainty that the Federal Government will continue to invest in our Nation's infrastructure. Today's bill provides that certainty for the remainder of this construction season, but I wait, as most of us do, to complete the work on the longer term bill. I ask my colleagues to join me in passing the Highway and Transportation Funding Act.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our distinguished minority whip and a strong supporter of our infrastructure in this country.

Mr. HOYER. Those were the good old days, I tell my friend Mr. RAHALL, when I got an unlimited 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, there is some good news. The good news is this committee is chaired by someone who wants to invest in America, grow jobs, and expand our economy. I speak of my friend BILL SHUSTER, and I thank him for that. The other good news is that our ranking Democrat, NICK JOE RAHALL, has a history of making sure that America invests in its infrastructure.

The bad news is that this bill does not give what Mrs. CAPITO suggested it gives, and that is certainty. It gives a temporary, inadequate response to what is a long-term problem. I won't ask him the question, but I believe that Mr. SHUSTER absolutely agrees with me. We ought to find a fiscally sustainable funding source for our infrastructure and highway system.

Mr. Speaker, a well-maintained highway structure supports the growth of our economy and the creation of good jobs. That is why I have been advocating for a long-term, sustainable fix that makes investments in our roads and bridges and provides the certainty that needed repairs will be completed. I am for a big deal, not just for certainty in infrastructure but for certainty in the investment in our economy. I will continue to advocate that.

This bill, unfortunately, does not do that. It is better than doing nothing, but it does not do what we need to do. In fact, by implementing a short-term fix only until May, this bill promotes uncertainty for construction firms and other businesses that rely on projects paid for by the highway trust fund, which support American jobs. It also puts Congress in the position of having to deal with this issue next May, as next year's summer construction season is about to begin, without any certainty of what we will do.

Democrats would prefer to work with Republicans to pass a long-term fix now or, if we cannot do that, to reauthorize it for a few months so that we can return to this issue after the November elections and pass a long-term fix, but we cannot take the risk of allowing this fund to run dry this summer.

The highway trust fund supports the infrastructure improvements that enable manufacturers to move their products to market faster and help attract businesses and jobs from overseas. It helps us to Make It In America—manufacture it, grow it, sell it here and around the world. If we allow it to go broke, according to the Department of Transportation, our economy could lose as many as 700,000 jobs.

This bill, I think, will get some significant support from our side of the aisle but not because it is our choice, not because it is the right way to go. In my view, as I said, I don't want to hurt him with his party or with anybody outside of this Chamber, but I think Mr. SHUSTER agrees that we need a long-term solution. I urge my colleagues to work together in a bipartisan fashion to get a long-term, confidence-building resolution of this stop-and-jerk, or go-and-jerk, funding process that we are adopting.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I do agree with the distinguished minority whip that we need a long-term solution to the trust fund and a long-term bill to provide certainty to this Nation when it comes to our transportation system.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), one of the newest members of the committee but one of the hardest-working members of the committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, supporting H.R. 5021 means protecting hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout this great country. More specifically, in Illinois, it means saving nearly 30,000 jobs and 4,000 construction projects that are already underway. Supporting this bill means improving our crumbling roads and bridges—a constitutional responsibility of this body's. Supporting H.R. 5021 means governing responsibly instead of creating yet another manufactured crisis that would add even more uncertainty and instability to a still struggling economy.

By extending this highway trust fund, which is not my first choice—if we extend this bill and these programs through May, we can continue working on that long-term highway bill that both sides of the aisle stand here and say that we need, and we can create jobs and keep up with our 21st century transportation needs. The highway trust fund has fallen short for many years, and we need to come up with long-term solutions.

I look forward to working with my colleagues from the other side of the aisle and with Chairman SHUSTER and his continued leadership.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, may I have the time remaining, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman

from Pennsylvania has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the distinguished former chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the distinguished ranking member. Thank you for your hard work in trying right now to put a Band-Aid on our bleeding transportation funding. Thank you for trying to get the transportation cart out of the ditch.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached the eleventh hour, and soon projects will be closing down across the country. It is unfortunate that we are at this juncture on the road to funding transportation responsibly. We had a chance for a 5-year bill, and we did not have the leadership, I believe, from the White House. In fact, President Obama was AWOL during that entire process. Now, today, we see the President has been at a bridge, and he is going to be at another site. He is out at a research thing, talking about transportation funding.

Where was the President when Mr. Oberstar—the distinguished gentleman who recently passed away and who was chair of the committee—offered a bill, and he came and cut his legs out from underneath the Democrat chairman? We would have had a longer term, fully funded bill. If it is to secure our borders, where has he been? He says he doesn't do photo ops, but he is doing them now, and he will do them on transportation. He doesn't need to be at the bridge. He needs to be here, working with these distinguished Members of Congress for a long-term solution. He was absent at the border, and he is absent as we need to secure our Nation's infrastructure. This is not acceptable.

I support this measure because it is an extension of what we did. It doesn't have deficit spending. It is responsible for paying for it, and it doesn't have earmarks. The last bill had 6,300 earmarks—not this bill. I support the measure.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. We have no more speakers on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a very distinguished member of our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. RAHALL.

Mr. Speaker, transportation moves our economy, and modern infrastruc-

ture is a path to jobs and prosperity. I will vote for this stopgap measure, but I want to echo the words of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have called for a long-term, sustainable fix of our highway trust fund so that the United States of America can compete in the world's market.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, much has been said today in dislike of this temporary fix, and I could not agree more. It is not my preference. We all want to address this in a long-term, robust manner. That is also the opinion of the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, who say that further delay will only maintain the status quo in keeping workers off the job, undercutting long-term planning and hindering the country in advancing to a 21st century transportation system.

There are very similar views, like views, expressed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce when they say in a letter to Members of Congress that, in the Chamber's view, the longer the pass, the easier it will be for Congress to kick the can down the road and avoid the tough question of how we will maintain Federal investment in highway public transportation and highway safety.

I hope we come back before next May and address this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time is left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, I want to start off by expressing my condolences to a former chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I guess, back then, it was Public Works and Transportation. Chairman Bob Roe, who chaired the committee in the eighties, passed away this morning, at 9:30, at the age of 90. I just want to say that my thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

□ 1545

I want to start in closing by thanking Chairman CAMP and Ranking Member LEVIN and the entire Ways and Means Committee for passing out, on a voice vote, H.R. 5021.

I would like to reiterate that H.R. 5021 is a clean extension of the surface transportation programs that continues the MAP-21 reforms. This extension is necessary to provide much-needed certainty and stability for States while we continue to work on addressing a long-term funding solution and a long-term reauthorization bill.

I am committed to that. I know that the Transportation Committee is going to work diligently with the Ways and Means Committee on funding a long-term solution to the funding and also

to passing a strong long-term reauthorization bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

At the end of this month, States across the country will be forced to put road construction on hold if Congress cannot address the highway trust fund. At risk are hundreds of thousands of jobs in the construction industry.

A strong infrastructure is central to commerce, and at a time when millions of Americans are packing their bags to take a vacation or just traveling to work, we must ensure that projects can be completed so that the roads, bridges, and highways they travel on are modernized and safe.

The bill before us today, H.R. 5021, will provide enough funding to get us through May 21, 2015, giving States the ability to complete projects.

This bill is the only package with all provisions having a proven history of getting big bipartisan votes in both the House and the Senate. The three provisions—pension smoothing, custom user fees, and leaking underground storage tanks—have all been used previously in bills that received strong bipartisan votes.

Pension smoothing and LUST were included in the last bipartisan highway trust fund legislation. These are policies everyone is familiar with. They are policies that will provide the funding we need, and they are the only policies that will pass both the House and Senate in time to fund our highways after the end of this month.

A long-term solution would be my preference, and an important feature of my tax reform discussion draft would provide enough revenue to maintain the solvency of the highway trust fund for 8 years.

In the meantime, I hope all Members of Congress can work on a longer-term solution by the end of May next year. This won't be an easy task, so it is important that Congress has time to have a deliberative, open debate about bipartisan solutions, rather than trying to hit Americans who are already paying more for gas with a gas tax hike.

It is time to act now. State transportation departments have already started delaying or stopping certain highway projects to prepare for the fact that funding may fall short. Americans across the country deserve to see less gridlock on the roads and from their elected representatives.

These policies are straightforward and have a history of bipartisan, bicameral support.

I am encouraged that the White House issued their support for the House highway bill, so we have an opportunity to solve this problem today.

Mr. Speaker, I will enter into the RECORD the administration's statement of support.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 5021—HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION
FUNDING ACT OF 2014

(Rep. Camp, R-Michigan, and Rep. Shuster, R-Pennsylvania, July 14, 2014)

With surface transportation funding running out and hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk later this summer, the Administration supports House passage of H.R. 5021. This legislation would provide for continuity of funding for the Highway Trust Fund during the height of the summer construction season and keep Americans at work repairing the Nation's crumbling roads, bridges, and transit systems.

However, this legislation only provides a short-term fix to the Highway Trust Fund. It does not address the continued need to pass a long-term authorization bill that creates jobs and provides certainty for cities, States, and businesses. Congress should work to pass a long-term authorization bill well before the expiration date set forth in H.R. 5021. The President has been very clear that increasing investment in the Nation's infrastructure is a top priority. That is why the President laid out a vision for a 21st century surface transportation infrastructure, the GROW AMERICA Act, which would streamline project approval processes and implement innovative transportation policies that will make better use of taxpayer dollars while supporting millions of jobs and positioning the Nation's economy for lasting growth. That proposal is fully paid for through existing revenues and by reforming business taxes to help create jobs and spur investment while eliminating loopholes that reward companies for moving profits overseas.

The Administration is focused every day on what can be done to expand opportunity for every American. In today's economy, that means building a first-class infrastructure that attracts first-class jobs and takes American businesses' goods all across the world.

Mr. CAMP. We also have strong industry support in a letter to Congress from 62 organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, the American Trucking Association, and the National Association of Manufacturers, which stated, "A long-term Federal commitment to prioritize and invest in our aging infrastructure and safety needs is essential to achieve this goal. Keeping the highway trust fund solvent is the first step."

Mr. Speaker, I will enter their statement of support into the RECORD as well.

JULY 14, 2014

TO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS:

The undersigned organizations representing every sector of the economy urge the House of Representatives and Senate to pass bipartisan legislation that will stabilize the Highway Trust Fund and prevent a shutdown of federal highway and public transportation investments across the country.

Our transportation infrastructure network is the foundation on which the nation's economy functions. American manufacturers, industries and businesses depend on this complex system to move people, products and services every day of the year.

As the World Economic Forum (WEF) noted in its 2013-2014 Global Competitiveness

Report, infrastructure connects regions, integrates markets and provides access to markets and services. While this latest report places the U.S. economy fifth in its "Global Competitiveness Index," America's infrastructure network now ranks 15th globally.

Shortchanging the Highway Trust Fund is not the path to future economic growth, jobs and increased competitiveness. The possibility of a deficient Highway Trust Fund that shuts 100,000 construction projects that support 700,000 jobs and puts all new highway, bridge and public transportation investments on hold will further harm an already fragile economy.

The U.S. economy requires a surface transportation infrastructure network that can keep pace with growing demands. A long-term federal commitment to prioritize and invest in our aging infrastructure and safety needs is essential to achieve this goal. Keeping the Highway Trust Fund solvent is the first step.

We urge Congress to avoid the immediate transportation cliff and improve the long-term fiscal condition of the Highway Trust Fund during 2014.

Sincerely,

National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Road & Transportation Builders Association, Associated General Contractors of America, National Retail Federation, American Trucking Association, U.S. Travel Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, NAACP, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, International Union of Operating Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Laborers International Union of North America, National Association of Development Organizations, NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, American Public Transportation Association, Airports Council International—North America, Transportation for America, Building America's Future.

Smart Growth America, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, Governors Highway Safety Association, American Highway Users Alliance, American Public Works Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, National Stone Sand and Gravel Association, Transportation Intermediaries Association, The American Society of Landscape Architects, American Iron and Steel Institute, National Utility Contractors Association, American Concrete Pipe Association, American Concrete Pavement Association, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Asphalt Pavement Association, Truckload Carriers Association, American Association of Airport Executives, International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America).

Safe Routes to School National Partnership, League of American Bicyclists, Alliance for Biking & Walking, Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, National Tank Truck Carriers, American Moving & Storage Association, NATSO, representing America's Truckstops and Travel Plazas, National Recreation and Park Association, Metropolitan Planning Council (Chicago, IL), American Traffic Safety Services Association, SMART—Transportation Division, Safe Kids Worldwide, PeopleForBikes—Business Network, PolicyLink, International Warehouse Logistics Association, The National Industrial Transportation League,

The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Portland Cement Association, Associated Equipment Distributors, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

Mr. CAMP. A "yes" vote will avoid a last-minute crisis. We also need to fund important highway projects and ensure that thousands of jobs are not at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will support this bill because we are at the eleventh hour. No, it is not the eleventh hour; it is a few minutes before midnight.

Unless Congress acts by the end of this month, more than 100,000 transportation projects could be delayed and as many as 700,000 jobs put at risk, but this legislation is a patch when what our Nation's infrastructure needs is major repair. Doing nothing is not an option, but we should be doing much better.

The Republicans, I must say, in this House, talk a lot about the need for certainty, but they have riddled infrastructure funding with uncertainty. The fact that we are in this position illustrates just how little House Republicans have done, since they assumed the majority in 2011, to address the long-term problems facing the trust fund and our infrastructure.

Every Democrat on Ways and Means urged our chairman, Mr. CAMP, to hold a series of hearings on long-term financing options for the trust fund, yet the committee has not held a single hearing on this topic in the 3 years and 6 months the Republicans have been in the majority.

Since 2011, the committee has had nearly two dozen hearings on repealing or dismantling the ACA and, in the last 14 months, a half-dozen hearings on the IRS. Those are not the priorities that are going to lead to a long-term solution of the trust fund. The Nation, in a word, deserves better than this short shrift. It needs a long-term solution.

Democrats on Ways and Means proposed an extension until December 31 in order to pressure a long-term solution this year. All of us on the Democratic side voted "yes," and all of the Republicans voted "no."

Let me end with a word on unemployment insurance. Senate Democrats and Republicans passed a bill to extend unemployment insurance that included an almost identical set of offsets as those included in today's legislation.

The House Republicans refused to take up that measure, at the same time calling some of them—the offsets—pie in the sky and opposing the plan.

Well, here we are today on the floor of the House, and 3 million Americans are still waiting for House Republicans to allow just one vote on a bipartisan

plan to extend unemployment benefits. It is time that House Republicans get priorities straight.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my time now be given to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a distinguished member of our committee who has worked so hard with the rest of us on highway issues, to control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased that Congress is finally acting today, not with a looming crisis, but one that is already upon us. This is entirely predictable.

I have been arguing for months that Congress needs to act because the stop-gap measure we did last Congress was designed to create precisely this Congress at precisely this time.

Sixty-two groups may have signed on a letter of support, but they prefer us to act meaningfully for long-term funding. They accept this because it is the only alternative to shutting down activities this summer.

My Republican friends are unwilling—not unable—but unwilling to resolve the funding contradictions. Revenues have failed to keep pace with the demands of an aging growing Nation, making no change for 21 years, as our infrastructure ages and falls apart, our Nation continues to grow and transportation patterns change. It is guaranteed that we should change as well.

This Congress has refused to address its responsibilities. The House Ways and Means Committee has not had a single hearing on transportation finance. One of our most important responsibilities, uniquely ours, one that is unlike so many other items we deal with, it is possible to resolve. We haven't had a hearing in the 43 months that the Republicans have been in charge of Congress.

Now, I understand there are conflicts within the Republican Caucus. There are some that appear satisfied with locking us into a slow, steady decline called for in the Republican budget—no new projects until October of 2015 and a 30 percent reduction over the next decade, at exactly the time the Federal partnership should be enhanced, not reduced.

There are others in the Republicans whose answer is to just abandon ship, to give up on the Federal partnership, slash the Federal gas tax, and abandon any hope of a national transportation policy and partnership to help States with projects that are multistate in nature or that need to be done whether economic times are bad.

That would be tragic and wrong to abandon the partnership that has

meant so much, but it is part of what is driving some of our Republican Tea Party friends. Just because there may not be a majority in the Republican ranks for either approach does not mean that we should continue to dither.

Because Republicans friends are unwilling or unable to resolve this, we have frozen the Transportation Committee in place. They don't have a bill. They are not going to have a bill unless we resolve what the budget number is: increase, continue the downward slide, or abandon it altogether.

We will be no better off next May to resolve this question. In fact, we will be worse off because we will be in the middle of a Presidential campaign, with a new Congress, maybe new committee lineups.

So as one of the stakeholders told me as we filed out of the hearing room last week, May 2015 is really May 2017 and, I might add, at the earliest.

We should reject this approach to hand off our responsibilities. We should resolve the resource question, and we should commit that this Congress is not going to recess for August vacation, not going to recess to campaign in October, until we have worked to give the American people a transportation bill they need—deserve—to jump-start the economy, create hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs, and strengthen communities and families across the Nation.

American infrastructure used to be the best in the world and a point of pride bringing Americans together. It is now a source of embarrassment and deep concern as we fall further and further behind global leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In addition to the Statement of Administration Policy in support of the legislation which has been entered into the record, as well as a letter from 62 organizations in support of the legislation—including the American Trucking Association, American Farm Bureau, National Association of Manufacturers—I also have a letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is the world's largest business federation, which represents more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, is key voting this legislation and has written a separate letter in support of this bill.

I would enter into the RECORD the Chamber of Commerce letter regarding H.R. 5021.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and

local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly urges you to vote for H.R. 5021, the "Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014," which would extend federal surface transportation programs and provide for a short-term solution for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) shortfall. By the end of July, Congress must send to the President a measure that generates the necessary cash flows to support continued outlays from the HTF and affords much-needed continuity in the short-term for economic development, international trade, and job creation.

Then, it is imperative to immediately turn to identifying and advancing a bipartisan, sustainable, and long-term solution to the HTF that can achieve bicameral success. The Chamber urges leaders of both parties to put politics aside and come together on a shared solution to the HTF's structural deficiencies. The user-supported HTF has been a bipartisan compromise from its beginning. It is the offspring of a Democratic-controlled House and Senate in the 84th Congress and the Republican Eisenhower Administration. For 58 years the HTF has served America's transportation infrastructure well and helped to create the world's largest economy; however, its long-term solvency has been compromised by a lack of action in both the legislative and executive branches.

The Chamber recognizes action on a short-term HTF fix as an important step and looks forward to working with you in the months ahead on a long-lasting remedy for the Highway Trust Fund. The Chamber urges the House to pass H.R. 5021, and may include votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted Scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), one of the champions on our committee for infrastructure in America.

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the ranking member, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank our chairman, our ranking member who was just here a few moments ago.

It is ironic, as I said earlier today, when we take up the transportation and infrastructure legislation that, just a few hours ago, the champion of transportation and infrastructure passed away. He was the chairman of the Transportation Committee. At that time, it was the Public Works Committee. He left the Congress in 1992, so it is ironic.

Mr. Chairman, through the Speaker, you have to understand the frustration that exists on both sides of the aisle on this legislation. We know what is needed. We know what is going to happen by the end of August. Many projects throughout the United States of America will just shut down or begin to shut down. Bills will not be paid. That is not good. That is not acceptable.

On the other hand, when the dust settles, the very committee that we represent, where everything goes through—the Ways and Means Committee—will have voted for close to \$1

trillion when the dust settles, unpaid for, permanent tax cuts, many of which are never meant to be permanent. Check the RECORD.

So we can do this and add \$1 trillion to the deficit, and we can't come up with a bipartisan 5-year or 6-year transportation plan for our roads?

Let's wait until the bridges fall down. Then we will do something about it.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, estimates as to how much we need to invest simply to maintain and repair our existing surface transportation system run as high as \$177 billion per year. The actual capital spending in 2012 was only \$103 billion.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ), who has been a valued member of our committee, and we are going to miss her.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, our manufacturers, small business owners, and everyday commuters require a modern transportation system. Simply put, our daily lives, our safety, and our economy all require a first-rate transportation system. But our Nation's infrastructure is crumbling, endangering travelers, lengthening commutes, and holding back economic growth.

In their latest report card, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave my own home State's roads and transit a D-minus. Sadly, Pennsylvania has the largest number of crumbling bridges in our Nation, at over 5,000. This is simply unacceptable.

With the highway trust fund running out of funds, we must act to ensure that important projects continue, that workers stay on the job, and that we do not fall further behind. But the bill before us is a temporary fix. Instead, this Congress should act on a robust transportation bill—not for a few months, but for years—a plan that will not only create jobs now but will help ensure our economic competitiveness and economic growth locally and nationally for years to come. We should do our job and pass a fully funded 6-year Federal transportation and infrastructure bill this year.

Putting this off does not make it easier. It does not build a stronger economy. While necessary, this bill is another missed opportunity by House Republicans who are short on vision, too willing to rely on fiscal gimmicks, and unable to find common ground to get the bill done—and done right.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the remaining time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). The gentleman from Oregon has 5¼ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a valued member of our Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Oregon for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that we would be here passing a long-term transportation plan. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

However, I support H.R. 5021 as an initial step in strengthening the American infrastructure. This bill obviously provides immediate help to prevent default of the highway trust fund and prevents impending delays in transportation. Mr. Speaker, 30,000 people will continue to work in my State as a result of this bill and its passage.

So I commend us for at least reaching this agreement, keeping things moving, and I urge its passage.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from the Associated General Contractors of America in support of H.R. 5021 and urging its passage.

THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL
CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA,
Arlington, VA, July 15, 2014.

Re Support H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNER: On behalf of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), I urge you to support H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014.

The Highway Trust Fund is running on fumes. The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) recently announced they will initiate cash management procedures for programs funded out of the Highway Account of the trust fund on August 1, 2014. This will force DOT to delay reimbursements to state departments of transportation for projects under construction or, in some cases, already completed. Further, if no additional revenue is found, the trust fund will not be able to support any new projects in 2015.

Bipartisan action is required to give states the funding certainty they need to issue highway construction contracts and to give the 10,000 construction firms engaged in highway, road and bridge construction the confidence they need to make hiring and capital investment decisions at the peak of the summer highway construction season. Providing revenue for the Highway Trust Fund will also guarantee the federal government can meet its obligations to reimburse states for highway and bridge construction projects already underway.

The looming insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund and the lack of long-term authorization stifles the economic impact of

road construction. It undermines states' ability to best plan and manage their highway, bridge and transit construction programs. It also stretches state budgets and may increase their borrowing costs.

To that end, AGC urges the House to pass bipartisan legislation that can provide the certainty states need to make investment decisions and the industry needs to make critical business decisions. Focus must then turn to finding a bipartisan, bicameral solution this year to fund a multi-year reauthorization of MAP-21.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY D. SHOAF,
Senior Executive Director,
Government Affairs.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), an eloquent spokesperson for rebuilding and renewing America.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today really demonstrates the House Republican fear of even trying. Their guiding strategic principle in this Congress is to do nothing and to be sure that no one else can do anything; and when they are eventually overwhelmed by a self-created crisis, as they have done with our transportation system, then to do next to nothing.

Bridges can literally fall down, highways crumble, public transportation systems are hobbled, but the House Republicans continue to reject a normal reauthorization of the Transportation Act of the type that, for decades, had broad bipartisan support in this House.

The only thing bipartisan about this last-gasp desperate effort to prevent a stoppage of transportation projects and the various groups that have endorsed it is that, after having had presented as a purported serious proposal by House Republicans that the way to stop the traffic slowdown was to have a mail or postal slowdown to finance it, they see this as a chance finally to at least prevent temporarily a total shutdown of our transportation project system. And so they are going along with it. I am not.

I realize that to have a sound transportation system, you can't do it week to week or month to month. There has to be some long-term planning. These bridges cannot repair themselves. These potholes don't fill themselves. We often hear that freedom is not free. Well, neither are freeways.

We have to have the revenue to have the kind of responsible national transportation system of the type that Dwight Eisenhower once provided the lead on when there was bipartisan support for reasonable public investment. Our competitors understand this. They are out there designing a 21st century transportation system that will be competitive, and we are being left in the potholes.

It is essential that we have a long-term bill, not this type of stopgap measure.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield myself the remainder of the time.

I appreciate my friend from Michigan putting into the RECORD what can only be regarded as reluctant letters of support. I wish that some of my colleagues would have had time to look at it. It is not a ringing endorsement of what is before us. It is a reluctant acknowledgement that that is all we have time for, that is all the Republicans will allow.

I have worked with those groups, with the road builders, with the Chamber, with the AFL-CIO, with the contractors, with elements large and small, local governments, transit. They are unanimous in their effort, in their regard that we should deal with this in the big picture. A number of them had letters before the Ways and Means Committee that it should be done this year, not kicked forward. That is why I asked our Republican chairman to allow us to hear from these people.

If we would have heard from Peter Ruane from the Road Builders in person; Tom Donohue from the Chamber; Rich Trumka from the AFL-CIO; Terence O'Sullivan, the eloquent leader of the Laborers'; from the AAA and the truckers, Bill Graves, they wouldn't endorse this approach. They would be talking about our getting down to business. But the Republicans would not allow us a hearing, not for 43 months. So they are reduced to offering tepid letters of support so the whole system doesn't fall apart.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that those are not a reason to move forward with this legislation and be happy. It is a sad commentary that this is the best that the Republicans think they can give us.

Those road groups who depend on moving freight, maintaining roads, who care about the health and well-being of our communities deserve better. Our families deserve better. The economy deserves better.

I hope that we will, in a moment, have a motion to recommit that will shorten the amount of time that we let this Congress off the hook and make sure that we don't adjourn this Congress without doing our job.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to go through history. The former chairman of the Infrastructure Committee on the last large highway bill, SAFETEA-LU, that was passed, I had a dear friend from Minnesota named Jim Oberstar

who served beside me and worked with me to write that piece of legislation. Finally, he became the chairman. What is impressive about that, this gentleman had more knowledge about transportation probably than anyone in this House has ever had, including myself.

I will tell you what was the biggest disappointment of his life is he wanted to write a transportation bill, a long-term transportation bill, and fund it. And guess who said no. Our President, Mr. Obama. His Secretary, a dear friend of mine, came down and said there is no way we are going to pass a long-term bill with full funding. He did not support Jim Oberstar.

What I wanted to do was to fully fund it, and I was opposed then by the seated President, George W. Bush.

In fact, if Mr. Oberstar had the opportunity, with the Senate being in the control of the President's party and the House being in the control of the President's party, we would not be here today. We would have infrastructure, bar none. We wouldn't be discussing what we are doing today.

This measure today is a stopgap measure. But this Congress has to wake up, and the President should have woken up then when he had control to pass legislation for the infrastructure of this country.

So, when we get accused on this side of not doing anything and making a stopgap measure, go back through history. This President has failed to recognize the importance. And for those interest groups, they should have been on him at that time in support of Mr. Oberstar.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say respectfully, this is a two-way street. We have to understand this is a really important piece of legislation to keep us going, but then we have to solve it permanently. Let's be leaders on infrastructure, which we do not have down on Pennsylvania Avenue right now at this time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would add to the gentleman from Alaska's remarks by saying the Ways and Means Committee proposed a tax reform discussion draft that actually funded the highway trust fund for 8 years. Now my friends on the other side would like to shorten this temporary measure, which goes through the end of May, to just go through the end of December, and that is wrong for a couple of reasons.

First, the Senate bill that is being considered has the same length of time as the current House bill, so that would be out of step with the direction that the Senate is trying to go. We are obviously trying to form a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation here.

The second is that, if we only were to pass this along for a few months, all of the problems that the Members on the

other side talked about would only be made worse, that is, there would not be the ability to plan over the winter, for example, for spring construction projects. To just extend it for a few months, again, makes it so temporary and so short that you would immediately have companies, States, employers hedging their bets on whether funding is going to continue after that time.

The construction season isn't just in the good months of the year, it also goes through the winter, and that is why it is so important that we get through the end of May to June 1 to give the Congress time to really come up with a long-term solution, which clearly everyone prefers on both sides.

So with that, I urge support for the legislation and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation reports that the Highway Trust Fund will be unable to fully fund critical, ongoing highway programs as soon as August. This crisis stems from a fundamental mismatch between trust fund revenues and highway program spending that pre-dates enactment of the last surface transportation reauthorization that Congress enacted. Since 2008, Congress has bailed out the Highway Trust Fund with more than \$54 billion in transfers.

H.R. 5021 provides the necessary funds to keep the federal highway and transit programs running while Congress develops legislation to set these programs on a sound financial footing for the long term. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address the systematic factors that have been driving the Highway Trust Fund's bankruptcy.

Importantly, this bill follows a House budget rule that requires general fund transfers to the trust fund to be fully offset. It should not become a recurring practice for taxpayers to bail out the highway and transit programs because Congress and the President are unable to make the changes necessary to avoid future trust fund insolvency.

My primary concern is with using pension smoothing as an offset. Based on CBO scoring, the bill produces ten-year savings through changing pension law, but these changes will likely be more than offset by greater federal obligations in the future. Ultimately, allowing additional smoothing now increases future liabilities for the taxpayer guarantee of private-sector pensions. In addition, we are increasingly using 10 years of savings to offset one year of costs as this bill does. It is progress to offset these costs, but we need to be reducing spending and deficits and when we increase spending, we should be offsetting the cost in as short a timeframe as possible.

Again, I look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation that will set the Highway Trust Fund on a sustainable path going forward, so that we can avoid the kind of stop-gap legislation we are considering today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the House is restoring a little sanity to this body by bringing up a clean extension of our nation's Surface Transportation Programs. These programs are too critical to our

economy to become a political issue. The short-term Highway Trust Fund extension that the House is voting on today will keep workers on the job this summer and fall fixing our bridges, operating our transit systems and making our highways safer. Unfortunately, we're already behind the 8 Ball in preparing for surface reauthorization and have some serious work to do in deciding how we are going to fund the future of transportation in this country.

Developing a bill based on strong policy is always the best way to write legislation, but the most critical part of developing this next reauthorization bill is clearly finding a way to pay for it. Without that everything else is just talk.

As we prepare for reauthorization of MAP-21 we need to get serious about funding our nation's transportation system. We can't continue to provide grossly inadequate funding for our nation's infrastructure. We're failing to keep pace with our international competitors who are investing heavily in infrastructure, particularly rail infrastructure to move people, goods, and services in their countries. I agree we need to squeeze out every bit of efficiency we can through improved technology and innovation, but we are kidding ourselves if we don't think it will take a significant investment in our nation's infrastructure to truly solve the congestion problems we are facing.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee needs to take the bull by the horns and decide how we are going to fund all forms of transportation for the future. Our committee needs to have all possible options on the table to address our current shortfalls. The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation infrastructure a D grade. That is unacceptable for the greatest county in the world.

Transportation and Infrastructure funding is absolutely critical to the nation, and, if properly funded, serves as a tremendous economic and job creator. In fact, Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics show that for every \$1 billion invested in transportation infrastructure, 44,000 jobs are created, as is \$6.2 billion in economic activity.

So, as the Transportation & Infrastructure committee prepares the next transportation reauthorization bill, I hope we can develop a long term bill with dedicated funding source for all modes of transportation so we can improve our nation's infrastructure, create jobs and improve the economy, and provide new and innovative transportation options for the traveling public.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 5021, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014. Once again, Congress has failed to lead on a critical issue that impacts the lives of every American. We need to make bold investments in our transportation infrastructure, which is currently in a state of disrepair. It should be embarrassing to every member of Congress that the American Society of Civil Engineers recently gave our nation's infrastructure a grade of "D+."

Instead of working towards a multi-year reauthorization of our surface transportation programs, which expire on September 30, 2014, Congress is once again kicking the can down the road. If Congress does not act to replenish

the Highway Trust Fund, payments to states for transportation projects would be cut drastically. This would have detrimental impacts on our already modest efforts to improve our infrastructure and we must not allow this to occur. While I am disappointed in the lack of progress made on a permanent solution to this problem, I support this measure as a way to avoid catastrophe.

While Congress plays an important role in funding transportation infrastructure projects, states have an obligation in this area as well. I'm extremely disappointed that the Michigan State Legislature adjourned for the summer without reaching agreement on funding ongoing road projects in Michigan. All of our leaders, from Congress down to states, cities, and municipalities, need to make infrastructure spending a top priority rather than continuing to play politics with this issue.

While I urge adoption of this measure, I also hope my colleagues will join me in having a serious discussion about how to provide a long-term fix to our nation's infrastructure problems. Our constituents demand action on this critical issue.

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, I support efforts by Congress to continue funding the Highway Trust Fund. This fund provides \$3.2 billion of necessary resources for building and maintaining California's transportation system and growing the state's economy. With the passage of H.R. 5021, San Bernardino County's Omnitrans will be able to move forward with the purchase of 15 new transit buses to link the cities of Fontana, Ontario, Montclair, and Pomona. Projects like this are crucial to the local economy and construction projects across California's 35th Congressional District will continue through spring of next year.

This short term investment is an important first step, but it is time we make significant long term investments in the country's infrastructure and Congress must now take up The GROW AMERICA Act. This legislation is a four year reauthorization proposal that provides increased and stable funding for our nation's highways, bridges, mass transits, and rail systems. This will provide critical investments to fix our failing roads and crumbling bridges to ensure the safety of our transportation systems. Sixty five percent of America's infrastructure is rated in less than good condition and one in four bridges requires significant repair. Congress must act now by investing in our infrastructure to increase safety, build our nation's transportation workforce, and increase opportunity for the middle class.

This legislation will provide \$5 billion in funding over four years for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Act. The TIGER grant program will continue to be available for another four years, extending successful transportation projects that serve the diverse travel and goods movement to meet the needs or the residents and businesses of California.

The GROW AMERICA Act will also empower regional and local communities to make transportation investments that support the growth of the economy and quality of life of the residents of California's 35th Congressional District. According to the Department of Transportation only 8 percent of federal highway dollars are now controlled by regional and

local interests and additional authority over resources at the local level would increase the success of our transportation investments. This will ensure the public and interested parties can participate in the early development of transportation plans and review alternative development scenarios. Lastly, The GROW AMERICA Act will adopt local performance-based decision making to ensure regional priorities drive investment decisions and by implementing measures to reduce the amount of time to break ground on local projects.

This input from local stakeholders is very important for the communities I represent in the 35th Congressional District of California. As a major freight corridor for Burlington Northern-Santa Fe and Union Pacific Railroads, San Bernardino County needs additional investment in grade separation projects to reduce traffic congestion. It often loses out on infrastructure grants to larger metropolitan areas. The GROW AMERICA Act will take our role as a freight corridor into account when determining funding for the Inland Empire.

Again, I commend today's efforts to continue funding the Highway Trust Fund, but it is clear that the success of our economy relies on the strength of our infrastructure. I urge Congress take up the GROW AMERICA Act and make the critical transportation investments needed to create jobs and increase opportunity in California.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this short-term highway bill because it fails to provide a funding mechanism that will guarantee the long-term solvency of the highway trust fund which is needed to spur investments in our nation's roadways, bridges, and public transportation infrastructure.

This is just another example of our failure to govern, and as a result we are sacrificing the jobs and economic development that are critical to the progress of our nation.

This is that same scenario that has occurred under the Republican leadership of the House over and over again: when we passed the last 2-year highway bill, with the farm bill, with the budget and debt ceiling.

These short-term extensions and governing by crisis make it nearly impossible to plan for future infrastructure needs. We have a crumbling infrastructure. We can't keep pretending to fund through phony accounting gimmicks. We actually have to put money into it.

About 90 percent of the revenue in the Highway Trust Fund is generated by a federal 18.4-cent-per-gallon tax on gasoline and a 24.4-cent-per-gallon tax on diesel fuel.

Federal fuel taxes have not been increased since 1993, and because of this stagnation the gas taxes' buying power is about 40 percent below that in 1993.

If those taxes had been adjusted to keep pace with the consumer price index, for example, the tax on gasoline, which is currently 18.4 cents per gallon, would be about 30 cents per gallon, and the tax on diesel fuel, currently 24.4 cents per gallon, would be about 40 cents per gallon.

Other factors, such as increases in fuel efficiency, have reduced demand for fuel, causing the fund's overall revenues to fall.

Rather than proposing a bill that guarantees a long-term funding mechanism, such as an increased gas tax, the House brought to the

floor legislation to fund highway projects for 8 months with a series of accounting gimmicks and one-time fund transfers.

The highway bill passed in the last Congress only authorized funding for two years. For two years we have known that this problem was coming, yet the House Ways & Means Committee has not had a single hearing on transportation finance.

We need to act to invest in our nation's transportation system, but under this bill we are simply dodging a problem. A real solution will require the political courage and leadership that we have failed to demonstrate here in the House, today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 669, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1615

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I am, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Blumenauer moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5021 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of title I, add the following:

Subtitle E—Modification of Extension Period SEC. 1401. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014.

In this title, including the amendments made by this title any reference to "May 31, 2015" shall be treated as a reference to "December 31, 2014".

Add at the end of the bill the following:

TITLE III—SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEC. 3001. SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEED TO PASS LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House of Representatives finds the following:

(1) The Highway Trust Fund is projected to become insolvent before the end of the fiscal year.

(2) The user-fee principle upon which the Highway Trust Fund was established is eroding.

(3) Since 2008, Congress has transferred \$54 billion from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund.

(4) The primary funding mechanisms for the Highway Trust Fund have not been fundamentally addressed since 1993.

(5) Due to a decline in per capita miles driven, a decline in the purchasing power of highway excise taxes, and increased fuel efficiency, Highway Trust Fund revenues have not kept pace with the needs of United States infrastructure.

(6) United States infrastructure is falling behind the rest of the world.

(7) In 2013, the United States was ranked 25th globally in overall infrastructure quality.

(8) Short-term surface transportation extensions increase costs of transportation projects, limit the ability of state and local governments to plan infrastructure improvement, and ultimately have resulted in the degradation of United States infrastructure.

(b) SENSE OF HOUSE.—It is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) any long-term transportation reauthorization bill should, at a minimum, fund infrastructure spending at least to current levels plus inflation through fiscal year 2020, and

(2) by the end of calendar year 2014, the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives should each report legislation reauthorizing the surface transportation programs within their respective jurisdictions, and the House of Representatives should pass a long-term surface reauthorization bill to ensure the sustainability of the Highway Trust Fund and improve United States infrastructure.

In section 2001, strike "June 1, 2015" each place it appears and insert "January 1, 2015".

In the quoted matter proposed to be inserted by section 2002(a), strike the first dollar amount and insert "\$5,550,000,000".

In the quoted matter proposed to be inserted by section 2002(a), strike the second dollar amount and insert "\$1,450,000,000".

Strike section 2003 and insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding section accordingly):

SEC. 2003. CLARIFICATION OF 6-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN CASE OF OVER- STATEMENT OF BASIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 6501(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of clause (i), by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

"(ii) An understatement of gross income by reason of an overstatement of unrecovered cost or other basis is an omission from gross income; and", and

(2) by inserting "(other than in the case of an overstatement of unrecovered cost or other basis)" in clause (iii) (as so redesignated) after "In determining the amount omitted from gross income".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) returns filed after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) returns filed on or before such date if the period specified in section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (determined without regard to such amendments) for assessment of the taxes with respect to which such return relates has not expired as of such date.

SEC. 2004. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RE- TURNS RELATING TO MORTGAGE IN- TEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 6050H(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (C), by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (I), and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraphs:

"(D) the unpaid balance with respect to such mortgage,

"(E) the address of the property securing such mortgage,

"(F) information with respect to whether the mortgage is a refinancing that occurred in such calendar year,

“(G) the amount of real estate taxes paid from an escrow account with respect to the property securing such mortgage, and

“(H) the date of the origination of such mortgage, and”.

(b) PAYEE STATEMENTS.—Subsection (d) of section 6050H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) the information required to be included on the return under subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) of subsection (b)(2).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns and statements the due date for which (determined without regard to extensions) is after December 31, 2015.

SEC. 2005. PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO MEET DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6695 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) FAILURE TO BE DILIGENT IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT.—Any person who is a tax return preparer with respect to any return or claim for refund who fails to comply with due diligence requirements imposed by the Secretary by regulations with respect to determining eligibility for, or the amount of, the credit allowable by section 24 shall pay a penalty of \$500 for each such failure.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

At the end of title I, as amended, add the following:

SEC. 1402. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this title, including the amendments made by this title—

(1) any reference to a dollar amount relating to the period beginning on October 1, 2014, and ending on May 31, 2015, shall be treated as a reference to that dollar amount multiplied by 0.3786008230453; and

(2) any reference to “²⁴³/₃₆₅” shall be treated as a reference to “⁹²/₃₆₅”.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to the dollar amount referred to in the matter proposed to be inserted by section 1001(c)(3)(B)(ii).

Mr. BLUMENAUER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to suspend the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. SHUSTER. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order against the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this may be the last chance Congress has to honor our commitments to provide answers about transportation funding and develop a framework that will guide the Federal partnership that has meant so much. The motion won't kill the bill, and it won't delay the bill. It simply reduces the funding to the amount necessary for Congress to do its job before we adjourn for the year. It is so that we cannot duck our responsibilities and hand this off not to the next Congress but to the Congress after that.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, in May of next year there will be no transportation bill, there will be no funding, and Congress will be even more nervous and confused with a transportation problem that will be more complex. It will be more expensive, and the politics, I am sad to say, will be harder, not easier.

My good friend, the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, does have a proposal. He has never had a hearing on it. And it was dismissed when it was announced by his own Speaker, if I quote: “Blah, blah, blah.”

This is a sad moment for me. But it is not too late for us to do something about it. We need to move forward and have a tighter timetable. Let's finally have a hearing in Ways and Means. Let's have a proposal going forward. I am perfectly willing to work in August to do this. I would be happy for us to add days in September. We shouldn't recess in October to campaign and leave a big question mark. It is true that it takes time to put these things together, but we won't be putting it together next spring, mark my words.

The Republicans need to enable us to find out where they stand. Will they finally have a hearing on my friend Mr. CAMP's proposal? Will they slash the highway trust fund and abandon the responsibilities? Or will they just use the Ryan budget and reduce transportation 30 percent over the next 10 years and no new projects for 15 months?

Those are all legitimate issues. They deserve to have a day in court, and if we get down to work, we could resolve it. I am confident we can do it, and it will be just as easy, if not easier, to do now than waiting until next year when the clock will be ticking, when half the United States Senate will be running for President, and we will have a new lineup, other than the Speaker, who may be happy to have avoided it. It is not going to be any easier.

I respectfully suggest that we honor those 62 groups that want us to move. Look, they would much rather have us do it this year.

We had infrastructure that was once the envy of the world. Now it is a source of embarrassment. We are 27th in the world and sinking. Our problems are getting more expensive, and they are getting harder. I know how hard

the job that the chair of the T&I Committee has. I respect him, I respect the committee, but they need to know exactly how much money they have got so they can fashion a bill, and if they did that, they would be able to crank one out, I am confident, in a month or two. But right now, after an entire Congress, they don't have a bill. We don't have a bill.

Those 62 groups and organizations don't have a path. What they have is a great big question mark next May when we start this all over again. This shouldn't be a partisan argument. I disagreed when President Bush shut it down. I disagreed that President Obama didn't move forward, but it is not Republicans versus Democrats. It is not House versus Senate. It is time for us to all come together and work as the stakeholders would have us do.

In fact, we don't even have to have any courage. We can just follow what those experts who represent truckers, AAA, local government, and contractors have offered as guidance. Read the special commissions that have reported to President Bush. This is not rocket science. It is will, it is action, it is deciding exactly how much we are going to spend and when.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully request that the House approve this motion to recommit, give us enough time and money to avoid the summer shutdown but not enough to let this Congress off the hook and hand it off to the 115th or the 120th Congress, but we do our job so America can do its.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order and seek the time in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in opposition to the motion to recommit, and I just want to say I have high regard and great respect for the gentleman from Oregon and his passion for infrastructure. As long as I have been here, he has certainly been a strong advocate. Leaving the committee to go to Ways and Means, I know his passion is on the Transportation Committee, but now he is on the committee that certainly can help the process and move it forward.

But I strongly oppose this motion to recommit. It shortens the length of the time of the extension, and I am afraid that putting all our eggs in a lameduck basket will cause us great problems, and I don't believe it will be successful. And then what do we do then? We are going to be doing another short-term and another short-term extension. So shortening the length is not appropriate, I believe.

I think this is the best strategy. It cuts funding. I don't believe that that

is in our interest. If we don't get this into next year, we are going to lose that funding because somebody will take it for something else, and if we are not successful in lameduck, then we are going to be going into the next construction season and then we will have trouble working out a solution to that when you cut the funding. It also increases taxes, and that is something right now that I just don't believe this country can accept.

We have an immediate, critical need to address the solvency of the trust fund and extend the surface transportation law so that we can get through this construction season and we can continue with the planning season to move us into next year. I am confident that we are going to be able to do something next year because I believe we have to do something, not on just this issue, but on many issues that we have kicked the can down the road.

As the distinguished former chairman of the Transportation Committee pointed out, my colleagues, not Mr. BLUMENAUER, but many of my colleagues on the other side, went and kicked the can down the road and passed a massive stimulus bill that put about 5 or 6 or 7 percent of that into highway funding when we all know that was where the need was.

Former Chairman Oberstar wanted to do a bill, but again, his own party left him. His own party was irresponsible on that and, again, passing a stimulus bill which I believe hasn't worked, and if it would have been directed to transportation and to infrastructure, we would see a very, very different economy today.

I also add that extending these programs through May in no way precludes Congress from continuing to work on addressing a long-term funding solution—which I believe we have to do. It in no way precludes us from moving on a long-term reauthorization bill, which we continue to work on in the committee, and which is a top priority for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

However, I believe this legislation is the responsible solution at the time and ensures we don't play politics with these programs, and it enables us to continue to make improvements to our surface transportation system.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this motion. I urge my colleagues to vote "no", and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 227, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 413]

YEAS—193

Barber	Green, Al	Nolan
Bass	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Beatty	Grijalva	Owens
Becerra	Gutiérrez	Pallone
Bera (CA)	Hahn	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Pastor (AZ)
Bishop (NY)	Heck (WA)	Payne
Blumenauer	Higgins	Pelosi
Bonamici	Himes	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Peters (CA)
Braley (IA)	Holt	Peters (MI)
Brown (FL)	Honda	Peterson
Brownley (CA)	Horsford	Pingree (ME)
Bustos	Hoyer	Pocan
Butterfield	Huffman	Polis
Capps	Israel	Price (NC)
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Rahall
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Roybal-Allard
Castro (TX)	Keating	Ruiz
Chu	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Ciulline	Kennedy	Ryan (OH)
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sanchez, Linda
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	T.
Clay	Kind	Sanchez, Loretta
Cleaver	Kirkpatrick	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Kuster	Schakowsky
Cohen	Langevin	Schiff
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Schrader
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Schwartz
Costa	Levin	Scott (VA)
Courtney	Lewis	Scott, David
Crowley	Lipinski	Serrano
Cuellar	Loeb sack	Sewell (AL)
Cummings	Lofgren	Shea-Porter
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Sherman
Davis, Danny	Lowe	Sinema
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Sires
DeGette	(NM)	Slaughter
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
DeLauro	(NM)	Speier
DelBene	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
Deutch	Maffei	Takano
Dingell	Maloney,	Thompson (CA)
Doggett	Carolyn	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	Maloney, Sean	Tierney
Duckworth	Matsui	Titus
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Ellison	McCollum	Tsongas
Engel	McDermott	Van Hollen
Enyart	McGovern	Vargas
Eshoo	McIntyre	Veasey
Esty	McNerney	Vela
Farr	Meeks	Velázquez
Fattah	Meng	Visclosky
Foster	Miller, George	Walz
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Wasserman
Fudge	Moran	Schultz
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Waters
Gallego	Nadler	Waxman
Garamendi	Napolitano	Welch
Garcia	Neal	Wilson (FL)
Grayson	Negrete McLeod	Yarmuth

NAYS—227

Aderholt	Black	Cantor
Amash	Blackburn	Capito
Amodei	Boustany	Carter
Bachmann	Brady (TX)	Cassidy
Bachus	Bridenstine	Chabot
Barletta	Brooks (AL)	Chaffetz
Barr	Brooks (IN)	Clawson (FL)
Barrow (GA)	Brown (GA)	Coble
Barton	Buchanan	Coffman
Benishek	Bucshon	Cole
Bentivolio	Burgess	Collins (GA)
Bilirakis	Calvert	Collins (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Camp	Conaway

Cook	Jolly	Ribble
Cotton	Jones	Rice (SC)
Cramer	Jordan	Rigell
Crawford	Joyce	Roby
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Roe (TN)
Culberson	King (IA)	Rogers (AL)
Daines	King (NY)	Rogers (KY)
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Dent	Kiame	Rohrabacher
DeSantis	Labrador	Rokita
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Rooney
Duffy	Lamborn	Ros-Lehtinen
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Roskam
Duncan (TN)	Lankford	Ross
Ellmers	Latham	Rothfus
Farenthold	Latta	Royce
Fincher	LoBiondo	Runyan
Fitzpatrick	Long	Ryan (WI)
Fleischmann	Lucas	Salmon
Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Sanford
Flores	Lummis	Scalise
Forbes	Marchant	Schock
Fortenberry	Marino	Schweikert
Fox	Massie	Scott, Austin
Franks (AZ)	Matheson	Sensenbrenner
Frelinghuysen	McAllister	Sessions
Gardner	McCarthy (CA)	Shimkus
Garrett	McCaul	Shuster
Gerlach	McClintock	Simpson
Gibbs	McHenry	Smith (MO)
Gibson	McKeon	Smith (NE)
Gingrey (GA)	McKinley	Smith (NJ)
Gohmert	McMorris	Smith (TX)
Goodlatte	Rodgers	Stewart
Gosar	Meadows	Stivers
Gowdy	Meehan	Stockman
Granger	Messer	Stutzman
Graves (GA)	Mica	Terry
Graves (MO)	Michaud	Thompson (PA)
Griffin (AR)	Miller (FL)	Thornberry
Griffith (VA)	Miller (MI)	Tiberi
Grimm	Mullin	Tipton
Guthrie	Mulvaney	Turner
Hall	Murphy (PA)	Upton
Hanna	Neugebauer	Valadao
Harper	Noem	Wagner
Harris	Nugent	Walberg
Hartzler	Nunes	Walden
Hastings (WA)	Olson	Walorski
Heck (NV)	Palazzo	Weber (TX)
Hensarling	Paulsen	Webster (FL)
Herrera Beutler	Pearce	Westrup
Holding	Perry	Westmoreland
Hudson	Petri	Whitfield
Huelskamp	Pittenger	Wilson (SC)
Huizenga (MI)	Pitts	Wittman
Hultgren	Poe (TX)	Wolf
Hunter	Pompeo	Womack
Hurt	Posey	Woodall
Issa	Price (GA)	Yoder
Jenkins	Reed	Yoho
Johnson (OH)	Reichert	Young (AK)
Johnson, Sam	Renacci	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—12

Byrne	DesJarlais	Nunnelee
Campbell	Hanabusa	Rush
Carney	Kingston	Southerland
Davis, Rodney	Miller, Gary	Williams

□ 1652

Messrs. FORTENBERRY, REICHERT, FINCHER, and DUNCAN of South Carolina changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Messrs. YARMUTH and CLEAVER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 367, noes 55, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 414]

AYES—367

Aderholt Diaz-Balart Kennedy
 Amodi Dingell Kildee
 Bachmann Doyle Kilmer
 Bachus Duckworth Kind
 Barber Duffy King (IA)
 Barletta Duncan (TN) King (NY)
 Barr Edwards Kinzinger (IL)
 Barrow (GA) Ellison Kirkpatrick
 Barton Ellmers Kline
 Bass Engel Kuster
 Beatty Enyart LaMalfa
 Becerra Eshoo Lance
 Benishek Esty Langevin
 Bentivolio Farenthold Larsen (WA)
 Bera (CA) Farr Larson (CT)
 Billrakis Fattah Latham
 Bishop (GA) Fincher Latta
 Bishop (NY) Fitzpatrick Lee (CA)
 Bishop (UT) Fleischmann Levin
 Black Fleming Lewis
 Blackburn Flores Lipinski
 Bonamici Forbes LoBiondo
 Boustany Fortenberry Loebsack
 Brady (PA) Foster Lofgren
 Brady (TX) Frankel (FL) Long
 Braley (IA) Frelinghuysen Lowenthal
 Brooks (IN) Fudge Lowey
 Brown (FL) Gabbard Lucas
 Brownley (CA) Gallego Luetkemeyer
 Buchanan Garamendi Lujan Grisham
 Bucshon Garcia (NM)
 Burgess Gardner Lujan, Ben Ray
 Bustos Gerlach (NM)
 Butterfield Gibbs Lynch
 Calvert Gibson Maffei
 Camp Gingrey (GA) Maloney,
 Cantor Goodlatte Carolyn
 Capito Granger Maloney, Sean
 Capps Graves (GA) Marchant
 Capuano Graves (MO) Marino
 Cárdenas Grayson Massie
 Carson (IN) Green, Al Matsui
 Cartwright Green, Gene McAllister
 Cassidy Griffin (AR) McCarthy (CA)
 Castor (FL) Griffith (VA) McCarthy (NY)
 Castro (TX) Grijalva McCaul
 Chaffetz Grimm McCollum
 Chu Guthrie McGovern
 Cicilline Hahn McHenry
 Clark (MA) Hanna McIntyre
 Clarke (NY) Harper McKeon
 Cleaver Hartzler McKinley
 Clyburn Hastings (FL) McMorris
 Coble Hastings (WA) Rodgers
 Coffman Heck (NV) McNeerney
 Cohen Heck (WA) Meehan
 Cole Hensarling Meeks
 Collins (NY) Herrera Beutler Meng
 Conaway Higgins Mica
 Connolly Himes Michaud
 Conyers Hinojosa Miller (FL)
 Cook Holding Miller (MI)
 Cooper Honda Moore
 Costa Horsford Moran
 Cotton Hoyer Mullin
 Courtney Hudson Murphy (FL)
 Cramer Huffman Murphy (PA)
 Crawford Huizenga (MI) Nadler
 Crenshaw Hunter Napolitano
 Crowley Hurt Neal
 Cuellar Israel Negrete McLeod
 Culberson Issa Neugebauer
 Cummings Jackson Lee Noem
 Daines Jeffries Nolan
 Davis (CA) Jenkins Nunes
 Davis, Danny Johnson (GA) O'Rourke
 Davis, Rodney Johnson (OH) Owens
 DeFazio Johnson, E. B. Palazzo
 DeGette Johnson, Sam Pallone
 Delaney Jolly Pascarell
 DeLauro Joyce Pastor (AZ)
 DelBene Kaptur Paulsen
 Denham Keating Payne
 Dent Kelly (IL) Pearce
 Deutch Kelly (PA) Pelosi

Perlmutter Ryan (OH)
 Perry Ryan (WI)
 Peters (MI) Sánchez, Linda
 Peterson T.
 Petri Sanchez, Loretta
 Pingree (ME) Sarbanes
 Pittenger Scalise
 Pitts Schakowsky
 Pocan Schiff
 Poe (TX) Schneider
 Polis Schock
 Price (GA) Schrader
 Price (NC) Schwartz
 Quigley Scott (VA)
 Rahall Scott, David
 Rangel Serrano
 Reed Sessions
 Reichert Sewell (AL)
 Renacci Shea-Porter
 Rice (SC) Sherman
 Richmond Shimkus
 Rigell Shuster
 Roby Simpson
 Roe (TN) Sinema
 Rogers (AL) Sires
 Rogers (KY) Slaughter
 Rogers (MI) Smith (MO)
 Rohrabacher Smith (NE)
 Rokita Smith (NJ)
 Rooney Smith (TX)
 Ros-Lehtinen Smith (WA)
 Roskam Southerland
 Ross Speier
 Rothfus Stewart
 Roybal-Allard Stivers
 Royce Swalwell (CA)
 Ruiz Takano
 Runyan Terry
 Ruppersberger Thompson (CA)
 Rush Thompson (MS)

NOES—55

Amash Hall
 Blumenauer Harris
 Bridenstine Holt
 Brooks (AL) Huelskamp
 Broun (GA) Hultgren
 Carter Jones
 Chabot Jordan
 Clawson (FL) Labrador
 Clay Lamborn
 Collins (GA) Lankford
 DeSantis Lummis
 Doggett Matheson
 Duncan (SC) McClintock
 Foxx McDermott
 Franks (AZ) Meadows
 Garrett Messer
 Gohmert Miller, George
 Gosar Mulvaney
 Gowdy Nugent

NOT VOTING—10

Byrne Gutiérrez
 Campbell Hanabusa
 Carney Kingston
 DesJarlais Miller, Gary

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1659

Mr. RUSH changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4719, FIGHTING HUNGER INCENTIVE ACT OF 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-522) on the

Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tonko
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Van Hollen
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walorski
 Walz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waxman
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Whitfield
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yarmuth
 Yoder
 Young (AK)
 Young (IN)

Olson
 Peters (CA)
 Pompeo
 Posey
 Ribble
 Salmon
 Sanford
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Stockman
 Stutzman
 Waters
 Weber (TX)
 Welch
 Westmoreland
 Yoho

□ 1703

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 152, line 15.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

resolution (H. Res. 670) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3230, the conference report on Veterans Access and Accountability.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Gallego moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 (an Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes) be instructed to recede from disagreement with section 601 of the Senate amendment (relating to authorization of major medical facility leases).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's notice will appear in the RECORD.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my dear friend from New York (Mr. SERRANO) for yielding.

I rise to speak on this bill, but not to offer an amendment. I don't offer an amendment because, to offer an amendment, I would have to identify an offset within the body of this bill. This bill is deeply and harmfully underfunded. Therefore, I will not seek to take from an object that already is underfunded to fund the elimination of the Election Assistance Commission.

At the outset, I want to say that I served on this subcommittee for 23 years. I know a little bit about the subject of this committee. Not only that, I was the sponsor of the Help America Vote Act with Bob Ney, my friend from Ohio. That bill overwhelmingly passed with over 350 bipartisan votes. Unfortunately, too frequently, bipartisanship eludes us in this body today.

I voted against Ryan-Murray because I said at that point in time it did not provide sufficient resources to meet the responsibility this Nation has to stay strong, stay free, and to grow our economy and grow jobs for our people.

As I said, I was the sponsor of the Help America Vote Act. Within that bill, we created the Election Assistance Commission. Again, it was overwhelmingly supported by both sides of the aisle and the United States Senate and signed into law by President Bush. The offices and programs covered under that program were focused on trying to assist States and local governments to ensure the appropriate administration of elections.

Is there anything, I ask my colleagues, more important in a democracy than ensuring that elections are well run and that every voter's vote counts? I suggest to you there is not.

The Election Assistance Commission, established by the Help America Vote Act in the aftermath of the 2000 Presidential election debacle, to be specific, had 357 Members of this body vote for it. The appropriations bill on this floor today, however, would essentially eliminate that commission.

I am not surprised because, frankly, when the Republicans became the majority in this House, it was at that point in time they started focusing on the elimination of the Election Assistance Commission, as I said, designed to make our elections more efficient, fairer, and more honest.

Initially, my Republican colleagues suggested that the duties of the Election Assistance Commission would be done by the Federal Election Commission, which has a totally different responsibility, and that is a responsibility to make sure that the funding of elections is done appropriately and within the law.

I am going to vote against this bill not simply because of the zeroing out of the Election Assistance Commission. Very frankly, I am chagrined and dis-

appointed that my Republican colleagues too often are trying to undermine America's right to vote, undermine America's incentive to vote, undermine the facilitating of Americans voting. Frankly, I don't understand that.

The Election Assistance Commission, for the first time in history, said that for over 200 years States and localities had run Federal elections. They were concurrent with State elections and local elections. But they ran our elections with no assistance from us—for President, Vice President of the United States, United States Senators, and Members of the House of Representatives. We did not participate.

Under HAVA, we have contributed a substantial sum of money so that they could update and make efficient the election systems that they had. But recently, the Republican Party, Mr. Chairman, has refused to recommend appointments for the Commission, and now they want to eliminate the Commission.

Mr. Chairman, in a country that looks at the right to vote and the exercising of franchise as central to our democracy, I would urge us to defeat this bill, to re-fund this critically important agency, and to do what we ought to do as Americans and as Members of this Congress.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FRELINGHUYSEN

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount otherwise provided by this Act for "National Security Council and Homeland Security Council—Salaries and Expenses" for the National Security Council is hereby reduced by \$4,200,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from New Jersey and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would reduce the amount available for the National Security Council staff by \$4.2 million, or by approximately one-third.

The National Security Council staff is the President's staff. They serve solely to provide advice to the President on national security matters. They have no authority to manage programs. They have no authority to allocate funds or otherwise decide spending levels. And they have no authority to determine or dictate congressional access to classified information involving sensitive military matters or operations. As the President's staff, it is appropriate that they are accountable to him, just as our staff is only ac-

countable to us. Therefore, they are not subject to congressional questioning nor other forms of oversight.

Over the past few years, the size of the National Security Council's staff has grown, and it appears that they have moved beyond their Presidential advisory role to involve themselves in decisions which are not in their purview. Over the last few months, we have had several instances in which the National Security staff has mandated that the Department of Defense and other agencies selectively withhold information from congressional oversight committees.

While the President has constitutional authority as Commander in Chief to provide for the Nation's defense, this Congress was vested exclusively with the constitutional authority to fund that defense, a constitutional authority that is vested in the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that all appropriate oversight committees are not restricted from the information they need to have to do their jobs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the recognition, and I would strongly emphasize that I join with my chairman and colleague from New Jersey in support of his amendment. So that there is clarity as to the purpose of his offering this amendment, I would reiterate two of his remarks.

Over the last few months, we have had several instances in which National Security staff has mandated that the Department of Defense and other agencies selectively withhold information from congressional oversight committees, and in one case specifically, excluding the Appropriations Committee. As the chairman rightfully pointed out, the Congress is vested exclusively with the constitutional authority to fund that defense, and the authority in this instance rests with the Appropriations Committee.

The committee has included clear direction in the Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Appropriations Act and in the House-passed Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2015 for the Department to report on the conduct of various programs as well as the obligation and expenditure of associated funding.

□ 1715

This direction addresses not only funds expressly provided in the Department's appropriations bill but Department actions that may cause the reprogramming of funds provided by the Congress.

Accurate, complete, and timely reporting by the Department of Defense is essential for the committee to conduct its oversight responsibilities. It informs committee deliberations to prepare the annual appropriations bills. It helps prepare the committee for negotiations with the Senate, and at present, it will help the committee formulate recommendations on the recently submitted fiscal year 2015 budget amendment on the overseas contingency operations.

The committee's responsibilities for funding are specific. Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states:

No money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law, and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

I strongly urge the adoption of the gentleman's amendment, which underscores the constitutional prerogative of the Congress as well as of the Committee on Appropriations.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Let me thank Chairman CRENSHAW and Ranking Member SERRANO for this opportunity to propose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the chairman for yielding and for bringing this to the attention of the full House. I will refer to the gentleman as "chairman" because I have the pleasure of serving on the Defense Subcommittee, and he acts as the chairman of that.

Mr. Chairman, as the chairman has said, the National Security Council and the National Security Adviser have gotten into a bad habit, I think, of bypassing the Appropriations Committee, including the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee and the ranking member of the subcommittee, when it comes to issues of national security. I can tell you firsthand that I have had situations in which I have asked for an update on some matters, and they haven't been followed up on.

I want to thank the chairman for his leadership in all things defense. I want to encourage my colleagues to follow his lead, and I urge that we adopt this amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into any contract with an incorporated entity if such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity is incorporated or chartered in Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, and such entity's sealed bid or competitive proposal shows that such entity was previously incorporated in the United States.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Connecticut and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 2 minutes.

My amendment would prohibit Federal contracts from going to entities incorporated in Bermuda and the Cayman Islands—the two nations most often abused as tax havens.

In the past few weeks, this body has accepted similar provisions for the Department of Defense Appropriations bill; the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill; and the Energy and Water bill. The latter passed on a rollcall vote.

As before, we should not be spending taxpayers' money on Federal contracts for companies that have renounced their American citizenship in favor of an island tax haven.

Let me quote from an article from Saturday's Washington Post by Allan Sloan, a senior-editor-at-large from Fortune, and the title of the article is: "Tax-Dodging Firms Are Sticking Us with the Bill."

He writes:

These companies don't hesitate to take advantage of the great things that make America—our deep financial markets, our democracy and rule of law, our military might, our intellectual and physical infrastructure, our national research programs, all the terrific places our country offers for employees and families to live—but investors do hesitate, totally, when it is time to ante up their fair share of financial support for our system.

He is right, and we should not be rewarding bad behavior and gifting these firms with lucrative Federal contracts.

Nearly two-thirds of the companies that have established subsidiaries in tax havens have registered at least one in Bermuda or in the Cayman Islands. If a firm is going to abuse tax loopholes by pretending to be from these two island nations, we should make sure we are doing business with companies that are paying their fair shares instead.

We now have taken strong, decisive, and bipartisan action against these tax

havens in three appropriations bills. I urge all of my colleagues to act here as well and stand for American businesses that are meeting their responsibilities to our Nation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, very briefly, this is one of those issues that really gets you angry. Both sides believe that people should play by the rules, and what you have are people not playing by the rules. People in my district, people in Ms. DELAURO's district and people in Mr. CRENSHAW's district have to pay their taxes and pay their taxes where they live. They don't have the option of doing these kinds of things. For me, it is not only a legislative issue but a personal issue—the fact that these folks continue to get away with this kind of a situation.

This is an issue that Ms. DELAURO has been working on for years. It is one that she deserves a lot of credit for, and that is why we have to thank her for it.

I would like to take this opportunity to yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Connecticut will control the remaining time of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 5¼ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Thank you for your good work on this amendment. This will be the third bill that we have amended on it.

Mr. Chairman, seldom has a day gone by recently without a headline about some American company that is running for the border to avoid its tax bill. Indeed, today's New York Times has "Patriot Flees Homeland," "Drug Firms Make Haste to Elude Tax," and an excellent piece in Fortune magazine and The Washington Post that Ms. DELAURO referenced by Allan Sloan, entitled, "Positively un-American tax dodges."

It all gives new meaning to the term "sunshine patriot" when some corporation renounces its citizenship and claims it is a citizen of the Cayman Islands or of Bermuda, where it does little or no business other than tax evasion.

The willingness of corporations to renounce their citizenship and leave America behind, at least in name only and at least when the tax bill is due but not when the desire for a government contract is there, has been recognized in the Senate Finance Committee, where Senator WYDEN will conduct hearings next week on the best legislative approach to put a stop to this. But we can do something today to put a stop to what are called “inversions,” which are truly perversions of the Tax Code. As Mr. Sloan writes, “Inverters are deserters.”

Today, Members can respond to this desertion by denying them government contracts. I would like to do more, but I believe this legislation adopted now in these other appropriations acts—repeating it for every one of them—will do a great deal to send a message about those who shirk their responsibilities to America at the same time they ask other taxpayers to use their tax money to finance government contracts.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. The amendment says, if you renounce your citizenship and go abroad to avoid paying taxes, don't come with your hand outstretched to ask other taxpayers who stayed here and worked and contributed to the success of America—those that are proud to be American businesses and are paying their fair share—to pay for you to get a government contract. Don't ask them to put up their tax dollars to pay for your success.

We believe that this approach provides protection to the Treasury and responds to those corporations that have abandoned America.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I mentioned Mr. Sloan's article of this past weekend, and I just want to read this quote because I think it really puts this whole issue into perspective:

How much money are we talking about inverters sucking out of the U.S. Treasury? There is no number available for the tax revenue loss that is caused by the inverters and the never-heres so far, but it is clearly in the billions. Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation projects that failing to limit inversions from evading their responsibility like this will cost the Treasury at least another \$19.5 billion over 10 years and possibly much, much more.

At a time when we struggle here day by day to look for the resources to extend unemployment benefits, to pass a highway trust fund, to increase the minimum wage, to increase the dollars for biomedical research, to look for funds for education in this Nation for our children, we have corporations that are siphoning off \$19.5 billion. Not only do they do that, but they take with them, and we give to them, billions in Federal contracts. No more should we do it.

I and others long fought for this. We have passed through the appropriations process a ban on Federal contracts for U.S. companies that acquire businesses in lower tax jurisdictions, and then they claim that their headquarters are there despite still being U.S. companies. We can send another strong statement to these companies today as we have already done on Defense, on Energy and Water, on Transportation-HUD, by coming together and passing this amendment. I urge all of my colleagues to support it. Tell them that they are not allowed to give up their American citizenship and, yet, claim it for billions in Federal contracts.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BACHUS

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reinstall the Red Mountain sculpture on the plaza of the Hugo Black Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Alabama and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, this is a very straightforward amendment, which I am joined by my colleague, Ms. TERRI SEWELL, in offering.

The chief judge of the Northern District of Alabama, Karon Bowdre, and the U.S. marshal who was appointed under the previous administration but who serves under this administration, Martin Keeley, have designated this statue as a security risk. We are more concerned over the opinions of the senior officials in that bill than we are of the GSA's in not having that statue located where it poses a security risk to the employees and visitors to that courthouse. Accordingly, I ask for the support of this important amendment.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BACHUS. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1730

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just want to let you know that we are happy to accept your amendment.

Mr. BACHUS. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. I want to thank the gentleman from my home State of Alabama for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my colleague's amendment to prohibit funding in the underlying bill from being used to reinstall the Red Mountain sculpture on the plaza of the Hugo Black Federal courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama.

Despite the security concerns shared by both the United States marshal and the chief justice, Karen Bowdre, the GSA has planned to reinstall the sculpture. Both Chief Justice Bowdre and Marshal Keely believe that the sculpture is nonessential and will pose a serious security risk if reinstalled.

Chief Justice Bowdre noted, in correspondence to GSA, that the location of the statue will be roughly 10 to 12 feet from the only public entrance door, which is completely made of glass and, further, that the monument would create a fatal funnel where someone could hide behind the statue and possibly not be seen and cause a security risk.

Federal law clearly states that the United States marshals have the final authority regarding the security requirements for the judicial branch of the Federal Government. The Administrative Office of the United States Court has also agreed with the chief justice and the U.S. marshal that the final authority over these matters should lie with the U.S. marshal.

If the marshal and the chief justice believe that putting the sculpture back could threaten the safety of our court, then GSA should follow the law and not put the monument back up. Unfortunately, GSA is ignoring the concerns of the court and has plans to reinstall the statue.

Now, while I am a steadfast supporter of the arts, I also believe that the safety of our courts and the citizens must come first. This amendment simply reinforces that GSA must follow the law by prohibiting the reinstallation of the sculpture at the Birmingham, Alabama, Federal courthouse.

I want to thank my friend, Congressman SPENCER BACHUS from Alabama, for introducing this bipartisan amendment and urge my colleagues to join me in support of it.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. MAFFEI. Thank you, Ranking Member JOSÉ SERRANO.

Mr. Chairman, I am here because, on March 14, 2013, in my upstate New York

district, a school librarian named Lori Bresnahan and a 10-year-old child were attacked in a mall parking lot.

The attacker was facing Federal child pornography charges and was out on bail and ordered to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet. He disabled the bracelet, left his home, stabbed Mrs. Bresnahan to death, and sexually assaulted the young girl.

In the days following the attack, it was revealed that the attacker had been removing and reassembling the GPS monitoring bracelet. The device sent out tamper alerts every time he disabled the device, but the Federal probation office responsible for monitoring this defendant before his trial failed to respond to 46 total tamper alerts.

On the day of the attack, he again disabled his bracelet, and the office again ignored the alert. If they had investigated any of these 46 tamper alerts, maybe this tragedy could have been avoided.

This appropriations bill funds the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the organization tasked with overseeing the system of Federal probation offices all over this country.

After this case, I wrote to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, asking them to investigate this gross negligence. In their response was, "Nothing can excuse the deficiencies in the supervision of this case," but it also said, "Reduced resources due to the sequester is harming the efforts to keep it from happening again."

Mr. Chairman, we have addressed the sequester for now, but serious funding issues remain. The administrative office is continuing to use their funding to backfill cuts they have had to make in previous years.

We cannot allow funding issues to hamper efforts to prevent cases like this from happening again, and to be clear, this has happened again around the country.

I ask that the committee take note of the serious problem and ensure that the administrative office gets the funds it needs to enact real reform and protect our communities.

I want to thank particularly the ranking member's willingness to work with me, Chairman CRENSHAW and your staff and the minority staff, your willingness to work with me on this.

Tragedies do happen, but this one could have, should have been avoided, and I am dedicated to help Congress do anything in our power to make sure it never happens again in central New York or anywhere in this great country.

Mr. SERRANO. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman is seeking to bring the salaries and expense of the courts of appeals, district courts, and other judicial services up to an appropriate level in part, as he mentioned, to ad-

dress a tragic incident that took place in his district.

It highlights the problems the judiciary suffered while under sequestration and with the lower funding levels that agencies in the executive branch have also had to face.

We will work with the gentleman, the majority, and with the judiciary, as we do every year, to ensure that we can meet their funding needs and address the gentleman's concerns.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) in a colloquy and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Chairman, in 2010, this body passed the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, the HIRE Act. Included in that measure was the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA.

FATCA requires U.S. citizens living abroad to prepare tax returns that include both non-U.S. income and non-U.S. financial accounts. Additionally, FATCA requires financial institutions in other countries to report on assets held by American clients to the IRS.

If those institutions do not supply that information, they would be subject to a 30 percent withholding tax. In a recent report, nearly 77,000 institutions have agreed to hand over that information to the IRS.

The unintended consequences of this law are affecting over 7 million Americans living overseas. Due to the additional reporting burden, many institutions are simply denying access to our citizens.

Simply put, added regulations from the Federal Government are putting our citizens at a competitive disadvantage around the world, and foreign firms now view our citizens as too much of a hassle and a liability to hire, making America less competitive.

One of the solutions to this would be to switch from a citizen-based taxation to a territorial or to simply repeal FATCA.

The U.S. citizens who live and work abroad are our Nation's biggest spokesmen for our America and our way of life and what America stands for. They represent our country in areas of the world that typically see Americans in a skewed light. We, as those in government, should give them every opportunity to succeed throughout the world.

However, we have so many stories like the American living in Australia, where her husband is an Australian citizen and they share a mutual bank account, but they have to comply with IRS rules, and she has no income; or

the gentleman from Thailand who has retired. He worked for a U.S. company for the last 15 years, and he has to abide by U.S. tax laws, even though he has been over there and he resides outside of the U.S.

What Fidelity Mutual told him is we can no longer accept your money and invest because you live outside of the U.S., but you are a U.S. citizen.

Mr. Chairman, this is unacceptable. We in government should do everything possible to bring certainty to our citizens, regardless of where they live, and as a sign of a true great Nation, it is the ability for the Nation's citizens to travel and work wherever they choose in the world, without being disadvantaged by their own government.

I look forward to working with my colleague from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman.

As you point out, this is an extensive regulation. It is going to have a profound and far-reaching impact on our economy.

I believe these regulations, as you pointed out, are fraught with unintended consequences. As you point out, the regulation is creating headaches for many Americans who must report their foreign financial activities on the U.S. tax return, so they spend countless hours to prepare and file their tax forms necessary to comply with the regulation.

Mr. Chairman, we don't need more burdensome regulations. We need some pro-growth tax reform, to make it easier for Americans, whether living at home or living abroad, to comply with our tax laws.

Now, it is good to go after tax dodgers, that is understandable, but this is overkill, and I look forward to working with the gentleman to address these unintended consequences.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. SCHAKOWSKY

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Illinois and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, all of us know that hardworking men and women in all of our districts are having a rough time these days. Many

are paid low wages or wages that are not enough to meet their family's basic needs. Those problems are made even worse when workers are the victims of wage theft.

Billions of dollars are actually stolen from workers through wage theft, and wage theft occurs when workers are forced to work off the clock, denied earned overtime pay, or paid less than the minimum wage. Workers can lose pay because of illegal paycheck deductions, be denied their final paychecks, or not be paid at all.

Interfaith Worker Justice, based in Chicago, has been working to stop wage theft for years. In 2008, its executive director, Kim Bobo, wrote a book called "Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid—And What We Can Do About It."

My amendment is one step we can take to do something about it. My amendment is simple. The idea is the same idea that has been offered on the House floor by my friend and colleague, Representative KEITH ELLISON, and is supported by the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

It says that Federal contractors have a duty to pay their workers their legally-earned wages and that corporations that don't pay their workers their legally-earned wages shouldn't benefit from Federal contracts. Similar language has successfully been added to the Energy and Water and Department of Defense Appropriations bills.

Wage theft has been documented. One study of workers in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City found that 26 percent were paid below legal minimum wage levels, 76 percent were denied earned overtime, and 70 percent were not paid for work outside of their regular shifts.

The North Carolina Justice Center found that workers in that State lost \$33 million in pay because of wage theft over the course of 5 years. The Economic Policy Institute found that, "In total, the average low-wage worker loses a stunning \$2,634 per year in unpaid wages, representing 15 percent of their income."

This is a problem in many sectors, and that includes Federal contractors. A report by the Senate Health, Education, and Labor and Pensions Committee revealed that 32 percent of the largest Department of Labor penalties for wage theft were levied against Federal contractors.

National Employment Law Project found that 21 percent of Federal contract workers were not paid overtime and 11 percent had been forced to work off the clock.

Federal contract employees deserve to receive the dollars they have earned, the dollars that they need, the dollars they would spend in their communities, and the dollars that taxpayers awarded the contractors for those wages.

All workers should be safe from wage theft, but my amendment is much more modest. It just says that a contract under this FY 2015 Appropriations bill can't be awarded to a corporation found to be in violation of wage requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

It says that corporations that cheat their employees out of hard-earned wages are not deserving of taxpayer-funded Federal contracts. It sends a clear message: obey the law, pay your workers the wages they have earned, or we won't give you the benefit of a taxpayer-financed Federal contract.

□ 1745

Allowing corporations to get away with violating the law is not just bad for their workers and taxpayers, it is unfair to the businesses that are competing for Federal contracts but won't engage in wage theft to get a competitive edge.

Do we really want to tell corporations that they can violate the law and steal wages from their workers and still get a Federal contract, or do we want to take a small stand by saying that only companies that play by the wage rules we have enacted will be eligible?

I hope we can agree that breaking the law in order to underpay workers is not acceptable, certainly should not be rewarded, and certainly not with taxpayer dollars. I urge my colleagues to help the workers who work for us. Support the Congressional Progressive Caucus amendment.

I certainly urge a "yes" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MEEHAN

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to modify or rebuild any portion of the White House bowling alley, including using phenolic synthetic material.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the FY15 Financial Services Appropriations bill.

But first, before I start, I would like to commend Chairman CRENSHAW for

his tireless commitment to stopping the culture of spending and continuing the culture of savings that we have seen from his subcommittee chairmanship. Given our country's current fiscal situation, we need to be mindful of our limited resources and that we need to do more with less. And one of the most basic concepts in budgeting is balancing wants versus needs. A need is something that you have to have, something you can't do without. A want is something that you would like to have. A good example is calcium. You know, calcium is necessary for survival, but ice cream, on the other, hand is a want. Everyone needs calcium, but plenty of people would do just fine without ice cream.

What will my amendment do? It will demonstrate to the taxpayers that this Congress understands the difference between wants and needs. My amendment prohibits any funds from this bill being spent by the General Services Administration towards the renovation of the bowling alley in the White House Eisenhower Office Building.

With our Nation \$17 trillion in debt, upgrading the President's private bowling alley shouldn't be a priority. A spiffy new bowling alley may suit the wants for Commander in Chief, but I think I speak for the taxpayers of the Seventh Congressional District when I assert that it is certainly not a need. I think when the administration came forward with this proposal, they rolled a gutter ball.

The hardworking Americans expect and deserve better. These are difficult times in our country. This is no time for business as usual.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, this has very little to do with a bowling alley. This is not even about the picture of Richard Nixon fully dressed, bowling at the White House. This is about this desire of Republicans and the Tea Party segment of Republicans, in some cases, to make Barack Obama seem like an illegitimate President.

The legitimacy of his Presidency has been questioned on and on. There were questions about his birthplace. There were questions about what he said his religion was. There were questions about whether he was old enough to be President. There have been questions about everything. So now, these petty attacks continue.

This is a nonissue. This is a nonstarter. First of all, this was about fixing up a bowling alley that has been there forever. I don't think the American public, with all due respect to the people in the gentleman's district,

really spend a lot of time concerned about the fact that all Presidents—and I mean all Presidents—are not allowed just to pick up and go to a local place to have a beer or bowl a game of bowling or whatever. So this is not an issue that we should be dealing with.

But what is important about it is that GSA, furthermore, has canceled the project. The Federal contractor posting was pulled on July 9. So I am sure that the other side knows that this no longer is an issue, but it continues to be something that sounds good. I am sure people will be writing about it tonight, that the bowling alley was going to be built at the White House. No. This was an existing one that was going to be refurbished. That contract has been pulled back. That idea has been pulled back.

There just continues to be more and more and more of this petty attack on a President. And I think it is not so much that he was elected President, which caused a lot of pain for a lot of people, but the fact that he was re-elected. That really has turned a lot of people to a point where they will come up with anything.

So by tonight, we may see even the plumbing at the White House attacked, as we did a couple of years ago. And at that time, I remarked that there hadn't been any plumbers at the White House since the Nixon administration, and that was the truth. We have leaks. We have a White House that needs fixing, and this Congress wastes time on these kinds of issues.

So I would just hope that the gentleman would pull his amendment. If he doesn't, then I would hope we could defeat the amendment because it is just silly and not necessary at all.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I suspect it is only silly if you are the people who don't care about the important expenditures of the taxpayers of the United States of America. This isn't some trivial issue. This is a question of priorities at a time where every family is struggling.

And the justification here in Time magazine of one of the individuals was this needs renovations. Would you believe it? According to their first-person testimony—and this is just the staffers and the President—there is no electric scoreboard down there, so you have to score by hand. And that is just debilitating when you are focused on bowling a 300 like I am.

Well, maybe we ought to have people who are focused on other kinds of things at this point in time. This is a serious issue in terms of the mispriority of spending Federal dollars.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to assert the appropriate priorities in terms of our spending, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, just in closing, it is silly. And I am not suggesting the gentleman is silly.

We spend money, large amounts of money on the military and on other things that we never, ever, ever attack. We send money overseas in misguided military situations, and we don't complain about that. But it makes good headlines to say that today we stopped the bowling alley from being built at the White House. "Refurbished" was the question at hand, and it has been pulled back since July 9. There is no plan whatsoever to do anything with the existing old, decrepit bowling alley at the White House.

So this is not a gutter ball. This is not a strike for anyone. This is just more of their silliness that we will see for the next 24 hours.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

Mr. GRAYSON (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is identical to other amendments that have been inserted by voice vote into every appropriations bill that has been considered under an open rule during this Congress. It is also identical to the amendment I offered to last week's Energy and Water bill, which was passed by voice vote.

My amendment expands the list of parties with whom the Federal Government is prohibited from contracting due to serious misconduct on the part of the contractors. It is my hope that this amendment will remain uncontroversial, as it has been, and will again be passed unanimously by this House.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAYSON. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I would be pleased to accept the amendment.

Mr. GRAYSON. I thank the gentleman and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I would like to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman for his offer to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, money market funds are an important tool used by a variety of different organizations, such as businesses, State and local governments, school districts, pension funds, nonprofits, and more. In fact, it is estimated that between 1985 and 2008, people and organizations that invested in money market funds have earned \$450 billion more than they otherwise would have earned.

Since the financial crisis, there has been significant discussion about regulating the industry further. In 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, put in place new rules to prevent future runs by imposing additional disclosure and liquidity standards.

Even after these changes, the Federal Reserve, through the Financial Stability Oversight Council, has attempted to usurp the jurisdiction and expertise of the SEC and proposed additional regulations on money markets.

While the FSOC has since backed off their proposal, the SEC is poised to vote soon on a rule to impose a floating net asset value on certain funds.

I share many of the concerns that commenters on the SEC's rule raised about how a floating net asset value would adversely impact money market funds and the people and organizations that rely on them. In fact, it is worth noting that, of the 1,428 comments on the rule, 98 percent were against the floating net asset value.

Before regulators impose any additional changes on money markets, they must be certain that the costs and benefits have been thoroughly weighed. This includes ensuring that the likely tax changes that will need to be considered with a floating NAV are reviewed by the public in an open and transparent manner before moving forward. We should not eliminate money markets as an option for businesses, communities, workers, and retirees to grow and thrive.

In closing, I would like to thank the committee for its positive report language with respect to money market funds and thank the chairman for his time and consideration of this important matter.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Well, I appreciate the gentleman giving attention to this issue.

As you noted, we have included report language on money market funds within the bill. We are concerned about the issue, and we will work with you as this bill moves forward.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman and look forward to working with him on this important issue.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SHERMAN

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce final leasing accounting standard rules, regulations, or requirements in FASB Project 2013-270, Accounting Standards Update Topic 842.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from California and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1800

Mr. SHERMAN. So much of what we do on this floor is so partisan, going over the same old issues. I bring to you an amendment that I cowrote with the Chamber of Commerce which deals with an issue that has not yet been discussed on this floor.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board is funded by the SEC through a

convoluted process designed to claim that they are not a government agency, but they are funded by a mandatory tax, and if you don't follow their prescriptions, you can, indeed, face criminal, as well as civil, penalties.

If it is not broke, don't fix it. For 100 years, we had good rules on how to account for leases. The tenant pays rent, the owner of the building owns the building, and the financial statements disclose in the footnotes all the details any financial analyst would want to see.

Since it is not broke, the folks at the Financial Accounting Standards Board have decided to fix it. They want to list on every balance sheet in America the future amount that will be paid in all lease payments as a liability. The effect of that is to increase the liabilities shown on the balance sheets of American business by \$2 trillion. That is right, this is a \$2 trillion issue that has not yet been discussed on this floor.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has done some outreach and taken some testimony. By the standards of the accounting world, they have listened. But by the standards of democracy that we are familiar with, trust me, far more is done before you permit a single three-story apartment building.

Mr. Chairman, almost 70 Members of Congress have urged the Financial Accounting Standards Board to stop. They keep going. They want to act in concert with the European International Accounting Standards Board, and that board is beholden to the European Parliament in Brussels. That is right. Those who, in effect, enact American law are not listening to Congress; they are listening to the only Parliament in the world held in lower esteem than Congress.

What will be the effect on our economy? Well, this will add \$2 trillion to the balance sheet liabilities of American businesses. It will put a tremendous disincentive on businesses to sign long-term leases. If your tenant won't sign a long-term lease, you can't fund a new building project, a new shopping center, or a new industrial park. So that is why an economic study funded by the American Association of Realtors, the Economic Roundtable, the Business Owners and Management Association, and others says that the best-case scenario is that this will destroy 190,000 American jobs and reduce our GDP by almost \$28 billion a year. The worst-case scenario is over 3 million jobs and nearly half a trillion dollars decline in our GDP.

It is time for us to tell the Financial Accounting Standards Board not to go down this road in an effort to fix something that isn't broken.

It is time, also, to focus on an additional disadvantage of this accounting proposal, and that is it will cause tens of thousands—hundreds of thousands—

of businesses in this country to be in violation of their loan covenants, which means that they will have to immediately pay off their liabilities or renegotiate with their bankers, who will insist upon higher personal guaranties and higher interest rates, et cetera.

Thousands and thousands of long-term bonds that have been sold in the public market will be held to be in violation of their loan covenants and will become immediately due—not because the businesses were wrong, but because the accounting standards changed.

Now, I have often thought that accounting principles ought to be written by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and not by Congress. I am clinging to that belief. As I see this disaster unfold in the preliminary—in the discussions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, it is harder and harder to cling to that belief. But I still retain hope that the accounting standards board will change direction and will not adopt this new policy, which solves no problem and which will add \$2 trillion to the liabilities of American business and cost us hundreds and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Mr. Chairman, because I am hopeful that they will change course, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WENSTRUP). The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement guidance FIN-2014-G001 (relating to BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses) issued on February 14, 2014.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Louisiana and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to stop the implementation of Treasury guidance that is in direct conflict with the Federal anti-money laundering statutes.

On February 14, 2014, the Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN, issued compliance guidance for "Bank Secrecy Act, BSA, expectations for financial institutions seeking to provide services to marijuana-related businesses."

I am concerned that Treasury forgot one detail: the Bank Secrecy Act and

Federal anti-money laundering laws are explicitly clear that banks and financial institutions may not engage in marijuana-related transactions.

Despite trending State laws, Federal law remains unchanged. The Controlled Substances Act prohibits the manufacture, possession, and distribution of marijuana. Anything but compliance with the CSA, the law of the land, will trigger criminal anti-money laundering penalties, fines, and possible incarceration for perpetrators.

Instead of issuing guidance to reinforce Federal prohibitions, the FinCEN memo offers banks ways to report suspicion activities as required under Federal law, while blatantly ignoring the fact that banks are not allowed to participate in any marijuana transactions, without exceptions. In other words, instead of enforcing the law, there is just a suspicion alert sent out, which we don't even know if anyone is even going to pay attention to. The very act of depositing drug money runs afoul of Federal law.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that the Department of Justice also issued a memo in 2014, "Guidance Regarding Marijuana Financial Crimes." This separate memo reinforces Federal law and outlines possible prosecution and criminal offense for "transactions involving proceeds generated by marijuana-related conduct."

My amendment would stop the Department of the Treasury from implementing their February 2014 guidance, which is confusing and is actually creating problems throughout the industry. And it is the government, again, it is the administration not enforcing its own laws. This is nothing short of tacit approval for money laundering, all the while encouraging banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions to engage in illegal and criminal activities.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield to my good friend from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Well, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and let me see if I got this straight. Right now, manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing marijuana is still illegal under federal law. Right?

Mr. FLEMING. That is correct, sir.

Mr. CRENSHAW. And the Bank Secrecy Act still prohibits banks from laundering the proceeds of illegal activities. Is that right?

Mr. FLEMING. Right.

Mr. CRENSHAW. But in spite of the Controlled Substances Act and despite the Bank Secrecy Act, Treasury has given banks guidance on how to facilitate the sale of marijuana. That seems wrong, absolutely wrong. This amendment corrects that wrong, so I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of other speakers, so I will be very brief.

This really has very little to do with the substance that we are talking about, or that appears to be marijuana. It is about the fact that, whether we like it or not, there are States that have already legalized either recreational use, in two cases, or medical use in 22 States, and those situations require banking decisions and banking abilities. Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury, said at our hearing:

Without any guidance there will be a proliferation of cash-only businesses, and that would make it impossible to see when there are actions going on that violate both Federal and State law.

So an attack on the use of marijuana may be misleading here because what we are doing is really ignoring the banking aspect of this and the fact that there have to be some regulations and some issues put in place to do the right thing and to uphold the law, the banking laws and other laws.

With that, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I say to my friend, Dr. FLEMING, and to the chairman of the committee that the guidance has already been implemented—the guidance from the Justice Department, the guidance from the Treasury Department to banks and to the regulators how to report activity around a marijuana business.

Mr. Chairman, there are now 22 States that allow for medical marijuana. There are two States that have legalized it for all adult purposes. We are at 24 States, and by the end of this year, we will be at about 30 States.

What is happening is because banks may not be following—they are doing what Dr. FLEMING would like to see. They are operating just in cash, which creates its own potential for crime, robbery, assault and battery. You cannot track the money. There is skimming and tax evasion. So the guidance by the Justice Department and the guidance by the Treasury Department is to bring this out into the open.

Mr. Chairman, I will insert in the RECORD yesterday's article in USA Today concerning the security issues dealing with all cash accounts, and the Treasury officials there say:

Our goal is to promote financial transparency and make sure law enforcement receives the reporting from financial institutions that it needs to police this activity.

[From USA Today, July 13, 2014]

POTS OF MARIJUANA CASH CAUSE SECURITY CONCERNS

(By Trevor Hughes)

DENVER.—The unmarked armored truck rumbles to a stop in a narrow alley, and

former U.S. Marine Matthew Karr slides out, one hand holding a folder, the other hovering near the pistol holstered at his hip.

With efficient motions he retrieves a locked, leather-bound satchel from a safe set into the truck's side and presses a buzzer outside the door. It swings open to reveal a cavernous warehouse filled with marijuana and a safe stuffed with cash.

Welcome to the rear guard of Colorado's rapidly expanding legal marijuana industry, where eager users pour millions of dollars—most of it in small bills—into buying pot, hashish, and marijuana-infused foods and drinks. All that cash adds up, and there are few places to put it: Federal regulations, which still classify pot as an illegal drug, make it difficult for marijuana producers to deposit their profits into traditional bank accounts.

And those cash-heavy small businesses make awfully attractive—and vulnerable—targets for criminals.

That's where Karr and the company he works for come in.

Heading through the warehouse where workers tend young marijuana plants, Karr greets a young woman, and the two empty a safe of tens of thousands of dollars in cash neatly packed in plastic envelopes. Like every room in this combined marijuana store and grow house, the smell of pot hangs heavy in the air. Karr double-checks the ledger, locks his satchel and hustles outside, where former cop Phil Baca waits at the wheel of the armored car.

Karr opens the truck's safe, pitches the satchel inside and climbs back into the passenger seat, an AR-15 rifle stashed behind him. It's a scene that plays out six times in three hours. Their take for the day: somewhere close to \$100,000 in cash.

"For the first three months, people were just keeping the money everywhere—in the walls, in mattresses, at home," says Sean Campbell, CEO of Blue Line Protection Group, which provides marijuana security services, including Karr, Baca and the armored car. "And banks don't even want to deal with it. You have a quarter-of-a-million dollars in cash show up all at once. The counting time alone is going to take an hour."

The unusual problem of having too much cash is forcing business owners to hire security firms like Campbell's, especially after Denver police warned in June of a credible threat against marijuana stores and couriers.

Marijuana-store owners have suffered some smash-and-grab robberies over the last several years but surveillance systems and close police attention have solved many of them. Experts say those robberies were largely committed by amateurs, rather than sophisticated crime rings.

Campbell said he believes it will take a serious high-dollar heist to force smaller marijuana stores to take their security more seriously.

State law requires marijuana businesses to have security cameras and systems on the premises, and many have armed guards, but they remain easy targets. The stores and grow operations often are in remote industrial areas, in warehouses that have not been hardened against a determined intruder. Many stores have large amounts of pot sitting around in rooms secured only by flimsy wooden doors.

Options are limited, however. Unlike most other businesses, marijuana-store owners can't easily open bank accounts for fear of running afoul of federal law. Despite Washington state joining Colorado last week in legalizing sales of marijuana for recreational

purposes and 23 states plus the District of Columbia permitting medical pot, the federal government still classifies the plant as an illegal drug more dangerous than cocaine or methamphetamine.

By opening a bank account, pot growers and shop owners run the risk of being charged with money laundering, because federal banking laws and regulations are deliberately aimed at tracking large flows of cash like those generated by both legal and illegal drug sales. A single such charge can bring decades in prison, and most banks and pot-shop owners don't want to run that risk.

"When you go into the business, and you know it's federally illegal, you're taking your chances," said Tom Gorman, who runs the federally funded Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force. "That's the problem when the state legalizes something that remains illegal at the federal level."

While declining to be quoted by name, many marijuana store owners interviewed by USA TODAY shared tales of playing cat-and-mouse with banks, managing to keep accounts open for only a few months at a time before getting shut down.

U.S. Treasury officials require banks to file what are known as "suspicious activity reports" whenever they suspect someone is trying to launder money. Anyone bringing in a pile of cash sets off internal alarms for bank workers, pot-shop workers say. Federal financial-crimes investigators encourage banks to report suspected marijuana transactions because pot remains illegal at the federal level.

"Our goal is to promote financial transparency and make sure law enforcement receives the reporting from financial institutions that it needs to police this activity and to make it less likely that this financial activity will run underground and be much harder to track," said Steve Hudak, a spokesman for the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

Tax-and-marijuana attorney Rachel Gillette said she's seen banks' concerns firsthand—several banks she deals with said they wouldn't let her open an account, even though both the federal and state government are allowed to deposit tax payments from pot sellers. Gillette said federally regulated banks say it's just easier for them not to risk getting their hands tainted by pot.

"They literally told me they would not take my account because I do business with the marijuana industry," Gillette said. "That seems fundamentally unfair—the state is taking that money and putting it in the bank; the IRS is taking that money and putting it in the bank."

Gillette is suing the IRS on behalf of one of her clients who has been paying federal payroll tax bills with cash. The IRS calls for electronic payments and adds a 10% surcharge for cash payments, she said. With some marijuana businesses paying payroll taxes of \$100,000 a quarter, those penalties are substantial.

Colorado has tried to solve the problem with a new state law permitting creation of marijuana banking cooperatives, which would have the power to accept deposits, lend money and make electronic payments. But that system likely won't begin operating for at least another year, said Gov. John Hickenlooper, and even then federal officials would need to bless the plan.

The amount of cash already flowing through the fast-growing system has forced state tax officials to change how they accommodate payments. While Colorado allows

businesses to pay their taxes in cash, most pay electronically. Marijuana businesses, however, must trek to a central Denver office, cash in hand, where they're met at the curb by armed guards and escorted inside. "Some people walk in with shoe boxes. Some people have it in locked briefcases. We've had people bring it in buckets," said Natriece Bryant, a spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Campbell, who runs the armored-car company, said the vast cash flows are a clear come-on for criminals. He said he's working with banks to offer alternatives for marijuana businesses, including vault services. For many in the marijuana industry, the scene from the Emmy-winning television series *Breaking Bad* of a storage unit filled with drug cash hits uncomfortably close to reality.

Says Campbell, "You're effectively creating a magnet for crime."

Mr. PERLMUTTER. So I would urge a big "no" vote on this amendment. It is going backwards.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. So many have spoken on this floor in favor of states' rights. A majority of Americans live in States in which medical marijuana is legal, and yet we have this bizarre circumstance where these have to be all cash businesses. The result, as the gentleman from Colorado points out, is tax evasion—or potentiality for tax evasion—and also an invitation to crime—violent street crime—as people figure out how they can invade with guns a store that is licensed by my State or his State and try to steal huge quantities of cash.

It is absolutely absurd to tell people that they cannot use medical marijuana when they are in physical pain and they live in a State where that is allowed, and it is even more absurd to have to keep millions of dollars of cash there for the possible criminal taking because we have businesses that are actually operating that are outside the banking system.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, first of all, it is absolutely a fact that marijuana, the use of marijuana and the sale of marijuana, is against federal law. Now, you may want to change that law, but that is the law.

Also, our banking system, even those that are State banks, State charter banks, fall under a Federal banking system.

You are talking about money laundering. Well, what about other drugs? What about heroin? What about methamphetamines? Should we also have exemptions and carve-outs for those as well? Why even have a system that detects money laundering and ac-

tually enforces that if we are going to begin to create exemptions and carve-outs for that as well?

Also, I would remind folks that with regard to medical marijuana, that is still very controversial. The reason why marijuana is still a Schedule I drug, illegal, is that it is neither known nor accepted by authorities that raw marijuana has an acceptable medical use.

□ 1815

Now, yes, extracts of marijuana, even Marinol—which is synthetic THC—is a schedule III, like hydrocodone, and that can be prescribed and monitored by a physician. There is no problem with that, and the money can go into any banking system.

So if there are beneficial parts of the marijuana, we can extract that and create medication from it, whether it is liquid or tablet, injection or whatever, and then that will certainly be delivered, prescribed by physicians.

I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code, to any employee of the Internal Revenue Service.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Arizona and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer one final amendment to the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for the fiscal year 2015.

Let me first say that I am especially grateful to Chairman CRENSHAW and Ranking Member SERRANO for working with me on my variety of amendments to this bill. They have been exceptionally cooperative and congenial. I would also like to thank the staff of the Financial Services Subcommittee. They have also been very courteous and cooperative with my staff.

My final amendment to the bill seeks to effectuate a policy of accountability in government. Historically, the IRS has never been liked by the American people. The agency takes our hard-earned wages and enforces the Internal Revenue Code.

I would argue that the power wielded by this agency is matched only by the Department of Defense because, as we all know, the power to tax is the power to destroy, and although no one ever liked the IRS, most Americans quietly trusted them.

They trusted that the agency was enforcing the law with fairness and impartiality and were beyond reproach in terms of political pressure. That trust has not only been questioned, it has been annihilated.

This year, House Republicans have gone above and beyond to hold this President and his lawless administration accountable for their actions and inactions, and this is another opportunity to act rather than to speak.

My final amendment to the bill follows in the footsteps of another that I cosponsored and supported in the MilCon-VA Appropriations Act just a few weeks ago. This amendment would prohibit bonuses or performance awards to be paid to senior executive employees at the IRS.

The saying goes with great power comes great responsibility. The IRS is responsible for administering tax laws fairly and justly. They have failed at that responsibility, and they now must be held accountable. Senior management should never have let this happen.

Moreover, they should not be given performance awards in the wake of one of the largest scandals in recent history. Giving out bonuses is ludicrous and amounts to a slap in the face to the American public.

I would also like to quickly note that I appreciate the committee's inclusion of a provision, section 112, in the bill. That section prescribes that, before a bonus may be awarded to an IRS employee, an assessment of the employee's conduct, in addition to a mandatory check for back taxes or delinquent taxes, must be performed and taken into account.

As a duly-elected Member of Congress representing hundreds of thousands of Arizonans, I cannot, in good conscience, allow any sort of bonus to be awarded to senior management at this rogue agency.

As long as I remain a Member of this body, I will seek to ensure that this policy becomes law each and every fiscal year. It is my hope that this amendment will ultimately be signed into law and that no bonuses at all will be awarded in the next fiscal year.

None should have been given this last year, but Commissioner John Koskinen decided to dole out bonuses anyway, despite the anger he knew it would

cause. Overall, my hope is that this amendment will incentivize one of these senior executives at the IRS to come forth with copies of Lois Lerner's magically vanishing emails.

Should that day come and should the Congress and the American people receive closure to this scandal, I will cease my efforts to prohibit these awards, and the IRS may begin the process of rebuilding the trust it has so blatantly violated.

This agency has shown contempt for the American taxpayer, and the ensuing outrage at the IRS has been bipartisan. When the House voted on House Resolution 565 to demand that Attorney General Eric Holder appoint a special counsel to look into the scandal, 26 Democrats voted to support that measure.

As I mentioned with my last IRS amendment, if you disapprove of the IRS leaking tax information about the President's political opponents, then support my amendment.

If you disapprove of the IRS targeting conservative groups for their political beliefs, then support my amendment. If you disapprove of the IRS ignoring congressional subpoenas, then support my amendment.

If you disapprove of this agency stonewalling Congress, destroying evidence, and lying to the American people, then support my amendment. Finally, if you disapprove of IRS senior executives receiving bonuses for their failures, then support my amendment.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their continued work on the committee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSAR. I will certainly yield to the chairman.

Mr. CRENSHAW. The gentleman has made a couple of interesting points that I think bear emphasis. Some of the actions of the IRS have been outrageous, and we have talked about that from time to time. As the gentleman pointed out, this year, \$63 million in bonuses were paid to IRS employees.

It is interesting they were paid by the new Commissioner when the prior Commissioner had decided that it was not appropriate to pay those bonuses, and then the new Commissioner testified before our subcommittee how he was outraged that he didn't have enough money to answer more than 61 percent of his phone calls.

I said: Sir, what is outrageous to me is you don't have enough money to answer the phone calls, which is the first thing you ought to do, yet you paid \$63 million in bonuses, and then we find out that some of the people who received the bonuses were delinquent on their taxes.

I urge adoption of the amendment

Mr. GOSAR. I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I get tired of saying this, but it has to be said. I realize that the other side's desire is to bring the IRS down to nothing. It is a constitutional question. We have the power to collect taxes. One would argue that we must have a department that collects taxes.

They may not always be the department—the agency—we want them to be. Both sides, whether one believes it or not, were outraged that something wrong might have been done, but to suggest and paint with a broad brush the whole IRS and say that everyone there at the senior level is not worthy of a bonus or not worthy of our respect is really to do a disservice to public service employees. These folks do a job. They do a job on a daily basis.

Are there problems with the IRS? There have always been problems at the IRS. Has the IRS been an agency that is loved by the American public? No, because we as Americans would love somehow to do everything we need to do, but have taxes that are either very low or nonexistent.

That is not a knock on us. We would all rather pay less taxes than we pay, but we continuously just spend time knocking and knocking. If you measure the time that we have spent on this bill so far and you measure how much of that time has been allocated to the IRS and to bringing it down, not to helping it in any way, not to coming up with any solutions—the whole argument has been they did something wrong, we are going to punish them.

We are not talking about children. We are not talking about a foreign government that attacked us. We are talking about an agency that might not have done everything the way we want them to do it, and therefore, we have to use our resources, our power, and our legislative ability to make them do a better job, to help them along the way, not to destroy them.

So here we are saying if you have executives at the higher level that are doing a good job, you can't help them in any way. You have to ignore that.

Now, we talk about morale. We talk about morale with our staff. We talk about morale with our Membership. Why do we have so many Members who are retiring?

If you asked them, a lot of them are retiring because we don't get along the way we used to or maybe because we spend so much time on wasteful issues.

So we can't paint with a brush the whole IRS. We have to find a way to help, to make them a better agency—yes, to use tough love.

Absolutely, I will be the first one to agree to that and to join the majority

in doing that, but this whole word of punishing of a worthless institution, of a corrupt institution, of an institution that does not follow the law, that is not true, that is not fair, and that is not correct.

That is why this amendment is misguided, and it may do just the opposite, like so many of these amendments. By punishing, you bring down morale, and you bring down the support of those who could help us do a better job at the IRS like we all would like.

I hoped that we would get Mr. GOSAR to withdraw his amendment, but his facial expression tells me that I am crazy in asking that question. You don't have to agree that I am crazy in asking that question, but I think we should defeat this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, or Wisconsin or the District of Columbia, to prohibit or penalize a financial institution from providing financial services to an entity solely because the entity is a manufacturer, producer, or person that participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling marijuana or marijuana products and engages in such activity pursuant to a law established by a State or a unit of local government.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Washington and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I offer this bipartisan amendment

to carry forth an important issue of public safety to provide legally-constituted marijuana businesses access to banking services. To do otherwise is to render them an all-cash sector of the economy, which is fraught with peril.

If you supported the Rohrabacher amendment to the Commerce-Justice and Science Appropriations which passed clearly, then you will support this as well. It brings forth the terms and conditions of the Department of Justice and Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

Yesterday morning, on the very front page of USA Today was an article setting forth the dangers of all-cash businesses in our States that have approved legally marijuana-related businesses. In the words of the Attorney General:

You don't want just huge amounts of cash in these places. They want to be able to use the banking system. It is a public safety component. Huge amounts of cash, substantial amounts of cash just kind of lying around with no place for it to be appropriately deposited is something that worries me, just from a law enforcement perspective.

□ 1830

If you support public safety, if you supported the Rohrabacher amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science bill, you will support this amendment as well. In the interest of public safety, you will do this. Because in the words of the Department of Justice, the two most important terms and conditions: keep marijuana out of the hands of children and keep cash out of the hands of gangs and the cartels. To oppose this amendment is to support that, and I know you don't want that.

So, I urge you in the strongest terms to support this amendment, this bipartisan amendment, as was adopted earlier on the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

The amendment requires a new determination.

Therefore, I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Yes, I do.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I would just urge the Chair, in ruling, that this does not change the law in

any respect. It respects the guidance that has been promulgated by the Justice Department and the Treasury Department and does not make a change and is not outside of the rules.

I would say to my friend from Florida that his point of order is incorrect, and would ask the Chair to rule that the gentleman's amendment is in order.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination as to the reason a financial institution provides financial services to an entity.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of chapter 29, 31, or 33 of title 44, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Michigan and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment which builds off the good work accomplished by Chairman CRENSHAW and Ranking Member SERRANO in the underlying bill.

At a recent Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing, we had the opportunity to hear testimony from David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States and head of the National Archives and Records Administration, which oversees the Federal Records Act.

In his testimony before Congress, Mr. Ferriero gave an account of how the IRS failed to notify him about the unauthorized disposal of Lois Lerner's hard drive, a hard drive which contained key emails and information about her actions in the targeting of conservative groups. In fact, during my questioning of Mr. Ferriero, he stated that the IRS "did not follow the law."

It is clear the IRS has not made it a priority to comply with the intent of the law, whether in the form of intimidating taxpayers, ignoring congressional requests for documents, or ignoring requirements to document valuable records that are in the public interest. My amendment would address one of these failures and prohibit any funds in this bill to be used by the IRS to act in contravention of the Federal Records Act.

It is a commonsense check on the IRS's recent behavior, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALBERG. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just want you to know that in the bill we have a provision that applies to the IRS. This is a little bit broader, but I think it is a good amendment, so I encourage folks to support it.

Mr. WALBERG. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman is primarily concerned with records management at the IRS, which does not surprise us—the IRS again. However, this bill already contains a provision preventing the use of funds by the IRS to violate these very same sections of the code. In other words, the bill that we are debating today, the full bill, already accomplishes what the gentleman seeks to do. Every agency is already required to follow Federal records management law, so this amendment seems particularly unnecessary.

I realize Members on the other side want to continue to issue press releases stating how tough they are on the IRS, but there is no need to restate current law. I think that this one is different in the sense that while other amendments that I may not approve of or support speak to an issue that hasn't been spoken to before or repeat something we have dealt with before, this one speaks to an issue that Mr. CRENSHAW already took care of in the bill.

That is my opposition to it, and that is why I think the amendment is unnecessary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague from New York for his concern about this. I am concerned as well.

I appreciate the fact what the chairman has said, that this expands the reach; it expands the authority. If, indeed, all of our agencies had a requirement under the Federal Records Act and they followed it, I wouldn't be here. But under significant questioning of the Archivist of our Nation, he indicated to me under significant questioning that the IRS "did not follow the law."

That is the purpose of this amendment: to make sure there are more teeth available even than what is put in this good bill to make sure that the IRS follows the law.

I ask my colleagues for support for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds in this Act may be available for the Office of Management and Budget to process or approve an apportionment request that does not include the following phrase: "Apportioned amounts are not available for any position that is held by an employee with respect to whom the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives has certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 194)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Texas and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, today I rise to offer an amendment that would prohibit funding to any Federal employee who has been found in contempt of Congress.

As a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have had serious concerns about the non-responsiveness of certain Federal officials to legitimate congressional oversight activities. In some of these situations, the actions have been taken by this House to hold these officials in contempt of Congress.

Specifically, my amendment prevents funds from being made available for the Office of Management and Budget to process or approve an apportionment request from an executive agency that does not include the following language:

Apportioned amounts are not available for any position that is held by an employee with respect to whom the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives have certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 194).

What the experts and lawyers tell me this means is we won't pay folks who have been held in contempt of Congress. The taxpayers don't need to be funding somebody who is not cooperating with their elected representative, and it has gotten so bad that this entire body has held them in contempt.

If somebody has failed to do his or her job in the private sector or in any other environment, they wouldn't get paid, and I think the Federal Government needs to follow this.

Let me give you a little bit of background on the process so you understand how this is going to work.

Funds apportioned to executive agencies are apportioned or handed out by

the OMB. Executive agencies must submit a request to the OMB 40 days before the start of the fiscal year or within 15 days of the enactment of the appropriations act. The OMB then determines how the executive agency's fund will be apportioned.

This amendment would require an executive agency to include the quoted language in their apportionment request to the OMB, which would prevent the OMB from allocating funds to an agency for the salaries of Federal employees who have been found in contempt of Congress.

To me, this is just common sense. We don't pay employees who don't cooperate with their boss. We are the elected representatives of the people. We are the boss, and we need to enact this legislation to ensure those in contempt of Congress do not continue to receive taxpayer funds.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any individual at an annual rate of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2 Step 1 or 2 as defined in the "Salary Table 2014-GS" published by the Office of Personnel Management. Further, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay any individual at an hourly basic rate of Grade 1, Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6; or Grade 2, Step 1 or 2.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would end the Federal Government's practice of paying poverty wages to its workers and hopefully set an example for the private sector to stop paying poverty wages to its workers.

My metropolitan area of Florida has the lowest average wages of any of the 50 biggest cities in America. It is time to end this and to pay people fairly. A fair day's work should result in a fair day's pay.

The reason why we have to end poverty wages in America is simple. It is just too expensive to be poor in America. If you are poor, it is difficult to buy or rent a place to live, to buy or lease a car to drive, even to get electricity from a utility company, to save any money at all, or even open a bank account. It is just too expensive to be poor in America.

Journalist Barbara Ehrenreich put it best:

If you can't afford the first month's rent and security deposit you need in order to rent an apartment, you may get stuck in an overpriced residential motel.

If you don't have a kitchen or even a refrigerator and microwave, you will find yourself falling back on convenience store food, which—in addition to its nutritional deficits—is also alarmingly overpriced.

If you need a loan, as most poor people eventually do, you will end up paying an interest rate many times more than what a more affluent borrower would be charged.

To be poor—especially with children to support and care for—is a perpetual high-wire act.

□ 1845

Mr. Chairman, when I say “it's too expensive to be poor in America,” I am not just quoting a poverty advocate. I am quoting Noah Wintroub, an official for JPMorgan Chase. Yes, even the bankers are telling us that it is too expensive to be poor in America.

Right now, the Federal Government can pay as little as \$8.62 an hour for a grade 1, step 1 worker. That is not enough. You get what you pay for. That is the capitalist way. If a government worker has to take another job just to get by, then that worker can't focus on doing a good job serving the public. If a Federal worker is working 80 hours a week instead of 40 just to survive, he is not going to do a good job at either job.

My amendment simply would not allow the government to pay anyone less than \$10.10 an hour—still a very modest amount. According to CBO, it doesn't cost the government a single dime extra. It is supported by the American Federation of Government Employees. Paying Federal workers \$10.10 an hour is still not enough, but at least it is a start.

Right now, the minimum wage gives you \$1,200 a month to live on if you work a full-time job for 40 hours a week. From that \$1,200 a month, you must pay your Social Security taxes, your Medicare taxes, pay for your food, your clothing, your housing, your transportation. You must also pay, by the way, for the food and clothing of your children.

That is not possible. It is simply not possible to live that way, and we can't expect people to do that. In fact, the taxpayers end up subsidizing them through food stamps, Medicaid, the earned income credit, and a dozen other ways that we make up for the shortfall when their employers are not paying them enough to keep them alive.

I think it is time that we take a stand. I hope this body sees the wisdom of paying at least Federal workers, to start, above poverty wages. I urge this body to accept this amendment and set a proper standard for labor in this country. Let's have \$10.10, not \$7.25. You can't survive on \$7.25.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I just got this amendment a little bit ago. I don't quite understand what the gentleman is trying to do.

As I read the amendment, it basically says you just can't pay Federal employees. If I am a Federal employee and somebody says you can't pay me this wage, I guess I can either come to work and not get paid or I can just decide that you decided not to pay me so I don't think I will come to work anymore.

I don't know how many people are affected by this, but I have got to believe a lot of people would look at this and say: Gee, the gentleman from Florida says we are just not going to pay you.

I guess on behalf of the Federal employees, I have to oppose that, because I think all Federal employees ought to be paid. I don't think we should pass legislation saying they can't be paid.

So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the creativity of my colleague from Florida's argument, but no one is suggesting Federal employees have to work for free. All this amendment does is simply eliminate the poverty rates set forth in the General Schedule and replaces them with the existing higher rates.

All we are saying here is that grade 1, steps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 are below poverty level; grade 2, steps 1 and 2 are below poverty level.

I don't see how this amendment could possibly lead to the scenario that the gentleman from Florida, the chairman, is describing. It simply would mean that these workers would no longer be paid poverty wages. They would be paid under the existing GSA schedule a proper day's pay for a proper day's work.

Therefore, and given the fact that the AFGE, which is responsible for representing these workers, supports this amendment and rejects the nightmare scenario described by the gentleman from Florida, I would hope to have the gentleman from Florida's consent and support for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I just want to read this again. It says that none of the funds made available by this act may be used to pay any individual at an annual rate of grade 1, step 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

So if you are grade 1, step 6, it says you can't be paid at that rate. It doesn't say anything about raising your salary or lowering your salary. It just says you can't be paid.

I really think that this is something we ought to reject. I urge my col-

leagues to vote “no,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act, including amounts made available under titles IV or VIII, may be used by any authority of the government of the District of Columbia to prohibit the ability of any person to possess, acquire, use, sell, or transport a firearm except to the extent such activity is prohibited by Federal law.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that would stop the District of Columbia from taking any action to prevent law-abiding citizens from possessing, using, or transporting a firearm.

Despite the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that struck down the unconstitutional D.C. handgun ban, it is still difficult for D.C. residents to exercise their God-given right to bear arms. Congress has the authority to legislate in this area pursuant to article I, section 8, clause 17 of the Constitution, which gives Congress the authority “to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever” over the District of Columbia.

Through unreasonable regulation, arbitrary time limits and waiting periods, and a ridiculous registration renewal process for guns that have already been registered, the government bureaucrats of the District continue to interfere with the District's residents' right to self-defense.

As the *Washington Times* reported earlier this year, the District of Columbia has passed the first law ever in the United States that requires a citizen who has already legally registered a gun to pay for reregistration, go to police headquarters and submit to invasive photographing and

fingerprinting. This is pure harassment.

Why would the D.C. government want to punish and harass law-abiding citizens who simply want to defend themselves from criminals? As everyone with even the smallest bit of common sense knows, criminals, by definition, don't care about the laws. They will get the guns any way they can.

Does anyone actually believe that strict gun control laws will prevent criminals from getting guns? Strict gun control laws do nothing but prevent good people from being able to protect themselves and their families in the event of a robbery, home invasion, or other crime.

I reserve the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill and, therefore, violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part:

"An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law."

It also adds a requirement on D.C. that it doesn't add anywhere else. It imposes additional duties by requiring law enforcement or the D.C. Council to determine what is prohibited by Federal law before they are allowed to legislate.

We know that folks like to sound good on certain issues by legislating from here, but the city council should not be asked to incur these extra duties that they don't have now.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, I certainly disagree with the gentleman's points there.

First of all, Congress has the constitutional authority to legislate and exercise over all matters in the District of Columbia. Furthermore, if a law enforcement officer in the District of Columbia is not already familiar with Federal laws, then I question whether he should be a law enforcement officer.

But most of all, I would make the point that the underlying bill already contains language that is virtually identical in form to the amendment that I have offered. For instance, section 809 states that "none of the Federal funds contained in this Act may be used to enact or carry out any law, rule, or regulation to legalize or otherwise reduce penalties associated with the possession, use, or distribution of any schedule I substance under the Controlled Substance Act."

There are multiple examples in the underlying bill where the structure of those portions of the bill are identical to my amendment and require knowledge of law.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair finds that this amendment includes language requiring a new determination by the District of Columbia as to the state of Federal firearms law. The gentleman has not shown that this determination is already required.

The amendment, therefore, constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I move to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee?

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes had it.

So the decision of the Chair stands as the judgment of the Committee.

□ 1900

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MARINO

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to collect any underpayment of any tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the extent such underpayment is attributable to the taxpayer's loss of records (except in the case of fraud).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MARINO. I thank the chair and the ranking member for their hard work and dedication during the appropriations process, and I look forward to working with them on a number of important issues surrounding the treatment of taxpayers by the IRS.

Mr. Chairman, I will be withdrawing this amendment at the conclusion of my allotted time. However, I wish to make a point.

I agree with the steps the committee has taken within this legislation, but feel more must be done to ensure equal treatment for all taxpayers. My amendment would prohibit the IRS from pursuing claims against taxpayers for underpayment where the issue is lost records, except in the case of fraud.

According to its own publications, the IRS recommends that taxpayers keep records up to 7 years—and more in some cases—to respond to potential audits. This is often necessary for individuals and corporations to retain

records for years and potentially longer for businesses depending upon the circumstances and types of records.

The loss of records can have significant repercussions for the taxpayer and can result in penalty fees and payments of back taxes with interest. Should these taxpayers be audited, the burden is on them—yes, the burden is on them—to produce proper records, not the IRS. While these regulations make sense, as we do not want taxpayers improperly withholding taxes they properly owe under the current tax system, it is unfortunate that the one agency promulgating the regulations does not follow these strict standards.

We now know the IRS, through its employee Ms. Lois Lerner, Director of Exempt Organizations, unfairly targeted and scrutinized conservative groups in their applications for tax-exempt status. Under the IRS' rules, Ms. Lerner was required to retain her records discussing policy decisions and discussions in paper form, including those related to the decision to probe conservative organizations. However, Ms. Lerner refused to follow protocol, and to make matters worse, her email copies were lost due to a so-called computer crash.

Given Ms. Lerner's blatant disregard to keep records properly in accordance with IRS rules, it is patently unfair to require taxpayers to follow such burdensome standards. In addition, the IRS Commissioner testified on the topic of Ms. Lerner's emails multiple times before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, suggesting that there would be no issue in producing the emails. However, the Commissioner knew there was an issue with Ms. Lerner's computer in February and that the emails were certainly lost in March. Despite this knowledge, he failed to notify Congress until June.

This is outrageous. While the IRS is trying to evade explaining the loss of records, we should prohibit the IRS from mercilessly pursuing taxpayers for the exact same fault.

With that, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), my colleague and the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment even though I reserved a point of order.

I would just inquire if the gentleman intends to withdraw the amendment.

Mr. MARINO. I do. I am going to do that in my closing, sir.

I thank the chairman for his support of the principle of my amendment. While I recognize this would be legislative language in an appropriations bill, I welcome the opportunity to work with the chair and my other colleagues to properly investigate this situation and ensure that similar situations of government abuse do not arise in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I have a new and improved amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington or Wisconsin or the District of Columbia, to penalize a financial institution solely because the institution provides financial services to an entity that is a manufacturer, producer, or a person that participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling marijuana or marijuana products and engages in such activity pursuant to a law established by a State or a unit of local government.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Washington and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a referendum on public safety. It follows the exact intent—but is technically perfected—of the earlier amendment that was offered, and I thank the gentleman from the majority for pointing out its technical flaws. They have been corrected.

It is a referendum on public safety. If you want to render an all-cash sector of the economy in the 23 States that allow for medical marijuana and in the two States that allow for the adult recreational use of marijuana, you will make them unsafe. That is for certain.

I entreat you to pick up yesterday's USA Today and read the excellent article, including the citation of several security experts, about what will happen with a certainty, inevitably, if we do not take this measure.

If you want to keep marijuana out of the hands of children and if you want to keep cash out of the hands of gangs and cartels, you will support this amendment.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the State of Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

The medical marijuana industry is rapidly taking root in Nevada. Our local governments are developing regulations and are issuing licenses as we speak. Yet representatives of this exciting industry continue to raise the same concern—a lack of access to banks, which is critical for the safe operation of any small business.

This commonsense measure would respect states' rights, add more transparency, facilitate regulations, protect the public, and foster the growth of small business. I urge a vote in favor.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the State of California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. I thank Congressman HECK for yielding and for his really bold and tremendous leadership on this.

I am proud to join you, Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. ROHRBACHER, in cosponsoring this bipartisan, commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would provide important certainty to business owners, employees, government agencies, and financial institutions in 34 States and jurisdictions that have passed marijuana reform laws.

By prohibiting Federal agencies from unduly penalizing financial institutions for providing basic banking services, like opening a checking account, this amendment would ensure that legitimate business owners can comply with State regulations and that regulators and law enforcement can hold businesses accountable.

□ 1915

I recently had a chance to visit one of these small businesses in my home district of Oakland, California, and know how big an impact the access to financial services can have.

When these businesses are unable to access financial services, they are forced to use unsatisfactory cash-based transactions that lack transparency, accountability, and create a threat to public safety.

I was proud to cosponsor a similar amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill that passed the House. I want to thank Mr. HECK again for his leadership and hope this passes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, a little earlier, we had a discussion about this, and I pointed out that it is very clear that, right now, it is still illegal under Federal law to manufacture, to distribute, or to dispense marijuana. That is the Federal law.

There is also a Federal law that says banks can't launder the proceeds of il-

legal activities, and as we talked about earlier, we have got the fact that the Treasury has given guidance on how to facilitate the sale of marijuana.

The point is the law is the law. The Federal law, I just stated, and I don't think we can go around picking and choosing which States the Federal law applies to. The Federal law is the Federal law, and that is the way it ought to be.

I think that the fact that we have those two laws, when somebody violates those laws, that is wrong. Earlier this evening, we adopted an amendment that corrected that. This seeks to go back the other way.

I would just urge people to vote "no" on this because we have a Federal law that controls, and we can't pick and choose who gets to comply and who doesn't.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, to my friend from Florida, I agree, except that the world has moved, and businesses that are legal in these vast array of States should be able to operate in a businesslike fashion.

They should be able to have checking accounts and credit cards and payroll accounts, instead of operating solely in cash that invites robberies, invites assault and batteries, invites tax evasion.

The system—the banking system should be able to provide for that, instead of just operating in a cash setting. So we need to limit and avoid the crime that the cash invites, and we need to allow these businesses to operate in a businesslike fashion.

The States and the people of those States have chosen to move forward. We should not, through the banking system, try to stop that and then create crime in its wake.

Mr. HECK of Washington. First, let's correct the RECORD. The earlier vote did not approve the opposite amendment. In fact, the decision, as announced by the Chair, was to affirm the amendment, and then the rollcall was provided and is yet pending.

Secondly, the will of this body has, in fact, been manifested on one occasion, and that was an amendment highly similar to this one, to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations, and it passed by a clear bipartisan majority in this Chamber.

Lastly—and again, this is about public safety. This is about keeping marijuana out of the hands of children and cash out of the hands of the gangs and the cartels. That is what this amendment is about.

I am frankly stunned to learn that the party whose heritage was in support of states' rights now no longer sees fit to uphold those States who have gone in this direction who,

through votes of people and votes of their duly-elected legislatures, have created tightly-controlled markets for this particular substance.

This is not about being in favor or against marijuana consumption. This is about public safety. This is about providing access to banking services for safe environments, safe communities, and I entreat you to support it as you once did before.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment made in order by the rule at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to confidentiality and disclosure of returns and return information).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Georgia and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I want to commend the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for the work that he has done on this. This has been yeoman's work, a difficult task.

We haven't done a Financial Services appropriations bill in a number of years, and so I want to commend the chairman for his leadership on this issue.

My amendment deals with the Internal Revenue Service, and I know a lot of these amendments have addressed the issue.

The Internal Revenue Service, Mr. Chairman, as you and the American people know, by law—by law—may not release any personal taxpayer information. It must be protected, and it is clear that what we have had over the past year or so is the revelation of a huge violation of the public trust that has occurred as it pertains to the IRS' lawful requirement to protect taxpayer information.

Internal Revenue Code section 6103 is what this amendment deals with. It is

a portion of the Code that is a taxpayer protection provision written to prevent unlawful disclosure of confidential taxpayer information.

The recent actions of the IRS, whether it is the targeting of conservative social welfare groups or the unlawful disclosure of an organization's confidential tax return and donor list, are nothing less than chilling, Mr. Chairman.

What the IRS has done is targeted conservative groups, allegedly to determine whether or not they ought to be granted tax-exempt status. In so doing, they have asked for those organizations' donor lists, the lists of hard-working Americans who have taken some of their resources and provided support for these organizations.

Then the IRS took that donor list information, not only kept the organization from getting tax-exempt status, as would be appropriate, took that donor list information and released it to political enemies or political opponents of the organization, apparently for political purposes.

This is outrageous activity, Mr. Chairman. This amendment is a very simple amendment that reminds the Internal Revenue Service that their primary responsibility is to serve the American taxpayer.

Given the information that has come to light over the last year or so, I would suspect that every Member of this Congress should support holding the IRS accountable to the rule of law.

The IRS has violated the trust of the American people, and it is imperative that this body hold the IRS accountable for their egregious actions.

It is a simple amendment. It is a commonsense amendment. It is an amendment that is supported and responsive to our constituents, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), the chairman.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I think every American taxpayer needs to be assured that their personal information is going to be held in strict confidence, and that is what this amendment does.

I think, particularly at a time when the IRS has demonstrated a lack of ability to either self-police or self-correct, when each week we read about a new revelation of some sort of bureaucratic incompetence or maybe willful disregard for the law, I think it is more important than ever to make sure that every taxpayer knows that personal information is going to be held in strict confidence.

I urge the adoption of this amendment.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the chairman for his support, and I urge support of this amendment by all colleagues in the House.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any Internal Revenue Service instant message or other electronic communications system that is not operationally searchable and archivable at all times.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, it was really troubling to be reviewing emails that the IRS finally produced to us after we asked for these emails for over a year. Of course, they gave them to us on the afternoon of July 3, so as to minimize the press damage.

Basically, the emails showed Lois Lerner sending an email to a technician saying, you know, Congress will ask for our emails, and I have told people in the IRS they need to be careful about what they say; question, if we do an instant message in the system that is called OCS, will those be immune to congressional oversight?

The technician basically said, well, that is the default setting, you can make it so that it would be archivable and searchable.

That was very troubling because it was almost like Lerner, as a matter of course, is conducting herself in a way to obstruct the proper oversight, and that is very troubling with an agency that is this powerful.

So I think what this amendment will do will be to simply prevent that. This is saying exactly what Lois Lerner was asking about, the settings. If you are going to use funds, the settings have got to be turned on, and if you don't, then you can't use funds to operate it.

So I think it is a commonsense amendment, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

Mr. Chairman, given that the point of order has been lodged, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendment No. 52.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chair, as an alternative to the prior amendment, I offer amendment No. 54.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Internal Revenue Service to create machine-readable materials that are not subject to the safeguards established pursuant to section 3105 of title 44, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I think this amendment accomplishes the similar objective that I articulated just a moment ago, and I would just add that it is very troubling, if you were called into court to defend yourself against the IRS and they asked you to produce certain documents in discovery and your defense was, well, the documents have been destroyed, you would be presumed essentially guilty. They would have an adverse inference lodged against you.

I think that is what this amendment is getting to. The IRS has to practice what they preach. They should be held to the exact same standards as the American people are held to with their taxes, and they should follow the record retention requirements under Federal law.

So I think it is a commonsense amendment, and I urge that my colleagues adopt the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield my remaining time to my colleague from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I simply want to applaud him for correcting any procedural flaws. He makes an excellent point, and I accept the amendment.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

□ 1930

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

Mr. DESANTIS. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of funds made available by this Act to the Internal Revenue Service may be obligated or expended on conferences.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentleman from Florida and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chair, last year, the House Oversight Committee conducted a hearing to review an IG report documenting a lavish conference that was put on by the IRS—over \$4 million for one conference. Expenses included \$135,000 on outside speakers, including \$17,000 for a speaker who created paintings on stage to make his point that one must free “the thought process to find creative solutions to challenges.”

The troubling thing about the report was that the bulk of that money, \$3.2 million, came from unused funds that were allocated for hiring. Now, this is at the exact same time that the IRS began to single out conservative groups that sought tax-exempt status, in part, they said, because the agency simply did not have the manpower to handle the number of applications pouring in.

Now, we have debunked that idea that somehow there was a torrent of applications, but golly gee, if that is really true, why are you spending \$3.2 million on these conferences? So I think the IRS has abused the trust of the American taxpayer with respect to conferences, and I think it should be held accountable.

Now, some say in response to this amendment that taxpayers need to be forced to fund these conferences because it helps with IRS employee morale. I have just got to tell you, I am more concerned with the morale of the American people. When taxpayers see an arrogant agency flout the law, refuse to produce evidence, and waste tax dollars, they become demoralized, and rightfully so.

So at a time when military officers are receiving pink slips, there is no way we should allow the IRS to persist with these conferences.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I think the mistake we are making here is the one we have been making all day. Not only is it targeted only at the IRS, which seems to be the desire to continue to do this for the next 24 hours or for so long as this bill lasts, but secondly, it paints it with a wide brush. If you say no conferences of this type or if you limit the number of conferences, okay, we could discuss that; but to say that

one agency in the Federal Government cannot have any kind of conferences, none at all—zero, nada—that really speaks to just a continuous desire to destroy the IRS.

Now, there were issues concerning the conferences. There were issues concerning the conferences for other agencies. We have dealt with that. We can deal with this. But to say no conferences at all is to suggest that an agency cannot operate the way it needs to at times.

So I think that this is just another attack on the IRS. It makes for good headlines, even at this time of night. I think it is the wrong thing to do, and I would hope that we could oppose it or that the gentleman will withdraw the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Each amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

(b) The reduction in subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the following accounts and programs:

(1) Payment of Government losses in shipment under “Department of the Treasury—Bureau of the Fiscal Service”.

(2) “Supreme Court of the United States—Salaries and Expenses”.

(3) “United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit—Salaries and Expenses”.

(4) “United States Court of International Trade—Salaries and Expenses”.

(5) “Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services—Salaries and Expenses”.

(6) Payment to judiciary trust funds for Judiciary Retirement Funds under section 624.

(7) Payments to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund for the Office of Personnel Management under section 624.

Mrs. BLACKBURN (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to waive the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), who has done a wonderful job bringing this bill to the floor.

As I do with all of the appropriations bills, it is a focus of mine to come in and ask for an additional 1 percent cut on top of the great work that has already been done.

I think it is important to give credit to our Appropriations Committee. This is a \$21 billion bill, and it is appropriating \$566 million less than what was appropriated in fiscal year 2014, and it is \$2.2 billion less than what the President requested. That is to be commended. Our appropriations team has done a terrific job on beginning to rein in what the Federal Government spends. The Republican House leadership is to be commended for making their focus to get our fiscal house in order.

I think we have to go a step further, and that is the purpose of my 1 percent across-the-board spending cut amendment. What we need to do now is to engage the bureaucracy, engage these Federal agencies, rank-and-file employees, to come to the table with their recommendations of how we continue to cut.

We are \$17 trillion in debt. We cannot continue to borrow 30 cents of every dollar that we spend. We have to think about the future for our children, our grandchildren. This is an amendment that we should all support because we do this for our children, for the sovereignty of our Nation, and for the fiscal health of our Nation for years to come.

I think it is important to note that through the years, Governors have used across-the-board spending cuts, Democrat Governors—a former Democrat Governor from my home State of Tennessee. You have got the Democrat Governor in New York. You have got the Governor over in Missouri. They have all used across-the-board cuts.

The American people like this idea. They like having the bureaucracy engaged in saving money. A Washington Post/ABC News poll from March 6, 2013, revealed that 61 percent of all Americans even supported a 5 percent across-the-board cut in Federal spending.

It is time for us to rein this in and get our fiscal house in order. This is a way to save an additional \$228 million.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment offered by my good friend from Tennessee. She makes an excellent point, and I think everyone agrees that we ought to try to rein in this culture of spending and put in place a cul-

ture of savings. I have been working my entire congressional career to do that.

One of the things that we do in the appropriations process is we have hearings. We listen to people. They try to justify their request. Sometimes when programs work well, they might receive an increase. When people are not doing very well, like the IRS, they have their request denied and are actually funded at lower levels.

What is interesting, last night on this floor, we added about \$1 billion to our debt reduction by taking that billion dollars out of the IRS. So when we set our priorities, we do that day to day. In this case, we had 12 hearings.

If you look at our bill, there are actually nine programs that are just flat out eliminated. They are gone. It wasn't a 1 percent or an X percent cut. It was just, that is not a program that is vital to the functioning of the Federal Government so it is gone. It has been eliminated. There are several agencies where we have reduced their funding because we figured out that they could do with a little bit less.

But when you take an additional 1 percent across the board after you have had a lot of time and energy put into place to set the right priorities, I don't think you take into consideration that some programs are better than others.

I know my friend from Tennessee cares a lot about Women's Business Centers, and they received an increase under our appropriations bill because we think they are doing a great job. The Small Business Administration does great work at creating private sector jobs. The Women's Business Centers, because we thought they were doing well, they received an increase. Now, I don't know that she really wants to cut them.

She says she is not going to apply these cuts to the Federal judiciary, and I think that is appropriate. Actually, the Federal courts are pretty happy. Last night, several millions of dollars were added to the Federal courts.

I guess the simple point is that you have to take into consideration the merit of every program. If we didn't do anything and we just showed up one day and said how should we fund these people, then I think it is appropriate to say, well, let's just cut them across the board. But when you spend time and energy in setting the priorities and making hard choices, that is what we have done, and we are proud of the work we have done. I appreciate her compliment that we have done great work.

The fact that she would like to cut 1 more percent across the board I don't think is the right way to observe the situation. I appreciate what she is trying to do, but I don't think in this case it is the right approach.

I would also like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman

from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I also rise in opposition to this amendment. The only difference here, Mr. Chairman, is that we are not attacking the IRS. Now we are attacking the Financial Services Subcommittee. The fact of life is that this committee took the biggest hit of any subcommittee in the House.

And while I may disagree with how some of the bill came out, I have made it clear to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) that what I disagree with the most are the riders and the allocation. With a different allocation, we would have had a different bill. So to now cut 1 percent from the committee that took the biggest hit is really to just to try to cripple the bill completely, and it serves no purpose other than to be able to say that you cut it.

Now, it would be nice to see if these kinds of things were mean, what happened on the military budget every so often, but we are not going to see that. We are only going to see it on bills like this one, which really services a lot of people. I think that the chairman is right. I join him in opposing this amendment, and I hope that it will be defeated.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the work that the chairman has done on this bill, and our Appropriations Committee is to be commended.

I think we do have to recognize Washington has a spending problem. They don't have a revenue problem. They have got a spending and a priority problem. We see it every single day.

What I am asking is to engage those rank-and-file employees, have them find 1 penny on the dollar out of their appropriations that they could save in order to get this burden of debt off the backs of our children and grandchildren—one penny on the dollar. It has worked in the States. It works in our county and city governments. People like that and appreciate that you push for better stewardship, and it is the right thing for us to do as we watch the debt totals climb, skyrocket, and explode.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide funds from the Hardest Hit Fund program established by the Secretary of the Treasury under title I of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5211 et seq.) to any State or local government for the purpose of funding pension obligations of such State or local government.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

□ 1945

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment that would prevent the Federal Government from bailing out public pensioners in cities such as Detroit and Chicago.

We have been reading for the past several months that the Obama administration has been in talks with the city of Detroit to transfer \$100 million to the city.

According to an April 16, 2014, article from the Detroit Free Press, the administration has looked to transfer \$100 million from the Hardest Hit Fund to shore up Detroit's unfunded pension liability. The Hardest Hit Fund was created by the Obama administration in 2010 with money from the 2008 stimulus package. The money is meant to help States that have been adversely affected by the housing downturn, and that is according, again, to the Detroit Free Press.

The article adds that:

The \$100 million in Federal money was discussed Tuesday night in breakneck negotiations that resulted in a tentative deal to reduce pension cuts for the city's retired general workforce.

Mr. Chairman, I refuse to let Federal taxpayers be on the hook for unfunded pension liabilities made by Big Labor organizations. Cities such as Detroit, Chicago, and others where Big Labor has created extremely generous retirement benefits for public service workers are going to have to find their way out of the mess that they have created.

Now, it is my understanding that the city of Detroit has reached an agreement with the State of Michigan to shore up Detroit's unfunded pension liability for the time being. However, it does not foreclose this as a possibility to occur in the future for Detroit or any other city where Big Labor agreements have caused financial destruction.

According to an April 7, 2014, article from chicagobusiness.com, Chicago's unfunded pension liability stands at

\$19.5 billion. A February 20, 2013, article in *Forbes* notes that Federal bailouts of State pension funds "would implicitly encourage States to keep spending and doling out entitlements, as doing so is popular for politicians, even if unsustainable." The article adds that this is especially true in liberal-leaning areas where public-sector labor unions have a lot of control.

Mr. Chairman, we must foreclose the administration's bailout of Big Labor as a possibility. I refuse to stand by and watch hardworking taxpayers be on the hook for the irresponsible decisions of liberal, Big Labor groups.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. CRENSHAW. I just want to agree with you that I don't think that taxpayers should bail out Detroit's pension shortfall or any other city's shortfall. So I want you to know that I support your amendment.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I appreciate that. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, this is really a mean amendment to single out one city, one city that is hurting; to single out labor when, in fact, it is not labor, but it is the people that have those pension plans and now may not have a pension plan, to single them out.

With all due respect to the gentlewoman, I am sure there have been many instances throughout history and in recent years when your area, your State, has been helped by Federal dollars when it was hurting, and we all got together and did that, be it a flood, be it a fire, be it a natural disaster. Whatever it may be, we came together to help. Detroit has its problems, and Detroit might have made some mistakes. But to single it out in an amendment and to say that we cannot help in any way, shape, or form is really mean, mean-spirited and wrong.

It may look good to single an urban center out. It may look good to single out a place that is hurting. But that is not the American way. The American way, I can tell you, as a New Yorker, when New York was hurting, people came to its aid. When we were attacked, we came to its aid.

Sure, this is different, but Detroit, it's hurting right now. And to single it out on this House floor at 10 minutes to 8, at this time, to single it out as not being worthy of Federal help, is really just wrong. And then to take the opportunity to attack organized labor by suggesting that somehow they are to blame and therefore they should not get any help is also mean-spirited.

So I have seen, in the time that I have been here, difficult amendments.

But this one is one that really takes the cake. Mr. Chairman, Republicans have supported bailing out banks and financial institutions that were deemed too large to fail. We were all for saving the auto industry, and I was for it, too. We were all for making sure that big institutions did not fail. And while I questioned it, many of us went along with it. And here to single out Detroit at its worst moment when it is hurting like no city has hurt in a long time is just the wrong thing to do.

If this is what the gentlewoman wants to do, I guess there is no way to stop her, but I would really wish that she would take a moment to think about this before she goes any further with this.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I find the gentleman's choice of words so interesting. I think he used "mean" and "mean-spirited" several times.

Let me tell you what is mean-spirited. Mean-spirited is looking at future generations and saying, you didn't want this, you didn't ask for it, but guess what? You have got a \$17 trillion bill on your head. Right now, the birth tax for every child born in this country is \$54,000. Is that good? Of course not. Is that mean-spirited? You bet it is. You are saying you owe this money like it or not because Washington can't get its spending habits under control. Washington is spending money it does not have to pay for programs that my grandkids do not want.

You are saying it is not the American way. Let me tell you something. Using borrowed money to pay for debts that have not been created by this government is not the way we do business.

I would remind you of a Congressman from Tennessee who stood on this floor at one point in history, and he reminded the body that this was not their money to give. It is the taxpayers' money. That Member of Congress was Davy Crockett.

This is the taxpayers' money. They expect us to be good stewards. Bailing out cities that have not been good stewards of their money is not what this body should be doing with Federal tax dollars that come into our coffers.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. It is amendment 080.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Federal Communications Commission may be used, with respect to the States of Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin, to prevent such States from implementing their own State laws with respect to the provision of broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.11 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) by the State or a municipality or other political subdivision of the State.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I would like to reserve a point of order mainly because we haven't seen this text or the amendment until this very moment. In fact, we still haven't seen it.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to prohibit any taxpayer funds from being used by the Federal Communications Commission, the FCC, to preempt State municipal broadband laws.

In other words, we don't need unelected Federal agency bureaucrats in Washington telling our States what they can and can't do with respect to protecting their limited taxpayer dollars in private enterprises.

As a former State senator from Tennessee, I strongly believe in states' rights. I know that is an issue that is important to many of my colleagues in this Chamber. And that is why I found it deeply troubling that FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has repeatedly stated this past year that he intends to preempt states' rights when it comes to the role of state policy over municipal broadband.

Chairman Wheeler's statements posed a direct challenge on the constitutionality of States' sovereign functions. It wrongly assumes Washington knows what is best and forgets that the right answer doesn't always come from the top down.

Mr. Chairman, 20 States across our country have held public debates and enacted laws that limit municipal broadband to varying degrees. These State legislatures and Governors have not only listened but have responded to the voices of their constituents. They are closer to the people than the chairman of the FCC. They are accountable to their voters.

Mr. Chairman, States have spoken and said that we should be careful and deliberate in how we allow public entry into our vibrant communications marketplace, a sector of our economy that invests tens of billions of dollars each year, accounts for tens of thousands of jobs, and serves millions of consumers.

Municipal broadband projects have had a mixed bag of results. There have been some successes and also some spectacular failures that have left taxpayers on the hook. For example, look at the failed UTOPIA project that has created massive disruption and is challenging taxpayers. In fact, it was recently reported that the "residents of 11 Utah cities would be billed as much as \$20 a month as part of a plan to salvage the State's once-heralded UTOPIA fiber optic network."

That doesn't sound like a model the Federal Government needs to force against the wishes of State-elected officials. That doesn't sound like competition, and it sounds like another Federal bailout waiting to happen.

State governments across the country understand and are more attentive to the needs of the American people than unelected Federal bureaucrats in Washington. That is why this past June I was joined by 59 of our colleagues in sending a letter to Chairman Wheeler stating our concerns and requesting a response to a list of questions, questions that we are still waiting for him to respond to. The U.S. Senate also sent a letter to the FCC on this issue, and they are, likewise, waiting for a response. It seems the FCC is content to tell our States how they will manage their sovereign economic affairs, but they won't answer to the Congress who is responsible for exercising oversight of the agency.

Inserting the FCC into our State's economic and fiscal affairs sets a dangerous precedent and violates State sovereignty in a manner that warrants deeper examination. This Congress cannot sit idly by and let an independent agency trample on our states' rights. This is an issue that should be left to our States, and if it comes to a point where we need a national standard, then that debate should be held by Congress, not the FCC, and should be done with the participation of the American people. I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. First, I wish to withdraw my point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. I do have, and I know it comes at a different time, but I do have letters from different groups opposing the amendment from the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, including the gentleman who gets credit for inventing the Internet, and I am not talking about Vice President Gore, I am speaking about someone else.

association of Counties, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, including the gentleman who gets credit for inventing the Internet, and I am not talking about Vice President Gore, I am speaking about someone else.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AND ADVISORS

JULY 15, 2014.

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) strongly urges you to oppose any amendment to HR 5016 that would hamstring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from taking any action on—indeed, even discussing—the issue of state laws that prohibit or restrict public and public/private broadband projects. It is clear that such laws harm both the public and private sectors, stifle economic growth, prevent the creation or retention of thousands of jobs, and hamper work force development.

The United States must compete in a global economy in which affordable access to advanced communications networks is playing an increasingly significant role. As the FCC noted in challenging broadband providers and state and municipal community leaders to come together to develop at least one gigabit community in all 50 states by 2015: "The U.S. needs a critical mass of gigabit communities nationwide so that innovators can develop next-generation applications and services that will drive economic growth and global competitiveness." This is especially true in rural America.

The private sector alone cannot enable the United States to take full advantage of the opportunities that advanced communications networks can create in virtually every area of life. As a result, federal, state, and local efforts are taking place across the Nation to deploy both private and public broadband infrastructure to stimulate and support economic development and job creation, especially in economically distressed areas. But such efforts are being thwarted in some areas by State laws that prohibit or restrict municipalities from working with private broadband providers, or developing themselves, if necessary, the advanced broadband infrastructure that will stimulate local businesses development, foster work force retraining, and boost employment in economically underachieving areas.

Consistent with these expressions of national unity, public entities across America are ready, willing, and able to do their share to bring affordable high-capacity broadband connectivity to all Americans. State barriers to public broadband are counterproductive to the achievement of these goals. Efforts to strip funding from the FCC to even discuss this issue, let alone take action, are misplaced and wrong. Please oppose any amendment to HR 5016 or any other measure that could significantly impair community broadband deployments or public/private partnerships.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES,

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
OFFICERS AND ADVISORS.

PRESERVING A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET

Whereas, since its inception, the Internet has existed based on principles of freedom and openness, core values that have made it the most powerful communication medium ever known; and

Whereas, the FCC is currently debating how to enshrine these Open Internet Principles into 21st century regulation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. in 2010 determined that the long-observed Open Internet Principles of nondiscrimination, nonblocking, and transparency, described below, should not be declared in an FCC Policy Statement, but instead should be enshrined in a formal rule-making seeking to reinstate those principles; and

Whereas, the FCC issued its Open Internet Order, reinstating these rules for preserving a free and open internet, on December 23, 2010, formalizing the three basic protections: transparency, no blocking of lawful content and no unreasonable discrimination of network traffic; and these rules were made effective November 20, 2011; and

Whereas, these rules enshrine the values of what is commonly referred to as net neutrality; and

Whereas, the first principle of the Open Internet Order states that fixed and mobile broadband providers must publicly disclose accurate information regarding network management practices, performance characteristics, and commercial terms of their broadband services; and

Whereas, the second principle states that fixed broadband providers may not block lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; mobile broadband providers may not block lawful websites, or block applications that compete with their voice or video telephony services; and

Whereas, the third principle states that unreasonable discrimination shall not be permitted, that fixed broadband providers may not unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful network traffic; and

Whereas, these principles, applied with the complementary principle of reasonable network management, guarantee that the freedom and openness that previously enabled the internet to flourish as an engine for creativity and commerce under the protection of the original policy statement will continue, providing greater certainty and predictability to citizens, consumers, innovators, investors, and broadband providers, while retaining the flexibility providers need to effectively manage their networks; and

Whereas, since the beginning of the internet, broadband Internet access services have continued to invest in a single infrastructure which has increased average speeds for all users across our nation, without resorting to the practice of prioritization for users who can afford to pay the most; and

Whereas, online companies, or edge providers, have also invested in new innovative products and services that have driven economic growth and consumer demand for improved internet services and faster speeds from broadband internet access providers; and

Whereas, the dual investment of broadband Internet access service providers and edge providers has fostered a virtuous cycle of investment and innovation online; and

Whereas, two key rules of the three rules comprising the Open Internet Order, one per-

taining to no blocking and another pertaining to no unreasonable discrimination, were again vacated on January 14, 2014 by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. in the Verizon Communications Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission (2014), ruling that the FCC has no authority to enforce these rules; and

Whereas, the FCC on May 15, 2014, voted 3-2 to open the process of public comment on their proposed net neutrality rules that could in some circumstances allow paid prioritization of internet traffic based on a commercially reasonable standard; and

Whereas, paid prioritization under a commercially reasonable standard allows paid prioritization that has heretofore been understood to be unjust and unreasonable; and

Whereas, unreasonable paid prioritization is antithetical to a neutral Internet, and nondiscrimination is an inherent and indivisible characteristic of net neutrality; and

Whereas, all data on the Internet should be treated equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication; and

Whereas, innovation relies on a free and open Internet that does not allow individual arrangements for priority treatment over broadband Internet access service; and

Whereas, preventing access to any lawful websites, slowing speeds for services, or redirecting users from one website to a competing website creates asymmetrical access which is antithetical to an Open Internet; and

Whereas, startups are the engine of an innovation economy, yet may not have the cash flow to pay for paid prioritization, and will therefore be unable to compete with large companies to deliver content to customers, impeding startup growth, thus limiting economic development and the creation of jobs: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors supports a free and open internet as outlined in the FCC's original Open Internet Order; and be it further

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive nondiscrimination as a key principle for any FCC rule-making; and be it further

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors supports securing a commitment to transparency and the free flow of information over the internet, including no blocking of lawful websites and no unreasonable discrimination of lawful network traffic; and be it further

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors calls on the White House to offer their support of these principles; and be it further

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to offer their support of these principles and if necessary use their lawmaking power to enshrine access to a free and open Internet and give the FCC a clear mandate; and be it further

Resolved, That the US Conference of Mayors recommends that the FCC preempt state barriers to municipal broadband service as a significant limitation to competition in the provision of Internet access.

COALITION FOR LOCAL INTERNET CHOICE

Washington, DC, July 15, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The Coalition for Local Internet Choice has heard that Rep. Marsha Blackburn is planning to propose an amendment to House Appropriation bill H.R. 5016. The amendment would preclude the

Federal Communications Commission from using its appropriated funds to take any action that would preempt a State law governing whether or to what extent the State or a municipality or other political subdivision of the State may provide broadband Internet access service. The Coalition urges you to oppose any such amendment.

As Congress and the Commission have often recognized, ensuring that all Americans have reasonable and timely access to advanced telecommunications capabilities, particularly in rural and other high-cost areas, is "the great infrastructure challenge of our time." Toward this end, Congress has assigned the Commission a central role in defining the relevant terms and standards and in identifying and removing barriers to broadband investment and competition. While preemption of State barriers to broadband investment and competition should be used rarely, in only the clearest of cases, it should not be ruled out categorically in all cases, as the Blackburn amendment would do.

Our Coalition was established to support local choice in acquiring advanced communications capabilities. Our members believe that communities should be free to decide to work with willing incumbents, enter into public-private partnerships, develop their own networks, if necessary, or do whatever else may work for their citizens, businesses, and institutions. Where communities have been free to do this, we have seen robust economic development enhanced educational and occupational opportunity, access to more affordable modern health care, improved public safety, greater energy efficiency and environmental protection, and much more that has contributed to a high quality of life. In contrast, where state barriers to community broadband initiatives and public-private partnerships exist, both the public and private sectors, particularly high-technology companies, are failing to meet their potential.

At this critical time in our country's history, we should not preclude or inhibit any potentially successful strategy that will enable our communities and America as a whole to thrive in the emerging knowledge-based global economy. Nor can we afford to take off the table any approach that may be necessary in certain cases to remove barriers to broadband investment and competition.

Sincerely,

JOANNE HOVIS,
Chief Executive Officer, CLIC.

Mr. SERRANO. Whatever happened to localism or local control? This amendment means the Federal Government will tell every local citizen, mayor, and county council member that they may not act in their own best interests.

Any such amendment is an attack on the rights of individual citizens speaking through their local leaders to determine if their broadband needs are being met.

Congresswoman BLACKBURN only has to drive an hour and a half down Interstate 24 to Chattanooga to see where the city-owned electric utility owns a broadband network. It charges \$70 per month, enough to cover expenses but affordable enough to attract businesses.

□ 2000

Her State passed a bill to prevent nearby towns from joining Chattanooga and to block other communities from doing themselves. Companies have moved jobs or expanded in Chattanooga after learning that the minimum connection speed on the city-owned network was faster than the maximum they had available at headquarters.

Preemption will not force anyone to do anything that the municipalities alone don't want to do. This is not about forcing States to do anything, but instead stopping States from choking grassroots competition and stopping States from blocking faster networks or new networks where none exist.

It may sound one way, but it is a total different interpretation that we have, and this amendment could really hurt—in fact, may even hurt the efforts that she claims she wants to put forth.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to note that what this amendment does is to allow those citizens in those cities, in those States that have made this decision—this is how they want to handle broadband—to do it.

It gives the power to them. It keeps bureaucrats, sitting at the FCC, from making these decisions and overriding the wishes of our States and of those cities that are located therein. I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, it is interesting to note that Chairman UPTON has legislation and has spoken out on this issue, and the whole issue here is to allow cities to do what they need to do without having the major cable companies and so on lobby the States and stop them from doing so.

Broadband is something that we need to expand—that may sound like a pun—to make it broader, not to make it limited. It should be available everywhere, and it should be available in every possible place—rural, suburban, inner city, in homes, in schools.

We have to build the infrastructure to make that happen. Again, I repeat, I really think that her intent is not being met by her amendment, and that is why I oppose it and hope we would all oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by

the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have one final amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Voluntary Remedial Actions and Guidelines for Voluntary Recall Notices" (CPSC Docket No. CPSC-2013-0040).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 661, the gentlewoman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would prohibit funds for the voluntary recall proposed rule at the Consumer Product Safety Commission and would prevent them from moving forward with a rule that would cripple the highly successful voluntary recall program that is currently in place.

For nearly 40 years, the CPSC and manufacturers and retailers, big and small, have partnered to ensure that the system of voluntary recalls is effectively reducing the safety risks that are posed to the public.

In fact, the CPSC recently highlighted the success of the program, noting that 90 percent of the recalls through the award-winning Fast Track program are implemented within 20 days. The Fast Track program was created by former CPSC Chairman Ann Brown to greatly reduce the amount of time it takes recalls to be implemented.

Instead of working to increase the efficiency of its programs, the CPSC's proposed rule change effectively kills its most successful program. On May 30, Ann Brown, a Democratic former Chairman appointed by President Clinton, sent a letter to the Energy and Commerce Committee expressing deep concerns over the impacts of the Commission's proposed rule.

Concerning the substantive provisions of the proposal, former Chairman Brown stated:

A Fast Track procedure would be rendered impossible under these circumstances.

The success of this Fast Track program is based on the shared commitment of the Commission and the private sector to remove harmful products from the marketplace.

The Commission, however, now seeks to transform the voluntary recall process into a legal negotiation equivalent to a settlement agreement. The proposed substantive changes would require companies seeking to implement a recall to hire an attorney to nego-

tiate binding and enforceable terms with the CPSC staff.

This places significant burdens on small businesses that use the Fast Track program because the program allows them to work with the Commission staff without having to pay expensive legal fees. The CPSC should not discourage companies from working closely, efficiently, and effectively with the CPSC when potential hazards or defects are identified.

As the letter from former CPSC Chairman Brown shows, this is not a political issue. Senators from Pennsylvania—CASEY and TOOMEY, a Democrat and Republican, respectively—submitted a letter in January for the docket, raising concerns about the proposed changes.

Senator KING sent the Commission a letter in March expressing similar concerns, and I include these letters, Mr. Chairman, from former Chairman Brown and from the Senators into the RECORD.

ANN BROWN,

Palm Beach Gardens, FL, May 30, 2014.

Hon. FRED S. UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER WAXMAN: I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission from March 1994 until November 1, 2001. During my time as Chairman, we prevented numerous deaths and injuries through enforcement actions, product recalls and working with consumers, consumer groups and firms regulated by the Commission. Product safety is best accomplished when government, industry and consumers work together.

Under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products must report certain potential product hazards to the Commission. They must report immediately if they obtain information which reasonably supports the conclusion that a product (1) fails to comply with certain mandatory or voluntary standards, (2) contains a defect which could create a substantial product hazard, or (3) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death.

If the Commission believes that a product presents a substantial product hazard to the public, it may pursue corrective action. Early in my Chairmanship, I learned that some number of companies were offering to conduct product recalls but because of entrenched procedures, those firms were not allowed to proceed with a recall until the CPSC staff performed a technical evaluation of the product involved, agreed that there was a product safety problem by making a "Preliminary Determination" (PD) of hazard, and then sent a letter to the firm advising it of the preliminary determination of hazard and requesting a product recall.

This process could and often did take many months—months without a recall, months where consumers were at risk, even though the firm was ready, willing and able to proceed with a recall at the time of its report. We changed this bureaucratic process early in my tenure as Chairman by creating the Fast Track Product Recall program in August 1995.

Originally called the “No PD” program, firms who reported to CPSC, identified a product safety problem, agreed to and initiated a recall within 20 working days of their report, no longer required a staff technical evaluation of the problem reported. Rather than performing a technical evaluation to confirm the product problem reported upon, the CPSC staff evaluated the remedy proposed to assure that it adequately addressed the problem identified and spent time working with the firm on conducting the product recall.

The Commission made this Fast Track program permanent on March 27, 1997, and it has been hugely successful. More than one-half of all CPSC recalls are now conducted through the Fast Track Program. Recalls conducted through this program benefit consumers, the recalling firm and the CPSC. Recalls are announced faster better protecting consumers from injury. Recalling firms do not receive a letter stating that the CPSC staff has preliminarily determined their product is a substantial product hazard. And the government spend less resources investigating a product that a company has already agreed should be recalled.

The CPSC staff received a “Hammer” Award from Vice President Albert Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government for the Fast Track Product Recall Program. This award honored federal employees for significant improvements to customer service and for making the government work more efficiently. Also in 1998, the Fast Track Program was named a winner of the prestigious Innovations in American Government award, an awards program of the Ford Foundation and Harvard University, administered by Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

Now this award winning program appears to face the risk of being unintentionally undermined by a rule proposed by the CPSC in November 2013 that is intended to enhance voluntary recalls by setting forth principles and guidelines for the content and form of voluntary recall notices that firms provide as part of corrective action plans. One of the CPSC’s proposals is to prohibit firms desiring to conduct a voluntary recall from disclaiming that there is a hazard presented by their product unless the Commission agrees to the disclaimer. I am concerned that this proposal if adopted could undermine the efficacy of the Fast Track program. Another proposal would classify a voluntary Corrective Action Plan (CAP) as “legally binding” thus transforming a CAP into a Consent Decree, potentially delaying an otherwise effective recall weeks or even months due to haggling over legalities. A Fast Track procedure would be rendered impossible under these circumstances.

CPSC urges firms to err on the side of caution by reporting potential product safety problems and conducting recalls. It is my understanding that virtually every firm that reports under the CPSC mandatory reporting requirement and requests to participate in a Fast Track recall, asserts that their product does not present a substantial product hazard, but nonetheless they wish to conduct a recall. If reporting firms are not allowed to make this disclaimer, they have no incentive to participate in the Fast Track Program.

Not making the disclaimer may be perceived in product liability litigation as akin to admitting that the product reported on is a substantial product hazard. If so, reporting firms might just as well report to CPSC, not

offer to conduct a recall, and take the chance that the CPSC staff might conclude their product is not a substantial product hazard and that no recall is necessary.

If this occurs, recalls would be delayed, CPSC would be required to use substantial technical resources to evaluate products so that the staff can determine whether to make a preliminary determination of hazard, and consumers are left unprotected potentially for many months.

I respectfully request that the Committee urge the Commission to consider its proposed rule carefully and to assure that it does not adversely affect CPSC’s Fast Track Product Recall Program.

Sincerely,

ANN BROWN.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, January 30, 2014.

Re Proposed Rulemaking on Voluntary Product Recalls

ROBERT S. ADLER,

Acting Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ADLER: We have recently become aware of a proposed rule by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that could greatly increase the cost and complexity of recalling harmful consumer products.

As you know, the agency currently operates a “Fast Track” program that is well regarded and has a history of success. Since its inception in 1997, the program has allowed companies to recall products when they have reason to believe their products will harm consumers. The vast majority of companies across the nation comply with the program, and companies in Pennsylvania often initiate product recalls as a precautionary measure, even where there is no evidence of injury to consumers. As the CPSC itself points out, the advantage of its award-winning program is that it permits companies to remove potentially hazardous products from the marketplace as quickly and efficiently as possible, without requiring CPSC staff to make a preliminary determination that the product is hazardous. Because the program makes recalls voluntary and utilizes standard-form documents that can be expeditiously reviewed and executed, product recalls occur rapidly and efficiently.

Unfortunately, the proposed changes seem to jeopardize the efficacy of the existing process, which could increase the risk of harm to consumers. The proposed rule makes “voluntary” product recall Action Plans legally binding and requires companies to state with specificity each instance in which a product causes harm. We worry that these changes may discourage companies from initiating precautionary recalls and increase compliance and administrative costs. Companies that recall products will have to utilize lawyers to negotiate their “legally binding” documents and will involve upper corporate management to approve forward-looking obligations. Similarly, the CPSC will have to devote more time and personnel to negotiating recall documents and may be subject to litigation to determine whether a particular product is hazardous. Given these issues, we are concerned that the proposed change could ultimately keep harmful products on store shelves for longer periods of time, and thus increase the risk of harm to consumers.

Given the longstanding success of the Fast Track program, and the paramount importance of maintaining effective procedures for recalling dangerous products, we encourage

the Commission to very carefully consider any changes it seeks to make to its Fast Track recall program.

Sincerely,

ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.,
United States Senator.
PATRICK J. TOOMEY,
United States Senator.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2014.

Hon. ROBERT S. ADLER,
Acting Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ADLER: I write today to communicate serious reservations about the rulemaking being conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding remedial actions and guidelines for voluntary recall notices. While framed as “interpretive” guidance, the CPSC’s proposed rule makes substantial changes to current practice surrounding voluntary recalls—changes that could result in significant compliance burdens for businesses wishing to voluntarily recall a product.

The CPSC currently has in place a highly successful “Fast Track” process that enables a company to make use of an expedited process, in consultation with the CPSC, to recall a defective product. This innovative program eases regulatory requirements and enables businesses to work with the CPSC to get defective products off store shelves within days, rather than the weeks and months a normal recall process might take. The “Fast Track” program demonstrates a smart blend of strong consumer protections and ease of business compliance, creating an environment that encourages businesses to report defective products and quickly remove them from circulation.

The proposed rule under consideration would make substantial changes to the “Fast Track” program and could threaten the incentives for businesses to undertake voluntary recalls, as well as substantially increase the cost of completing the process. Most significantly, the proposed rule makes the corrective action plans in voluntary recall agreements legally binding, which could dramatically shift the incentive structure for businesses to report incidences of defective products. Making a plan legally binding will slow down the voluntary recall process, leaving consumers at risk for a longer period of time as the plans will first need to be subject to detailed review by legal counsel.

The proposed rule would also allow the CPSC to require the adoption of a compliance program as a component of corrective action plans. This requirement—if not properly calibrated—could introduce further delays in the voluntary recall process, even when a business has no history of recalls or violations. Thus, in the midst of working with the CPSC on the parameters of a voluntary recall agreement, a business might also have to negotiate the parameters of a compliance program and provide description of said program in the recall announcement.

While Section 214 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 required the CPSC to establish requirements for mandatory recall notices, the statute bears no mention of establishing similar requirements for voluntary recalls. I understand that the CPSC bases its authority to establish guidelines from language in a House committee report, but I am not convinced that the proposed rule’s sweeping changes to the existing voluntary recall process is congruent with either the intent of the statute or the language in the committee report.

Existing regulations require companies initiating a voluntary recall to propose and implement a formal corrective action plan, but these plans were never intended to be legally binding. Part 1115.20 of title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations describes a corrective action plan as “[a] document, signed by a subject firm, which sets forth the remedial action which the firm will voluntarily undertake to protect the public, but which has no legally binding effect.” In effect, the regulations expressly prohibited the Commission from making these agreements legally binding in order to encourage—not deter—businesses to recall defective products. The CPSC’s proposed rules may have the opposite of the intended effect—and, at the very least, could substantially delay the timely distribution of product safety information to the public.

Make no mistake: I have long been an advocate for strong regulations that protect public health, safety, and the environment. However, I also believe that we must regulate in a manner that is sensitive to the burdens placed on individuals and businesses. My opinion is that the CPSC’s proposed rule may go too far—and may have the unintended consequence of delaying the recall process and extending the period of time in which defective items remain in circulation.

I urge the Commission to take my comments into consideration. The proposed rule could have a widespread and indiscriminate effect on voluntary recalls, and I ask the Commission to do its due diligence in fully vetting the impacts on businesses across the country, particularly for those wishing to initiate a voluntary recall as a precautionary measure. For large businesses, who already employ legal counsel and compliance officers, these new requirements will be substantial; for small businesses, they could be crippling.

Sincerely,

ANGUS S. KING, JR.,
United States Senator.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I also ask that Members of this Chamber recognize that the proposed rule change would slow a process meant to be conducted with speed and without red tape and would harm a system that ensures that consumer products sold in the U.S. are the safest in the world.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, there is a contradiction with what the gentlewoman says because, on one hand, she doesn’t want government involved in localities, and on the other hand, she wants to tell localities how to act.

On the other hand, she doesn’t want us to tell the Consumer Product Safety Commission how to act, so it becomes very confusing. This is an issue we should leave to the discretion of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. This is not something we should be micromanaging the CPSC on.

Furthermore, it is a proposed rule, and the CPSC is simply reviewing comments at this stage, and that is important to note. They are simply reviewing comments at this stage. We in this

body should let the process of issuing rules play out, as is required in law, instead of cherry-picking where and when we want to interfere.

This is simply not an area of over-regulation, since no regulation is yet in effect, so this amendment is unnecessary. I oppose the amendment, and I hope my colleagues will as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I think the gentlewoman has very well explained the amendment. We have a system that has been working well for 40 years, and so I don’t think we need to make any unnecessary changes, and so I urge Members to support her amendment.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman.

I urge support of this amendment. The program in place at the CPSC has worked well. It is supported by both Republicans and Democrats. The process they are going through at CPSC is expending a tremendous amount of time and money.

Looking at setting up a system that would force these retailers into legal negotiations and settlements is not the way to address this.

The Fast Track program has been enormously successful. Former Chairman Brown worked during the Clinton administration—was appointed by President Clinton. They did a great job putting this program together. We should leave it in place. I urge a “yes” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, this agency is one of the better agencies. Every so often, we read about baby seats and blankets and all kinds of issues that affect our communities and our daily lives.

We should stop trying to attack it, as some people do. I just think that this is not a good amendment and that it should be defeated.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) having assumed the chair, Mr. WENSTRUP, Acting Chair of the

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5016) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the further consideration of H.R. 5016, and that I may include tabular materials on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back here on the floor once again. Tonight, we want to carry on our long-running discussion about how to improve the American economy, how to create jobs here in this Nation and move us all forward, how to rebuild the middle class, how to make sure that every family has the opportunity to earn a good living, buy a home if they want to, educate their kids, get health care, and enjoy the fruits of this great Nation.

We often talk about this in the context of Make It In America. This is our jobs agenda. This is the agenda about how to rebuild this Nation, and there are seven different parts to it: trade policy, which we are not talking about tonight; we will talk a little bit about taxes; energy, that is another day; labor; education; and research.

We are going to spend tonight talking about this issue, the infrastructure issue of this Nation.

Let’s see, in California, it is right smack in the middle of commute time, 5:15. I am from California, and I know that my constituents in the Sacramento area on that great Interstate 80 are sitting there in a traffic jam.

□ 2015

What a surprise. Or maybe they are on the Caltrain returning from the San Francisco area and held up behind a freight train that is probably carrying bulk and crude oil to the refineries in the Bay Area. They are waiting and waiting and waiting, whether they are on the road or on the train or on the bus, waiting and waiting and waiting.

Folks, in case you didn't know it—and I know you did—we have got a transportation problem in America. We have got a very serious problem.

So as we talk about jobs, as we talk about our Make it in America agenda, we need to talk about infrastructure, we need to talk about transportation, because this is a big, big issue for America. It is an issue that affects every single one of us.

My district also has about, I don't know, 150 miles of Interstate 5. So as you travel from California and you head north, last winter or last year, you would get on Interstate 5, you would get past Seattle, and then you would come to a screeching halt. Why? Because the Interstate 5 bridge in Washington State, just as you got to the Canadian border, collapsed. Wow.

How could that happen in America? How could it be that our bridges on a major interstate connecting Canada, United States, and Mexico would collapse? Well, it is because we did not maintain that. It is because our transportation policies are the previous century's policies and they don't fit in this century.

So, all across America, you are going to see more of this. In a moment, I am going to turn to my colleague from New York (Mr. TONKO), and he will undoubtedly talk about the problem on that side.

It was a big day here in the Congress, because today we did what we do so very well: we kicked the can down the road. We have a major transportation crisis. This isn't the "bridge to nowhere," but this is where we are headed right now. We are headed for a transportation crisis, because in about 3 weeks, maybe 4 weeks, the transportation funds are going to run out of money.

So, in an effort to deal with this problem. The United States Congress, led by our Republican leadership, did what it has done for the last 3½ years, and that is taken their can and kicked it down the road. We passed a stopgap temporary transportation funding bill that will provide us with another 10 months of funding so that the rest of the Nation's transportation systems—the State governments, the local governments, the cities, and even the Federal Government—will be perfectly unsure what the game plan is for the future years.

How they will plan, nobody knows, because they don't know what to expect from the Federal Government in terms of funding beyond the next 10 months, which is precisely where we are today. So, doing our very best, the repeated process of kicking the can down the road, we did it once again. Now, I will admit, I voted for it. We had no options, unless we wanted to lose several tens of thousands of jobs.

This is what my State government gave to me. If we fall off the bridge and

don't fund transportation, here is what will happen to California: 73,572 jobs will be jeopardized; 5,692 active highway and transit projects will come to a screeching stop, which is pretty much what the commuters are doing right now on Interstate 80 between Sacramento and Davis, where it is my district; and California has 172,201 miles of public roads that will continue to be in very, very poor condition.

So, given the options that our Republican leadership has presented to us—and, by the way, we don't do anything that they don't allow us to do—they gave us the opportunity to kick the can down the road. Okay, better than nothing, but not the solution.

I would like to now turn to my colleague from the State of New York to talk about this system from your area, and then I would like to go back to what we should be doing, what we must be doing, which is to put in place a 4-year transportation program that actually solves our transportation and infrastructure problems, the Grow America Act.

What is the view from the east coast? Any better than the west coast?

PAUL TONKO, my colleague, I yield to you.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for half the remaining time until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. TONKO. I believe that is 53 minutes, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you.

Representative GARAMENDI, let me, once again, thank you for leading us in this hour of discussion, 53 minutes worth of discussion, that focuses on the value added, the importance of investment in transportation projects.

Back to our humble beginnings as a Nation, we were able to cite the relevance of having investments made in transportation. Whether it was to address public safety, whether it was to address the needs of commerce, or to grow our Nation, transportation investments have always provided that lucrative dividend that enables us to be just that much stronger as a Nation, and certainly to build our competitiveness to the ultimate.

That is the wisdom here that comes with an associated investment in transportation. Now, we have throughout our history tremendously sound ideas of how we work together as a Nation with a vision, with a sense of purpose, that enabled us to move forward, whether that was investing in an Erie

Canal that gave birth to a necklace of communities called "mill towns" that enabled people to tether their American Dream in those given locations, as they were to find life anew here in their new country, or whether it was the Transcontinental Railroad.

There was an investment, there was a plan, there was a vision shared by this Nation where we chose to go forward and invest those dollars so as to enable us to connect as a Nation, enable us to, again, sharpen the edge, the competitive edge of this country. Or perhaps it was an interstate highway system that found President Eisenhower working with Democrats and Republicans in Congress to put together this strategy, to have a better way to allow us as States, individual States, to, again, connect as a Nation.

So, we have been, or should be at least, inspired by these chapters of our history that showed that when we had this vision, when we executed this plan, when we dug deep to make the investment, and when we were bold in our initiative, great things happened. There were tremendous responses that came to build commerce, to provide for public safety, and to, again, connect the Nation.

Today, the saga is no different. We should respond again in robust fashion, and understand that in this new century it is important for us as we compete in a global economy to offer our business community the best sets of infrastructure investment so that we can move forward with that sound down payment that enables them to function and function well.

What we have seen here in the House, as my colleague from California just indicated, was a delay tactic, a kicking the can down the road, if you will. And as it was the only game in town, that was a "take it or leave it" situation, where we did not want a trust fund to be emptied, and we moved forward with this effort.

However, the leadership bringing their bill to this floor didn't even have enough Members of their majority to support this measure. So, they needed to reach to Democrats to say: okay, we will move forward with this short-term solution, it is not the optimum, it is not near what is needed, and so now the work should continue to put together a legitimate opportunity for us to avoid insolvency in the near future.

What do we need to do? We need to have a long-term strategy, we need to go forward to avoid what could have been without action today 700,000 jobs lost nationally and some 100,000-plus projects either delayed or coming to a grinding halt. We need to provide the predictability, the stability, for those groups that want to invest in our infrastructure.

No corporation, no group out there, no business which involves itself in improving our highways and bridges will

take this method seriously unless they feel that, they sense that stability. So, let's go forward and be sound about the investments we will make in our infrastructure, and let's put together that long-term strategy, because as we have witnessed in the past, and understand it to be today, that investment in infrastructure is the rock-solid cornerstone of a stronger tomorrow.

Representative GARAMENDI, there is much work to be done. There is work to be done that will require investments into infrastructure, transportation and infrastructure, in every region of this country. We know that. Let's get serious about the business, and let's avoid these short-term strategies that, again, get into areas where we smooth pensions, which can create another crisis of another kind.

We need to do better than what was done today, and we need to go forward. There were attempts to improve this, but this was the measure that was put before us, and, again, people saw it as the only opportunity to avoid insolvency of that highway trust fund. So, here we are again challenged in this moment to go forward with much better vision, with bolder initiatives, and with deep-rooted commitment to the transportation needs of this Nation.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, thank you so very much. It is always good to be on the floor with you. Thank you so very much for bringing to our attention once again the history of this Nation, how it was built, the great infrastructure.

There is a report card out on how our infrastructure is today. This was put together by the engineers and others who do this kind of work. I am just going to read through this: aviation—these are our airports—D; bridges, C-plus; dams, D; drinking water, D; energy, D; hazardous waste, D; inland waterways, D; levees, D; ports, C—whoa, that is good; public parks and recreation, C-minus; rails, C-plus; roads, D; schools, D; solid waste, B—I guess we can get rid of our trash, that is good—transit, D; and wastewater, D. So, the entire infrastructure is D.

Do you want to know why? Well, here is the reason why. Short-term we run out of money.

Let's take a look here.

In 2002, we spent \$325 billion on non-defense structures, all of these things I just talked about, and that was 2002, at the beginning of the Bush Presidency. And then every year after that—we are now down to about \$225 billion.

So \$100 billion of investment, annual investment, disappeared, and so now we are running all of these D scores. It is fortunate that we are not asking for—well, I guess we are asking for reelection. We are in trouble.

Just by the way, I got a phone call from my wife, and she said: You know, about the pickup truck, John. I said: What about it? She said: I've got to

take it in, the mechanic says the wheels are out of alignment. I said: How much is that going to cost? She said: Somewhere over \$100. On average, in San Francisco, \$782 is spent on every car every year to repair for the damages of the poor highways in California. I don't think I have New York, Mr. TONKO, but I suspect it is no better there.

Let's talk about the future. Excuse me, I am just stuck. I don't want to get stuck on the past, but it is pretty bad. Let's talk about the future.

Mr. TONKO. Before you go there, let me just share this, because even though it is 27 years old as a memory, it is still vividly captured by so many of us that lived in upstate New York. When I served in the New York State Assembly, Montgomery County, New York, is my home area. We are a donor county to the New York State Thruway system. Twenty-seven years ago, ten lives were lost when a Thruway bridge collapsed. It, obviously, was a terrible price for those ten individuals to pay. Their family members and friends would remind us that there is no pricetag that we can put on that loss.

□ 2030

I can tell you the economic impact on many counties in that region was severe. Interestingly, no one from that home county, my home county, was lost in that tragedy. Some in New York State paid dearly for that tragedy, but people whose home States were far away from New York were lost in that tragedy.

So that reminds all of us that we are all at risk, no matter where that deficiency may be, no matter where that lack of investment may fall. We are all at risk because we are interconnected, incredibly so, which is an undisputed fact. Any failure out there, any deficiency, challenges each and every one of us.

And so when we talk about the future, that past history of lack of investment needs to remind all of us that there is a worthiness here that this should be a high priority.

You talk about the delays that trip has measured. The impact on people within the capital region that I represent in New York is some \$1,600 annually in terms of idle time, in terms of repairs required to their vehicles, in terms of accidents that might be caused by less than acceptable conditions on those roadways. So this is costing us, as you just indicated, annually.

We need to understand that it is about public safety and it is about avoiding accidents and tragedies. It is about connecting the Nation. It is about investing in commerce. That is what this is telling us. It is the requirement of this Chamber and the United States Senate and the White

House to come together and get things done.

This President has urged us to accept his plans to close loopholes that will provide revenues in a long-term strategy, that will provide for work for millions of people in the trades industry, to put their skilled labor abilities to work for us as a nation and to make certain that future consequences like those that were faced in Montgomery County with the bridge collapse aren't repeated time and time again.

Before we go to the future, I just wanted to set that tone for some very tragic situations that we as a nation have endured. I am speaking of one assembly district in one State, but I know across the country there have been these terrible situations where the infrastructure weakness gripped us with pain and consequence.

Mr. GARAMENDI. No doubt about that. I am thinking about the Twin Cities. That was another bridge that collapsed more recently. These are real reminders of the necessity of dealing with the reality of transportation.

Fortunately, there is a way to solve the transportation and the infrastructure challenges of this Nation. It has been proposed by President Obama. It is called the GROW AMERICA Act. It specifically is designed to rebuild our crumbling transportation system.

It is a comprehensive plan. It deals with all of the various parts of the transportation and infrastructure system. There is a major piece for our rail. There is a major piece for inner city transit buses and transit within the cities. There is a piece for the ports, bridges, and highways. All of this is encompassed in the GROW AMERICA Act, which the President and Secretary Foxx of the Department of Transportation proposed a few months ago.

The legislation was presented to the House of Representatives, introduced here in the House by Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON about a month and a half ago, and it has simply sat there. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of this House has not taken it up, although it should.

We should be holding hearings on this issue, because this is what we need to address: the rail system, the buses, the ports, the bridges, the highways, the freight systems; the movement of men, women, materials, and freight all across this country.

The program is a very robust program, and over 4 years it will bring us almost back to what we were doing in 2002. Because in 4 years, we would be spending at the level of \$325 billion a year over that 4-year period of time.

But here is what it means for next year. If we were to pass the GROW AMERICA Act now rather than kicking the can down the road, beginning October 1, 2014, we would have \$7.6 billion to fix our highway system. We would have \$6.8 billion to improve public transportation: buses, light rail,

and intracity rail. We would have \$3.4 billion for our rail systems, like what you have here in the Northeast Corridor. Out in California, we have the Capital Corridor, the train system between San Diego and Los Angeles, and so forth. And we would have \$1 billion for our freight transportation system, or a total of \$18.6 billion more in 2015 to fix our crumbling infrastructure.

This is a very robust investment and it covers all of these programs. Each of these programs are necessary in and of themselves, like the highway system, to fill the potholes so that men and women across the country don't have to, as I must do, take my pickup in for a front wheel realignment. And all of these other systems, like transit, rail, port and freight systems, we would be able to grow those. We would be able to begin to fix our infrastructure system, and we would put people back to work.

Mr. TONKO. Right.

What I like about the plan, Representative GARAMENDI, is that it is all-inclusive in terms of an umbrella approach that encompasses several policy areas. It is not just transportation, which is very valid and certainly urgent, but we also address environmental policy, energy policy, economic development policy, and urban policy.

There are a number of strategies that come together into this one initiative that allow us to be smart about our investments and to be efficient. And isn't that what people seem to call for when they go to vote each and every time for Congress?

People interpreted the 2010 election that the voters were saying government is the enemy, government is the problem, government is too big. I think the people said, no, we want efficient government, effective government.

That is what a strategy like this provides. It incorporates planning. It incorporates investing on a routine scale so that we are not doing these catch-up games that require down payments of interest before we even get some investments made in infrastructure. So I like this.

With the rail portion, we are talking about the most energy-efficient form of travel. In order for us to provide a benefit to the public or to commerce, a transportation quotient is an important factor in the household budget and planning that all of us do as households and in budgeting for business so that they can cut that factor and be competitive in landing the contracts for the work that they do. So rail is an important component for that vision of providing a sounder outcome. It is better for the environment, and there is less pollution as we become more energy-efficient in our travel.

The next order of business is the connection with urban cores. Multimodal concepts enable us to again provide for the recovery of our inner urban cores. We have been lacking for sound urban

policy in this Nation. It is time for us to have a heart for these urban cores and to put together smart growth strategies, which this sort of planning, this sort of vision enables us to do.

And the list goes on and on.

To your point, Representative GARAMENDI, we are going to put people to work, too. That is not a bad thing.

Instead of coming up with dollars to sue a President, why don't we invest in our infrastructure? We are going to rush around this week and come up with ways to make certain that we can go forward with a lawsuit against the President. We are going to invest hard-earned taxpayer dollars to prove a point, to stage some sort of political theater and not do the sort of priorities that the American public is calling on us to do.

They don't want this acrimony to be driven by additional digging into the pocket of the taxpayers. They want soundness and effectiveness of programs. They want to know that what we do will grow jobs, create a climate that fosters private sector job growth, enable us to be more competitive, enable our public to be more safe as we travel, and enable us to put people to work.

That is what people deserve. They are calling for that sort of vision and initiative. We owe it to the American public to put into play this long-term strategy that we know deep in our hearts is the best thing to do.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO, what is happening tomorrow? The Speaker and the leadership of this House are going to do a press conference to talk about suing the President?

Mr. TONKO. And there is talk of how we will provide the dollars to make that happen.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And we haven't taken up a transportation bill, have we?

Mr. TONKO. Right. I think the approvals we are looking for here ought to come for sound investments that will bear benefits for generations to come—and in a multiple order of effectiveness for various purposes, from jobs to safety to connecting for commerce and the like.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let's put aside that lawsuit tomorrow and all the foolishness that it is and at least let you and me and whoever cares to join in this talk about substantive issues the American people really want, which is to do our work to put together programs that actually meet the needs of the people.

This is the President's proposal. I know the President has said if it has his name on it, it isn't going anywhere. So take his name off of it and let's just call it an American act.

What is it?

It is a 4-year program. It is 4 years of transportation infrastructure funding.

As you said, it is holistic. It includes many different elements, including planning and research, as you just described. It is \$302 billion over the 4 years, which is a substantial increase over what we are presently doing. It is fully paid for and does not increase the deficit.

I love my charts. I hope the rest of you like them as much as I do. If you don't, I am going to show them anyway.

What happens when we invest a dollar in infrastructure is we actually grow the economy by \$1.57. So for every dollar we invest, we get economic growth. We increase the economy in this case by another 57 cents beyond the dollar that we have already spent. And as you just said, you are laying in place the foundation. You have made the capital investment that will endure for years to come.

Anyway, in 4 years, this GROW AMERICA Act is \$302 billion over the 4-year period. For transportation, the highway system has \$199 billion. That is a 22 percent increase over what we are currently spending. In the area of transit systems, it is \$72 billion over the 4-year period. That also is an increase. There is research, which we have talked about.

The multimodal, this I really like. You talked about the transit hubs, and that is an important piece, but the multimodal freight system is the ports, the trains, and the highways all coming together.

I know you have major projects in New York. You may want to talk about those.

These are the hubs for which our economy grows because it is the export as well as the import from overseas. It is the rail system that then takes those containers of that cargo and puts it on the rails to go across the country—whether it is BNSF, or UP on the west coast, or the CSX rail system on the east coast—and the trucks, and they all come together in a hub. So there is actually \$10 billion for those rail hubs. For the rail system itself to improve the Nation's rails, it is \$19 billion over the 4 years.

Then there are the special innovative programs that local governments want to do like the TIGER grants. These are local programs. That is \$5 billion.

□ 2045

It is a substantial growth in what we have been spending over the previous years, and you will remember the chart that shows the decline in spending. It is an opportunity for us to pick it up and push it forward at a much higher level, employing people, growing the economy in the process, and laying down the foundation—the concrete, the steel, the bridges, the rails—upon which the economy will grow.

I know you have examples of this. Please, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. What I would add to your support of statements would be that, as we delay, as we do these gimmicks, as we do these kicking the can down the road scenarios, there are projects lining up. They are building up.

We are not resolving the overall core of concern out there. In a way, projects are piling up. In New York, the American Society of Civil Engineers has given this country, as you stated earlier, a poor report card on our infrastructure.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Excuse me. Are you like California, with D ratings?

Mr. TONKO. Yes. I mean, we have some tough, tough issues to deal with, and this report card from professionals is telling the story as it is.

Today, nearly 13 percent of New York's bridges are deemed structurally deficient. Some 27 percent of the State's bridges are considered functionally obsolete. Now, that is piling up. It is not going to get better until we invest. As it piles up, these concerns or these benefits from this investment are not being shared with the country.

Now, people don't want to hear about climate change and global warming, but at least see it as a way to be more resourceful with the energy supplies that we do have. If you can't buy into the notion of cleaning up the air to avoid carbon emission and methane emission, at least see it as a way to pull cars off the highway and allow for mass transit, public transit, to enable us to better address the capacity situation of our roads and bridges throughout all of our States, then see it as a way to bring under control the transportation cost factor for commerce.

When you build this port system, when you connect with rail and highways and bridges and when you have the ultimate investment made in today's state-of-the-art infrastructure, you are providing this golden benefit to commerce, so that they can compete and can compete effectively in a global marketplace. It is driven by commerce, as is our public safety, as is our connectedness as a Nation.

So there are many benefits here. The multiple facets of all of this vision that the President has shared with this Congress should not be kicked aside. You don't kick this away, like you did the strategies and the solutions for our infrastructure needs. You sit down at a table together and perform, as this Nation expects us to on behalf of issues as critical as infrastructure.

We know what has to be done. Let's do it. Let's be the professionals as we come together in a bipartisan fashion and bicameral fashion—the legislative branch working with the executive branch—and get it done. We have been inspired throughout our history with those concepts of the Erie Canal, the Transcontinental Railroad, the interstate highway system.

Here is our moment. Do we let it pass us by, or do we move forward and get it done in grand fashion, where we are pulling cars off the road, enabling people to enjoy the public and mass transit opportunities as a Nation and where we have state-of-the-art port facilities so that we can ship our goods and so that we can enable commerce to be given that muscle it needs, which is the American way?

Our grandparents knew about this. They handed us a better Nation. Where are we in this moment? As stewards of today's given strategy and policy, are we going to fail for the next generations? Or will they look at us someday and say: they got it, they did it, they did it well, and they did it with a sense of vision and planning and passion and commitment, and they scored for us as a generation, and now, we will build upon that success?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Si se pueda. Yes, we can.

Mr. TONKO. Yes, we can.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We can do it.

It is interesting that we spend a lot of time talking on the floor here in the Chamber about government regulation and red tape and all of that. In the GROW AMERICA Act, there are major reforms to speed up projects, to move projects faster—to get the concrete poured, to get the bridge built, to get the airport up and running.

Those reforms are very, very important. They, along with the overall bill, are languishing for lack of a hearing, for lack of action. We really have the opportunity to not only put the projects in place, but to put them in place faster with the reforms that are called for in the GROW AMERICA Act.

I was starting to talk about the TIGER programs. This is an opportunity for our local county, city, State to put forward innovative projects. For example, the systems that you were talking about, the transit hubs, those can be proposed. They can be graded based upon their utility, on their usefulness.

Those are then grant programs—public, local, State, together with the Federal Government. This is a substantial increase. I know these are very popular in California. We keep lining them up, but there hasn't been sufficient money. In the GROW AMERICA Act, there is a significant increase. Some \$5 billion would be available for these innovative transportation projects.

What is there not to like in this? It is fully paid for—interesting. It is fully paid for in two ways—one, on the existing excise tax on gasoline and diesel. It is not increased, but is still the same. Then the balance—that is, the increase—is to be paid for by closing tax loopholes on corporations.

It is interesting that today, as the President was talking about this and also talking about closing tax loopholes on corporations that are

offshoring American jobs, The Wall Street Journal—that rather famous and quite good newspaper—carried on its front page, “The Race to Cut Taxes Fuels Urge to Merge,” a cute headline.

Then, in The New York Times, another headline on the very same subject reads, “Drug Firms Make Haste to Elude Taxes.”

So right here in these two national newspapers are examples of the kinds of tax avoidance games that are being played by American corporations to avoid paying their fair share of the American taxes.

The President, in the GROW AMERICA Act said stop it, stop these kinds of tax loopholes, tax breaks, that American companies are taking to avoid paying their share of the burden of transportation. He wants to close these loopholes, and here are two that clearly ought to be closed immediately.

Mr. TONKO. When you look at that strategy, Representative GARAMENDI, you sense the fundamental fairness.

I look at projects like the efforts in New York where Governor Cuomo is leading this effort to make certain that we invest in the rebuild of the Tappan Zee Bridge. That takes traffic from the greater Metro New York area, the New York City area, and moves it along into upstate New York and into the Northeast area of our country—a major thoroughfare with a huge price tag.

Now, if we partner with our States, that is helping those individual States to endure, to provide for the resources needed to build these major projects and to do them well. Otherwise, it falls upon the local taxpayer and on State income taxes and what have you—or whatever the State revenue supplies are—so that there is this partnership that is strengthened when the Federal Government leads with a strong commitment to infrastructure improvements.

Now, in looking at the safety, the stretch is miles long as we travel from that metro area on the Tappan Zee Bridge into upstate New York. It was in need of improvement for quite some time, and I applaud the Governor for leading the effort now in putting it together, but, again, the Federal partnership here is important.

For us to continue to ask middle-income America to pay the bill—they are already saturated with these efforts. They know that they have been stressed out.

What this measure does is provide fundamental fairness again. It is not just about the projects done, the vision shared, the implementation of a plan. It is about a revenue side that comes together in a progressive fashion, in socially and economically just fashions, to make certain that there is an equal sense of responsibility to bear in terms of providing for the infrastructure improvements that we as a Nation, as an American society, require.

Let's go forward and be the bold pioneers, if you will, of this generation and show people that we didn't miss the opportunity to invest in America. This Nation, as great as she is, with this economy as strong as it can be, requires assistance through our wonderful history, and this is not a surprise. It should not be a surprise. We need to constantly upgrade and improve and maintain our infrastructure.

Tonight, we have spent a lot of time, Representative GARAMENDI, talking about projects and initiatives that can move us forward, but there is also a commitment that needs to be made to the maintenance and operational costs of these systems.

If we don't commit to that, it sooner or later catches up with us, and then there are requirements for huge bond acts, or there are various ways to come up with strategies, and when you come into moments like this, you will have resistance from certain thinking, philosophical approaches in government, and it makes the job all the more difficult.

We know what needs to be done. We have been bolstered by our rich history. We were at our best when we invested in America. Let's learn from that. Let's seize the moment.

Let's go forward and commit to commerce, to safety, to the general public—to the needs of the general public. Let's provide for that strength of America, for that pioneer spirit that has always driven us.

I know I have talked about this so many times when I have been with you on the floor, but the pioneer spirit was on display when we built that Erie Canal. It was on display when those manufacturing towns built their factories.

It was on display when so many of our ancestors as immigrants came here and tethered their American Dream. They climbed that economic ladder. They ascended with those opportunities to provide for their families, for their children and grandchildren to go forward.

That is us. That is the synergy of this Nation. That is the passion of the American public. We deny that when we deny the vision, the plan, the investment, the policy, the initiative driven right on this floor that ought to be bipartisan in nature. Make no mistake about it—bipartisan in nature.

Let's move forward. Let's have that plan. Let's have that vision, and let's commit to this future.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We certainly can do it. We certainly ought to do it. Our predecessors have done it. There are 435 of us here in the House of Representatives, and the question is: Are we willing to do it?

It can be done. This plan, GROW AMERICA, is fully paid for. Yes, some corporations that are skipping out on their taxes would have to participate,

and they should. They ought not be tax dodgers.

This is a very interesting plan put forward by our colleague JOHN DELANEY, a Representative from Maryland, that would take those profits that these corporations have stored overseas—profits that they have not paid taxes on in America—to repatriate, to bring that money back to America.

His program would generate, over a period of 10 years, \$720 billion to be used in public-private partnerships to build our infrastructure. There are many, many ideas about how this could be paid for. The President has laid out a plan not to raise the gasoline and the diesel tax, but rather to bring about some tax fairness, and corporations would be required to pay their fair share—all of it good.

I suspect we have maybe another 5 minutes or so, but I want to bring up one of our favorite subjects. I am going to put this up.

Here we are with the GROW AMERICA Act and all of the things that could be done. This is back to Make It In America. I love this photo. It is one of my favorites.

I know, often, you travel on the train from New York down to Washington, D.C.—or back—right about now. This locomotive, which is the most advanced electric locomotive in America, made in America, was paid for by a Make It In America strategy.

Part of the transportation program—the American Recovery Act—back in 2008 said that they put aside about \$700-plus billion for Amtrak all across the Nation to be used for improving the Amtrak system.

They said that that money would be used to build locomotives, and they said 100 percent American-made. Siemens, a German company, said, oh, \$700 billion for locomotives made in America, we are a German company, we can build those in America.

So in Sacramento, California, in the infrastructure program, Siemens has built a 100 percent American-made locomotive, and it is going to be operating very soon on the Northeast corridor.

This is a good thing. This is how we can rebuild the American middle class. This is how we can create jobs, using our infrastructure investments to build jobs in America.

It is a fundamental piece of our Make It In America strategy of rebuilding our manufacturing sector where you do have good, solid middle class jobs, where a family can earn a living without both husband and wife having to work all the time or maybe two or three jobs.

We are talking about the American Dream being restored, and the infrastructure is a fundamental piece of that—not just because it moves the economy, not just because it is

foundational to economic growth, but because it is American middle class jobs.

□ 2000

It is the hardhats. It is the welder putting together the new locomotive. It is the engineer designing the system. It is the accountant. It is the secretary handling the paperwork. It is America building each future.

The President has laid out a good plan. Is there some way better to do it? Put your ideas on the table, my colleagues, put your ideas on the table.

How can you do better than this GROW AMERICA Act? Let's get about doing it. This is our future. This is America's opportunity, and it is fully paid for, doesn't increase the deficit. In fact, it will grow the economy and provide us with those middle class jobs.

I know, Mr. TONKO, you have been at this for your entire career, as have I, and to be here in Congress, at this moment, when we had an opportunity, we missed it today. We missed the opportunity today to grow the American economy, and instead, we kicked the can down the road. Better than nothing, but not good enough—nothing to be proud of.

Mr. TONKO, a few seconds—I don't know how much time we have.

Mr. TONKO. I believe we probably have about 5 minutes now. I think we go to about 7 minutes after.

Look, I think what you point to—the gentleman from California is absolutely right on. It is a ripple effect. It is not just the rail tracks that are developed, the railways that are developed. It is not just the highways and bridges. It is incorporating rail cars.

Now, here is a ripple effect. As we have grown the efficiency of the system, now we are building, manufacturing rail cars, putting people to work, alternatively-fueled vehicles that can enable us to continue in that effort to reduce carbon emission and methane emission, making certain that, again, we go through this whole process, coming out more environmentally sound.

So, yes, today's vote was a big disappointment, in terms of what we could have accomplished. It was that short term, get out of this immediate challenge, and let's go forward.

There is not that vision. There is not that full indepth plan that is required of us, and certainly, we fell short—far short of the mark that should have brought us across the finish line and enabled us to say, hey, we scored really well here, we put together a sound package.

This is about putting a strategy together that enables us to advance all of these cutting-edge technologies that enable us to strengthen the manufacturing base of America where these ripple effects reach us into our communities.

You talk about the locomotives of today and the future that are driven by the intellectual capacity of workers and researchers in this country. I think back on the industrial heritage of Schenectady, New York, that I represent here in the House.

The American Locomotive Company, ALCO, was producing tremendous cars that enabled us to again have that richness of rail history.

Well, you know, all through our history, there have been those decades and chapters that have inspired us because we met the task, we came ready to deliver, and we were not going to let any force stop us.

That is the greatness of America. That is how we achieved. That is how we climbed to our mountains, where people noticed America, where we were that beacon of hope, where the best things came from this Nation.

Are we ready to settle for second best? Fifth best? I don't think so. So let us move forward.

Other nations are investing in their infrastructure. You hear it all the time, about rail systems in Europe and Asia. You hear about the improvements that people have made with subway systems and the like.

We know that we have got the smarts to do it. We have got the intellectual capacity to lead not only this Nation, but the world, and as we go forward, let us be proud of the fact that we can come together, make things happen, and have that long-term strategy, which was just not here today for that vote. It was not here today for that vote.

I will repeat myself. The Republican majority didn't have their votes enough to pass the measure, so they obviously didn't believe in what they were doing, and it is unfortunate. It was the only game in town. It was the only plan placed on the table.

We need to do better than this, and we can. So our bright days of tomorrow lie ahead of us, only if we are ready to muster up the boldness to make it happen.

Representative GARAMENDI, to you to close.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is time to close. We can build America. We can build our infrastructure. The President has laid out a worthy plan, comprehensive, and all of the elements of the infrastructure that we must do. It is fully paid for. It is a good starting point.

Maybe there is a better way of doing it, but we cannot get it done with short-term, kick the can down the road bills, such as was passed today, but that is better than not doing anything.

This is the American future, and the question for all of us, 435: Why did we come here? Did we come here just to pass the time, or did we come here to really build America?

We are going to Make It In America. We are Americans, and we will make it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate that recognition.

First of all, I would like to direct attention to the Middle East, to our dear friend and ally, Israel, and the fact that I pointed out to Prime Minister Netanyahu twice, a few years apart, that going back to the very inception of Israel as a nation more than 3,000 years ago, there has never been a time when Israel gave away land trying to buy peace, that that land was not ultimately used as a staging area from which to attack it.

It has been true all those years, the original founding of Israel, the promised land, going through the division of Israel into two kingdoms, northern and southern, and then the rejuvenation really of that nation in the late 1940s.

No matter which President, no matter which party the President was from, no matter which Secretary of State was pushing to get a Nobel Peace Prize by trying to bring people together, anyone that pushed and forced Israel to give away land ended up bringing about attacks on Israel because they gave away land that should have been Israel's.

Southern Lebanon has been the source of so many attacks and kidnappings, intrusions into Israel. The Gaza Strip had so many Israeli families living peacefully, greenhouses, methods of taking care of themselves.

In an act—a unilateral act by Israel to attempt to secure a bit of peace, Israel gave away the Gaza Strip, now governed by Hamas, a terrorist organization that the United States through this administration is funding because we are funding the Palestinians and they have the relationship now with Hamas.

So we are taking American tax dollars from many people in the United States who do not believe it is a good idea to curse Israel and to supply money to its enemy, so Israel can be attacked, and yet, that money is being taken and given to them.

They can say because money is fungible, where we are not actually using the money you give us to attack Israel, and they can also claim they are not actually using the money that we give them to teach hatred in textbooks and all kinds of ways actually, including the naming of holidays after barbarians who have committed attacks on innocent people and killed innocent people. They name holidays after them. They name streets after them.

Here in the United States, we tend to name holidays or streets after people like Martin Luther King, Jr., who subscribed to peaceful means of protest, who would never encourage killing or attacks to achieve what Hamas and the PLO have utilized.

It is time to cut off the money. Until they quit teaching hatred, they quit utilizing funds to attack Israel, you cut off their funds. You cut off the teaching of hatred, and you have got a shot at some semblance of peace in the Middle East.

In the meantime, Israel is being attacked—every day, the rockets flying, hoping—the Palestinians hoping that maybe they will kill some innocent Israeli people.

Wouldn't that be great, they are thinking, if we could just kill maybe some children, maybe blow off some legs and arms? What a great accomplishment Hamas and the PLO can be thrilled about.

Of course, Hamas took over from the PLO in governing, but the area is no more peaceable, and it is time to cut off all American funding to any area that subscribes to the shooting of rockets to kill innocent people, as is going on in the Middle East, enemies of Israel attempting to kill innocent Israelis.

There was an attempt by Israel to enter into an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire with Hamas, but according to The Jerusalem Post story, by Yaakov Lappin, that collapsed Tuesday when Gazan terrorists continued to fire rocket barrages on the south, center, and north of Israel.

A fragment from a mortar shell killed an Israeli man, Dor Chanin, 37. Chanin had come as a civilian volunteer to distribute food to soldiers at Erez.

□ 2115

It is time to quit aiding and abetting the attacks on our friend Israel. It is time to start helping them.

And when it comes to the disastrous effort to negotiate with terrorist leaders in Iran—they are developing nuclear weapons. They are developing the ability to develop nuclear weapons because they have their centrifuges spinning. And I think those who say they want enough nuclear material to produce several nuclear weapons at the same time, they are not going to just do one. They are going to wait until they have enough to do several so that they can spread out, be difficult to track and be difficult to stop before they utilize them to destroy Israel, as the Little Satan, as they see it, and the United States, as the Great Satan.

It has been described in one of Joel Rosenberg's novels far too accurately: Even though Iran is developing intercontinental ballistic missiles that could carry nuclear warheads to the United States—"the Great Satan" they call us—they really don't even need

those. They could put them on a cargo ship, a yacht, whatever, and bring them over—have one in New York, have one in Chicago, have one up the Potomac. And they could pretty well devastate American economic powerhouse cities. If they put one in New Orleans, the Houston ship channel, there goes most of our refined gasoline.

It is time for America to wake up. This administration is not adequately protecting us, and that is why our Attorney General has now finally admitted this month, in an ABC interview, that, in effect, he is extremely concerned and in fear more now of a terrorist attack than he has been at most any time in his time as Attorney General. And this is a guy that knows terrorism. I mean, he has helped terrorists in his role prior to working for this administration. He is quite familiar with what they are capable of doing. So for him to say that, people ought to take notice.

Of course we have our Secretary of State, John Kerry, in an article of July 15 from *The Weekly Standard* by Jeryl Bier. The headline, “Kerry: I Get ‘A Little Uptight When I Hear Politicians Say How Exceptional We Are.’”

Heaven forbid that we should realize the capability of America and that there is no other nation in the history of the world that has fought, has lost lives of our military, has spent tremendous amounts of our treasure not to create an empire, but simply to bring liberty and freedom to people we don't even share languages with, we don't share religions so much with. Nations haven't done that. America is an exceptional nation, and we are losing that exceptional status.

So perhaps I will make our Secretary of State feel much better and be much prouder as I say that under this administration—as has been pointed out to me by Africans in Nigeria, by Africans in Togo—the United States has gotten much weaker in world opinion under this President. So that should make our Secretary of State feel very, very pleased because a Member of Congress is not claiming to be exceptional. We are. But really, I am claiming that Nigerians and others who were so pleased, as they told me, that you elected your first Black President have now grown scared as they have watched America, under this President, get weaker and weaker and become far less exceptional in the eyes of the world as we once were.

One of the problems has been that this country has been under assault, has been under an invasion through our southern border. As border patrolmen will attest, the Tucson sector of our 2,000-or-so-mile border on the south had traditionally been where there were more people coming into this country illegally.

We have an area in Arizona where there is a national park on the Amer-

ican side, where the sign has been seen—and I have had a picture of it here on the floor—during the Obama Presidency that simply directs American citizens, warns them not to use this area because there are criminals and drug activity in the national park. So American citizens are encouraged to use an area north of the interstate because this administration has just pretty well relegated that area to criminals from outside of this country. That would mean that is a failure to adequately provide for our common defense, and it might be support for Andrew McCarthy's book title, “Faithless Execution.”

Now, I feel like the appropriate thing to do is to pass the resolution that I filed a year ago here in this House that goes through explaining how the President has failed to secure our country, has failed to secure our borders. We don't want our borders closed. I certainly don't. Immigration is a wonderful thing. There is no country in the world where they have five times our population, or less—no country allows 1 million people or more to come into their country legally. We do.

We love immigration. It is a great thing. “*E pluribus unum*,” the Latin phrase meaning, out of many, one, has been a part of the Great Seal since the 1770s. It is on the ribbon that runs through the beak in the eagle's mouth on one side of the Great Seal.

I was taught, growing up, that our melting pot is one of the many things that has made us so great. People come here, assimilate, speak the same language, love the same country, and become Americans.

Well, we have seen hyphenated Americans become the order of the day in recent years. And I so look forward to the day, if it ever arrives—and I hope and pray it does—when, once again, we are Americans.

I know on 9/12/2001, as I looked around our courthouse square, the hundreds of people there—all races, both genders, lots of national origins—but that day, we were all Americans. There were no hyphenated Americans, not on 9/12. Through the tragedy and the hate and the death and the sorrow of 9/11/2001, on 9/12, we saw our Nation shine, a compassionate nation, a caring nation, but also a nation committed that we would not be struck again.

And now—I mean right now—our Attorney General, under this administration, refused to prosecute what a Federal district court said were the named coconspirators of those convicted of supporting terrorism, which was echoed by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. These were front organizations for the Muslim Brotherhood. There was plenty of evidence to support that they were coconspirators with the convicted defendants in supporting terrorism, and this administration, this Attorney General, refused to prosecute them.

Under this administration, they even got a heads-up from Russia, you have a Muslim coming back in named Tsarnaev who has been to a terrorist area. He has been radicalized. And Russia warned not once, but twice. And this administration that has removed information about radical Islam from its training materials for the different departments—and I have reviewed some of it that they have removed.

We were told that most of it that they removed from the FBI training materials. Well, people who have not been allowed to fully see and be trained on what radical Islam is were sent out to the mosque where Tsarnaev went regularly, not to ask questions about has Tsarnaev talked about Qutb that wrote “*Milestones*” that Osama bin Laden credits with having brought him along the road to terrorism, to violence. They didn't know the questions to ask. So the only reason we had the FBI sent out under this administration was for the outreach program.

They were so ignorant that while the outreach program was going on, what was really happening and what had happened at that mosque and who had been radicalized and who had not, that the Director of the FBI did not even know that the founder of the two Muslim mosques there in the Boston area were founded by a man named al-Amoudi, who had helped the Clinton administration and then helped the Bush administration until he was found to be supporting terrorist activity. He was arrested just right out here at Dulles International Airport, and he is now doing over 20 years in Federal prison for supporting terrorism. He was the founder of the Islamic Society of Boston, which founded those mosques.

The FBI Director didn't even know. They didn't go out there and talk to anybody about whether or not Tsarnaev had been radicalized. But lo and behold, they said, hey, we talked to Tsarnaev himself, and he didn't admit that he was radicalized. And we talked to his mom, and she didn't admit that he was radicalized. So apparently they thought he was good. And people died and lost limbs in Boston.

Instead, we have seen spying on American citizens to an extent that it is hard to believe we have reached here in America, where you have the NSA getting everybody's phone logs of all calls they make—and this is all reported in public formats, in the public media—where you have the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was established to protect us from unscrupulous banks and banking habits and practices. That was done when we had a majority of Democrats in the House and Senate. They set it up where that Bureau would never have to be responsible to Congress at all. We could never have oversight. They would get their money from the Federal Reserve so

they could run independently. And what have they done? Well, they have been gathering debit and credit card purchase and use information on Americans.

Some of us think that if they really want to protect us from unscrupulous bank practices, they ought to wait until we tell them that we have been treated unfairly and then go after the criminal. That is really what the Constitution Bill of Rights anticipates. You don't go gathering everybody's personal information, except on probable cause. You get a warrant.

□ 2130

But not now. This administration has the CFPB that is gathering information in the name of protecting us. I don't want that kind of protection. I want them to leave us alone and quit drawing and gathering all the personal data on people in America. It is none of your business unless there has been a crime, and then, and only then, your gathering should be based on probable cause.

We have got the ability of the United States Government to use drones, thermal imaging, and all kinds of technology to spy on American citizens like never before. We have the ability, as this administration has shown, to be concerned about an American citizen in Yemen who was radicalized, who was a terrorist, even though he had met with people in this administration, met with people in the prior administration, and had led prayers here on Capitol Hill of Muslim staff members. Wouldn't it have been interesting if this administration had decided to capture him during one of his numerous trips into the United States instead of blowing him up in Yemen? It might have been interesting to find out what he had to say about the people he worked with in this administration and the prior administration on Capitol Hill.

Well, how, one might wonder, could an American citizen be radicalized to hate Americans so well? If you go look at his life, his parents were not American citizens. They came into the United States on a visa for college. That is when he was born and taken back to Yemen. In Yemen growing up he learned to hate America.

How many people has this happened to? We know the Muslim Brother who was leading Egypt and weaponizing the Sinai, which is still an area of devastation because of all the weapons Morsi made sure were there. Morsi's wife had a daughter here in the United States, an American citizen, and obviously he didn't care a whole lot for America.

So I had a resolution a year ago that just went through all the whereas explaining that there is no need to pass any bill through the House and Senate to secure our border or to do immigration reform until the President actu-

ally goes through the effort of securing our borders. He has got the money. Some people have already forgotten that Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano just announced one day that even though Congress had appropriated \$4 billion to provide a virtual fence in areas that a fence would be difficult, she just decided that was not practical, too expensive. So she would not do a virtual fence. And so what happened to the \$4 billion? What happened to our security? Well, we didn't get secured, and we didn't get the virtual fence. There was clearly some wasted money in that area. But we still have got to get control of our border.

But when you have a President who has not done anything significant to secure our border but has, in fact, pronounced a new law, the initials of which are DACA, he just pronounced a new law that had not been passed by Congress but had simply passed the lips of our President. Here is the new law. Here is what you can do to get amnesty. And he pronounced amnesty in what USCIS has announced has been over 550,000 cases. Our President pronounced an amnesty law into effect that provided amnesty already to over 550,000 people who had come in illegally.

The New York Times and others have said that just in very recent months, we have had an additional 300,000 people come into our country illegally. And, this week, we get the report that 38 people have been deported. Well, if you do the math, that means that those 850,000 who came in illegally who had a 100 percent chance of getting to stay here because of this administration not enforcing our law and not enforcing our border, that 100 percent chance of getting to stay here got dramatically reduced. Because of this administration's wonderful efforts, it has now been reduced from a 100 percent chance of staying here to a 99.9955 percent chance of staying here. And that should certainly scare anyone who had started planning a trip into this country illegally, that their odds of staying here had dropped from 100 percent clear down to a 99.995 percent chance of getting to stay here.

I still come back to the resolution I filed a year ago. Until the President shows he is going to secure the border, we shouldn't pass anything. As our own Speaker has said, we can't trust this President. When the Secretary of Homeland Security can just say, I don't want to spend \$4 billion you guys appropriated for a fence, I am going to do something else. Really? Well, I guess you can do that if you are a bit lawless.

But if we are going to be a nation of laws, then laws that have been duly passed by Congress and signed by other Presidents should be enforced, otherwise we become like the countries that people are fleeing.

It was rather emotional Saturday night to be down right near the river where children and adults were being processed—processed meaning they have to ask each one of them numerous questions, normally in Spanish. And there are some articles of clothing they are not allowed to take in to the detention area. And when she was asked, were you glad to leave home, she began to cry. She didn't mention she was so glad to get away from all the violence. She didn't mention that things were so terrible at home she couldn't stand to stay, she looked so forward to coming to America. She cried. She missed her home. She missed her relatives that were there. Break your heart. One of the most beautiful little girls I have ever seen. It is a wonder she didn't get drawn into sex trafficking. She was a gorgeous little girl. And I know beautiful girls. My wife and I have had three.

Border Patrolmen have talked about, and it has been reported, dead children. Their bodies have been found, one washed up. As this administration continues to lure people into America, that has now been admitted by this administration, that the President's own amnesty bill that he pronounced into law has been luring people up here. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson admitted that in an op-ed that he wrote for Spanish-language newspapers. It is time to stop luring young children and adults into the United States into the arms of human traffickers. It is time to stop.

Of course, I mention there is one way that we could stop very quickly the massive invasion that is going on because the ability to stop an invasion like we are seeing now was even anticipated by our Founders, and they put it in the third clause of section 10 of article I of our Constitution. That says:

No State shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact which another State, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded.

Not by a foreign army, it doesn't say that; not by a military, it doesn't say that; just invaded. And there is a great law review article from a Michigan law journal that discusses this provision. It has not been utilized before. There are no cases that we can find that have utilized this. But perhaps it is time to use it now.

But it says, unless actually invaded or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

The Attorney General himself has said the threat of another terrorist attack is scarier now than it has been. And we know that there is an increased number of what are called SIAs, those who would be special interest aliens that come from countries like Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. They are coming in from nations where there are leaders who want to destroy us.

It is worth trying to make sure we don't have terrorists coming through our southern border because we know there are lots of people coming through that don't get caught. Even though, as one of the border patrolmen said here when I was down there: It is interesting—we used to chase them, and now they chase us. Talking about people coming in illegally.

But not all of them chase the Border Patrol. If someone is paid megabucks to be brought into the United States, it can be done, while Border Patrol is spending an hour, hour and a half processing a massive number of groups coming in, 10, 12, 16, 18, 27, and they are having to process all those, and we have such a limited number of border patrolmen, plenty of opportunities to bring in anybody the drug cartels have been paid to bring in with whatever they are bringing.

So we have a resolution. It hasn't been filed yet, but it says:

Whereas this provision in the Constitution, therefore, recognizes the continued right of individual States to use force in self-defense if "actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay";

And whereas an unprecedented, organized, mass invasion of the United States is occurring along our southern border;

Whereas before this invasion Marine Corps General John Kelly, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, or SOUTHCOM, in testimony before committees in each House of Congress, the House Armed Services Committee in February, and the Senate Armed Services Committee in March, warned of the security threats to the United States from criminal networks and terrorist organizations penetrating the United States through our southern border and since the invasion he has warned that the situation poses "an existential threat to the United States";

□ 2145

This general who has been overseeing our military in our southern area says that the threat to our country is a threat to our very existence. Our continued existence is at risk with what is going on at the southern border. This resolution goes on:

Whereas, credible sources have reported plans for an even larger invasion;

Whereas, between June of 2012, when the Obama administration unilaterally implemented the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) through March of 2014, approximately 550,000 illegal aliens received temporary deferred action, according to USCIS;

Whereas, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson admitted that DACA was in fact luring people to cross the U.S. border, whether they were eligible for the deferred action or not, in an opinion editorial he wrote for Spanish-language newspapers;

Whereas, a court order signed on December 13, 2013, by U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen of the U.S. District Court for the

Southern District of Texas found as factual that "The DHS, instead of enforcing our border security laws, actually assisted the criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals." The U.S. Court also found that a private citizen doing the exact things that DHS is doing "would, and should, be prosecuted for this conduct." Additionally, the Court found that "The DHS has simply chosen not to enforce the United States' borders laws," and that the "DHS is rewarding criminal conduct," and that "these illegal activities help fund the illegal drug cartels which are a very real danger for both citizens of this country and Mexico";

Whereas the State of Texas reported it has identified, between October of 2008 and April of 2014, a total of 177,588 unique criminal alien defendants booked into Texas county jails who are responsible for at least 611,234 individual criminal charges over their criminal careers, including 2,993 homicides and 7,695 sexual assaults;

Think about that, Mr. Speaker: 177,588 criminal aliens booked for crimes in Texas. People are being killed in America and specifically, according to these figures, 2,993 that we know of by criminal aliens in this country. And they have committed at least 7,695 sexual assaults.

You want to talk about a war on women, this administration will not defend the women of America from criminal aliens by the thousands and hundreds of thousands. Well, we know thousands, and we know people are coming in by the hundreds of thousands illegally, and this administration wants to talk about other people having a war on women when they will not defend the women that are being sexually assaulted by illegal aliens in this country. In Texas alone, we know of 7,695 such assaults:

Whereas the Department of Homeland Security, through the General Services Administration, issued a solicitation in January, 2014, which proves the falsity of statements by officials in that Department, that they had no knowledge that this mass invasion would occur;

Whereas in 2014 there has occurred a sharp increase in the number of Special Interest Aliens apprehended illegally crossing the United States border, being from terrorist-sponsored or affiliated countries such as Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Somalia;

Whereas Attorney General Eric Holder acknowledged in an ABC news story in July of 2014 that there exists a clear and present danger of imminent terrorist attack from "a situation that we can see developing" and "more frightening than anything I think I have seen as Attorney General";

Whereas the Commander in Chief of the United States appears to be either unwilling or unable to exercise his constitutional responsibility to defend this country from imminent danger or invasion;

Resolved, it is the sense of the House of Representatives that all Governors of the States along the southern border, and other States willing to assist them, are urged to exercise the right of self-defense against invasion or imminent danger as will not admit of delay as provided for in article I, section 10 of the United States Constitution.

Some would say, How would you pay for that?

Well, how about for one thing we eliminate the child tax credit for people who are here illegally that are getting back much more, many thousands more dollars, than they actually pay in?

How about—and we are told a hundred billion or so is sent by people who are illegally in this country to their home country—how about, for allowing people to be here illegally, we put a 5 percent tax on that \$100 billion going out of this country? We could pay for whatever we need very quickly.

Well, we have a bill that has been filed. It has gotten a lot of acclaim, and in the remaining minutes I would just like to look at some of this bill that my good friend, Senator JOHN CORNYN, and my good friend, HENRY CUELLAR, a fellow House Member, have filed. We have a copy of what is being proposed. It has been sent to different folks on Capitol Hill. And it does, at page 2, take a shot at changing the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. It makes a shot at fixing that. How ironic that Wilberforce, the champion of ending slavery in all of the British Empire, had this bill named for him that was supposed to help stop sexual trafficking, but as a result of this bill and the President's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, as a result of that bill countless children have been lured into sexual slavery.

We can't even be told a number, but we are told that it is definitely happening. As the drug cartels are paid to humanly traffic people up, they find people who would make attractive sex slaves, and so an effort to stop sexual trafficking has actually helped create more. But anyway, the first few pages deal with that.

It does say on page 4 that such person may not be placed, talking about unaccompanied children—which, by the way, having been to the border a number of times, it is clear to me there is no child coming across the border unaccompanied unless they are teenagers. The children you see are accompanied by somebody. And even if the coyote leaves them right before they go into the custody of Border Patrol, they were accompanied right up until that time. But unaccompanied minors under this proposed new bill may not be placed in the custody of a nongovernmental sponsor or otherwise released from the custody of the United States Government until the child is repatriated unless the child is the subject of an order under section 235(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

It goes on, the next section, 102, defines the term "asylum officer," which means an immigration officer, and it puts some pretty tough conditions, including has had substantial experience adjudicating asylum applications. So that means we are going to have to have people who have been doing this a

lot. You couldn't have fair judges sent there if they haven't had substantial experience adjudicating asylum applications. That seems a little unnecessary.

Anyway, then it sets deadlines, 7 days and 72 hours shall issue an order, but then it does indicate if it is impractical by reason of an alien's mental incompetency for the alien to be present, the Attorney General shall prescribe safeguards to protect the rights and privileges of the alien. The alien shall be given the privilege of being represented at no expense to the government, shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine evidence, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses.

On page 8 is Withdrawal of Application for Admission. In the discretion of the Attorney General—and that is the guy that hasn't been enforcing the law as it is, who is currently in contempt of Congress, who has been obfuscating on Fast and Furious and on other serious crises in our government, has at least been complicit in failing to bring forth evidence and to prosecute people timely, including the IRS scandal, and now we are going to give him a lot of discretion here, that is a matter of concern.

Anyway, it says based on a preponderance of the evidence, the judge has got to find that the alien is likely to be eligible for any form of relief of removal. Anyway, basically what it is saying is that in general, an applicant for admission must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the alien is likely to be eligible for any form of relief from removal. So if they just say, well, there is a good chance we are likely to be eligible, not that we are going to prevail, but it is just likely we are going to be eligible, then they get to go around that requirement.

If an immigration judge determines that the unaccompanied alien child has not met the burden of proof required under the subsection, the judge shall order the alien removed unless the alien claims an intention to apply for asylum or that the alien has a fear of persecution. So we have some rigorous steps in here in this bill, and they will be ordered to be removed, unless, of course, if the alien claims an intention to apply for asylum or a fear of persecution. Well, that lets him sidestep some of those requirements.

Page 11, if the officer determines credible fear of persecution, the alien shall be held in the custody of the Secretary for Health and Human Services. Really, I thought that had been one of the problems created by prior law, of giving custody to Health and Human Services. For heaven's sake, let's leave custody with the people dealing with the immigration issues. Let's leave it in Homeland Security. Let's not be transferring people to another department because we have seen what HHS

does. They transfer them all over the country, and there are consequences there because now we find out that under a HUD requirement, those people may be eligible for housing which will allow the government to rezone your neighborhood.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 15, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1813. To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".

H.R. 1376. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".

H.R. 255. To amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 272. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 291. To provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.

H.R. 330. To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.

H.R. 507. To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 876. To authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1158. To direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

H.R. 1216. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".

H.R. 2337. To provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

H.R. 3110. To allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.

H.R. 803. To reform and strengthen the workforce investment system of the Nation to put Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century.

H.R. 356. To clarify authority granted under the Act entitled 'An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes'.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6399. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael R. Moeller, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6400. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the United States Army Special Operations Command; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6401. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Annual Report on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) for 2013 to the Committee on Armed Services.

6402. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Compensation Costs [FAC 2005-75; FAR Case 2014-012; Item III; Docket 2014-0012, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM75) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6403. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; EPEAT Items [FAC 2005-75; FAR Case 2013-016; Item I; Docket 2013-0016, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM71) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6404. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Contracting with Women-Owned Small Business Concerns [FAC 2005-75; FAR Case 2013-010; Item II; Docket 2013-0010, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AM59) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6405. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-75; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket No.: FAC 2014-0052, Sequence 3] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6406. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-75; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR Case 2014-0051, Sequence No. 3] received June 25, 2014, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6407. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report on the operations of the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) for Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5302(c)(2); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6408. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Anti-Doping Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2013 Annual Report and Financial Audit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6409. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revision to the Chicago 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0274; FRL-9912-57-Region 5] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6410. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine and New Hampshire; Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0733; EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0935; A-1-FRL-9911-51-Region-1] June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6411. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans for North Carolina: State Implementation Plan Miscellaneous Revisions [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0602; FRL-9912-83-Region 4] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6412. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Nitrogen Oxide Combustion Turbine Alternative Control Requirements for the Milwaukee-Racine Former Nonattainment Area [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0206; FRL-9912-56-Region 5] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6413. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Listing of Trustee Designations [FRL-9739-9-OW] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6414. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Oklahoma: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0461; FRL-9911-76-Region 6] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6415. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0336; FRL-9912-64-Region 9] received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6416. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania Portable Fuel Container Amendment of Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0298; FRL-9912-21-Region 3] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6417. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nevada; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [NV 126-NBK; FRL-9908-86-Region 9] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6418. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to South Dakota Administrative Code; Permit: New and Modified Sources [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0241; FRL-9912-24-Region 8] received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6419. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Exemption of Certain Chemical Substances from Reporting Additional Chemical Data [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0221; FRL-9910-84] (RIN: 2070-AK01) received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6420. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Modification of Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Update of Chemical Identities [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2014-0276; FRL-9910-51] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received June 17, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6421. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-21, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6422. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-30, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6423. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6424. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the former Libe-

rian regime of Charles Taylor that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6425. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6426. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6427. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6428. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, transmitting the 2013 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6429. A letter from the Acting Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals thorough the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6430. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification that the Department issued payments to eligible local governments under the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6431. A letter from the Chief, FWS Endangered Species Listing Branch, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for *Ivesia webberi* [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0079] (RIN: 1018-AZ12) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6432. A letter from the Chief, FWS Endangered Species Listing Branch, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Ivesia webberi* [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0080] (RIN: 1018-AZ57) received June 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6433. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Off the Atlantic States; Amendment 5 [Docket No.: 130403322-4454-02] (RIN: 0648-BD08) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6434. A letter from the President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the 2013 Annual Report of an independent auditor who has audited the records of the National Council on

Radiation Protection and Measurements, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 4514; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6435. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of action taken to extend the "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from Cambodia from the Bronze Age Through the Khmer Era"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6436. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, "Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual Eligibles: 2014"; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6437. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-502, "Transfer of Jurisdiction Over Lot 802, Square 4325 within Fort Lincoln New Town Emergency Approval Resolution of 2014"; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Oversight and Government Reform.

6438. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department requests be enacted during the second session of the 113th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, Science, Space, and Technology, the Judiciary, Rules, Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, Foreign Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 670. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions for food inventory (Rept. 113-522). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. COLE, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 5107. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reduce the fuel economy obligations of automobile manufacturers whose fleets contain at least 50 percent fuel choice enabling vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 5108. A bill to establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COOK,

Mr. DENHAM, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. MCKEON, Ms. CHU, Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. HAHN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. NUNES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 5109. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1048 West Robinhood Drive in Stockton, California, as the "W. Ronald Coale Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GARDNER):

H.R. 5110. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal rebasing of payments for home health services, as required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and to replace such rebasing with a Medicare home health value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5111. A bill to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 5112. A bill to provide eligibility for veterans benefits for individuals who served in the United States merchant marine in the Southeast Asia theater of operations during the Vietnam Era; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. HALL):

H.R. 5113. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to end the increased Federal funding for Medicaid expansion with respect to inmates' hospital care under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to apply the savings towards a 2015 Medicare Advantage stabilization program to help protect seniors' choices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. BARBER, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 5114. A bill to facilitate the expedited processing of minors entering the United States across the southern border and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Armed Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McALLISTER:

H.R. 5115. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 5116. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 5117. A bill to make competitive awards to national estuary programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TERRY (for himself, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LONG, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. McCLINTOCK):

H.R. 5118. A bill to direct the Attorney General to report to Congress on the numbers of aliens unlawfully present in the United States who appear and fail to appear before immigration judges for proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014 AT PAGE 10609 MEMORIALS

The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Idaho, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 106 urging the President and the Secretary of State to use every opportunity and resource at their disposal to end the unjust imprisonment of Saeed Abedini; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 5108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 5110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the original understanding of the commerce clause, the authority to enact this legislation is found in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The SAVE Medicare Home Health Act repeals the rebasing cuts to home health services contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. These cuts restrict patient access to home health services and reduce patient-centered control of health care decisions. By removing these cuts, the bill removes government intrusion into the doctor-patient relationship, which is protected by the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 5111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP OF GEORGIA:

H.R. 5112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce clause

By Mr. COFFMAN:

H.R. 5113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution

This states that "Congress shall have power to . . . lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 5114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. MCALLISTER:

H.R. 5115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 5116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XIII

Section 1, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Section 2, "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 5118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 4, (authorizing Congress "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization . . .").

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 303: Mr. FORBES, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 333: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 543: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 690: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 795: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 800: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 842: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 988: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 996: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 997: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1179: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 1250: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1328: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1354: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1462: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 1515: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 1518: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. KIND, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1555: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1556: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1563: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1573: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1696: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1795: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.

H.R. 1878: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 1893: Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 2013: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 2116: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2355: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2398: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 2453: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. NUNES, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 2457: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 2468: Mr. POMPEO, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2482: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2529: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2673: Mr. HARPER, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 2780: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 2902: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2959: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 2990: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3097: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 3116: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3322: Ms. WATERS and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3461: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3482: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3486: Mr. MESSER and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 3494: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3665: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3680: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MENG, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3722: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 3732: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 3742: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 3867: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3899: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3970: Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3991: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 3994: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 4103: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4143: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4156: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4158: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 4250: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 4252: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4271: Mr. CLAY and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4305: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4325: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 4351: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 4365: Mr. UPTON and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 4385: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 4389: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 4426: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 4449: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 4450: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. BERA of California.

H.R. 4456: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4466: Mr. MCALLISTER.

H.R. 4510: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 4515: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 4521: Mr. JONES, Mr. HARPER, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4546: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4566: Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 4567: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4578: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4582: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4594: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4612: Mr. MESSER and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 4651: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 4698: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 4709: Mr. HOLDING, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 4741: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 4761: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 4808: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4836: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 4837: Mr. PETERS of Michigan and Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 4841: Mr. POLIS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4854: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4857: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 4867: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 4871: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 4886: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 4906: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4930: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4960: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 4961: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4969: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4979: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 4980: Mr. WAGNER, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. BASS, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 4985: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H.R. 4986: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 4989: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. HARTZLER.
 H.R. 4991: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
 H.R. 5005: Mr. POLIS, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 5007: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ENYART, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 5009: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 5010: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 5024: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 5026: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 5034: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
 H.R. 5051: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 5053: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 5059: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ENYART, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. COOK, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 5060: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5077: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARR, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 5083: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 5084: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 5089: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MICA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.J. Res. 118: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Ms. JENKINS.

H.J. Res. 119: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. LYNCH.

H. Con. Res. 69: Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. HONDA.

H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. LUCAS.

H. Res. 477: Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 612: Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 620: Mr. BARROW of Georgia and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H. Res. 622: Mr. JORDAN.

H. Res. 623: Mr. CLAY.

H. Res. 644: Mr. KLINE, Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 665: Mr. COLE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H. Res. 667: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. LEE of California.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

H.R. 5021 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 or rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ Each amount made available by this Act (other than an amount required to be made available by a provision of law) is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MRS. BLACKBURN

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide funds from the Hardest Hit Fund program established by the Secretary of the Treasury under title I of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5211 et seq.) to any State or local government for the purpose of funding pension obligations of such State or local government.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals—

(1) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(2) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1); or

(3) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds \$3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. FRELINGHUYSEN

AMENDMENT NO. 13: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ The amount otherwise provided by this Act for "National Security Council and Homeland Security Council—Salaries and Expenses" for the National Security Council is hereby reduced by \$4,200,000.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. MARINO

AMENDMENT NO. 14: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to collect any underpayment of any tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to the extent such underpayment is attributable to the taxpayer's loss of records (except in the case of fraud).

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. MASSIE

AMENDMENT NO. 15: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act, including amounts made available under titles IV or VIII, may be used by any authority of the government of the District of Columbia to prohibit the ability of any person to possess, acquire, use, sell, or transport a firearm except to the extent such activity is prohibited by Federal law.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. SHERMAN

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce final leasing accounting standard rules, regulations, or requirements in FASB Project 2013-270, Accounting Standards Update Topic 842.

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MS. SCHAKOWSKY

AMENDMENT NO. 17: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: S6201

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term "Fair Labor Standards Act."

H.R. 5016

OFFERED BY: MR. POSEY

AMENDMENT NO. 18: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available in this Act to the Office of Personnel Management may be used to process or pay any annuity payment under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5, United States Code, to a former Federal employee with respect to whom the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives has certified a statement of facts to a United States attorney under section 104 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 194).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE WORK OF MICHAEL WERNER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Werner, who was recently selected as the first Innovative Teacher of the Year by the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing for his extraordinary work at Granite Falls High School.

Since Mr. Werner began teaching at Granite Falls in 2007, he has been a pioneer for its STEM education programs. In addition to the classes he teaches, Mr. Werner has created an excellent manufacturing program for his students from the ground up.

Mr. Werner's teaching engages students by pushing them to apply materials learned in class to real-world projects and challenges. His dedication to preparing his students is important for the future of Washington state's skilled workforce and manufacturing industries. Mr. Werner plans on introducing similar hands-on technical education in elementary schools to encourage an interest for engineering in our youngest students.

In 2009, Mr. Werner began the Eco Car program at Granite Falls High School. The program challenges students to design and build extremely fuel-efficient cars for the Shell Eco-Marathon Americas competition. As a strong advocate for female participation in the historically male-dominated manufacturing and engineering fields, Mr. Werner has created an all-girls team, ShopGirls, to compete in the competition, as well as a coed team, UrbanAutos.

I want to congratulate Michael Werner on his well-earned achievement, and I thank him for his commitment to building a better future for the students of Granite Falls High School.

SALUTING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALPENFEST IN GAYLORD, MI

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to salute the city of Gaylord, Michigan, on the occasion of the 50th Alpenfest this year. Since 1964, the Alpenfest has celebrated the city of Gaylord, its connection with the particle board industry, and the heritage of many of the region's residents.

The first Alpenfest (then called the Alpine Festival) was formulated in 1964, with the imminent location of a U.S. Plywood particle board plant in 1965. To celebrate this occasion, as well as complete a goal of estab-

lishing an alpine look for Gaylord, the inaugural festival was set for July 5 through July 10 of 1965. The festival was a great success despite no dedicated source of funding and the need to dress the town and the residents with alpine garb to complete the aesthetic for the festival.

The Chamber of Commerce, along with many local businesses, civic associations, and citizens help to make this event possible every year. In addition to the transformation of Main Street in Gaylord, numerous activities are enjoyed by all during the week, including the Alpenstrasse arts and crafts market, a carnival, the crowning of the Alpenfest queen, activities for children, and the "World's Largest Coffee Break." This festival is one of the highlights of summer in Otsego County and Northern Michigan as a whole.

As a final note, I wish to invite all Members of this body and all Americans to come to Northern Michigan and experience the natural beauty, great events such as Alpenfest, and friendly hospitality that make my home state one of the best places in the country to visit.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERMANY'S WORLD CUP VICTORY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our friends in Germany on an incredible victory in the World Cup final on Sunday. As Co-Chair of the German-American Caucus, I watched the game with great interest. It was a truly deserved victory for the German team in what has been an excellent tournament.

I am certain that many Americans were as thrilled as I was by Germany's outstanding performance in Brazil. Our two countries share important political, economic, and cultural links, with roughly 50 million Americans reporting some level of German ancestry. Hundreds of Americans have worked in the German Bundestag through the International Parliamentary Scholarship, and thousands of Germans and Americans have forged closer relationships through the Congress-Bundestag exchange program. No matter what challenges we have in the transatlantic relationship, important connections such as these will ensure that our great relationship continues for years to come.

So, congratulations Germany! ("herzlichen Glückwunsch Deutschland!"). And I look forward to the day when the United States and Germany meet in the World Cup finals.

HONORING THE LAKE COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THE YOUTH COUNCIL FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to honor the Lake County Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). In particular, I would like to recognize the LULAC Lake County Youth Council for its efforts to mobilize fellow members of the Waukegan community to clean up their streets.

For more than 80 years, LULAC has helped enhance economic and educational opportunities for the U.S.'s Hispanic population, empowering Hispanic-Americans to become more active and influential citizens. LULAC advances these efforts by harnessing the passions of community leaders, who establish local chapters, such as LULAC Lake County in my district.

In June, I had the privilege of joining members of the LULAC Lake County Youth Council for a Day of Service in Waukegan. As a part of the "Operation Clean Up Waukegan" initiative, the 11 youth members on the Council recruited more than 50 volunteers from the Waukegan community to help clear brush and garbage from an overgrown city alley, as well as paint over gang graffiti on a family's garage.

The enthusiasm and commitment to service displayed by the Youth Council members is truly an inspiration. I am so proud to see our youth taking an active role in their community, engaging their friends and neighbors in the effort to restore the damaged and neglected areas of their hometown.

RECOGNIZING THE ARNOLD PALMER MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Arnold Palmer Medical Center in Orlando, Florida has, once again, been recognized as one of the best children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Arnold Palmer Medical Center, comprised of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies, was ranked by U.S. News & World Report in eight different specialties this year—the most they have ever received.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In 2007, U.S. News introduced the Best Children's Hospitals rankings in order to help families find the best medical care available for their children. These rankings include detailed information about the hospitals' performance and their reputation in the pediatric community.

Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children is a world-class facility dedicated exclusively to the needs of children. The hospital provides expertise in pediatric specialties and is known for its excellence in cardiac care, neurology, orthopedics and sports medicine.

Adjacently, the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies is a 285-bed facility dedicated to the care of women and babies. It is a national leader in neonatal intensive care and is highly regarded for providing comprehensive healthcare for women throughout all stages of life.

Both of these institutions are Magnet-designated for their commitment to quality patient care, safety, research, and service excellence. Arnold Palmer Medical Center attributes its many accolades to the high level of care its medical team provides every day. I take comfort in knowing that the women and children of Central Florida have access to the nation's best care close to home. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize Arnold Palmer Medical Center for their dedication to the Central Florida community.

SUPPORT FOR THE CHALDEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to express my support for the Chaldean Community Foundation's Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). The continued work of this organization will improve our health care system and the lives of countless Americans.

The Chaldean Community Foundation provides invaluable support to consumers navigating our health care system and comparing insurance plans. Although our burgeoning deficit makes allocating funds one of the most difficult parts of my job, my decision to support the foundation's grant request was an easy one. Millions of ordinary citizens need help avoiding obstacles that could impede their physical health and quality of life. Like you, the health and well-being of the American people is my top priority. With that solemn responsibility in mind, I am proud to reaffirm my support for the Chaldean Community Foundation.

Since my election to Congress, I have tirelessly advocated for fiscal responsibility. In addition to assisting consumers, the Chaldean Community Fund combats waste, fraud, and abuse in our health care system by providing desperately needed oversight. As baby boomers retire in ever greater numbers and life expectancy continues to rise, the need for organizations like the Chaldean Community Foundation will increase exponentially. I urge you to accept their request.

CRS CENTENNIAL

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the diverse workforce of Congressional Research Service analysts, attorneys, information professionals and support staff on the 100th anniversary of CRS service to Congress.

Since its creation in 1914, CRS has developed expertise and services to Members, committees, and congressional staff as a shared resource. From a handful of staff to today's nearly 600 employees, CRS is known for its unique role in serving Congress and bolstering our democracy. Congress expanded that role in 1946, after World War II, and in 1970 to include close support for Members of Congress and committees.

In recent years, CRS evolved as a forward thinking organization and provides products and services across multiple formats to facilitate and expedite the work that we do on behalf of our constituents in Congress. We depend on CRS expertise for confidential, authoritative, objective, and nonpartisan research and analysis in assisting us in shaping legislation and addressing key regional, national and international issues that challenge us today in a complex world.

I join my colleagues in recognizing CRS for its achievements on its centennial anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for votes on Monday, July 14, 2014, due to Flight No. 844 being diverted to Richmond International Airport before landing into Reagan National Airport due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

H.R. 4195—The Federal Register Modernization Act—Vote: "yes."

H.R. 5029—The International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014—Vote: "yes."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,589,434,621,637.93. We've added \$6,962,557,572,724.85 to our debt in 5

years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 11, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on No. 403 and "yea" on No. 404.

On Monday, July 14, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 405 and No. 406.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to weather-related flight delays, I was unable to vote in the House on Monday, July 14, therefore I am not recorded as voting. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 405, I would have voted "yea"; and rollcall No. 406, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF MANA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor MANA, a National Latina Organization, whose members will be in our nation's Capital from July 24 to July 26, 2014, to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

MANA was founded in 1974 as the Mexican American Women's National Association, as a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members, and affiliates across the country. The organization has evolved to encompass Hispanic women from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds and is the oldest and largest Hispanic women's organization in the country. The MANA mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy.

For 40 years, MANA has been a powerful voice for Latinas across the country to share their concerns, as well as their successes, as women, professionals, heads of households, educators, and trailblazers. Through its chapters and affiliates, MANA's expansive network has made the organization a leader for reaching the Latino community at the grassroots level. Each local chapter is supported by the commitment of passionate volunteers who are dedicated to the educational, health, political, and economic advancement of Hispanics in

their respective communities, implementing the shared mission and vision of the national MANA office, headquartered in Washington, DC.

Throughout its rich history, MANA has established a number of programs to fulfill the mission of the organization and empower Latinas from every walk of life. The AvanZamos Initiative is a national effort to provide leadership development for adult Latinas. Through training in the areas of financial literacy, mentoring, advocacy and leadership development at the annual MANA Latina Leadership Institute, Latina leaders from across the country are given the skills to help shape the lives of future generations in positive and upwardly mobile directions. The MANA Las Primeras Awards Gala honors Latinas who demonstrate important "firsts" in their fields with a national impact on the Hispanic community—highlighting Latinas' important contributions across the country. The Hermanitas Initiative is significant mentoring program in the United States developed specifically for Hispanic youth. The program empowers Latina adolescents by promoting educational achievement and personal enrichment; developing leadership abilities; encouraging cultural identity and awareness; and modeling proactive community involvement.

Finally, I salute the commitment of the founders of MANA—Blandina (Bambi) Cardenas, Organizing Chair; Bettie Baca, Organizing Vice Chair; and Evangeline (Vangie) Elizondo, the First Board President. Their early efforts were the building blocks for what MANA has become today.

It is my honor to congratulate MANA, a National Latina Organization, for 40 years of success in strengthening the Latina community in the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 406:

My flight into DC on July 14, 2014, was rerouted to Norfolk, VA, due to inclement weather, and I was unable to make it to the House floor in time for votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

HONORING CAFÉ LUSH

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Café Lush, and owners Tom Docherty and Sandy Gregory, on the 3rd anniversary of their distinguished local Albuquerque establishment.

Since opening in 2011, Café Lush has developed into a thriving business and popular hotspot for locals. Located in downtown Albu-

querque, Café Lush features an exceptional menu that carries nutrient dense organic food and fresh seasonal produce that promotes happy, healthy, and sustainable lifestyles.

The beautiful street corner café, with its vibrant outdoor patio was not always a distinct feature in the neighborhood. In fact, before the establishment of Café Lush many restaurants unsuccessfully tried to establish themselves in the area. The location became known as a frequent site for new restaurants that would eventually close, or go out of business.

Despite this historical precedent, and a struggling economy, Café Lush launched a business model that appealed to the growing demand for locally grown healthy foods. Café Lush's fresh new take on organic ingredients with a New Mexico twist reverberated throughout the community and today the café continues to be wildly successful.

Café Lush's vision and accomplishments are an inspiration for future generations of entrepreneurs and small business owners, and demonstrate the ability of one business to change an entire neighborhood. Located next to two schools, a place of worship, and just a short walk away from the heart of downtown Albuquerque, Café Lush has reinvigorated the area and brought renewed energy to Albuquerque's scenic landscape.

I have no doubt that Café Lush will continue to have great success. Their quality food, great customer service, and beautiful outdoor patio are what continue to make me a frequent customer. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Café Lush on these accomplishments, their 3rd anniversary and the many more to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 14, 2014 I was not present for 2 votes.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 405, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 406, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our nation's community corrections professionals for the invaluable contribution they make to public safety and restorative justice throughout our country.

In the District of Columbia and nearly every community across America, thousands of women and men serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or officials. As public servants, these Americans commit themselves to

helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system, which ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

In light of the value and contributions of pretrial and post-conviction supervision officers and entities, I am proud to stand in support and honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision week, which commenced on Sunday, July 13, 2014, and will be celebrated through Saturday, July 19, 2014.

I am sure that my congressional colleagues would agree with me that community corrections is an essential part of the American justice system. Our constituents who serve as community corrections professionals work tirelessly to uphold the law with dignity, while recognizing the right of the public to be protected from criminal activity.

These individuals are responsible for supervising adult and juvenile offenders in the community. In many cases these trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by providing their clients supportive services or referrals to critical community-based resources, employment opportunities and housing programs. Additionally, community corrections professionals provide services, support, and protection for victims, while continuously promoting the importance of crime prevention.

Mr. Speaker, in the District of Columbia, community corrections and supervision services for D.C. Code offenders are carried out by the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA) and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA).

CSOSA and PSA and their hundreds of pretrial and community supervision officers stand out as model community supervision agencies due to both their professionalism and their novel approach to enhancing public safety in the District of Columbia.

CSOSA provides innovative criminal justice and community leadership through active strategic planning, trend awareness, and partnership building. On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for supervising approximately 13,000 individuals on probation, parole or supervised release, whereas PSA supervises roughly 20,000 defendants.

The work that these agencies perform is vital and complex. Nevertheless, the community corrections professionals that comprise both CSOSA and PSA carry out their duties with skill, compassion and diligence, thereby serving as a true force for positive change for communities throughout the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition and honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2014 and the contributions made by community corrections professionals, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking these public employees for the important services they perform in helping to safeguard and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RE-
SEARCH SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an anniversary that all the Members of this House surely ought to celebrate. On July 18, 1914—one hundred years ago this Friday—the Congressional Research Service came into being. Ever since, it has provided Members on both sides of the aisle with important analysis, research assistance, and expertise on virtually every topic relating to our work on behalf of the American people.

The Congressional Research Service, known as the Legislative Research Service for its first fifty-six years, was the brainchild of Senator Robert LaFollette Sr. and Rep. John Nelson, both from Wisconsin. In the Progressive Era, reformers like Sen. LaFollette and Rep. Nelson sought to make government more responsive by providing Members of Congress with greater access to the latest in scientific research and analytical tools. For a century, that is what the Congressional Research Service has done—and the men and women who work there have proven beyond a doubt the merit behind Sen. LaFollette and Rep. Nelson's proposal.

After World War II, as Congress's work expanded to meet the needs of a growing nation and economy and America's role as a military superpower, the Congressional Research Service adapted by hiring experts to provide briefings and answer Members' questions. So many Members and their staffs have come to rely on the timely responses from Congressional Research Service personnel on pending bills, legislative history, and issue tracking. Those who work at the Congressional Research Service continue to play an extraordinarily important role in Congress's work.

In my thirty-three years in this House, the Congressional Research Service has provided me with absolutely essential research on the legislative interests I have pursued. My work on the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, the 2002 Help America Vote Act, the 2008 ADA Amendments Act, federal employee and civil service issues, and a wide range of constituent questions have all been aided immeasurably by Congressional Research Service reports and analysis.

As it begins its second century, the Congressional Research Service is adapting to new technologies to improve the way it keeps Members of Congress informed. Through social media, online research tools, and reports accessible by internet twenty-four hours a day, it continues to carry out its mission in a way its founders never could have imagined—but for which they would surely be proud.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking the Congressional Research Service's diverse workforce of over 600 researchers, analysts, attorneys, support staff, and information professionals for their tireless work in service to our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN KEN
GRAY, A TRUE FRIEND AND
CHAMPION OF SOUTHERN ILLI-
NOIS

HON. WILLIAM L. ENYART

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great Southern Illinoisan, a man who knew this Chamber very well, U.S. Congressman Ken Gray.

Born and raised in Southern Illinois, Ken returned there after retiring from Congress. It is in Southern Illinois where he passed away this past Saturday and it is there, in his native West Frankfort, where he will be laid to rest. This is worth noting as we remember Congressman Ken Gray as one of the most persistent and productive advocates for his home district that ever served in this Chamber.

An entrepreneur from a young age, Ken answered the call to serve his country when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II. His military service would take him to North Africa and Italy, southern France and central Europe, and would result in several decorations, including three bronze stars.

Returning to Southern Illinois after the war, Ken first won election from the 25th Congressional District of Illinois in 1954. He continued to serve for a total of 10 successive terms before his first retirement in 1974. He ran again for Congress in 1984, won that election, and served another two terms before his final retirement in 1989.

Ken's ability to fight for our region is unparalleled. His accomplishments are legendary, from building our interstate highways, building Rend Lake and the Marion Federal Prison to countless post offices, roads, bridges and water lines. A proud veteran himself, Ken was a tireless advocate for our region's veterans and hundreds received care because of his efforts. Serving an area with many coal mines, Ken also saw that miners and their families received the black lung benefits they were due.

Whether convincing President Carter to tour an underground coal mine, or escorting President Kennedy to Carbondale and Marion—Congressman Gray was a one-of-a-kind advocate for Southern Illinois.

He loved serving in this House, and few Members spent as much time presiding in the Speaker's chair during his tenure. Like thousands of people in our region, I counted Ken among my friends. We'll always remember him as a character whose personality was as colorful as the suits he wore here to the Capitol each day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Congressman Ken Gray and extending our condolences and prayers to his family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF H.
MINTON FRANCIS, SR.

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and pay tribute to the extraordinary achievements of my constituent, Henry Minton Francis, Sr., who devoted his entire life to serving our country and his community. Mr. Francis was also the oldest living African American graduate of West Point Academy.

H. Minton Francis, Lt. Col., USA Ret., was a fifth generation Washingtonian and resident of Chevy Chase, MD. He attended public schools in the District of Columbia where he graduated from the famous Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and the United States Military Academy, he also studied at Syracuse University, where he earned an MBA degree with honors and was elected to the International Honor Society of Beta Gamma Sigma. Following graduation from West Point in 1944, Mr. Francis served the nation as an officer of the Regular Army for twenty-one years. He was a member of the Army Concept Team in Vietnam; a commander of artillery soldiers in the Korean Conflict and in World War II. His final military duty was to serve as a staff officer for the Comptroller of the Army and the Secretary of Defense.

Subsequent to his retirement from the Army, Mr. Francis worked both in government and the private sector. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Francis was in charge of the Defense Human Goals Program guaranteeing protection of the rights of, and equal opportunities for, women, minorities and the disabled of all races, ethnic groups and religions. His program embraced the now famous Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, the first of its kind anywhere in the United States. For his extraordinary efforts, Mr. Francis was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal for his exceptional service in the Department of Defense.

On leaving federal service, Mr. Francis accepted appointments at Howard University as Director of University Planning; Executive Director of the University-Wide Self-Study Task force; Executive Secretary of the Presidential Search Committee in 1989; Special Assistant to the President; and Director of Governmental Affairs. In December 1992, he was appointed President of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation, authorized at that time by the United States Congress to erect a memorial on the National Mall in honor of the more than 5,000 African Americans who fought and died in the American Revolution.

For nearly 20 years Mr. Francis was a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, a voluntary office without compensation, where he carried the Army's message and image to the American people.

As a human resources consultant to the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Francis traveled to Europe at his own expense to investigate and report on the command climate with respect to race and gender relations in the U.S. Army

units stationed in Germany. He performed a similar service for Army installations in the midwestern United States. The report produced by his group led to major changes in the Army's policy and practices with respect to race and gender.

Mr. Francis was a Life Member of Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Additionally, he was a Trustee Emeritus of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy, a member of the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, the Board of Managers of the Historical Society of Washington, DC, and the Board of Directors of Metropolitan USO in Washington. He was a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the Carroll Publishing Company of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. He held memberships in the National Press Club and the University Club of Washington, DC, and he was a member of Sigma Pi Phi, the oldest and one of the most prestigious African-American fraternities.

Mr. Francis is survived by his second wife Alicia G. D. Francis and five children from his first marriage: Marsha A. Francis, Henry M. Francis, Jr., M.D.; Peter M. Francis, Morya K.F. Ferris, and John H. Francis, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

I am proud to speak today to honor this extraordinary man and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. H. Minton Francis Sr.'s many accomplishments, his lifelong work on behalf of our nation's veterans, and his profound commitment to honoring their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. RV 405—RV 406—missed due to weather delays; had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING ROVETA F. SIMMONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Roveta F. Simmons.

Mrs. Simmons was born in Memphis, Tennessee. She is married to James A. Simmons of Chicago, IL. They have two children: Michael A. Walker, 37 and Jamal L. Walker, 24.

In 1999 Mrs. Simmons received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, VA. That same year she received her Collegiate Professional License for the Commonwealth of Virginia Elementary Education, kindergarten through fifth grade.

Mrs. Simmons is the Director of Little Rock Child Development Center. She is assigned to

the 19th Force Support Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. She is the director over the Infant Toddler Center.

The Little Rock Child Development Centers both are NAEYC accredited programs. The CDC maximizes availability and affordability of child care to include weekly, hourly, surge and emergency care, offering early intervention and provides the highest quality childcare that meets the development needs of each child and enables military and Department of Defense (DoD) parents to fulfill their military missions.

Mrs. Simmons began her Department of Defense career as a Palace Acquire Intern with the Department of the Air Force in June 2004. She completed her two year Child Development Specialist Internship at Randolph AFB, TX and was assigned to Keesler AFB, MS as the assistant director.

After two years she was promoted to Director of Keesler Child Development Center. She has worked tirelessly to create a well oiled machine. The Keesler CDC turned a failing budget around—from a \$70,000.00 loss to a \$12,000.00 profit year to date. Mrs. Simmons also served on active duty for the United States Air Force for 21 years where she retired at the rank of MSgt. Her last assignment was the Superintendent, Wing Operations Center, 402 TFW Holloman AFB, NM.

Among her many recognitions she has received the Exemplary Civilian Service Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, 1 Bronze Oak Leaf, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit 3 Bronze Oak Leaf, Air Force Good Conduct Medal 1 Silver and 1 Bronze leaf. She has also received the National Defense Medal 1 Bronze, a Service Star, Air Force Overseas Long Tour, Air Force Longevity Ribbon 4 Bronze, and the NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Roveta F. Simmons for her years of dedication and hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Weather in the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4263 (roll No. 369) and in favor of H.R. 4289 (roll No. 370).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to travel cancellations caused by inclement weather and I missed the votes on Monday, July 14, 2014. Had I been present, I would

have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 405, H.R. 4195—The Federal Register Modernization Act and "yea" on rollcall No. 406, H.R. 5029—The International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014.

OCCUPIED CYPRUS—FORTY YEARS OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION, ETHNIC CLEANSING, AND DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SITES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark 40 years since the illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus by the government of Turkey. These forty years have been marked by tragedy for the Greek Cypriots, and by criminal guilt for the Turkish government. In July 1974 the Turkish army began its sneak invasion of the island—it was the beginning of a tragedy and outrage that continues today. At least one hundred eighty thousand Greek Cypriots were forced to flee the north. They lost all their property—shockingly, even today none of them have been allowed to return to their property. The Turkish government effectively "ethnically cleansed" the north of the island, where only a few hundred Greek Cypriots live in small enclaves, and even they are not allowed to worship freely.

During these forty years over five hundred Christian religious sites have been demolished, destroyed, or desecrated, for example turned into casinos or warehouses. Eighty stolen churches have been converted into mosques. Artifacts from churches and cemeteries continually show up on the international black market.

Mr. Speaker, in the current discussions about reunifying the island, the United States must stand firm on the complete withdrawal of Turkish military forces, respect for universally-recognized human rights for all Cypriots everywhere on the island, and an independent, unified government.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN LITTLE AND KURTIS MOORE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank two outstanding men from my district for their service and sacrifice to share their time and talents to help others. Kevin Little and Kurtis Moore from Osage Valley Electric, volunteered for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation in Haiti as part of the Caracol Community Electrification Project. They spent two weeks in northern Haiti building and upgrading more than a mile and a half of power lines to help communities there receive affordable, safe and reliable electricity.

Mr. Little and Mr. Moore even helped connect homes to electricity for the first time

around Tru-du-Nord. To date, more than 4,800 consumers in the northern part of Haiti have access to electricity. Some homes now have TV antennas, a few towns have water treatment plants, doctors can provide better care to patients, and residents have opened their own small businesses like Internet cafés.

Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life. In Haiti less than 20 percent of the people there have regular access to electricity. I am blessed to represent Kevin Little and Kurtis Moore in Congress, grateful for their hard work and commitment to the community, and I wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO
THE CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER DETROIT

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit on 22 years of service and community outreach.

Your work has been important for fostering better relations between Metro-Detroit, China, and the Chinese-American community. In the globalized world in which we live, these relations are important for improving Michigan's economy. It is obvious from your work in the soup kitchen, to your relationship with the Metro-Detroit Chinese School that you are committed to making Michigan a better place. I am pleased that such a great organization has found its home in Michigan's 11th Congressional District.

Thank you for everything you have done to serve Metro-Detroit and the Chinese-American community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF VICENTE (BEN) CABRERA
PANGELINAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Vicente (Ben) Cabrera Pangelinan. Ben was a Senator of the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th, 31st Guam Legislature and was currently serving in the 32nd Guam Legislature. Senator Pangelinan passed away on July 8, 2014 at the age of 58.

Senator Pangelinan moved from the island of Saipan to Guam at a very young age and grew up in the village of Barrigada. He graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School in 1974 before attending Georgetown University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Government.

While Ben was a student at Georgetown University, he served as a staff assistant to Guam's Delegate, Congressman Antonio B. Won Pat. Upon graduating from college, Ben

returned to Guam and worked under my late husband, Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo's administration.

Before beginning his public service to the people of Guam, Ben worked for an insurance company doing business in Guam, Saipan and California. He held many leadership positions at FHP/HML Guam, including Regional General Manager.

In addition to his work as a Senator in the Guam Legislature, Ben was also a respected businessman in the community. He was President and Owner of Group Pacific, Principal Consultant/President of Pacific Presence Group; Founding Director of Graphic Center, Inc. and Micronesia Graphics, Inc.; and Director of Fifth Wheel, Inc.

Senator Pangelinan served in the Guam Legislature for twenty years. He was first elected in the 22nd Guam Legislature and served as the Speaker in the 27th Guam Legislature.

Senator Pangelinan was serving as the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Public Debt, Retirement, Legal Affairs, Public Parks, Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Land. Through Senator Pangelinan's leadership, the Guam Legislature was able to pass budgets in a timely manner. He took pride in the fact that these budgets reflected the priorities of the people of Guam, such as education, health and safety.

After twenty years of service in the Guam Legislature, Senator Pangelinan will be remembered for championing many issues to improve the quality of living for the people of Guam and always staying true to his convictions.

During the 30th Guam Legislature, Senator Pangelinan notably authored Public Law 30-193 which designated I Milåyan i Mäs Takhilo' na Sakrifisiu or the Medal of the Ultimate Sacrifice. The Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice is given to the survivors of Guam residents or service members stationed on Guam who were killed in action to recognize them for their service and sacrifice.

Ben was also a tireless advocate for Chamorro self-determination. Senator Pangelinan was a careful steward of our public funds, as well as our natural resources.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Senator Ben Pangelinan, and I join the people of Guam in celebrating his life and recognizing his dedicated public service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, loved ones and friends. He will be missed, and his memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

HONORING DR. VERONICA MAZ

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering Dr. Veronica Maz, a founder of So Others Might Eat (S.O.M.E.) in the District of Columbia, who passed away on June 24, 2014. Dr. Maz's signature achievement was the co-founding of Martha's Table in

1980, upon realizing the need for children, particularly in the 14th Street corridor Northwest neighborhood, to have a refuge from violence and drugs. Originally, Martha's Table served as a place for children to get a free meal after school. After 35 years of service, Martha's Table has developed into a multifaceted social services organization, providing services that not only address the problem of hunger in DC communities, but also the lack of quality education and affordable clothing.

Dr. Maz was born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on October 15, 1924. She attended the University of Pittsburgh in 1947, where she received her undergraduate and a doctorate degree in sociology. Dr. Maz began her career as an educator, teaching at Lake Erie College for Women, Skidmore College, and Georgetown University. While teaching at Georgetown University, Dr. Maz decided to change careers and become a social entrepreneur. With the help of Father Horace B. McKenna, Dr. Maz founded S.O.M.E. and House of Ruth, a home for battered women. Today, both organizations continue to be bulwarks to the residents of the District, and have expanded their reach throughout the community.

Today, Martha's Table has almost 90 employees, and has expanded its operation to include McKenna's Wagon, a daily mobile feeding program for the hungry, Martha's Markets, a free and health-conscious market in 10 locations, and Martha's Outfitters, a thrift store for families in need and the community at large. Ultimately, Martha's Table, S.O.M.E. and House of Ruth maintain Dr. Maz's legacy of community service through holistic and solution-based support for the people of the District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Veronica Maz for a life of committed service to the District of Columbia. Her legacy continues to offer a powerful example for how we should conduct our lives and strive to serve our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 405—my flight into DC on July 14, 2014, was rerouted to Norfolk, VA due to inclement weather and I was unable to make it to the House floor in time for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEDDIE SCHOOL

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this year, Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey celebrates its 150th anniversary as one of the finest independent schools in the nation. Peddie School prides itself on the intellectual, social, and moral growth of its students.

I have been fortunate to have visited Peddie's campus and host interns who went to Peddie. Whenever I observed their work and work ethic, it was always apparent that their actions and skills reflected the values of Peddie, including respect, honesty, scholarship, balance, and courage—the same values that were also revered at its creation as a Baptist school during the Civil War. This philosophy is further evident in the uniting *Ala Viva* chant and student accomplishments in a diverse range of areas, from a dominant golf team to state poetry competition accolades.

I congratulate Peddie School for 150 years of fostering young women and men to become thoughtful and constructive members of society. May the next 150 years bring the same success and see generations of students develop into successful, upstanding citizens.

HONORING BAY VIEW HIGH
SCHOOL ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bay View High School celebrating its

100th Anniversary on October 4, 2014. Bay View High School opened in September, 1914 with seven teachers and 150 students. Mr. Gustav Fritsche, a German teacher, served as its principal. The school was then a one building barrack without central heating known as "Fritsche's Foundry". In 1922, classes were held in a new school building, still in use today and referred to as the "Castle on the Hill". The high school is a visible landmark from both the Hoan Bridge and Interstate I-43/I-94 in Milwaukee.

Bay View High School started a successful Student Government Association (SGA) in 1947 that led to unique programs such as honor study halls and building control. Many of the Bay View students involved in SGA have become politicians. Bay View High School has staged over 50 years of musicals. The high school has prepared many amateurs and professionals for a lifetime of music and the arts; they make up the current alumni choir and alumni band. Bay View High School's interscholastic sports program has developed champions after graduation who continue in their sport to set records and achieve a level of success up to and including Olympic gold.

Bay View High School's students have become community leaders and good citizens that include such luminaries as: State Representatives Sandy Pasch and La Tonya

Johnson, Milwaukee County Board Chair Marina Dimitrijevic, Esther Jones, 1992 US Olympic Gold Medalist in track and my granddaughter, Taylor Walker.

Many Bay View High School students have gone on to become educators. In fact, many have returned both as teachers and administrators with some spending their entire careers at their Alma Mater.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the Bay View High School is located in the 4th Congressional District. I wish them another 100 years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2014, my flight was delayed and I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 405 and 406.

If present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4195 and H.R. 5029.